

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Show and Sale Program



And April, 2010 Newsletter

Welcome!



Tom Wolfe, President

Welcome to the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Show and Sale. We hope that you learn and enjoy the world of bromeliads as you pass through the Judged Show and Sale area. We have a lot of friendly members here to make you feel at home and answer your questions.

If you would like to become a member of our Bromeliad Club, just see the folks at the entrance of the Show and they will be glad to give you a membership form. We meet the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Tampa Garden Club.

The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Inc. was organized in 1963. BGTB is affiliated with the following: Bromeliad Society International, The Cryptanthus Society, Inc., National Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc., Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc., and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL.



President's Message

To our members, I want to thank Dave Johnston, Kay Miller, and Jan Stoffel for again pointing out ways to win top awards in a bromeliad Show.

As a reminder the April meeting will be April 19th, the day after our show closes. Our speaker will be Charles Birdsong from Baton Rouge, La. He will present a power point program on "My Experience with Billbergias" featuring some of the well known hybrids by Don Beadle.

Also our new slate of officers will be installed at the meeting and shall assume their duties May 1, 2010.

OK folks, this is it, the time is here so bring your entries to the Garden Club on Thursday, April 15 from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM. We need all the plants and arrangements you can possibly find.

Thanks in advance for your help. You're a great group to work with and one of the best Bromeliad Clubs in the Nation!

Barbara Easton's mother passed away and we extend our condolence to Barbara and Carl and their family.

Our condolences to Beverly and Harold Sisco in the passing of their brother-in-law. Beverly received the news at our last monthly meeting and they had to leave immediately for Alabama.

I am also saddened by the passing of our member, David Scales. He has been a member for only one year, but was very enthusiastic about bromeliads and starting a collection. Our condolences to his family.

Bromeliad Show Special Awards

Award for the Best of Show Horticulture was donated by Eileen Prins in memory of Steve Prins.

Award for the Best of Show Artistic was donated by Tom and Carol Wolfe in honor of John and Kay Miller.



Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Minutes of Meeting

March 15, 2010

President Tom Wolfe called the meeting to order.

Eileen Kahl welcomed visitors: Marcia Hunter, Laura Forster, Elli Peaslee, Anthony Pino and Kim Pete.

Secretary's Report: Dave Fulkerson made a motion to accept the Minutes as written in the Newsletter and it was seconded by Steve Byram. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Paula Benway reported we have a total of \$1459.96 in our checking account, plus \$10,000.00 in a CD. A motion was made by Barret Bassick to accept the Treasurer's Report as read, seconded by Janet Stoffels and all approved.

Old Business: Nominations for officers for the upcoming year:

President – Beverly Sisco, Vice-President – Verna Dickey, Secretary – Steve Byram, Treasurer – Paula Benway, Newsletter Editor – Marilyn Byram, Board of Directors – Tom Wolfe, Harriet Gord, Dave Mracek, Bob Benway, and Eileen Hart. A motion was made by Dave Johnston to accept these officers, it was seconded by Bob Teems and all approved. The new officers will take over on May 1, 2010.

New Business: Tom showed pictures of our exhibit at the State Fair taken by Wally Stahl. Then he passed out Show Schedules for our show in April and talked about the rules. Entries will be accepted on the 15th, judging on the 16th and open to the public on the 17th & 18th. Tom showed plaques from the BSI for Best of Show awards. There will also be 2 awards from the Cryptanthus Society. Dave Johnston passed out cards for entering plants – fill them out ahead of time and bring your plants early on the 15th. You can enter a total of 30 plants. Tom explained that each plant is judged on its own merit, then the top plants are judged against each other. There are 10 judges.

Announcements: Harriet Gord announced she needs plants for the raffle baskets for the Show. Tom said next month's program will be Charlie Birdsong talking on Billbergias.

Door Prize: Won by Eileen Prins.

Birthday Plant: Won by Paula Benway.

Show and Tell: Plants were shown by Steve Byram, Verna Dickey, Dave Johnston and Tom Wolfe.

Break for refreshments.

Program: Tom Wolfe and Dave Johnston showed how to get plants ready for judging – make sure they are centered in the pot, use clean azalea pots, trim brown edges on leaves and rub with aloe, make sure rosette is even, remove pups if large enough, do not disturb scurfing when cleaning plants and make sure there is no scale on the plants. Janet Stoffels and Kay Miller demonstrated how to do artistic arrangements to be entered in the show.

Raffle: There were many plants on the raffle table but more are needed.

