



Central  
Florida

# orlandiana

Newsletter of the  
Bromeliad Society of

Volume no. 43 Issue no. 03

## March 2017

Next meeting – Wednesday, March 15, 2016

Set up

6:30 pm Where – Leu Gardens

Refreshments 6:30-7

1920 N. Forest Ave. Orlando, FL 32803

7:00 pm meeting

begins

### No Member Market

**Please bring snack, raffle and show and tell plants, to the meeting.**

## This Month's Speaker

Nick Bethmann

Topic: All About Aechmea Orlandiana, the history, the controversies and the great cultivars.

Bio: Nick has been living in Florida for over 25 years and resides in Boca Raton with his wife (who doesn't share his passion for bromeliads). Nick has been collecting bromeliads for 12 years and hybridizing and growing them from seed since 2008. He has registered 3 bigenerics including the first ever subfamily cross and has lately been working on making some great orlandiana hybrids. He currently serves the Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches as VP and the editor of the 'Spine and Stolon'.

Nick will be bringing plants to sell.



## **RECENT TAXONOMIC REVISIONS FOR BROMELIADS – Rick Richtmyer**

For the past several years, Bromeliad taxonomists and molecular biologists have been actively working with DNA to establish a clearer picture of the origin and evolution of Bromeliads. Although they have not finished their work, they have produced several monumental articles and monographs which have been published recently. Now, we need to understand the results of their findings.

In the article by Derek Butcher, republished in the September 2016 BS/H Bulletin, he states research scientists now recognize 8 subfamilies in Bromeliaceae rather than the three subfamilies we were used to - Tillandsioideae, Bromelioideae and Pitcairnioideae. The five new subfamilies were broken out of the existing subfamily Pitcairnioideae. Late in 2016 researchers led by Michael H. J. Barfuss published a monograph on the revision of subfamily Tillandsioideae also based on DNA studies which have taken place over several years. This significant study has led to the establishment of 11 new genera in subfamily Tillandsioideae in addition to the currently established 9 genera.

Below is a list of the new genera and the existing species which have been transferred to them. As you can see, many commonly grown tillandsia and vriesea species have changed genus. You might want to take some time to note the changes on the name tags in your collection.

11 NEW GENERA IN TILLANDSIOIDEAE - BARFUSS ET AL - 2016			
			agr 3-5-2017
OLD GENUS	NEW GENUS	SPECIES	SPECIES NAMES
Mezobromelia	Gregbrownii	4	<i>brownii, fulgens, hutchisonii, lymansmithii</i>
Tillandsia	Barfussia	3	<i>laxissima, laxissima</i> var. <i>moorei, platyrhachis, wagneriana</i>
Tillandsia	Josemania	5	<i>asplundii, delicatula, pinnata, singularis, truncate, truncata</i> var. <i>major</i>
Tillandsia	Lemeltonia	7	<i>acosta-solisii, cornuta, dodsonii, monadelphae, narthecioides, scaligera, triglochinoidea</i>
Tillandsia	Psuedalcantarea	3	<i>grandis, macropetala, viridiflora</i>
Tillandsia	Wallisia	4	<i>anceps, cyanea, lindeniana</i> (new, was <i>umbellata</i> ), x <i>duvalii</i> treat as " <i>Duvalii</i> ", <i>pretiosa</i>
Vriesea	Goudea	2	<i>chrysostachys, chrysostachys</i> var. <i>stenophylla, ospinae, ospinae</i> var. <i>gruberi</i>
Vriesea	Jagrantia	1	<i>monstrum</i>
Vriesea	Lutheria	4	<i>bi-beatricis, glutinosa, soderstromii, splendens, s. var chlorostachya, s. var formosa, s. var oinochroma</i> <i>s. var stratifolia</i>
Vriesea	Stigmatodon	18	<i>amadoi, apparicianus, belloi, bifudus, brassicoides, costae, croceanus, euclidianus, fontellanus,</i> <i>funnebris, gastinianus, goniorachis, harrylutheri, magnibracteatus, multifolius, plurifolius, rosulatus,</i> <i>sanctateresensis</i>
Vriesea	Ziskaea	1	<i>tuerckheimii</i>
TRANSFERRED TO EXISTING GENUS			
Tillandsia	Racinaea	3	<i>dyeriana, hamaleana, venusta</i>
Vriesea	Tillandsia	2	<i>heliconioides, malzinei</i>
REFERENCES:			
MICHAEL H.J. BARFUSS, WALTER TILL, ELTON M.C. LEME, JUAN P. PINZON, JOSE M. MANZANARES, HEIDEMARIE HALBRITTER, ROSABELLE SAMUEL, GREGORY K. BROWN			
Taxonomic revision of Bromeliaceae subfam. Tillandsioideae based on a multi-locus DNA sequence phylogeny and morphology			
<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.279.1.1">http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.279.1.1</a>			
Butcher, Derek, Derek the Hybrid Detective DD0217 DNA/New genera; <a href="http://www.bromeliad.org.au/news/DD0217.htm">http://www.bromeliad.org.au/news/DD0217.htm</a>			
Derek Butcher and Eric Gouda; the 'Taxon List'; <a href="http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php?getCSV">http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php?getCSV</a>			

