

Gainesville Bromeliad Society

June 2014

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Part of my Bilbergia collection which I'm growing to love.



Aechmeas: so hardy!

Send in some good photos of your bromeliads.

June 22nd Meeting Speaker and Events

Vriesea



Vriesea duvaliana

Vriesea is a [genus](#) of the [botanical family Bromeliaceae](#), subfamily [Tillandsioideae](#). The genus name is for [Willem Hendrik de Vriese, Dutchbotanist, physician \(1806–1862\)](#).^[1] Did you know that vriesea have dry capsules that split open to release parachute like seeds similar to the [Dandelion](#)?

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Please join the GBS on Sunday, June 22nd at 2pm for **Dave Johnston's**, vriesea lecture. He is the proprietor of Bromeliads Galore, a collectors nursery started in 1990 offering over 1500 different Bromeliads – from cut pups to large landscape plants.

Full sun Bromeliads.
Cold Hardy Bromeliads.
A collectors paradise for over 20 years now.

MINUTES, GAINESVILLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING, MAY 25, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Sandy Burnette at approximately 2:05 p.m. Sandy introduced our speaker Ray Lemieux from Tropiflora Nursery. Ray's topic "Bromeliads 101" which gives an overview of common genera. Among the many plants Ray showed and described were:

Tillandsia concolor var. cuicatlan is an easy to grow Tillandsia for the commercial trade, using a weak fertilizer (1/4 table-spoon/gallon of water) and fertilizing 2 xs per week. Tropiflora started with this plant in their nursery. When in bloom, the flowers are pink.

Vriesea gigantia var. Seideliana aka Nova is a beautiful foliage plant with no spines. Alvin Seidel introduced this plant into the trade from Brazil. Grows well indoors or in shaded areas. Mostly grown for its beautiful foliage and not the bloom spike.

Guzmania sanguinea was in bloom showing the flushing color of red and oranges on the center leaves similar to Neoregelia blooms. The flowers are yellow and down in center of the plant. Excellent shade plant with the blooming colors lasting for a long time.

Captopsis morreniana has a yellow bloom and is an excellent plant for mounting on wood or other surfaces.

Alcantarea odorata can be grown in full sun. During its growing stage, this plant makes adventitious pups around the base of the plant. These can be taken off when large enough to remove (approximately 4-5" tall) and potted up. This process will make the plant produce more adventitious pups around the base. When it blooms, it will also have pups between the leaf axels.

Quesnelia marmorata CV Tim Plowman is a tubular plant closely related to Billbergias with the leaves curling tightly at the very ends. Bloom has pink flowers. Best mounted on wood or planted in fiber baskets.

Billbergia La Vie en Rose is a Don Beadle hybrid. Fairly large Billbergia with dark coloring; flowering lasts only about a week.

Hohenbergia penna is bottle shaped with silver, purple and green striping in the leaves. The bloom lasts for many months on a red stalk, green bloom and lavender flowers. This plant is probably cold hardy since it grows naturally in areas of Brazil where Dyckias grow.

Aechmea nudicaulis cv silver streak has reddish silver stripes, pink bracts in bloom with yellow flowers. This plant loves to be mounted and gives a show display.

Nidulariums are usually cold hardy especially if planted in the ground. Ray showed a **Nidularium albiflorum**.

Canistropsis burchellii is usually very colorful, especially **Canistropsis Tangerine** that has mostly orange foliage.

Neoregelia Fireball is a small Neo with very red foliage. Looks best when grown in a hanging basket and has very long stolens. If you want a pup to come off of a certain side of the plant, put a bead of Osmocote between the leaf axel on that side. This will cause a plant to form on that side.

Neoregelia Big Mac is a large green Neo with purple center when in bloom and some dark splotches in the leaves.

Neoregelia Lila if grown in shade with lots of fertilizer produces good color and softer leaves than most Neos. This method is what Grant Groves uses at his nursery.

Acanthostachys pitcairnioides has very long hanging slender leaves with wicket spines; it flushes red.

Acanthostachys strobilacea is a similar looking plant to *Acanthostachys pitcairnioides* that forms blooms similar to little pine cones with orange and yellow flowers.

Araecoccus flagellicolius produces white scurfing on leaves.

(Continued from page 2)

General information:

To get more pups, take the pups off as soon as they are large enough to survive on their own. This causes the plant to want to produce more.

Tropiflora uses a potting median of pine bark, peat and perlite at their nursery.

When determining whether a Tillandsia can take full sun, you do this by examining the leaves. If the leaves are all silver, it can take full sun. If the leaves are green, these will need some shade.

Ray mentioned a new scale showing up in US, called Costa Rican scale. To avoid scale, give your plants more air flow between them, remove old mothers from the pot. You can use Sevin contact killer, systemics and soapy dish water for ants.

It is important to fertilize Tillandsia using a weak fertilizer but using it 2 x weekly. Peter's professional is good. Osmocote may breakdown the potting median more quickly than other fertilizers.

Business Meeting notes

Sandy explained that she had recently obtained a copy of the GBS Bylaws. One of the requirements in those Bylaws that the Board must have a member-at-large. Two members had volunteered their services for this position: Peggy Mixon and Hjordis Owens. A vote was taken and Hjordis Owens was elected to fill this position by the membership present.

Sandy reported on the FCBS quarterly meeting. The Newsletter will not be published in hard copy any longer but will be on the website. Possibly, the Roster will be printed.

Sandy suggested that a committee be formed next year to make plans for the workshop.

The Treasurer clarified that an ad had been placed in the Gainesville Sun and for how many days for advertise the workshop. Lorene gave a brief Treasurer's report of the workshop.

Submitted by:

Carolyn Schoenau

Substitute Secretary for this Meeting

5/31/2014

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