



# FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES



***Neoregelia johannas* 'De Rolf'**

**Volume 36 Issue 2**

**May 2016**

## **2016 FCBS OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, MEMBER SOCIETIES**

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## Table of Contents

FCBS COVER .....	1
FCBS OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, MEMBER SOCIETIES .....	2
BSI OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM FLORIDA .....	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	3
CATCHING UP, STAYING EVEN, Carol Wolfe, Editor.....	r4
BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SHOW – HEAD TABLE .....	5
GREAT PARTY AFTER JUDGING .....	6
DRAFT MINUTES FCBS FEBRUARY 27, 2016 (REVISED .....	7
Xandrolaechmean ‘Dean’ .....	12
WHAT’S BEEN CHEWING IN “YOUR” YARD? .....	13
MEXICAN BROMELIAD WEEVIL REPORT .....	15
EVENTS .....	23
MEMBERS PAGE.....	24
DYCKIAS.....	25

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Contact [Karen@fcbs.org](mailto:Karen@fcbs.org) for permission to reprint articles from this publication.

Please submit articles in word document format to editor at [bromstudio@hotmail.com](mailto:bromstudio@hotmail.com).

On the cover: Neoregelia Johannis ‘De Rolf’ by Carol Wolfe ©cwolfe



# CATCHING UP, STAYING EVEN

Carol Wolfe, Editor

March, April and May are wonderful months for taking pictures while bromeliads are blooming and in their full glory! My very favorite all time photo is the *Neoregelia johannis* 'De Rolf' on the front cover. Ever since photographing it many years ago, I have loved the plant! It is gorgeous! Some of the pictures of *Aechmeas*, *Tillandsias*, *Dyckias*, *Neoregelias*, and others taken this month can be seen throughout this Newsletter.

The bigeneric *xAndrolaechmea* 'Dean' was a first time bloomer for us. When Tom, planted it outside our den window, it was a large green bromeliad. Each morning when opening the blinds, I barely paid any attention to it. Nevertheless, one morning as if out of nowhere, the leaves became more brilliant changing from a solid green to bright red and deep purples. It was quite a transformation, as you will see from the picture in this issue! Tom gives us more information about this beautiful plant in his article, *xAndrolaechmea*.



Ligustrum tree with tillandsias ©cwolfe

Have you ever had a stray dog or cat to take up at your house? They have a sixth sense that deep down somewhere you really like them so they hang around. Well this is the way a large *Tillandsia utriculata* attached itself to the ligustrum tree just outside our front door. You cannot miss seeing it daily. There are no other *T. utriculatas* on our property so we were surprised when this large specimen appeared and then sent a 6' spike above the top of the tree. In fact, or maybe fiction, the ligustrum tree tends to attract bromeliads as it has many *Tillandsias* on it: *T. bulbosa*, *T. streptocarpa* (blue flowers and fragrant), *T. setacea*, *T. usenoides*, *T. recurvata*, and *T. utriculata*. None of these was planted on the tree but the tree is full of *Tillandsias*.



*Tillandsia utriculata* in Ligustrum tree ©cwolfe

Congratulations to the Bromeliad Society of South Florida on their annual Show and Sale held on April 16, & 17, 2016 at Fairchild Tropical Gardens. Robert Meyer, President and Newsletter Editor, and Alan Herndon, Show Chairman and their members put on a great show! The quality and quantity of BSSF show plants equals some Bromeliad World Conferences. If you have not been to one of their shows, plan now to attend next year and you will be delighted seeing the Society's Bromeliad Show as well as visiting Fairchild Gardens.



Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Miami

Sandy Roth served the Judges and guest lunch and then had a great party Friday evening in her beautiful garden at her home. She provided delicious drinks in real coconuts, great food, and a time relaxing and renewing acquaintances.



Party for Miami Show Judges and workers.

As an extra bonus, Fairchild Gardens had the Clyde Butcher exhibit, "Preserving Eden" on display in the art building. It was a great opportunity to see his world famous black and white photographs. You might come away from the weekend in Miami saying things like, "It just doesn't get any better than this!"

My thanks to Teresa Cooper for all her hard work in giving us an updated report on her work with the weevil, to Karen Andreas, as always, for her interesting articles, for Jay Thurrott for his informative article and pictures about pests that affect our bromeliads, to Pat Gonzales for the draft of the FCBS meeting, and to Tom Wolfe for his article on the *xAndrolaechmea*. Hope you enjoy "your" Newsletter!