## Aechmea 'Pickaninny' and Its Family William C. Frase

Mr. Foster gave me plants of Aechmea 'Bert', Ae. fosteriana, and one or two of his original stock of collected Ae. orlandiana. The first year that all of the plants bloomed (1959), I pollinated all of them using the pollen from each. Every flower available was made to bear seed, the idea being to increase my stock of these pretty bromeliads. A large number of seedlings resulted. When they were big enough, I potted them singly in clay pots in crumbled osmunda fiber. The plants grew well and by the fall of 1960 a few showed color although most were ordinary. I kept three very dark seedlings and sold or threw out all others. These three were very attractive to me so I gave them names. The darkest and smallest suggested the name "Pickaninny." Another, having good green and black contrast, but more the size of Mr. Foster's "Bert," I named "Black Marble." The last and lightest showing some tendency toward purpling, I named "Shadow." None of these named selections was registered. I believe that registering bromeliad hybrids and their names and pedigrees was not being done then.

The identities of "Pickaninny," "Black Marble," and "Shadow" were retained and the three separate stocks were propagated vegetatively. Concurrently, selected plants from these three groups were crossed back and forth and the seed planted. At this time, a collected plant of Aechmea orlandiana was obtained from the late Mr. Wyndham Hayward of Winter Park [Florida].

Mr. Hayward got his more perfect, larger, and stronger plant from the Plant Introduction Board. That plant was then substituted for the original orlandiana because of its better characteristics for subsequent cross-pollenization of the products of the other four, that is Ae. 'Bert', Ae. 'Black Marble', Ae. 'Pickaninny', and Ae. 'Shadow'. These stocks were, and still are, kept separate and propagated vegetatively. Specimens of each were all crossed back and forth with each other each blooming season. Only the darkest and most unusual were kept and the rogues thrown out. From 1962 until 1978, 16 generations of mixed and selected stocks have resulted in a tribe of very beautiful plants. Some have purple, rose, or bronze backgrounds. Most have either black bands or checks, or chestnut-red banding, but some have none. The mixed plants have numbers only, and of course, as offsets occur, they get the number of the parent. Thus, the Ae. 'Pickaninny' you see today was propagated from the plant known as Ae. 'Pickaninny' in 1960.

Orlando, Florida

The article appeared in the July/August 1984 Journal of The Bromeliad Society

## Clone Preservation Project Update - Jan 2010

*Aechmea orlandiana* and *Aechmea fosteriana* were two of the more spectacular plants collected by Mulford and Racine Foster during their trip to Brazil in 1939. Both had prominent dark brown (usually irregular, often incomplete) cross bands on their leaves and interesting shapes. They have commanded the interest of bromeliad collectors since their introduction. The species were crossed to form the hybrid *Aechmea* 'Bert', named after Mulford Foster's son, that was also widely grown. As a bonus, the species were more cold tolerant than many other species of *Aechmea*. Plants in this group are in bud and/or flower at this time of year, making a review particularly appropriate.

I first want to point out that the two species appear to be closely related. Characters they share in common include long, thick stolons that grow in an apparently random pattern (perfectly adapted to life in the trees, but making long-term pot culture near impossible), an ovary (the part of the flower that matures into the fruit) with a compressed and often irregular shape, petals with tips that never spread, and filaments (the normally slender stalks that hold the pollen-bearing anthers) compressed and wider than the anthers themselves. The appearance of the filaments and their relationship with the flower petals set these two species apart from all other species I have examined, although I have not studied nearly enough species to do more than suggest a possible relationship.