Respectfully submitted by Verna L. Dickey, Secretary



A Year in Pictures



AECHMEA (eek-me´a)



Everybody finds an endless diversity of color, form, and texture in the genus *Aechmea*. Add function to the list because the people of Central and South America eat the ripe berries of some species, ferment the berries of others into wine, and extract a fiber from the leaves of *Aec. magdalenae*. Over 200 species grow from Mexico to Argentina upon trees, rocks, and in the ground. Spiny-edged leaves may be solid green, other colors, speckled, or have bands of silver scales (trichomes). Many aechmeas have brightly colored inflorescences while others offer beautiful long lasting berries.

Locate aechmeas where they will receive bright filtered light in the ground, in containers, or upon trees. Plants grown in dense shade develop long, narrow leaves and never reach their full potential. Protect these plants from cold. They thrive in the summer heat and rain. Aechmeas often produce many offsets which are easy to propagate.

Most people are familiar with *Aec. fasciata*, the bromeliad with silvery leaves and a showy pink, white and blue inflorescence which lasts for months and is sold at supermarkets, department stores, and nurseries. Many aechmeas have silvery powder covering all or part of their leaves, like *Aec. chantinii*, with light or dark bands and bright banners on the scape and waxy, long-lasting yellow to red floral bracts. Several hybrids have been made with this bromeliad, some even with no spines, like *Aec. 'Friederike.'* There are large aechmeas like the copper-leaved *Aec. blanchetiana* and *Aec. mexicana* which add a dramatic accent to landscapes, and medium to small aechmeas like the zigzag patterned *Aec. orlandiana* to mount on trees or as edging or bedding plants which will display magnificent color throughout the year. The list of aechmeas with smooth to rough foliage, green to brilliant colors goes on and on . . . So visit a nursery to view and select the aechmeas you'd like to grow.



BILLBERGIA (bill-berg'ea)

These were the first bromeliads to be cultivated in the United States and were used extensively in South Florida as landscape plants. Over sixty species grow throughout the New World tropics as epiphytes, but they perform equally well in porous mulch. Billbergias are characterized by having only a few leaves united into a tubular rosette. Inflorescences are usually spectacular in appearance, arching or pendulous, but alas remain fresh only a few days. They are grown primarily for their leaf combinations of texture and bright colors. Many are banded, blotched or mottled silver or with contrasting colors.

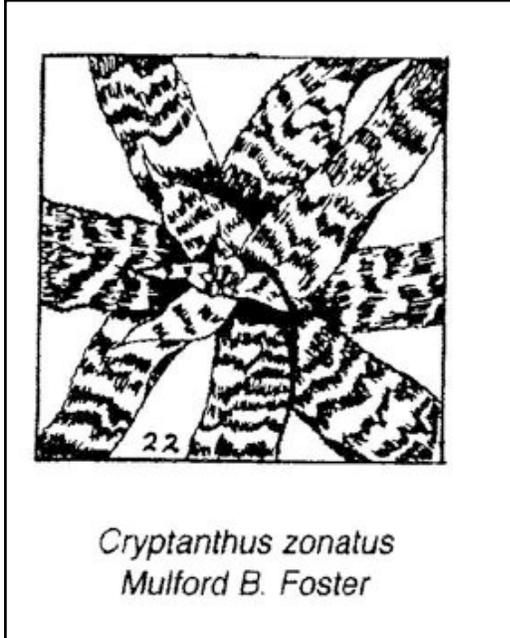
Billbergias are for the gardener who neglects plants. Plant them in the ground around trees, under tall shrubs, or wherever a mass planting is needed in partial shade. Billbergias may also be grown in containers. They multiply quickly and cover an area in a short period of time. They are easy to propagate from offsets.



Two compact species grown in subtropical gardens are *Bil. nutans*, with olive-green leaves with an arching inflorescence, and *Bil. pyramidalis* with an erect red inflorescence. *Bil. pyramidalis* Kyoto has white margins to enhance its appearance and the flashy inflorescence becomes a bonus. *Bil. braziliensis*, *Bil. rosea*, and *Bil. zebrina* are tall, robust plants with silver-banded leaves. The large showy bracts on the inflorescence are brilliant pink. *Bil. Catherine Wilson*, a hybrid, grows 18 inches tall. The green leaves are splashed white. The leaves of *Bil. Fantasia* are blotched with pink and white. If you want robust bromeliads with colorful foliage planted in the garden, billbergias are worth searching for.



