Scurf

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

www.bromeliadsocietybc.com/

January 2013

The Frazels acquired this Aechmea sphaerocephala bromeliad about 20 years ago from John Anderson in Texas. The plant is about 10 ft in dimension and two offsets bloomed last year. This picture is from May 2012, a brilliant red inflorescence the size of a softball with a thick stalk. The reason as to the prefix of "sphaero" is because the bloom has a spherical shape. The leaves are a light blue-green and have a light fleshy texture. This bloom is quite long-lasting, having been around for 6 months. The most interesting is the arrangement of the bracts in a spiral design. When Charlie Birdsong from New Orleans was visiting the Frazels, he found this plant blooming among the ferns! Thanks for sharing, Maureen!

2012-2013 Officers, Directors and Chairpersons

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF BROWARD COUNTY
P.O. Box 17272
Plantation, FL 33318

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Raffle Ticket Sales	Velene Smith-Myrie	954-736-7958
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	Tim Hendrix	954-530-0076
Librarian	Melissa Garvey	954-472-0363
Webmaster	Gayle Spinell-Gellers	954-478-0367

Our meetings generally offer a speaker on timely and noteworthy topics, member plant sales, a plant raffle, special holiday plant auctions, diagnosis of disease and pest problems, and a Country Store with selected bromeliad and gardening supplies.

Affiliations: Bromeliad Society of Broward County is a member of and supports

The Bromeliad Society International
http://bsi.org

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
http://fcbs.org

The Cryptanthus Society
http://fcbs.org/cryptanthussociety/

The President's Message

Hi Bromeliad Lovers,
I hope this newsletter finds you with a smile on your face from all the blooms that are popping out. Your Billbergias, Achemeas and Tillandsias should be blooming, so take a walk thru your garden, there is something new every day.

Ok let's get down to business……..First, let me just say thank you to Harriet Abo and Larry Davis for coordinating the Holiday Celebration and to all of you who brought such great food – it was delicious. Oh, and to Craig Morell for his great program and humor, he is always welcome.

We will be voting on whether we will be meeting where the City of Plantation has available, if we will not meet, still put out a Scurf and do 1 time a month "meet-ups" or (which still has to be confirmed if it is ok) meet at the Lutheran church where the BUSH Club meets.

Next – February 1st DUES ARE DUE –
April we will be having elections – if you are interested in being on the board, please get with me asap.

Garden Fest and the show are right around the corner – I am looking for help to find advertisers in the booklet- please get with me at the meeting or email me. $25.00 business card size, $ 75.00 half page and $125.00 for a full page. Call me or email me so I can get the forms to you –

Thanks so much – See you on the 28th,
Colleen

Membership News

Reminder: Please sign in at meetings so we can track attendance. Also, if you change your snail or email address, please let us know. Thanks!

Great suggestion from Bill David: In the interest of being more eco and budget friendly, if you are reorganizing your gardening supplies and have some have gently used pots that you no longer need or want, consider bringing them in for other members to adopt or purchase.

Welcome new member: Sergio Amaro from Ft. Lauderdale

Bob Smith
Laretta Smith
Gayle Spinell-Gellers
Joe Zicarelli

Harriet's Hoots

Happy New Year…… I hope that you all had a safe and happy one. Well, it's another year of meetings, raffles, and buying bromeliads to take home, love and care for. Yes, that's right you have to love your plants and give them the best care you can or they will turn on you and refuse to give you any pups. Not to mention any names, but I have known a few plants that have done that.

Our holiday party was great and I trust that everyone had a fun time. I thought that you all outdid yourselves with what you brought to the table. My thanks go out to everyone for your contributions and as I have said in the past, you are great cooks and bring such delicious foods that we should definitely change our name to the Broward Culinary Society (lol) I think we can take it on the road – who's up for it????

I just can't wait to see what will be brought to the table at our next meeting.

See you all then.

Hugs, Harriet

From Our December Meeting The Holiday Social!

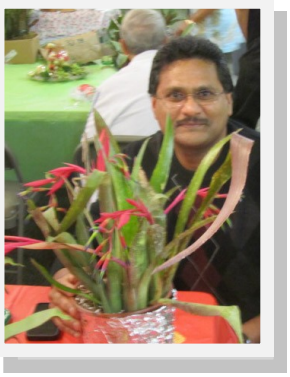
The Holiday Social was one all around terrific event! It was a night of fab food, great surprise plants, extra prizes and useful info thanks to Craig Morell who gave us the scoop on dealing with pests.

