



# FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES

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Billbergia Eloise



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**DEADLINES FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS ARE:**

- January 15 for February issue**
- April 15th for May issue**
- July 15 for August issue**
- October 15th for November issue**

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**FRONT COVER: *Billbergia Eloise***

Photo by Carol Wolfe





## 2023 FCBS OFFICERS & MEMBERS



**Sandy Burnett**  
2023 Chairman  
Gainesville  
Bromeliad Society

Calandra Thurrott  
2023 Secretary  
Florida East Coast Bromeliad  
Society



**Greg Kolejeski**  
2023 Vice Chairman  
Seminole Bromeliad &  
Tropical Plant Society

**Sudi Hipsley**  
2023 Treasurer  
Seminole Bromeliad &  
Tropical Plant Society



### VOTING REPRESENTATIVES of the FCBS:

**Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay**  
Tom Wolfe & Carol Wolfe

**Bromeliad Society of Central Florida**  
Betsy McCrory & Mike Saunders

**Bromeliad Society of Palm Beaches**  
Tom Ramiccio & Nick Bethmann

**Bromeliad Society of South Florida**  
Michael Michalski & Patty Gonzalez

**Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society**  
Vicky Chirnside & Julie Stein

**Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society**  
Calandra Thurrott & Jack Dunlop

**Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society**  
Susan Sousa & Richard Poole

**Gainesville Bromeliad Society**  
Sandy Burnett & Steven Provost

**Sarasota Bromeliad Society**  
Marian Kendall & Jason Mellica

**Seminole Bromeliad &  
Tropical Plant Society**  
Sudi Hipsley & Greg Kolojeski

### COMMITTEES MEMBERS:

*The following Committee Members and guests have a standing invitation to FCBS Meetings as Non-Voting Members unless serving in the dual role of Member Society Representative.*

**Al Muzzel Weevil Fund:**  
Tom Wolfe, Chairman  
Richard Poole, Nick Bethmann

**FCBS Editorial Panel:**  
Carol Wolfe, Editor  
Tom Wolfe, Assistant Editor  
Calandra Thurrott, Copy Editor

**FCBS Roster Maintenance:**  
Susan Sousa

**FCBS Webmaster:**  
Michael Andreas, [Webmaster@FCBS.org](mailto:Webmaster@FCBS.org)

**BSI Officers from Florida:**  
Gregory Kolojeski, Vice President  
Barbara Partagas, Secretary

**BSI Directors from Florida:**  
Rick Ryals, Alex Bello Alan Herndon &  
Richard Poole



*I Love Bromeliads... by Carol Wolfe, Editor*

Greetings FCBS members,

Happy New Year! 2023!!

The new year started off full speed and I am amazed at how quickly February got here! It seems impossible that football season and the Superbowl are already over with, the azaleas are in full bloom, annuals are popping up from the ground and springtime is here! You know it is spring in Florida when everything is coated with yellow pollen!

Our new FCBS officers are provided from each Florida bromeliad society on a rotating basis so that each society has an opportunity to serve. Our officers this year are: Chair: Sandy Burnett, Gainesville Bromeliad Society; Vice Chair: Greg Kolojeski, Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society; Secretary: Caloosahatee Bromeliad Society; Treasurer Sudi Hipsley, Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society (Permanent position). Welcome to our officers and we look forward to your leadership at our meetings. The FCBS meets three times a year on the 4th Saturday of February, June, and October. The February meeting will be hosted by Tampa on February 25, 2023, the June 24, 2023 meeting will be hosted by the Caloosahatee Bromeliad Society, and October 28, 2023 will be hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida.

Coming in 2024

**BSI WORLD CONFERENCE—May 22 to May 25, 2024**

Coming in 2024

**West Palm Beach Marriott, West Palm Beach, Florida**

It only seems a short time ago that Sarasota had a successful conference and already the 2024 BSI World Conference is well underway. President Greg Kolojeski has announced the 2024 Conference will be held at the West Palm Beach Marriott in West Palm, Florida on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 through Saturday, May 25, 2024! He has secured the contract with the hotel and planning the events are well underway!

