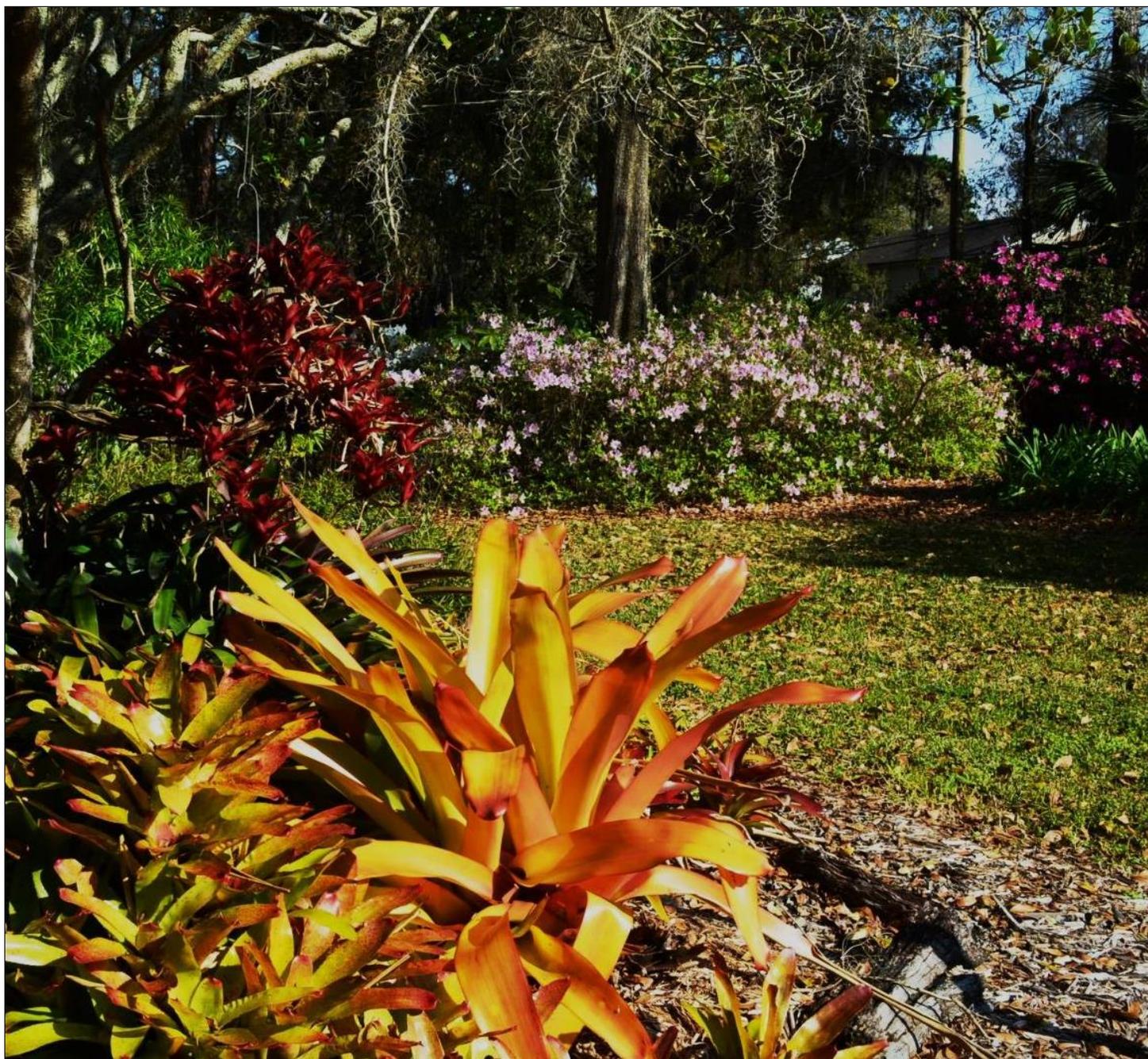


Florida Council Of Bromeliad Societies



Vol. 35 Issue 1

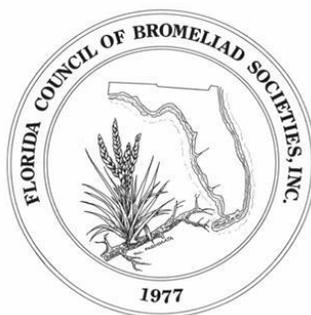
February 2015

In This Issue

Table of Contents	2
Catching Up, Staying Even.....	3
FCBS/2015 Extravaganza	4
2015 -2016 Calendar of Events	5
Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report.....	6
Easy Achmea.....	9
Everyday Voice of Bromeliads	12
Its 2015.....	12
One Guy’s thoughts on Bromeliad Hybridizing.....	14
Air Plants Book Review.....	15
Quarterly Minutes of the FCBS	16
2015 FCBS of Officers	17

This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Florida
Council of Bromeliad Societies.
For permission to reprint articles from this publication
send all requests to karen@fcbs.org.

