FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2018

Celebrating over 65 Years in Bromeliads

fwcbs.org

August 2019 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:	Tuesday, August 6, 2019; 7:30 pm
Location:	Good Samaritan Church 6085 Park Boulevard Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

PROGRAM

Tom Wolfe will be our speaker with his presentation titled *The Kaleidoscope of Neoregelias*. Neoregelias are known for their 'kaleidoscope' of leaf colors and Tom will have photos to show us what is available in this colorful genus. He will also give us tips on how to grow them to get their best colors. Tom is a longtime bromeliad grower and member of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, an accredited Bromeliad Society International bromeliad judge and a Master Judge. He designs and installs residential and commercial landscapes featuring bromeliads.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

A Change of Plans--The July program was originally scheduled to be presented by Bruce Holst, Director of Botany at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida. Bruce asked for a postponement of his talk so that we could hear a talk by **Alejandra Flores Argüelles**, a student participating in the Selby Gardens' international scholarship program who was with him at the meeting. Alejandra's presentation titled *A Look at the Bromeliads and Other Plants of Jalisco* was about a project she is doing for her Master's Thesis at the University of Mexico in Mexico City.

Alejandra's study area for her thesis is Sierra de Quila in her home state of Jalisco, located on the central-west coast of Mexico. This region is one of 33 officially designated Mexican Flora and Fauna Protection Areas (Áreas de Protección de Flora y Fauna) that contain habitats in need of preservation to support the flora and fauna found there. The areas are protected and administrated by an agency in the Mexican federal government and are subject to governmental regulations and other applicable laws.

Sierra de Quila is about 35,000 acres in area and ranges in elevation from sea level to 8,000 feet above sea level. Within this wide range of environments there are up to 234 species of plants that include 23 species (five genera) of bromeliads, 48 species of orchids and 72 species of grass. The study area is in a location sufficiently remote that Alejandra, two other students, and a professor had to travel there by means of mules that carried them and all their supplies for a week or two of work. They set up sleep and work tents and then proceeded to find and identify plants. She showed pictures of these bromeliads they identified.

Tillandsias: *bourgaei, fasciculata, heterophylla, jalisco-monticola, palmelae, schiedeana, atroviridipetala (*which was formerly in the now-dismissed genus *Viridantha),*
Pitcairnia: *imbricata, jaliscana, jalisco, micheliana, singularis*
Aechmea bracteata
Catopsis pendula
Billbergia pallidaflora
Bromelia karatas
Hechtia ibugana
Ursulaea tuitensis

Alejandra's thesis topic is *Richness and Floristic Composition of Epiphytic Angiosperms in Sites with Conserved and Disturbed Vegetation in the Bahía Banderas Region, Jalisco*. She is documenting her findings on the differences in the number and types of vegetation in disturbed areas versus those in preserved, undisturbed areas in Sierra de Quila. She has noted, for example, that in areas of disturbed and reduced tree canopy, the diversity and number of bromeliads at the higher branches of tress were greatly diminished.

The scholarship program that financed Alejandra's work at Selby Gardens is the Harry E. Luther Bromeliad Research, Education, and Conservation Program (formerly known as the Harry E. Luther-Bromeliad Society International Scholar Program). It provides funds for advanced students or professional bromeliad botanists to visit Selby Gardens to consult its collections and access its other resources. The award is named for the late Harry Luther, who was the decades-long curator of Selby Gardens' Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Research Center. The program is funded in part by the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) along with other local and international donors; it gives participants opportunities to participate in bromeliad-related research in the Gardens' scientific facilities and to publish their work and present lectures at scientific forums, including BSI World Conferences.

SHOW AND TELL

Marty Baxley	Three Neoregelia hybrids (photo below) from a cross Marty made in 2010: (*Neo. carcharodon* x *concentrica*) x *Neo.* 'Ninja' by *Neo. concentrica* cv 'John Barbie'
Dick Dailey	*Neoregelia johannis* 'DeRolf' (photo below)
Barb Gardner	*Neoregelia* 'Venus' with a pup that reverted from the variegation (photo below)
Franne Matwijczyk	*Nidularium rutilans* (photo below) *Tillandsia caput-medusa*

Nicole Matwijczyk	*Edmundoa perplexa* (photo below) *Cryptanthus*: 'High Voltage', 'Calandra,' 'Key Lime Pie', *argyrophyllus*
Brad Mora	*Pitcairnia* unknown species or hybrid
Kathy Risley	*Billbergia* 'Beryl Allen' pup; donated to the Raffle Table
Leo Sandmann	*Ananas lucidus* cv 'Lava Burst'
Mona Shuster	*Ursulaea macvaughii* seedlings (photo below). Mona grew these from seeds she got from the *U. macvaughii* inflorescence that Richard Poole had at the meeting in June. She gave several of the seedlings to other members to grow, too.

