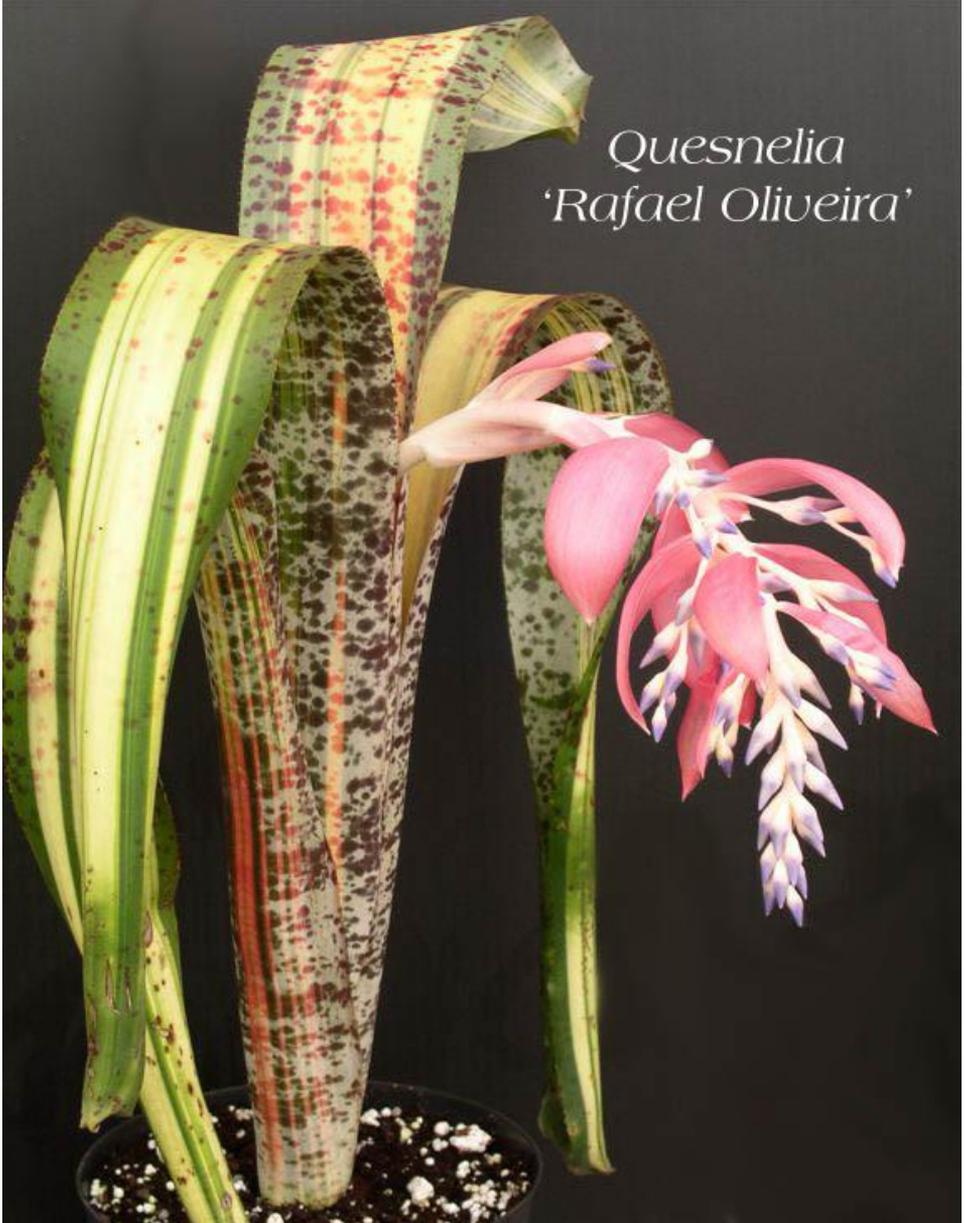




THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S

MERISTEM *Jan-Feb 2021*



*Quesnelia
'Rafael Oliveira'*

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RAFFLE COMMENTARY—Larry Giroux

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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

January Meeting at Edison

January 17th 2021

**The January Meeting will be held at the
Edison/ Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers
on January 17th 2021
Meeting will start at 2PM at the Banyan
Café.**

**Please read the contents of this issue
closely so we can have a fun and safe
gathering.**

**Please bring a chair, mask, wear warm clothes
Show and Tell Items.**

New member dues: \$20/25, single/dual.

