

orlandiana

Newsletter of the **Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**

Volume no. 45, Issue no. 02

February 2018

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Where: Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803

6:30 –7:00 is pre-meeting time for purchasing plants at the Member Market!

Meeting officially begins at 7:00 pm

Member Market and Silent Auction in February!

Please bring a snack, raffle/door prize plants, and show & tell plants to the meeting.

Please try to label your raffle and door prize plants, even if you can only write something such as "unknown Neo hybrid", every little bit helps the members who are trying to learn about different types of bromeliads! Plants should be clean and insect free.

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The President's Message

I hope everyone is having a fantastic February. Nice to have our warmer weather back. Check out the photos of our own Marty Folk as the repelling Spiderman and being a superhero for Give Kids the World Village.

We are coming up on our busy bromeliad selling season. We will be participating in three shows in three months. The first is our annual booth at the Leu Gardens Plant Sale on March 10 and 11. Evan and Marty have already committed. Please let me know if you are planning on selling at Leu Gardens. It is always a great time. And so many plants, in our booth and throughout Leu Gardens. Plan on bringing cash, credit cards or checks to add to your collection. I will let those members selling know the details of when we will meet Evan and his truck on Friday, March 9 to transport everything to Leu Gardens.

Our next sale will be at Mother's Day. No details yet. And then on June 2 and 3, we will have a space at the Central Florida Orchid Society's Sale and Show at the National Guard Armory. Let me know if you would like to sell your plants at either of these two shows.

The 2018 World Bromeliad Conference is coming up, May 29-June 3, 2018 in fabulous San Diego, CA. I know that Lisa, Marty and I are attending. Hope to see more of our members out in San Diego. Last I checked Southwest had some reasonable flights.

Please join us at our February meeting to listen to Dr. Teresa Cooper. Hope to see you there. mike

This month's speaker is Dr. Teresa Cooper!

Dr. Teresa Cooper is an entomologist, conservationist, and artist. From 2001 to 2016 she was at the University of Florida, first as a graduate student (Gainesville, Florida) then as a Research Scientist (Ft. Pierce, Florida). During this time, she was fixated on one goal: saving Florida's bromeliads from an invasive bromeliad-eating weevil, Metamasius callizona. Until 2015, great efforts were made by Dr. Cooper and her colleagues to control the weevil using classical biological control; ultimately, it was not successful. Now, several of Florida's bromeliads may be extirpated because of the weevil.

In 2015, Dr. Cooper began the Save Florida's Bromeliads Conservation Project to promote intensive conservation efforts to keep Florida's bromeliads alive.

In 2016, she left University of Florida and launched her own business, teresamariedreams. She creates and sells fine art, and she is still fixated on that one goal: saving Florida's bromeliads.

www.teresamariedreams.com

www.savebromeliads.com



Dr. Teresa Cooper

Raffle and door prize table ponderings...

There was a lot of intense concentration around the door prize and raffle table at the January meeting! It was choc full of plant goodies, including a bunch of wonderful Dyckias from Greg Spak, our speaker for the evening.













Holding a winning door prize or raffle ticket lets you try something new in an economical way!

It's never too late for some cold weather advice!

Grant Groves was doing some spring cleaning and found some papers that he wrote 20 years ago – he had handed them out at the March 1997 BSCF meeting! On the next two pages you'll find some good information about how to protect your plants from cold weather and a hardiness list that may even sway your future planting plans. Remember, even though it seems as though warm weather has arrived we could still get a cold snap! Thanks Grant!

MOST COLD HARDY BROMELIADS CULTIVATED

Will tolerate temperatures into the upper teens for a short duration.

Ae distichantha (all varieties) (F) (P)

Ae recurvata (all varieties) (F) (P) Ae ómata (F) (P)

Ae cylindrata (P)

Ae caudata (P)

Ae kertesziae (P)

Bil nutans & hybrids (P)

Dyckia species-& hybrids (F)

Nid regalioides (P) (S)

Nid fulgens (P) (S)

Nid procerum (P)

Neo cruenta (F) (P)

Neo x 'Marcon' (F) (P)

Neo x 'Fosperior' (F) (P)

Neo x 'Spectabilis (F) (P)

Neo 'McWilliamsii (P)

Puya Species (F)

Quesnelia testudo (P)

Tillandsia baileyii (F) (P)

Vr x 'Mariae' (S)

Vr x 'Rex' (S)

Vr philippo-coburgii (S)



Quesnelia testudo held up just fine this winter!