On the cover: *Aechmea blanchetiana* on the ground and hanging in the *Lagustrum* - *Neoregelia*
'Fireballs' taken in the Wolfe's yard in Lutz Photo Carol Wolfe©





CATCHING UP, STAYING EVEN

by Carol Wolfe

It is a beautiful spring day in Tampa with the temperature in the middle of the afternoon hovering at 74 degrees, the sun is shining, the azaleas and orchids are blooming, and the bromeliads spreading their leaves ever so gracefully and looking beautiful in the Florida sunshine.

This beautiful *Aechmea* 'Delmar' has graced the entrance to my front door for two months and I believe that it is as beautiful today as when it was put on the display table.

We have sad news to share in that two of our FCBS family members have passed away, Nat and Eileen DeLeon. Eileen passed away December 26, 2014 followed by Nat on January 28, 2015. Nat was known as a bromeliad expert, hybridizer and co-founder of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. Nat will be remembered in bromeliad history as a great person with his many fine contributions to the bromeliad world.

They are survived by their sons, Robert, Richard and Donald and families and four grandchildren. Our hearts go out to their family with love and sympathy from the FCBS.

Eileen's obituary described her as follows: "She lovingly dedicated her life to her family, the Catholic Church, and generously serving others in need. In addition to her selfless devotion to her family, Eileen joyfully dedicated years to serving as a volunteer at South Miami Hospital and was actively involved with a variety of local charities. Those close to Eileen will remember her as one of the most caring and selfless people they have ever met."

I met Eileen in the late 70's while attending a BSSF show at Fairchild Gardens. She was very friendly and as our paths crossed at many bromeliad events over the years, she always had a smile and a greeting. I will always remember her for her friendliness.

Nat served on the FCBS for many years as the Representative from BSSF and was part of the council in the formative years when many important decisions were made about the council and its future direction. It was a privilege to have known them. They will be sorely missed but their memory will leave on in our hearts.

The Bromeliad Society of South Florida has written some wonderful tributes to the DeLeons. We will not repeat them here as you can go to <http://FCBS.org> website under member societies, Bromeliad Society of South Florida, and read the tributes in the December and January newsletters or go directly to the BSSF website:

<http://www.bssf-miami.org/BromeliAdvisory.htm>

We are very happy to report that Michael Andreas is doing well and we wish him a speedy recovery. We are so happy that he will continue as the Web Master for the FCBS website! We are equally pleased to have Karen Andreas as a Guest contributor in this month's newsletter with her article, "Easy Aechmea" and a book review! Thank you Karen for your articles and a big thank you to our other contributors this month: Alton Lee of Gulfport, Florida and a member of the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society, Teresa Cooper and Ron Cave on the Weevil Research, and Kay Klugh, Chairman of the FCBS. Thank you all so much for your contribution to this Newsletter!



Nat and Eileen DeLeon
(Photo reprinted from the BSSF, February 2015)

What is the FCBS?

Is it just a group of people that meet quarterly?
Is it just a number of societies that meet once a year and hold an Extravaganza?
A source of information for plant sales?
A calendar of events?

Yes, it is all that and more, it is a group of people connected, not by blood but by their addictive love of bromeliads flowing through their veins, growing them, collecting them, learning about them and getting to know the people behind the plants who share their common interest.

What is the Extravaganza 2015?

Extravaganza?? An annual event to provide a time to see, to sell and to buy bromeliads, a time to visit, a time to learn, a time to make new friends and a time to renew old friendships....it's a great day!!

Have you ever thought about all the interesting people that you have met through bromeliads? If it had not been for your mutual interest in bromeliads, your paths may not have crossed in this life and you would have missed getting to know these special people.

So we want "you" to put the next Extravaganza on your calendar and make your reservations to attend. Here is the information:

When: September 26, 2015

Where: Miami Airport Convention Center

711 Northwest 72nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33126

Rooms: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
TEL: +1-305-261-3800

Use the Group code: "BRO" whether calling, faxing, or emailing reservations.

Book online:

doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/M/MIAMADT-BRO-20150923/index.jhtml

or go to <http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

Save the Date

The Bromeliad Society of South Florida
and
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

invite you to join us
in Miami, Florida
for
**Bromeliads
in the
Magic City**

an Extravaganza sponsored by the
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

September 26 2015

DoubleTree by Hilton
Miami Airport Convention Center

contact bpartagas8554@gmail.com

Design Urszula Dudek

2015 -2016 Events Calendar

March 14-15, 2015

Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale
Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, FL
(<http://www.leugardens.org>)

March 27-29, 2015

Tropiflora Spring Festival
Tropiflora Nursery
3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota
941-351-2267 (tropiflora.com)

March 28-29, 2015

GreenFest Plant Sale
University of Tampa
Tampa, FL (friendsofplantpark.com/greenfest)

March 27-29, 2015

Everybody's Flower Show
Ocean Center
Daytona Beach, FL

April 11-12, 2015

USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL
(cas.usf.edu/garden)