**WE WILL HAVE A
JANUARY MEETING AT the
EDISON/ FORD WINTER GARDENS
January 17th 2021 at 2PM**

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

January 17th 2021 Meeting

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society's Board has been discussing the next steps our society needs to take for the future during the Covid 19 pandemic. We have decided to have an abbreviated meeting. The Edison/ Ford Winter Estates has offered a meeting location on the grounds at our normally scheduled meeting time in January. Through the efforts of Betty Ann Prevatt, Debbie Hughes, Carly Pfalz and Tom Cowell we have established a great working relationship with the Edison Gardens' Administration. There may still being many concerns, but CDC recommendations for a safe gathering will be adhered to. These will include the mandatory use of masks, social distancing of 6 feet between attendees and availability of sanitation materials.

Place –Edison/ Ford Winter Estates at the seating areas of the Banyan Café, which is located near the garden center. Parking is recommended in the south lot off of the main entrance on McGregor Blvd and the parking lot just off of McGregor Blvd on Larchmont Avenue, the street just north of the Estates.

Time –Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Since we are limiting our normal activities, we anticipate the meeting will last about 1 ½ hours. They will be a CBS Board meeting at 1:00 PM to take care of urgent Society business. Officers and current Committee Chair holders are encouraged to attend.

Activities –Show and Tell –we still want to have our Show and Tell, so bring one or two of your interesting bromeliads to brag about or to ask questions about. We ask that you keep them at your seats since we will not be setting up rows of tables. We also ask that you do not pass them around. You can talk about them or we can have someone else knowledgeable talk about them.

Speaker –we are working with the Edison's Administration

about having someone talk about the “Future of Bromeliads and other Epiphytes at the Edison/Ford Gardens”.

We encourage members as part of this first meeting of the new year to explore the new bromeliad gardens being created by Tom Cowell and the Edison staff. Many new plants have been added since the CBS sale from the generous donations of the vendors and new purchases. Except for new members, and we may not even collect these dues at this meeting, dues for paid-up 2020 members has been discontinued for 2021. To sell at our 2021 Sale new members will still have to have been a member since June 2021.

Unfortunately at this meeting many of the usual activities we have at our meetings will be curtailed. These include NO WORKSHOP, NO FOOD (beverages will be available from the vending machines), NO RAFFLE and NO FORMAL BUSINESS MEETING as we usually have in January. We are required to obtain approval from the membership of the annual donations and payments authorized by the Board of over \$100. We will also take a quick vote to approve the Officers for 2021. All officers have agreed to stay on for an additional year.

This meeting will allow us an opportunity to see each other again, to discuss our concerns and propose ways we can stay involved. We want your ideas and opinions about Zoom meetings, winter cleanup of the bromeliad garden at the council building and future in-person meetings and what activities we can resume.

We hope that you can attend Sunday’s meeting... Remember to bring a chair (maybe a cushion), a mask, wear the appropriate clothing or bring a small blanket, show and tell plants and small bills for the vending machines. Some will be sitting in the sun so consider a hat.

This Meeting Is Contingent on the weather!! If there is any greater chance of 30% rain between 2 and 4:00 PM there will be

no meeting. If there is a forecast for temperatures below 65° by 2:00 PM there will be no meeting. I will send an e-mail early Sunday, January 17th; I am only sending out this message if we are canceling the meeting based on these criteria. If you have any friends who had planned on coming and I don't have their e-mail address, please let them know of the cancellation if it is sent out on Sunday morning.

Text or call or e-mail questions to:

Dr Larry Giroux 239-850-4048, drlarry@comcast.net or Betty Ann Prevatt 239-229-7781, bprevattpcc@aol.com

Please remain safe and healthy and get your vaccinations.

Dr Larry Giroux, CBS Editor

The following information was provided by CBS & BSCF member, Grant Groves to the BSCF in 1997 as a handout. Although the cold tolerance of the various bromeliads will hold true in any growing zone, Grant grows his plants in Apopka, Florida and wrote this article for growers in the Central Florida region. Additional hints I published back in 2007 are repeated here to help your plants tolerate our occasional cold nights.

MOST COLD HARDY BROMELIAD CULTIVATED

Will tolerate temperatures into the upper teens for a short dura-

MOST COLD HARDY BROMELIAD CULTIVATED

Will tolerate temperatures into the upper teens for a short duration.

