FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2021

Celebrating over 67 Years in Bromeliads

fwcbs.org

April 2021 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING—ZOOM MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021, Zoom Meeting

Time: 7 pm

Location: Your computer, laptop, or iPhone

Our next meeting will be a Zoom meeting with Richard Poole, Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society, and Ray Lemieux, Sarasota Bromeliad Society, who will present a program about the genus *Pitcairnia*. The program material is made available by the Bromeliad Society International to affiliated societies from their Media Library. You will note the meeting will not be on our regular first-Tuesday-of-the-month night but one night later, on a Wednesday. This is done to accommodate Ray's schedule and availability.

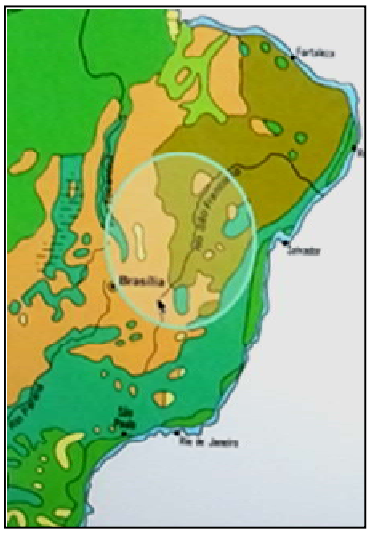
Specific details on how to join the Zoom meeting will be provided in an email to members.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The meeting last month was conducted via Zoom on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, and members of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society joined us. The speaker was Guillermo Rivera with a talk titled *Bromeliads from Central Brazil: A Journey through the States of Minas Gerais and Bahia*. His presentation drew on information and experiences he gathered from botanical tours he has led in Brazil as owner/operator of Plant Expeditions, a botanical touring company. His tour destinations have included South America, Mexico, South Africa, Madagascar, and Namibia, with emphasis on bromeliads, orchids, cacti, and other succulents. His trips also incorporate cultural features of the areas visited.

Guillermo Rivera

In his presentation Guillermo took us on a 'visual tour', a 2,600-mile journey first through the state of Minas Gerais, then north into the state of Bahia, both located in central-southeastern Brazil (pictures below). He stated that, according to the recently published book *Flora of Brazil,* the country is currently home to 56 bromeliad genera and 1,379 bromeliad species, and that 70 to 80% of bromeliads in Brazil are found in Minas Gerais. The goal of his presentation was to demonstrate the high plant diversity within the wide range of habitats found in Minas Gerais and Bahia and the variety of bromeliad genera and species that grow there, some of which are found nowhere else.



Area of 'visual tour'

Guillermo's tour took us through three major ecosystems—the cerrado, caatinga, and Atlantic Forest—where local physiographic and environmental conditions (such as climate, elevation, terrain, landforms) impact the types of vegetation found there. He showed us hundreds of pictures he had taken while on tours in this region of bromeliad species that have adapted to the range of growing conditions in these three ecosystems. We also were treated to pictures of villages the tours visited, a touch of local culture in the villages, and some of the inns where the tours lodged. The pictures in this article are from Guillermo's' program.

The cerrado is a tropical habitat composed of savannas, open grasslands, and rocky plains located throughout both Minas Gerais and Bahia (and several other states in eastern Brazil). The open grasslands are well-drained areas dotted with short trees, located between strips of both humid and dry forests that occur along streams. The cerrado displays a great diversity of plants, but abundant agricultural activities in the region are threatening native vegetation. Below are pictures of the cerrado landscape and examples of bromeliads found there.

Examples of the cerrado ecosystem landscape

Dyckia dissitaflora

Aechmea aquilega

Tillandsia kurt-horstii

Vriesea nanuzae

Orthopytum diamantina

Aechmea phanerophlebia

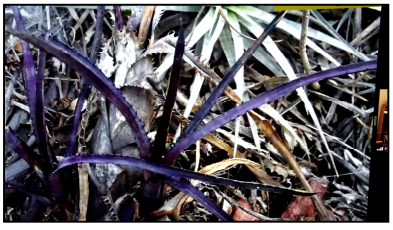
The caatinga ecosystem is a semi-arid region throughout Bahia and in the northern part of Minas Gerais, and in six other eastern states. It is a xeric shrubland of desert vegetation that have adapted to uncertain rainfall and extreme heat. The caatinga has only two distinguishable seasons: a hot and dry winter, and a cold and short rainy summer. In addition to bromeliads, other plants types such as cacti and orchids can be found growing in the rocky habitats. Also, within the state of Bahia is Chapada Diamantina, an erosional landform of flat-topped mountains, open grassy plains with isolated trees (like savannahs), forested valleys, and rivers along which thick vegetation occurs. Below are pictures of caatinga landscapes and examples of bromeliads found there.

