

GAINESVILLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Where Guests are Welcome and Members Are Encouraged!

April Meeting Details

April 2012

TIME: Sunday, April 22nd - 2:00 PM

PLACE: UF Entomology/Nemotology Building, Natural Area Drive east of the Performing Arts Center on Hull Road, U of F. or the 5th left turn on Archer Road coming East from 34th Street.

PROGRAM: Many thanks to all who participated in our booth at the Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival. This is our best opportunity to interact with the gardening community in our area. We had 31 people express interest in the Gainesville Bromeliad Society by requesting our monthly newsletter and meeting announcement.

Check out our website at gainesvillebromeliadsociety.org

Our speaker for the April 22 meeting is **Jay Thurrott**, president of the Bromeliad Society International, on the topic "Back to the Basics". Jay will bring examples of many of the common genera, discuss their features, and talk a bit about culture tips, fertilizing, pest control, and related information about bromeliads. Jay will not bring plants for sale.

Agenda:

1. Talk by Jay Thurrott - "Back to the Basics"
2. Welcome to visitors and new members
3. Review of GBS activity at the Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival
4. Comments on our website: gainesvillebromeliadsociety.org
5. Discuss recruiting new members.
6. Show and Tell, Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Refreshments

David Silverman, President

EVENTS: Door Prizes, Silent Auction and Refreshments



Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to send in photos and articles for our newsletter.

Email: [hjordan@bellsouth.net](mailto:hjordis@bellsouth.net)



heartgarden.com.au



<http://www.rainforestflora.com/>
Check out the slideshow online and their store of Bromeliads for sale.

Secretary's Notes: From Last Meeting, February 26th, 2012

President David Silverman called the meeting to order at 2:10. Vice President Irene Aldrich discussed upcoming programs. **April 22:** Jay Thurrott (Back to the Basics; a discussion of common genera, culture tips, fertilizing, pest control). **May 27:** Dennis Cathcart, who runs Tropiflora nursery (Remembering Wally Berg; a picture presentation of plants and adventurous collecting trips). **June 24:** Peggy Mixon (Mounting and Potting Tips for Color in Your Garden). **July 22:** Dave Johnson (A Tribute to Chester Skotak). **August 26:** open. **September 23:** open; BSI (Bromeliad Society International) World Conference, Orlando. **October 29:** Ray Lemieux, a talented grower and hybridizer (Surviving Terrestrials; a presentation on growing, separating, potting, etc.). **November 25:** Election of officers and plant/garden-related gift exchange. **December 23:** No meeting.

Plans for the Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival were discussed but not finalized. A signup sheet for booth volunteers was passed around. Hjordis prepared an information sheet for us to hand out for recruiting new members. Ideas for other versions of handout sheets were discussed: a sheet for folks to write their email; a tri-fold flyer with information on the club, culture, and contact information). Culture sheets will be made available for customers.

Hjordis presented ideas for the proposed webpage. Any comments can be directed to Hjordis. The cost is \$5-6 a month. She showed us some very nice page formats including Home, Contact Us, Meeting Place, and Affiliates. This is still being developed. Check out our website at gainesvillebromeliadsociety.org

Florida Council Meetings - Ron Schoenau mentioned that the Council meets the 2nd Saturday of each quarter. It moves around from society to society. Ron and Carolyn are the representatives for 2012. Members are invited to participate.

There was a general call for articles for the BSI journals. There is a scientific section as well as a culture section. They are missing articles of the more popular-type. Ron made a plea for any writers in the group to step forward.

We proceeded to the Program, a Show & Tell of members' most and least favorite bromeliads. David suggested an order of each member's turn based on birth date. (**Secretary's Note:** I tried to get all the plant names but some might be incorrect.)

Cindy doesn't like the ones that stick her or the ones that don't bloom. She brought a large Vriesea, X 'Carlsbad' with a developing spike, that was her gift from the 2011 gift exchange. She also showed a lovely blooming Vriesea with a branched inflorescence, red with yellow edges. She said it blooms regularly.

Chris showed us Aechmea X 'Excelsior', a recurvata hybrid. He got it from CA where the person grows it outside. He also showed a hanging basket he made with an assortment of plants: a single red feather Vriesea, Christmas cactus, and a couple other things.

Hjordis said she's starting to like the smaller plants, especially the small Neoregelias. She grows them out in soil then mounts them. She said Tillandsia usneoides (Spanish Moss) is not a favorite, but useful in arrangements. She also showed a little plant she grows as a border (maybe Aechmea cylindrata). Ae. 'Lucky Stripe' and Ae. nudicaulis were others she shared, along with Cryptanthus 'Pink Starlight', which won't grow on wood, but needs to be grown in soil.

Irene shared some big, beautiful Neoregelia hybrids. Her favorite is 'Passion', a bright pink/magenta; it

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doesn't bloom, but keeps its color. Neo. 'Blackberry' has nice dark red speckles and spots. Another Neo. (name unknown), with color like 'Aztec' (medium green with burgundy splotching) was part of her collection of favorites.

Lois doesn't have much luck growing *Guzmania*, but has success with a certain unnamed *Vriesea* hybrid. She brought in a plant with a red-violet spike, that was just starting to develop.

Marvin likes all his plants. He showed ones that were currently in bloom: a *Bilbergia nutans* cross and *Aechmea cylindrata variagata*, which has a matchstick bloom. Both are grown outside in the ground, and are cold-hardy.

Bobby's favorite is Spanish Moss, because it made a very big impression on him when he first moved to Gnv. He showed us a marvelous specimen of *Deuterocohnia brevifolia*, growing as a nice mound of several hundred little plants. He grows it in the greenhouse and got it from *Tropiflora*.



