



Orlandiana

Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 35

Issue No. 04

April 2009

Next Meeting: Monday, April 27, 2009

Member Market this month

6:30 pm Refreshments

Meeting Begins at 7pm

Where: Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave. Orlando

President's Message

If you missed last month's meeting you missed a great program presented by Dennis Cathcart from Tropiflora. This month's program is on getting your plants ready for our Mother's Day Show. I would like to see everyone put in at least one plant in our show. Remember we have the novice section for members who have never received a blue ribbon in a BSI approved show. You can win best novice entry and/or novice sweepstakes if you put in enough plants.

I want to thank Gary Signs and everyone who participated at the Leu Gardens Sale. We had a very successful sale thanks to all the members who helped sell at this event.

Our society hosted this month's Florida Council Meeting. It was held at the hotel that we are going to have the Extravaganza, Renaissance Orlando Hotel-Airport and it was a big success. All of the societies were represented at this meeting. We had lunch and the food was excellent, we also toured the facilities and that was well received and we even had a couple of rep's stay at the hotel and they said the room was "heavenly". So it seems we picked a great location. The registration forms will be going out soon to all of the societies. Starting in June we will be having monthly meetings with all of the Chairs of the different committees. Please let me know if during the week is best or the weekend.

Our Mother's Day Show is just around the corner. We need you to get the word out. Please pick up some show information sheets from Pam Flesher at this meeting and put them anywhere you think people will see the notices and want to come to the show and sale. If you have a newspaper in your area be sure to try to get the information in the paper. If you cannot participate in the show, how about helping with sponsoring an award, see John Boardman; how about helping in the show area or sale area during the show, sign-up sheets will be at the meeting. I'm sure we can find something for you to do and I guarantee you will have a good time.

If you have not paid your dues there is a reminder (Membership Form) in this newsletter. Please get your dues in at this meeting or mail them in today. This will be your last newsletter if you don't renew.

See you at the meeting,

Betsy McCrory

A Note from Our Vice-President

For our speaker this month, we have the pleasure of our very own...Dean Fairchild. Dean has been involved in bromeliads since the late 60's.

Dean was vice-president of Bullus Bromeliads for 8 years. He has created over 2000 bromeliad hybrids! Dean is a BSI master judge. Dean was the President and Coordinator of 1988 World Bromeliad Conference in Miami, Florida. Dean was president of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida and is a Life member. He moved to Apopka, Florida in 2004 and joined our society.

Dean will be presenting us with "**How to Clean up Those Plants for Show**"

Bring your plants to the meeting this month. He will be sharing secret tips for what judges look for.

See ya at the meeting.
Let's Have Fun!!

Sincerely, Lisa Robinette
Vice-President

Out and About

April 25th and 26th, 2009

Annual Sarasota Bromeliad Society Show and Sale

[Marie Selby Botanical Gardens](#)

Sarasota, Florida

Plant sales will also be held April 24 (10 AM - 5 PM).

April 25 (10 AM-5 PM)

April 26 (10 AM - 4 PM)

April 25th and 26th, 2009

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park

7891 26th Ave N, St. Petersburg

9:00 - 4:00

May 5th, 2009

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

Annual Auction (live and silent)

Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher, Clearwater

7:30

May 7 – 10

BSCF Annual Mother's Day Show & Sale

May 7, Late night set-up

May 8, Early morning plant judging, followed by the

Show & Sale opening to the public

May 9 & 10 Show & Sale continues, **(Have you volunteered yet?)**

Please Bring Refreshments to the meeting if your last name starts with the letters H – K

Mother's Day Show Sponsors Needed

We need sponsors to donate \$20 - \$25 or more, to purchase the awards for our sale/show in May. Your donation is tax deductible. All who donate will have their name or business name on our sponsor's sign which is displayed thru out the mall. Please contact John via email or phone, 407 957 5477 or jboard55@yahoo.com, if you would like to help sponsor the awards.

BSCF Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2009

President Betsy McCrory called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

She welcomed members and guests.

Betsy asked the Vice-President, Lisa Robinette to introduce the speaker. Lisa introduced Dennis Cathcart from Tropiflora and he talked on "Knowing the Bromeliads: Various Sub Families and Genera".

Betsy asked if everyone had read the minutes from last month. Butch Force made a motion to approve the minutes, Dean Fairchild seconded. The minutes were approved.

Betsy asked for a volunteer to take the minutes for secretary, Marty Folk, who could not be there. Pam Flesher volunteered.

Rick Rector gave the treasurers report. The Leu Garden sale was a success. There were 524 plants sold; fifty percent more than last year. Eighty five of those plants were donated by Eloise Beach and Jim Pierce.

Sudi Hipsley presented the show and tell plants.