Example of caatinga landscape

Chapada Diamantina landscape

Neoregelia bahiana

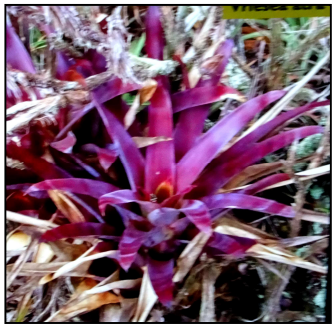
Bromelia species



Hohenbergia species

Sincorea albopicta

Encholirium species



Vriesea atra

Below are two *Vriesea* species that exhibit features that are adaptations to the harsh dry, hot, and rocky caatinga environment—a vase-like shape and tough, thick leaves.

Vriesea psuedoligantha

Vriesea lancifolia

The Atlantic Forest ecosystem is a South American forest that extends north and south along the Atlantic coast of Brazil and into bordering coastal countries. It is comprised of several ecosystems from the coast and inland that include seasonal moist and dry broad-leaf tropical forests, tropical and subtropical grasslands, savannahs, shrublands, and mangrove forests. Below are pictures of Atlantic Forest landscapes and examples of bromeliads found there.

Atlantic Forest landscape along the coast

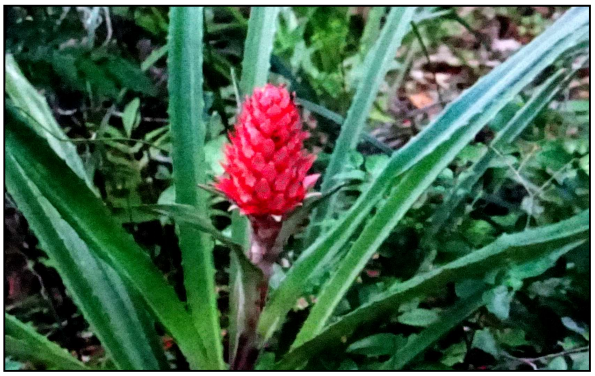
Atlantic Forest landscape, inland

Araeococcus parviflorus

Portea alatisepala

Vriesea psittacina

Alcantarea brasilliana



Psuedananas sagenarius

For information about future tours Guillermo will be leading, you can email him at info@plantexpeditions.com or platexpeditions@gmail.com. You can also visit his website www.plantexpeditions.com.

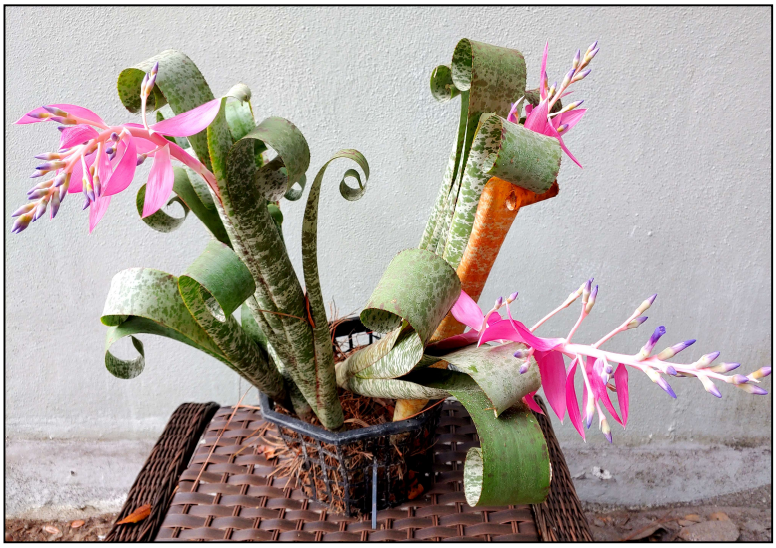
SHOW AND TELL

Barb Gardner	*Aechmea* 'Kiwi Baker', cultivar of *recurvata* (picture below) *Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman' (picture below) *Tillandsia aeranthos* var. *aemula* x*Bilmea* 'Barbara Ellen' (*Bilbergia* 'Pixie' x *Aechmea recurvata;* picture below)
Monika Hale	*Aechmea nudicaulis* *Aechmea* 'Royal Wine' *Aechmea serrata* (picture below) *Tillandsia stricta*, mounted (picture below)
Sandy Holloway	*Aechmea fulgens-ramosa* *Aechmea ramosa* *Billbergia pyramidalis* *Cryptanthus* 'Strawberry Flambe' *Cryptanthus* 'Zabrina' (picture below) *Guzmania* 'Limones' (picture below)
Marian Kennell (SBS)	*Cryptanthus* 'Rick Richtmyer' *Encholirium horridum* (picture below) *Lymania coralina (*picture below) *Pitcairnia tabuliformis* *Wittmackia* (formerly *Ronnbergia*) *basiliensis*
Karen Mills	*Aechmea weilbachii* (picture below)
Kris Perry (SBS)	*Orthophytum glabrum*
Nancy Schmidt	*Aechmea nudicaulis* *Billbergia* with long-lasting bloom; is it another genus? (picture below) *Quesnelia testudo*