Living plants of both species were successfully transported from Brazil to Orlando (not a given during the days when shipping was carried out primarily by boat) where Foster and friends grew and distributed them. *Aechmea orlandiana* was much more widely grown than *Aechmea fosteriana* during the early days of the BSI, showing up in the catalogs of Alberts and Merkle, Roehrs and California Jungle Gardens by the early 1960's. This was apparently due to the greater ease of producing viable seeds and raising the resulting seedlings in bulk for the former species.

*Aechmea orlandiana* forms a relatively small rosette, usually under 1 foot (30 cm) tall. Leaves are thin with a shiny surface and have very long, dark marginal spines. These spines, despite their

prominence, are quite soft, making it a relatively safe plant to work around, even without gloves. At the junction between the leaf blade and sheath, the leaf margins are usually wavy. As far as I am aware, the dark cross bands are only found on the lower surface of the leaves. The species also is notable for its tightly packed, orange-red inflorescence. Individual branches of flowers are largely covered by wide primary bracts. These branches are tightly pressed together, and individual flowers are tightly pressed to their branches. A floral bract is tightly

wrapped around each flower. This bract reaches nearly the tip of the sepals. The sepals are very thick, especially at their base (it is quite difficult to remove them). All visible parts of the inflorescence, other than the petals, have the same color. Petals are white or a light yellow with white margins.

Plants originally described as *Aechmea orlandiana* in 1941 had the dark cross banding we typically associate with the species. The photograph used as the frontispiece of 'Brazil Orchid of the Tropics' by Mulford and Racine Foster shows this clearly (a print of this photograph is also on the type specimen of *Aechmea orlandiana*). In 1986, Edmundo Pereira and Elton Leme described a plant without any cross banding, but otherwise indistinguishable, as *Aechmea chantinii* subspecies *belloi* (Bradea 4(34): 266).

Despite the long history of cultivation and the enduring popularity of *Aechmea orlandiana* (and, especially, the long history of propagation by seed) relatively few cultivars have been recorded. The first, and still the best in terms of color, was *Aechmea orlandiana* 'Ensign'. This albomarginated form was found among seedlings grown by Edgar W Ensign, who grew many plants from seeds provided by Foster. For brightness of coloration, this cultivar is still unmatched. Plants grown in lower light levels with lots of fertilizer have an extremely strong contrast between the dark green leaf center and the white margins with the typical brown splotching. In higher light levels with less food, the margins take on a brilliant pink color. The pink color is heightened where the brown splotches of the crossbands intersect with the chlorophyll-free margin of the leaf. Unfortunately, the variegation is unstable. The white margins tend to increase in width for pups later than the first. Once started along this path, the plants inexorably lose more of the chlorophyll-bearing tissue until they produce too little food to survive. Sometimes, even the first pup comes out with widening margins, so it is not always possible to get even one well-variegated pup. The only safe way to grow this cultivar is to keep a group of perhaps 10 plants. Then you can be reasonably confident of harvesting 10 well-variegated pups. There is also a decent chance that you could produce a small surplus of well-variegated pups for sale or trade.

*Aechmea orlandiana* 'Reverse Ensign' apparently arose from the same source. It has a much more stable variegation than 'Ensign', but the colors never spill into the pink tones, so the plant is never as spectacular. Another variegated form *Aechmea orlandiana* 'Gold Tone' was introduced by Dennis Cathcart (under *Tropiflora* number 2324). In this plant, the variegation is stable, but much less distinct, even hard to see at certain times, but giving a modified color to the plant.

*This article and more may be found at [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org)*

## Meeting Minutes- Bromeliad Society of Central Florida — 15 February, 2017

The meeting was opened by VP Marilyn Howser who introduced our guest speaker, Jay Thurrott.

### Program:

Jay Thurrott, long time bromeliad enthusiast and multiple society office holder, gave the presentation “Bromeliads A, B, Cs”, confirming once again that there is always something that we don’t know! He had great feeding, watering, and pest control tips that were especially helpful for those of us that are beginners. Some basic general information rounded out his talk, including some interesting historical background. A wonderful presentation that made me think twice about my watering habits...maybe I just like to be out in the garden and my bromeliads don’t really need a drink!

After a brief break the meeting was called to order by President Mike Saunders.

