

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

June 2023

MEETING: Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Monday, June 19, 2023 7:00 PM SPEAKER: CHIP JONES TITLE: WORKS OF A BROMELIAD MAGICIAN

The topic is “Works of a Bromeliad Magician” featuring variegated neoregelia breeding by Chester Skotak.

All of the plants for sale will be new or old Skotak hybrids.

The slide show will show the background of what makes Chester’s plants look so distinct and how the parent plants express their features in what we see today. A look at his other bromeliad work in pineapples, in Europe hot houses, and a ten-cent tour of his Palmares, Costa Rica nursery.

Chip Jones has operated Jones Landscaping and Jones Landscaping Nursery for 25 years in South Florida.

Bromeliads have always been a primary focus in building gardens for others and for a personal collection.

Three years ago, the entire operation was moved to rural Moore Haven, Florida on a virgin 30-acre site. Cycads are the main plant focus of the nursery and the passion for cycads has taken him around the world to visit plants in habitat. The nursery is open by appointment only.



**Speaker: Chip Jones of Jones Landscaping and Nursery
Moore Haven, Florida**



Chip Jones prize winning plants in shows at the Bromeliad Society of South Florida



Aechmea ampla shown by Chip Jones
Bromeliad Society of South Florida
2019 Annual Show



Neoregelia Magali shown by Chip Jones
Bromeliad Society of South Florida
2017 Annual Show



Neoregelia Nelson shown by Chip Jones
Bromeliad Society of South Florida
2019 Annual Show



Neoregelia 'Mas Mejor' shown by Chip Jones
Bromeliad Society of South Florida
2019 Annual Show

Photos by Carol Wolfe

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:



May was a fun meeting with great food and a successful auction with lots of beautiful bromeliads. I believe we made about \$600 from the auction, so thank you all for your contributions of food and drinks for our dinner, bromeliads for our auctions, and for your purchases! In addition to all of you, our thanks to Mike O'Leary who contributed so many of his beautiful bromeliads for the auction! We always consider it "special" to own one of Mike's bromeliads and I know that you will enjoy them too!

We so appreciate the nice, clean and bright facility that we have for our meetings and the use of the kitchen for our dinner at the May meeting. Thanks to Tom, Marilyn and Steve for arranging and handling the auction and to Rick Hunter for keeping up with all the auction plants and monies.

You were an awesome "clean up" team afterwards leaving everything, kitchen, floors, and tables sparkling clean! I appreciate all of you and how hard you worked afterwards to clean! Thanks to our guys, Robert, Guido, Rick, and Mark and who have stepped up and vacuumed for the ladies and carried the garbage bags out to the bin in the back!

We are looking forward to our speaker, Chip Jones, and his program on Chester Skotak's hybrids. Chester Skotak will be the main speaker at the 2023 Extravaganza at West Palm Beach on July 28-29, 2023, so we have an opportunity to see some of his work at this meeting. Registration for the conference will end when they reach 200 registrants, since that is the final number they can accommodate; so if you haven't registered for the conference, please do. The last FCBS Newsletter contains detailed information on the conference or go to FCBS.org for more information.



**Our Congratulations to Taira Hoopes
and**

**family on the birth of their beautiful
daughter**

Darla Louise Hoopes

Born on Saturday, May 13, 2023

Welcome to our visitors last month who were Lisa Ballou and Clark Hull. Please invite friends, neighbors, and relatives to our meeting. We have lots of room for visitors and new members!

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Carol Wolfe

Make a Plant Tag, Please!

By Tom Wolfe

Many times at bromeliad meetings or plant shows and sales, people come to me and describe a plant, complete with hand gestures of the size and shapes of the plants, with every expectation of me being able to identify their plant. Usually the tag has been lost, or it never had a tag in the first place, or maybe the name has faded away. Another happenstance is a perfectly legible tag lying on the ground and now which pot did it come from?

If you are a serious bromeliad collector and plan to sell or exhibit your plants in the future, it is important that you tag your plants correctly and keep a record of your source of supply and date of purchase. The info can be written on the backside of the tag. White tags are the better choice as they are easily seen and the writing shows up better.

If you are labeling mounted plants on driftwood, I would suggest punching a hole in one end of the tag and stick a 3" piece of bell wire or floral wire through the hole, twist it, then twist a loop in the other end and slip it over the hanger. This will prevent you from losing it and the birds and squirrels can't bother it.