1. Snail control: Organic Method: Pool Filter Powder (Diatomaceous Earth): Dust ground; reapply after every rain. Inorganic Method: Snail Bait: A few pellets per sq. ft. area suffices, but is toxic to pets. Other option: set out dishes of beer, then cover the dishes with a plate to keep rain out. The yeast kills the snails.
2. Fungus Control: Banrot: 1 Tsp. per gallon, available thru Universal Enterprises. Captan: Use the powder to cover cutting areas exposed when cutting off pups.
3. Fire Ant Control: Mix Acephate (generic Orthene) with Publix "Mild & gentle Ultra Dish Detergent" (check quantities of each.) Pour on mounds , great and immediate control.
4. Aphid Control: Orthene will act immediately and will be long-acting.
5. Scale and nematodes : Thickly spread coffee grounds under trees and bushes to control.
6. Pest Control: Orthene or Acephate (generic version of Orthene); MERIT (Systemic Pesticide, BAYER PRODUCT) Generic version is available at Universal Enterprises. Will kill Whitefly !

Thanks, Craig!

For more info, check out Craig's blog: Ask the Plant Guy at http:pinecrestgardenguy.blogspot.com/

Notes courtesy of Bridget Sheeks



Our Holiday Plant: Tillandsia krukoffiana

This is an absolutely amazing story about an absolutely amazing bromeliad.

Those of us who attended the Broward County Bromeliad Society Christmas Party were favored with a gift of the largest Tillandsia known.

This plant will grow to be three feet in diameter. In 5 to 7 years it should sport a three to ten foot branching inflorescence. Although T. rauhii and T. extensa are about the same size, T. krukoffiana is generally regarded as the largest. There are taller Tillandsia inflorescences but only on significantly smaller plants. This plant was first found in Bolivia in 1945 by Lyman Smith. Recently a variant was found in Peru.

Tillandsia krukoffiana
15th World Bromeliad Conference, St. Petersburg, Florida, May 13 - 19, 2002

Shown by Terrie Bert

Image reproduced from www.fcbs.org with permission granted by email

This plant prefers a sunny location and grows best in soils that are moderately moist; a departure from most bromeliads that prefer well-drained soils. It will not withstand temperatures below freezing. It does well being planted in the ground but does not tolerate hanging baskets or being put in trees. If potted, the pot should be at least a 14-inch pot.

This plant is extremely rare. Additional pictures of the mature plant are available at www.fcbs.org, Photo Index, Tillandsia, krukoffiana. If this is so, how did we come to acquire such a prize? The answer to this question is "tissue cell micropropagation." This is a new science whereby cells are microscopically extracted and fertilized in vitro. The eventual result is a plant resembling an inch long blade of grass. These are produced from laboratories in the Netherlands, Brazil and recently locally in South Florida. **What a topic for a future meeting!** In any event, these seedling explants are cultured by the thousands by many of the larger local retailers.

One minor problem is that most of the retailers are using a new peat moss type of potting medium that must be kept wet. If allowed to dry out, the medium becomes hard and cement-like. New plants must be replanted in a new medium as soon as possible.

Before this, it was virtually impossible to acquire some of these super-rare plants. **The future for the bromeliad hobbyist is virtually unlimited.**

Research by Larry Davis, BCBS

About Our January Meeting

NOTE THE DATE!

Monday, January 28th, 2013
Time: Meeting begins at 7:00 pm
Plant preview 6:30 pm –
sales table will be closed
Where: Deicke Auditorium
5701 Cypress Rd
Plantation, FL 33317

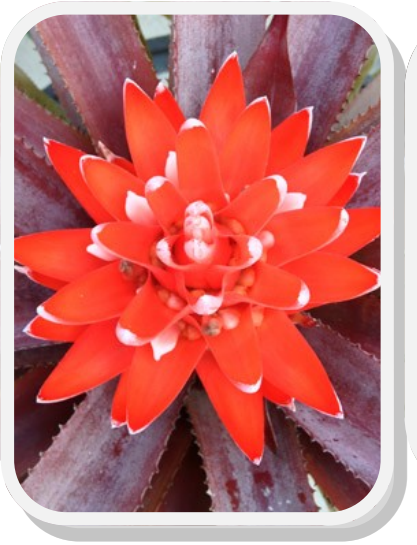
Guest Speaker: Peter Kouchalakos

Topic: Some Thoughts on Preparing your Bromeliad for the Show

A native of Coral Gables, Florida, Peter and his wife Clara are the owners of PCK Orchids and Exotic Plants. Peter is Past president and life member of Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Past President of Pan American Orchid Society and a Florida Certified Horticultural Professional by FNGLA.