## Bromeliad Society of South Florida Show Head Table





# GREAT PARTY AFTER JUDGING

## Relaxing & Visiting



**Left** Dean Fairchild, Vickie Chirnside, and Steve Seal & Mary Seal; **Center:** BSI President and Judge, Jay Thurrott talking with Miami Show Chairman, Alan Herndon; **Right:** Rick Ryals, Michael Overman, Steve Hoppin, Francisco Cardosa and others relaxing at Sandy's Garden party.



**BSSF Bromeliad Show  
Winners on the head  
table on the stage**



**Aec marie-reginae**



**Aechmea woronowii**



**Guzmania 'Graf Van Horn'**





**Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc.  
10565 SW 109 Street, Miami, FL 33176-3456  
Draft Minutes February 27, 2016 (Revised)**

This meeting was hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Tampa Bay at Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club, Tampa, Florida. The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Vicky Chirnside at 1:30pm. In Attendance: Tom Wolfe (BGTB), Carol Wolfe (FCBS Newsletter Editor), David Johnson (SBS), John O'Steen (SBS), Mike Michalski (BSSF), Patty Gonzalez (BSSF FCBS Secretary), Sudi Hipsley (SBTPS, FCBS Treasurer), Calandra Thurrott (FECBS), Jay Thurrott (FECBS, BSI President), Gregory Kolojueski (SBTPS), Joseph Ventimiglia (FWCBS), Susan Sousa (FWCBS), Betsy McCrory (BSCF), Lisa Robinette (BSCF), Michael Andreas (FCBS Webmaster), Karen Andreas (Weevil Committee), Mariela Cabezas (GBS Guest), Ramon Cabezas (GBS), Sandy Burnett (GBS Guest), Steven Provost (BSI Archives Committee), Teresa Cooper (UFL), Vicky Chirnside (CBS, FCBS Chairman). Nine Societies were represented.



**FCBS Representatives meeting at the Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club  
hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay**

**Introduction of New Members:** The council welcomed Ramon Cabezas, new Representative from Gainesville and his wife Mariela Cabezas was a guest.

**Reports and Updates:** Vicky Chirnside reported that a judge's symposium was held on January 30, 2016 at Dean Fairchild's home and Jay Thurrott became a new Master Judge.

Karen Andreas requested that the minutes be modified to state that the Weevil Committee is a legal committee. Motion was made by Susan Sousa and seconded by Steve Provost and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sudi Hipsley presented the financial report as of 2-27-16. A new donation was



**Teresa Cooper PH.D gives the FCBS her latest report on *Metamasius callizona***  
**Right of Teresa: Vicky Chirnside, Chairman of the Council and representative for the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Dave Johnson and John O'Steen representing the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and Steven Provost, BSI Archives Committee, Chairman**

made by FWC for the Weevil Fund in the amount of \$500.00. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

**Webmaster Report:** Michael Andreas reported that photos are coming in. He reminded everyone to give him society news, show dates and meeting dates. He tries to keep this information current for each society. Michael suggested that we check the website and if we do not see our club information to send it to him or call him.

**Newsletter Report:** Carol Wolfe thanked everyone for their support and asked that we send her



photos or any interesting information. Everything should be sent by May 1<sup>st</sup> for the next newsletter. The newsletter editors in each club should forward the FCBS newsletter to all their members.

**Weevil Research:** Dr. Teresa Cooper reported that an air plant work shop was held in December at the Enchanted Forest with volunteers. Progress is being made at the Enchanted Forest and the fly colony is slowly growing. In addition, she recently visited the Fakahatchee State Preserve and sadly the devastation continues. She estimates 80% of the air plants have disappeared. Teresa is currently working on potential funding and contributions are needed.

**Weevil Committee:** Karen Andreas is working on a summary of contributions made to the Weevil Fund from its inception. She noted that supporting the Weevil fund is a great reason for membership in FCBS.

**BSI News:** Jay Thurrott, BSI President reported that they have 2 new affiliates, The Chinese Bromeliad Society and South Africa. This is Jay's last year as BSI President.

**BSI Archive:** Steve Provost reported, the archives located at UCF are open to the public. They received information from Selby Gardens which has been cataloged. To access BSI Archives at UCF, do an Internet search for UCF Library, select homepage. At the top of the homepage, select books/catalog and in the search catalog box type BSI.