MODERATELY COLD HARDY

Will tolerate temperatures into the upper 20's for a short duration

Ae x 'Royal Burgundy' (P)

Ae pineliana minuta (P)

Ae pectinata (F) (P)

Ae gamosepala (P) (S) *

Ae calyculata (P)

Bil pryamidalis (P) *

Guz wittmackii (S)

Neo carolinae & (cultivars) (P)

Neo many hybrids (P)

Vr many hybrids (green leaf types) (S)

TENDER

Will not tolerate a freeze without damage

Ae chantenii & (cultivars) (P)

Ae lueddemanniana (P) *

Ae nallyi (P)

Ae fulgens (P) (S) *

Ae miniata (P) (S) *

Billbergias (Many) (P)

Cryptanthus (in general) (P)

Guzmanias (in general) (S)

LEGEND-EXPOSURE TO SUN

(F)-Full Sun (P)-Partial Shade (S)-Shade *will freeze but grows back fast

WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR PLANTS

- 1) Fertilize in late Summer and Fall with higher potassium and lower nitrogen.
- 2) If plants are outside plant in the ground or sink pots in the ground. The ground will be warmer than the air.
- 3) If you are not using Ice to protect your plants water them well a day before expected cold.
- 4) Plants should be set out in Spring or Summer so they will be established and adjusted to conditions

WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR PLANTS

- 1) Bring plants in from cold. Obviously this is your best protection.
- 2) Cover to prevent frost from settling. Never leave the cover on after sun comes out.
- Run sprinklers to Ice plants. Sprinklers must remain on until temperature is back up to 32. degrees. As long as the Ice is forming it will remain at 32 degrees even though the air is colder.
- 4) Light bulbs under covers give off heat. Be sure they are not touching anything.

OBSERVATIONS

- 1) Successive freezes without proper care will cause decline.
- 2) Stage if growth effects cold hardiness in moderately cold hardy plants.
- 3) Exposure to sun is exposure to frost also.
- Plants in containers are more susceptible than plants planted in the ground.
- Less nitrogen more potassium will increase cold hardiness.
- Dry plants exposed to cold are more susceptible due to desiccation.
- 7) In general the most cold hardy bromeliads come from Southern Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay to Argentina.
- 8) Frost can be as damaging as a freeze and forms at temperatures above 32 degrees.
- Duration of cold is as much a factor as actual temperature.

Handed out by Grant Groves at March 1997 meeting of the BSCF.



A clump of Neo 'McWilliamsii' only sustained minimal damage during our last cold wave.

We have a Superhero among us!

Our own bromeliad superhero, Marty Folk, participated in an unusual fundraising event for Give Kids the World Village, his favorite charity. Marty said that the experience of stepping off a perfectly good roof (willingly) was very unique indeed!

He repelled with others down the 2nd highest skyscraper in the Orlando area, wearing a GoPro camera attached to his helmet – check out his view of the pool. Nerves of steel!

Marty gave his doners photos from the event including ones of himself in full Spiderman costume!









The two bottom images were taken with a GoPro camera that was attached to Marty's helmet!





Monthly Meeting Minutes

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida — January 17, 2018

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm by VP Marilyn Howser who introduced our speaker, Greg Spak. Greg gave a great presentation on Dyckia, covering the cultural requirements of these tough plants and showing some different species and hybrids. We all got to ask lots of guestions about this intriguing genus and now we're looking forward to the hummingbirds that our new Dyckia blooms will draw!

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by President Mike Saunders

Mike thanked Greg for the wonderful presentation and Q & A session. December 2017 meeting minutes were approved.

Welcome!

Guest Christie Stacey from Titusville attended our meeting with Greg.

Treasurer's Report:

Mike gave the Treasurer's Report in Betsy's absence and Betsy will file the report for audit. A reminder was given to everyone to pay their membership dues if they haven't already done so!

Vice President's Report:

Marilyn gave us the run down of the upcoming events:

- Teresa Cooper will be the speaker for February. We will also be doing a guided tour with Teresa at The Enchanted Forest on the 24th – this date is being double-checked because of a potential conflict.
- Jay Thurrott will be the speaker for March, he'll be speaking on Bromeliad Shows and Judging.
- Phil Elting will be the speaker in April, he has a presentation on Quesnelia.
- The February, May and November meetings will have Member Markets
- The Leu Gardens plant sale is coming up in March on the 10th and 11th!