Next Event 2023

**FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza July 28—29, 2023**

Next Event 2023

**[www.fcbsextravaganza.org](http://www.fcbsextravaganza.org)**

**The event is to be held at the West Palm Beach Marriott, [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)**

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

The next event on our Calendar is the FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza hosted by the Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches. Chairman, Tom Ramiccio, has been busy planning speakers and plant sales, Auctions, and fun, fun, fun! You will be receiving registration forms soon, so complete and return them for a fun-filled July weekend with lots of bromeliads!

The bromeliad world has lost two of its valued members since the last newsletter: Linda Sheetz, Editor and member of the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society passed away on November 10, 2022. Linda will be greatly missed. She did an excellent job on the FWCBS newsletter and provided valuable information to the members.

Dr. J. Howard Frank passed away on January 21, 2023. Dr. Frank will be greatly missed. He worked tirelessly for many years on the *Metamasius callizona* weevil project with the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. He made several trips to Central America seeking adult weevil and larvae to bring back for research purposes.

Thanks to Dr. Terrie Bert for sharing her article on Scientific taxonomic nomenclature! My thanks to Tom Wolfe and Calandra Thurrott for their help with the newsletter! I couldn't do it without you!



## BROMELIADS – The Root of the Problem

By Tom Wolfe

When rooting Neo. fireballs or other small neoregelias, try placing them in a tray of moist perlite for about a month. By doing so they very seldom lose their color. Then place them in your regular bromeliad mix and don't shake off the perlite that clings to the roots. This will maintain foliage color which is essential for neos.

The best time to root bromeliads is in early spring when days are beginning to lengthen. However, some plants are bloomed out and spent in the fall or winter months and are busy producing pups. This no problem taking the pups off and potting them when they are one-third the size of the mother plant or larger. Add a small pinch (1/4 teaspoon) of fertilizer on the surface of the potting mix. But don't expect much growth to start until March or the first part of April.

If you have a rare plant that is spent and the pup or pups have been removed, try the "empty pot culture." Place the spent plant upright in an empty clay pot for ballest and hopefully it will produce another pup or two. Place the pot in normal conditions for light, air, and water and check periodically for new pups.

Sometimes a plant, especially a neoregelia, will continue growing without blooming thereby producing a trunk 'caudex' which may look unattractive. If you cut of the plant at ground level and place the plant in new mix, the plant will produce new roots and continue to grow. I had an *Alcantarea imperialis* that had been growing for about fifteen years producing a 24" trunk. One cold night the bottom portion of the trunk froze. I removed the frozen part, dug a new hole and planted the good portion of the trunk in the hole. It continued to grow as if nothing had happened.

If you decide to mount a plant, select one that is one-third to one-half grown with no roots or very few roots. When the plant begins to root, it will root to the mount. A fully grown plant has already produced all of its roots; therefore, it will never attach to the mount until the pups mature enough to do so.



Cryptantus "Black Mystic"  
Miami Show—Maureen Adelman  
Photo by Carol Wolfe



2022	SPEAKERS BUREAU		Information provided by representatives
Last Name	First Name	Title of Program	
Beardsley	Brad	<i>Vermicomposting made simple.</i>	
Beaudoin	Steve	<i>Mini-Neoregelia</i>	
Bert	Terrie	<i>Growing Beautiful Bromeliads in Central Florida</i>	
Bethman	Nick	<i>Hybridizing</i>	
Block	Jeffrey, Dr.	<i>An evening with Jeffrey Block, slideshow ...</i>	
Boardman	John	<i>1)The Natives Are Coming; 2) Catopsis;3) Neoregelias- Variations of Variegation</i>	
Byram	Steve	<i>Made in the shade - Design on a dime where the sun don't shine</i>	
Cathcart	Dennis	<i>A Naturalist Visits Cuba Koulev-Adventures of an American Snakehunter</i>	
Folk	Marty	<i>Growing Bromeliads: Secrets Revealed From Thirty Years of Trial and Error</i>	
Green	Karl, Dr.	<i>Everything you always wanted to know about mounting Tillandsias.</i>	
Hammer	Roger	<i>Native &amp; Florida friendly exotics attracting hummingbirds and butterflies.</i>	
Johnston	Dave	<i>Basic Bromeliad Culture Bi-Generics, Part I</i>	
Jones	Chip	<i>Skotak Hybrids</i>	
Lemieux	Ray	<i>Growing Terrestrial Bromeliads</i>	
Magnuson	Lee	<i>Hybridizing And Tips &amp; Tricks For Bromeliads</i>	
Marion	Pam	<i>Bromeliad Nomenclature &amp; Labelling</i>	
McMahon	Mike	<i>Tillandsias</i>	
Mellica	Jason	<i>Hybridizing especially with Neo. Tiger Mounting Stoloniferous Bromeliads on Driftwood</i>	
Michalski	Mike	<i>Trip to Costa Rica &amp; Visit to Chester Skotac</i>	
Morell	Craig	<i>Director of Kampong, Selection &amp; placement of Bromeliads in the landscape.</i>	
Pessaro	Martha	<i>Weevil Threat to Bromeliads</i>	
Poole	Richard	<i>Pitcarnias</i>	
Saunders	Mike	<i>Bromeliad Word Potpourri</i>	
Smedley	Bob	<i>Plant pots and how to make them</i>	
Stokes	Ken	<i>Bromeliads in general a good intro speech Diverse Growth habits of Bromeliads Common Bromeliad Defects</i>	
Thurrott	Calandra	<i>Australia and New Zealand, A Photo Journal</i>	
Warfield	Anthony	<i>Cryptanthus</i>	
Watkins	Teresa	<i>Designing up in the air</i>	
Wolfe	Tom & Carol	<i>Bromeliads in Paradise</i>	