The Central Florida Fair sent a letter to the club asking if we would like to participate again. It would be different this year as we would need to have someone at the booth all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Butch Force asked if we got any members from being there. Betsy replied that we would be there to advertise the Mother's Day Show and the Extravaganza as well as the club. There was no response from the membership to set up and man the booth. Butch Force made a motion that we not participate this year, Pam Flesher seconded. The motion carried.

Betsy announced that the Florida Council meeting will be on April 11, hosted by our club at the Renaissance Hotel in Orlando.

The Mother's Day Show is coming up soon, May 8-10 at the Fashion Square Mall. Volunteers are still needed for Entries and Publicity. Pam Flesher said she would help with publicity.

John Boardman is the Awards Chairman for the Mother's Day Show. He asked for donations from the members. The awards are twenty to twenty-five dollars and are tax deductible. Make checks payable to: Bromeliad Society of Central Florida or BSCF. If you have any questions contact John at jboard55@yahoo.com or 407-957-5477.

Dean Fairchild will be our speaker for April. He will talk on how to get your plants ready for the show.

Door Prize and raffle tickets were drawn. Sudi Hipsley helped.

Lisa Robinette made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Butch Force seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Flesher

The color of our plants' bracts, petals and leaves is one of the main evolutionary strategies that evolved in bromeliads to attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies and birds. The specific color or colors in a habitat were those that highly attracted the pollinators present in that area.

During their day-long search for food, pollinators may be attracted to bract, petal or leaf color. If they find the plants to be a good source of nectar, imprinting of the experience occurs and then bio-chemical triggers will continue to draw them to the plants. This strategy guarantees continuous pollination of the bromeliad ovaries.

The pollinators may not "see" red as we do, (bees, for example, probably see it as blue-green and they prefer yellow). This strategy refers to the visual attraction of color during the day. Some plants evolved in habitats where there were no such pollinators available, and plants with odoriferous flowers (usually putrid ones to us) were able to attract bats and moths that fly at night in those habitats that were attracted to those odors.

If different pollinators are attracted to different colors, over the eons those plants with [the] "right" color for pollinators in their area will selectively thrive over those plants whose colors are not attractive to them. In the exquisite dialectical relationship between natural law and chance, all life on our planet from the beginning to the present has evolved and been shaped by Natural Selection.

Dr. David Benzing states in "Biology of the Bromeliads", (Mad River Press): "Implicit in explanation of how animal-mediated breeding systems operate is the assumption that a suitable pollinator will arrive at the right flower at the proper time to pick up or deposit pollen..." But how does it work?

Benzing continues: "...Bees and related special insects have sophisticated visual capacities and can sense both color and outline in sufficient detail to distinguish one flower type from another...bees perceive color, but not like we do. Bees have a trichromatic color vision system with UV, blue and yellow receptor pigments. Honeybees not only discriminate among these three primaries but perceive them in combination as well. Thus an insect's realm is marked by shades of blue-green, blue UV and yellow UV.

"Red-sensitivity is known in some butterflies, not an unexpected finding given the red to orange hues of many flowers served by these pollinators. Pigments which reflect or absorb UV are common in plant parts...petals that project a UV signal are mostly yellow or purple to our eyes.

"Bees not only see colors invisible to humans, but their compound eyes, made up of hundreds of tiny individual receptors and lenses, record solid objects in mosaic patterns rather than as the unbroken images familiar to us. This may significantly affect their ability to perceive shape and outline as well as to detect the movement of predators. Birds probably have visual capacities more like our own. Little is known about bat vision, or that of the less common insect visitors of bromeliads." (Bromeliad pollinators such as hummingbirds are especially equipped to feed from relatively closed flowers in which the nectar is deep at the bottom. They have very long beaks and can hover stationary at the flowers by flapping their wings up to 80 times a second.)

Benzing continues: "Most birds and humans have rather poor olfactory capacities. Bats may be better off, while insects have the most remarkable sense of smell of all the pollinators. Olfaction is in fact their primary sense..."

I can personally attest to this from an experience in Italy some years ago. Sylvia and I had eaten some oranges on a train and we kept the peels in a plastic bag in a small flight bag until we disposed of them in a trash can. We stayed overnight in a hotel and the next morning while preparing to pack we found our room inundated by an army of ants that had climbed three stories from the lawn below, attracted by the faint orange smell that emanated from the flight bag in which we kept the peel.

This article was taken from the December 2008 Bromeliana, newsletter of the New York Bromeliad Society.

Raffle Table Donations

Please bring a plant or two to donate to the Raffle Table. If you do donate plants, don't forget to write your name on the Plant Donations List, so will be recognized in the newsletter for your donation.

