

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2015

Celebrating over 60 Years in Bromeliads

floridabromeliads.org



October 2015 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, October 6, 2015
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:

Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

Program

Ray Lemieux from Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota, Florida, will talk to us about growing bromeliads from seed, and will cover topics that include how to choose the proper soil (medium) mix, how to identify, collect, plant, and germinate different types of bromeliad seeds. At Tropiflora Ray specializes in terrestrial bromeliads such as *Hechtia* and *Dyckia* and is in charge of the succulent section. He has been a member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society for more than 20 years and is the current president.

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.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

In his presentation titled *100 Bromeliads on a Card Table* **Dave Johnston** showed a range of small bromeliads suitable for growing in 4-inch diameter pots to meet limited space needs of bromeliad lovers. One of our guests at the meeting that night was intrigued to attend when he saw the meeting notice in a local newspaper and the subject of Dave's talk. The gentleman said he lived in a condominium with a small balcony and wanted to know how he could maximize his limited space to grow bromeliads.



Dave gave our guest and others a lot to ponder. He showed pictures of more than 100 small bromeliads and offered many horticultural bits of information. He covered a number of *Aechmea*, *Billbergia*, and *XBillmea*, a *Canistropsis*, eight *Cryptanthus*, several *Guzmania*, an *XNeomea*, a *Neophytum*, dozens of *Neoregelia*, a *Nidularium*, two *Orthophytum*, one *Quesnelia*, and more than a dozen *Tillandsia* and *Vriesea*. With these and the many more small bromeliads available, limited space should no longer be a concern.

Many of the bromeliads he showed were species not commonly grown. Dave is an enthusiastic proponent of species, which, while often not as showy as some hybrids, are important to preserve. Many of these species have been used in crosses to make some of the well-known hybrids we have today.

It was not possible to report the names of all the more than 100 plants, so if you have questions or need additional information, contact Dave at johnston28@tampabay.rr.com.

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

Alton Lee *Tillandsia cyanea* variegated (photo below)

Linda Sheetz *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola* (photo below)
Tillandsia copanensis (photo below)

Show and Tell plants



Tillandsia cyanea variegated



Tillandsia jalisco-monticola



Tillandsia copanensis

THIS AND THAT

Bromeliads and Frost Cloth

With cooler fall temperatures approaching (hopefully sooner rather than later), colder winter temperatures are not far behind. So, this is a good time to consider how to protect your bromeliads from the occasional cold fronts that come into our state and to acquire the materials to do that. Outside plants that are mobile can be moved to a warmer spot inside the house, a garage, or shade house. For plants in the landscape that cannot be moved inside, the best strategy is to cover them with proper materials, the most effective of which is frost cloth. Frost cloth breathes, is fast drying, and admits filtered sun, so it can be left on plants during the day. Bed sheets, towels, and plastic can also be used. Caution: Do not let plastic touch the plants and be sure to remove it before daytime temperatures heat up to greatly.

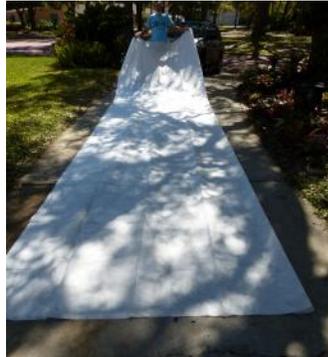
If you do not have frost cloth or need more for better coverage, now is the time to purchase it. If you wait until the cold temperatures are here, it will be too late. Suppliers will either not have it in stock, or it will take a while to get it delivered. In the past, several of the members have purchased a large roll of frost cloth and divided it up among themselves. We should consider doing that again, if the interest is there.

For those of you new to the use of frost cloth, here are a few things we have learned about using it.

- After removing the frost cloth from the roll, fold it for easy storage and use. The rolls typically come in 12- and 15-foot widths.
- Lay the cloth out the full width and fold it in half three times until it is about 1.5 to 2 feet wide (pictures 1 through 4). Then fold it in half four times along the length (pictures 5 through 10). Here are pictures of the method we use for that.



1. Lay out full 12-foot width.



2 thru 4. Fold in half three times to width of approximately 1.5 feet.



5 thru 10. Fold in half along the length about four times until the cloth is a compact size.

- When covering plants with frost cloth, secure the edges of the cloth so wind and cold do not get under it and it does not blow away.



- For anchors, use items readily available such as bricks, rocks, and paint cans.



Paint cans used as anchors

Bricks used as anchors



- Use clips such as clothes pins and clamps to join frost cloth (and other materials used) where needed to close any gaps.



- After the cold spell is past and the frost cloth no longer needed, use the folding procedure described above to make it easier to store. Be sure the frost cloth is dry and free of leaves and other debris.

September Show and Tell Follow Up

Herb Plever, editor of the New York Bromeliad Society newsletter, reports that the *Aechmea fulgens* x *ramosa* shown in our September newsletter (on the right) is *Aechmea* 'Burning Bush', a hybrid made in 1991 by the late Harvey Bullis of Bullis Bromeliads nursery in Homestead, Florida. It is always nice to receive Herb's input.



BLOOMING THIS MONTH



Aechmea 'Del Mar'



Aechmea mulfordii 'Malva'



Aechmea purpureorosea



UPCOMING EVENTS, 2015

October 2-4, Tropiflora Fall Festival

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

October 10-11, USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale

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

October 30-November 1, Sarasota Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale

Southgate Community Center, 3145 Southgate Circle, Sarasota (Theresa.Bert@MyFWC.com)

December 5-6, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale

Terry Park, 3451 Marion Street, Fort Myers (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

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