



# Orlandiana

## Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume No. 38      Issue No. 01      January 2012

**Next Meeting – Monday, January 23, 2012      6:30 pm – Refreshments-Everyone**  
**NO Member Market**

**Where – Leu Gardens, 1920 Forest Ave. Orlando      7:00 pm - Meeting Begins**

### **This Month's Speaker will be Ken Stokes, he will be discussing Cryptanthus.**

Kenneth Stokes is a Florida native who grew up in the Melbourne area. He has enjoyed growing plants since he was a child. He now has an extensive collection of tropical plants growing in a very large garden. He does not grow his plants in a greenhouse, so his presentation will be good for yard growers. He decided to do a program on the genus *Cryptanthus*, because he has a collection of mostly species that are seldom seen. His real plants will be shown, so the diversity will become apparent. He began his *Cryptanthus* collection in 1994 with a few small plants in four inch pots. They were not his favorite plants because they were so small and became insignificant in the landscape. He has since learned the best way to grow them, in colonies as ground covers and in clumps in pots. He will cover the unique qualities of the genus that can make them easy and enjoyable to grow. **He will be bringing a variety of plants in many genera to sell.** Don't miss this exciting and information packed presentation!

### **IN MEMORIUM OF AL MUZZELL**

I regret to inform you that Al Muzzell passed away Sunday, December 11, 2011. He died at the Gainesville VA Hospital after suffering from cancer and other complications. His interment was conducted by the VA at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida on December 14, 2011.

Al was one of our regular speakers at BSCF and always willing to share his plants and knowledge of bromeliads with anyone who would listen.

He was a founding member of the Gainesville Bromeliad Society and served as President many times. He also served as Chairman of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and was instrumental during the early years of the Evil Weevil research, in aiding Dr. Howard Frank in locating weevils and their pupa from the Central American forests to be used in the University of Florida research labs.

Al will be missed by all who knew him.



## **A Message from the President:**

I was helping my wife take down a Christmas tree, when Lisa called to mention that part of my new duties was to write a message from the President. The message at this time of the year is to reveal my vision for the club and share my ideas of what we want to do this year. I really began to wonder if I had gotten in over my head.

When I signed up for the job I was told that all I had to do was to conduct the meetings and that the Vice President would plan all the meetings. Several days ago I discovered that I was one of your representatives to the Florida Bromeliad Council that will be meeting this Saturday. Then this evening, I got Lisa's call.

But the call did get me thinking about why Kay and I joined the club. We wanted to learn about Bromeliads. We bought a home in Florida and inherited a landscape filled with thousands of those things. We had gardened in Virginia and in Arkansas. Each of our gardens started small but then grew and grew and grew. By the time we left Virginia we carried Iris and Daylilies to our new home. When we left Arkansas we gave away thousands of Daffodil bulbs. We left several hundred different kinds of Daylilies, over a hundred Roses, many Peonies, Louisiana Iris, Hibiscus, Azaleas, Hollies, water plants, and a lot of other plants.

Well you may wonder what all of this has to do with our Bromeliad Society. I figured out that most of the people that come in the door are like Kay and me. They like plants. They want to grow plants and have success with them. What I discovered about our members is that they all enjoy growing things and learning about new plants, new places, and new ways to grow their plants. They enjoy sharing their knowledge. For that reason my goals for the club are to have more participation in Show and Tell, to see more of each others gardens through slides or visits, to visit some of our commercial grower operations, to support the world conference, to facilitate an atmosphere of cooperation, to encourage volunteering, and to enjoy each other and learn from each other.

I also realize that I am very new to this type of position so I will need your help and your suggestions. Any ideas for what our club needs to do will be appreciated. Together, we can make our club grow and enjoy the challenges of the coming year.

Ben Klugh, President

## **Have Something Blooming in your Collection?**

If you would like to share a picture of your bromeliads or blooming bromeliads with the society members, please email pictures to the editor at [StellaLunaGardens@Yahoo.com](mailto:StellaLunaGardens@Yahoo.com), and I would love to include them in the newsletter.

*Tillandsia ionantha, grown by Steven Wagner*



## A Message from the Vice-President

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas Holiday and wish all a happy and prosperous new year to come. Thanks to all that made our Christmas party a great success! Dean Fairchild and Craig Allen's lovely home with Craig's wonderfully decorated 14' Christmas tree, Penny Bullard for all her organizing and working with me on the committee, Grant Groves and Kelli Ahnen making the nice centerpieces and donating all the Vr. fosteriana cv. Red Chestnut seedlings he made. Gary Signs for contributing lots of Christmas plants and wrapping them all. Carol Webb for donating the turkey, stuffing and gravy, that, she made. Tina Farsetta and Steven cleaning up for us and all that I didn't mention helping out with the party.

