



# Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies



*Ursulaea macvaughii*

**Vol. 35 Issue 2**

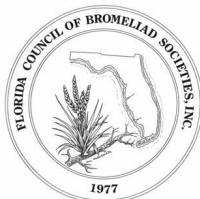
**May 2015**

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This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the  
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.  
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On the cover: *Ursulaea macvaughii* - Photo Carol Wolfe©



# CATCHING UP, STAYING EVEN

BY CAROL WOLFE



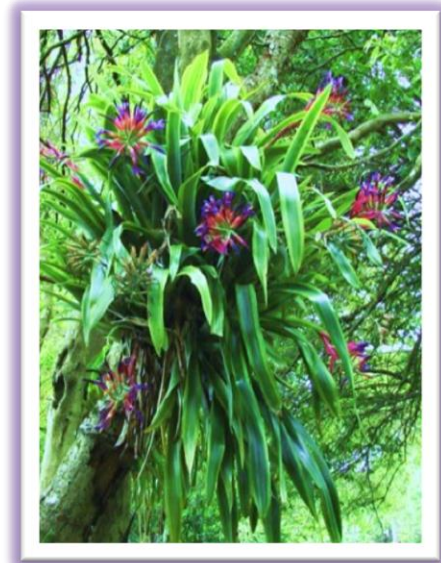
**Billbergia pyramidalis photo by Carol Wolfe©**

Ah, the title of this column makes me stop and wonder, do we ever get caught up? much less stay even? Remember the good ole' days? What ever happened to those organized days when there were proper chores to be done each day of the week: "Washing on Monday, Ironing on Tuesday, Mending on Wednesday, Churning on Thursday, Cleaning on Friday, Baking on Saturday, Resting on Sunday." Summers were busy with gardening, berry picking, swimming, vacations, and family reunions to attend. It was a chance to see the once a year "Aunts, Uncle, & Cousins." Which brings us to the next thought, when was the last time you saw your "Bromeliad Family?" Well, there's going to be an annual family reunion this summer on September 26, 2015 in Miami known as the "Extravaganza." Have you made your plans to attend? The Bromeliad Society of South Florida will be the host club and they will make you feel welcome and they know how to have a party! There are a lot of hard working members in the BSSF preparing for your arrival so make your plans to attend now! Information on the following pages will help you in making your reservations. We want to see you there!

I trampled through our snake infested swamp to take the pictures on this page. I am not kidding! You can verify my story by asking Dean Fairchild if he was watching a diamondback rattlesnake in the brush while husband, Tom, went to get the shotgun! Of course, it disappeared before he returned! But I loved this beautiful clump of *Billbergia pyramidalis* the minute I saw it. And once I saw the clump in the trees, I forgot all about my feet and focused on the bromeliads. I snapped a lot of pictures of it and later in the summer hurricane winds blew it out of the trees breaking it into many pieces. The year was 2005 which was the same year that the National Hurricane Center, after 21 named storms, run out of names, (and we can never forget Katrina) so they had to continue naming the storms using the alphabet (Alpha, Beta, etc.) So these unforgettable pictures have a lot of memories and history attached to them.

We are pleased to have all our guest contributors this month: Karen Andreas her article and great collection of *Billbergia* pictures, *Beautiful Billbergias*; Jay Thurrott contributed a great article, *Don't be too Quick to Throw Them Out* and pictures from the FCBS meeting; our steadfast informative contributors on the Weevil Research with great information and pictures from Teresa Cooper and Ron Cave; Ron Schoenau contribution of the *Growing Tillandsia* article which he edited; draft minutes of the FCBS meeting from Rick Ryals; and a new page to feature member societies.

A big THANK YOU to all for your contributions to this Newsletter and making it interesting for our readers! Readers, I bet you have a story or photograph that you would like to share...email it for the next addition!