# Calendar of Events

March 11-12, 2023  
Leu Gardens Plant Sale  
1920 N. Forest Ave.  
Orlando, FL  
9 - 5

March 18, 2023  
Plant Fair Volusia County Fairgrounds  
3100 New York Ave.  
DeLand, FL  
8:30 – noon (cash or check only)

March 18-19, 2023  
Annual Spring Garden Festival  
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens  
4700 SW 58th Dr.  
Gainesville, FL  
9 – 5 Garden Admission: \$10 each day

April 8, 2023  
The Garden Club at Palm Coast Spring Festival & Plant Sale  
Flagler/Palm Coast High School  
5500 E. Highway  
100 Palm Coast, FL  
9 – 4

April 14-15, 2023  
Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Plant Sale  
200 Fairmont Dr.  
Sanford, FL  
8:30—4:00

April 15—16, 2023  
USF Botanical Gardens Spring Sale  
12210 USF Pine Drive  
Tampa, FL 33612  
April 14-15, 2023  
Hours: Sat. 9 – 3, Sunday 10 – 2

July 28-29, 2023  
FCBS Extravaganza 2023  
West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel  
1001 Okeechobee Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, FL  
fcbsextravaganza.org  
Register by April 30 (\$150)  
Plant Sale open to the public July 29th 9 - 4

August 19-20, 2023  
Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Plant Sale  
200 Fairmont Dr.  
Sanford, FL  
8:30 – 4

October 14—15, 2023  
USF Botanical Gardens Fall Sale  
12210 USF Pine Drive  
Tampa, FL 33612  
October 14-15, 2023  
Hours: Sat. 9 – 3, Sunday 10 – 2

May 22—25, 2024  
World Bromeliad Conference 2024  
West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel  
1001 Okeechobee Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, FL



*Cryptanthus* 'Pink Starlight', Miami Show by L. Weyrich  
Photo by Carol Wolfe



## THE BROMELIAD GUILD OF TAMPA BAY Celebrating our 60TH Anniversary on December 2023

The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay was chartered in December of 1963 with ten charter members and met in the home and nursery of Ervin and Velve Wurthmann for the first three years. Then they began meeting in members homes until the numbers increased and there was not enough room to continue home meetings. After that, the club met in several different garden club facilities. For the next 18 years the club met at the Tampa Garden Center and participated in shows with the Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs.

The club moved to the Tampa Garden Club in 1994 and met there until October 15, 2012. The club was paying \$175 per month for the 4 hour rental and it was raised to \$280 per month which was financially prohibitive for a non-profit group.

Thanks to Dottie Kellogg, one of our BGTB members, the monthly meetings were moved to Christ the King Catholic Church at a \$50 per month rental for four hours. The club made its home there until the pandemic hit in 2020 and the facility was closed for many months forcing a move to the American Legion Building. The rent was reasonable until the building was remodeled and then the rent more than tripled. We were able to secure a new location with a one year lease at the Woodmont Garden Club building at a reasonable rate and our first meeting there will be February 20, 2023.