April 11, 2015

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Meeting in
Gainesville, Florida

April 16-19, 2015

Bromsmatta, 18th Australasian Bromeliad
Conference. Parramatta, Australia, hosted by the
Bromeliad Society of Australia
(www.bromeliad.org.au)



Orthophytum Iron Ore X Stardust
variegata by P Winegart (Entry in 20th
BSI WBC Orlando, FL Photo: Carol
Wolfe 2012©)

April 25-26, 2015

Green Thumb Festival
Walter Fuller Park
St. Petersburg, FL
(stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb)

July 11, 2015

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Meeting

August 15-16, 2015

Seminole Bromeliad Tropical Plant Society Sale
The Garden Club of Sanford
Sanford, FL
Ben Klugh at Klughka@yahoo.com

September 26, 2015

Bromeliad Extravaganza hosted by the Bromeliad
Society of South Florida. "Bromeliads in the Magic
City".

October 10 – 11, 2015 Show

Southwest Bromeliad
Kenner, LA
Contact: Bryan Windham
brykoo169@aol.com

October 10 – 11, 2015

USF Botanical Gardens Spring Fall Sale
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
(cas.usf.edu/garden)

October 10, 2015

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Meeting

June 13-19, 2016

22nd BSI World Conference hosted by the Houston
Bromeliad Society in Houston, TX.



Dyckia Mercury x Dyckia reitzii Rubra
by R Lemieux
(Entry in 20th BSI WBC Orlando, FL
Photo: Carol Wolfe 2012©)

**MEXICAN BROMELIAD WEEVIL REPORT
OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2014**

Teresa M. Cooper and Ronald D. Cave

¹Indian River Research & Education Center, UF, Ft. Pierce, FL

Teresa Cooper and Jimmy Yawn made a trip to Belize from 17 to 25 November 2014 to visit a population of *Tillandsia utriculata* that co-exists with the Mexican bromeliad weevil. The bromeliads grew in old grapefruit trees in groves growing along Hummingbird Highway between Middlesex and Pomona (Figure 1). Thirty-nine weevil specimens (10 adults, 9 pupae, and 20 larvae) and 50 *T. utriculata* leaf samples were collected and hand carried to Florida. Thirty whole *T. utriculata* plants were collected (Figure 2) and shipped to Florida. The weevils are now in the quarantine facility at the Hayslip Biological Control Research and Containment Facility and are being reared to produce a colony for research purposes. The leaf samples were delivered to Ryan Moraski at the Florida Museum of Natural History for DNA analysis. The leaf length, leaf toughness, stems size, and, if present, height of inflorescence were measured on *T. utriculata* plants in the field. Weevils were sparsely found, usually 1 to 2 specimens per plant, even in the largest plants. Often the weevil specimens were found mining the outer part of the stem, leaving the center of the plant undamaged and therefore able to continue growing and to produce an inflorescence.



Sentinel Mexican bromeliad weevil Figure 1: Citrus groves growing along Hummingbird Highway between Middlesex and Pomona. *Tillandsia utriculata*, along with many other epiphytes, grew in the older grapefruit trees.

Host bromeliad effect on the development and oviposition rate of the Mexican bromeliad weevil continues to be tested on whole bromeliads in the laboratory. So far, the weevil's oviposition rate has been tested on 140 bromeliads, including the Florida and Central American forms of *T. utriculata*, *Guzmania monostachia*, *T. fasciculata*, and pineapple tops. Plants were also tested for sugar content and leaf toughness and stem, leaves, and inflorescence, if present, were measured. Eggs collected from these bromeliads were monitored for larval emergence. Testing of the weevil's development on whole plants have begun; so far, only Florida and Central American forms of *T. utriculata* and pineapple tops have been tested.

The whole *T. utriculata* plants that were collected in Belize, as well as a second shipment of *T. utriculata* also from Belize and that was received just before Christmas, have been placed in a secure area where they can recover from being processed and shipped. Once recovered, these plants will be used in experimentation. Data already collected, from the field and from the laboratory, are being organized and analyzed and data in the laboratory continue to be collected.

larvae have been placed in the field at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary to detect for the possible establishment of *L. franki* in the Forest. From 30 September to 18 December 2014, eight sets of sentinel weevil larvae were placed weekly in the field. We will resume putting sentinel weevil larvae back in the forest on 21 January 2015. So far, no flies have been recovered. More trips are planned to visit sites where Mexican bromeliad weevil infestations, and monitoring of those infestations, have been in place for ten or more years, to assess the long-term effect of the weevil on bromeliad populations. As well, the first step towards starting a project to actively conserve *T. utriculata* in Florida was begun in Ft. Pierce. The objective of this project is to enlist parks, refuges, sanctuaries, and private landowners to promote, maintain, and protect *T. utriculata* populations on their lands (Figure 4).



Figure 2: Jimmy Yawn harvesting a large *Tillandsia utriculata* plant from the canopy of a grapefruit tree.