CRYPTANTHUS (cript-anth'us)



When your friends talk about “earth stars,” they are probably referring to the genus *Cryptanthus*. Forty-eight species are endemic to eastern Brazil. Earth stars are generally flattened rosettes of variously colored leaves which grow in the ground. These are truly terrestrial plants and require a heavier mix than the epiphytic bromeliads. Inconspicuous flowers (usually white) open in the center of the rosette.

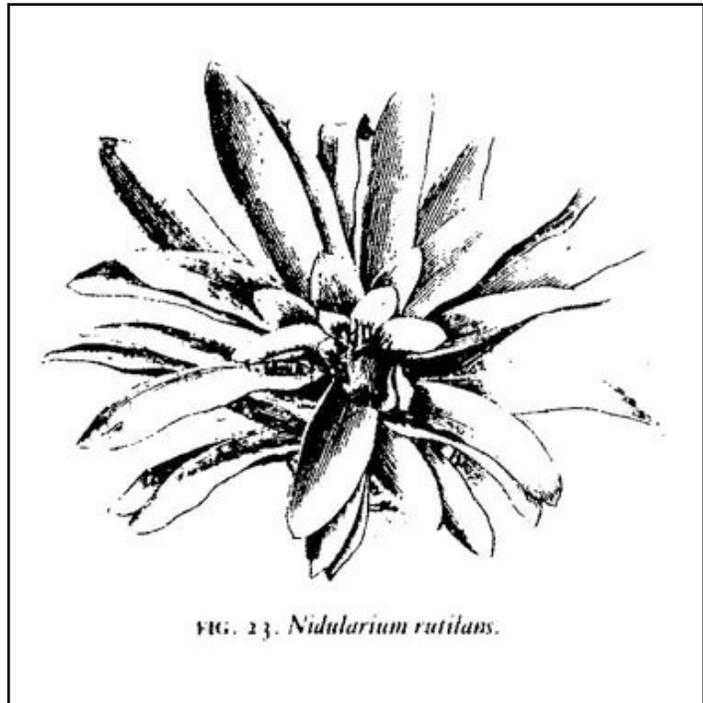
Cryptanthus are easy to grow. Their compact size of loosely arranged leaves makes them ideal for dish gardens, hanging baskets and bedding areas. Protect them from temperatures 50° or below. Propagate from offsets in the center or at the base of the plant, or from stolens on some species.

Many species and hybrids of *cryptanthus* are in cultivation. The solid, striped, or banded leaves may be green, brown, bronze, silver, white, or various shades of pink. Decide upon a color and texture, then pick a *cryptanthus* to match. An introduction to this genus might include *Cry. acaulis*, *Cry. bivittatus*, *Cry. fosterianus*, and *Cry. zonatus* which has wavy leaves of various colors. *Cry. beuckeri* has interesting spoon-shaped leaves of a mottled green. The beautiful foliage of *Cry. bromelioides* var. *tricolor* is variegated white on green and the leaves are a little softer than many other types. *Cry.* It is a sport whose white and green striped leaves become suffused with pink when grown in bright light.



NIDULARIUM (nid-u-lar'ium)

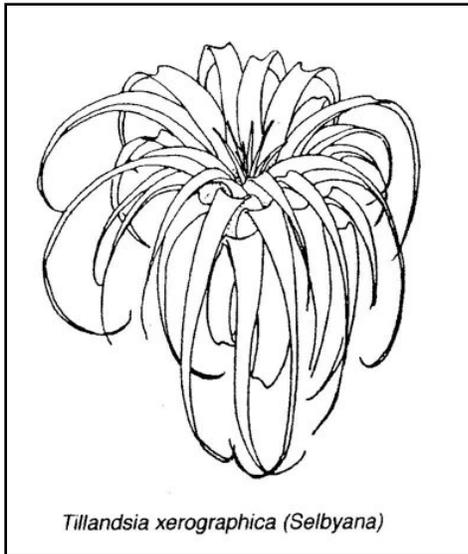
Nearly 60 species of *Nidularium* are endemic to eastern Brazil, where they grow on the ground or upon the lower limbs of trees in humid forests. These are compact to large plants with a rosette of leaves and center inflorescence which rises above. *Nidulariums* bear some resemblance to neoregelias, but the spines are less sharp and the inflorescence of most species projects above the leaves into a star shape with bracts separating the flowers.



Despite their similar appearance to neoregelias, *nidulariums* should be grown like *guzmanias*. *Nidulariums* tolerate lower light levels than neoregelias. Locate them where the fragile foliage will not be damaged. Keep the soil moist and flush the plants like the neoregelias.

