

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2016

Celebrating 62 Years in Bromeliads

floridabromeliads.org



February 2016 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:

Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

Program

Andy Siekkinen from the San Diego Bromeliad Society will be our speaker and will talk to us about the bromeliad genus *Hechtia*. This genus, often ignored and poorly represented in cultivation, is found almost exclusively in Mexico. Andy has been traveling and studying *Hechtias* (and all bromeliads) in Mexico for 6 years. He is currently the President of the San Diego Bromeliad Society and the Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park, and his private collection focuses on Tillandsias and the terrestrial genera, especially *Hechtia*. Andy is also the owner of Eagle Eye Adventures, a company that offers cultural and botanical tours to Mexico.

Trained as a lab nanotechnology chemist and based out of San Diego State University, Andy is using his science background and applying it to the bromeliads of Mexico. He is working on descriptions of several new species, introducing new species into cultivation, and studying their evolutionary relationships using some of the newest genetic techniques.

Plant Sales

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

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Charlie Birdsong spent March and April 2015 in Australia visiting shows, sales, nurseries, growers' houses, and the 18th Australasian Bromeliad Conference that was held in Sydney. He shared that trip with us in his presentation titled *A Bromeliad Autumn in Australia*. His travels took him to the Gold Coast region of Australia, an area along the eastern coast, south of Brisbane. The climate in the region ranges from tropical in the north to subtropical in the south, with warm winters and hot humid summers that are typically favorable conditions for growing most bromeliads. Based on the pictures Charlie showed us, it is clear the Australians grow abundant and colorful bromeliads and have been creating many hybrids to add to the bromeliad world. Below are pictures from Charlie's presentation that show some of the varieties of bromeliads he saw.





Note pups
between leaves



A very large *Neoregelia* hybrid



Canistropsis hybrid albomarginated



Vriesea "Smudge Grub"



Subgenus *Neoregelia* species

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

John Edwards

Billbergia 'Pixie' (picture below), a prolific pupper

Dave Johnston

Five different hybrids from Dave's new cross of *Billbergia* 'Pixie' x *Bil.* 'Fantasia' (pictures below; a photo of 'Pixie' is also shown below)

Gary Lund

Hechtia rosea (picture below)

Nicole Matwijczyk

Aechmea kertesziae

Kathy Risley

Billbergia 'Beryl Allen', *Neoregelia ampullacea* albomarginated

Show and Tell plants



Billbergia 'Pixie'



Five different hybrids from the same cross: *Bil.* 'Pixie' x *Bil.* 'Fantasia'



Hechtia rosea

THIS AND THAT

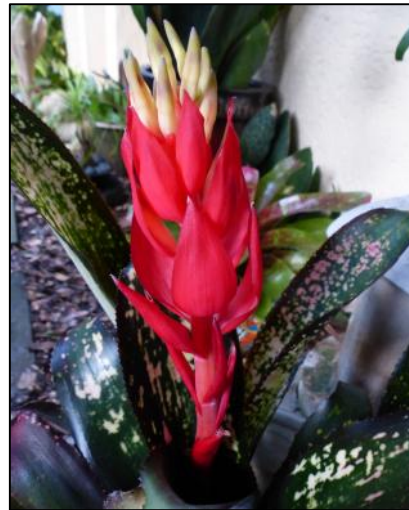
Bromeliads in Art

Member Kay Petryszak has an entry in the 41st International Miniature Art Exhibition which is at the Dunedin Fine Art Center through Sunday, February 7. Her entry, an oil of two *Aechmea fasciata* (shown on the right), was awarded second place in the Floral and Botanical category. Presented by the Miniature Art Society of Florida (MASF), this annual show features miniature art by artists from around the world. A commonly accepted American guideline is that subjects do not exceed one-sixth their natural size. Kay is the current president of the MASF, and has been instrumental in its events.



Second Floral and Botanical
Kay Petryszak
Pretty In Pink
2" x 1½"

BLOOMING THIS MONTH



Billbergia 'Poquito Mas' (tetraploid)



Guzmania hybrid



Guzmania 'Passion'



Guzmania 'Sir Albert'

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2016

March 4-6, Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Annual Show and Sale

Tampa Garden Club, 2629 Bayshore Boulevard, Tampa (bromeliadsociety@juno.com)

March 12-13, Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale

Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, FL (<http://www.leugardens.org>)

April 1-3, Tropiflora's Spring Festival

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

April 2-3, GreenFest Plant Sale

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL (friendsofplantpark.com/greenfest)

April 9-10, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

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

April 16-17, Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale

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

April 23-24, Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL (stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb)

June 25-26, USF Botanical Gardens Summer Plant Sale

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

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

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

September 8-14, 22nd World Bromeliad Conference, Houston, Texas

(<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>)

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