**Clump of *Billbergia pyramidalis*  
Photo by Carol Wolfe©**

# “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 and evening of fun!!



**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 [bpargas8554@gmail.com](mailto:bpargas8554@gmail.com)

Design Urszula Dudek

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 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Miami, FL 33126

Rooms:

Double Tree 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](http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/M/MIAMADT-BRO-20150923/index.jhtml)

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

This poster produced by  
Urszula Dudek of Bromeliad Society of  
South Florida

## 2015 - 2016 EVENTS CALENDARS

### **May 15, 2015**

Redland International Orchid Festival  
Fruit & Spice Park  
24801 SW 187<sup>th</sup> Ave., Miami, FL  
<http://www.redlandorchidfestival.org/>

### **May 22-24, 2015**

32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cactus and succulent Show  
11000 SW Red Road (57<sup>th</sup> Ave.), Pinecrest, FL  
(305) 669-6990; [soflacactus@earthlink.com](mailto:soflacactus@earthlink.com)

### **July 11, 2015**

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Meeting  
Sarasota, FL

### **July 22-24, 2015**

Caladium Festival  
DeVance Park  
Lake Placid, FL 33852  
<http://www.lpfla.com/caladium.htm>

### **August 15-16, 2015**

Seminole Bromeliad Tropical Plant Society Sale  
The Garden Club of Sanford  
Sanford, FL  
Ben Klugh at [Klughka@yahoo.com](mailto:Klughka@yahoo.com)

### **September 26, 2015**

Bromeliad Extravaganza  
hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida.  
“Bromeliads in the Magic City”.  
711 NW 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Miami, FL 33126

### **October 10 – 11, 2015 Show**

Southwest Guild Bromeliad Society Show  
Kenner, LA  
Contact: Bryan Windham  
[brykoo169@aol.com](mailto:brykoo169@aol.com)

### **October 10 – 11, 2015**

USF Botanical Gardens Fall Sale  
*University of South Florida, Tampa, FL*  
([cas.usf.edu/garden](http://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  
Houston, TX.

***Catopsis  
morreniana***  
**Shown by  
George Aldrich  
at the 2004 WBC**



# MEXICAN BROMELIAD WEEVIL REPORT

## JANUARY – MARCH 2015

By TERESA M. COOPER AND RONALD D. CAVE

<sup>1</sup>INDIAN RIVER RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER, UF, FT. PIERCE, FL

A pilot project has been initiated at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, in Titusville, to promote, maintain, and protect *T. utriculata* gardens in the forest. The method developed in the Enchanted Forest will be used by other land managers to protect *T. utriculata* on their land. Presently, we are working with land managers and volunteers at T. Mabry Carlton Jr. Memorial Reserve, Lemon Bay Park, and Manasota Scrub Preserve, and we are planning to work with the managers and volunteers at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Myakka River State Park. So far, at the Enchanted Forest, we have created four *T. utriculata* gardens with a total of 124 medium to large plants and 913 small plants. The medium to large plants have been attached to trees using burlap or Thule and the small plants have been placed in 1' x 1' cedar boxes with mesh bottoms so rain water will drain through, and the boxes were hung from trees. All of the plants in the gardens were rescued from the forest floor. We are developing and researching methods using repellants, augmentative biological control, and insecticides to control the weevil in these gardens. These methods are still in the early stages of research and are not yet ready to be tested in the field, therefore, this season we will rely on physical methods to protect the *T. utriculata* plants in the gardens, including putting those plants near seed production in cages, and by monitoring for and removing weevil-infested plants from the gardens. See figures 1 – 6 for images of the gardens in the Enchanted Forest.

The Mexican bromeliad weevils that were brought back from Belize are doing well. Our laboratory colony has grown from 39 to 81 individuals and we are in the process of collecting data on growth and oviposition behavior of this form of the weevil, to compare with the form of the weevil we have in Florida (that originally came from Mexico). The *Tillandsia utriculata* that were collected in Belize and sent to Florida have recovered from being processed and shipped and we are continuing our research to compare the Belize form of *T. utriculata* with the Florida form of *T. utriculata*.



Sentinel Mexican bromeliad weevil larvae were placed in the field at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary to detect for the possible establishment of *L. franki* on 14 January, 21 January, 28 January, and 4 February. No flies have been recovered.

### Presentations:

Cooper TM. 14 January 2015. History and update of the Mexican bromeliad weevil. Giant Air Plant Workshop, Venice, Florida.

Cooper TM. 3 February 2015. New tactics for saving Florida's native bromeliads. Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society, Clearwater, Florida.

Figure 1: Donna Day and Ernie Winn (from the Carlton Reserve, visiting the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary), and Armand De Filippo (a volunteer from the Sea Rocket Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society) preparing a new garden site in the Enchanted Forest.