I would like to thank our officers that are staying on Marty Folk and Kay Klugh and our new president Ben Klugh for stepping up to the plate. We will miss Carol Webb that took care of our membership. I will be busy as our vice-president looking for future programs for our meetings this year. If any of you have any ideas please contact me for future events. I see a busy year ahead of us. March 17-18 will be our Leu Gardens sale. Our annual Mothers Day Show and Sale at Fashion Sq. Mall if we decide to have it and the World Bromeliad Conference held here in Orlando which is less than 9 months away. Our society is going to need a little help from everyone, so I hope you're all rested up. I would like to see more plants at our meetings. The Show and Tell tables have been bare. Please try to bring in a couple of plants to each meeting and we can discuss how other people grow that plant and what their experience has been. I think the more plants we have the better meetings we will have.

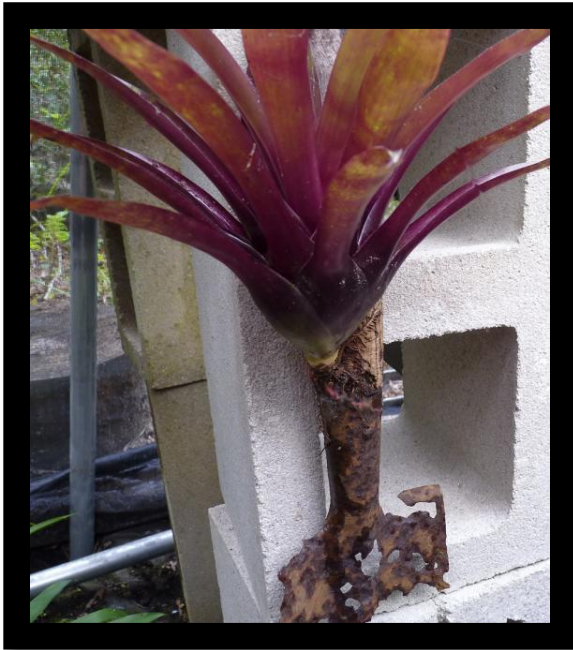
In closing I hope to see you all at this next months meeting, Kenneth Stokes will be giving us a great hands on presentation on Cryptanthus. Not a meeting to miss!! I also love this winter were having. I'm looking forward to having a lot of fun this year.

Sincerely,

Lisa Robinette, Vice-President



## Epiphytes



Now, there's a word that doesn't usually come up in casual conversation and if you make it known that you have *epiphytes*, you're liable to notice people taking a few steps away for fear that they may contract *epiphytes* also if they're not careful. My on-line Merriam-Webster dictionary defines epiphyte as "a plant that derives its moisture and nutrients from the air and rain and grows usually on another plant". That may be technically correct, but I think I prefer the definition at [www.yourdictionary.com](http://www.yourdictionary.com) which says that an epiphyte is "a plant that grows on another plant **but is not a parasite** and produces its own food by photosynthesis, as certain orchids, mosses and lichens; air plant". I like that definition better since many bromeliads are epiphytic in nature and, although they may be called "parasitos" in some regions of S. America, these plants really take no nourishment from the host plant. We tend to grow our bromeliads in pots,

**This old garden trowel has seen better days,** since that's usually what we are familiar with. Most of **but serves as a nice mount for a small Vriesea** my plants are in pots for convenience but still, I like to mount bromeliads on pieces of wood and personally, I favor driftwood. I frequently paddle my canoe around the Intracoastal Waterway and it's relatively easy to find pieces of driftwood among the flotsam and jetsam along the shoreline. At the same time however, I realize that not everyone has access to driftwood and that's why I found Bill McBride's article in last month's newsletter so interesting since he pointed out a number of other materials that you might not have considered to use for mounts. I've also found a number of interesting materials that serve quite nicely as substrates for mounting bromeliads and thought that I might share the following observations regarding some of these.

