

More of the Christmas Party

Contributors
this Issue:

- Pat Pennell.
- Bob Watkins.
- Margaret Von Konigsmark.
- Derek Butcher
- Len Waite



Disclaimer:

This bi-monthly news-
letter is intended to
provide general infor-
mation only for mem-
bers of Glasshouse
Country Bromeliad
Society Inc. The pro-
ducers and contribu-
tors will not be respon-
sible for any loss or
damage to property or
injury to persons re-
garding the informa-
tion provided.

Editorial Committee : Bob Watkins, Margaret Von Konigsmark,
Pat Pennell

Printed by Glasshouse Country News



Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 10

February 2010

Happy New Year

December saw the
club's Christmas party
take place at Mark and
Donna Pearce's home
at Beerburum.

What a day.



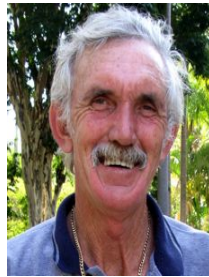
Our host's could not have done more to make it a day to remember. Thanks Guys.

To everybody that chipped in and helped with making sure there was plenty to eat and drink, give yourself a pat on the back.

President Bob and his little helper Len
acted as Santa handing out the secret
Santa presents, which, going by the ex-
pressions on everybody's face, were well
received.



After eating too much, most members
enjoyed a casual stroll around Mark and
Donna's gardens which were presented
to the minute.



Inside!

Presidents
Message 2

The Kitchen
Method of
Seed Raising 3

The flowering
progress of
Aechmea Del
Mar 4

What's On
When in 2010 5

Len's Timely
Tips

Photos from
Pat's place 6

Unusual use of
a bromeliad. 7

Some brome-
liad history.

Little known
fact

More Christ-
mas fun 8



Tender Contractors to
Sunshine Coast
Regional Council
85 Roberts Road, Beerwah, Qld
Markets every Saturday 9am - 5pm
Telephone: (07 54946798)

Glasshouse Country News are pleased to be able to support the Glasshouse Country
Bromeliad Society in their publication

President's Message



Hello again

A happy new year to all.

Well I don't know about all of you but our December gathering was a wonderful day. The friendship & sharing we experienced at Mark & Donnas was so gratifying. I was so pleased with the effort everyone went to in participating in the Secret Santa. The sharing & friendship of the day was a fitting conclusion to the year.

It's almost too difficult to believe that it is February 2010 & the last month of summer & what a trying time it has been to protect our plants from the shifting sun, especially when you are setting up a new garden as Margaret & I have been. Len has given us some tips to protect our plants with temporary shade but the sun still manages to find its way through a gap & burn the odd plant. I suppose that the sun is now heading north again, the job starts again. I reckon it takes a few years to know which plant can live in the same home all year, so all we need to do is to pluck out the pot remove the pup & put the mum back or replace the mum with one of the pups or to create a cluster plant group. For those of us who grow plants to enjoy & to share with our friends having the pots in deep mulch makes the process so easy or do as one of our members does & have a second pot set into the soil & not have the mulch so deep.

The 2010 Glasshouse Country Sustainability & Garden Expo will be conducted again on Sunday 23rd of May, a school & general community garden competition will be conducted again this year. I would encourage members who live in the circulation area of the Glasshouse Country News to consider entering as the plants we grow are very sustainable in this climate. You may have seen in the GCNews I have started a regular contribution from the Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society this will be published on the third week of each month, this is a Society contribution so I will be asking members to prepare a contribution if you would like.

Happy Growing

Bob

*****DATE CLAIMER*****

May 23rd: Glasshouse Country Sustainability & Garden Expo. Beerwah Community Centre Turner Park Beerwah.



Tender Contractors to Sunshine Coast Regional Council

85 Roberts Road, Beerwah, Qld
Markets every Saturday 9am - 5pm
Telephone: (07 54946798)

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED.

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mum is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask you 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.

Unusual Use of a Bromeliad



Fishing line and nets, rope, bags, fans, sandals, hammocks, clothing and string for musical instruments. These are a few of the uses made over the centuries by the indigenous people of Central and South America and Mexico from fibre extracted from *Aechmea magdalenae*. In Panama the Ngöbe women use it to make bags called *kra* in Ngäbere and *chacara* in Spanish. These bags are used to carry items such as household supplies, food from the farm, tools and even children up to three years of age



Some Bromeliad History

Mulford Bateman Foster (1888-1978) was a man known by many as the "Father of the Bromeliad" as he was instrumental in the discovery and introduction of many new species of Bromeliad to the United States. Numerous bromeliad plants found today are named after various Foster family members and the genus *Fosterella* is named in honour of his work.



Little Known fact



The first testicular guard was used in cricket in 1874. It took 100 years for men to realise that the brain was also important.

[Author anonymous]

Photos from Pat's Garden

Pat Pennell kindly took the time to photograph the progressive stages of her *Alcantarea Extensa* and *Neoregelia cruenta* X *marmorata* coming into flower and share them with the members. Also included are photos of some of the many bromeliads Pat and husband Keith have growing at their property



Alcantarea Extensa 1



Neoregelia cruenta X marmorata coming into flower



Alcantarea Extensa 2



Alcantarea Extensa 3



Alcantarea Extensa bud



Alcantarea Extensa flower



Printed by Glasshouse Country News

THE KITCHEN METHOD OF SEED RAISING,

By: "Chef" Derek Butcher

"Aussie Tucker (for Chinese menu see last paragraph)"

Ingredients:

Seed from Bromeliads OTHER THAN Tillandsia

Sphagnum Moss

Small plastic pots say 2 inch square

Labels

Plastic bags (Small)

Plastic ties

Thin wire to make a Butcher's hook!