Figure 3: *Tillandsia utriculata* bromeliads collected in a basket and taken to the new garden in the Enchanted Forest.

Figure 2: Armand De Filippo examining a bromeliad to make sure it is not infested with the Mexican bromeliad weevil.



Figure 4: Donna Day attaching a rescued *T. utriculata* bromeliad to the trunk of a tree

.Figure 5: *Tillandsia utriculata* bromeliads attached to a tree.



Figure 6: Small *T. utriculata* plants in nursery boxes

## BEAUTIFUL BILLBERGIAS

BY KAREN ANDREAS

The first bromeliads introduced into cultivation in the United States, Billbergias are common to many Florida landscapes. There are 62 species, 25 varieties, and one form. Native habitat for Billbergias is mainly in Brazil, Mexico and Central America; however, Billbergia is also found in Peru and Argentina.

This tubular tank type bromeliad was first described in 1821 when it was named for Gustav Billberg (1772-1844), professor of botany in Sweden. Billbergias generally have only five to eight leaves, which form a large enough reservoir to hold water for weeks with little evaporation.



**Bill saundersii has an upright inflorescence. Photo by Don Beadle**

While the inflorescence pops with color, its relatively short life span (two weeks, at most) make Billbergia growers all the more grateful for the variety in foliage

that this genus offers.

The inflorescences have long bracts, either red, pink or rose color, and the flowers are tubular

in shape, usually purple, blue, yellow, green and white. The inflorescence may be either upright or pendant. Leaf colors include brown, green, gray and red; they are banded, spotted or variegated, with many variations in between.

Grow this bromeliad in high light; it can be acclimated to almost full sun over time. It can be grown epiphytically (mounted to a surface such as driftwood or cedar) or in soil. If grown in a pot, be sure that the soil drains well and is not heavy or soggy. Billbergias will not tolerate wet feet.

Because of its upright tank growth, this bromeliad does well when grown in clumps. This provides maximum impact when the clump comes into bloom – the eye popping color of the inflorescences will stop traffic.

Billbergias like wooden slatted orchid baskets. Grown without any potting medium, they will attach to the wood. When using soil or other potting medium in an orchid basket, line the basket with shade cloth to contain the mix.



**Bill. amoena var viridis. The upright, tank type growth of Billbergia allows it to be grown singly or in clumps. Photo by Don Beadle**



**Bill. tessmanii is a dramatic example of a pendant inflorescence. Photo by Michael Andreas**



Be sure to use a medium that drains easily. The orchid basket provides good drainage as well as air circulation around the roots of the plants.



Hang your pots of Billbergias in trees, in tall pots or on shelves to raise them off the ground. The light streaming down through the tree canopy and into the center of the Billbergias makes them glow. If you do hang them in trees, be sure to flush out tree leaves that inevitably fall inside. Oak leaves especially become acidic as they deteriorate, and that tannic soup will burn the leaves.

When grown in low light, the leaves will become long and strappy; bright and high light brings out the very best in color in the foliage as well as in overall form. Billbergias grow quickly into large clumps, making them desirable as foundation plants for the landscape and perfect for pots and hanging baskets.

**SBill. 'Dorothy Berg'. Strong light will bring out color in the foliage. Photo**

There are many attractive Billbergia cultivars. The most successful and well-known hybridizer of these bromeliads is Don Beadle, whose nursery was in Venice, Florida. Often referred to as Mr. Billbergia, Don made some of the most popular crosses in an effort to popularize this genus. His creations include 'Hallelujah,' 'Afterglow,' 'Milagro,' 'Dorothy Berg,' 'Catherine Waterman,' and 'Poquito Mas.' Read more about Don's contributions to the bromeliad world and view his stunning Billbergia pictures at [http://fcbs.org/articles/Don\\_Beadle\\_Bio.htm](http://fcbs.org/articles/Don_Beadle_Bio.htm).