Figure 3: Teresa Cooper holding a *Tillandsia utriculata* plant with an inflorescence.



Figure 4: Small *Tillandsia utriculata* attached to tree.

Easy Aechmea

by Karen Andreas

Aechmeas are great for the Florida landscape, and, given proper light and growing conditions, are easy additions to any yard.

The genus *Aechmea* has the most diversity in form and inflorescences of all bromeliads. Size ranges from a few inches to 9' in diameter (*Ae. conifera*). Its growth habit may be upright and tubular or an open rosette. Leaves may be soft or rigid; plain or scurfed; one solid color or bicolored; barred, striped, or mottled. The leaves of all species in this genus have teeth, however there are some spineless cultivars (such as 'Eileen,' 'DeLeon,' 'Frederike' and 'Maya').

Generally the inflorescence is on a long scape (stem), although in some *Aechmeas* it does not rise above the throat of the bromeliad. The form of the inflorescence itself is varied: branched, cylindrical, or globular; erect or pendant.



Ae. 'Fredrike' (right) is a spineless, upright growing *Aechmea*.
© M. Andreas.

The inflorescence of the rosette shaped *Ae.* *biflora* (left) stays just above the leaves. © E.J. Gouda



Generally the inflorescence is on a long scape (stem), although in some *Aechmeas* it does not rise above the throat of the bromeliad. The form of the inflorescence itself is varied: branched, cylindrical, or globular; erect or pendant.



Ae. racinae (left) has a pendant inflorescence. © Reginald Baiao

Ae. cylindrata (middle) is an example of a cylindrical-shaped inflorescence.

© M. Andreas

Ae. 'Blue Tango' has a branching inflorescence. © Shirley Grills-Konefal

After blooming, the often long-lived inflorescence will produce berries; seeds are carried inside in a gel-like substance, which needs to be rinsed off from the seeds if you want to grow from scratch. *Aechmeas* grow terrestrially, epiphytically and sometimes are saxicolous.

There are a few general rules of thumb when it comes to this genus. *Aechmeas* can be grown in the ground, in containers, in trees and mounted. Soft leaved *Aechmeas* (such as *discolor*, *racinae*, *warasii*, *fulgens* var. *discolor*) do best in filtered sunlight, never direct sunlight. For *Aechmeas* with stiff, leather-like, thick or tough leaves, bright filtered light is best; when these *Aechmeas* are grown in shady conditions, they tend to have long, strappy leaves and poor overall form.

You will notice a difference in how the same Aechmeas grow when given differing levels of light. *Aechmea blanchetiana*, which has been seen in front of the primary dune line in Canaveral National Seashores, grows compactly, with bright yellow and broader leaves and a tighter water tank when grown in hard sun. Grown in filtered light, the leaves are longer as is the inflorescence.



This clump of *Ae. blanchetiana* has been grown in the same location for twelve years. During which time the light conditions changed. Originally grown in brighter light on the left, notice the more compact growth. Photo on left, © M. Andreas; on right, © K. Andreas

Some Aechmeas can tolerate temperatures down to mid-30°F, although those with thin and flexible leaves are damaged below 50°F. (See FCBS Newsletter vol. 27, issue 1, 2007, for a list of some cold tolerant Aechmeas.) Even if there is some damage, all might not be lost. *Ae. blanchetiana*, grown in central Merritt Island, was nipped by cold during the winter of 2001. In early spring, the center leaves of the bromeliad were loose, and it was possible to pull out the core. By late spring, the center leaves were settled and attached to the rest of the plant once again, and the bromeliad was sending out new leaves. Patience is key while you wait for your bromeliad to recover from cold damage.

Aechmeas seem to be fairly generous in throwing pups. Faithful *Ae. fasciata* will throw pups until it is down to dry brown leaves. Removing the pups when they are half to two thirds the size of the mother plant seems to stimulate the production of more pups. Aechmeas can be grown in clumps as well as separated and planted or mounted individually. Some Aechmeas such as *orlandiana* and *nudicaulis* and their cultivars have a stoloniferous type growth habit and will climb over a piece of wood or on a tree to dramatic effect.



Ae. fasciata is underused as a landscape plant. Great foliage and a long lasting inflorescence make this a true contender for the landscape. Left photo © Shirley Grills-Konefal; right, © Blossom World Bromeliads





This diverse genus offers colorful foliage for every taste and landscape design.

Left, *Ae.* 'Ensign' and, upper middle, its inflorescence, is a perfect candidate for mounting and placing in a tree where sunlight shines through its leaves.

Grow this and all Orlandiana cultivars in strong light for the best color. Photo, left, © M. Andreas; inflorescence photo © Bromeliario Imperialis.

Ae. 'Black on Black', bottom right, and 'Black Marble' with strong red color in its leaves, © M. Andreas

For specific information about growing Aechmeas in your location, ask your fellow bromeliad society members. Their experience is the best source for how to grow in your part of Florida.