David showed us a *Dyckia* with very spiky, curved leaves, in a nice gray-green color. The name is unknown. It holds up in the cold, and is very neglectable. His least favorite is one he bought at Selby Gardens. It's never bloomed and just stays green. It's a *Neoregelia* of some sort. It burns in full sun.

Winston declared that *Vrieseas* are his favorites and shared one of his that is a regular bloomer (single red feather; leaf with a white stripe down the middle). He also showed us a very spiky *Dyckia*, and he doesn't like it for that reason, but this plant did have a very tall inflorescence with yellow – orange flowers.

Ron shared a whole bunch of plants. *Guzmania linden*, in nature, grows at 7500 ft in northern Peru. The leaves have a very dramatic green and white pattern. This was a large plant and was only half-grown. The bloom is not that impressive. He got it from Nat DeLeon. It is grown in the coolest, shadiest spot in yard. It bloomed once and today's plant is one of that plant's pups. It's a slow grower. This plant was 6 ½ years old. Ron's least favorite, *Fosterella vilosilla*, has somewhat long, discolor leaves. It shoots up a high spike with tiny flowers. The plant is very prolific, the seeds have wings, and they will sprout everywhere. A plant from a CA hybridizer, a *Vriesea* hybrid, *Cosmic Dust*, has foliage with lines and spots. The flower is a yellow feather. Another interesting plant, a terrestrial, *Pitcairnia tabuloformis*, will get 15 "across and stay very flat. The flower is brilliant orange, and stays a little over a week. It is hard to grow, but happened to be in bloom at the time of a show and it won "Best of Show". It is from Chiapas, Mexico, found growing on limerock. Adding lime to the plant has been helpful. *Guzmania lingulata*, cultivar *Fortuna*, is from Panama. When it was a new introduction, it got in a bidding war of crazy proportions. (Sec'y's note: Did I hear right? \$12K?) It is fairly easy and fairly prolific. A little Neo. *ampullacea* 'Fireball' cross, with Neo. *tristis* and Neo. *Kahala Dawn*, was procured from Shelldance Nursery, Pacifica, CA, where one gets a beautiful view over the Pacific. Another high altitude plant, from SW Brazil/ Bolivia/ Peru, *Tillandsia spiculosa* variety *reticulosa* has interesting foliage and a very branched bloom spike. It has now been reclassified *Racinae spiculosa reticulosa*.

Peggy – *Bilbergia* is one of her least favorite genera. They get long, strappy leaves when grown in poor light. Her favorite is *Aechmea ludemania alvorens*. It colors up to a pink and has a big pendant bloom that is kind of fuzzy and lavender. Another favorite is *Guzmania Kapoho Fire*, and hers was in excellent bloom. *Aechmea 'Bert'* is nice for its dark blotches on medium green leaves.

Door prizes were awarded a little after 4. Meeting adjourned at 4:12.



Nursery Ads Wanted

Dear Bromeliad Society,

In the May issue of the newsletter of the **Florida Council of Bromeliads Societies**, we publish a list of bromeliad nurseries in the state. The nurseries must be state inspected; that is the only requirement. There is no charge for being listed in the Bromeliad Sources, both in the newsletter and on the Council site at fcbs.org.

If any of your members own a state registered and inspected nursery and would like to be listed, they can email me at karen@digital.net, **by April 25**. Please include the name of the nursery, name of the owner, address, contact information, including web address, email and phone number, hours of operation and if an appointment is needed. A brief description is also welcome.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Karen Andreas, Editor
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Take Note:

The Florida Council of Bromeliads Societies can be found on **Facebook** as well as their website, (fcbs.org) for updated information about the World Conference as well as schedules for bromeliad shows and sales.

On Facebook, this is the link to the Council:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Florida-Council-of-Bromeliad-Societies/313420628715363>

Gainesville Bromeliad Society is affiliated with:



<http://www.fcbs.org/>



<http://www.bsi.org/>

Hardy Bromelads
Aechmea cylindrata
(Faithful Bloomers)



GBS Officers and Staff:

President:	David Silverman	352-378-7481	nmvrlis@hotmail.com
Vice-President	Ilene Aldrich	352-629-1913	ialdrich4@cox.net
Treasurer:	Lorene Junkin	352-375-0322	lorenepaul@mindspring.com
Secretary:	Lois Wood	352-495-0861	lawood@ufl.edu
Newsletter Editor:	Hjordis Owens	352-486-3998	hjordis@bellsouth.net
Librarian:	Irene Aldrich	352-629-1913	ialdrich4@cox.net



September 24th - September 30th

2012 Bromeliad Society International World Bromeliad Conference

hosted by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
The Caribe Royal, 8101 World Center, Orlando, FL 32821
For Hotel Reservations, see link below
Rooms starting at \$119 US

This world-class event includes outstanding sales, a Rare Plant Auction, seminars, tours, and an opportunity to meet bromeliad collectors and growers from all over the world!

Speakers include:

Harry Luther
Francisco Oliva-Esteve
Peter Bak
Dennis Cathcart

Tours include:

Color Zone Tropicals
McCrary's Sunny Hill
Russell's Bromeliads
Home Tours

Betsy McCrary
FCBS World Conference Chairman
betsymccrory@aol.com
(407) 348-2139

To Register: <http://www.fcbs.org/WBC12Registration.pdf>

Schedule of Events: <http://www.fcbs.org/BC12ScheduleofEvents.pdf>

Sales Rules: <http://www.fcbs.org/WBC12SalesRules.pdf>

Or go to FCBS @ <http://fcbs.org/>