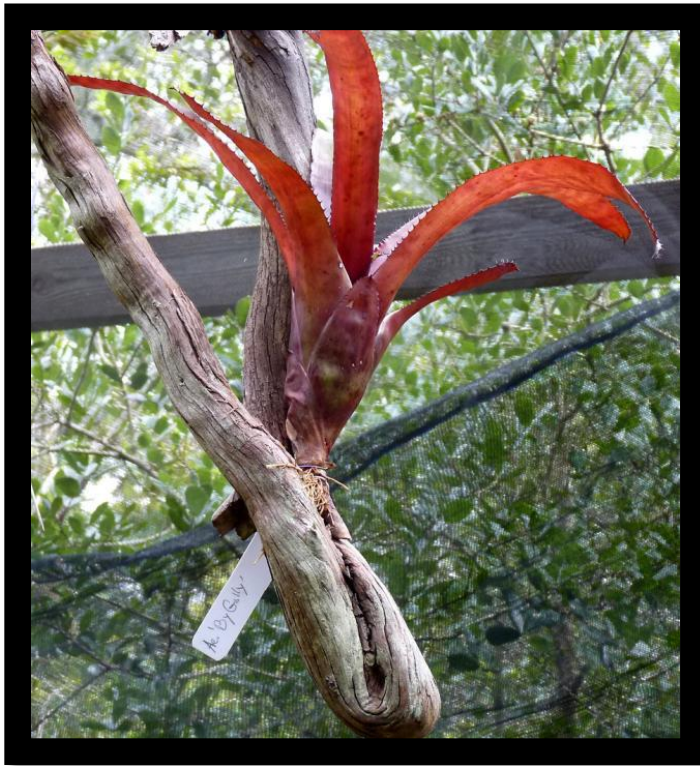
1. Weathered wood – this can include a wide range of woods that have been exposed to the elements long enough give them that rustic, aged look. In particular, I like to use roots of trees that have toppled over, either by storms or developers. **Pine trees** often have twisted and gnarled roots that can provide an interesting contrast or compliment to your epiphytic bromeliad. Look for land that has been cleared where pine trees have been pushed over and the roots are exposed. Where trees have been on the ground for quite some time, look also for knots that remain after the surrounding wood in the pine tree has decayed away. These are the "lighter knots" that are saturated in sap and when fresh, were often used to help light camp fires. After long periods of weathering these become as hard as rock and resist rot for many years. They're not usually very large, but they make a good choice for mounting smaller bromeliads.



**Cholla cactus "wood" is very porous**

and makes a good choice for mounting smaller bromeliads.

*Cedar trees* often have extensive, wandering root systems that protrude above ground where they become exposed to the weather. Cedar makes an exceptional mount with a satisfying gray color, smooth surface and as a bonus, resists decay for many years. Fallen branches can be set upright in concrete and used for “bromeliad trees” by mounting multiple bromeliads on each branch. *Oak* has a very nice tight grain and when weathered can provide a very interesting substrate for mounting bromeliads. In particular, I have found that fallen branches of oaks, if not already rotted, can last for long periods of time without decaying. *Lyonia* is found extensively in Central Florida and is often harvested and shipped to Japan and China where it is used in making artificial trees (there’s something a bit ironic about that!). *Lyonias* rarely develop much girth, but have an interesting spiral growth pattern and the wood is extremely rot-resistant. *Grape wood* isn’t something you’ll necessarily find while you’re out walking your dog. We don’t grow many grapes around this area, but grape wood can be purchase in pet stores, ordered over the internet, and is often available for sale in bromeliad nurseries. The wood is usually cleaned of bark and sold as small, interestingly twisted and gnarled pieces – perfect for mounting a small bromeliad or two. *Cholla cactus* wood isn’t found around here either, being native to the Southwestern part of the country and into Mexico, but also it is available for purchase through a number of sources.



**Ae. ‘By Golly’ mounted on pine tree root**  
soon develop into an impressive multiple display.

Highly decorative in appearance as well as highly porous, this material is close to ideal for mounting bromeliads. You’ll find that roots quickly penetrate Cholla and wrap in and around the wood to firmly anchor your plant. Woods not to use: those treated with creosote (telephone poles, dock pilings, railroad ties, etc.) or pressure treated lumber (The jury is still out on new pressure treated products. Older woods were treated with copper arsenite – both of which are toxic to bromeliads).

2. Coquina stone – pieces of this sedimentary rock can be found throughout the state and although they are quite heavy to move around, that’s a good thing since epiphytic plants like to be stable before developing roots to be permanently anchored. Strong winds and inquisitive wandering pets are not likely to dislodge a well mounted bromeliad set on coquina. The consistency of the rock

favors good root attachment and a single plant can

3. Miscellaneous – you’re only limited by your imagination in what can be used for mounting bromeliads. I’ve seen old garden tools used as substrates for mounting, pieces of discarded decorative metal (no copper though, please), plastics (be careful to select those that have ultraviolet light inhibitors or the plastic will soon break down from exposure to sunlight). An old favorite for mounting epiphytes is cork – the outer bark layer of tree grown in the Mediterranean area. It’s rot resistant and some epiphytes attach themselves quite well to cork.

I have a clump of *T. bartramii* mounted on a short section of galvanized electrical conduit and have even seen a bromeliad mounted on a bowling ball as well as one mounted on glass.

Try your hand at mounting bromeliads for interesting effects. There's a wide range of materials that you can obtain to work with at little or no cost and there's something very satisfying about creating your own bit of horticultural artwork from discarded materials. In future months, we'll cover more on how to use these materials to mount your plants and how to care for them once you've created your masterpiece!