The club will celebrate its 60th Anniversary in December of this year and is still going strong. We have had and now have a lot of excellent officers, members, newsletter editors, and committee chairs who have dedicated their time and talents to the club. Our memberships lists rings like a "Who's Who List" including presidents of corporations, college professors, nursery owners, lawyers, doctors, nurses, postal workers, furniture designers, accountants, secretaries, policeman, firemen, housewives, engineers, realtors, landscapers, managers and people from almost every walk of life. It is a privilege to meet and get to know people through the world of horticulture, that otherwise, you would never have the opportunity to meet. The "love of gardening and plants" truly brings people of diversity together.

Our members have been active in the community as well giving programs to garden clubs, circles, and other interested parties. The BGTB members are well known for their active participation in the community, in the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and the Bromeliad Society International. Unfortunately too many of these members have passed away, some moved away and even moved out of the country, and others cannot attend due to their health. There are too many to name here but especially those founders, who have all passed away, we owe a gratitude or thanks.

One of the highlights of the club's history was the World Bromeliad Conference held at Saddlebrook's Golf and Tennis Resort in June of 1992. This was a very successful conference with five hundred and eighty attendees.

The creative juices of all the committee people were flowing and we had a contest for the best five "Safari" outfits with grand prizes furnished by Bromeliad Society of South Florida. The opening buffet was outstanding and a 5-piece "Carrib Band" provided the music for dancing after dinner. We had complimentary coffee in the morning, a variety of cookies and drinks in the afternoon, and two full meals and a "Tea and Crumpties" included with your registration. The banquet menu was Prime Rib of Beef with all the trimmings and dancing music was provided by "The Martin Manor" a five piece band playing 50's and 60's music.

We had three lovely properties on the home tours and the following week, fourteen post conference homes and nurseries around the state were open for the registrants to visit.

Ulrich and Ursula Baensch introduced their new book, "Blooming Bromeliads" with 1,000 color photos and published in English, Spanish and German. It became one of the best books used to identify bromeliads and within a few years new books were sold out and it was only available as a used book.

In addition to our Keynote Speaker, Harry Luther, and our Banquet Speaker, Roberto Burle-Marx, from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, we had fourteen seminar speakers: Dr. Jeff Block, David J. Christiano, P.F., Nat DeLeon, Dr. Mark Dimmitt, Geoffrey C. Johnson, Michael Le Vasseur,



Thomas U. Lineham, Bud Martin, Dr. Florence Plato, Herb Plever, Dr. Robert W. Read, Robert Steiger, Dr. Louis Wilson, Dr. Sam and Hattie Lou Smith.

We had elaborate exhibits from six of the ten Florida Societies: BSSF, Caloosahatchee, FWCBS, Sarasota, Seminole and West Pasco, sixteen commercial sellers and eight commercial exhibits including three exhibits from Belgium. We had sixteen contributors for Awards From Societies, twenty-three Awards From Individuals, thirteen awards given In Memory of; nine awards given In Honor of; and numerous Special Acknowledgements to individuals and business that contributed to the conference.

The favorite feature of the conference was Dave and Mary Fulkerson's full-sized, perfectly proportioned elephant. Many of the members helped Dave and Mary put coats of papier-mache skin on the beast! After the conference, "Neo the Elephant" was taken to the Florida State Fair where visitors lined up on each side of the elephant to have their pictures taken. Not only did they return home with their pictures of the elephant but also many pictures of bromeliads! Dave also produced 25 giant size butterflies, designed by a local artist, which were hung in the show area of the World Conference and enjoyed by everyone.

For the first time at a WBC, two very hard working women were honored. Eva Racine Foster, wife of Mulford Foster and co-worker on the plant collecting trips to Central and South America, and Velva Gooding Wurthmann, founder of Velva Deans Tropicals, an interiorscaping firm in Tampa. She was known in Tampa as the "Office Garden Lady". Both women passed away in 1991, just a year before the conference but were honored with special plaques for their contributions to the bromeliad world.

It was a tremendous army of volunteers working for the club. The conference gave us a big boost in membership and finances. Because of the hard work of the membership, we were able to help finance many projects to benefit the public, the evil weevil fund, the FCBS, and our club.