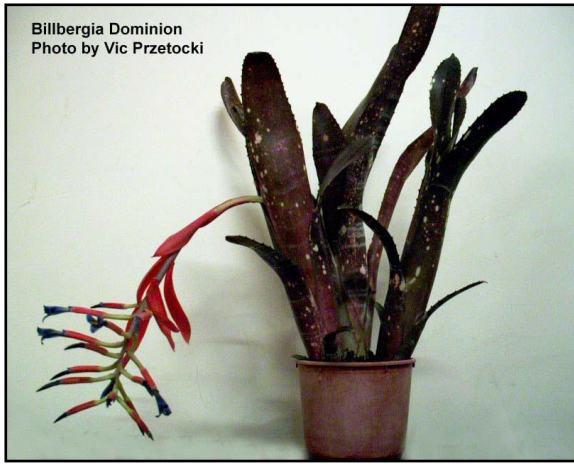
Billbergias are easy to grow and very rewarding. When they bloom, they provide eye-catching color in the yard and in your collection. When not in bloom, their foliage and upright growth add interest to our landscape.

## BILLBERGIA GALLERY FOLIAGE AND FLOWERS



Bill. nutans is a great landscape plant. Plain Jane foliage belies the colorful inflorescence and flowers. Let clumps grow in pots for maximum impact. Photos by Don Beadle





Dark mottled and banded foliage stands in contrast to bright flowers and bracts in Bill. 'Dominion.' Photos by Vic Przetocki



Bill. 'La Noche', a Don Beadle cultivar has dramatic dark foliage, silver banding and hot pink bracts. Photos by Michael Andreas



Bill. sanderiana – plain foliage (check out those teeth!) with a stylized inflorescence. Photo left, Michael Andreas; right, Shirley Grills-Konefal



The humble, green-leafed Bill. pyramidalis clumps quickly and has a brilliant inflorescence. Photo left, Gary McClellan; right, Bromeliario Imperialis/Oscar Ribeiro



Spotted Bill. 'Afterglow', mottled 'Domingos Martins' and spotted and banded 'Darth Vader' offer something for every taste. Photos left and center, Don Beadle; right, Lisa Vinzant



Dramatic, stylized, the amazing flowers of Bill. tessmannii. Photo by Michael Andreas

All photographs in this article are from the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Photo Index at fcbs.org.

## **DON'T BE TOO QUICK TO THROW THEM OUT!**

### **BY JAY THURROTT**

Some time ago this newsletter (Vol.29, issue1) ran an article titled “...and sometimes you just have to throw them out”. In it, the author - who should remain nameless, made the statement “*When you find that all of the leaves on your bromeliad resemble the paper that the butcher uses to wrap your favorite cuts of meat or when the only leaf that has any green color to it is the central one in the plant and when you tug at it, it comes off in your hand – it’s probably too late to save the plant. Throw it out*” Today, after years of careful consideration, I would like to retract that statement.

Five years ago I was distressed to find that my *Vriesea gigantea* had rotted off at its base and flipped out of the pot, leaving its caudex and roots behind in the potting mix where it had previously appeared to be doing quite well. I was about to toss the remains onto my discard pile, but got distracted and dropped it into an empty pot instead...and there it sat for the next year until I rediscovered it under a small pile of oak leaves. I was surprised when I brushed the fallen leaves out of the plant and found that the bromeliad looked much the same as it had when I first discarded it and was perhaps even a bit larger in diameter. And so, there it sat for the next year until I again rediscovered it under a new pile of oak leaves. Now much larger, I decided that if this plant had indeed survived its near death experience, the least that I could do would be to clean it up and place it properly in a clean pot with some new potting mix. When I went to lift it from its empty pot however, I found the plant to be securely rooted to the inside of the pot, so I left it there for the next few years...which brings us up to the present. While looking for plants to enter in this year’s judged horticulture show in Daytona Beach (the 56<sup>th</sup> ‘Everybody’s Flower Show’) I uncovered that same *Vriesea gigantea* buried under this year’s crop of oak leaves and, after a few hours of cleaning decided that it might be worthy of entry in the show. The results can be seen in the photos below:

#### **Growers Choice and Horticultural and Excellence Award for *Vriesea gigantea***



If there’s a moral to this story, it has to be that you should never underestimate the resiliency and sheer will to survive of a bromeliad. Don’t be too quick to discard a bromeliad that seemed to have been killed by either negligence or too much ‘tender-loving-care’ (I suspect that at times they are one and the same) - there may well be a spark of life remaining in that plant and it just may go on to be a prize-winner!



**THE FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES  
MEETING APRIL 11, 2015, HOSTED BY GAINESVILLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY  
Thanks to Gainesville Bromeliad Society for a great lunch and meeting place.  
Next Meeting July 11, 2015 hosted by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society**

Some of your state  
council representatives  
hard at work!



