



FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES

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*I love Bromeliads... By Carol Wolfe, Editor*

THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA is to be congratulated on their outstanding 2019 show! It was a great show and the bromeliads were well grown and beautiful! I have shared some pictures from the show and only wish there was room in the Newsletter to share all the entries!

Miami also has a young talented generation of thriving artists in the city. The Judged Art Show was awesome and what an amazing talented group of young artist! Our congratulations to all! We have included a page of some of the artwork and I am sure you will enjoy seeing a few of the entries. There again space limits us from sharing all of them. So the best solution to see the show and artwork is to be there! Plan ahead to visit their 2020 Show and make sure you visit the lovely grounds of Fairchild Tropical Garden.

On Friday while Tom was judging the show, I spent time in the garden reminiscing about my first visit to Fairchild Gardens. It was the same circumstances many years ago that I came to Fairchild Gardens with Tom. While he was judging the show, I took our one year old son, Todd (now a Captain in the Fire Department), around the gardens in his stroller. At the time, Craig Allen was in charge of the display house and I admired the outstanding plants in the displays. In spite of hurricanes in recent years, the palms, cycads, bromeliads, orchids and many other plants in the garden are just as beautiful as they were in the past.

The BSSF has always been generous to their visiting judges and Dean Fairchild, the Judges Chairman for many years, always invited me to dinner with the group. Dean always choose unique restaurants, with delicious food, and the bromeliad conversation among the Judges was very lively! It was also on that first trip to Fairchild that I met the infamous Herb Hill, Sr. He invited us to come by his home to see his bromeliads. I don't think that I have seen a yard, before or since then, that had so many bromeliads growing in it! The pathways in the bromeliads beds were so small you couldn't avoid stepping on some of them. And Mr. Hill insisted that we take a gallon of his homemade wine with us! I have many pleasant memories of the hospitality extended to us on those annual Miami visits and the generosity of the BSSF members.

DID YOU KNOW? *Fairchild Gardens is dedicated to exploring, explaining and conserving the world of tropical plants.* They are one of the premier conservation and education-based gardens in the world and a recognized international leader in both Florida and international conservation. Currently Fairchild has field programs in over 20 countries including support to protected areas in Madagascar and Africa and botanic garden development and renovation projects in South and Central America, the Caribbean and the Middle East. Visit Fairchild at <https://www.fairchildgarden.org/>.



Fairchild's level of dedication to native plant conservation in South Florida remains unparalleled. *They have one of the world's greatest living collection of palms and cycads* on their 83 acres. This year they will reach over 150,000 students with The Fairchild Challenge, Explorer and Discovery programs and more than 3,000 adults will participate in the Life Long Learning education courses. With 45,000 members and over 1,200 volunteers, Fairchild plays many roles, including museum, laboratory, learning center and conservation research facility, but its greatest role is preserving biodiversity, which the garden's scientists, staff and volunteers all contribute to on a daily basis.

If you haven't seen Fairchild Gardens, you should plan to go and experience the beauty, the peace and tranquility that only a garden can give.

My heartfelt thanks to our wonderful contributors to this issue of the Newsletter: Jay Thurrott, Theresa-Bert, Ken Stokes, Derek Butcher, Tom Wolfe and for the very best proofreader, Calandra Thurrott. I know our readers will enjoy your articles! Thanks everyone.



The Bromeliads Are Always Brighter on the Other Side ...

By Jay Thurrott

I was very happy to see that the BSI has selected Sarasota, FL as the location for the 2020 World Conference. This will be a great opportunity for Florida's bromeliad club members to be part of what is sure to be a great event. If you've never attended a BSI World Conference, these are truly wonderful events for anyone even mildly interested in bromeliads and for those partners and family members who are not crazy about bromeliads (I know, it's hard to believe, but there really are people out there who are not bromeliad enthusiasts!) these conferences are always held in interesting locations with shopping, museums and other attractions close by. There's something for everyone!

I've been fortunate enough to attend a few world conferences in other parts of the country and one thing that I always enjoy is seeing how different the same bromeliad can appear when grown in other locations under different climate conditions. For example, compare these photos of *Aechmea recurvata*.



The photo on the right was grown here in Florida. The one on the left in California (San Diego World Conference). They don't look like the same plant! Then there are those terrestrials like *Hechtia texensis* that do such much better when grown in a cool, dry environment rather than our hot and humid one.



Hechtia texensis in Florida



Hechtia texensis in California

The differences are striking and *almost* made me want to move to California to grow those brightly colored bromeliads...until I visited a few gardens in California and saw how difficult it is for folks in that part of the country to grow some of the bromeliads that seem to grow so effortlessly here in Florida. Why such a difference in appearances



for the same plants? One thing that certainly comes to mind is the climate difference. California tends to get most or all of its rainfall in the winter at the same time that it sees some cool or even cold weather. In Florida we see just the opposite – we don't get much rain in the winter and spring months (in fact, it can be so dry during those months that this becomes our fire season), but daily rains in the summer coincide with our hottest and most humid times of the year. Bromeliads that originate from higher elevations and that typically see low humidities during the daylight hours may thrive under similar conditions in California, but not so much in Florida. Those bromeliads however that come from lower elevation and hot, humid rain-forested areas of South America may prefer Florida's climate to put on their best appearances.



