

# FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2017

*Celebrating over 63 Years in Bromeliads*

*fwcbs.org*



## July 2017 Newsletter

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### NEXT MEETING

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**Date & Time:** Tuesday, July 11, 2017, 7:30 pm  
**Location:** Good Samaritan Church  
6085 Park Boulevard  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

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### Program

**Eileen Hart** will present a hands-on demonstration of *The ABCs of Growing the Most Common Bromeliad Genera*. Eileen is a member of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay and has been growing bromeliads for 35 years. She lives in Odessa, Florida, with her husband Robert on two acres where she grows many families of plants, many native to Florida and most of them bromeliads and camellias. She has been a Master Gardener with Hillsborough County since 1980 and is now a Master Gardener Emeritus. In addition to presentations on bromeliads and camellias, Eileen also gives lectures on native wildflowers, ferns, and stag horn ferns. She was raised on a farm in South Georgia and is now a retired Medical Technologist.

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### LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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### Program

**Marty Baxley**, owner of Jungle Gems Nursery, told us about his visit to Puerto Rico and the bromeliads he saw while there. The climate on the island is ideal for bromeliads and there are a variety of native bromeliad genera found in diverse habitats. Most are found in El Yunque National Forest, a rainforest located on the eastern end of the island. Below are pictures Marty took of bromeliads during his visit to the forest.



El Yunque rainforest waterfall



Native bromeliads in El Yunque rainforest:



There are about 15 species of native Tillandsias, the most common of which is *Tillandsia recurvata*. Also known as 'ball moss', it can be seen growing as a small ball on power or phone lines along roads in the coastal plain and in trees on the south coast. *Tillandsia usneoides* ('Spanish moss') is much rarer on the island but can be seen in some of the coastal hills and hanging in trees in the karst region in the western portion of the island.

Guzmanias are also a common native bromeliad and can be found in the forested mountainous areas. There are four members of this genus, the most common of which is *Guzmania berteroniana* seen throughout El Yunque, its type habitat.

Vrieseas are also common in El Yunque, which is the type habitat of *Vriesea sintenisii*. Other native bromeliads include *Guzmania monostachia*, *Catopsis sessiliflora*, *Hohenbergia portoricensis*, *Werauhia sintenisii*, and *Bromelia pinguin*, a terrestrial bromeliad.

Non-native bromeliads can be found in landscaped areas, such as those pictured below that Marty spotted around his hotel in Dorado Beach on the north coast of the island.



### Question & Answer Session

These are the bromeliad growing questions posed at the last meeting's Q&A session and answers suggested by various members.

Question: Do seeds continue to ripen and mature after the bloom stalk has been removed from a bromeliad?

Answer: No, they do not.

Question: Can you recommend bromeliads other than possibly Pitcairnia that can tolerate being in the constant splash zone of a fountain?

Answer: Not off hand and even Pitcairnia should not be allowed to remain in soil that is too moist.

Question: What's the effect of watering bromeliads with nitrogen-rich recycled water?

Answer: Too much nitrogen can cause excessive growth and greening in plants, especially in plants with colorful foliage. When watering with recycled water, reduce or eliminate use of fertilizers. Recycled water also contains dissolved salts that can cause leaf tip burning to plants that are sensitive to the salts.

Question: Do bromeliads that grow up the trunk of a tree need to be remain attached to the mother plant that is rooted in the ground to provide nourishment to them?

Answer: No. Bromeliads that grow up tree trunks are true epiphytes and do not require nourishment from roots in the ground.

Question: Do some bromeliads more readily bloom when they are clumped together? If so, which ones?

Answer: No, they do not bloom more readily when clumped.

### SHOW AND TELL

Gary Lund                    x*Neophytum* 'Fireworks' (photo below)

Nicole Matwiczkyk    *Cryptanthus* 'Thriller' (photo below)  
                                   *Cryptanthus* 'Steven Hoppin' (photo below)



*xNeophytum* 'Fireworks'



*Cryptanthus* 'Thriller'



*Cryptanthus* 'Steven Hoppin'

Marty Baxley

*Alcantarea imperialis* with grass pups

Eight of his Neoregelia hybrids:

N. 'Margarite' (N. 'Treasure Chest' x *concentrica barbeyi*)

N. 'Strawberry Fields Forever' (N. 'Fosperior' x 'Hannibal Lector')

N. 'Hope Town' (N. 'May Flowers' x var. *carolinae*)

N. 'Jungle Gem' (N. 'Treasure Chest' x *concentrica barbeyi*)

N. 'No Day but Today'

N. 'Saint Bernard' (N. 'Hannibal Lector' x *concentrica*)

An unnamed hybrid (N. 'Hannibal Lector' x *concentrica* x Treasure Chest)  
(photos of last five are below)



*Neoregelia* 'Hope Town'



*Neoregelia* 'Jungle Gem'



*Neoregelia* 'No Day but Today'



*Neoregelia* 'Saint Bernard'



*Neoregelia* unnamed hybrid

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THIS AND THAT

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**New Member**

Bob Levine (picture on right), a former member of FWCBS, has rejoined after a too-long hiatus of about seven years. Welcome back, Bob!



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BLOOMING THIS MONTH

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Spring has sprung, summer has heated up, and the bromeliads are glowing, especially the Neos. Here are pictures of some of the colorful bounty abounding in our gardens.



*Aechmea* 'Pilfered'



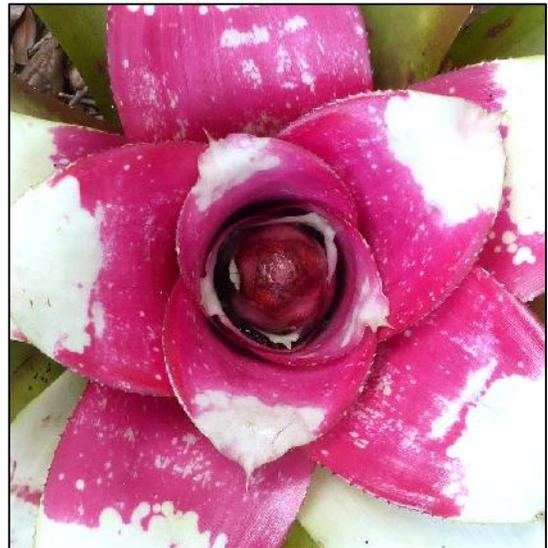
*Guzmania* 'Focus'



*Tillandsia chlorophylla*



*Neoregelia* 'Intermezzo'



*Neoregelia* 'Blast Off'



*Neoregelia* 'Morona'



*Neoregelia* 'Grace' x 'Magali'



*Neoregelia* 'Blushing Tiger'

Submitted by Gary Lund:



*Hechtia tillandsioides*



*Tillandsia cacticola*

**UPCOMING EVENTS, 2017**

August 4-6, 2017, Bromeliad Extravaganza<sup>®</sup>, *Bromeliads by the Bay*  
Clarion Hotel, 4710, 2701 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL; Hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Tampa, FL ([bromeliadguildoftampabay.org/news](http://bromeliadguildoftampabay.org/news))

August 19-20, Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society Sale  
Sanford Garden Club, Sanford, FL (407-539-4314)

August 26, USF Botanical Gardens Bromeliad Bash Sale  
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL ([cas.usf.edu/garden](http://cas.usf.edu/garden))

October 6-8, Tropiflora Nursery Fall Festival  
Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota ([tropiflora.com/events.cfm](http://tropiflora.com/events.cfm))

October 14-15, USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale  
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL ([cas.usf.edu/garden](http://cas.usf.edu/garden))

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