SHOW AND TELL PLANTS

Three *Neoreglia* hybrids from the same cross

Neoregelia johannis 'DeRolf'

Neoregelia 'Venus' with reverted pup, on left

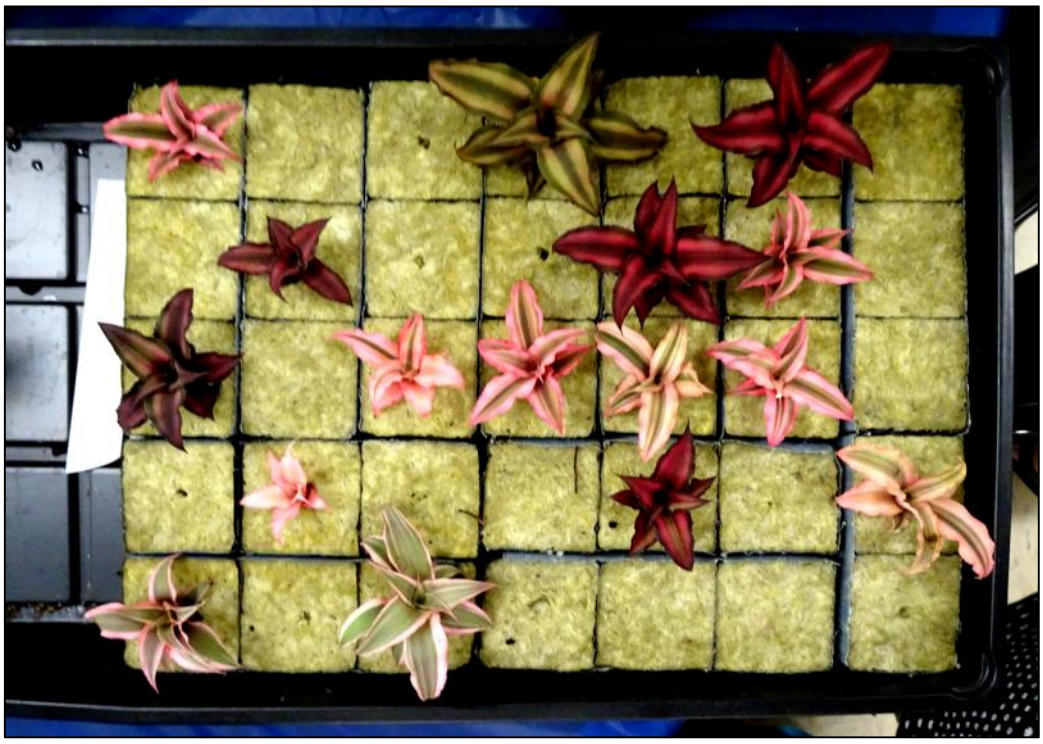
Nidularium rutilans

Edmundoa perplexa

Ursulaea macvaughii seedling

Dick Dailey's Cryptanthus Garden

Dick brought to the meeting a tray filled with Cryptanthus plants growing in a commercial hydroponic medium called Grodan® Rockwool, also called stone wool (see photo below). This medium is made from molten rock spun into cotton candy-like fibers and compressed into mats that are then cut into slabs and cubes. The mixture is wetted thoroughly before potting plants in it; slow release fertilizer can be used as appropriate for the plants. Dick finds that his plants grow well in it and has used it for a number of his different bromeliads. One feature he likes is that the plants are stable and not prone to displacement by squirrels and other critters, especially when they have very shallow roots like Cryptanthus.



IN THE GARDEN THIS MONTH




Alcantarea odorata—five feet across with five-foot inflorescence; fragrant flowers; green foliage with silver cross banding totally covered by a silvery white powder; partial shade to full sun

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2019

August 17-18, Seminole Bromeliad Society and Tropical Plant Society Annual Fall Sale
The Garden Club of Sanford, Sanford, FL (www.sanfordgardenclub.com/sbtps)

September 20-21, Bromeliad Extravaganza®
Orlando, FL, Hosted by Bromeliad Society of Central Florida (www.BromeliadX.com)

October 12-13, USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Festival
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (cas.usf.edu/garden)

October 25-27, Tropiflora Nursery Fall Festival
Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota (tropiflora.com/events)

December 14-15, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale and Show
Araba Shrine Temple, 2010 Hanson Street, Fort Myers (bprevattpcc@aol.com; Larry Giroux, 239-850-4048)

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