For over 30 years, the club has put an extensive display in the Florida State Fair in February of each year which is held at the Tampa Fairgrounds. For most of these years, Tom Wolfe was the chairman and in recent years, Steve and Marilyn Byram and Mark and Cheryl Victor have chaired the installation with some beautiful displays.

In the early to middle 1990's, USF Botanical Garden sponsored a spring sale and invited vendors to participate. Each year we participated in the sales. You could purchase almost any kind of plant at these sales including bromeliads. Tom Wolfe and Dave Johnston were the primary sellers which benefitted the club and the Gardens for many years.

Recently, the club voted to change the name of our organization to Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society of Tampa. The name change is in process and primarily to expand our society to reach new members as well as share the other plants that we love in our collection and landscape. It has become more difficult for non-profit groups to obtain rentals for their monthly meetings, (such as we experienced), and some horticulture groups are no longer meeting. We hope these people will feel welcome to join our group under the new name change.

Tampa is one of the fastest growing areas in the country and the metropolitan area of Tampa/St.Petersburg & Clearwater reported 51,000 new residents last year with Tampa reporting 27,000. Many of these 27,000 people will be gardeners and potential bromeliad growers.

We hope to do a better job of social media and get the word out about our monthly meetings. We look forward to celebrating our 60th Anniversary and we have a few months to plan some special activities to celebrate in December.

We have had many wonderful members in the club and there has been a continuous string of Officers and Directors that have successfully led the club and inspired the membership!

## The Inflorescence By Jay Thurrott

(Reprinted September, 2007 Orlandiana)

As a general rule, a bromeliad's inflorescence rises from the center of the rosette of leaves that make up the plant. The group of "embryonic" cells in the center of the cup is referred to as the meristem. This meristem tissue is the source of new leaves as the bromeliad grows but becomes altered in some way when the plant reaches maturity and produces an inflorescence instead of leaves. This is the reason often offered for why most bromeliads only bloom once in their lives. Once the inflorescence is produced, there's no longer meristem tissue to form new leaves and the plant slowly dies.

A bromeliad inflorescence may take a number of different forms. The form alone may be distinctive enough to aid in identification of the plant. This can be erect (upright), pendant (dangling), semi pendant (leaning), or even reflexed (pendant and then recurving back toward the upright). A simple inflorescence would be a single, unbranched stalk, like *Tillandsia bartramii*. *T. utriculata* is an example of a compound inflorescence – one that branches. A digitate inflorescence is one where the attached structures arise from one point and fan outward like fingers. If the inflorescence has closely attached structures on either side of the stalk, we may say that the inflorescence is pinnate – resembling a feather. This type of bloom is often seen in members of the *Vriesea* genus.

**Tillandsia  
fasciculata  
alba**



## **Bromeliad FAQ Will my bromeliad bloom again?**

Most of the bromeliads that people grow only bloom a single time. As the plants grow by adding new leaves from the center, it becomes impossible to continue growth after flowering since the inflorescence blocks new leaf growth. The plants direct their energy into growing new vegetative offsets (pups) from growing buds at the base of the leaves.

Some species of *Dyckia* and *Hechtia* grow lateral inflorescences (from the side rather than the center of the plant). These plants are free to add leaves from the center of original plant continuing its growth (they also pup freely).

Some plants in the uncommonly grown genus *Deuterocohnia* can actually re-bloom on an existing inflorescence. Some can bloom for up to six years on one of these perennial flower spikes.

From [http://www.bsi.org/brom\\_info/FAQ.html](http://www.bsi.org/brom_info/FAQ.html)



*Deuterocohnia brevispicata*

15th World Bromeliad Conference, St. Petersburg, Florida, May 13 - 19, 2002

Shown by  
Tropiflora

Photo courtesy of FCBS web site.  
Photographer: Michael Andreas



Scientific taxonomic nomenclature

By Dr. Terrie Bert

Botanical names are established in the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, an internationally agreed code of rules for naming plants. Botanical names are identified by two words, a genus and a species (a binomial system). A genus unites members within a family which share certain characteristics. Within a genus, individuals of a species share related characteristics. The species name (the epithet) is useful because it may describe some significant aspect of the plant, such as where the species came from originally, its growing habit, its type of leaf or flower color, etc.

