

Gainesville Bromeliad Society

September 2014

September 28th Meeting: Silent Auction

Inside this issue:

Plant Auction	1
Guidelines	
Minutes	2,3

We're on the Web!

www.GainesvilleBromeliadSociety.org

Gainesville Bromeliad Society Plant Auction Sunday 9/28/14

Silent Auction Guidelines:

All plants shall be clean & free of disease.

Seller set their price & minimum bid for their plant (s).

All plants will have 3 markers: 1) plant identification 2) name of seller 3) price including minimum bid.

Only bromeliads and bromeliad related items: pots, art, plant tools, etc shall be offered for sale.

Revenue raised from the Silent Auction benefits the GBS treasury.

Seller may also retain a portion of sales (25% to GBS treasury).

No limit on the number of plants to be sold.

There will be **both silent & live auctions** (more FUN)!

Only full dollar prices to be used. Cash or check, sorry no credit cards.

Takes place in the same classroom of the Entomology/Nematology bldg, where we normally meet.

Also please plan for **door prizes** as usual.

SEE YOU THERE!

GBS Officers and Staff:

President:	Sandy Burnett	352-376-2040	sandyjo@gmail.com
Vice-President	Woods NeSmith	850-878-8769	kalterhund51@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Lorene Junkin	352-375-0322	lorenepaul@mindspring.com
Secretary:	Jean Thomas	352-213-9058	jean.thomas@ars.usda.gov
Newsletter Editor:	Hjordis Owens	352-486-3998	hjordan@bellsouth.net
Librarian:	Ellen Nelson		knesmith55@gmail.com

Gainesville Bromeliad Society

Minutes: August 24, 2014

The meeting was called to order just after 2 PM on Sunday, August 24th, by our president, Sandy Burnett.

Sandy introduced our speaker, Theresa (Terrie) Burt, from Sarasota, FL. Terrie is a marine biologist- and described her interest in Bromeliads as “a hobby gone berserk”! Our GBS Newsletter for August had described the background and accomplishments of our speaker and we were thoroughly pleased for her to be with us. Her talk today was entitled “The Outstandingly Ostentatious and Particularly Picturesque O & P Bromeliad Genera, Part 1”.

Many of the bromeliad genera she described are not well known, nor are they very easily cultivated. Terrie gave us a lot of information and references. She encouraged us to check various sites on the internet for the photographs she shared with us, like BSI and FCBS. Terrie also gave credit and expressed appreciation to Dennis Cathcart, of Tropiflora Nurseries in Bradenton, and Dr. Bruce Holst, Director of Botany at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, for sharing some of their photographs with her.

Beginning with the genus, *Ochagavia*, endemic to Chile, and similar to *Aloe* in appearance, we traveled through South America- especially Chile and Brazil-with her pictures and stories. It was incredibly interesting to see some of the habitats that these plants come from- and a good way to understand the necessary growth conditions. For example, plants of the genus *Ochagavia* are terrestrial, sun tolerant and semi dry-tolerant. They need a coarse potting medium, as they are saxicolous, living or growing among rocks in nature.

We next saw the different habitats of a very beautiful native to Brazil, *Orthophytum*, also saxicolous. Many of the plants in this genus are threatened or endangered. In fact the coast of Brazil, between Rio de Janeiro and Bahia, where this plant can be found, is a very rich area for bromeliads. We learned that about almost 50% of bromeliad species can be found in Brazil, and new species from there are still being described.

While showing us photographs of *Orthophytum*, Terrie also shared with us the fact that one species of this genus was named for a famous Brazilian architect named Roberto Burle-Marx. He was the first to integrate fine art into the landscape, and has been called the “Picasso of Landscape Architecture”. His home bordered native Brazilian forest, and he often used little known native species in his designs. More than 50 plants bear his name, and about 18% of bromeliad genera have species named after him.

From the coast, we traveled into the “cerrado”, a tropical savanna of about 72,000 square miles. It is an incredibly rich habitat with about 10,000 plant species. We saw pictures of magnificent rock gardens on the tops of the peaks and plateaus there. Terrie explained that the nature of this habitat includes a jungle at the lower elevations that rises to incorporate plateaus up to 4,300 feet high. As the elevation increases, the climate becomes sunnier and drier. The plants at each elevation have adapted to these conditions. The bromeliads there are terrestrial and fairly cold-tolerant. Many are quite large and need to be grown in extra large pots. *Orthophytum albopictum* is available at Tropiflora Nurseries.

Terrie introduced us to the bromeliad genus *Lapa*, which can resemble *Orthophytum*, and was named for a famous woman conservationist who lived and traveled throughout Brazil in the 1900's.

The “P” genera included *Pepinia* and *Pitcairnia*, native to areas high in the Andes. These genera are very closely related, and have been considered as one genus at various times since they were originally described. Both are terrestrial and grow in the semi-moist habitat of the forest floor in southern Colombia, Peru, and northern Brazil. They are pollinated by hummingbirds, and many have yellow flowers. In fact some grow in such dark areas that the inflorescences can become very long (20 feet or more) as they reach for the light. Many of these plants will tolerate cold, and if they die back in winter, they will grow back as long as the basal bulb survived.

Pseudaechema ambigua is the only species described in this genus, and it was found in southern Colombia. Only one

specimen is known, and it is kept at the Harvard herbarium. In contrast, Pseudoananas sagenarius is a terrestrial that grows in shade or full sun. It can become invasive, and is considered a weed in parts of South America. It has sharp spines with a toxin that is released when touched. This genus was separated from Ananas by doubling its chromosomes.

Terrie finished her talk with pictures of the “pantanal” region of Brazil, the home of Iquacu Falls. This is a huge area of wetlands, about ten times the size of the Everglades. Many species of *Dyckia* grow in this region, and even though they are drowned every year, they flourish. The talk ended with a short “quiz”. Five lucky people from the audience who answered questions correctly were given one of Terrie’s plants!

We paused for refreshments and a short break. Terrie had brought quite a few plants to sell and our members were very happy to have this opportunity to acquire them.

Sandy resumed the meeting with an expression of gratitude for our former president, David Silverman, who has been covering the cost of our website for several years. Our society will be taking over this cost from now on. Bob McGraw gave his report on the quarterly meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliads (FCBS). He encouraged us to open their website (fcbs.org) for detailed minutes of that meeting. Bob said that the state roster of bromeliad society members would be published in August, and that we should each receive a copy in the mail. He announced that the next “Extravaganza” would be in 2016 at the “Doubletree” in Miami. We were also told that the council was willing to contribute money for speakers if our society arranged an event. Also, the dues we will be paying will be \$3 per member address, which is a little better than it was before.

Sandy announced that Lorene had volunteered to help update our “by-laws” and asked if anyone would like to volunteer to help with this project. According to the by-laws, a nominating committee for new officers is to be created in October. We talked about starting the search a little early, and Carolyn Schoenau agreed to chair this search committee. Sandy said that Phil Effling would be coming to speak with us in January. Betty Neubauer brought in a copy of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) Journal that comes with the \$45 annual membership. It is very nice, and worthwhile. We discussed various options for our library, and Sandy said that the Nelson’s had offered to organize it for us. We spoke about our workshop event planned for next April and how many of the opportunities for free publicity need to be utilized early, even 6 months in advance. Our work as volunteers at the Wilmot Gardens would be very much appreciated. We are welcome to call Linda Leucking anytime to arrange a visit. Our meeting in September will be a member’s auction. Plan to bring something to share!

Tickets were drawn for door prizes, and all of the members went home with new plants.