

# Gainesville Bromeliad Society

## Newsletter

February 2015

**We're on the Web!** [WWW.GainesvilleBromeliadSociety.org](http://WWW.GainesvilleBromeliadSociety.org)

### 2015 Schedule of Speakers

- Feb 22, 2015** Ken Stokes, "Overcoming Bromeliad Defects" & "When to Clump/Divide"
- Mar 22, 2015** Ray LeMieux, "All Things Bromeliad"
- April 26, 2015** Bromiliana Workshop, 2 Lectures: "No Soil Display of Your Bromeliads" & "The Inside /Scoop" PLUS: "Plant Sale"
- May 24, 2015** Dave Johnston, "Name That Bromeliad" Game Show
- June 28, 2015** Nancy Mason, "Bromeliad Mounting Techniques"
- July 26, 2015** Peggy Mixon, "Bromeliad Care"
- Aug 23, 2015** Terrie Bert "Part II of O & P Broms"
- Sept 27, 2015** Dalene Bradshaw, "Tillandsia: A Perennial Favorite"
- Oct 25, 2015** Member Show & Tell, "My Most/Least Favorite Bromeliad"
- Nov 22, 2015** Holiday Party & Elections
- Dec 2015** No Meeting

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## MINUTES, GAINESVILLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING, January 25, 2015

Meeting was called to order by Peggy Mixon at 2:05 p.m. Peggy introduced Phil Elting of Eltings Exotic Plants (EEP) in Riverview FL as our speaker. Upon entering the meeting room, it was filled with gorgeous array of Guzmanias, Vriesas, Tillandsias and Orchids. Most, if not all, were spectacular hybrids.

Mr. Elting is a native of the Tampa area and after practicing law for a several years, decided there might be more money in a new retail plant business. He owned a retail plant store on Dale Mabry for many years. After retail, he went into wholesale and then into tissue culture and hybridizing. His main operation is in Riverside Florida but he also has another one in Costa Rica.

**Culture:** The key to growing good plants you need the following: 1) good soil (without fertilizer), 2) perlite, 3) a well-draining pot and 4) clay pots. For orchids, he also recommends 1-4 and includes clear pots (which let in more sunlight) and orchids are much more particular when it comes to the soil used. When growing Neoregelias, he recommends removing pups as soon as they are big enough (this promotes a production of more pups). After the Mother plant is finished her pupping stage, you he recommends stabbing the Mother in the center to kill the meristem. This produces even more pups. He recommends leaving the pups for 3-4 days prior to potting. His recommendation for fertilizing bromeliads and orchids: Osmocote, Neutrocoat and Dynamite. And he also recommended that the pups should not be fertilized immediately when planting them. Give the Pup a chance to get established and then use Osmocote around in the soil. He recommends 1 cup of perlite to 5 cups of soil for his mix. Watering more in summer and less in winter when the plants are not as active and not growing a lot.

**Hybridizing:** The dust that forms on the flowers is that is used to hybridize bromeliads. He pointed out that the inflorescence is not the blooming flowers. The blooming flowers will be covered usually in a yellowish dust. Most of the plants sold by EEP are sent to Belgium. Typically, an order will be placed for 10,000 to be delivered in 6 months. The process starts by isolating and starving a plant, cutting the plant open, and removing the meristem (brain). Make a mixture of crushed charcoal, coconut oil, and bananas. This mixture is placed in the bottom of an approximate 4-6" round clear plastic pot with a lid. The meristem pieces are then placed on this mixture and the lid is put on the container. In about 30-60 days little green slimy things begin to grow all on top of your charcoal mixture. When about ½ to 1' tall the little green slimy plants are put into planting cubs for initial growing prior to planting in pots. Everything must be grown off the ground in order to ship to Belgium.

**Induce Blooming:** If you wish to induce blooming in a mature bromeliad, put an apple on top of the soil in the pot, cover tightly with a plastic bag and wait for the bloom.

**Fertilization:** He recommends fertilization highly. It is best to keep to a regular fertilizing schedule, i.e., every 3 months to 6 months. If you fertilize at random times, your plants will be have many stages of growth, rather than a nice even leaf pattern. Use any fertilizer you like; but just be sure to fertilize.

At the end of Mr. Elting's talk, we took a break and had some delicious cookies, cake, brownies and much more.

**Business Meeting:** Lorene gave the Treasurer's report. We have a little more than \$3,000 in the club's checking account.

Peggy announced that Sandy is in Mexico at a Ukulele Workshop. She will be home for the February meeting.

Ken Stokes will speak on February 22 about whether or not to clump plants.

April 26 is Bromeliana (otherwise known as Workshop). It is important to get your plants ready now for Bromeliana.

July will be Peggy on Soil Recipes.

June 20, 2015, Nancy will give a program demonstrating plant hangings.

**Show and Tell:** Nancy showed a Neophyte galactic warrior in full bloom. She recommends lots of fertilizer and sun. She has a large clump of Tillandsia balboas (now blooming hanging on fishing line. She carefully pulls out the debris from the old plants from the middle. Aechmea weilbachia pendula was shown as well as Camnea something? And Aechmea glomerata (very cold sensitive) and Aechmea farinosa likes it outside (uses freeze cloth).

**Peggy** brought in Vriesea Charlotte likes it outside of porch (uses frost cloth)

**Ron** brought in Tillandsia schilererania which has very soft leaves (not cold hardy).

Door prizes were disturbed by Worth: Everyone seemed to go home happy with a plant.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Carolyn Schoenau, GBC Secretary 2015