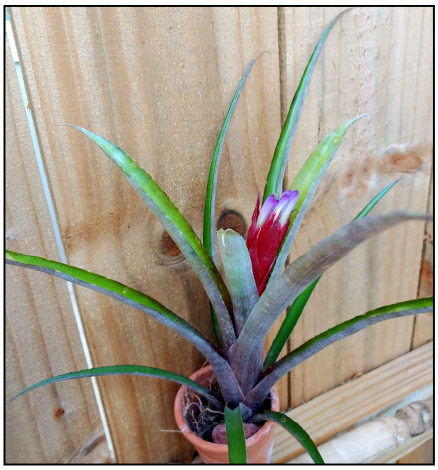
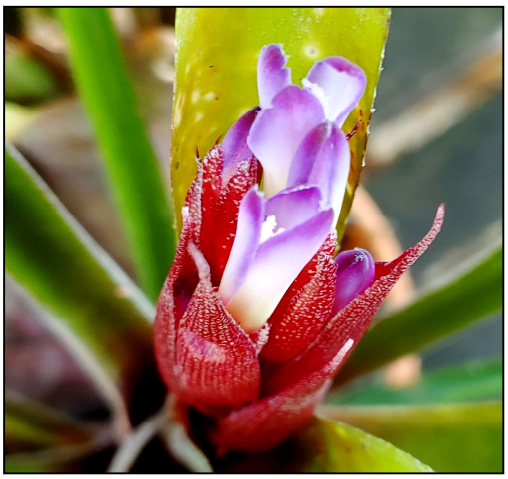
SHOW AND TELL PLANTS

Barb Gardner


Aechmea 'Kiwi Baker'; cv of *Aec. recurvata*




Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman'; cv of *Ques. marmorata*

x*Bilmea* 'Barbara Ellen' (*Bil.* 'Pixie' x *Aec. recurvata*)

Monika Hale

Aechmea serrata

Tillandsia stricta, mounted

Sandy Holloway

Cryptanthus ‘Zabrina’

Guzmania ‘Limones’

Marian Kennell

Encholirium horridum

Lymania coralina

Karen Mills

Aechmea weilbachii

Nancy Schmidt

Billbergia species or hybrid

THIS AND THAT

Fascinating Fasciation

During his Zoom presentation last November, Chester Skotak showed examples (pictures below) of a relatively rare condition called ‘fasciation’ that developed in some of the *Ananas* he was hybridizing. Also known as cresting, it is an abnormal growth in a plant’s growing tip that produces flattened, ribbon-like, crested (‘cristate’) or elaborately contorted tissue. For a

bromeliad, the growing tip is the center of the plant from which the inflorescence grows. There are several possible causes for this aberration including hormone imbalance in the meristem (the cells where growth occurs), random genetic mutation, bacterial and fungal infection, and environmental factors such as mite or insect attack or cold and frost.

Examples of fasciation (aka cresting) in *Ananas*

IN THE GARDEN THIS MONTH

Pictured on the right is x *Vrieslutheria* 'Kent's Sunset', first registered as *Vriesea* 'Sunset'. Here is how the name evolved. This hybrid was produced by J. Kent and initially registered as *Vr.* 'Sunset', a cross between *Vr. sucrei* and what was then named *Vr. splendens* var. *formosa*. The name 'Sunset' was later changed to 'Kent's Sunset' to distinguish it from another 'Sunset'. To complicate matters, based on DNA sequencing *Vr. splendens* var. *formosa* was reassigned to new genus *Lutheria* and became *Lutheria splendens* var. *formosa*. Now the hybrid was considered a bigeneric cross and the name was changed to x *Vrieslutheria* 'Kent's Sunset'.

x Vrieslutheria 'Kent's Sunset'

BROMELIAD AND OTHER PLANT EVENTS, 2021

May 7-9, Bromeliad Society of Central Florida 46th Annual Mother's Day Show and Sale
Fashion Square Mall, 3201 E Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32803
(https://www.bromeliadsorlando.com/activities)

June 19-20, USF Botanical Gardens Summer Plant Sale
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/botanical-gardens/)

October 9-10, USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/botanical-gardens/)

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