1/28/13 promises to be another night to learn and enjoy.

Two more beautiful bromeliads from Bruce Zaret's collection.



Aechmea nidulariodes

Aechmea recurvata "Artichoke"

Top Seven Signs Your Holiday Tree Has Been Up Too Long

1. You've taken to using it as a coat rack.
2. The bird that got into your house stayed – and nested.
3. Visitors ask how you'll be decorating it for the spring holiday.
4. It's sprouted roots and started growing again.
5. Squirrels gather at your window and look in longingly at it.
6. You can no longer see the carpet through the layers of dried needles.
7. You've decided just to go ahead and leave it up for next year.

Is there anything sadder than a holiday tree that's still standing around in someone's living room well into the new year? If the holidays are long gone but your tree isn't, it's time to chip in and donate your used evergreen to our annual Chip-a-Tree initiative. Last year Broward County Parks recycled more than 9,000 trees, representing more than a hundred tons of material that would otherwise have gone to landfills, and this year your tree can join those recyclable thousands. The free program encourages Broward County residents to remove all decorations from their holiday trees – no decorated trees will be accepted – then bring the trees to a participating park, where they are chipped and used for landscaping throughout the county park system. There is a limit of two trees per vehicle, artificial trees are not accepted, and no commercial vehicles or garbage trucks are allowed. This season's program began the day after Christmas and is still going on, through Monday, January 21, giving you plenty of time to take advantage of those after-the-holidays sales before taking your tree to a park. And remember, the regular weekend and holiday gate entrance fee willnot be in effect for recyclers, so there's no excuse not to do the right thing. Hours vary; call the park of your choice for details. Nancy Long

World Conference Winner

This Alcantarea imperalis variegata was the winning commercial entry at Orlandiana. The plant belongs to Michael Kiehl. In the photo background are George Henderson and his wife, Eileen.

Photo courtesy of Maureen Frazel

Editor's Gardening and Literary Tale

The story of the crescent garden began back in '84 when the house was built. The builder poured a large slab of concrete for a semi-circular driveway but instead of cutting out the planting area, just dumped a mound of dirt on top and planted four Robellini palms. In the years since, the palms, despite hazardous thorns, have remained. One had to be removed when it grew multiple heads and was dubbed "Medusa". Gardeners often embrace unique plants, but this one was just plain scary. (We tried to share it with researchers so they could study the phenom, but they weren't interested.) Its successor has survived so the symmetry lives on.
The surrounding plants have undergone many incarnations in the years since we took ownership. The ixora were deemed expendable because of allergies. (They returned anyway.) The dwarf chenille, which one landscaper loved, have been yanked out because I didn't love them. Some still appear from time to time just to reaffirm who is really the Garden Boss. Birds have dropped seeds from cardboard plants which have sprouted up and are huge. If only the birds had chosen slightly different locations for this activity……. Gloxinia, added for a touch of orange, were in a holding pattern until this fall. Now they have taken off. Since the house looks like a hacienda and has an eastern exposure, aloe, agave and neoregelias were planted. Well, thanks to BSBC, a diverse assortment of neos are doing really well, but so did ananas last year! Whoa! So unexpected! Gardening remains an evolutionary process with so many intriguing detours along the way. Is this process unique or fairly typical? All this brings up a recent literary find. Shopping for gardening books, I stumbled upon Amy Stewart's 2001 book, *From the Ground Up, The Story of a First Garden.* Amy's first person account takes place in Santa Cruz, CA, but the story may well resonate with many of us. It spans the early years of her garden by the shore and is filled with some useful tips as well. You are welcome to borrow the book from me! Checking Amy's website, it seems she is going to appear at Books & Books in Miami, April 12, 2013 at 8:00 PM to promote her latest book, *The Drunken Botanist*. Got that book & event penciled in.

Plants are pupping at my place. Hope they are at yours. Gayle

About our website

The plan was to update the existing site while working on a brand new version to be launched in January 2013. Alas, the existing computer does not work well with the current files for the site and the newer computer was recently hijacked by a nefarious group claiming to be calling directly from Microsoft. Word of caution: Microsoft will NEVER call you directly. Hope to get back on track soon.