Category	Directions	Examples
Genus and subgenus; designate subgenus by subg. and don't capitalize that abbre-	Capitalize and italicize	<i>Neoregelia</i>  <i>Billbergia</i> subg. <i>Helicodea</i>
Intergeneric hybrid	Capitalize, italicize, and put an "X" (not in italics) be-	X <i>Neomea</i>
species	Lower case and italicize	<i>Neoregelia marmorata</i>
Hybrid	Capitalize each important word if the hybrid has a name (like a book title); do not put the hybrid name within single quotes	<i>Neoregelia</i> Blushing Bride <i>Neoregelia</i> Gone with the Wind
Hybrid with formula cross name	Write all names if the hybrid has a formula name; maintain capitalization and punctuation rules	<i>Neoregelia marmorata</i> X <i>carolinae</i> <i>Neoregelia</i> marmorata X Blushing Bride <i>Neoregelia-marmorat</i> X Isabel 'Buckingham' <i>Neoregelia (carolinae</i> X <i>concentrica)</i> X Dexter's Pride <i>Neoregelia (carolinae</i> X <i>concentrica)</i> X ( <i>tristis</i> X Golden Grace) <i>Neoregelia</i> Blue Shadow X <i>concentrica</i> 'Moonshine'
Subspecies	Lower case, include the abbreviation for the category; the abbreviation, ssp., should not be italicized but the	<i>Aechmea orlandiana</i> ssp. <i>belloi</i>
Variety	Lower case, include the abbreviation for the category; the abbreviation, v., should not be italicized but the varietal name should be italicized	<i>Guzmania monostachia</i> v. <i>variegata</i>
Form	Lower case, include the Latin name (forma) for the category; "forma" infrequently is abbreviated f. but is usually spelled out; the word or abbreviation should not be italicized, but the form's scientific name should be italicized	<i>Aechmea weilbachii</i> forma <i>viridisepala</i>
Cultivar	Capitalize and put the name in single quotes; this designation should follow a full scientific or hybrid	<i>Neoregelia</i> Isabel 'Buckingham' designation <i>Neoregelia carolinae</i> 'Thunder' name.

Notes:

Subgenus—the subgenus name is rarely included when writing the species name. But when it is written, here are the rules: When there is more than one subgenus, one of the subgenera has the same name as the genus, but that subgenus is rarely written. Example: *Billbergia* has two subgenera: subg. *Billbergia* and subg. *Helicodea*. The names of plants belonging to *Billbergia* subg. *Billbergia* are written simply as *Billbergia* + the species name; e.g., *Billbergia nutans*.



Plants of the other subspecies may include the subgenus name; e.g., *Billbergia* subg. *Helicodea stenopetala*, but most of the time, the subspecies name is not included, e.g., *Billbergia stenopetala*.

Intergeneric hybrid—these plants are the product of hybridization between plants belonging to two different genera. The specific name should not be a species name, but should be a secular name; e.g., X *Neomea Nebula*, X *Androaechmea O'Rourke*.

Species—if a species name is not known, the name of the plant can be designated by its genus and the abbreviation for species; e.g., *Neoregelia* sp. When more than one species is involved, the abbreviation for multiple species is spp., e.g., a group of *Neoregelia* species could be referred to as *Neoregelia* spp. A plant is given a species name when the plant is formally described as a species in a reputable scientific journal. That name cannot be changed unless the plant is later identified as belonging to a different, formerly named species or genus. As long as the plant's name remains the same, the spelling of the plant cannot be changed, and this includes hyphenated names. A list of bromeliad taxa in the BSI website includes incorrect spellings of names, principally for species named after Hispanic scientists or dignitaries or given the full names of scientists. You need to be aware of this mistake and not follow it. Examples include *Pitcairnia burle-marxii*, and *Neoregelia lyman-smithii*, which are incorrectly written *Pitcairnia burlemarxii* and *Neoregelia lymansmithii*.

Hybrid—until a few decades ago, hybrids were given Latin-sounding names, preceded by a lower-case x, and they were italicized; some of these hybrids are still in existence; e.g., *Vriesea x intermedia*.

Interspecific hybrids are made between two different plants within the same genus. They can be made from two distinct species, hybrids, or cultivars; between a species and hybrid or cultivar; or between a hybrid and a cultivar. Basically, hybrids can be made between any combination of two different plants within the same genus, as well as between any two plants of different genera (see Intergeneric hybrid, above).