The best way to mark your tags is to use a number 1 or number 2 soft lead pencil. Sharpie marking pens or black laundry pens fade badly after 4 or 5 months. Our intense Florida heat and heavy rains cause the printing to fade. Tags in mounted plants suffer the worst due to sun, wind and rains. Turning the tag name inward, facing the center of the pot and away from the light will help. Also, printing won't fade if buried in the potting mix.



To label your plants correctly, do the following:

1. Genus (Aechmea, Neoregelia, etc.) should be Capitalized
2. Species should be in lower case (Aechmea fasciata)
3. Cultivar names (cv) should have cv before the cultivar names or enclosed with single quotation marks
4. Hybrid names should be capitalized (Neoregelia Moon Glow)
5. Varieties of species should be in lower case.

You can google "Plastic Plant tags" on the internet and you will have a wide variety of tags in 4", 5", 6", etc. that you can order. I usually have some white 4" tags for sale: 50 for \$5; and some white 5" and 6" tags, 50 for \$6.00.

INFORMATION FOR SALE VENDORS: Sharpie black tip pens work well on labels that we use at our annual sales as they contain the price and the vendor number and outdoor exposure is limited to sale days. Carol will also have colored tags for the vendors for sale at the next meeting. If you plan to sell, see her so that you can purchase your color tags for the fall sale.

Limited to 200 registrants!

**BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA
JULY 28 & 29, 2023**

**West Palm Beach Marriott
1001 Okeechobee Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33401**

You don't want to miss it!
One of the many perks with your registration
are fabulous lectures by:

Chester Skotak — Chester Skotak is a world-renowned bromeliad hybridizer. Born and raised in Texas, USA, he moved to Costa Rica in 1978. His fascination with bromeliads goes back over 48 years. Variegated plants are his favourites. The Skotak name is synonymous with innovation. His ground-breaking work to produce variegated *Neoregelia* hybrids is legendary.

Eloise Beach — Eloise is a “retired” commercial bromeliad grower living near Orlando, Florida USA. She began growing bromeliads as a hobby nearly 50 years ago. Now partnered with outstanding hybridizer Chester Skotak; she has the challenging responsibility of selecting, registering, and propagating Skotak’s crème de la crème new bromeliad hybrids for release to collectors at World Conferences and other venues.

David Shiigi — Pana‘ewa, Hawaii - In 1975, growing bromeliads was just a hobby for David Shiigi. Today, David is one of the world’s esteemed “hybridizers” with a farm that’s constantly blooming and a business that’s booming.

+++CONFERENCE PLUS+++
Goody bags and chances to purchase raffle tickets,
Welcome reception and BBQ,
Private plant sale for registered guests,
Fabulous lectures,
A chance to mingle with the speakers,
Tropical dinner under the stars,
50/50 raffle,
FCBS rare plant and silent auction.

9:00 AM Sunday: optional \$25 garden tour and brunch hosted by Joe and Betty Libertucci. Their beautiful garden has bromeliads, rare palms, orchids, ferns, and more. Stop by the pond filled with fish surrounded by native trees. Then enjoy a lovely brunch, with your hosts.

Go to [Bromeliad Encyclopedia - Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies \(fcbs.org\)](https://www.fcbs.org)
Go to upcoming events for registration.

PICNIC AND AUCTION, MAY 15, 2023



Excellent Buffet



Anybody hungry?



What a spread!



Auction Plants



Nice Variety of Auction Plants



The Auction Begins



Bidding Time



Bidding War!



Delivered to your table



Refreshments

Refreshments for the June meeting will be provided by Robert Nelson, Jill and Guido Zakaroff, and Larissa Bursa



June Birthdays: Happy Birthday to Phil Elting, Kenneth Stokes, Alessandra Thor



Sunshine Greetings

Please notify Verna Dickey of any illness, surgery, birth of a child, death in the family, or other concerns you or another member may have.
Call 813-244-3637 or email vernadickey@aol.com

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Bromeliads Online

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay www.bromeliadguilddoftampabay.org



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/366210778024864>

Bromeliad Society International— www.bsi.org

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies— www.fcbs.org

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens— www.selby.org

Bromeliads Online - <http://www.bromeliads.co.nz/index.html>





The Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa was established in 1963 as the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. In July, 2022, it expanded its focus to include other tropical plants. BTPST is affiliated with the following: Bromeliad Society International, The Cryptanthus Society, Inc., Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc., and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL.

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

Where: Woodmont Clubhouse, 415 Woodmont Ave., Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Informative programs, workshops, Show & Tell, plant sales, door prizes, raffle & refreshments
Visitors welcome!

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
BROMELIAD &
TROPICAL PLANT
SOCIETY OF TAMPA
21535 Northwood Dr.
Lutz, Florida 33549**