Pretty bloom, but this greenhouse- grown Ca. Billbergia Strawberry shows signs of stress Photo Jay Thurrott



Not blooming yet, but a FL. grown B. Strawberry looks very robust and it's grown out in the open (note the antique turpentine pot under the standard plastic pot) Photo Jay Thurrott

Attendees from Florida at the San Diego conference "ooh"d and "ahh"d at the numerous and beautifully grown Tillandsia tectorums in the judged show since this is a species that is difficult, if not impossible to grow in Florida. It might make you want to move to California...until you hear from bromeliad enthusiasts in California who envy the large Alcantareas and Aechmeas that do so well in our part of the world.



T.tectorum with multiple bloom spikes in San Diego Photo Jay Thurrott



Alcantarea extensa in yard in Port Orange Photo Jay Thurrott

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Aechmea blanchettianas
in bloom in front of Sanford Garden Center

It seems to be human nature that wherever we are, we are always looking somewhere else for something better – whether it be on the other side of the fence (like in the proverb), in a different city, state, or corner of the world where the grass looks a bit greener and the bromeliads look a bit brighter. We envy the folks who live “on the other side”, but just remember that there is always someone on that side looking back over the fence at us and wishing that they could grow the beautiful plants that we enjoy each day.

A SHORT COURSE IN HUMAN RELATIONS

- The six most important words: “I admit I made a mistake”
 - The five most important words: “You did a good job”
 - The four most important words: “What do you think”
 - The three most important words: “It’s my pleasure”
 - The two most important words: “Thank you”
 - The least important word “I”
-



Aechmea ampla

This attractive clump of *Aechmea ampla* was grown by Chip Jones and entered in the 2019 BSSF Show.

In November 2016, a photo of *Aechmea ampla* was on the cover of the FCBS Newsletter. We had purchased it at an auction and were told to grow it in full sun. We gave it full sun which bleached it and just about killed it. It has been moved to the greenhouse and is still struggling to stay alive.

I asked Chip how he grew this clump. He said, “I grow it with little irrigation or fertilizer under 55% shade. It’s trouble free.”

Chip, thanks for the advice and from now on we will grow our *Aec. ampla* in the greenhouse! Carol



Sun-and Salt-tolerant Bromeliads
Part II: Androlepis, Bromelia, and Deuterocohnia

by Theresa M. Bert

As a continuation of the series of articles based on my presentation "Sun, Sand, and Sea—Bromeliads that Rise to the Occasion," which is about bromeliads that are sun-tolerant, drought-tolerant, and saltwater-tolerant, I'll describe the attributes of Androlepis, Bromelia, and Deuterocohnia with respect to those traits. It's worth repeating that no bromeliad that I know of has all three of these traits (well, maybe Tillandsia tectorum). There are sun- and drought-tolerant bromeliads and sun- and salt-tolerant bromeliads, but not sun-, salt-, and drought-tolerant bromeliads. A bromeliad that had all three traits would be a hearty bromeliad indeed!

The genus Androlepis has only two species—Andro. skinneri and Andro. fragrans—and is among the few genera that occur only north of the Panama Canal (Figure 1; but one author says that Andro. skinneri exists in Peru). Bromelia has 70 species plus 5 subspecific taxa and is a widespread genus, ranging from Mexico through Peru on the Pacific side of South America and into Argentina on the Atlantic side, as well as on numerous Caribbean islands (Figure 2). Sixteen species and 7 subspecific taxa (subspecies, varieties, forms) constitute the genus Deuterocohnia, which ranges from the Peruvian Andes through southwestern South America well into Argentina (Figure 3).



Figure 1



Figure 2

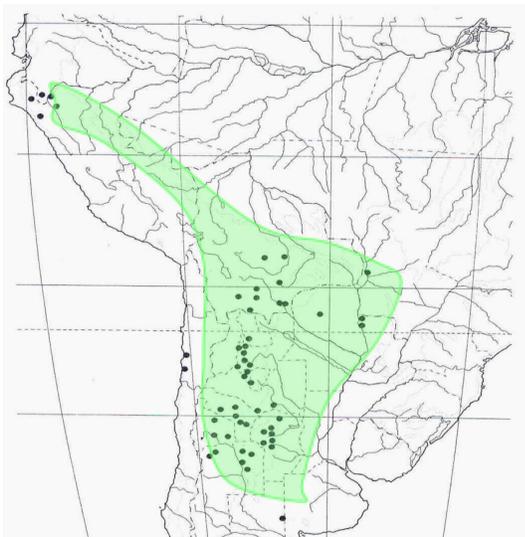


Figure 3

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Androlepis

The genus name was derived from Greek words for male (andro) and scale (lepis). The “andro” component was likely selected because *Androlepis* species are dioecious. Plants have either male or female flowers, but not both types on single individuals. The “lepis” component refers to the leaf-like appendages on the anthers (male pollen carriers), a diagnostic characteristic of the genus. *Androlepis* species are not found in most hobbyist bromeliad gardens, but are grown by bromeliad collectors. Thus, they are most commonly sold by nurseries that specialize in bromeliads. They can sometimes also be found at bromeliad sales sponsored by bromeliad societies.