Old or Unfinished Business

- Webmaster! Would somebody like to take care of a BSCF website? We are still in need of a volunteer!
- Newsletter Editor needed if interested please let one of the officers know!
- Secretary Karen Steinberg needs to check and see if she missed sending out a FCBS newsletter in 2017, John mentioned that he thinks he has not received all of them.
- Judges School sign up now!
- Don't forget about the World Conference in San Diego, it should be great!
- Officer Elections: We had an uncontested slate of officers; there were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded. Mike, Marilyn, Betsy, and Karen will continue on as officers.

New Business

None

Show & Tell

Mike McMahon brought native Tillandsia and Mike Saunders brought in Dyckia, thanks for sharing!

Door Prizes and Raffle tickets were drawn.

The meeting/party concluded at 9:00 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Steinberg.

Additional Dyckia information—a followup to our January presentation

This popular genus of bromeliads is found in many collections. Although not necessarily succulent, these plants are also one of the more popular in succulent shows. This summary is edited from an article presented by the Houston Bromeliad Society. They begin the article with "Those Dyckias are tough plants!"

"Dyckia is one of the genera in the subfamily Pitcairnioideae. This subfamily contains some of the most primitive Bromeliad species. Most Pitcairnioideae genera are saxicolous (living on or around rocks) or terrestrial (growing in the ground), with Dyckias into both categories (e.g. D. saxicola), although most are strictly terrestrial and all do well when grown as strict terrestrials. The majority of the approximately 120 different species of Dyckia are native to central Brazil, with some being found in Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, and Bolivia. Most are found growing among rocks in warm sunny areas ranging in altitude from sea level to 2000 meters.

"The genus was introduced into Europe during the nineteenth century, and was named for Prince von Salm-Dyck, an early expert on succulents. Although Dyckias have no internal water storage tissue like true succulents, they are xerographic and survive long periods without water by going dormant. Their rosette of thick succulent leaves will eventually wilt, but recovery is rapid when watering is resumed. These plants are tough! They will withstand more neglect than almost any other commonly cultivated plant and still pup and bloom every year. Their only demand is a little water and a lot of sunshine. In the spring they bear multiple red, yellow or orange flowers on a thin stalk that emerges from the side of the plant. The stalk length can range from about 10 centimeters for a small species like *D. choristaminea* to more than 2 meters for *D. maritima*.



"Although the flowers aren't large, bees, wasps and hummingbirds find them attractive. The plants themselves come in a range of colors (green, rose, maroon, tan, or silver), and a variety of leaf shapes (long and thin, short and fat, deeply lobed,

or almost smooth). In an outdoor setting with considerable sunshine, these plants may be a



welcome addition to your garden." (At left is *D. dawsonii*, a popular Dyckia and a good example of long, thin, maroon leaves. At right is *D. playtphylla*, another popular Dyckia and a good example of a wide, green leaf.)

"For the most part, Dyckias are not demanding in their culture. Generally I have found the following conditions work well:

"Light: They like full sunlight. 5000 foot-candles, 50% shade, is probably the least amount of sun that they can have and still flourish.

"Temperature: They prefer temperatures in the range of 40-90 degrees Fahrenheit, but they will withstand much lower and higher temperatures. Most species will not be harmed by freezing weather if they are planted in the ground and given minimal protection.

"Fertilizer: Use full a dilute fertilizer solution (¼ strength or less) with every watering spring through fall, but eliminate fertilizer during cold weather. When plants are actively growing in strong light, it is hard to over fertilize an established plant, but they don't appear to suffer if they are not fertilized, they just grow more slowly.

"Water: Although they will tolerate drought, they thrive on frequent watering while actively growing, however keep plants on the dry side during cold weather or during periods of reduced light. In the summer time they tend to dry out rapidly; it is helpful to keep them in a shallow container of water.

(Editors comment: We originally watered our Dyckias during the summer on a succulent plant schedule but found that a more frequent timetable produced happier plants.)

"Medium: (An organic based mix used for succulents is usually best.) A mix similar to what would be used for a Cryptanthus or a Hectia would be appropriate.

"Containers: Dyckias probably do best when they are grown in the ground. Their ability to take temperatures in the 15-20 degree range makes them one of the best Bromeliads to use for landscaping in (cooler areas.) They should be able to take all but our most severe winter weather with only minimal protection. If you do choose to grow them in pots, use one that will accommodate the plant's large root system. This is one plant that appreciates a pot that is about as wide as or wider than the plant itself. But WARNING: usually the larger the pot and the more the fertilizer the bigger the plant.

