

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY
1954-2019

Celebrating over 65 Years in Bromeliads

fwcbs.org



February 2019 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 5, 2019; 7:30 pm
Location: Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

PROGRAM

Ray Lemieux from Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota will talk to us about the genus *Tillandsia*, and he will have with him a bundle of plants to demonstrate the diversity within the genus. He will discuss their native habitats, growing techniques, and light and feeding requirements.

Ray is the succulent and terrestrial bromeliads in-house specialist at Tropiflora and is a member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society, the Bromeliad Society International, the Central Florida Cactus & Succulent Society, and the Cactus & Succulent Society of America. He has been a bromeliad and succulent grower for about 25 years, and has traveled to Mexico, Venezuela, Madagascar and Singapore for the nursery to help collect and build a world-class succulent collection there.

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

In his presentation titled *Cryptanthus: Wonderful, Overlooked Bromeliads*, **Alton Lee** discussed how this genus is often dismissed among bromeliads lovers because it is so different from other genera, but that it is their difference that makes them appealing to true *Cryptanthus* lovers. Below is a summary of Alton's presentation.

- Nurseries often sell them erroneously as succulents.
- *Cryptanthus* are also called 'earth stars' because of the star-like shape typical of most on them, which is different from most other bromeliads.
- They come in a variety of shapes, colors, and patterns, as seen in the photographs below.



- They usually have serrated leaves, with wavy margins, that are from 3 to 6 inches in length. Some can be up to 12 inches.
- They can have sharp zigzag patterns and are usually strongly banded or frosted with gray, white, or bronze, and many have pink to red background color.
- They do not have a bloom stalk but rather have small white, light green or pink flowers in the center of the plant.
- The name 'Cryptanthus' comes from the Greek words *cryptos* meaning 'hidden' and *anthos* meaning 'flower'.
- They are a terrestrial plant and the growing medium should be one that drains well but retains some moisture.
- They have a shallow root system and are best grown in a shallow pot with a wide mouth. Do not under pot.
- They are endemic to the Brazilian rain forest where they grow on the forest floor, protected from the sun by the canopy.
- They like bright light, but not full sun. Ideal light would be indirect, such as a north-facing window.
- Their preferred temperature ranges from 45 to 90 degrees F.
- They grow well indoors and in terrariums and can be used for ground cover where the climate is amenable to that.
- Fertilize as needed, typically February to November, with a 14-14-14 fertilizer.
- They need good air circulation in their habitat.
- When they are grown in a well ventilated area they are seldom bothered by disease or insects. Otherwise, common pests are scale and mealy bugs.

Below are some members' pictures that show examples of the varieties of Cryptanthus available.

From Dick Dailey:



Crypt. 'Key Lime'



Crypt. 'Maggie Lee'

From Nicole and Franne Matwijczyk:



Cryptanthus 'Alternating Current'



Cryptanthus beuckeri



Cryptanthus colnagoi



Cryptanthus glaziovii

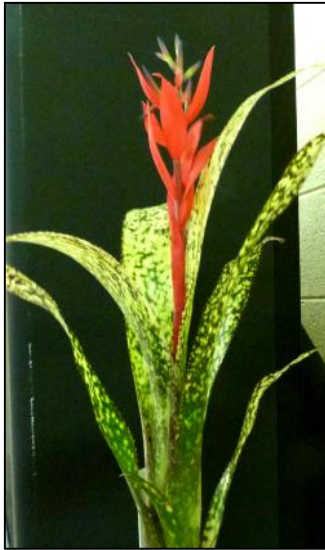


Cryptanthus argyrophyllus

SHOW AND TELL

- John Edwards *Billbergia* 'Casa Blanca' ('Caramba' X 'Afterglow'; photo below)
- Barb Gardner *Cryptanthus* 'Red Eye Gravy' ('Sunburst' X ('Red Cabbage' x 'Pele'); photo below)
Tillandsia ionantha (photo below)
- Monika Hale *Billbergia* species or hybrid
- Gary Lund *Hechtia rosea* (photo below). While this *Hechtia* is terrestrial like all other *Hechtias*, it has red flowers and not white ones like most other *Hechtias*.
- Franne Matwijczyk *Aechmea bromeliifolia* cross
Billbergia hybrid
- Jose Rosado *Tillandsia harrisii* (photo below)
- Linda Sheetz *Neoregelia* 'Royal Beauty' ((*carolinae* variegated x *carolinae* "pink") x 'Royal Cordovan'; photo below)
Neoregelia 'Groves's Tangerine' (cv. of unknown parentage; photo below)
Billbergia sanderiana (photo below). The late Don Beadle used this species in many of his *Billbergia* hybrids.
Tillandsia limbata (photo below)
- Susan Sousa *Aechmea bromeliifolia*
Billbergia hybrid

SHOW AND TELL PLANTS



Billbergia 'Casa Blanca'



Cryptanthus 'Red Eye Gravy'



Tillandsia ionantha



Tillandsia harrisii



Hechtia rosea



Neoregelia 'Royal Beauty'



Neoregelia 'Grants's Tangerine'



Billbergia sanderiana



Tillandsia limbata

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2019

February 9-10, Edison Spring Garden Festival

Edison and Ford Winter Estates, Ft. Myers, FL

(www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/events/annual-events/edison-garden-festival/)

March 9-10, Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale

Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, FL (<http://www.leugardens.org>)

March 30-31, Tampa Garden Fest Plant Sale (formerly GreenFest Plant Sale)

Tampa Garden Club, Tampa, FL (tampagardenclub.com/tampagardenfest)

April 5-7, Tropiflora's Spring Festival

Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 (tropiflora.com)

April 13-14, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (cas.usf.edu/garden)

April 13-14, Seminole Bromeliad Society and Tropical Plant Society Annual Spring Sale

The Garden Club of Sanford, Sanford, FL (www.sanfordgardenclub.com/sbtps)

April 27-28, Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL (stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb)

May 10-12, Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Annual Mother's Day Show and Sale

Fashion Square Mall, Orlando, FL (www.bromeliadorslando.com/activities)

August 17-18, Seminole Bromeliad Society and Tropical Plant Society Annual Fall Sale

The Garden Club of Sanford, Sanford, FL (www.sanfordgardenclub.com/sbtps)

September 20-21, Bromeliad Extravaganza®

Orlando, FL, Hosted by Bromeliad Society of Central Florida (www.BromeliadX.com)

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