The Photo Index of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies has a good selection of photographs of Aechmea species and cultivars. To see examples of the variations in growth habits of Aechmea species, look up the following pictures:



Ae. aculeatosepala. In the second habitat shot by Wally Berg, you can see the stoloniferous growth of this bromeliad.

Ae. beeriana. Notice the tough, armored leaves and the brilliant inflorescence.

Ae. biflora. This Aechmea blushes an intense red; its bright yellow inflorescence does not rise above the leaves. Other Aechmeas with inflorescences nestled in the leaves are *echinata* and *magdalenae*.

Ae. blanchetiana. Dramatic yellow- orange leaves when grown in good light, its red branching inflorescence stays in color for months. For another dramatic inflorescence, see *Ae. leptantha*.

Ae. involucrata is interesting because its inflorescence appears to vary, depending on if it is growing epiphytically or terrestrially.

Ae. lasseri has a dramatic, pendant inflorescence. Its leaves are red when grown in sunlight; more green when in shade. This species grows both terrestrially and epiphytically in Venezuelan cloud forests.

Ae. mariae-reginae is notable for having two forms, male and female.

Ae. perforata is something different. Smith and Downs describes the inflorescence as "bearing a dense white wool between the flowers".

Ae. pineliana comes in two forms – variety *pineliana* and variety *minuta* (a smaller form). A colorful addition for the garden when in bloom.

And for something completely different, *Ae. tayoensis*. Look for yourself!

What are these words?

Scurf - The white or silver, often powdery looking substance on leaves; they are specialized cells that absorb water. Scurf makes up the silvery bands on *Ae. fasciata*.

Terrestrial - Growing in the ground, in soil.

Epiphyte - "Air plants"; growing on tree branches or on other material, not parasitically.

Saxicolous - Growing on, over or between rocks.

Stolon-Woody stems; attach quite easily to trees or mounting material. *Neo.* 'Fireball' is an example of a bromeliad with "stoloniferous" growth.

EVERYDAY VOICE OF BROMELIADS

In an article originally published in the *BromilAdvisory*, November 2008, Nat DeLeon expressed his voice about the FCBS calling it the “Everyday Voice of Bromeliads” and here is the excerpt:

"While the Journal has been the voice of bromeliads for so many years, I have to mention the *everyday voice of bromeliads* that has been available for some time now, and that is the Florida Council of Bromeliad Society's web site, <http://fcbs.org/> Michael Andreas and his wife Karen have done a tremendous job. The web site covers just about every facet of bromeliads and includes the most up to date photos of hybrids made by bromeliad lovers from all over the world. It is truly a work of art!"

We agree with Nat’s assessment of the web site.

For the full article go to: www.fcbs.org/articles/NatDeLeon-MoynaPrince.htm)

Its 2015

by Kay Klugh

Its 2015, and the news media has been scrutinizing the predictions from ‘Back to the Future 2’. Amazingly, many of them have been realized, and others are in the development stages.

A list of the things the 1989 films got right, include:

- Flat Screen TVs-Televisions have changed a lot since the 80’s and we can expect even more changes in the near future.
- Video conference technology-We now have Skype, Face Time, OOvoo, Snap Chat and a whole array of video conference programs.
- Biometric identification-We already have biometric technology on our phones and we can soon expect to see more of it. Soon people won’t just be able to unlock phones and computers with their finger print, they’ll also be able to open doors by using their heartbeats with the Nymi band. Consumers will probably get to see other similar innovations as well.
- 3D-We see it in movie theaters, video games, home TV and even in comic books.
- Holographic displays-Holograms have been around for a while, but in 2015 we can definitely expect more use of that technology.
- Drones-They are everywhere! The movie definitely got this right. Except that drones don’t walk our dogs yet like they do in the movie.

What they didn’t get right, but is definitely in the works, include:

- Hover board-Several people have attempted creating a hover board. But there is still not one like the anti-gravity board Marty uses in the movie. But there is one in development which is projected to be out in October of 2015. It is the HENDO and is projected to retail for \$10000.
- Self-lacing shoes-Even though there are none for sale as of yet, Nike is reportedly working on self-tying sneakers which it hopes to introduce in 2015.

Things the film got wrong, include:

- Rejuvenation masks/clinics-A lot of people would appreciate these, but unfortunately the technology is not yet here.
- Stationary exercise bicycles at Cafes-Let’s hope the throughout 2015 gyms and cafes remain separated.

- Fax machines and phone booths-This is one of the biggest predictions the movie got wrong. In the movie everywhere the protagonist went there would be fax machines. Although they are still used, they are not as prominent as the movie depicted them to be. Phone booths are also seldom found. Those two are definitely technology of the past. I have seen, however, proposals to make existing phone booths become wi-fi arears.
- Flying cars-Unfortunatly, cars aren't like the rest of the technology that is rapidly growing and changing. There have been people who've invented flying cars, but none that look like the DeLorean DMC-12.