VP Marilyn Howser reminded members about a few events that are quickly coming upon us:

- McCrory’s Sunny Hill Nursery Tour  
A field trip to the nursery is planned along with the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Please join for an interesting tour of their facility!
- The March 15<sup>th</sup> BSCF Meeting will have speaker Nick Bethmann discussing everything we always wanted to know about *Aechmea Orlandiana*...the history, the controversies, and the great cultivars.
- Special Field Trip!  
We’re having a very special field trip to Betsy McCrory’s house on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Betsy has been busy preparing to sell her home and is holding a special scavenger hunt for the bromeliads on her property! Come prepared with tools to cut through tough growth...machetes are completely a good idea along with the regular loppers, pruning shears, pruning saws, etc. One might want to wear long pants and boots as there may be some snakes...a great chance for those of us with bromeliad hunting in our veins! We’ll be planning a lunch somewhere in the area, more information to come.
- On Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup>, Bud Martin will be the special host of the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting!  
The meeting will include a slide show on popular bromeliads over the years as well as an exploration of the society’s history. All BSCF members are welcome to come and join in the celebration! The meeting starts at 2:00 pm. [www.bromeliads.club](http://www.bromeliads.club)

### Old Business:

Minutes from the January meeting were approved.

Betsy gave the Treasurer’s Report and the report was filed for audit.

An update from Leu Gardens about the Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale:

Betsy has heard from Tracey that the BSCF booth is moving over to the antique rose area this year. Also, information on the time to meet Evan McCrory at the Fashion Square Mall Sears parking lot on Friday to load the truck will be coming to everyone via email.

BSCF Website: we're still looking for a member or members that want to be involved in creating a BSCF website! Please contact Karen Steinberg if interested. Tremendous personal technological growth experience opportunity!

**New Business:**

Mead Gardens will be having their GROWvember Fall Plant Sale again this year, on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup>. The set up starts at 8:00 am on Friday; the sale opens to the public at 1:00 pm. There is also an evening Preview event from 6:30–7:00 pm on Friday with food and drinks – an opportunity to mingle with all the other vendors and special guests of the Garden! Saturday the sale is open to the public from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. John Boardman made a motion to have a booth at the event.

Penny Bullard seconded the motion.

The motion was carried.

**Auction, Raffle and Door Prizes:**

John Boardman donated xNEOPHYTUM 'Cosmic Blast' for auction! Wow – a beautiful bigeneric with pinkmarginated green foliage. Penny Bullard was the auction winner and got herself quite the deal!

Many thanks to John for his donation, we can clearly see that he indeed loves variegated/striated foliage, and for good reason.

Raffle and door prize tickets were drawn, lots of goodies!

**Show and Tell:** Pam Fletcher brought a beautiful Cryptanthus 'Elaine' that could have turned anyone into a pink lover! She also brought a big Tillandsia utriculata that fell out of a tree on her property, really great to see one of our Florida native bromeliads looking so healthy.

John Boardman brought a Neoregelia 'Shebang', another beauty for the lovers of pink, and a very distinctive Vriesea 'Saundersii' that gets a yellow inflorescence. He also brought a Nidularium rojo striated and a Neoregelia variegated 'Lencana', both of which I have gotten the names incorrect on – when I looked them up for correct spelling it was obvious that my notes were not correct. Sorry John, next month I'll take better notes to give your fabulous plants the respect they deserve.

Mike McMahon brought in a really lovely David Shiigi Vriesea hybrid that made us all drool, so beautiful.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Steinberg

**Upcoming Events:**

**March 19, 2017** (Sunday at 2:00 pm)

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society's Special 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting  
Sanford Garden Club

200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford, FL 32773 [www.bromeliads.club](http://www.bromeliads.club)

**March 31–April 2, 2017**

Tropiflora's 17th Annual Spring Festival  
Free parking and admission  
3530 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota 34243

**April 8, 2017** (Saturday, time to come!)

Special Field Trip...the McCrory Scavenger Hunt!  
Address and more information to come.

**April 22–23, 2017**

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Spring Sale  
Sanford Garden Club  
200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford, FL 32773 [www.bromeliads.club](http://www.bromeliads.club)

**April 22–23, 2017**

Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Show and Sale  
Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden  
10901 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables 33156

**May 12–14, 2017**

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Annual Mother's Day Show and Sale  
Fashion Square Mall  
3201 E. Colonial Drive, Orlando FL 32803

Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 7-9 PM at Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments & door prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter — all for only \$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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## **March 2017**

Next Meeting Wednesday, March 15, 2017