**Catopsis morreniana attached to a cork slab**

*This article was used with permission, from the October 2010 newsletter of The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society.*

## **BSCF Meeting Minutes November 28, 2011**

President Lisa Robinette brought the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and welcomed 34 members. Vice President Bob Smedley was unable to attend due to recent deaths in the family and the club expresses their condolences to Bob.

Lisa introduced **Guest Speaker Dennis Cathcart** who presented about the Singapore "Gardens by the Bay". After the presentation,

Betsy McCrory, who is overseeing the **Refreshment Table**, asked the membership to provide feedback on the drink selection.

We took a 15 minute break and then Grant Groves and Marty Folk talked about **Show and Tell** plants. President Lisa called for additions or corrections to the October **Meeting Minutes**. Steve Beaudoin made a motion to accept the minutes as printed; Bill McBride seconded it; motion carried. Kay Klugh presented the **Treasurer's Report**. The balance in our accounts is \$10,434.03. The report will be filed for audit.

The **Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale** is coming up on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Lisa described this sale as one of the club's major fundraisers and outreach opportunities and asked if the membership was in favor of participating. Grant Groves made a motion that we participate; it was seconded by Bill McBride; motion carried. Grant volunteered to organize the sales for our club.

The date for the **Holiday Party** has been switched to December 10<sup>th</sup> and a sign-up sheet was passed around for what each member will bring.

There was brief discussion of the recent **Extravaganza** and then Betsy shared some information on the upcoming **World Conference** (September 2012). The theme will be "Kaleidoscope of Bromeliads". Members were encouraged to register early to save money. Three or more registrations from our club, sent in together, will allow a \$10 savings for each person (\$150 fee). Registration allows attendees to participate in seminars, a meet-and-greet evening event, a luncheon, and a banquet. Registered attendees will also be able to sign up for tours of commercial nurseries and yard tours (for an extra fee). On Wednesday of the conference, attendees will be able to take a bus tour to the commercial nurseries of either Deroose Plants/McCrory's Sunny Hill Nursery or Color Zone Tropicals/Russell's Bromeliads.

President Lisa announced that her new email address is [lisabromeliads@hotmail.com](mailto:lisabromeliads@hotmail.com). She also relayed that the January guest speaker will be Ken Stokes who will talk about *Cryptanthus*.

Members were offered another chance to sign up to order 2 new bromeliad books that Dean Fairchild told us about at a previous meeting. Announcements included a special holiday lights display at the Florida Botanical Garden (Largo, FL) and the Sale/Show of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society (Ft. Meyers, FL).

**Door and Raffle Prize tickets** were called by Ben and Kay Klugh. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by, Marty Folk, Secretary.

# 2012 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_ RENEWAL

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip +4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone /Email \_\_\_\_\_

**\$15 for first member, plus \$5 per each additional family member at the same address.**

**Name Badges \$5 ea 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 6:30-7pm) at Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave in Orlando. For directions call 407-246-2620 or [www.leugardens.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

**BSCF Holiday Party Pictures By Lisa Robinette**





**The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc. was formed in 1972 to encourage the exchange of information concerning the culture, identification and hybridization of the plant family *Bromeliaceae*; to promote & maintain public interest in bromeliads and to assist in the preservation of all bromeliads for future generations.**

Meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month from 7-9 PM at Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue in Orlando. For directions: 407.246.2620 or www.leugardens.org. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments & door prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter — all for only \$15 per member, plus \$5 per additional family member (no charge for full-time students). Visitors are always welcome.

**BSCF is a nonprofit Florida corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to this society are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.**

BSCF is an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International, Inc. and a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. and the Cryptanthus Society.

<b>President</b>	<b>Ben Klugh</b>	<b>Klughka@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Lisa Robinette</b>	<b>lisasbromeliads@hotmail.com</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Marty Folk</b>	<b>folkfam@embarqmail.com</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Kay Klugg</b>	<b>Klughka@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Librarians</b>	<b>Phyllis Baumer</b>	<b>Phylbau@aol.com</b>
	<b>Sudi Hipsley</b>	<b>sudii@embarqmail.com</b>
<b>FCBS Rep</b>	<b>Betsy McCrory</b>	<b>betsymccrory@aol.com</b>
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Steven Wagner</b>	<b>StellaLunaGardens@Yahoo.com</b>
<b>Mailing</b>	<b>Betsy McCrory</b>	
<b>Refreshments</b>	<b>Betsy McCrory</b>	



*Permission to reprint is granted with acknowledgment. Please send all correspondence to the address below:*



Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc.  
 PO Box 536961  
 Orlando, FL 32853-6961  
*Address Correction Requested*

**January 2012**

**Next Meeting:** Monday, January 23, 2012

**Refreshments:** Everyone