#### **Old**

#### **Business:**

Extravaganza 2017, Tom Wolfe reported that Tampa Bay is searching for a venue and the date will be sometime in the summer. Standing Rules need to be revised. Weevil committee should be added to the rules.

Sudi Hipsley requested to revisit the speaker reimbursement. Wording in the articles is not clear as to how much can be given for this purpose. Karen Andreas and Betsy McCrory agreed to review this. Susan Sousa requested that each Society submit any roster deletions, additions and corrections by 3-15-16.

**New Business:** Since Kay Klugh is no longer a Council Representative, a new person is needed to be a signer on the bank account in her place. Calandra Thurrott agreed to take on this duty.



FCBS's Mike Michalski and Patty Gonzalez, Secretary of the FCBS, representing the Bromeliad Society of South Florida and Sudi Hipsley, Treasurer of the FCBS, representing the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

Steve Provost made a motion to approve Calandra Thurrott as the third bank signer and remove Kay Klugh. Lisa seconded the motion and the motion carried. Sudi needs to take a copy of the minutes in order for the bank to accept Calandra as a signer.

There was discussion regarding the cash registers and whether or not the batteries work. Greg Kolojeski agreed to check them.

**Society News:** News and Previous speakers at Monthly meetings.

**FWCBS:** Terrie Bert Bromeliad Genera S-Z, Dave Johnson and Andy Siekkinen. The annual auction will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**BSCF:** Terrie Bert, last Genera series, Christmas Party at Dean Fairchild's and Craig Allen's beautiful home with their g

iant Christmas tree and a gift exchange. In January Tom Wolfe gave a picture show of the Orlandiana 2012 World Conference. In February John Hanson spoke about Giant Neoregelias. In March Dennis Cathcart presented Brazil parts 2 & 3. Looking forward to Lou Gardens sale the 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> of March and the Mother's Day Sale at Fashion Square Mall on May 6-8.

**GBS:** Holiday Party, Tom Wolfe, Jay Thurrott held a work shop.

**SBS:** They are moving their meetings from Selby to Sarasota Garden Club and will hold their meeting



Left: Sudi Hipsley (SBTPS), Calandra and Jay Thurrott (FECBS), Gregory Kolojueski(SBTPS)  
Across: Karen Andreas (Chairman, Al Muzzel Weevil Fund, Michael Andreas (FCBS Webmaster).



on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. Speakers, Andy Siekkinen, John - Bromeliad Jeopardy Game, Christmas party and Terry Burke.

**CBS:** Dr. Larry gave a class in Arrangements, Chip Jones talked about Chester Hybrids, Christmas party was held at Michaels Bromeliads.

**BGTB:** The club won 3<sup>rd</sup> place for their display at the Florida State Fair. Speakers, Bruce Holst, Ken Stokes, Steve Byram.

**FECBS:** Terrie Bert, Christmas Party, Rose showed how to create a Cryptanthus wreath. Her technique is featured in the Cryptanthus Journal, Florida Council newsletter and the FECBS newsletter. In February 35 members had a walk about in the Sugar Mills Gardens. The regular meeting time was taken by the residences center. Jay Thurrott was the tour guide pointing out the different bromeliads. Beginning of February FECBS members headed to the Garden fest in Vero Beach.

Dr. Terrie Bert, Calandra and Jay Thurrott were elected to the Judges Certification Committee at the Judges Symposium in Apopka for bromeliad judges. In attendance were Jay, Calandra, Eva K. and Rick Ryals.



**David Johnson and John O'Steen,  
Representing the Sarasota Bromeliad  
Society**



**SBTPS:** Speakers Dennis Cathcart and John Hanson

**BSSF:** November: Pam Koides from California gave a slide show on Tillandsias, December Christmas Party at Fairchild Tropical Gardens. They had a plant gift exchange and Carl Green and Mike Michalski gave away plants to the members. January, Paul Isley from California gave a slide show on Tillandsias.

The next meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies will be Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> hosted by Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. Meeting adjourned at 3:35p.m.

Prepared by Patricia Gonzalez, FCBS Secretary and Representative from BSSF.



## **xAndrolaechmea 'Dean'**

by Tom Wolfe



The plant xAndrolaechmea 'Dean' is blooming in front of our home where it receives four to five hours of full afternoon sun. This much light causes much of the foliage to turn dark red.

