

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2020

Celebrating over 66 Years in Bromeliads

fwcbs.org



February 2020 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 4, 2020; 7:30 pm
Location: Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

PROGRAM

Dave Johnston, longtime FWCBS member and bromeliad grower and hybridizer, will speak on the topic of *My 40 Years of Growing Bromeliads and What Changes There Have Been*. Dave has had a collection of up to 2,000 different species and hybrids, and is currently focused on hybridizing Billbergias. He has been a member of our society since 1992 and served as our president for two terms. In 1990, he started Exotic Landscapes, a full-service landscape contracting company, and Bromeliads Galore, a bromeliad nursery.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

Ray LeMieux with Tropiflora Nursery, Sarasota, Florida, gave a presentation titled *Genus Aechmea Species and Cultivars in Popular Cultivation*, which is a program from the Bromeliad Society International's newly revised Media Library now available to affiliated societies. There are about eight programs in the series and they consist of 80 to 120 slides about various genera and other topics, along with presenter notes for the slides. FWC Vice President and Program Chair Richard Poole hopes to offer more presentations from the Media Library series as a run up to the 2020 BSI World Bromeliad Conference this June in Sarasota, Florida.

The genus *Aechmea* program that Ray presented was put together by the late Herb Plever. It consisted of 120 slides of *Aechmea* species (from *Aec. allenii* to *Aec. zebrina*) and hybrids (from *Aec. 'Bert'* to *Aec. 'Patricia'*) and notes for each slide. Talking points included native habitats and growing conditions. Ray augmented the prepared talking points with comments based on his personal experiences with many of the *Aechmeas* presented, such as availability of a plant, growing techniques, and light and feeding requirements. His comments filled out the program nicely.

Raffle Table

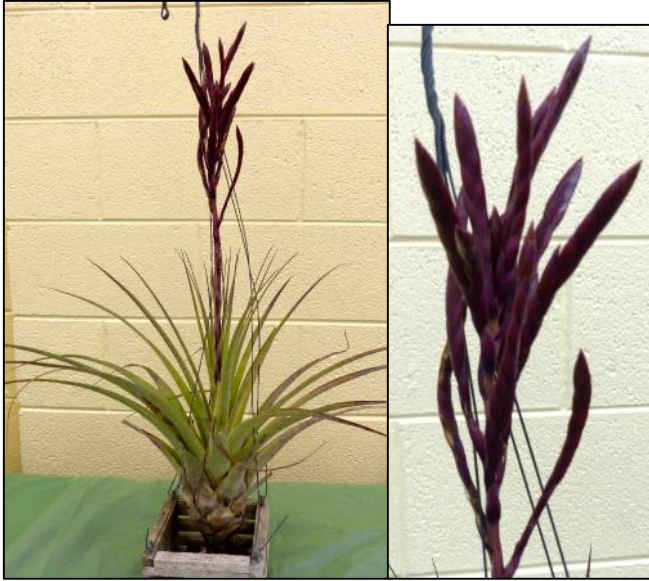
The monthly meeting raffle table was particularly bountiful in January, as shown in the pictures below, and raffle 'players' had many choices. Early last year, Barb Gardner introduced a new raffle method that offers players the opportunity to target specific plants to win. In the previous method, all raffle tickets were placed into a single bowl, then pulled, one by one, and the winning ticket holder would choose a plant from whichever ones were left on the table. In the new method, each plant is paired with a plastic cup into which raffle players can place one or more tickets for the specific plant or plants they covet. This new method has proven very popular and resulted in increased raffle revenues. Everyone is happy.



SHOW AND TELL

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Monika Hale | <i>Aechmea weilbachii</i> forma <i>leodiensis</i> (photo below) |
| Alton Lee | <i>Aechmea</i> 'Ensign' |
| Gary Lund | <i>Tillandsia x lineatispica</i> (photo below) It is natural hybrid of a cross between <i>Til. fasciculata</i> x <i>Til. utriculata</i> , has a purple bloom stalk and is from the Virgin Islands. |
| Franne Matwijczyk | <i>Aechmea chlorophylla</i> (photo below)
<i>Aechmea</i> 'Frederike'
<i>Aechmea weilbachii</i> forma <i>viridisepala</i> (photo below),
<i>Billbergia</i> hybrid |
| Nicole Matwijczyk | <i>Cryptanthus</i> hybrids: 'Volcano', 'Eruption', 'Wild Cherry' x 'Fat Man', 'McDreamy', 'Frost Bite', 'Kaleidoscope' (photo below), 'Brown Sugar' (photo below), and 'Doug Trahan' (photo below) |
| Richard Poole | <i>Aechmea weilbachii</i> forma <i>pendula</i> (photo below), |
| Nancy Schmidt | <i>Tillandsia utriculata</i> |

SHOW AND TELL PLANTS



Tillandsia x lineatispica



Aechmea chlorophylla



Cryptanthus 'Brown Sugar'



Cryptanthus 'Kaleidoscope'



Cryptanthus 'Doug Trahan'

Three forms of Aechmea weilbachii shown



Aechmea weilbachii forma *leodiensis*



Aechmea weilbachii forma *pendula*



Aechmea weilbachii forma *viridisepala*

THIS AND THAT

2020 Dues

The 2020 membership dues were payable in January, \$15 per year for an individual and \$25 per year for a household. Members may pay their dues at the next meeting, or may send a check, payable to FWCBS, to the club treasurer Gary Lund at 904 Oakwood Drive, Largo, FL 33770.

New Members

Two people joined our society at the January meeting, Chris and Diana Robinson. A picture of Chris is on the right along with a picture of Cindy Halfmann who joined in December.



Chris Robinson



Cindy Halfmann

IN THE GARDEN THIS MONTH

Odd Man (Plant) Out

We have a cluster of mounted bromeliads—four to five at a time—labeled *Aechmea* ‘White Knight’ x ‘Pickaninny’ that has been hanging in our oak tree for the past four years (below, on left). We were surprised last fall when one of the plants produced a bloom stalk that looked suspiciously like *Aechmea correia-araujoii* (below, center). The picture below on the far right shows a withered *Aec. correia-araujoii* stalk and a freshly blooming ‘White Knight’.



Aec. ‘White Knight’, 02/2017



Aec. correia-araujoii, 09/2019



Both plants, 12/2019

We first acquired the 'White Knight' in 2014 as a single plant, and after it produced pups we mounted all the plants on wood and hung them in the oak tree. We do not recall ever having *Aec. correia-araujoi* in our collection but memory fails sometimes, so maybe we did have it at one time. Even if that is the case, how did one get into the cluster hanging in the oak tree?



Close up, *Aec. correia-araujoi*

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2020

- February 8-9, Edison Spring Garden Festival
Edison and Ford Winter Estates, Ft. Myers, FL
(www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/events/annual-events/edison-garden-festival/)
- March 14-15, Leu Gardens Annual Spring Plant Sale
Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, FL (<http://www.leugardens.org>)
- March 28-29, Tampa Garden Fest/GreenFest Plant Sale
Tampa Garden Club, Tampa, FL (tampagardenclub.com/tampagardenfest)
- April 3-5, Tropiflora's Spring Festival
Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 (tropiflora.com)
- April 11-12, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (cas.usf.edu/garden)
- April 25-26, Green Thumb Festival
Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL (stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb)
- June 9-13, 24th World Bromeliad Conference, *The Big Show*, Sarasota, FL
Celebrate BSI's 70th anniversary, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sarasota
(<https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>)

2020 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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