Nid. fulgens is the most readily available species. Dark green flecks cover the light green leaves. The inner leaves turn red when the plant begins to flower. The wide, green leaves of *Nid. innocentii* are striped white on plants of the variety, *Nid. innocentii* var. *striatum*. *Nid. billbergioides* has a bright orange inflorescence; the inflorescence is yellow on the variety *Nid. billbergioides* var. *citrina*. Both have narrow, dark green leaves twenty inches long. Several *Nidularium* hybrids and cultivars are also available.





TILLANDSIA (till-and'sia)

This is the largest genus in the bromeliad family. Over 500 species grow in many habitats from the southern United States to Argentina. Twelve species are native to South Florida where they often grow upon the limbs of oak and cypress trees. Spanish Moss (*Till. usneoides*), was used for stuffing furniture and pillows and you can often see it as a dressing on floral arrangements from commercial flower shops.

Tillandsias are often contorted, twisted plants whose leaves are covered with silver-grey scales. A few have plain green leaves. The inflorescences are variable. Some species have fragrant flowers.

Tillandsias can be grown just about anywhere. Those with silver-grey leaves like it dry and should be mounted on driftwood or tree fern, hung from a wire, or attached to a tree. Place them in bright light. Grow those with soft, green leaves in less light and keep them moister. They may be container grown in a porous mix. Propagate from suckers (pups or offsets) or seed. Seeds dispersed from plants growing in the garden often land and germinate on trees, wooden fences, and other rough surfaces.

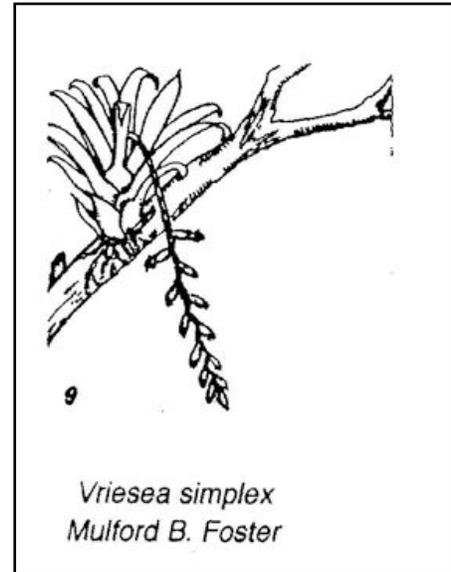
Often the leaves become flushed red on flowering plants. Leaves of these plants may be short (*Til. ionantha*), grass-like (*Til. juncea*), contorted (*Til. baileyi*, *Til. caput-medusae*), or twisted (*Til. xerographica*). *Til. araujei* has trailing stems covered with short leaves. Compact *Til. stricta* has a bright pink inflorescence and blue flowers. If fragrance suits your fancy, try *Til. duratii*, *Til. streptocarpa*, or *Til. venusta*, among others. *Til. cyanea*, with its broad flat bracts and dark purple flowers, is sold at many nurseries. *Til. lindenbergii* is similar but has a taller spike to show off its inflorescence. A giant species is *Til. grandis*, from central Mexico to Nicaragua, with green leaves up to six feet long.



VRIESEA (vree´se-a)

Nearly 300 species of *Vriesea* make this the second largest genus in the Bromeliaceae. *Vrieseas* are epiphytes and their center of distribution is eastern Brazil. Spineless, soft or brittle leaves are green, speckled, banded, or covered with scales. Showy, often brightly colored, inflorescences last several months.

Vrieseas, like *guzmanias*, may require more frequent watering between rains during the dry season. Good air circulation and even humidity are the keys to success with these plants. The soft, green-leaved species and their hybrids prefer some shade. Plants with banded or silvery leaves should be grown in brighter light. Some *vrieseas* produce only one or two offsets.



Many *vrieseas* are available in South Florida. Compact *Vri. carinata* has a flat inflorescence, with yellow, orange, or red bracts. It has been used to develop many hybrids, including *Vri. Marie*, called the “Painted Feather” plant. *Vri. incurvata* has a similar tall sword type inflorescence but is a slightly larger plant. Green leaves shaded purple and bright yellow bracts may be found in *Vri. bleheri*. You will find other small *vrieseas* which propagate with short stolons and are excellent candidates for hanging baskets; like *Vri. flammea* (red, keep slightly drier), *Vri. erythrodactylon* (from eastern Brazil) and *Vri. lubbersii*.