Dean Fairchild of Orlando made this bigeneric cross several years ago between *Androlipis skinneri* and *Aechmea mariae-raginae* while working in South Florida at Bullis Bromeliads..

Both of these species are divercious, meaning the male and female flowers are on different plants. Both species are large, over three feet (1 meter) in diameter and equally as tall, plus the inflorescence which protrudes approximately 18 inches above the foliage. Also, the female plants in both species are much more rare than their male counterparts. To my knowledge both species are endemic to Cosa Rica.

The crowning inflorescence with its red scape covered by bright cherry red scape bracts is a marked contrast from the white branched flower clusters and yellow flowers.

The male *Androlipis skinneri* produces the pollen on its anthea, then the female *Aechmea mariae-reginae* had to be found so the stigma on the female flower could receive the pollen.

xAndrolaechmea 'Dean' is a very stately, decorative plant well worth growing and a fantastic addition to any collection or landscape.





## What's been chewing in your yard? Jay Thurrott

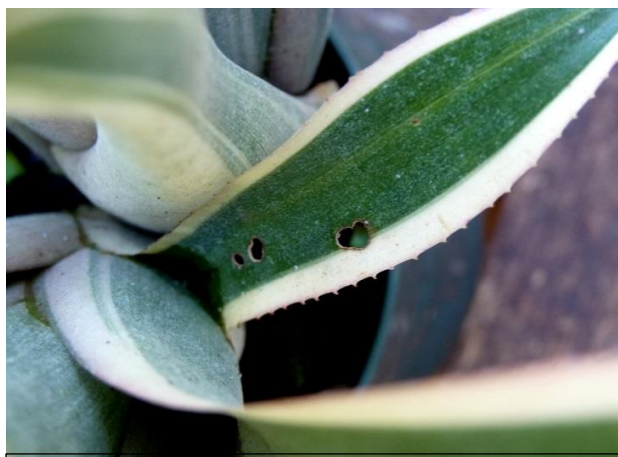


One of the things that first attracted me to bromeliads is their seeming resistance to many of the fungal, viral and bacterial problems that plague other types of plants. Unfortunately, I've found that there are other pests to contend with when pursuing this hobby. A few years ago I began noticing an increasing amount of damage to the Neoregelias in my yard. Specifically, the centers had either been completely removed and evenly distributed around the plant or the center leaves had been shredded so badly that the plant looked like a serious contender for the "worst cultivation of a bromeliad" award (an honor I seem to be striving for each year).

I had been advised that this was probably the work of squirrels, but since the plant tags hadn't been stolen (a well-known trait of



Caught in the act by a wildlife camera



Billbergia 'Louise' showing evidence of attack by hungry mollusks

those thieving rodents), I suspected something else was at work here and, with the help of a 'have-a-heart' type trap discovered that my yard was apparently infested with raccoons. A few years and 76 raccoons later - my problem with the centers of Neoregelias is no longer a concern...to be replaced by other types of damage.

Whenever you notice round, or nearly round holes in a leaf with no other damage, you should probably start looking for a thin, shiny trail left behind by the hole-maker. Where they come from and how they manage to climb the legs of the benches in my shade house (or why?) is still a mystery to me, but somehow slugs and snails occasionally not only find their way into my potted bromeliads, they have the uncanny ability to select only those plants most likely to be award winners in a judged

show. This saves me much trouble in picking which plants to enter into a show – I know it's the ones that have round holes in the leaves! If you have similar holes in your plants, there are likely snails somewhere near the scene of the crime. You may not see them right away since they usually do their dirty work at night, but if you scratch around a little in the surface of the potting mix or under some fallen debris you'll likely find one or more of these.

If it has a shell like this, it's a snail. No shell, it's a slug – different name, same result of round holes in leaves. Once you find one simply steel yourself against the "yuccch" factor, pick the creature up and dispose of it.



If it has a shell like this, it's a snail. No shell, it's a slug



**Juvenile lubber grasshoppers  
dining on a leaf**

Irregular scalloping along the leaf edges? It's not a snail, but most likely something more serious: grasshoppers! Lubber grasshoppers in their juvenile phase are black with a yellow racing "stripe" down their backs. If you find one, look carefully around the area because there are probably several more that had recently hatched. They tend to travel as a group. Once they reach their mature size, they look like a totally different insect – now resembling something from a science fiction movie. They hiss



**Adult lubber grasshopper  
can eat an entire bromeliad  
leaf in a very short time.**

(actually that's just a defense mechanism of expelling air through their body), they spit (it's not really tobacco juice, although any 8 year old boy will tell you that it is), and taste so terrible that they have no predators – even a possum will turn up its nose at the thought of eating one

Irregular damage to the leaves on your plant? If the pot was on ground level, it was probably visited by a somewhat larger pest –



**Deer are notorious grazers**

anything from a cute little bunny (not so cute when they mow down your plants)...to Bambi (also not so cute when they are damaging your yard). Deer are notorious grazers and will sample leaves of many different plants before deciding on the tastiest variety. Bromeliads can be prime targets in their search for the perfect leaf.



