



orlandiana

**Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**
Volume no. 47, Issue no.05

May 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.

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Visit the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Website at:
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

A marvelous May to all. Am hoping you and your families are healthy and safe. This has been a weird time for all of us. And while we are slowly moving towards a more normal life, am sure it will take a long time for that to happen. Hopefully we will be able to have our June meeting at Leu Gardens.

I went to our neighboring Seminole Society meeting yesterday. First time I have attended any meetings in two months. There was going to be a members market and I was jonesing for a bromeliad fix. I ended up buying a beautiful Billbergia 'Bruddah Iz' at the silent auction from Lisa. A gorgeous addition to my collection. And I put it right next to the 'Bruddah Iz' that I got from Lisa last year. Yesterday's plant was about 30% bigger. Forgot I had that one. Nice to see I still like it. Then I found I had two more, pups, off of one I bought from John B at a Mother's Day Sale. Definitely like it.

The Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society will be having their Spring Plant Sale, June 20-21 (postponed from April). They are also planning an online auction & plant sale. This way you may be able to add to your collection without going into the building. Check their website www.sanfordgardenclub.com for details. If they don't have the online auction/sale info up yet, check back. Looks like will be an interesting way to buy.

Condolences to one of our members, Ken Hicks, on the passing of his father, John, earlier this month. So sorry for your loss Ken. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Take care, stay healthy and safe and look forward to seeing you at our June meeting. Fingers crossed.

Mike

April Minutes

Meeting Minutes – April, 2020 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

The April 2020 meeting was cancelled due to covid 19 concerns

Upcoming Events

World Bromeliad Conference 2020

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

Vice Presidents Comments

Things I think all Bromeliad lovers should know. A big thanks to Steven Wagner for all of his help and to everyone else that helped.

Marilyn Howser 🍍

Picture of a corner of Cathy and Dave Schubert's yard



Subfamilies

The family Bromeliaceae is organized into eight subfamilies:

- Brocchinioideae
- Lindmanioideae
- Tillandsioideae
- Hechtioideae
- Navioideae
- Pitcairnioideae
- Puyoideae
- Bromelioideae

Bromeliaceae were originally split into three subfamilies based on morphological seed characters: Bromelioideae (seeds in baccate fruits), Tillandsioideae (plumose seeds), and Pitcairnioideae (seeds with wing-like appendages). However, molecular evidence has revealed that while Bromelioideae and Tillandsioideae are monophyletic, Pitcairnioideae is, in fact, paraphyletic and should be split into six subfamilies: Brocchinioideae, Lindmanioideae, Hechtioideae, Navioideae, Pitcairnioideae, and Puyoideae.

Brocchinioideae is defined as the most basal branch of Bromeliaceae based on both morphological and molecular evidence, namely genes in chloroplast DNA.

Lindmanioideae is the next most basal branch distinguished from the other subfamilies by convolute sepals and chloroplast DNA.

Hechtioideae is also defined based on analyses of chloroplast DNA; similar morphological adaptations to arid environments also found in other groups (namely the genus *Puya*) are attributed to convergent evolution.

Navioideae is split from Pitcairnioideae based on its cochlear sepals and chloroplast DNA.

Puyoideae has been re-classified multiple times and its monophyly remains controversial according to analyses of chloroplast DNA.

**BROCHINIOIDEAE (1
genus)***Brocchinia* – 20**NAVIOIDEAE (5 genera)***Brewcaria* – 6*Cottendorfia* – 1*Navia* – 92*Sequencia* – 1*Steyerbromelia* – 9**TILLANDSIOIDEAE (21
genera)***Alcantarea* – 41*Barfussia* – 3*Catopsis* – 18*Cipuropsis* – 3*Glomeropitcairnia* – 2*Goudaea* – 2*Gregbrownia* – 4*Guzmania* – 220*Jagrancia* – 1*Josemania* – 5*Lemeltonia* – 7*Lutheria* – 4*Mezobromelia* – 5*Pseudalcantarea* – 3*Racinaea* – 78*Stigmatodon* – 18*Tillandsia* – 775*Vriesea* – 237*Werauhia* – 92*Wallisia* – 5*Waltillia* – 1**LINDMANIOIDEAE (2
genera)***Connellia* – 6*Lindmania* – 39**PITCAIRNIOIDEAE (5
genera)***Deuterocohnia* – 17*Dyckia* – 172*Encholirium* – 36*Fosterella* – 31*Pitcairnia* – 408**BROMELIOIDEAE (39
genera)***Acanthostachys* – 2*Aechmea* – 252*Ananas* – 4*Androlepis* – 2*Araeococcus* – 9*Billbergia* – 64*Bromelia* – 71*Canistropsis* – 11*Canistrum* – 13*Cryptanthus* – 56*Deinacanthos* – 1*Disteganthus* – 5*Edmundoa* – 3*Eduandrea* – 1*Fascicularia* – 1*Fernseea* – 2*Greigia* – 35**HECHTIOIDEAE (1
genus)***Hechtia* – 76**PUYOIDEAE (1 genus)***Puya* – 226*Hohenbergia* – 49*Hohenbergiopsis* – 1*XHohenmea* – 1*Hoplocryptanthus* – 8*Laptanthus* – 2*Lymania* – 9*Neoglaziovia* – 3*Neoregelia* – 123*Nidularium* – 48*xNiduregelia* – 3*Ochagavia* – 4*Orthophytum* – 58*Portea* – 9*Pseudoaechmea* – 1*Pseudoananas* – 1*Quesnelia* – 23*Rokautskyi* – 14*Ronnbergia* – 22*Sincoraea* – 11*Ursulaea* – 2*Wittmackia* – 44*Wittrockia* – 7*Zizkaea* – 1

Within each of these families, there are numerous genus and species. Each bromeliad is uniquely adapted to its growing environment, whether it is humid or arid, bright or shaded, forest or desert. Throughout history, bromeliads have been discovered, studied and cultivated. With the exception of commercial pineapple growers, bromeliad cultivation is for hobby, decoration or landscape purposes. Because bromeliads are grown in new climates with a specific purpose such as having beautiful foliage or providing decorative landscaping in shady spaces, horticulturists have been working to develop varieties whose natural adaptations are exaggerated or more predictable to fit the needs and desires of human growers.