Ae distichantha (all varieties) (F) (P)	Neo 'Marcon' (F) (F)
Ae recurvata (all varieties) (F) (P)	Neo 'Fosperior' (F) (F)
Ac ornata (F) (P)	Neo spectabilis (F) (F)
Ae cylindrata (P) Ae caudata (P)	Neo macwilliamsii (F)
Ae kertesziae (P)	Puya species (F)
Bil nutans & hybrids (P)	Quesnelia testudo (F)
Dyckia species & hybrids (F)	Tillandsia baileyi (F) (F)
Nid regelioides (now rutilans) (F) (S)	Vr 'Mariae' (S)
Nid fulgens (F) (S)	Vr 'Rex' (S)
Nid procerum (F)	Vr philippo-coburgii (S)
Neo cruenta (F) (F)	

MODERATELY COLD HARDY

Will tolerate temperatures into the upper 20's for a short duration

Ae x 'Royal Burgundy' (F)	Bil pyramidalis (F)
Ae pineliana minuta (F)	Guz wittmackii (S)

Ae pectinata (F) (F)	Neo carolinae & cultivars (F)
Ae gamosepala (F) (S) *	Neo many hybrids (F)
Ae calyculata (F)	Vr many hybrids (green leaf types)(S)
TENDER	
Will not tolerate a freeze without damage	
Ae chantinii & cultivars (F)	Ae miniata (F) (S) *
Ae lueddemanniana (F)	Billbergias (many) (F)
Ae nallyi (F)	Cryptanthus (in general) (F)
Ae fulgens (F) (S) *	Guzmanias (in general) (S)

LEGEND — EXPOSURE TO SUN

(F) - Full Sun (P) - Partial Shade (S) - Shade

*will freeze but grows back fast

Editor's note: There has been a lot of new hybrids since this article, look up the parentage of your plants and correlate them with those listed here.

WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR PLANTS

1. Fertilize in late Summer and Fall with higher potassium and lower nitrogen.
2. If plants are outside plant in the ground or sink pots in the ground. The ground will be warmer than the air.
3. If you are not using Ice to protect your plants water them well a day before expected cold.
4. Plants should be set out in Spring or Summer so they will be established and adjusted to conditions.

WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR PLANTS

1. Bring plants in from cold. Obviously this is your best protection.
2. Cover to prevent frost from settling. Never leave the cover on after sun comes out.
3. For freezing temps run sprinklers to ice plants. Sprinklers must remain on until temperature is back up to 32 degrees. As long as the ice is forming it will remain at 32 degrees even though the air is colder.
4. Light bulbs under covers give off heat. Be sure they are not touching anything.

OBSERVATIONS

1. Successive freezes without proper care will cause decline.
2. Stage of growth effects cold hardiness in moderately cold hardy plants.
3. Exposure to sun is exposure to frost also.
4. Plants in containers are more susceptible than plants planted in the ground.
5. Less nitrogen more potassium will increase cold hardiness.
6. Dry plants exposed to cold are more susceptible due to

- desiccation.
7. In general the most cold hardy bromeliads come from Southern Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay to Argentina.
 8. Frost can be as damaging as a freeze and forms at temperatures above 32 degrees.
 9. Duration of cold is as much a factor as actual temperature.

Notes from the Editor

1. When you buy either slow release pellets or capsules such as Dynamite, Osmocote or Nutricote or a water soluble short acting product like Peters, the letters N-P-K refer to Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium and the numbers on the container tells you the percentage concentration of these three elements in their respective order. (For example 20-20-20, is a balanced formula.)
2. Rain often precedes a cold front. If you bury the potted plants up to the rims, be careful that the area isn't low and will hold water around the plants. Burying them in mulch can be as effective.
3. For plants in the ground or in pots, you want to water the ground and soil around the plants well. Also don't forget the epiphytes growing on driftwood, cork or in the trees, they should be watered the day prior to a cold snap.
4. Take extra precautions with newly planted or recently acquired plants. A clump of established plants will fair better than an isolated pup recently planted by its lonesome.
5. Bromeliads in pots can easily be moved to a lanai, garage or covered patio closer to the walls of the house. They can tolerate the lack of light for a few days more so than freezing weather.
6. The sprinklers must run continuously while the temperature is below freezing. Most home watering systems run on a zoned system, spraying for only 15-30 minutes per zone. These short periods will not keep your plants "iced" all night long. See hint #13.
7. Be cautious not to get the bulbs or sockets wet if you use stringed normal bulbs for heat under your benches. This method works well for wire benches in a closed area like a covered patio. Remember to water the plants well before you put the lamps under the tables. Covers over the plants should extend to the ground and will trap additional heat.
8. Damage from frost and freezes are cumulative.