Barbara Partagas  
and David Johnson



Right top: Ben Klugh, David Silverman, Rick Ryals



Left: Rick Ryals, Barbara Partagas, Dave Johnson, John O'Steen;  
Right: Kay Klugh, Chairperson

**DRAFT MINUTES FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES  
APRIL 11, 2015 MEETING, GAINESVILLE, FL**

The meeting was called to order at the Oak Hammock at the University of Florida, hosted by the Gainesville Bromeliad Society at 12:59 pm by Council Chair, Kay Klugh.

In attendance: Barbara Partagas (BSI Director, BSSF), Sudi Hipsley (SBTPS), Rick Ryals (FECBS), Teresa Cooper (UFL), Jay Thurrott (BSI President, Representing Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay), Vicky Chirnside (CBS), Carolyn Schoenau (GBS), Ron Schoenau (GBS), David Johnson (SBS), John O'Steen (SBS), Ben Klugh (BSCF), David Silverman (GBS), Sandy Burnett (GBS) Non represented societies: Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

**Reports & Updates:**

– Minutes of our January 10, 2015 meeting were accepted with no corrections or additions.

Motion made by Ben Klugh, Second by Jay Thurrott. Unanimous consent.

– Treasurer Report presented by Sudi Hipsley was filed for audit. A \$100 donation was received from the Broward Bromeliad Society.

– Webmaster Report, Michael Andreas was unable to attend this meeting but communicated by email with Chair, Kay Klugh that work continues on the website. He invited us to visit Oscar Ribeiro's website, <http://imperialis.com.br>.

– Newsletter Report, Carol Wolfe was unable to attend but communicated by email with Chair, Kay Klugh to submit information and articles no later than April 30th, for inclusion in the next council newsletter. Many accolades were expressed by the representatives present for the last issue, completed by Carol.

– Weevil Research, Teresa Cooper presented a written report of her most recent work. Her request to the FL Council Weevil Committee was approved (\$844.97) and includes the construction of (3) three large cages, containing 50-80 clean (non-infested)

*T. utriculatas*, in an effort to grow out and produce seed for future disbursement. Bromeliad weevils brought back from Belize have grown from 39 to 81 individuals. Work continues on developing and researching methods using repellants, augmentative biological control and insecticides to control the weevil in several different areas of Florida.

– Council Roster, Susan Sousa was unable to attend but provided a draft document of the council roster that she asked we proof for information about our respective clubs, meeting dates and times. It's anticipated the roster will mail in May to 552 +/- members. A total of 600 rosters will be printed. Some discussion regarding the number of times a members name would appear in the roster, who is a member of multiple clubs ensued. A motion, made by Ben Klugh and second by Sandy Burnett, that the name appear only once, failed.

The motion, made by Jay Thurrott and second by David Johnson, that the name appear for each individual club that the member is registered in, passed.

– BSI News, President Jay Thurrott, reports that the international society has some changes among its officers and directors. Paul Wingert (former US States Western Director) has assumed the role of BSI Recording Secretary upon the resignation of Sara Donayre.

This subsequently created a US Western States Director vacancy, in which Pennrith Goff has been appointed. Thomas Vincze has also been appointed a US Western States Director.

The BSI had in the last year used the services of a website design/service company to clean and update portions of its website. Software updates have required that current members reregister (online) for access to the 'members only' portion of the website. Shortly, content and updating of the website will be completed by the BSI Website Steering Committee under the direction of Eric Gouda, International Director, Netherlands.

**Old Business:**

– Results of Council Audit, Ben Klugh reports that he found all banking records in excellent order. Audit complete.