Just thought I'd share this with you. Especially since I'm trying to predict what the future, this year, may hold for us. Sometimes, I dream of being able to see what the future holds, but I just seem to be destined to repeat the past.

I spent much of last week taking down Christmas decorations. I had put up four full size trees and one miniature tree. They all required taking down ornaments and individually storing them for the next year. Just putting up those trees would be more than sufficient for decorating our home at Christmas, but I don't just stop there. I decorate two trees outside, put garland throughout the house, and bring out all the Santas and Angels each year. The number of decorating items grows each year instead of decreasing as I say it will do each year. But I continue to do as I have in the past. Old habits are hard to break.

This is also true of my love of plants and gardening. I continually say I have never met a plant I didn't like. When Ben and I moved to Florida nine years ago, I had not even seen many bromeliads. I was an avid gardener who always grew whatever the climate I lived in would allow. In Alabama, that was annual plants, daffodils, iris, azaleas and a yard filled with dogwood and other flowering shrubs and trees, as well as a vegetable garden. I then moved to Virginia where we still had the azaleas, annuals, iris, flowering shrubs and trees and daffodils, but we quickly found that daylilies and hostas grew well there and were beautiful also. We located the Daylily and Iris Societies and frequented their sales. At one Iris Society sale, we were cautioned to stay away from certain areas of plants since the older women gardeners could be dangerous when they were fighting for plants. All the plants were laid out by category and all shoppers had to wait for the specified time to start shopping. It was quite an experience. I stayed in the less popular area while Ben fought for the more popular plants with the experienced gardeners. He verified that it could be dangerous.

Then off to Arkansas. There we grew everything we had grown before but were able to add peonies, Louisiana Iris and roses to our gardens. We became especially fond of daylilies and had hundreds of different varieties. Again we sought out the Daylily Society in our area, and we visited retail growers as far away as Missouri. Needless to say, we were disappointed when we learned the daffodils and daylilies we brought from Arkansas to Florida did not grow in our area. But we did inherit a tropical garden filled with bromeliads.

We then sought out the Bromeliad Societies. We are currently members of the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society and the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. We have thoroughly enjoyed all the meetings, conferences, sales, Extravaganzas and the World Conference we have been privileged to attend. We have also purchased a lot of plants. I continually say I have too many plants and do not need to buy more. But, again, I see a new beautiful plant and cannot resist having it. Old habits are hard to break.

The time for plant sales and shows is approaching. I look forward each year to seeing all the beautiful plants and to trying new ones in our garden.

I'm especially looking forward to this year's Extravaganza in South Florida on September 26, 2015.

Hope to see you all there.

Kay Klugh

**Vriesea osimae var.
Gruberi 'Tie Dye" by
Bullis Bromeliads
entry in 20th BSI WBC
in Orlando, Florida**

Photo Carol Wolfe©



One Guy's Thoughts on Bromeliad Hybridizing

By H. Alton Lee

Many people who become addicted to loving and growing bromeliads eventually become curious about trying the plants from seeds. Beyond that step the idea of hybridizing and creating a new plant can then beckon.

Seed growing while not necessarily difficult is still time consuming and plenty early enthusiasts soon get over their initial interest and leave the work to others.

But a few find satisfaction and success with seeds and then do move on to the idea of hybridizing, a project that can consume even more time and involve a lot of waiting.

When a novice succeeds, it is not especially surprising that he or she gets excited about introducing the new baby and often not for just mere self-satisfaction, but with the mercenary idea of financial gain for marketing a new creation. This is at least partially understandable.

But the goal of a new plant hybrid—bromeliad or any other variety of plant—should be an honest effort to create something that is genuinely different and new, unique even. And this is where the big problems begin to aborn because too many would be hybridists lose all their personal objectivity when they look at their batch of new seedlings.

This lack of true discrimination and a careful and demanding eye means that far too often yet more “same old same old” items get introduced and registered into the bromeliad world.

Indeed, the situation has spun wildly out of control with the end result being a flood of plans that are not very distinguished or with any lasting merit. And the situation is getting even worse.

Hundreds of new plants keep being introduced, which look exactly like what is already widely available. Only the plant names are different.

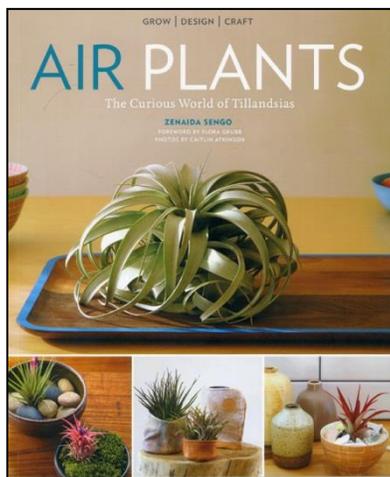
There are now so many thousands of bromeliad hybrids that even someone with unlimited resources and space the size of Montana could not hope to collect them all; and if they actually did, they could never discern many from one another because the differences are so subtle and marginal.