As is typical of non-succulent bromeliads that are sun- and salt-tolerant, the two *Androlepis* species are big and have considerable water-holding capacity, both in their central tanks and between their broad, curved leaves. Like *Hechtia*, a physically very different genus, *Androlepis* species occur only north of the Panama Canal. Of the two species, *Andro. skinneri* is more sun- and salt-tolerant. It is also most readily available. I usually make a joke that male *Andro. skinneri* inflorescences (the entire blooming stalk—stem; bracts, which are modified leaves; and flowers) are long and thin, whereas female inflorescences are fatter and rounder (Figure 4). Such is the fate of many female organisms!

In nature, *Androlepis* species are epiphytic, but they will grow quite well and quite large when planted in the ground. Our sandy soil drains quickly, which is good for epiphytes. The addition of some time-release fertilizer such as Osmocote or Nutricote (sold as Dynamite at Home Depot or Lowe’s) will benefit the plants, particularly if they’re planted in sandy soil. For epiphytes, I put some fertilizer on the ground or potting soil around the plants and a few grains in between the outer leaves. This seems to stimulate growth, enhance the inflorescence, and enable the plant to produce more pups. Where I live, in the Tampa Bay area, the weather can be relentlessly sunny and dry during April-May (sometimes also June) and October-November. I’ve found that *Androlepis*, particularly *Andro. fragrans*, cannot withstand this level of sunshine, even if they are regularly watered. The largest and most healthy *Andro. skinneri* I’ve seen were growing under a large pine tree, in filtered sunlight, planted in a heavily mulched bed. Many pine needles were typically in the plants, indicating that they have a high tolerance to that type of leaf litter. The *Andro. skinneri* I’ve grown have been damaged by leaf litter and dirt in the central tanks. *Androlepis* species are certainly interesting and fun to grow, particularly if you can obtain both sexes of plants. One cautionary note: both species are very cold sensitive and should be covered if the temperature drops to 50°F (10°C) or lower.



Figure 4



Bromelia

This genus was named by the eminent taxonomist, Carlos Linné (aka., Linnaeus; he Latinized even his name!) in 1753. The genus was named for Olaf Bromel, a Swedish medical doctor and botanist (1639-1705). In those days, new genera and species were typically named for people who funded the expeditions during which the new plants were found; but this may not be the case here. It is possible that Bromel was the first person to collect the plant and provided it to a botanical museum, where Linné found it. *Bromelia* species tend to be xerophytic (dry-adapted) and are principally coastal and lowland, so some are salt-tolerant. Most species in this genus are more salt- and drought-tolerant than sun tolerant; so the conditions you have will guide your choice of species. They have edible, but bitter, fruits.

BUT, and this is a big BUT—although the inflorescences are incredibly interesting and beautiful, most species are big, dauntingly spiny, and invasive. In some species, the spines are oriented skyward at the distal part of the leaves, bifurcated (run both ways!) in the middle of the leaves, and oriented inward near the core of the plants. Put your hand in, and you can't get it out. I've seen dead snakes, birds, and lizards trapped in *Bromelia* species leaves. Many species also have very long, subterranean stolons and can produce pups far from the mother plant. People in Central and South American use them as living fences, to keep animals in designated pastures. The plants spread and ultimately form impenetrable, formidable thickets (e.g., Figure 5). If you dislike your neighbors, your neighbors' dogs, or people parking



Figure 5

on your lawn street-side, these are the plants for you. One of my long-time friends planted a row of *Bromelia penguin* pups in his front yard along the street. Through time, those pups had pups, which had pups, which had pups—you get it. The thicket grew so dense and tangled that the stolons didn't even run underground. They ran every direction in the air. So, in addition to becoming wider and denser, the thicket grew taller and taller. Can you imagine an 8-ft. tall, 15- or 20-ft. wide, wall of plants that want to maim you? Eventually, the

friend wanted to sell his house, so the thicket had to be removed. He anguished over this for some months and, to no avail, asked advice from everyone who might know how to get rid of this barricade (including me, who told him to burn it using a flame thrower). (I think it was easier to remove the Berlin wall.) The solution was fire, plus a backhoe, plus a crew expert in removing Brazilian pepper (which makes one of the densest thickets on the planet), at a substantial cost. He now plants *Cryptanthus*.

Moral of that story—be careful in your choice of *Bromelia* species, and keep them under control. Bromelias are terrestrial, but plant them in pots—easier to control.

There is one drought- and salt-tolerant, spiny but not-so-bad species that is available from nurseries and sometimes can be found at society sales—*Brom. flemingii* (Figure 6)—named long ago for Conrad Fleming, a bromeliad enthusiast from the Virgin Islands. The species grows in northern Venezuela, from mountain slopes down to the sea. I've seen it covering sandy beaches, in shade and sun, on a saline

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Figure 6

shoreline near Lake Maracaibo. This is a small (for bromelias), condensed species with a lovely peach-colored inflorescence and short stolons. It's fun to grow, and pretty. If you would like to try growing a *Bromelia*, this is the plant to try.

Deuterocohnia

The interesting genus *Deuterocohnia* (note the odd reversal of the “o” and “h” in the name—that cost me a bromeliad prize long ago) occurs in the southern Andes and highlands, from Peru through Argentina, in dry environments, on rocks (Figure 7). This small genus has species that range in size from the very small (*Deuter. brevifolia*, meaning small leaves; Figure 8) to gigantic (*Deuter. meziana* and *Deuter. brevispicata*; Figures 9 and 10). The genus was named for Ferdinand Julius Cohn, a German botanist and bacteriologist (1828-1898).