9. New growth is more susceptible to damage.

10. Damage can appear the same; usually development of soft mushy leaves that progresses down the leaf and destroys the plant. Cut off obvious softening areas, the leaf edge will usually dry and there will be no further progression of injury or deterioration

11. Both the plant leaves and roots are exposed to the cold in a pot.

12. In general, Nitrogen helps plant foliage to grow stronger. Phosphorous helps roots' and flowers' development. Potassium (Potash) is important for overall plant health. Knowing this, it would be best to avoid use of high nitrogen and the growth of new foliage, which is at risk of damage during the winter months.

13. Water your plants the day prior to a freeze; however, watch for the burning effects of the Florida sun on leaves when they are wet and the rotting effect during the cold nights. It is not a good idea to use an intermittent sprinkler during a very cold night unless you are trying to ice your plants. Most bromeliads do not do well with this technique.

14. Knowing the origin of your plants and their natural habitat helps in many ways to grow your plants appropriately.

15. Since colder air falls, the temp near the ground may be colder than the air temp 5 feet off the ground. If the dew point is 32 degrees and the air temperature is around 32, then (given certain other conditions) dew will form on your plants closer to the ground and at the lower temp close to the ground will form ice crystals or frost. Frost can damage leaf tissue in those more cold sensitive plants. Special Frost and Freeze cloths are available, which help trap heat and delays it from rising. These can provide sometimes up to 3 degrees of additional warmth if used correctly. Old bed sheets are helpful, but watch for mechanical damage from their weight if they get wet. Never use plastic sheets or bags unless you immediately remove them before the sun heats up your wrapped plants. Frost cloth and light coverings can be left on for consecutive nights and days between episodes of cold.

16. Most of the episodes of cold weather we experience here in Southwest Florida usually lasts only a few hours and inland areas are colder and the cold last longer than coastal areas. We are less likely to have the damage of northern Florida growers.

Reference-

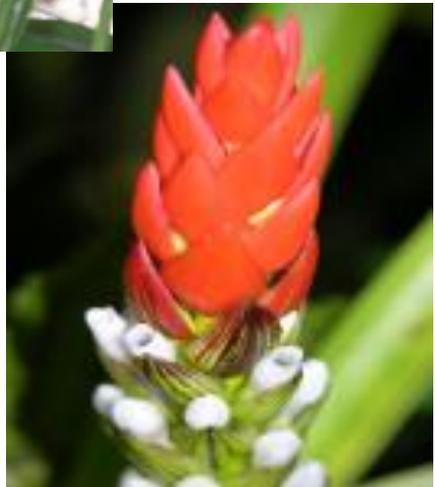
Cold Sensitivity of Some Bromeliads by Tom Wolfe & Eileen Kahl. Jan 2007, <http://fcb.org/>



There are many factors which determine the cold tolerance of bromeliads other than just temperature. This clump of *Aechmea fasciata* has been growing for years exposed to the elements in the late CBS member Buddy Singleton's yard. His property is east of I-75 and is more prone to lower temperatures during the Winter.. However, they have flourished and bloom routinely for their grower. The *Aechmea caudata* in my next photo is quite cold tolerate, but struggled for years in the late Gene McKenzie's yard, in North Fort Myers right next to a estuary and never formed a large clump as would be ex-



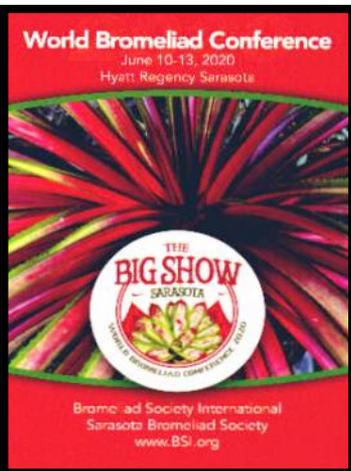
pected. *Guzmania monostachia*, which has an extensive distribution from Florida to South America, has adapted to a wide temperature differential. As mentioned earlier, the cold tolerance of the genus *Vriesea* is best determined by place of origin. *Vriesea ospinae* grows as a mesic, epiphyte at 3600-6500 feet in the Colombian



mountains, in spite of its soft leaves, I would expect it to be moderately tolerate of low temperatures. There are a few *Vrieseas* that behave like the silvery gray tillandsias. *Vr. espinosa* and *theralei* are two xeric bromeliads, which



grow naturally under very dry, bright light conditions at 1000-3000 feet. These species tend to grow and send stolons out horizontally, to avoid trapping water in their base. These would probably do very poorly in wet, cold conditions.



WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE to be held in Sarasota, Florida. June 2021

<https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner>
For more info and updates.

Happy New Year!



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This is your January– February 2021 CBS Newsletter
We are finally going to meet again at Edison!