Continued Draft Minutes **FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES**

- Bank Account Signers, Sudi Hipsley has completed the paperwork necessary to have Kay Klugh and Betsy McCrory as authorized signers to the Council banking accounts at SunTrust Bank.
  - Online Banking, Sudi Hipsley was directed to open two online accounts with Ally Bank at our last council meeting. Unfortunately Ally Bank does not allow commercial accounts.
  - Extravaganza 2015 – Barbara Partagas reports that the Bromeliad Society of South Florida has prepared a 'Save the Date' card, registration form, hotel information page and a tentative schedule for the Extravaganza. She distributed these documents and reminded us that this information may also be found on the council website and their society web-page.
  - The South Florida Society is looking for volunteers in a number of areas at the Extravaganza and she request that representatives promote this opportunity to your individual club members, those interested should contact Mike Michalski.
  - Provided a form for each society to take an ad in the Extravaganza program, please respond before July 26th. Ben Klugh made a motion, second by Sandy Burnett for the Council itself to take a full page, inside cover ad for \$75, unanimous consent.
  - Barbara asked if she may ask Peter Kouchalakos from her Society to serve as auctioneer for the Saturday night Rare Plant Auction. We graciously accepted this offer.
  - Carolyn Schoenau has agreed to volunteer to assist with the Rare Plant Auction along with Ben and Kay Klugh, Vicky Chirnside, Jay & Calandra Thurrott and Rick Ryals. Each society plays an important role in the success of the auction, including the contribution of (5) five rare and or unusual bromeliads. Further details and distribution of materials to follow at our next Council meeting.
  - Barbara presented to the Council (3) three Speaker Reimbursement Requests. Two of the requests for speakers; Jose Manzanares (\$1,000.) and Craig Morell (\$175.) were accepted and the third request was withdrawn. Motion made by Rick Ryals, second by Vicky Chirnside, unanimous consent. It was requested that since this is a new program, that proper signage be provided to acknowledge the Council as the sponsor of these speakers.
  - Non- Extravaganza 2016 Event, Rick Ryals will reach out to Mounts Botanical Gardens in Palm Beach to see if a potential event may be held there. It was suggested that Heathcote Botanical Gardens, Ft. Pierce also be contacted.
  - Standing Rules & Bylaws Review Committee, no report.
  - Letter to non-affiliated bromeliad societies, Kay Klugh will work to accomplish this.
  - Extravaganza 2017, the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay has agreed to host.
- New Business:
- Society News/Updates, Seminole, South Florida, Central Florida, Sarasota, Gainesville, Caloosahatchee, and Florida East Coast reporting.
  - The following speakers have participated throughout the state: Alton Lee (Bromeliads No Longer Grown), Dave Johnston (Bromeliad BINGO), Dennis Cathcart (Brazil II & III), Phil Elting (Potting), Ray Lemieux, Tom Wolfe (Mounting), Brian Weber (Plant Identification), Jay Thurrott (BSI World Conference Hawaii and Vriesea).
- Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm. The next meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies will occur on July 11th, 2015 hosted by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society.

Prepared by: Rick Ryals  
Acting FL Council Secretary,  
Representative from the FECBS

**BROMELIAD GUILD OF TAMPA BAY EXHIBIT  
AT THE FLORIDA STATE FAIR  
FEBRUARY 2015**

**Photos  
by  
Marilyn  
Byram**



**New Members orientation April 19, 2015 at the home of Master Gardner and BGTB member, Eileen Hart. Workshop led by Tom Wolfe and assisted by Robert Nelson.**



**Eileen Hart presenting her program at the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay's April Meeting.**



**GROWING TILLANDSIA  
NOTES BY JOHN OLSEN  
EDITED BY RON SCHOENAU FOR READERS IN USA**

1. Pick the right ones

- Buy locally as what is available locally probably suits your area.
- Be careful when you go to conferences, etc--you can "buy it, try it" but you may kill it. I have a few plants which need more heat and humidity than Brisbane {approximate same latitude as Ft. Lauderdale, not necessarily the same climate} provides "on agistment\*" in Cairns{approx latitude as Belize}.
- Rough rule of thumb is silver grey plants come from drier locations and green leaved ones come from moister areas.
- Go through the photos on the web and pick good looking plants but then do some habitat research to find out if you will be making a good investment--good looking plants tend to cost more.
- If in doubt ask.
  - \* {Used humorously in current context: noun, obsolete: the taking in of livestock for feeding at a specified rate.}

