

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February 2013



NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2013
Location: Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764
Time: Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Program

February's speaker will be **Dr. David Benzing** who will talk to us about *How the Bromeliads Demonstrate Certain Basic Patterns & Principles of Darwinian Evolution*. Now retired from Oberlin College where he taught biology & environmental science, David has published four books and co-authored a fifth book "Native Bromeliads of Florida" with the late Harry Luther. His specialty is natural environment and evolution of epiphytes, especially bromeliads and orchids. If you have any of David's books and want him to sign them, bring them to the meeting and he will gladly oblige.

Plant Sales

All members are welcome to sell bromeliads at the meeting. Sellers are reminded to donate at least one plant to the evening's raffle table.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Helga Tarver and her assistant Chip Hill presented a workshop on *How to Mount Tillandsias and Grey-leaved Vrieseas*. Helga told us how to select appropriate mount materials and plants and then she and Chip followed that with a hands-on demonstration of the mounting process. Below are some general tips the dynamic duo gave us:

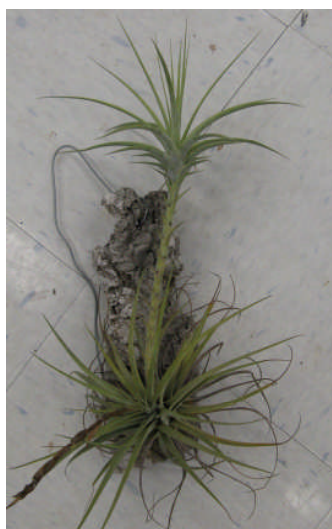


1. Select proper mounting material such as cork or a piece of a hardy wood. Do not use wood that has been treated with preservatives.
2. Cut the wood to a desired size for the plant that will be mounted.
3. Drill a hole in the top of the wood piece for the hanger or an S-hook (use 14-gauge) and insert the hook/hanger into the mount.
4. Put a hole in the plant's nametag and slip the tag onto the hook. Secure it so that it does not slip off.

5. Fasten – staple, glue, and/or tie -- the plant to the mount. It is important to secure the plant when mounting it so that it can better establish roots.
6. If using staples, use stainless-steel staples and not copper. Copper can damage the plant.
7. Suggested adhesives include wood glue, Liquid Nails, Ducco cement, and Goop. Do not use a hot-glue gun because, as Helga told us, if it can burn you, it can burn the plant.
8. Suggested tying materials include cable ties (black not white because white will degrade quicker), plastic-coated wire (do not use bare copper wire), Velcro, lace, and nylon stockings. Tying works well on plants with a rosette form, upright growth, and those with a small stem at the base.
9. The plant should be positioned on the mounting material relative to its growth pattern. For example, if the plant tends to grow downward and along a long stem like *Tillandsia funkiana* (picture below), place it at the top of the mounting material. And if the plant tends to grow upright like *Vriesea espinosae* (picture below), attach it to the bottom of the mounting material.
10. Tillandsias that tend to clump and have no apparent up or down growth pattern, such as *Til. bulbosa* and *Til. ionantha* var. *van-hyningii* (picture below), can be placed in any position on the mount.
10. Not all Tillandsias need be mounted for display. Those that grow in a 'ball' form, such as *Til. intermedia* and *Til. aeranθος*, can be hung on a wire such as nylon monofilament. *Til. fasciculata* can be placed in an empty pot or net basket (on the right). The net baskets are typically hard to find locally but can be found on the Internet.



Tillandsia funkiana



Vriesea espinosae



Tillandsia ionantha

2013 Dues

Treasurer Mary Sue Beeler reminded members their dues are payable through February. You may pay dues at the February meeting, or send a check, payable to FWCBS, to Mary Sue at 2755 Feather Sound Drive, Clearwater FL 33762. Dues will be considered delinquent if not paid by March 1st.

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

Bruce Garley

Til. recurvifolia; *Til. jucunda*

Dave Johnston

Hechtia rosea; *Guzmania sanguinea* var. *sanguinea* X *Guz. sanguinea* var. *brevipedicellata*

Alton Lee

Vriesea (unnamed Grant Groves hybrid)

Gary Lund
Franne Matwijczyk
Kathy Risley
Linda Sheetz
Sharon Steinmann

Androlepis skinneri (female plant)
Aechmea 'Mini-Cal'
Aec. orlandiana; *Bil.* 'Diablo' (unregistered Don Beadle hybrid: 'Violetta' x 'C'est bon')
Billbergia 'Wicked' (unregistered Marty Baxley hybrid)
Nidularium procerum

Below are pictures of Show and Tell plants.



Nidularium procerum



Til. recurvifolia



Billbergia 'Wicked'



Guzmania sanguinea var. *sanguinea*



Aec. orlandiana



Androlepis skinneri



Hechtia rosea

THIS AND THAT

Raffle Table

Members are requested to contribute to the monthly Raffle Table by donating quality plants. With the recent warm weather here, many bromeliads are blooming and showing great color, and most of us are moved to take advantage of the weather and get into our gardens. While there, consider separating any extra plants and donating those to the raffle. Be sure the plants are clean and labeled (even if all you know is the genus). And if you have won a raffle plant in the past, the policy is to share your good fortune with others by later donating a plant of your choosing to the raffle.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2013

February 23-24, Selby Plant and Garden Festival

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL (selby.org/events/plant-garden-festival)

March 16-17, Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale

Leu Gardens, Orlando, FL (leugardens.org)

March 23-24 GreenFest Plant Sale

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL (tampagreenfest.com)

April 5-7, Tropiflora Spring Festival

Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 (tropiflora.com)

April 13-14, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (cas.usf.edu/garden)

April 20-21, Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society Sale

Sanford Garden Club, Sanford, FL (407-539-4314)

April 27-28, Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL

May 11-12, Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Mother's Day Sale

Fashion Square Mall, Orlando, FL (mybscf.org)

August 10, Bromeliad Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (cas.usf.edu/garden)

September 21, Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2013

The Holiday Inn Harborside, Indian Rocks Beach, hosted by the FWCBS and sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (contact Judy Lund at glund@tampabay.rr.com)

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