SPECIAL OFFER

"CACTUS BOOKSTORE"
CHUCK EVERSON, OWNER/OPERATOR
January 7, 2013

Dear Fellow Cactus Book Lover:

I have just produced a GIANT 95-page used booklist of some very high quality and scarce/rare publications on cacti, succulents, bromeliads, palms, cycads, orchids, desert, South African -- more --- not usually offered---all at around 50% off usual prices! You can access this list by going to the link below on 'DROP BOX'---A very easy way to get the list:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/p6xc3y0su5fdsg6/USED%20BOOK%20LIST%204%20-%20DECEMBER%2031%2C%202012.pdf

Besides accepting visa/mastercard/check, we can also send you an invoice via PayPal which you can pay for very easily using your credit card. Let us know which items you are interested in (by e-mail), and we'll get right back with you, advising you what is available, and the shipping costs.

This email is being sent to over 1,500 cactophiles, so my advice is: If you see something you want to buy, please order EARLY! (If you're having trouble opening the book list on 'Drop Box', let me know and I'll send the list to you as an attachment to your email.)

Chuck Everson, Owner/Operator
Your "Cactus Bookstore Specialist"
Phone: 760-758-4290////Fax: 760-945-8934
E-Mail: rbgdns@aol.com
Website: www.cactusbookstore.com

How do you know when you are a gardener?

"I knew I was hooked on gardening when instead of staying late at a job I loved, I rushed home to play in the dirt with my bromeliads."
Gayle Spinell-Gellers

"I knew I was a gardener when my arms and legs were always bleeding! "
Bill David

Calendar of Other Local Plant Society Meetings

1st Tuesday	Plantation Orchid Society	Deicke Auditorium
2nd Friday	Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club	Birch State Park
3rd Monday	Bromeliad Society of Broward County	Deicke Auditorium
3rd Tuesday	Bromeliad Society of So. Florida	Fairchild Gardens
3rd Wednesday	Equality Park Garden Club	Pride Center
3rd Thursday	Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches	Mounts Botanical
3rd Thursday	Shade Brigade (no meetings July & Aug.)	Plantation Bldg. Dept.
4th Monday	BSBC Board Meeting	Deicke Auditorium

Places to Go, Things to See

Jan. 18 — 20, 2013	Ft; Lauderdale Orchid Affair, Show and Sale	10 am — 6 pm daily	War Memorial 800 NE 8th St., Ft. Laud. $10 admission ($2 off coupon was sent in an earlier email)
Jan. 23 - 25, 2013	Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition	10 am - 5 pm; 9 am - 5 pm; 9 am - 2 pm	Broward County Convention Center ($15 pre-reg.) ($30 at the door)
Jan. 26 - 27, 2013	Tamiami Orchid Show	Sat. 10 am — 8 pm Sun. 10 am — 6 pm	Dade Co. Fair Expo Center Fuchs Pavilion ; Admission $9 CASH, free parking
Feb. 2 – 3, 2013	Gardenfest!	Sat. 9 am — 5 pm Sun. 9 am — 4 pm	Riverside Park, Vero Beach (free)
Feb. 16 - 17, 2013	Gardenfest Coral Springs	Sat. 9 am — 5 pm Sun. 10 am — 4 pm	Riverside Park, 205 Coral Ridge Drive, Coral Springs Free admission & parking
Feb. 23, 2013	Secret Garden Tour	TBD	Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club by reservation ; fee based
Mar. 8 - 10 , 2013	Fairchild 11th Annual International Orchid Festival	9:30—4:30 daily	Fairchild Gardens, Coral Gables Admission $25, $18 for seniors
Mar. 14 - 18, 2013	Bromeliad Society of New Zealand	Hours vary daily	Cool Broms Conference, Auckland, NZ
Mar. 23 – 24, 2013	Bromeliads Gone Wild !	Sat. 9 am—5 pm Sun. 9 am—4 pm	Bromeliad Society of Broward County Show and Sale
Mar. 30 - 31, 2013	Flamingo Gardens 32nd International Orchid/Bromeliad Show		Flamingo Gardens, Davie

Business

ADVERTISE HERE……..

$10.00 PER MONTH

BSBC Country Store

The Country Store has the following items for sale at great prices!

6 in" pots_____5 pots for $ 1.00
Plant Sticks___50 sticks for $1.00

Contact Bill David
@ 954-321-9229

_____

"DIAPER YOUR PLANTS"

Please "diaper you plants that you bring in by using a paper sleeve or a plastic bag to cover the bottom of the plant.

We want to make a good impression and keep our new meeting place as clean as when we got there.

Thank you!!

Got a bromeliad question? Send an email to yroftiger@aol.com and we'll post the question in SCURF.