Deuterocohnia is one of a very few bromeliad genera that is saxicolous (obligate on rocks); and many *Deuterocohnia* species can tolerate drier conditions than nearly all bromeliads in other genera, except those adapted to deserts (e.g., *Tillandsia tectorum*).



Figure 7

Continued next page



Figure 8



Figure 9

Continued next page



In cultivation, over-watering can be a big problem. Deuterocohnias can be planted in full sun, in dry areas where other bromeliads wouldn't survive. They can be attached directly to rocks by sticking them in crevices or depressions or planted in pots with a very coarse medium (e.g., perlite chips + charcoal + wood chips, or volcanic rock). They can be placed where sprinklers regularly water them, but they need to be in areas where they will dry very quickly. I've spent lots of money killing *Deuter. brevifolia* by



Figure 10 *Deuterocohnia brevispicata* photo by Lyn Hall

allowing it to remain too wet for too long. A good cue that small species are being over-watered is the death of lower leaves on the little plants.

Large species can have magnificent inflorescences (Figure 9B) and can be planted directly in the ground, in areas where the soil is sandy and well-drained. If planted in the ground, these species can form huge clumps. A clump of *Deuter. meiziana* that grew in the ground in my yard formed such a huge clump that I had to hire a landscaper with a backhoe to remove it. Now I grow that species in a big pot, to keep it under control.

Deuterocohnias have a trait that is unique in the family Bromeliaceae. Their inflorescences can bloom more than once. This is the only bromeliad genus where you don't want to cut the inflorescence after the plant has finished blooming. It will bloom a few more times, but not as magnificently as the first time. *Deuterocohnia* scapes (bloom stalks) have characteristics that are similar to woody plant vascular bundles, which transport water and nutrients up and down the plant limbs. Large clumps of deuterocohnias that have magnificent inflorescences, such as *Deuter. meiziana*, can be festooned with arching, branching inflorescences that reach lengths of 7 ft. (2.1 m) or more. Very elegant. Deuterocohnias are worth the effort.

Continued next page



Learn More

For more information on sun-tolerant bromeliads, check out Moyna Prince’s article in the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies’ website (<http://fcbs.org/articles/full-sun-bromeliads.htm>), which also has loads of pictures of bromeliads (click on the Photo Gallery), and Tropiflora Nursery’s list (<https://www.tropiflora.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Full-Sun-Bromeliads.pdf>). Species in the genera discussed in this article can be purchased from most nurseries specializing in bromeliads and from hobbyists who sell their plants at bromeliad sales. Photos from FCBS.org

BUYING IMPERFECT PLANTS

by Ken Stokes



Hechtia Rosea

In the late 1990’s I attended the estate sale of Hazel Quilhot in Sarasota. She had been one of the early Bromeliad enthusiasts in that area and was associated with Selby Gardens. I searched through the collection of plants and found some obviously beautiful plants, then I started looking at some unattractive ones that had been neglected and had been shaded by overgrown foliage. I was looking at the tags for the names of plants I didn’t have. I was looking for preoperational material that I could grow out into attractive plants. The first one I came across was large, old thorny and green, but the tag read Hectia Rosea.



Ananas paraguayensis

The second was also a bedraggled green and barely alive, tagged Ananas paraguayensis. It took two years to get an attractive and healthy plant. The successive generations gradually became bigger. Then, several years ago when there were days of freezing temperatures all in a row, all of them froze to the ground. However, in the spring, three sprouted from the roots, all small and unimpressive. Since then, they have improved in size and appearance. The large thorny plant has never frozen and has become a beautiful melon orange. It has put on many pups. The original plant has continued to increase in size, becoming an impressive old specimen, now grown in full sun in a 10” pot.



Ananas “Mongo”

I have also collected other Ananas varieties; comosus, bracteatus, ananassoides, nanas, erectifolius and the hybrid ‘Mongo’.

Photos from Ken Stokes



Tillandsia 'Mystic Trumpet Enigma'

by Derek Butcher March 2019



In 2006 Collector's Corner nursery in Melbourne received a shipment of *Tillandsia dorotheae* from Rainforest Flora in California. This is plant named by Werner Rauh in 1987 for a plant collected by Dorothea Muir. He commented " Up to now *T. albertiana* is only known from the type locality,(Rio Sauce near Tucuman) and the nearest locations of *T. argentina* are far from it, and it is hard to assume that *T. dorotheae* is a hybrid between the two. *T. dorotheae* has been cultivated since 1972 in the Botanical Garden in Heidelberg and has proved to be constant. The flowering time falls, in cultivation, in the winter months; *T. albertiana* also flowers at this time, but *T. argentina* flowers in the summer months. The flowers of *T. dorotheae* are open for several days and the petals dry the same colour."

In 1996 Walter Till advised that he is convinced that it is a hybrid with *T. albertiana* and *T. argentina* as parent.

In 1995 Len Colgan and myself got *T. dorotheae* from Germany collected from the wild and offsets taken. They did not appear to be the same clone but had a similarity and we are fairly certain of their authenticity. Because it appears to be a natural hybrid you can expect back-crossing to either parent and thus variability.