**A cute little bunny  
(not so cute when they mow  
down your plants)**



And finally, let's not forget our feathered friends when developing a list of suspects who may have damaged your prized bromeliad. These beautiful red markings are not natural in this *Neoregelia johannis* – they're the result of birds that were attracted to the more typical red markings on the plant, scratching the leaf surfaces with the beaks and claws while visiting the plant...which produced more red markings at the sites of the scratches...which further attracted the birds...in an endless cycle. Bromeliads may be resistant to many plant diseases, but they can still attract other pests!



***Neoregelia johannis* with bird scratches**

**Photos for this article provided by Jay Thurrott**



**MEXICAN BROMELIAD WEEVIL REPORT**  
**OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2015**

**Teresa M. Cooper**

Entomology and Nematology Department  
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL



Part of the Save Florida's bromeliads conservation method requires propagating seed and growing *Tillandsia utriculata* in Gardens in the forests of participating Natural Areas until the plants reach a size that is attractive to the weevil (medium size). Then, the plants are transferred to cages where they are kept and protected until they produce seeds. The seeds are then used to repopulate the forests as well as provide seeds for propagating new plants in the Gardens. The seeds and smaller bromeliads are grown on structures in the Gardens. Structure designs have been created for use at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, T. Mabry Carlton Jr. Memorial Reserve, and Lemon Bay Park. An experimental method has been designed and is being used to test these structures to determine which structures work best for which *T. utriculata* life stage and size category and in which habitats. Because participating Natural Areas are using the same method to test these structures, we will be able to compare data.

In the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 3 structures are being tested. Materials for building these structures were funded by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies at a cost of \$643.49. Volunteers are building the structures, filling the structures with rescued *T. utriculata* plants, then putting the filled structures in the Gardens (Figure 1). Also, in the Enchanted Forest, the door on Cage 1, the 1st and largest cage, has been replaced (Figure 2). The old door was a solid piece of plywood that was difficult to get on and off. The new door swings on a hinge, so it is easier to open and close, and it is screened, allowing for better airflow. There are 3 large *T. utriculata* in Cage 3 and 2 medium *T. utriculata* in Cage 2 that are producing inflorescences. All plants in the cages are doing well. A count of the wild *T. utriculata* as well as the 1st tri-annual counts of the cages and Gardens have been made. Data are being sorted and analyzed.

In Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, on 29 January 2016, Mike Owen and I counted the wild *T. utriculata* with a longest leaf length of 30 cm or greater along Jane's Scenic Drive (Figure 3). Very few plants were found. Because of flooding conditions (very unusual for January), we were only able to complete half of the count. Mike Owen and Katie Schulman have since finished the count. On 22 February 2016, Mike Owen, Bruce Holst, Chad Washburn, Katie Schulman, and I as well as about 20 volunteers and students trekked to *Guzmania* Gulch to observe the *Guzmania monostachia* population (Figure 4). Mike Owen and I ran some transects for making a baseline count of the *G. monostachia* population and for making future, annual counts (Figure 4D). There is no baseline count of a healthy *G. monostachia* population with which to compare our observations, but we estimated there were about 80% fewer plants than would be expected in a healthy population. And, like *T. utriculata* and *T. fasciculata* populations that have been attacked by the weevil, there is a lack of really large plants and plants producing seed (Figure 5).

At Carlton Reserve, on 26 March 2016, volunteers built a cedar cage for keeping and protecting large *T. utriculata* (Figures 6 and 7). Thanks to Russ Johnson, who pre-built the walls, floor, and door of the cage, we were able to finish the cage in a single day. Two large *T. utriculata* were put in the cage and are doing well. Ernie Winn and I met on 16 May 2016 to check on Garden Ten and to go over the method for experimentally testing their Garden structures. Ernie will continue setting up the structures and collecting data.