The following species, often called the “foliage *vrieseas*,” prefer less moisture and more light. Compact *Vri. saundersii* has beautiful silver-grey leaves. *Vri. fenestralis* has softer, broad, yellow-green leaves with fenestrations (hence the name) of dark green. The markings on the leaves of the larger stately *Vri. gigantea* Nova are paler. Red-brown markings on large green leaves describe *Vri. fosteriana*; the smaller *Vri. fosteriana* Red Chestnut has white bands on its leaves. *Vri. hieroglyphica* (called the “King of Bromeliads”) has dark zig-zag markings on its light green leaves and is one of the largest species in the genus *Vriesea*.



Propagation 2009 By Odean Head

The heat goes on. I know it is summertime and we can expect some hot weather but usually we get an occasional break, more than to the upper 90's, and I am ready for one. Even though we have had a few showers we need a good rain to go with some lower temperatures. Seems like it's water, water, water with little time to do anything else. However, this is a good time to concentrate on propagation.

Many of our plants have finished their blooming and are beginning to put on pups. They will do this without any extra care from us but there are some things that we can do to improve their production. Quite often you will see a momma with only one pup that is growing. A closer look you may see multiple small nodes on the caudex that could produce pups but momma is only interested in growing the one pup right now. When the pup is large enough to come off, (one third to one half the size of its mother) you can take off that pup and the mother will probably put on two or three more. Give her some fertilizer and she will probably put on twice that many or more. A slow release fertilizer is best because it will keep the mother producing longer and give the pups a faster start, making them ready to be removed quicker. Plants that you already have plenty of will probably continue to produce as many pups as you want without this special care but you never seem to get enough of the special plants.

Most plants are like animals in that they want to reproduce themselves. Most of them will if they are healthy and are give enough light. They will do that only when they are ready and some are more stubborn than others. If you don't want to wait, you can interrupt their life cycle by punching the center of the plant with a sharp object. This will make the plant think it is going to die and its strong urge to reproduce will usually cause it to begin its pupping right away. The plant should be relatively mature and I would not do it on my one-of-a-kind plants because it might go ahead and die.

Bromeliads can also be reproduced from seeds and by tissue culture but both are long time processes and will be the subject of another article.

From Bromeliad Society/Houston, Inc. Vol 42 No 8, August, 2009



Upcoming Bromeliad Events

July 26th – August 1st World Bromeliad Conference

New Orleans, Louisiana

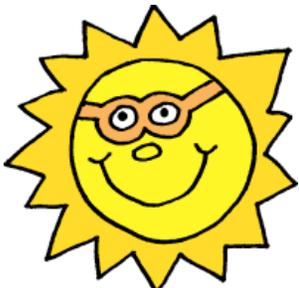
Happy Birthday!



Every month, club members celebrating their birthdays provide the refreshments at our meeting. This way everyone helps once during the year. If you have a May or December birthday, please bring refreshments the following month, since we have the picnic and Christmas parties during those two months. Suggestions: chips & dip, veggies, salsa, crackers, cheese, chicken wings, popcorn, favorite recipes, pies, pizza, brownies, fudge, cookies, cakes, candies, deviled eggs, sandwiches and beverages.

We will have a special drawing for one of the lucky birthday people to take home a nice bromeliad as a Birthday gift from the club.

April Birthdays: Irene Aldrich, Virginia Barthelemy, Linda Lowe, John McGrath, Eileen Prins



Sunshine Greetings

Please notify Eileen Prins of any illness, surgery, birth of a child, death in the family, or other concerns you or another member may have. Call 727-546-9590 or email at sprins1012@earthlink.net



Officers for 2009-2010

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Committee Chairs

Parliamentarian: Lyla Shepard
Librarians: Paula Benway and Verna Dickey
Show: Tom Wolfe
Membership: Eileen Kahl
Publicity: Bob Teems
Programs: Tom Wolfe
Sunshine: Eileen Prins
Photographers: Jim Stewart and Carol Wolfe



Bromeliads Online

Bromeliad Society International— www.bsi.org
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies— www.fcbs.org
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens— www.selby.org

Any Changes?

If your mailing address or email address changes, please inform Marilyn Byram at 21535 Northwood Drive, Lutz, 33549 or byramm@verizon.net





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Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month.

Plant sales at 7:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Tampa Garden Club, 2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa
Informative programs, workshops, Show & Tell, plant sales,
door prizes, raffle & refreshments

Visitors welcome!

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
BROMELIAD GUILD
OF TAMPA BAY, INC.
21535 Northwood Dr.
Lutz, Florida 33549**