

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2016

Celebrating over 62 Years in Bromeliads

floridabromeliads.org



August 2016 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, August 2, 2016

Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:

Good Samaritan Church

6085 Park Boulevard

Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

Program

Jay Thurrott will show us a PowerPoint presentation of the 2016 World Bromeliad Conference held in Houston this past June. He will talk about the meetings, seminars, tours, barbeque, and entries in the judged bromeliad show. Jay has been growing bromeliads since the 1970s and has over 700 varieties at his home in Port Orange, Florida. A lifetime member of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society (FECBS), Jay is their newsletter editor and has served as secretary, vice president and president of that organization. He recently completed his second term as president of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) after having served as a director and vice-president of the organization. Jay is also a BSI accredited master judge and has judged bromeliad shows in and out of the USA.

Plant Sales

All members are welcome to sell bromeliads at the meeting. Sellers are requested to donate at least one plant to the evening's raffle table.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

In her presentation *Beating the Odds: Growing Uncommon Bromeliad Genera*, **Terrie Bert** told us about 50 bromeliad genera (out of the currently accepted 58 genera in the bromeliad family) that are not commonly cultivated. As usual, she augmented her talk with an abundance of slides, moving through them quickly with a rapid-fire explanation of each. She described the 50 genera and their natural habitats' location, geographical extent, and growing environment. The primary reason these genera do not do well or thrive in cultivation is that it is difficult or impossible to duplicate their native habitat growing conditions. They often live in locations that are hard to mimic in private collections.



Examples of these hard to duplicate environments are:

High altitudes with thin atmosphere	Areas of constantly high humidity
Cool, moist cloud forests	In trees at heights of 15 to 30 feet
Dense, moist mountain forests	On slopes and tops of tepuis
Rocky, steep slopes	Arid deserts (Brazilian 'caatinga')
High cliffs and rocky ground	Narrow temperature range, from hot to
Humid, torrid rain forests	cool

Additional reasons these genera are not commonly grown include the following:

- They have only one or very few species and are not highly adaptable.
- They have very limited distribution and limited geographical extent such as individual mountains, valleys, or tepuis.
- They live in protected areas and cannot be collected legally.
- They are not desirable or attractive to most collectors, and thus not sought after.
- They live in locations that are hard to access and therefore hard to collect.

Terry considers 16 of the 50 uncommon genera to be difficult or impossible to grow. The remaining 34 uncommon genera can be cultivated, either easily or with care, and Terry offered growing tips for these such as type of potting soil (e.g., coarse or well-drained), amount and frequency of fertilizer, watering requirements, and amount of sunlight.

The 16 genera that are very difficult or impossible to grow in cultivation are *Brewcaria*, *Brocchinia*, *Connellia*, *Cottondorgia*, *Deinacanthon*, *Eduandrea*, *Fascicularia*, *Greigia*, *Hohenbergiopsis*, *Lapanthus*, *Lindmania*, *Mezobromelia*, *Ochagavia*, *Pseudaechmea*, *Sequencia*, and *Steyerbromelia*. The 34 genera that can be grown either easily or with some care are as follows.

1. Partial to full sun, cool to hot, seasonal dry to arid (eight genera)

Acanthostachys, *Deuterocohnia*, *Encholirium*, *Hechtia*, *Hohenbergia*, *Neoglaziovia*, *Orthophytum*, and *Puya*

2. Shade to full sun, cool to warm, mesic (moderately moist) or seasonal rains (11 genera)

Alcantarea, *Ananas*, *Androlepis*, *Glomeropitairnia*, *Navia*, *Portea*, *Pseudananas*, *Quesnelia*, *Ursulaea*, *Werauhia*, and *Wittrockia*

3. Shade, warm, seasonal rain to wet (15 genera)

Araeococcus, *Bromelia*, *Canistropsis*, *Canistrum*, *Catopsis*, *Disteganthus*, *Edmundoa*, *Fernseea*, *Fosterella*, *Lymania*, *Nidularium*, *Pepinia*, *Pitcairnia*, *Racinaea*, and *Ronnbergia*

The remaining eight of the total of 58 genera consist of those most commonly grown in cultivation: *Aechmea*, *Billbergia*, *Cryptanthus*, *Dyckia*, *Guzmania*, *Neoregelia*, *Tillandsia*, and *Vriesea*.

SHOW AND TELL

Reported by Helga Tarver

Dave Johnston *Nidularium rutilans* (photo below)
Neoregelia 'Lorena Lector'; Skotak hybrid *Neo.* 'Lorena' x 'Hannibal Lector' (photo below)
Neoregelia 'Wild Rabbit'; Skotak hybrid *Neo.* (*carolinae* variegated x 'Hannibal Lector') x 'Tiger Cu' (photo below)
Neoregelia 'Heat Wave'; Skotak hybrid *Neo.* (*carolinae* x *fulminensis*) x *fulminensis*
Neoregelia 'Magali' variegated
Aechmea chantinii 'Shogun'

Nicole Matwijczyk *Edmundoi perplexa*
Cryptanthus argyrophyllus

Linda Sheetz *Hohenbergia edmundoi* (photo below)
Hohenbergia 'Purple Majesty' (*Hoh. leopoldo-horstii* x *catingae* var. *elongata*); (photo below)

Show and Tell Plants



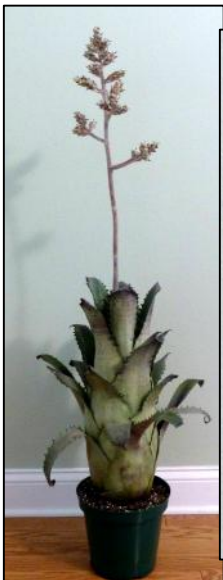
Nidularium rutilans



Neoregelia 'Lorena Lector'



Neoregelia 'Wild Rabbit'



Hohenbergia edmundoi



Hohenbergia 'Purple Majesty'

New Members

Two new members (pictures below) have joined our society—Sandy Holloway in June and Ines de Azevedo in July. Please make them welcome to our group.



Sandy Holloway



Ines de Azevedo

Plant Names Corrections

Sharp-eye Derek Butcher (former BSI Cultivar Register) with the Bromeliad Society of South Australia writes that the proper name for the *Bromelia* (photo on right) featured in last month's newsletter is *Bromelia pinquin*. And it turns out that not only are the berries edible but the plant pulp can be made into fiber and it also has some antibacterial properties.



The bromeliad (photo on left) John Edwards had at the last meeting that was mislabeled has been identified by Michael Kiehl as most likely species *Aechmea romeroi*.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2016

August 20-21, Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale

The Garden Club of Sanford, Sanford, FL (Ben Klugh at Klughka@yahoo.com)

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

September 30 & October 1-2, Tropiflora Fall Festival

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

October 8-9, USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (www.cas.usf.edu/garden)

December 3-4, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale

Terry Park, 3451 Marion Street, Fort Myers (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

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