I now have help rearing the Mexican bromeliad weevil laboratory colonies, one with the Florida form of the weevil and one with the Belize form, therefore research on biopesticides and differences between the 2 forms of weevil can continue.

I am still working on, and will continue to work on, the Save Florida's Bromeliads Web site, which is at: { [HYPERLINK "http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/frank/savebromeliads/"](http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/frank/savebromeliads/) } [1](#)

I have started a Facebook page for the Save Florida's Bromeliads Conservation Project; it is at: { [HYPERLINK "https://www.facebook.com/SaveBromeliads/"](https://www.facebook.com/SaveBromeliads/) } [1](#). Please, come like us on Facebook! Then share pictures, comments, questions, and experiences, or just keep up with what we are doing.

#### Presentations:

Cooper TM. 16 May 2016. Save Florida's Bromeliads. Sarasota Bromeliad Society. Sarasota, Florida.

Cooper TM. 19 April 2016. Save Florida's Bromeliads. Bromeliad Society of South Florida. Miami, Florida.

Cooper TM. 15 February 2016. Save Florida's Bromeliads. Serenoa Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Sarasota, Florida.

Cooper TM. 23-24 January 2016. Save Florida's Bromeliads: bromeliads and birds. 19th Annual Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival. Titusville, Florida. Poster presentation.

(Continued next Page)



What's Blooming in the Wolfe's Garden?  
*Aechma recurvata* red form  
Photo ©cwolfe







Figure 1: At the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, garden structures are being A) built by volunteers; B) filled with rescued tiny and small *Tillandsia utriculata*; and C) placed in Gardens.

(Continued on next page)

What's Blooming in the  
Wolfe's Garden ?  
*Cryptanthus argyrophyllus*  
Photo©cwolfe







Figure 2. Cage 1 at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary with A) the old door and B) the new door; and C) 3 of the 5 *Tillandsia utriculata* in cage 3 have an inflorescence.



Figure 3. *Tillandsia utriculata* were counted along Jane's Scenic Drive in Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park in January 2016. A) Mike Owen looks for *T. utriculata*; B) one of the few *T. utriculata* found.





Figure 4. Trek into the swamp at the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park to observe *Guzmania monostachia* after the arrival of the weevil. A) Walking along a tram; B) entering the swamp; C) a group picture at the entrance to *Guzmania* Gulch; and D) Mike Owen standing at a point on a transect for mapping the *G. monostachia* population.





Figure 5. *Guzmania monostachia* in the Fakahatchee strand A) before the weevil arrived and B) after the weevil arrived.

(Continued next Page)



What's Blooming in the Wolfe's Garden  
*Canistropsis seidelii*  
 ©cwolfe





Figure 6. A cedar cage was built by volunteers at the T. Mabry Carlton Jr. Memorial Reserve. A) Volunteers arrive, with cage walls, floor, and door already constructed thanks to Russ Johnson; B, C, and D) the walls are put on the floor and connected; E) hardware cloth is cut for lining the floor and walls of the cage; F) 2 large *T. utriculata* are rescued from the forest; G) Donna Day holds one of the rescued *T. utriculata* using a bromeliad holder fashioned by Lee Amos; H) Donna goes into the cage and Ernie Winn hands her a plant; I) Donna waters the plants.





Figure 7. Dr. Teresa Cooper and Donna Day stand in front of the completed cedar cage built by volunteers at the T. Mabry Carlton Jr. Memorial Reserve.

What's blooming in the  
Wolfe's Garden  
*Quesnelia testudo*  
*marginata*  
©cwolfe





# Events

June 12-19, 2016

BSI World Conference

Westin Galleria Houston Hotel

See BSI.org website for current information



June 25, 2016

The next meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies hosted by Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society  
June 24, 25th, 2016

Tropiflora Summer Sale  
Sarasota, Florida

July 29-31, 2016

Caladium Festival

Stuart Park

Lake Placid, Florida

<http://www.lpfla.com/caladium.htm>

August 6, 2016

Bromeliad Bash

USF Botanical Gardens

Tampa, Florida



What's Blooming in the Wolfe's Garden  
*Aechmea mexicana* ©cwolfe

August 20-21, 2016 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale  
The Garden Club of Sanford (on US17-92 one block south of Lake Mary Blvd)

In air conditioned building. Huge selection of bromeliads in many genera, orchids, aroids, gingers, other tropical plants, gift baskets, hand crafted slat baskets in several sizes. Members will be available to answer your questions.