Now to plants from Rainforest Flora. I do know that Paul and I had several Emails before his book was published about how you identified *T. dorotheae* from the Dimmitt hybrids. Therefore he was growing these Dimmitt hybrids. In the early 1990's I pushed Dimmitt to name the 'better' ones of his hybrids. I say better because his crosses were supposed to be primary hybrids where progeny should be fairly stable but they weren't! From learning Dimmitt's hybridising techniques (no different to most other hybridists!) I was sure that foreign pollen was involved somewhere (or the species were already hybrids!) so yet again quoted parentage could be in doubt. We discussed these anomalies and decided not to proceed with cultivar names for these. So when Paul of Rainforest Flora obtained stock from Dimmitt under either formula or 'Mystic names' he was getting a dog's breakfast.

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This is what I wrote in 2003

Tillandsia hybrids with *T. albertiana* as one of the parents. by Butcher in *J. Brom. Soc.* 53(1) 25-6. 2003

In the period of 1982 to 1985 Mark Dimmitt of Tucson, Arizona saw the potential that *T. albertiana* had and wondered how its brilliant coloured flower could be combined with other species. He tried hybridising with 7 other species and the long wait started. Flowering started in the early 1990's and each crossing seemed to have its own character. A few plants were donated to local plant Societies but most have been distributed by Rainforest Flora and Bird Rock Tropical in California under their grex parentage. So, many of you may well be the owner of one of these man-made hybrids.

Man-made hybrids are not recognised under the ICNCP rules unless they have a Cultivar name and a photograph instead of the herbarium specimen. Here, you should know both parents and the role they play. Many are F1 generation meaning their progeny should look similar and can share the same cultivar name. BUT NOT ALWAYS so you need to be vigilant. As you are aware, ever since becoming Registrar and having the luxury of an easily accessible Data base, I have been promoting the legitimization of man-made hybrids known only by their formula.

Because we now have photographs, some of Mark Dimmitt's hybrids have been named and information is as follows. Note that seed parent is named first and its name is that used at the time of pollination.

'Mystic Albert' = *stricta* x *albertiana*, named by D Butcher

'Mystic Burgundy' = *muhriae* x *albertiana*, named by B Timm

'Mystic Circle' = *meridionalis* x *albertiana*, named by D Butcher

'Mystic Flame' = *albertiana* x *ixioides* (and reverse), named by M Dimmitt

'Mystic Flame Orange' = *albertiana* x *ixioides* (and reverse), named by M Dimmitt

'Mystic Rainbow' = *albertiana* x *arequita*, named by D Butcher

'Mystic Rainbow Peach' = *albertiana* x *arequita*, named by D Butcher

'Mystic Rainbow Pink' = *albertiana* x *arequita*, named by D Butcher

'Mystic Trumpet' = *albertiana* x *xiphioides*, named by M Dimmitt

'Mystic Trumpet Peach' = *albertiana* x *xiphioides*, named by M Dimmitt

'Mystic Trumpet Pink' = *albertiana* x *xiphioides*, named by M Dimmitt

'Mystic Twins' = *albertiana* x *geminiflora*, named by D Butcher

Paul has always been cagey about where he gets his stock and you will never know where his wild *T. dorotheae* came from and we do know he had 'Mystics' From a purist point of view I believe we in Adelaide have provenance and others may also have Germany as a source. Is it a *T. dorotheae* that came from the USA or is it a 'Mystic' where only some were registered and the lesser ones were NOT culled?

The plant that came from the USA as *T. dorotheae* had red to orange petals making it distinctive and looking somewhat like photos of *T. 'Mystic Trumpet'* to which it was aligned. But is it an offset from the original Dimmitt hybrid? As far as I can trace no importation to Australia has been made of a plant called 'Mystic Trumpet' with links to Dimmitt.

Therefore it seems prudent to use the name 'Mystic Trumpet Enigma' if Australians flower an odd looking *T. dorotheae*.



Quesnelia arvensis grown on our property in Lutz, FL

QUESNELIA ARVENSIS
(ar-ven'sis)
By Tom Wolfe

As I walked around our property the past few days, I have noticed the blooms of *Quesnelia arvensis* and *Quesnelia testudo* fading. Whether in the landscape, woods, or trees, both plants draw your attention to their bright inflorescence high above the surrounding greenery. The flowering period for these two species is between January 1st and April 15th. The inflorescence lasts four to six weeks in good condition. These two species are often confused with one another as they bloom during the same periods, have similar inflorescences and are approximately the same size with *Q. testudo* being slightly smaller.

The stately terrestrial, *Q. arvensis*, grows near the southern coast of Brazil. It's usually found in rich organic matter on the floor of the forests or growing saxicolously on sandy rock formations. There are twenty-two known species and two varieties of *Quesnelia* with *arvensis* being one of the oldest.



Under cultivation the leaves attain the length of two feet with a width of two inches. They are dark green when grown in the shade and have a multitude of narrow silver transverse bands on the undersides. The margins are serrate with dark brown spines which add to the robust beauty of the plant. The inflorescence is brown on a white scape topped with shocking rose-colored floral bracts shaped into a three inch long cone. The bracts are erect with the blue and white flowers nestled down between the bracts.

This plant makes an excellent landscape plant being terrestrial and tolerating temperatures down as low as 20°F/6.6°C with little damage. The winter of 1995/1996 was an extremely harsh and variable winter with many cold fronts coming through in succession. The low-

est temperature was 23°F for a duration of approximately six hours which did not seem to have any adverse effect on *Quesnelia arvensis*. *Continued...next page*



Quesnelia testudos grown in the woods, yard and trees on our property
Photos by Carol Wolfe





Continued..

