

# FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2017

*Celebrating over 63 Years in Bromeliads*

*fwcbs.org*



## February 2017 Newsletter

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### NEXT MEETING

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**Date & Time:**

Tuesday, February 7, 2017  
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

**Location:**

Good Samaritan Church  
6085 Park Boulevard  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

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**Program**

**Alton Lee** will be the evening's speaker with a presentation titled *Bromeliad Names: Why Is It Called That?* His emphasis will be on the origins of the names for the eight most common genera grown in cultivation. He will also touch briefly on how recent DNA sequencing work will change how genera are classified.

**Plant Sales**

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

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### LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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**Program**

**Ray Lemieux** with Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota, Florida, presented another of his tutorials on how to grow his favorite bromeliads, the terrestrials. He gave us the benefit of his years of experience as the in-house specialist at Tropiflora for terrestrial bromeliads and succulents. Ray brought with him more than a dozen different examples (see picture below) of terrestrial bromeliads as he described specific light, soil, and moisture conditions and the type of pot that might work best for each. Below is a summary of his talk.



## Terrestrial Basics

- Terrestrial and succulent bromeliads are found among numerous genera and species.
- While most grow in soil, some are saxicolous, i.e., grow on rocks and in rock crevices.
- They do not collect water in their leaf axils, as epiphytic bromeliads do, but instead have a solid root system that takes up water and nutrients in soil.
- They grow in full sun or shade with indirect bright light.
- They prefer a soil mixture that has super to modest drainage, and even those that prefer some constant moisture do not like poorly draining, dense soils.
- They are generally tough, drought-resistant plants. Some are arid (dry) growers, and others are mesic (moderate water) growers.
- Some can develop a large root system and thus require good-sized pots.

## Soil Mixtures

Ray had examples of the four soil mixes (pictured below) that he uses depending on the specific moisture needs of the bromeliad.

- 'Dirty perlite' for very arid plants; 75% perlite, 25% succulent mix with super drainage
- Terrestrial (succulent) mix for fairly dry plants: coarse, builder-grade sand, Canadian peat, perlite, bark pieces
- Epiphytic bromeliads mix for true 'air' plants that like moisture but want it to drain quickly: 30% bark, 30% perlite, 30% peat; drains well
- Chunky peat: very moist, expensive, hard to find, often used for the more rare or special plants,



Dirty perlite mix



Terrestrial mix



Epiphytic



Chunky peat

## Pot Types

Ray suggested three pot types to use, depending on the specific plant needs.

- Bulb pan pot—short, more effective for retaining moisture
- Azalea pot—used for most bromeliads
- Deep pot—for bromeliads that produce offsets on long stolons which need room to develop and to emerge from the soil. They can wind around in the pot and eventually push the plant out of the container



Bulb pan pot



Azalea pot



Deep pot

These are some of the terrestrial genera Ray talked about, and preferences for light, soil, water, and pot type.

### Ananas (pineapples)

- Full sun or bright light best for form and color
- Rich, loamy soil with a constant moisture content and good drainage; terrestrial mix
- Large pots to accommodate their large root system

### Bromelia and related genera **Deinacanthon** and **Neoglaziovia**

- Full sun or shade with very bright light
- Dirty perlite, for best drainage
- Frequent watering but with some wet-dry cycling.
- Deep pots to accommodate long stolons that grow down and then up
- Examples:
  - *Bromelia gurkeniana* var. *funchiana* (picture below)
  - *Deinacanthon urbanianum*; the only species in the genus
  - *Neoglaziovia*, three species—*N. variegata* (picture below), *N. concolor*, *N. burlemarxii*



*Bromelia gurkeniana* var. *funchiana*



*Neoglaziovia variegata*

### Cryptanthus

- While most are not terrestrial, a few are.
- Shade with bright indirect light
- Dirty perlite or terrestrial mix
- Do not like to become completely dry
- Azalea pot
- Examples:
  - *Cryptanthus warasii* (picture on right)
  - *Cryptanthus leopoldo-horstii*



### Deuterocohnia

- Most have perennial inflorescence (bloom spike), that is, the stalk does not die off after blooming but forms new branches and flowers each new season.
- Full sun
- Dirty perlite; generally very dry, arid conditions
- Azalea pot
- Examples:
  - *Deuterocohnia*, a new, un-described species from Tucuman, Argentina (picture on right)
  - *Deuterocohnia brevifolia* ssp. *Chlorantha*; now the cultivar *Deuterocohnia* 'Chlorantha'.



## Dyckia

- Full sun or shade with bright light
- Terrestrial mix; fast draining media with some moisture retentive properties; likes frequent watering
- Use a large-diameter or deep pot to accommodate large root system; may need to re-pot to keep some soil exposed to overhead watering.