In bromeliad nomenclature, there is great confusion about secular names. Hybrids, which should not be placed within single quotes, are being written with single quotes (e.g., *Neoregelia* 'Black Knight'). This is incorrect terminology. *Neoregelia* Black Knight is the correct terminology. Cultivars, which are different from hybrids, are written in single quotes, precisely to distinguish them from hybrids. A hybrid is a cross between two distinctive plants. A cultivar is a special form of a plant. Because of the confusion about single quotes, at this time the only way to distinguish most hybrids from cultivars is to look up the name in the BSI Cultivar Registry website.

How did this confusion start? It started with Don Beadle's book *The Bromeliad Cultivar Registry*, June 1998. Don decided that all hybrids were actually cultivars because hybrids were selected from a *grex* (a group of plants that has arisen from the same parents, which were hybridized), so Don put single quotes around all names that he included in his book, regardless of whether they were hybrids or cultivars. How do I know this? I was cultivating bromeliads at Don's place when he was writing that book and often spoke with him about it.

Hybrid with formula cross name—using proper nomenclature rules, both parental plant names are included in the plant's name; the name of the female plant (the one pollinated) is first. Explanation of the plants crossed to generate the hybrids give in the above table: *Neoregelia marmorata* X *carolinae*—two species were crossed

*Neoregelia marmorata* X Blushing Bride—a species and a hybrid were crossed

*Neoregelia marmorata* X Isabel 'Buckingham'—a species and a cultivar ('Buckingham') of the hybrid *Neoregelia* Isabel were crossed

*Neoregelia (carolinae X concentrica)* X Dexter's Pride—a hybrid with a formula name (*Neoregelia carolinae* X *concentrica*) and a hybrid (*Neoregelia* Dexter's Pride) were crossed

*Neoregelia (carolinae X concentrica)* X (*tristis* X Golden Grace)—a hybrid between two species (*Neoregelia carolinae* and *Neoregelia concentrica*) and a hybrid between a species (*Neoregelia tristis*) and a hybrid (*Neoregelia* Golden Grace) were crossed



*Neoregelia* Blue Shadow X *concentrica* 'Moonshine'—a hybrid (*Neoregelia* Blue Shadow) and a cultivar of *Neoregelia concentrica* ('Moonshine') were crossed

About parentheses—these are important in the names of complex hybrids because they tell you the hybrids with formula names that were used in the cross. For example, for the hybrid *Neoregelia* (*carolinae* X *concentrica*) X (*tristis* X Golden Grace), you would have no idea about the identities of the two parent plants without the parentheses. You would not be able to identify the true parental hybrids. This is particularly true when a plant with a formula name is crossed with a species or hybrid. For example, without parentheses, the hybrid *Neoregelia* (*carolinae* X *concentrica*) X Dexter's Pride could be construed as being a hybrid between either *Neoregelia* (*carolinae* X *concentrica*) and *Neoregelia*

Dexter's Pride or as being a hybrid between *Neoregelia carolinae* and the hybrid *Neoregelia* (*concentrica* X Dexter's Pride).

Subspecies—this taxonomic category ranks below species and is usually applied to a permanent geographically isolated race of plants within the species.

Variety—this taxonomic category ranks below subspecies or species and designates a group differing from others of the same subspecies or species in minor but permanent or heritable characteristics.

Form—this is the lowest taxonomic category recognized and usually designates a group of plants with a noticeable morphological deviation from the defined species morphology.

About taxonomic terms below species—these terms are rather arbitrary and do not have formal scientific definitions generally recognized worldwide. Sometimes, the choice of which term to use is related to the geographic extent of the variant type and its ubiquity.

Cultivar— a cultivar is developed from a naturally occurring species or hybrid and is maintained under cultivation. A cultivar is a plant that one or more people have selected for its desired traits, such as albomargination, striation, or variegation, and that will retain those traits when propagated. The special physical characteristics are distinct from the characteristics of the parental plant. Most bromeliad cultivars arise from purposeful human manipulation, but some originate from wild or cultivated plants that have generated distinctive characteristics through pupping or propagation via seeds. The special characteristics of the cultivar must be inherited in subsequent generations to warrant the cultivar name. If those characteristics disappear, the plant no longer can be designated as that particular cultivar. Similarly, the designation of a particular hybrid, variety, or form cannot be applied to a plant that has lost the special characteristics defined for that plant.