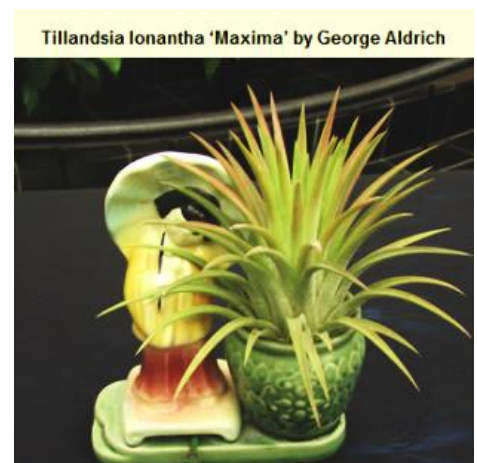
2. Seed raising

- You can obtain seed from a variety of seedbanks. Brom Soc of Qld, Brom-L (but that involves importation so check rules), or members. {www.bsi.org click on Seed Fund}
- Propagating from your own seed is not too difficult but in an insect proof shadehouse you'll need to pollinate.
- Plants in an open position are more likely to set seed but it may be hybridized for you.
  - If you can see the pollen and stigma just smear pollen on the stigma.
  - Sometimes one or other sex part is within the petals and you'll need something like a juncea leaf to bring pollen to the stigma.
  - Many plants need "unrelated parents" (i.e. a different clone) to set seed.
  - Seed is ripe when the pod is straw colour and gives a bit when squeezed. Put the pod in an envelope and allow to open. Then sow the seed.
  - Sow on a medium with some grip for the seed and which won't rot. I use bits of shade cloth. Others use coir, {coconut husk fiber} insect screen, twig bundles, stocking over coolite {polystyrene/polyurethane foam}.
  - Mist regularly and allow to dry between mistings.



3. Mounting/potting

- When your seed is about 5 leaf stage, it can be mounted.
- I use corks which are becoming harder to get, pegs {clothes pins, among other pieces of wood}, and timber strips as initial mounts.
- In Brisbane, some plants grow better potted but you will need to be careful with potted Tillandsias in Cairns.
- Larger plants can be taken off the corks and mounted on large cork slabs, wood offcuts etc—
- Select something which will survive repeated watering over several years in your shadehouse.
- Air movement is important for most Tillandsia.



4. Seeing the Light

- More light usually means more colour and better growth.
- Most Tillandsia can be grown under 50% shade--many in full sun.
- UV in altitude habitat often produces excellent colour.

5. Fertilising

- Weakly and regularly.
- Tank Tillandsias can be fed strongly for faster growth.
- Need a seasonal regime--prepare plants for winter and heat with "tonics" like Seasol {Organic extract of King Island Bull Kelp and Knotted Kelp; similar products on sale in USA}, and increased K. Use something with more N in growing season and more K when dormant.

6. Trying the Wrong Ones

- You can to some extent create microclimates for plants which prefer conditions different to your own—grow under cover if plants like to be dry (can't escape humidity though). You could simulate cool dry areas with air-conditioning. To my mind, this is easy in temperate or dry areas where adding moisture or heating tends to be easier than cooling, OR- take them home and do your best.

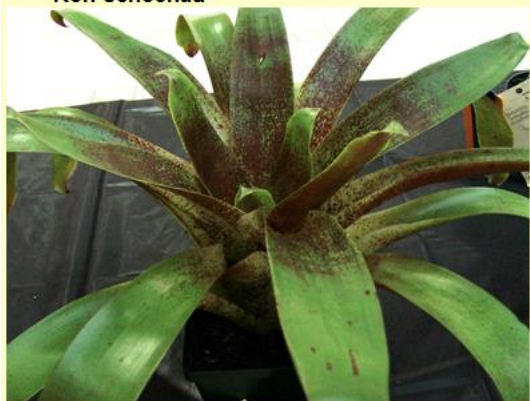
7. Clumps vs Single Specimens

- Tillandsias need patience and you may have to wait for flowers.
- Many plants look better if allowed to clump--you just need to resist splitting them to recoup your costs.
- A single funckiana on a little cork is a bit sad but hang it for a few years and a large clump in flower is truly spectacular. Many of the cheaper plants clump well as their good reproduction rate makes them plentiful but no less beautiful.

**Tillandsia leiboldiana gutatta**  
Ron Schoenau



**Tillandsia guatemalensis**  
Ron Schoenau



**TILLANDSIAS  
FROM THE  
BROMELIAD  
SOCIETY OF  
CENTRAL  
FLORIDA'S  
ANNUAL SHOW 2005  
Photos by Carol  
Wolfe©**



**Tillandsia roland-gosselinii**  
George Aldrich

**Tillandsia scaligera**  
Carolyn Schoenau

