



# orlandiana

**Newsletter of the  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**

Volume no. 47, Issue no.04

## April 2020

**Next meeting: TBA** following covid 19 restrictions

**Where:** Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803

**6:30 –7:00** is pre-meeting time for purchasing plants from our guest speaker

**Meeting officially begins at 7:00 pm**

Please bring a snack, raffle/door prize plants, and show & tell plants to the meeting. Please try to label your raffle and door prize plants, even if you can only write something such as "unknown Aechmea hybrid", every little bit helps the members who are trying to learn about different types of bromeliads! Plants should be clean and insect free.

## CONTENTS

<b>President’s Message</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Vice President’s Comments.</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>List of UpcomingEvents</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Newsletter Contributions from our Members</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Glossary of Bromeliaceae Terms.</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Membership form</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Officers.</b> .....	<b>17</b>

Visit the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Website at:  
[www.bromeliadorslando.com](http://www.bromeliadorslando.com)

You will find an activities page that lists our speakers for upcoming meetings, downloadable copies of newsletters, plant photos, a map to Leu Gardens, and more! This is a great place for the public to find out about our Society or send us a message. Check it out!

## The President's Message

An awesome April to all, in spite of this crisis and the impact on our lives. An April that will definitely be remembered. I and your Board hope that all of you and all of your families are healthy and safe. This is a trying time for all. Our April meeting is canceled and we have crossed fingers that our May meeting will happen. Time will tell. Just a reminder that our Mother's Day Sale and Show has been canceled by Fashion Square Mall. We hope to reschedule sometime later in the year. We will keep you posted.

The BSI World Conference has been postponed until next year, June 9-13, 2021. You can find out information on the World Conference at [www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org). There is also a ton of information on bromeliads and many, many photos that can be located at the BSI site, so please check it out during your stay-at-home time.

At least we got some April showers on Sunday, April 6. Certainly hope we get more. Hope you enjoy this issue of the Orlandiana. Marilyn did a nice job of putting the pictures together. Thanks Marilyn. And thanks to John V. for putting out this great issue of the April Orlandiana. And thanks to all who submitted pics. I didn't do it as it just slipped my mind. Maybe I will remember and get a couple pics to John for the May issue. Check out the fantastic glossary pages with pics that Marilyn put together. You can also go to [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org) where there is a treasure trove of information and photos to check out.

A special Get Well to one of our members, Sudi, who is home recovering from some major surgery and complications. Give her some positive thoughts, energy and wishes for a speedy recovery.

Take care, and stay healthy and safe,

Mike

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## March Minutes

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### Meeting Minutes – March, 2020 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

The March 2020 meeting was cancelled due to covid 19 concerns.

### Vice Presidents Comments

Hi Everyone

I would like to thank the members that responded to my request to send me a few pictures of their bromeliads.

Thank you John Boardman for all of your help.

Thank you John Veccaro, the BSCF Editor for putting all of this stuff together.

Thank you Mike Andreas for the direct website address for the "Glossary of Bromeliaceae terms" I hope you all take a few minutes to look through this March/April Orlandiana and appreciate all the work that went into it so we could keep in touch during this down time. And remember gardening has not been put on the avoid list.

Marilyn 🍍

### Upcoming Events

#### World Bromeliad Conference 2020

June 9–14, 2020 - CANCELLED. TO BE RESCHEDULED FOR NEXT YEAR.

We wish everyone good health and to take hygienic safety precautions for those near us who need it most.

## Contributions from our members to keep you entertained.

First a fun story by Katherine Vaccaro

How a "Once a Year" Gardener Became a Bromeliad Nut

I grew up with a mom and older brother who gardened. I read books indoors.

I married a guy who gave away our lawn mower when we moved to an oak-shaded lot. He groomed ground cover year-round while I planted impatiens once a year. In 1995, he died of cancer, and I learned just how much yard work he'd been doing.

