

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2022

Celebrating over 68 Years in Bromeliads



May 2022 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: May 3, 2022; 7:30 pm
Location: Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

PROGRAM

Annual Bromeliad Auction

Our May meeting will be turned over in its entirety to our Annual Bromeliad Auction. These are the details.

- There will be **no** business meeting, show and tell, raffle table, or member plant sales.
- Auction items will consist only of bromeliads and bromeliad-related items such as artwork, posters, ceramics, and books. Members are asked to participate by donating any of these.
- Dick Dailey Collection: The auction will include bromeliads from Dick Dailey's collection along with some of his gardening supplies.
- Donated plants should be of special interest, distinctive quality, and/or particularly fine or even rare specimens. How to decide what to donate? Items should be something you would like to bid on or have for yourself!
- Plants must be saleable quality, clean, disease- and pest-free, and clearly labeled.
- There are two parts to the auction—a Live Auction and a Silent Auction.
- Members are asked to provide refreshments in the form of appetizers and desserts. Please bring serving utensils, if needed. The Society will provide beverages, paper products and eating utensils.
- The auction is open to the public, so feel free to invite others who might be interested.
- Payment will be by cash or check.

NOTE: Our June meeting will be postponed a week because the original date (June 7) conflicts with the BSI World Bromeliad Conference that will be taking place at that time. The new date for the June meeting is now Tuesday, June 14th.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL PROGRAM

Preparing Bromeliads for a Show

In anticipation of the bromeliad show that is part of the upcoming BSI World Bromeliad Conference (WBC) this June in Sarasota, Richard Poole presented tips on how to make plants presentable for entering competition in a judged show. He gave a summary introduction to what judges are looking for when they evaluate and score a plant and encouraged people to enter a plant (or plants) in the WBC show. The tips were also useful for the person visiting a show to understand and appreciate why plants received a certain score.

Judging Bromeliads

- Plants entered in shows can range from really good to really bad. Judges are trained to recognize and judge fairly their merits and faults.
- Judging is based on a point system comparing the plant's features and characteristics against the ideal for that plant. Judges begin by assuming each plant has a perfect score of 100 and, as faults are noted, they deduct points to arrive at the final score for the plant. The final score determines the color of the ribbon, if any, that a plant will be awarded, as listed below.
 - 95 points and above: Award of Merit
 - 90 to 94 points: blue ribbon
 - 85 to 89 points: red ribbon
 - 80 to 88 points: yellow ribbon
 - 70 to 79 points: white ribbon
- Features and characteristics judges consider when evaluating entries against the ideal plant:
 - Cultural perfection (how well was the plant grown)
 - Conformation (shape and form)
 - Color and markings
 - Maturity level
 - Overall balance and symmetry
 - Size, quality, and color of an inflorescence, if applicable.
- It should be noted that there are different categories in which plants can be entered, such as single plant, single plant blooming, multiple plants, multiple plants blooming, artistic arrangement, and decorative container. Each of these can have additional features for which they are evaluated.

Preparing a Plant for a Show

- To do well in a bromeliad show, the exhibitor can enhance the presentation and ultimate score. The first step is to choose a nice-looking plant that would be worthy of competition. It should be, clean, disease- and pest-free, healthy, have rich colors, an appealing and appropriate symmetry, and be mature with clear markings.

- Things that will negatively impact the physical appearance of a plant include artificially created leaf shine, insect damage, age (immature or past its prime), dirt and debris among the leaves, torn or brown-tipped leaves, and a dirty or stained pot.
- Cleaning: Remove all dirt and debris trapped between the leaves and wash out remaining dirt with water, using a gentle spray. Remove any salt deposits and scale. Be careful not to remove the scurf if present on the leaves.
- Pot: The pot should be a clean, standard pot as defined by the show rules (unless entering the plant in the Artistic, Decorative Container category). If the pot is dirty or stained, repot the plant in a clean pot of a size proportional to the size of the plant. The plant should be centered in the pot and not placed too deeply.
- Soil: The soil or mix should be clean and level in the pot, about an inch below the top of the pot. Top dressing can be used but if in doubt as to what is appropriate, do not use any.
- Trimming: Correct leaf damage such as tears or brown or damaged spots by carefully trimming the leaf, taking into consideration the natural shape of the plant's leaves and conformation. Judges typically will not deduct points for trimming unless it is done poorly or changes the natural shape of the leaf or the plant's overall appearance. Points will be deducted for overgrooming a plant.

