

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2020

Celebrating over 66 Years in Bromeliads

fwcbs.org



April 2020 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date: ~~Tuesday, April 7~~ CANCELLED

The FWCBS Board of Directors has cancelled our April meeting due to health concerns associated with the coronavirus/COVID-19 epidemic and government-mandated precautions. Our Board of Directors will review the situation later this month and make a determination about the May meeting at that time. In any event, our Annual Bromeliad auction will not take place in May.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

Dr Terrie Bert talked to us about how to prepare bromeliads for a BSI judged show. Her intention was to encourage us to consider entering our bromeliads in the judged show at the BSI World Bromeliad Conference that was scheduled to take place this coming June in Sarasota. Due to the coronavirus/COVID-19 epidemic, the 2020 WBC has since been postponed to June 2021. Terrie's message was not in vain, however, as we can still apply what we learned and enter plants in the show next year as well as shows at any other time.

Terrie had about 15 to 20 of her own plants with her that she used to demonstrate how to prepare a bromeliad for a show. After going through all of them she ended up with only two or three that she felt were likely to be show worthy – a lesson that, try as we may, not all bromeliads can be ribbon winners.

While there are a number of categories in which one can enter plants, the tips below that Terrie gave us apply to entering all bromeliads.

- Look through your bromeliads and determine which one(s) you feel are worthy of being entered in a show. If the plant is thriving at its current location, don't move it before the show, except to clean it up. Changing its location might impact its condition.
- Except for a few categories, all plants will be in a pot. The pots should be an appropriate type for a judged show, clean and free of dirt and calcium deposit buildup. AmourAll is a good product to use to clean them.
- The plant medium should be clean, level in the pot, and come up to about ½ inch below the top of the pot. Do not use a decorative 'topper' (such as rocks or mulch chips) on top of the medium, which will distract from the plant.
- The plant should be centered in the pot. If it is not, pull it out of the soil, trim the roots if necessary, and place it back into the pot, centering it.

- Plants should be clean and free from pests, including scale. Remove debris and leaf litter from the plant leaf axils. Remove all dead leaves at the base on the plant.
- Plants should have good symmetry when viewed from the top and side. If leaves are not symmetrical, remove those needed to improve the symmetry. Be careful not to remove so many as to make the plant appear sparse.
- Trim brown tips off of leaves, mimicking the natural shape of the leaf as you cut. You can coat the cut tips with aloe gel or Aquaphor to reduce the likelihood the cut edges will turn brown.
- To be certain you get your plant back, bury a plant tag that includes your name on it between the soil and the side of the pot.
- Plants entered in a show should have been in your possession for at least the preceding six months.
- These are some of the categories which one can enter.
 - Single plant, potted, non-blooming. If the plant has a pup that is too small to remove, it is alright to leave the pup on the plant.
 - Single plant, potted, blooming. The plant must be at least 50% in bloom and not past bloom; remove any spent flowers.
 - Multiple plants, potted, non-blooming. There must be at least two plants in the clump. They must be the same hybrid or species, similar in size and color and evenly spaced in the pot.
 - Multiple plants, potted, blooming.
 - Mounted plants. Plants should be well mounted on a clean mount, with stray roots, brown bits and dead plants removed. Sometimes it is hard to remove dead leaves and plants from mounted plants such as *Tillandsia ionantha* without damaging the newer growth.
 - Horticultural displays. These include plantings in or on non-standard, non-decorative containers, mounted plants on non-decorative, non-embellished materials, plants in non-decorative baskets, unpotted plants with or without hangers (such as hooks and monofilament).

You can find a more complete list of categories and the BSI Standard Bromeliad Show Requirements at this link:

[https://www.bsi.org/bsi_info/awards/judging/BSI Standard Show Requirements.pdf](https://www.bsi.org/bsi_info/awards/judging/BSI%20Standard%20Show%20Requirements.pdf)

SHOW AND TELL

Dick Dailey	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Magali'
Barb Gardner	<i>Dyckia</i> hybrid (photo below)
Ray Gurgui	<i>Aechmea nudicaulis</i> mounted with <i>Tillandsia</i> 'White Star' (photo below)
Monika Hale	<i>Tillandsia bulbosa</i> (photo below) <i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i> (photo below)
Alton Lee	<i>Vriesea</i> 'Rosita' (photo below)
Karen Mills	<i>Neoregelia</i> hybrid

Franne Matwijczyk *Aechmea caudata*

Kathy Risley *Aechmea racinae*

SHOW AND TELL PLANTS



Dyckia hybrid



Aechmea nudicaulis and
Tillandsia 'White Star'



Tillandsia bulbosa



Vriesea 'Rosita'



Tillandsia fasciculata

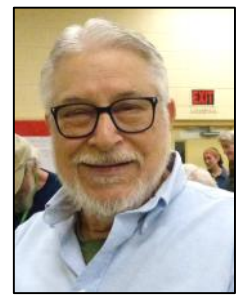
THIS AND THAT

New Members

Emily Gutmann, a student at Eckerd College, and Allan Mora (pictures on right) joined our society at the March meeting. Welcome them when you see them at a future meeting.



Emily Gutmann



Allan Mora

Spring Home Garden Tour

Our 2020 Spring Home Garden Tour that was scheduled for March 28 at the home of member Sherran Blair was cancelled due to health concerns associated with the coronavirus/COVID-19 epidemic and government-mandated precautions. It will be rescheduled as our Fall Home Garden Tour, date to be determined later this summer.

IN THE GARDEN THIS MONTH



Portea 'Tambora', possibly *Aechmea leptantha* crossed with a *Portea*



Aechmea chantinii hybrid
by Bullis Nursery



Neoregelia 'Serendipity'



Neoregelia 'Julia'



Neoregelia 'Jack of Diamonds'

Richard Poole submitted the pictures below that he took in his garden.



Aechmea serrata



Aechmea 'Frappuccino'

Barb Gardner submitted the pictures below that she took in her garden.



Aechmea comata



Aechmea 'Romero' (*Aec. fendleri* x *Aec.* 'Permumazon')

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2020

April 3-5, Tropiflora's Spring Festival-**POSTPONED**

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

April 11-12, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale-**CANCELLED**

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

April 25-26, Green Thumb Festival-**CANCELLED**

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

June 9-13, 24th World Bromeliad Conference, *The Big Show*, Sarasota, FL-**POSTPONED**

Rescheduled for June 2021, same location (<https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>)

2020 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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