"Propagation: Most Dyckia species have leaves armed with sharp spikes that make working with the plants painful. It is often difficult to separate pups from the mother plant. It is helpful to remove the plant from its pot and try to work on it from the bottom. You want to bring out the heavy equipment when dealing with your Dyckia collection. Leather gloves, a sturdy knife, a small saw, and, in extreme cases, a hatchet could all come in handy when it is time to separate and repot large clumps of plants. When you separate a pup, try to preserve as much of its root system as you can. If it has no roots, treat its base with rooting hormone before potting. In either case pot the plant in a fairly small pot using a well drained mix, and leave it there until the plant has a chance to establish itself. Most pups are slow to root and start growing, but when the plants root system fills the pot, move the plant into a larger pot using a heavier mix.

"If you want to try your hand at hybridizing, dyckias are good candidates. You need to remove any blooms that you don't pollinate, and make sure that the plant is in a protected location since the birds and insects will be more than willing to give you a hand. (At right is a *Dyckia platyphylla x fosteriana*, an example of crossing two very different leaf types.). When the pods are ripe, collect the seed and sow them in a well drained sterile mix. As the plants grow move them into increasingly larger pots. Grown from seed plants will usually take 3 or more years to bloom.



<u>"Problems</u>: Other than an occasional slug stopping by for a midnight snack, or a case of brown scale, or snails eating the delicate bloom stalks, insects don't appear to bother Dyckias much. The most common disease problem is rotting off because it was over watered during the winter.

"Almost all species and hybrids grow well with little care. Some of the more popular species are:

Dyckia brevifolia ("Yellow glow")

D. choristaminea

D. fosteriana

D. marnier-lapostollei

D. platyphylla

"Some of the more popular hybrids are:

Dvckia 'Brittle Star' (at right)

D. 'Cherry Coke' (below center)

D. 'Naked Lady' (below left)

D. 'Red Devil'"





Dyckias

This is a portion of an article by **Kathy Dorr** was printed in the March 2004 issue of the Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of San Francisco and in the April 1994 North County Bromeliad Society newsletter. It originally appeared in the Long Beach-Lakewood Bromeliad Study Group newsletter (date unknown.).



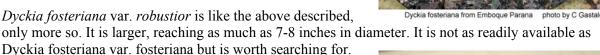
Dyckias are small to large plants with a thick root stem. The stiff, spiny leaves narrow to a point. The inflorescence rises on a long stem, usually from the side of the plant rather than from the center. The inflorescence may be a single spike, or it may be branched.

The flowers, in most cases, are perfect with both male and female parts; however, in some rare instances there are some that are either "male" or "female" plants. The flowers are comparatively small and range in color from yellow to red. The sepals overlap and are much shorter than the petals in most instances. The petals also overlap and are attached to the filament tube. The stamens extend beyond the petals of the flowers and the ovary is superior. (At left is a drawing of *D. brevifolia* in flower.)

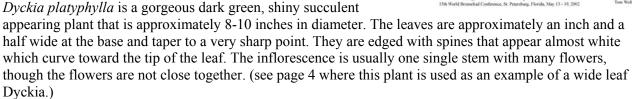
The seed capsules are short and fat. They contain many seeds. Each seed has a single thin extension attached. These plants are native to Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, and Bolivia.

There are about a hundred species. If you are limited to a very few, the following suggestions are made:

Dyckia fosteriana var. fosteriana – this small (5-6 inches in diameter) Dyckia forms a beautiful silver, compact cluster of leaves, arising basally from a crown. These narrow (5/16") sharp pointed leaves arch and recurved again, giving a powder puff appearance. The silver with reddish brown tipped spines along the edge of the leaves are very prominent. The flower spike rises 15-16 inches above the plant (very seldom) and produces bell-shaped, bright orange flowers all around the stem. The inflorescence is strikingly similar to most dyckias.



Dyckia marnier-lapostellei – it would be difficult to aggrandize the beauty of this Dyckia. The leaves are approximately one inch wide (or more) and eight inches long. They have a stiff succulent appearance. They appear silver colored and have very prominent spines which mostly hook toward the base of the plant rather than toward the tips of the leaves. Although these spines appear vicious, they are actually rather soft and this plants is one of the easiest to handle of all the dyckias. The flower spike is tall and has few flowers. (ED note: plant often looks whiter than that shown.)



There are many Dyckias to choose from, but these are my top choices.