BSI World Bromeliad Conference, June 7-11, 2022 and BSI 70th Anniversary

The BSI WBC is held every two years, except for the one coming up this June. It has been four years since the last conference, which was postponed two years from its original date of 2020 because of restrictions imposed by Covid-19. It will be held in Sarasota, in our backyard, just down the road, so to speak, and it is likely we will not have it so close to home again for many years to come. Registrants to the conference will have access to seminars with notable speakers, the conference opening reception, banquet, rare plant auction, plant sale with vendors not commonly seen in our area, and a not-to-be-missed judged bromeliad show. Registrants can also take tours of two of the world's leading bromeliad nurseries--Michael's Bromeliads in Venice and Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota—and visit the renowned Marie Selby Botanical Gardens with free admission for conference registrants.

For those not registered for the conference, the good news is that several of the events are open and free to the public. These include the two-day bromeliad sale and judged show on Friday, June 10 and Saturday, June 11, which are open from 9 AM until 6 PM both days. A third event open to the public is the rare plant auction on Friday, June 10, which starts at 7:30 PM with viewing starting at 6:30 PM. If you are planning on attending these, make a day trip of it and carpool with other like-minded bromeliad lovers.

The conference is being held at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota, 1000 Boulevard of the Arts on the waterfront in downtown Sarasota, with restaurants and shops located nearby. Full conference details are at this link: <https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>.

SHOW AND TELL

- Barb Gardner *Hechtia tillandsioides*
Dyckia hybrid (picture below)
Tillandsia tectorum
- Monika Hale *Goudeaea ospinae*
- Dave Johnston *Billbergia* #34, Dave's hybrid of an unknown *Billbergia* seed parent crossed with *Billbergia* 'Casa Blanca'
- MariaElena Marcet *Aechmea nudicaulis* (picture below)
- Phil Monnig *Tillandsia juncea* forma 'Juncifolia' (picture below)
Tillandsia 'Rosalia Mavrikas', with a cream-color flower; registered by BSI as a cross of *T. schiedeana* x *T. baileyi* (picture below)
Tillandsia tenuifolia in bloom (picture below)
Tillandsia 'Pruinariza' (*T. ariza-juliae* x *T. pruinosa*)
Tillandsia filifolia
Tillandsia araujei
Tillandsia bulbosa Guatemala
- Karen Mills *Tillandsia dyeriana* (pictures below)
- Nancy Schmidt *Tillandsia xerographica* (picture below)
- Linda Sheetz *Pitcairnia* 'Obsession' (*leopoldii* x *burle-marxii*; picture below)
Pitcairnia 'Starry Delight' (*Pitcairnia brongniartiana* hybrid from Reginald Deroose; picture below)
Neoregelia 'Cherry Blossom'

SHOW AND TELL PLANTS



Dyckia hybrid



Billbergia #34
(unregistered)



Aechmea nudicaulis



Tillandsia 'Juncifolia'



Tillandsia 'Rosalia Mavrikas'



Tillandsia tenuifolia



Tillandsia xerographica



Tillandsia dyeriana



Pitcairnia 'Obsession'



Pitcairnia 'Starry Delight'

THIS AND THAT

NEW MEMBER

New member Jean Homan joined our group at the last meeting. Her picture will be in the next newsletter so members can be sure to find and welcome her.

IN THE GARDEN

Aechmea 'Patricia's Secret' (pictured below) from Bullis Nursery is a naturally occurring variegated mutation of *Aechmea* 'Patricia', which is a cross of *Ae. eurcarymbus* x (*Aec. chantinii* x *Ae. tessmannii*).



Aechmea 'Patricia's Secret'

Tillandsia ionantha var. *maxima* (pictured on the right), formerly known as 'Huamelula', was separated as a species called var. *maxima*. It is larger and has softer leaves than the typical *Tillandsia ionantha* species and varieties.



Tillandsia ionantha var. *maxima*

Submitted by Gary Lund



Aechmea 'Del Mar'

BROMELIAD AND OTHER PLANT EVENTS, 2022

May 3, FWCBS Annual Bromeliad Auction, 7:30 pm

Good Samaritan Church, 6085 Park Boulevard Pinellas Park, FL
(susansousa1@yahoo.com)

June 7-11, 24th World Bromeliad Conference, *The Big Show*, BSI's 70th Anniversary
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sarasota, FL (<https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>)

2022 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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