FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2016

Celebrating over 62 Years in Bromeliads

floridabromeliads.org

July 2016 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:
Tuesday, July 5, 2016
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:
Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

Program

For the July meeting, **Dr. Terrie Bert** will present the program she was scheduled to give to our group at the April meeting. You will recall Terrie had to cancel at the last minute and Alton Lee stepped in for her with a program. Terrie's presentation---*Growing Uncommon Bromeliad Genera*--is about the 47 bromeliad genera (out of the 55 currently recognized) that are not commonly cultivated. Some of the 47 can't be cultivated while others are relatively easy to grow. Terrie will talk about their natural habitats, and what conditions they need to thrive in cultivation.

Plant Sales

The speaker will be the sole plant vendor for this meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

In his presentation *Why Bromeliads?* **Marty Folk** summarized his thoughts on why bromeliads are a global phenomenon and vastly popular with hobbyists and growers. After they were discovered in the New World, they were first brought to Europe in the 1700s, where they caused a sensation. Today they are found throughout the world. Their widespread success can be attributed in part to their range of characteristics that allows them to appeal to a broad spectrum of plant lovers with different growing requirements and conditions within their personal landscapes. They have a little something for everyone's preferences and tastes, from purely ornamental to edible (e.g., pineapple). Here are some of their variable features.

- They come in all sizes. They range in size from less than 2 inches long, the smallest bromeliad *Tillandsia usneoides*, to 10 feet tall, the largest bromeliad *Puya raimondii* that can also have a stalk up to 30 feet above the main plant.

- They grow in a number of shapes and styles: vase-shape, rosette, symmetrical, asymmetrical, upright.

- Their leaves come in many colors, shapes, patterns, and textures. Leaf colors include various shades of green, red, orange, brown, burgundy and so on. Leaf color can vary from top to bottom and change when the plant is flowering. Leaf color can also be variegated (i.e., differently colored zones on leaves). Leaf shape varieties include short, long, upright, pendant, narrow (needle thin), and broad. Leaf patterns can be spots, splotches, and straight or wavy horizontal or vertical strips. Leaf textures include matt, glossy, scurfy, thin, thick, curly, wavy, with spines, and spineless.

- The bloom stalks (inflorescences) can also be found in a myriad of sizes, shapes, colors and textures. Flowers on the stalks come in brilliant combinations of red, blue, white, yellow, purple, orange, green, pink and crimson.

- They grow three different ways--epiphytic (growing on other plants, typically trees), saxicolous (growing on rocks), and terrestrial (growing with roots in the ground).

- Some love full sun, some need part shade, some are best in full shade, and still others can adapt to these different light conditions. Some thrive inside a building and others demand to be outside.

- Some like moist growing conditions while others prefer little or no direct watering.

- They are, typically, easy to grow, and can figuratively 'live forever' through their offspring, most commonly pups that some bromeliads provide in abundance while yet others produce sparingly (e.g., only one).

Editor's note: Sources of information about bromeliads are abundant on the Internet but you can hold in your hands any number of informative books about bromeliads available in the great selection in our society's library. Check with our 'Media Specialists' Pat Frey and Maria Fernandez who manage the library for a list of books available.

SHOW AND TELL

Reported by Helga Tarver

John Edwards — *Aechmea* (photo below), species or hybrid. When John bought this plant, its nursery's label indicated it was *Aec*. 'Romeo' but based in part on its partially mature bloom stalk, the members' consensus was most likely *Aec. cucullata* with a possible second choice, *Aec.* 'Orange River' (*Aec. cucullata* x *retusa*). When the stalk is more fully developed we can be more confident of its identity. John showed this plant as an example of what happens when a plant grown in partial shade during the winter/spring months finds its location awash with sunlight when the sun moves toward the north in the summer months and into the previously shaded area. The sun's light also gets more intense at this time and can fade color in some plants and can enhance color in others. The lesson to be learned from his example

	was to be aware of changing light conditions in the landscape and to move plants accordingly.
Barb Gardner	*Cryptanthus* 'Strawberries Flambé' (*Crypt.* 'Diverse Pink' X 'Cascade')
Nicole Matwijczyk	*Nidularium innocentii* var. *innocentii* (photo below)
Linda Sheetz	*Neoregelia* 'Brown Recluse' (photo below); Chester Skotak hybrid of *Neoregelia pendula* x *eleutheropetala* var. bicolor; puts out pups on long stolons
Janet Stoffels	*Aechmea bracteata* (photo below)
Joe Ventimiglia	*Aechmea chantinii* hybrid (photo below)

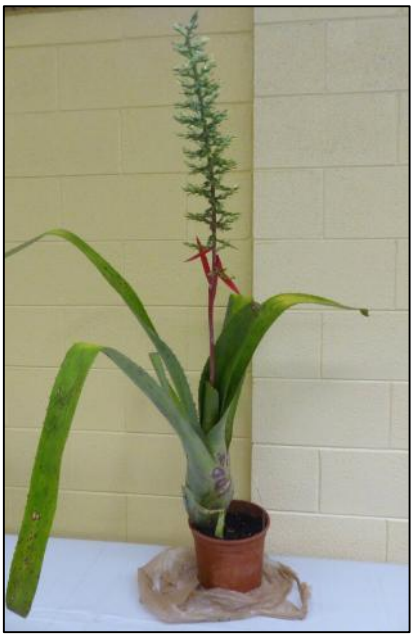
Show and Tell Plants

← ← → →

Aechmea, likely *cucullata*; showing impact of too much direct sunlight

Nidularium innocentii var. *innocentii*

Neoregelia 'Brown Recluse'



Aechmea bracteata

Aechmea chantinii hybrid

BLOOMING THIS MONTH

Guzmania 'Optima' → →
(Submitted by Peggy Goodale)

Gary Lund submitted the following pictures of his *Bromelia balansae* so that we can share with him the experience of watching its bloom stalk grow from start to finish.

Day 1. Center has just begun to flush color and the inflorescence (bloom stalk) is beginning to erupt.

Day 2. Stalk has grown about 6 inches tall in one day.

Day 3. Stalk is now about 12 inches tall.

Day 4. Stalk has grown to full height, and individual flowers are now apparent.

Day 5. Flowers on lower end of the stalk are opening first, with others opening further up the stalk in succeeding days

Day 8. The terminal flower at the tip of the inflorescence has opened and all flowers will decline from here on out.

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2 Weeks. Berries now forming on the stalk are green and will turn yellow later. The berries are reported to be edible when they are ripe.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2016

September 9-11, Sarasota Bromeliad Society Show and Sales, Bewitched Bromeliads *(*sarasotabromeliadsociety.org**;** 941-567-4176)

August 20-21, Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale
The Garden Club of Sanford, Sanford, FL *(*Ben Klugh at Klughka@yahoo.com*)*

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