Recipe:

Place moist sphagnum in pot. Firm this down to just below the rim.

Sprinkle on seed straight from packet. If Vriesea or Guzmania spray water on the parachute seeds to dampen them down. Seed from Bromelioideae come in berries and may be sticky. Unless you MUST HAVE a high percentage of germination there is no need to wash or use fungicide. After all they don't get this treatment in the wild!

Write name of seed on label and place in pot with the writing facing outwards so you will be able to read it through the plastic bag!

Place pot in plastic bag. Add a small amount of water to bag, preferably rain water.

Close bag with plastic tie and make a loop.

Hook up your bag in a light position but not direct sun.

Check your bag (s) every week or so remembering to blow in the bag (giving the seedlings a bit of CO2!) before closing.

To Get In Touch: Phone Margaret on 54969601, Pat on 54941761 or address mail to
P.O. Box 424, Glasshouse Mountains 4518

Printed by Glasshouse Country News

When plants are 1/2 inch to 1 inch high remove pot from plastic bag to harden plants off.

When plants are about 1 inch high they can be transferred to a pot of their own using soil mix. Don't do this in your cold winter months.

If you forget to transplant the plants they will still survive even without fertiliser! It is just that it will take you longer to get a mature plant.

If you are the sort that eats Chinese Take-away food you can save lots of work by ordering a large serve of fried rice! After you have eaten the rice the see-through container is ideal for seed raising. Don't forget the moist sphagnum moss in the bottom half! Write the name of the seed on the lid and keep on the window-ledge as long as it is not in direct sun. Refer steps 7 - 10 above except remove lid instead of bag!

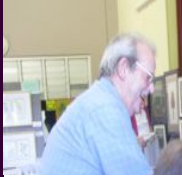
Uncle Derek Says:

"Bromeliad seed generally germinates so well you should throw away at least 1/2 your seedlings unless you want a garden full of the same kind! Be ruthless with your thinning."

If you are a BSI member you can obtain seed from the BSI Seed Fund

Source: <http://fcbs.org/articles/kitchen.htm>

The flowering progress of Aechmea Del Mar



Bob Watkins took these photos to share the excitement of seeing this plant come into bloom with members.

If you happen to have any photos of a bromeliad you are proud of, don't be bashful, e-mail them to one of the editorial team and we'll publish them for you.



I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue- " No good in a bed but fine against a wall" Eleanor Roosevelt

February 7th: Glasshouse Mountains Bromeliad Society meeting. 2.00.pm. Mary McKillop Centre. Peachester Rd Beerwah.

February 13th: ROBBO'S BROMELIAD SALE. 5 Simmons St. Caboolture. 8.00.am. We are planning to move house. Come along and grab a bargain or two.

February 26th, 27th, 28th, Queensland International Orchid Fair. Pine Rivers PCYC. Baker St. Bray Park. Free Admission.

February 27th & 28th. BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA . Wavell Heights Community Hall 175 Edinburgh Castle Rd. Wavell Heights Brisbane. Free Admission

March 6th & 7th. Noosa Bromeliad Market. Combined Growers Market Noosa Bicentennial Hall. Bicentennial Drv. Sunshine Beach Free Admission

Australian Open Garden Scheme 42 Anne-Maree Drv Caboolture 9.30am. _ 4.30.pm. Adult Admission: \$6.00 each. Plant sales. AM & PM Teas. Light Lunches

March 7th: Glasshouse Mountains Bromeliad Society meeting. Lottie & John Nisbett's

April 11th: Glasshouse Mountains Bromeliad Society meeting 2.00.pm.Mary McKillop Centre. [please take note of date change to second Sunday of month because of Easter]

May 2nd: Glasshouse Mountains Bromeliad Society meeting. 2.00.pm. Mary McKillop Centre. Peachester Rd Beerwah.

Len's Timely Tips for February

Tip 1: Tip one is not about plants, this one is to remind us why we get together at meetings and other social gatherings. We do this because we are a special breed of people that relate to each other through a common interest that we have growing a special breed of plant called Bromeliads. These plants come in many different shapes and sizes and colours, so do the people that grow them, therefore we will have likes and dislikes of both genera. With some patience and understanding we can become better growers and people at same time.

Tip 2: I guess everybody is riding the same wave as we are with the hot days at this time, earlier in my tips I suggested maybe putting some old shade cloth over your plants somehow though you need to lift it a little so it doesn't touch the plant or it may still burn. (Thanks Belinda for the feedback.)

Tip 3: Sometimes we get so busy we are unable to keep up with the jobs we should be doing. Recently I sort of fried some Imperialis Rubras, yes they are a full sun plant but if we are growing these in pots and not mother natures way in the earth we must keep sufficient moisture in the pots. Next time you burn a plant look at the reason it burnt, see what you may be able to do to prevent it happening again.

Tip 4: Perfect time of the year to break up plants and re-pot, just keep in mind the offsets even if they are full sun plants they will not have a mother to rely on, also they may not have a good root system as yet so introduce them back into the real world slowly. A plant that does not have a root system will take a while to establish, don't over water it until your babies have established themselves. That all folks. p.s. Feedback invited.

Waitey.