## Encholirium

- Full sun or shade with bright light
- Dirty perlite
- Allow drying between watering and protect from extended periods of rain outdoors.
- Use a large-diameter or deep pot to accommodate large root system; may need to re-pot to keep some soil exposed to overhead watering.
- Examples:
  - *Encholirium horridum*
  - *Encholirium glaziovii*
  - *Encholirium heloisae* (picture on right)



## Hechtia

- Most are native to Mexico, a few grow in the US and Central America
- Found in hot, dry locales
- Full sun
- Dirty perlite, terrestrial mix; allow complete drying between watering
- Use 6- to 10-inch diameter azalea pot

## Orthophytum

- Generally saxicolous, growing in cracks or between rocks in very dry, arid locales
- Full sun to shade with bright light
- Terrestrial mix; quick draining mix with some water retentive qualities
- Bulb pan pots for water retention
- Examples:
  - *Orthophytum navioides*
  - *Orthophytum zanonii* (picture on right)
  - *Orthophytum lemii*



## Pepinia and Pitcairnia

- Have colorful blooms, mostly red, yellow, and orange; leaves are spineless except at the base where pups grow
- While a few grow in full sun, most prefer partial sun with bright indirect light.
- Terrestrial or epiphytic mix; generally require a lot of water but need to be in a well draining soil mix that is kept a little moist
- Use large containers.
- Example:
  - *Pitcairnia jimenezii* (picture on right)



## Puya

- Only a few members of this genus are in cultivation due in part to the relatively giant size of many of them. They grow in very dry conditions in arid locations.
- Full sun to shade with bright light

- Terrestrial mix; well draining; do not allow to dry out completely.
- Bulb pan pots for water retention
- Examples:
  - *Puya tuberosa* (picture on right)—cold hardy, great flower petal colors of blue and aqua; will rot in a humid environment so do not water it.



## SHOW AND TELL

Reported by Helga Tarver

Barb Gardner *Vriesea neoglutinosa* (photo below); Barb told us this plant began its bloom stalk last spring and eventually produced seed pods that are just now opening up. Another of these in her yard is just beginning a bloom stalk. She will take pictures of its evolution over time and then share them with us.

Alton Lee *Tillandsia cyanea*  
*Aechmea orlandiana* 'Ensign' (photo below)

Bob Powell *Billbergia* 'Kyoto', cultivar of *Bil. pyramidalis* (photo below); Bob showed us this plant for its odd variegation. It is leggy because it is grown in a good bit of shade.



Barb's *Vriesea neoglutinosa*



Picture of the same *Vriesea* in fresh bloom.  
(source: FCBS.org/Photo Index)



*Aechmea orlandiana* 'Ensign'



*Billbergia* 'Kyoto'

### Outgoing President 'Award'

What does one give to an outgoing president to show appreciation for her two years of diligent service? A bromeliad to add to her collection or something a little more memorable? To thank her for her services as our president the past two years, Ashley Graham was presented with a piece of yard art to add to her garden: a metal peacock sculpture (picture on right). Its brilliant colors will not be lost among her plants.



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### THIS AND THAT

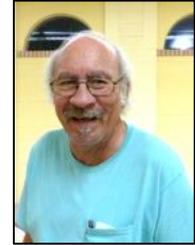
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### New Members

We have three new members—Mercedes Franco, Phil Monnig, and Jose Rosado—who joined last month. Pictures of Phil and Jose are on the right. We will have a picture of Mercedes next month, hopefully. Be sure to seek these folks out and welcome them.



Phil Monnig



Jose Rosado

### Bromeliad Christmas Trees

Below are photos of two Christmas trees constructed using bromeliads that were seen this past holiday season at two gardens in Central Florida.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens



*Neoregelia* 'Mendoza', *Neo.* 'Multiple Migs', and *Neo.* 'Purple Passion'

Bok Tower Gardens  
(Submitted by Marylyn Michalec)



*Neoregelia* hybrid with a *Tillandsia* on top

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## BLOOMING THIS MONTH

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Submitted by Peggy Goodale:

*Guzmania 'Optima'*



Submitted by Mary Sue Beeler:



*Androlepis skinneri*



*Aechmea dichlamydea* var. *trinitensis*

### UPCOMING EVENTS, 2017

March 11-12, Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale

Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, FL (<http://www.leugardens.org>)

March 25-26, GreenFest Plant Sale

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL ([friendsofplantpark.com/greenfest](http://friendsofplantpark.com/greenfest))

March 31, April 1-2, Tropiflora's Spring Festival

Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 ([tropiflora.com](http://tropiflora.com))

April 8-9, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL ([cas.usf.edu/garden](http://cas.usf.edu/garden))

April 22 and 23, Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL ([stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb](http://stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb))

April 22-23, Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society Sale

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

August 4-6, 2017, Bromeliad Extravaganza<sup>®</sup>

Sheraton Tampa East Hotel, Tampa, FL; Hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Tampa, FL ([bromeliadsociety@juno.com](mailto:bromeliadsociety@juno.com) or [www.fcbs.org/2017-Extrava-Flyer-Clarion.pdf](http://www.fcbs.org/2017-Extrava-Flyer-Clarion.pdf) or [pamslagg@hotmail.com](mailto:pamslagg@hotmail.com))

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