Yes, this is a very big problem and one not limited just to bromeliad hybridizing. The same increasingly troubling situation also applies to aroids, Gesneriads, and Orchids among others and no one seems to be paying very much attention to how bad things are already.

The bromeliad world is long overdue trying to address this situation, which is definitely not going to go away. A serious dialogue needs to get under way about how to solve the problem NOW; and the registration process is probably going to need to be updated top to bottom with much more rigorous and specific standards for what can and should be registered, if the whole process is not to collapse into utter uselessness.

It may be necessary to set up some sort of panel of “experts” with very good eyes and very tough standards. Obviously such a panel could not just be limited to actual hybridists, who might not be inclined to be thoroughly objective when faced with potential market competition from other hybridists. The greed factor can sometimes color objectivity badly so some garden variety growers and collectors who don't hybridize at all would clearly be a valuable component in any updated set up.

Perhaps, it sounds a little heartless and unfair to deny would be hybridizers from registering their baby and, maybe, even profiting from it; but if the bromeliad world does not get a handle on this very messy situation and VERY soon, only greater disaster awaits.



Air Plants

The Curious World of Tillandsias

By Zenaida Sengo

Photographs by Caitlin Atkinson

Review by Karen Andreas

At long last, a Tillandsia guide for the urban dweller, and, in general, it is a terrific book. Lavishly illustrated with quality photographs, it is packed with pictures of greyish leaf Tillandsias, generous how-to pictures, and information on how to grow these bromeliads indoors.

The first one hundred pages of this book encompass basic Tillandsia information with extensive information on care. Here, the basics of the genus (xeric versus mesic) are covered; the emphasis is mostly on the xeric Tillandsias we know as greyish- leaf with little on the softer, green leaf versions.

Included is a very nice discussion on trichomes with intimate close-ups, followed by information on bloom cycles, inflorescences (how to remove spent ones also shown) and flowers. Growth habits, pups, sun and light are also addressed. The author's advice on light considerations is right on. Watering is extensively discussed in a dozen pages, accompanied by large photographs. Temperature, fertilizing, pup removal are not neglected. Before you cringe at the advice to pull off or break off the pups, remember these are grayish leaf Tillandsias featured here – and gently prying or sometimes even popping off the pups work well.

Pest, fungus and rot get their own pages. There is no clearer sign that this is a book published in California than the total absence of any mention of the Mexican bromeliad weevil. The only insect pest mentioned is mealy bugs; I suspect that is a function of indoor growing.

Companion planting finishes the first section of the book. The next section, Tillandsias on Display, is fun, informative and even whimsical.

Ms. Sengo enjoys using Tillandsias throughout the house as art, horticultural display, even as living screening. Ms. Atkin's photographs here (as well as throughout this book) are terrific, and ample examples are offered. Tillandsias are perched on pencil cactus, rocks, wired onto dried branches, on walls in imaginative arrays. Containers range from decorative to wooden vessels to shallow dishes to leather pouches. Lasso and hook wiring is demonstrated in detail. Vertical screens and plantings are inspirational.

There is yet another extensive section, this one on terrariums. Once again, painstakingly illustrated, the author cautions that the lack of air movement in closed containers especially doom the bromeliads to eventual death and should be considered only temporary displays – albeit ones that last longer than cut flowers. Still, there are open bowl terrariums that promise longevity for the grayish leaf denizens.

Whimsical uses are also suggested. Tillandsias as rings, necklaces, hair adornments are silly yet elegant. The wreath illustrations redeem the disposable whimsy.

For those of us who are lucky enough to live in Florida where we grow bromeliads outdoors, there may be some points in the book that raise eyebrows. Indoor growing is quite different from our back yards and shade houses, and I think that the author has hit the right points in advice about light, water and even display, most of which is quite imaginative, fresh and new. It's nice to see bromeliads from the perspective of someone outside the usual circle of bromeliad authors.

Air Plants, The Curious World of Tillandsias, is a welcomed addition to the modern bromeliad library.

Please Note these are DRAFT MINUTES (To be approved or corrected at the next FCBS meeting in Gainesville, April 11, 2015)

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies January 10, 2015 Meeting Miami, FL

The meeting was called to order at the beautiful home and gardens of Sandy Roth, President of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida at 1:01pm by Council Chair, Ashley Graham. In attendance: Barbara Partagas (BSI Director, BSSF), Ronda Herndon (BSSF), Alan Herndon (BSI Journal Editor, BSSF), Sudi Hipsley (SBTPS), Rick Ryals (FECBS), Teresa Cooper (UFL), Susan Sousa (FWCBS), Jay Thurrott (BSI President, FECBS), Vicky Chirnside (CBS), Carolyn Schoneau (GBS), Ron Schoneau (GBS), David Johnson (SBS), Mike Michalski (BSSF), Patty Gonzalez (BSSF), Ben Klugh (BSCF), Frank Sussenberger (Treasurer - BSSF) and Kay Klugh (SBTPS).