I grew up thinking "bromeliads" were those green things with red flowers in the summer. I saw some other pretty plants called "fingernails" in people's yards, but didn't realize they were related.

Soon after we'd moved to the oak-shaded house, a friend brought me a house-warming gift. Since he raised bromeliads, it was an *aechmea fasciata*, although I think he just said "silver urn" to this novice. He warned me it was fussier than the "bromeliads" I knew. I stuck it in a concrete planter. It bloomed and multiplied with no care.

In 2001, my new husband Daniel and I bought a house in the Florida Keys. By then, I'd been tending the ground cover for six years and knew how much devotion a pretty yard required. I soon learned that gardening on a rocky desert island was even harder. While we were moving south, I took bromeliads on every trip, with our sedan looking like a cross between a greenhouse and the Beverly Hillbillies. They survived, although the *fasciata*s faltered.

Soon after settling full-time, an independent nursery on our island closed. I bought some nice plants cheap, including a small assortment of bromeliads. I finally began to understand that they were a huge range of plants. One, which I've since learned is *aechmea chantinii* 'Black' had gorgeous dark banded leaves and produced a long-lasting orange bloom. But it was only happy under

the pine trees that gave our island its name. Another, since identified as *neoregelia cruenta*, reproduced like mad and endured full sun and no water without complaint.

In the fall of 2006, Hurricane Wilma flooded our yard with two feet of salt water. Almost everything was brown for months, although I was assured by my local Botanical Society friends that the natives would come back. The only plants in the yard that didn't miss a beat? The *cruentas*. (The *chantiniis* did re-pup eventually.)

When we returned to Orlando in 2010, we repeated our Beverly Hillbilly routine. I brought tons of *cruentas*, although by that time I had so many that the bed I ransacked didn't look any different.

I was determined to make this yard, like the last two, grass-free. With many fewer trees, that's been more difficult, but my trusty *cruentas* never failed me. Two older friends who had been in BSCF and were leaving their homes soon offered that I could take as many bromeliads from their yards as I liked. I dug up a lot with little idea of what I had. Curious, I saw a listing for BSCF in the paper and came to a meeting. Thanks to all of you, I now have a wide variety of bromeliads. I even know proper names and how to care for most of them.

And, yes, I garden almost every day.

*Billbergia pyramidalis*



From Katherine Vaccaro

*Billbergia* 'Red Beaut': one of my favorite bedding plants. Great color, endures heavy sun, pups readily, stunning silver markings. Just coming into bloom.



*Aechmea chantinii* cv. 'Black'



Foreground: *Tillandsia* hanging display, including a colorful 'Fuego'  
Background: two "red beds" in honor of John Boardman.



My cute grandson, Liam Eddy, with new

Hannibal Lecter Brom, I think. 🙄 Having a terrible time keeping the name tags in place.  
Teresa Eddy



From Steve Beaudoin

*Aechmea triangularis*



*Neoregelia X cruenta X rubra*



*Androlepis skinneri*



*Aechmea brevicollis*



From Marty Folk  
1-Aechmea 'Bert' variegated



This variegated beauty grew from this unvariegated plant! How could this happen?

In some varieties, variegation is considered "unstable", meaning that pups from the parent may not look like the parent, having varying degrees of white lines, even sometimes none at all. An extreme example is with Aechmea Bert. Read this explanation below from the Bromeliad Cultivar Register of the Bromeliad Society International:

"The variegated form of Aechmea 'Bert', although readily available, has apparently never been given a cultivar name. It is apparently unique in the way the variegation skips generations. Offsets of variegated plants frequently lose all trace of variegation, but offsets from these plants also frequently appear with fully developed variegation. This trait means you don't want to discard plants that have lost variegation. It also suggests that you should grow this plant in a clump in order to maintain some variegated rosettes at all times".

—Alan Herndon



2-Neoregelia 'Sexy Pink'

3-Neoregelia 'Magali' variegated  
(can you tell I like variegated plants?!)