My Favorite Brom – Dyckia

Many of you may have seen the Dyckia displays that **Jim Hanna** has shown. Jim is a succulent grower who has developed a collection of outstanding Dyckia. This master grower presents a table of Dyckia, each plant better than the last. If you ever get a chance to see this display, take it!

When asked for a favorite Dyckia, Jim did not hesitate – it is Dyckia "Keswick." He prefers this plant because of both the plants appearance and its growth habit:

Appearance: This Bill Baker hybrid combines a very dark plant body with contrasting white teeth to give a startling and appealing appearance.

Growth Habit: This plant stays relatively small and easy to handle. Over time, it will grow into a mass as shown in the picture at right but each plant can remain in the same pot for years.

Jim credits Dyckia 'Brittle Star' as one parent of D. 'Keswick'. We can see why he likes this plant!

Dvckia 'Keswick'

photo by Chris Nguyen

Joe Wujcik

Editorial: Why do you need a saw?

Under propagation above, the writer mentions that a small saw and hatchet are good tools to have for separating Dyckias. Why are they needed? Dyckias tend to form very thick and interconnected root systems

that are impenetrable without help. One of the greatest demonstrations your editors ever saw at a SVBS meeting was given by Robert Kopfstein where he separated a clump of Dyckia and a saw was the only way to divide the plants. It was very educational. From that day forward, I have been much less afraid of handling these highly armored plants when I am properly equipped.

These articles originally appeared together in the July 2011 Pup Talk, the newsletter of the Saddleback Bromeliad Society.

ADVENTURES IN REPOTTING with Joe & Carol

When most of us think of Dyckia, we picture an upright, well armored rosette with a very strong root system that will be a "bear" to repot. An example might be the Dyckia fosteriana pictured at right. This popular plant is the basis of several popular cultivars such as Dyckia 'Brittle Star.

DYCKIA ESTEVESII



Dyckia fosteriana from Emboque Parana photo by C Gastaldi

As always, there are exceptions to this appearance rule. One such exception is Dyckia estevesii. Instead of the strong, rosette pictured at right, this fan shaped Dyckia grows on its side almost horizontally once pups appear. This special plant is found only in the vicinity of Goias, Brazil. It was named for its discoverer, Eddie Estavis Pereira by Rauh. As frequently found in rarer plants, there is not a lot of information on this plant in our books. However the internet is full of conflicting information. For



example, we found a couple of mentions that this plant is sterile and will not bloom. However, other articles have pictures of flowers (like that taken by George Allaria at right.)

We obtained our plant from a friend who said that we would find



the growth habit of the plant interesting. He was very right.

We can say this, the horizontal shape of this plant has some advantages in handling for repotting but, like most Dyckia, this plant presents a mass of strong roots and is well armored for protection. Self protection is suggested for those repotting it.

ON THE WEB: If you love Dyckias, you will want to visit retired dentist Constantino Gastaldi's dyckiabrazil.blogspot.com, which includes wonderful color photos as well as commentary. His forum at dyckiabrazil.com is also well worth a visit. There are LOTS of Dyckias. Thanks to editor Nels Christianson of Sunset Succulent Society for this information.

Upcoming Events

March 10-11, 2018

Leu Gardens Annual Spring Plant Sale https://www.leugardens.org/annual-plant-sale/

May 11-13, 2018

BSCF Annual Mother's Day Show and Sale Held at the Orlando Fashion Square Mall, 3201 E. Colonial Dr, Orlando, FL 32803

May 29-June 3, 2018

BSI World Conference in San Diego, California http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/ Now is a great time to join the Bromeliad Society International as they are offering a discount to new memberships! www.bsi.org

June 2-3, 2018

Central Florida Orchid Society 62nd Annual Show and Sale, "An Orchid Garden Party!" BSCF will have a sales booth and also a display area. Held at the National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Ferncreek Ave, Orlando, FL 32803

November 2-3, 2018

Mead Botanical Garden GROWvember Fall Plant Sale 1300 S. Denning Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789

Our Meeting Next Month: Wednesday, March 21st, 2018

The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 7–9 PM at Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803. Guest speaker plants are for sale before the meeting from 6:30–7:00. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments & door prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter—all for an annual membership fee of \$15 per member, plus \$5 per additional family member (no charge for full-time students). Visitors are always welcome.

BSCF is a nonprofit Florida corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization.

Donations to this society are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

BSCF is an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International, Inc., and a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. and the Cryptanthus Society.

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