In all my thirty plus years of judging bromeliad shows, I never recall seeing a *Quesnelia arvensis* or *Quesnelia testudo* in a show for judging. There could be several reasons for this:

- (1) The blooms are spent before most shows in the spring
- (2) Most people have them planted in the ground or mounted in a tree; therefore, they elect not to disturb them
- (3) The grower thinks that they are too common to enter in a show
- (4) Since most of them are grown in the landscape and not in pots, the plants may be damaged by fallen branches, twigs and leaves which also make them difficult to clean, trim and prepare for a show.

I think, I may pot a few and try them in a show next year.



Barbara Easton of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay
won many top awards with her *Quesnelia marmorata* cv Tim Plowman grown on a lava rock

Photo Carol Wolfe



The Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Show & Sale & Youth Art Show





The guest Judges enjoyed a warm reception and delicious breakfast and lunch prepares by Sandy Roth and her hard working crew!



PLANT AUCTIONS



2019 Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Show & Sale



Neo. Carolinae v. tricolor by Karl Green



Neo. Sexy Pink By Chrissy Pfeiffer



Acanthostachys Pitcarnioides
By Ofelia Sorzano



Till. festucoides by Terri Taltale



Neo. chlorosticha by Barbara Partagas



Quesnelia marmorata 'Rafael Oliveira' by Chip Jones



Till. Curly Slim
Robert Meyer



Till. capitata
Artistic: Sandy Roth



Hohenbergia
cultivar
Bullis Bromeliads



Ques. marmorata
'Tim Plowman'
Terri Tallale



Dyckia Michael Andreas
by Maureen Adelman



Till. Connie's Red Cap
by Barbara Partagas



Hoh. stellata red by
Chieng Manlee



Ortho. grossiorum by Karl Green



Guzmania lingulata by Karl Green



Neo. Hybrid by Rick Cohen



Crypt. Pink Butterfly
by Barbara



Aec. Correia-araujo
by Karl Green

Guz. Noel
by Karl Green





Neo. Johannis
Rick Cohen



Neo. johannis
"DeRolf"
Alan Herndon



Till. hildae
by Maureen Adelman

© Photos



Till. duratii by
Maureen Adelman



Aec. chantinii by Alan Herndon



Till. seleriana by Brad Beardsley



ART 7th Grade Best Student
Artist: Samantha Kilpack



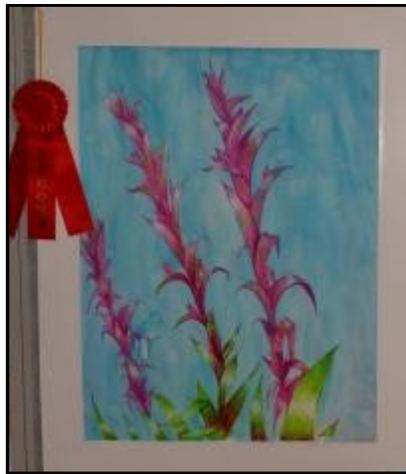
ART 7th Grade 2nd Place:
Azul Sanchez



ART 7th Grade 2nd
Place: Rachel Maximin



ART 6th Grade Best
Student: Artist Kasey
Robinson



ART 6th Grade 2nd Place: Layiani
Gomez



ART 2nd Grade 2nd Place:
Christobel Chirino



ART 5th Grade: Best
Student Artist
Leifi Corchofernandez



ART 8th Grade Best Student
Artist: Tyler Hawkins



ART 3rd Grade 3RD place:
Miranda Gonzalez



ART 8th Grade Best Student
Artist: Rebecca Rodriuez



ART 8th Grade 3rd Place:
Micheala Smith



ART 6th Grade 2nd Place:
Isabella Pichinlo



ART 8th Grade 2nd Place:
Lorenzo Castillo-Rios



Oh, Florida! Farewell to a Plant Hustler Who Was No Shrinking Violet

By Craig Pittman

Published March 22, 2019 Tampa Bay Times <https://www.tampabay.com/environment/oh-florida-farewell-to-a-plant-hustler-who-was-noshrinking-violet-20190322/>

I just got word from his sister that Lee “The Adventurer” Moore died at age 82. Knowing Lee, I am a little surprised his departing soul didn’t write the news across the sky in glittering letters 50 feet high so everyone would see it. Lee was that kind of guy.

Lee, who lived in a Miami suburb, was in some respects the quintessential Florida man. Not the lunkheads you hear about most often — like the Palm Beach County man who recently stole \$30,000 worth of rare coins and ran them through a CoinStar machine to collect a bounty of just \$29.30. No, Lee was the savvy, sharp-eyed hustler type of Florida man, constantly working the angles and willing to try just about anything to turn a buck. He knew how to spin a yarn, too.

I met him while working on a story about an orchid-smuggling case that led to federal charges against Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota. (Yes, people smuggle orchids — this one was worth \$10,000 a plant.) I once made the mistake of calling Lee an orchid-smuggler. He was quick to correct me. “I never smuggled orchids,” he said indignantly. “I used the orchids to hide what I was really smuggling.”