I just discovered that my xAndroleachmea 'Dean' has a flower bud, the first time for me! The brom is one of my larger ones at 42" high and 56" in diameter. It took me 5 years to grow it from a small pup to blooming size. Of course I didn't fertilize it or anything. It just lives on oak leaves and flowers - . And love too Marty!



From John Boardman

Vriesea Abigail Jean



Neoregelia 'Super Sonic Boom'



Was Vriesea 'Josefa Leon', now Gouddaea 'Josefa Leon'





From Joyce Gilbert

Neoregelia 'Inferno' pup of next plant



Neoregelia 'Inferno' with an albino pup



Vriesea gigantea



From Marilyn Howser

I like pink - can you tell!

Aechmea lueddemanniana 'Mend' albomarginated



Neoregelia 'Lila' cv 'Candy Stripes'



Neoregelia 'Code Red'. Striated



Billbergia 'Casa Blanca'



Some FB fun!

**Exotic Bromeliads** posted

April 2 at 2:54 PM

Cute little bromeliad with about a 6 inch bloom that is yellow-ish orange. Lost the tag on it years ago. Any ideas on what this could be? Thanks!

**Marilyn Howser** 🌟 I'm sure it's a Vriesea but no idea what kind.

**Marilyn Howser** 🌟 Or I wonder if it could be a Tillandsia???

**Exotic Bromeliads** not sure at this point!

**Eloise Beach** Probably Goudaea ospinae (formerly Vriesea ospinae) NOT G. ospinae var. gruberi. Two different varieties. G. ospinae has green leaves when visually compared to the more exciting leaf markings on variety gruberi.

**Exotic Bromeliads** Thanks Eloise!

**Mike McMahon** Marilyn: You had a small pot of this, which you gave to me at a meeting some time ago (maybe a year??). Looks like it may come into bloom. If it does & we have a meeting before it is finished, I'll bring it. Easy to grow in filtered light as long as kept a bit on the dry side.

**Marilyn Howser** 🌟 I do remember giving you a V. but guess I didn't know what I was doing 😊 I'm glad I gave it to you as I don't do real well with V's.

**Marilyn Howser** 🌟 The inflorescence on this Tillandsia is what made me think the posted Vriesea could be a Tillandsia.

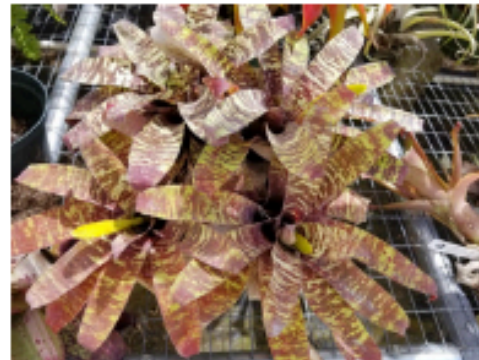
**Mike McMahon** Yep. Vriesea and Tillandsia are cousins. But, that is no longer a Tillandsia. It has been re-classified as Wallisia cyanea ....It was much simpler when everyone shared ignorance of DNA analysis. Still a 'cousin' of Tillandsia and Vriesea.

**Marilyn Howser** 🌟 All of these changes make me crazy. Glad you keep up Mike..

Was Vriesea ospinae, now Goudaea ospinae



Was Vriesea ospinae var. gruberi, now Goudaea ospinae var. gruberi



Was Tillandsia cyanea, now Wallisia cyanea



☹️

## Glossary of Bromeliaceae terms

Derek Butcher July 2009

<https://www.fcbs.org/articles/Glossary/Glossary-plus.pdf>

This is a wonderful place to look for Bromeliad and other plant terms. But I will say that many of them you'll never use. I will mention a few of the terms I most commonly use.

albo-marginate: a form of variegation where the edge of the leaf is white

Aechmea 'Frost Proof'.



albino bromeliads: Plants with floral bracts and flowers that are white, although normally they would be colored. Albino seedlings are those that are pure white. -



banded: Marked with cross-bars or horizontal lines of a contrasting color, or with very prominent ribs or other structures.