1. What is the genus and species of a plant?

Genus and Species - The scientific name for a plant is always two-part, two words. The first word in the scientific name of a plant designates the "genus" to which the plant belongs and the second, called the "species name", gives a name to distinguish this plant from all other plants that are in the same genus

The plural form of genus is genera.

2. Variety

Variety is defined as a naturally occurring plant form, which is different from the species. It is usually similar to its mother plant but with minor differences. Therefore, variety is used to distinguish plants with one or more defining characteristics that are grown under natural circumstances. Variety is the lowest level of plant classification and is often combined with its genus and species name. A variety of a plant is designated by the abbreviation "var." followed by the variety name in italics. For example, *Rosmarinus officinalis* has the variety named; *Rosmarinus officinalis var. albiflorus*. Unlike the cultivar, there are no cultivation methods to grow variety.

3. Grex

The term **grex** (pl. greges or grexes; abbreviation gx), derived from the Latin noun *grex, gregis* meaning 'flock.

When a hybrid cross is made, all of the seedlings grown from the resulting seed pod are considered to be in the same grex.).

All of the members of a specific grex may be loosely thought of as "sister plants", and just like the brothers and sisters of any family, may share many traits or look quite different from one another. This is due to the randomization of genes passed on to progeny during sexual reproduction. Individual plants may be given cultivar names to distinguish them from siblings in their grex. Cultivar names are usually given to superior plants with the expectation of propagating that plant; all genetically identical copies of a plant, regardless of method of propagation (divisions or clones) share a cultivar name.

A grex is a group of plants, usually hybrids that will not necessarily have exactly the same characteristics every time they are propagated. Because the plants are cultivated sexually through two different species there is no way to guarantee that the plants will even look similar let alone have the desired characteristic.

4. Hybrid

A hybrid is a cross of two **species** or two **varieties**. With a hybrid, you get characteristics from each parent plant. In most cases, the parent plants will belong to the same genus

5. Cultivar

The cultivar is defined as a cultivated plant which was chosen and given a unique name due to its certain useful characteristics. A cultivar can consist of a hybrid, or it can simply be an unusual form of a species.

Usually cultivars differ from similar plants. However they still retain some features of the mother plant when propagated. The term 'cultivar' is derived from the word 'cultivated variety'. When we mention the cultivar, neither it should be underlined nor italicized like the scientific nomenclature, but it should be capitalized and placed in single quotation marks. For example, 'Mount Airy' is the cultivar of *Fothergilla gardenia*. Usually cultivars are plants that have been propagated, not from seed, but from vegetative parts. Cultivars are produced, not by nature, but by plant breeders and gardeners using cultivation methods.

5. Bigeneric

Most hybrids are between species within the same genera. In some cases growers are able to cross different genera as well. Most of these crosses

are not likely to happen in nature, but experienced horticulturists have discovered techniques for propagating these unique hybrids. These hybrids, called bigenerics, are indicated with an x in front of the new genera name to indicate that these genera do not occur in nature. Growers have been able to cultivate bigeneric using several sub-families of Bromeliads. xCryptbergia a cross between Cryptanthus and Bilbergia genera is a popular bigeneric. xGuzvriesea, hybrids between Guzmania and Vriesea also create spectacular plants with beautiful foliage and showy flower spikes.

xCryptbergia 'Red Burst'



xAnnamea 'Scorpio'



xNeomea 'Mars'



xAndrolaechmea 'O'Rourke'



Finding one that is right for you.

The most popular hybrids are typically easy to care for with very low maintenance needs. They are cultivated for their tolerance of a wide range of light levels, temperature and minimal water needs. They easily produce colorful inflorescence or have unique foliage. Other more difficult to care for hybrids are grown for their spectacular foliage, unique shape, size or flower spike. With the involvement of many bromeliad growers there are a number of varieties that are available commercially. More rare hybrids cultivated by bromeliad enthusiasts can be found at bromeliad shows and conferences as well as online exchanges and shops. With a good understanding of how bromeliad nomenclature works and the various characteristics of the different genera of bromeliads you can find the perfect bromeliad for your home or greenhouse. Whether you are just getting started or have an extensive collection, discovering hybrids of bromeliads that you enjoy growing can be an exciting adventure!

John Boardman's front yard



P.S.

I noticed some bromeliads that have the following abbreviations in their names. Andrew Flower, who is the Editor of the "Journal of The Bromeliad Society", explained them to me as follows":

Aechmea cf. caudata f. albiflora

"cf" stands for "compare to" (it is from the Latin *confer* meaning compare) -
"f" stands for "form" or in botanical Latin "forma"

So when they write "*Aechmea cf. caudata f. albiflora*" they mean it is a species near to, or allied to, an *Aechmea caudata* with albino flowers.

Aechmea cf. cylindrata f. albiflora



Aechmea cylindrata 'Blue Cone'



So the *Aechmea cf. cylindrata* will look like the *Aechmea cylindrata* but with white flowers rather than blue flowers. Both different than the *Aech. Gamosepala*.

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.**

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 _____

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