If you read Susan Orlean’s bestselling book *The Orchid Thief*, you met Lee in those pages. Explaining his nickname, he told her, “Adventure and excitement will follow me the rest of my life. ... It is in my blood to explore it all.”

“We were always smuggling something,” Lee’s Peruvian-born wife, Chady, told Orlean. “We had more going on, more situations than Indiana Jones! Oh, my God!” Leeman Russell Moore Sr. was born in Georgia, but his father, who oversaw civilian airports during the Eisenhower Administration, moved the family to Miami in the mid-1950s because he got a really sweet deal there. In exchange for steering \$5 million in federal aid to the Miami airport, airport officials paid to completely redo his kitchen — in Maryland. It became quite a scandal after he sold the upgraded house for double what he’d paid for it, then took a job running the Miami airport, to which he had steered all that money.

For Lee, the move was life-changing. His new home was at the edge of the Everglades, and while his classmates were going to football games and school dances, he’d be out in the Everglades with a flashlight hunting snakes or interesting flowers.

He went to forestry school but wound up working construction. Then, during a camping trip in South America, he discovered he could pay for the trip by collecting exotic-looking flowers and selling them. He started working as a full-time collector of orchids and other plants, and soon he was finding species that no one had discovered before. That meant they would now bear his name — for instance, the *Cattleya mooreana*, which he found in the Amazon in 1956.

This is where he built his swashbuckling reputation. He traipsed through jungles discovering more species. He repeatedly cheated death. Once, after a plane he was supposed to be on crashed, his family mourned him for two weeks until he turned up. He also repeatedly dodged the authorities. At one point, according to Chady, the couple was on Mexico’s 10 most wanted list.

That’s because he had figured out he could make more money selling artifacts found in the jungles than he could selling orchids. “I used to smuggle out pre-Columbian art in my orchid boxes,” he told me. He boasted he was one of the top five dealers in the world, selling priceless artifacts to well-heeled collectors and the less scrupulous museums of Europe and North America. He enjoyed a six figure income and owned a plane and a pair of Lincoln Continentals. The Miami News described him as “an urbane, polished adventurer, equally at home in luxurious mansions and galleries and in the humid, dangerous jungles.”

His biggest coup — one he told me about more than once — came in 1968 when he helped dig up and smuggle out of Mexico an entire wall from a Mayan temple. A whole wall! Even he seemed amazed by the audacity. He and his cohorts flew it to a buyer in New York, who offered it to the Metropolitan Museum of



Art—which not only rejected the offer but also notified Mexican authorities. The wall is now on display at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City.

“I went to the museum when I was a kid and they tell about how two bandits trying to remove the wall were never caught,” Lee’s daughter Cindy, an Ocala photographer, told me. “I was tickled pink sitting there listening, thinking if they only knew I was the daughter of one of the bandits.”

But then U.S. laws changed and Lee’s risk of getting busted in his home country grew too great, so he went back to handling plants. That’s how he wound up in the middle of the orchid-smuggling case I was researching. Somehow, out of all the people involved, Lee was the one who never faced any charges, even though several people told me they were convinced he was the mastermind behind the whole thing.

You might think Lee would lay low and avoid discussing the case, but you would be wrong. He not only talked to me for my stories, but when I wrote a book about it (*The Scent of Scandal*), he showed up for my book signing in Miami and signed copies too. He told me more than once he hoped Hollywood would turn it into a movie. “And who would play you?” I asked. “Me!” he replied. “Of course!”

LEE MOORE, ADVENTURER—MAN OF THE YEAR
Reprinted from BSI BULLETIN Vol XIV March—April 1964 No. 2

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of The Bromeliad Society held in November, 1963, it was decided that in keeping with one of the objects of the Society, "the awarding of medals for notable work done in hybridization and introduction of new varieties of bromeliads," that recognition be given to Mr. Lee Moore for his carrying on the work of the great plant collectors—Edouard Andre, Mulford B. Foster, and others —by venturing into the unknown wilds of South America to bring back rare and beautiful bromeliads. Accordingly, the certificate for outstanding work in bromeliads for 1963 has been awarded to Mr. Moore.



To Mr. Moore we are indebted for the introduction into cultivation of many new bromeliads, as well as the reintroduction of many species that had previously been lost. It was he who discovered the source of the legendary *Aechmea chantinii* and *Guzmania lindenii*. Although *A. chantinii* could be found on the Continent, it was a great rarity; and in other parts of the world, it was just a plant to be dreamed about until Lee Moore brought it back from Peru. Pictures of *G. lindenii* had found their way from South America, but the plant was not seen in general cultivation until introduced by Mr. Moore. Most of Mr. Moore's introductions have not been positively identified, but Dr. Lyman B. Smith has described *Neoregelia mooreana*, *Neoregelia eleutherpetala* var. *bicolor*, *Greigia amazonica*, and *Tillandsia wagerniana*.

Lee Moore, who is a young man still in his mid-twenties, moved from Georgia to Florida while in high school. He immediately became interested in the Everglades, particularly in the orchids and bromeliads which he found growing there. He attended the University of Florida Forest Ranger school, but later went into the contracting business with his father. In 1960, he and his wife rigged out their Volkswagen station wagon for camping and went to Mexico and Central America, where they collected orchids. Upon their return they were able to sell enough orchids to pay for the trip.