Neoregelia 'Red Tiger'



blushing: Usually refers to the reddening of the centers of bromeliads as they approach blooming period.

Neoregelia



inflorescence The flowering structure of a plant which includes the stem, (stalk, scape spikes) two or three types of bracts, the flowers and the fruit

fasciata: Marked transversely with broad parallel stripes of color; banded.

*Aechmea fasciata*



lineate: Lined; marked by thin parallel lines.

lineata: With thin lines or stripes.

*Neoregelia 'Lila'*



nanus: Dwarf.

*Ananas nanus*



pup: An offset; an offshoot.

quill-like: More or less tapering; forming a tight, elongated shape.

Was *Tillandsia cyanea*, now *Wallisia cyanea*



spine: A sharp-pointed hard or woody outgrowth on a plant.

spinescent: A leaf terminating in a spine-like point; more or less spiny.

*Neoregelia pendulum* x *eleutheropetala*



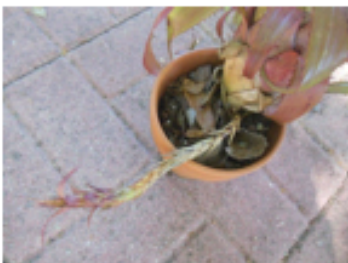
stolon: A shoot that bends to the ground and takes root; more commonly, a horizontal stem at or below the surface of the ground that gives rise to a new plant at its tip.

stoloniferous: Sending out or propagating itself by runners or stolons which are disposed to root.

*Cryptanthus* 'Stephen Hoppin'



*Neoregelia pendulum* x *eleutheropetala*



variegata: Irregularly colored or blotched; but in Bromeliaceae generally accepted as longitudinally striped.

variegated: same as above. A non-Latin term used in Cultivars – see J Brom Soc 55(4): 189. 2005. Bromeliaceae are monocots and generally speaking variegation occurs as longitudinal lines which can be any color and any width that contrasts with the normal leaf color

variegation: The condition of a leaf when certain sections are reduced or totally devoid of green pigments with the result that the leaf has pale stripes, blotches, or bands.

*Neoregelia* 'Imperfecta' and 'Martin' pronounced mardeen.



species: A unit in classification; a group of organisms that have in common one or more characteristics which definitely separate it from any other group.

genus: A subdivision of a family consisting of one or more species which show common characteristics and appear to have a common ancestry. There are more than fifty genera belonging to the Bromeliaceae.

cv cultivar: Produced in cultivation as opposed to one growing in habitat; – an assemblage of plants that has been selected for a particular attribute or combination of attributes and that is clearly distinct, uniform, and stable in these characteristics and that when propagated by appropriate means retains those characteristics.

From Telka diFate

Neoregalia 'Scarlet Charlotte'



Telka and John wish everyone the best. Stay healthy and safe, if not for yourself, for someone you love. On the lighter side: something to make you smile...

**Day 7 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture."**

In case you lost track, today is March 97th

*Day 7 of the quarantine  
My wife took up gardening but won't tell what she's going to plant*



**Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands ??**

*#Coronavirus has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We're told "no" if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides.*

## 2020 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

\_\_\_\_\_NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_RENEWAL

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip +4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone /Email \_\_\_\_\_

**\$15 for first member, plus \$5 per each additional family member at the same address. Name Badges \$7 per member, if desired. Please check \_\_\_\_\_ if you would like a name badge ordered for you.**

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to BSCF MAIL TO: **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, PO Box 536961 Orlando, FL 32853-6961. Or bring to the January meeting.**

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Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month, from 6:30-9:00 pm (buy plants from the speaker between 6:30-7pm) at Leu Gardens, 1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments, and door prizes. Members also receive a newsletter. Please come join us!

Treasurer: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_



**Officers**

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Donations to this society are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.  
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