September 10 & 11, 2016

Sarasota Bromeliad Show

Sarasota, FL

October 7,8, 2016

University of South Florida Fall Sale

USF Botanical Gardens

Tampa, Florida

November 11-13, 2016

FTBG Ramble

9:30 -4:30

10901 Old Cutler Road

Coral Gables, FL 33156

<http://www.ftbg.org/events-community-outreach/events-details/pid>

# Members Page



Sandy Burnett of Gainesville Bromeliad Society made this Florida grapevine wreath with bromeliads after hearing Tom Wolfe's program on "Unique Ways to Display Your Bromeliads."

Photo by Sandy Burnett



Photo by Mike Michalski

This 12 ft tall *Aec. blanchetiana* specimen sent to us by Mike Michalski of Miami, Florida.

The plant was grown without much light for many years and Mike discovered this one while cleaning the backyard! He had already thrown out 7 truck loads of plants!

For our new members, we don't want you to panic if you are a owner of this plant, so here is a picture of how a *Aec. blanchetiana* looks when it is grown correctly in full sun!



*Aec. blanchetiana*  
Photo by ©cwolfe



# Dyckia

## Light-Loving Bromeliads

by Karen Andreas

Found mostly in central Brazil (some are also in Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina and Bolivia), these members of the Pitcairnioideae family are terrestrial or saxicolous (grow on rocks). Dyckias grow in dry, open and rocky climates where they are exposed to extremes in drought and wet conditions as well as to very bright or direct sunlight.

There are more than 160 species and varieties of Dyckia. Their sizes range from several inches to five feet across. Dyckia leaves look succulent; they are stiff, have spines and are green, rose, maroon, tan, silver or yellow, often with heavy scurf (the white or silvery powdery substance often seen on bromeliad leaves). Their growth habit is generally a dense or tight rosette form and most grow easily into



Dyckia 'White Ocean.  
Photo by Nuttaporn Chamnankit.



D. 'Betty Farnhill' Photo  
by Bob Paulsen.

clumps.

The Dyckia inflorescence does not come from the middle but appears laterally, from among the leaves. It is either simple or only has a few branches. Flowers range in color from yellow to orange to red.

Because Dyckias are terrestrial and develop large root masses, they need larger pots than normal for this size bromeliad. They also do very well when planted in the ground. Use potting media that drains well; plant only the root area, do not plant too deeply. While they are drought tolerant, do not allow them to remain dry to the point that their leaves start to shrivel and appear desiccated. If your Dyckia gets to that point, water frequently or replant it in a soil that retains more moisture, at least until it recovers.

Use a slow release fertilizer with your Dyckias, as they are terrestrial growers and will take up the nutrition through their root systems.

When repotting, it is best to wear gloves. You may have to remove the entire clump from the pot in order to get pups or break up the mass.

Do not pamper these bromeliads. Most Dyckias can be grown in full sun. There appears to be an exception with *D. marnier-lapostollei* and its cultivars. There are reports that this Dyckia may lose its heavy scurf when grown in direct sun. Grown under shade cloth or in a greenhouse, this Dyckia retains its scurf.

Dyckias are cold tolerant and need minimal protection. Let experienced Dyckia growers in your society be your guide for the sun and cold tolerance of this bromeliad in your area.

There are many attractive Dyckia species and cultivars that will bring interest and texture to your gardens. Give a Dyckia a try!



## Dyckia Gallery



*D. microcalyx* v. *ostenii* in habitat, an example of saxicolous growth. Photo by Carlo Morici.



*D. microcalyx* v. *ostenii* and its flowers in cultivation. Photo by Wilson Kuahary.



*D. platyphylla* and its flowers, a popular *Dyckia* in collections. Photo by Oscar Ribeiro, Bromeliario Imperialis.



*D. marnier-lapostollei* v. *esteve* tolerates drought quite well. It requires well-drained potting media and needs to be in an area with good air circulation. For best results, keep the soil barely damp in the winter. This is a slow grower.





D. 'Great White'. Photo by Michael Kiehl.



D. 'White Fang'. Photo by Michael Kiehl



Left: D. 'Yellow Glow'. Photo by Chris Nguyen.

Below: D. 'Red Devil'. Photo by Michael Andreas.



All pictures in this article are courtesy of the Bromeliad Encyclopedia, fcbs.org.