This transaction started Lee Moore thinking about going into the plant business. He became associated with a tropical fish company which flew to Iquitos, and he set up a small business there. It was at this time that he found the famed *A. chantinii* and its many variations. His work was interrupted by a sojourn in the Army, but during his basic training, he continued to make plans for his plant business in Iquitos. He borrowed \$400 to get out a catalogue and to buy some plants from Colombia. His wife handled the first shipment, but the purchaser for the entire lot went bankrupt, and the Moores lost everything. He received an emergency leave and went home and secured another loan on his car to keep going. Eventually, he sold enough plants to pay his debts.

(The rest of the story can be read on BSI.org by searching the Archives for Lee Moore or reading it in the BSI Bulletin, Vol XIV March-April 1964 No. 2)



2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza

September 20th - 21st

[2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza](#)

www.BromeliadX.com

Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
and hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida.

Location: [SpringHill Suites](#) & [TownePlace Suites](#),
8040 Palm Parkway, Orlando Lake Buena Vista (near Disney Springs).

This is a Marriott property with the two hotels being connected. The rate will be \$85 per night (taxes are additional). The hotels will also have a limited number of rooms 5 days before and 5 days after at the same rate for those that might wish to make a vacation at Walt Disney World or the other area attractions. This rate also includes a complimentary hot breakfast. The rooms at Towneplace Suites include a kitchenette. The rooms at SpringHill Suites include a mini fridge and microwave and a pull out (trundle) sofa bed. So make sure which hotel you prefer when you call to make your reservations, either SpringHill or Towneplace.

You can call the numbers below and make your reservations and mention The Bromeliad Extravaganza for your special rate. You can call today. No Extravaganza registration is required. Either 407-635-8500 or 407-239-4005.

The hotels have provided a link for online registration for this event. The \$85 rate is good from Tuesday, September 17th to Tuesday, September 24th. Last day to book is Saturday August 17th.

The taxes are an additional 12.5% which comes out to \$21.25, so your confirmation should show \$191.25 for two nights.

[Book your group rate for Bromeliad Extravaganza 2019](#)

The registration for the Extravaganza is set at \$100.00. The registration fee will include dinner Friday night and the Saturday night banquet & rare plant auction and a special “registrants only” entry to the plant sale on Friday evening. Tentative plans are to have four workshops on Saturday. And you can add to your bromeliad collection as there will be a sales area with a lot of beautiful bromeliads for sale.

Georgia Orser will be in charge of sales/vendors, georgiaorser@gmail.com



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70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BSI



**The 2020 World
Bromeliad
Conference
June 9 to 13,
2020**

Sarasota Regency Hyatt, Sarasota, Florida

Mark Your Calendars: The 2020 World Bromeliad Conference (WBC2020) will be held in Sarasota, Florida, USA, Tuesday, June 9th thru Saturday, June 13th, 2020.

- **\$149 room rate, with all rooms providing water views**
- **free parking to both hotel guests and conference visitors**
- **centrally located in waterfront downtown location**
- **no resort fees, lots of family entertainment opportunities**
- **ample facilities to accommodate our group of 200+/- participants**
- **conveniently located near Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and several internationally renowned bromeliad growers**
- **more information on the hotel and its amenities can be found at**
- **<http://sarasota.regency.hyatt.com/>**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dates	Event
May 3-5, 2019	<u>Bromeliad Society Houston</u> Annual show & Sale Judson Robinson Community Center
May 5, 2019	Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society Annual Bromeliad Auction Good Samaritan Church, 6085 Park Boulevard, Pinellas Park 33781 Time: 7:30 The auction will be in two parts: a Live Auction and a Silent Auction. Auction items will consist of bromeliads – typically terrific specimens and often unusual or hard to find – and bromeliad-related items, such as artwork, posters, ceramics, and books. Come, bid early and bid often
May 10-12, 2019	<u>Bromeliad Society of Central Florida</u> Annual Mothers Day Show and Sale 10 AM to 9 PM, Friday and Saturday 11 AM to 6 PM, Sunday <u>Fashion Square Mall</u> 3201 E. Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL 32803
August 17-18, 2019	<u>Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society</u> Annual Spring Plant Sale Location: The Garden Club of Sanford, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford 9:00 - 4:00 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 20-21, 2019	<u>Bromeliad Extravaganza</u> SpringHill Suites & TownePlace Suites, 8040 Palm Parkway Orlando Lake Buena Vista (near Disney Springs).
October 11 – 13, 2019	<u>Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show & International Cryptanthus Show</u> Corpus Christi Bromeliad Society will be hosting the Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show and International Cryptanthus Show at the Emerald Beach Hotel on the bay in Corpus Christi
June 9-13, 2020	<u>BSI World Conference</u> Sarasota Hyatt Regency 1000 Boulevard of the Arts Sarasota, FL 34236



Billbergia Nita



Pitcarnia aldiflos



**Hey Tom,
What's
Blooming
in the
Garden??**



Aec. nudicaulis 'Big John'



Till. aeranthos x T. tenuifolia



*Ortho.
grossiorum*



Hectia confusa



Till. balbisiana



Till. baleyii cv. prolefera



Till. simulata



Till. Flamingo Redux



Quesnelia 'Black Knight'



Neo. Picasso



Bill. nutans var. schimperiana



Till. aeranthos var. aemula



Bill. amoena mcwilliamsii