Thank you to the following for donating plants in March.

Jim Pierce, Eloise Beach, John Boardman, & Tropiflora

Please don't forget...if you sell plants at the Member Market, you are required to donate a plant to the Raffle Table.

Show & Tell Table

We need Show & Tell plants!

Do you have a beautiful bromeliad that you are proud of, and want to share with the members? Bring it to the meeting for Show & Tell.

Or, maybe you have an ugly plant, plagued with problems, and you need advice. Dean Fairchild will be sharing tips on what judges look for at the meeting. Other members may know just the trick, to move your green dog from the dog house to the head table!

PLANT SALE RULES – Orlando Fashion Square - 2009

1. The Plant Sale Chairs are: Georgia Orser (352) 250-3571 Georgia@lexisparents.com

YOU MUST REGISTER BY APRIL 29, IF YOU WANT TO SELL BROMELIADS AT THIS EVENT.

Register with **Georgia Orser 352-250-3571 Georgia@lexisparents.com**

Confirm your BSCF Membership/ID Number and approximate times you will be working at the sale.

SALE HOURS: Friday, May 8	10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 9	10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 10	11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Plants will be accepted Thursday, May 7, from 9:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Fashion Square Mall.

2. Everyone who sells plants MUST:
 - A. Be a member in good standing of BSCF as of April 1, 2009;
 - B. Abide by these Sale Rules;
 - C. Place at least FIVE entries in the judged show;
 - D. Work in the Sales Booth during sale hours: at least 4 HOURS (50 or fewer sale plants)
at least 8 HOURS (51 or more sale plants)

(You do not have to work the entire time yourself if you designate someone else to work for you.)

ANYONE FAILING TO FULFILL REQUIREMENTS C and D WILL FORFEIT AN ADDITIONAL 25% OF THEIR GROSS SALES

3. Only bromeliads grown by members may be sold. The bromeliads may be sold bare root, potted or mounted using decorative or non-decorative materials. Only the Society may sell books, mounting materials, pots & other items.
4. Table space is very limited and will be ASSIGNED based on the number of sellers. **Any extra plants you bring must fit under your table.** Use of floor space must be approved by the Sale Chairs and conform to Mall regulations. Please be courteous to others.
5. **25% of your gross sales will be deducted as a donation to BSCF.**

Florida sales tax will be collected from the customers.

6. **Plants must be priced in EVEN DOLLARS.** The minimum price shall be \$1.00. Plants should be priced & labeled **BEFORE** they are brought to the sale.
7. **Your BSCF Membership Number will be your seller ID number.**

Top of label Bottom

8. All plants must be CLEARLY marked with two labels:

A. Label with PRICE and ID number on SAME side of label

PRICE	ID
-------	----

B. Label with correct plant name (stays with plant)

Sellers are strongly urged to affix a small self-adhesive PRICE sticker to a prominent place on a leaf. Experience has shown that plants sell faster when the price is easily seen.

9. Plants must be clean and in good condition, free from insects or disease. Potted plants should be well rooted, and pots should be clean. You may also sell mounted or bare root plants, but labels must be secure. Bare roots with soil attached may be bagged for neatness. (Bring some empty pots or trays for displaying bare root plants.) Questionable plants will be removed from the sale by the Sale Chair. If your plants are not already Florida State Inspected, they must be in the Sales Booth by 9 a.m. Friday morning for official inspection by the Florida Department of Agriculture.
10. **Members are encouraged to DONATE plants in good condition for the sale.**
Label them as described above and simply write "BSCF" instead of an ID number.
11. Plants not picked up by the close of show on Sunday will be considered a donation to BSCF. Reasonable care will be taken, but the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc. cannot assume responsibility for any loss or damage to your plants.

**Don't forget to bring a plant for the Show & Tell
Table & the Raffle Table.
Please bring refreshments if your last name starts
with H – K.**

Don't forget...turn your cell phones on silent or vibrate, during the meeting!

Don't let this be your last newsletter! Renew your membership now.

**2009
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Membership Form**

Please Print Clearly **New Member** **Renewal**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

**City, State Zip +
4** _____

Phone/Email _____

**\$15 for the first member, plus \$5 per each additional member at the same address.
Name badges \$5 each member, if desired. Please check if you would like a name
badge ordered for you.**

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Make checks payable to BSCF

**Mail to:
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
PO Box 536961
Orlando, FL 32853-6961**

**Meetings are held the 4th Monday of every month, from 7-9 pm (social between 6:30-7 pm)
at Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave in Orlando. For directions call 407.246.2620
or www.leugardens.org**

**You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments and door
prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter. Please come join us!**

Treasurer: Date _____
Check # _____
Cash _____