None represented societies: Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Kay Klugh, then assumed the duties of Council Chair and completed the agenda.

Reports & Updates:

– Minutes of our October 11, 2014 meeting were accepted with unanimous consent. Motion made by Mike Michalski, Second by Ashley Graham.

– Treasurer Report presented by Sudi Hipsley was filed for audit.

– Webmaster Report, Michael Andreas was unable to attend this meeting but wishes to continue in this roll.

– Newsletter Report, Karen Andreas was unable to attend but had sent an email of resignation this past week.

– Weevil Research, Teresa Cooper presented a written report of her most recent findings and thanked the Council for its support of the trip she recently took to Belize. Teresa's focus was her investigation into why the weevil doesn't seem to attack the Central American *T. utriculata*'s in the same ferocious manner. To that end she collected Tillandsia leaves for DNA analysis, plants for testing in UF facilities, as well as weevils. Her work continues with comparing weevil types, *T. utriculata* farming/re-introduction into areas compromised by the weevil, investigation by others on chemical treatments and a proposal for future expenses.

– Council Roster, Susan Sousa provided a handout to each society to compare and correct any changes to the State Roster. She should receive any changes no later than March 15th. These numbers will then be forward to Council Treasurer for dues billing. The roster will be published and mailed in April.

– BSI News, Jay Thurrott, reports that the international society has had some recent issues with their website but is currently online and available. By all accounts it appears the last World Bromeliad Conference held in Hawaii, September 2014 was a success, final financial reporting will be made at their next directors meeting, September 25, 2015 in Miami. Mr. Eric Gouda, was identified as the first recipient of the BSI Scholars Program at Selby Gardens. A report of Mr. Gouda's findings will be published in a future BSI Journal.

– BSI Archives, no report.

Old Business:

– Bank account signers, Ashley Graham reports that she is working with Karen Andreas to certify by signature of council minutes identifying Kay Klugh and Betsy McCrory as authorized signers on the council accounts. In the event that is not possible, the 01/10/2015 minutes will serve as the council's previously voted upon motion to add the above mentioned as authorized signers.

– Council treasurer, Sudi Hipsley was directed to open two online accounts with Ally Bank. One \$10,000.00 - 2 year certificate of deposit and one \$5,000.00 savings account. Motion

made by Mike Michalski, second by David Johnson. Motion successfully passed with one dissent.

– Extravaganza 2015 – Barbara Partagas reports that the Bromeliad Society of South Florida has already placed on their website information regarding the host hotel for the September 26th event, entitled 'Bromeliads in the Magic City'. Room rates start at \$107 (plus taxes and fees) at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Miami Airport and Convention Center. The registration form is forthcoming and looks to be in the area of \$75 per person. Discussions continue with noted author, Jose M. Manzaneres of Ecuador as a potential headline speaker.

– Non- Extravaganza 2016 Event, no report

– Standing Rules & Bylaws Review Committee, no report.

– Letter to non-affiliated bromeliad societies, Ashley Graham will forward any information she has to Kay Klugh.

– Extravaganza 2017 Host, the Caloosahatchee, Sarasota and Florida West Coast Bromeliad Societies will speak with their respective clubs to see if they can peak any interest.

New Business:

– Appointment of financial auditor for the 2014 records, Ben Klugh.

– Determination of the amount to the BSI Scholar's Program, \$1000. for the 2015 year.

Motion made by Ashley Graham, second by Patty Gonzales. By unanimous decision.

– Newsletter Editor, accepting the resignation of Karen Andreas. Motion made by Susan Sousa, second by Ben Klugh. By unanimous decision. Chair, Kay Klugh will send an appropriate thank you to Karen for her many years of service and will contact Carol Wolfe as to her future involvement as co-editor. Each society is asked to search out potential coeditors or contributors to the council newsletter.

– Council Website, Michael Andreas asked in an email this past week that any club information/show dates be sent to him for posting on the website. Chair, Kay Klugh will speak with Michael to see how the council may further assist him.

– Society News/Updates, Seminole, Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Central Florida, Sarasota, Gainesville, Caloosahatchee, Florida East Coast and Florida West Coast reporting.

The next meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies will occur on April 11, 2015 hosted by the Gainesville Bromeliad Society.

Meeting adjourned at 4:03pm.

Prepared by: Rick Ryals
Acting FL Council Secretary

Representative from the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

2015 OFFICERS OF FCBS

Chairman: Kay Klug
Vice-Chairman: Vicky Chirnside
Secretary: Calandra Thurrott
Treasurer: Sudi Hipsley

Parliamentarian: Betsy McCrory
FCBS Website: <http://fcbs.org>
FCBS Webmaster: Michael Andreas
FCBS Newsletter
Editor: Carol Wolfe
FCBS Roster
Maintenance: Susan Sousa
Weevil Research: Dr. Howard Frank, Ron Cave and Teresa M. Cooper