

# FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2021

*Celebrating over 67 Years in Bromeliads*



## June 2021 Newsletter

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### NEXT MEETING

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**Date:** June 1, 2021 CANCELLED

Our in-person meetings continue to be cancelled until the church where we meet reopens the meeting hall and health conditions for attendees are considered safe.

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### LAST MONTH'S MEETING

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#### May Garden Meeting

In May we had our first in-person meeting in over a year. It was outside and in Sandy Holloway's lovely and expansive garden. Richard Poole and Sandy organized the meeting and refreshments, and Barb Gardner put together the raffle. About 18 people attended the event, which was more of a causal get together than a formal meeting. There was no society business conducted and no program presented, but rather a very welcome reunion of friends gathered in the shade of large oak trees, with a shared interest in bromeliads. The raffle was bountiful with several dozen plants donated by attendees. We also had individual snacks and drinks.

Below are pictures of the gathering and Sandy's garden.



Richard Poole and Sandy Holloway



Gathering under the shady oak trees



Barb Gardner giving Alice Davis her winning raffle plant



Waterfall and pond



Mona Schuster and Suzanne Bogacki



Kay Petryszak and a *Guzmania*



Trellis and painted windowpane



*Neoregelia* 'Bob and Grace'



*Guzmania* hybrid



*Neoregelia* hybrid

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## THIS AND THAT

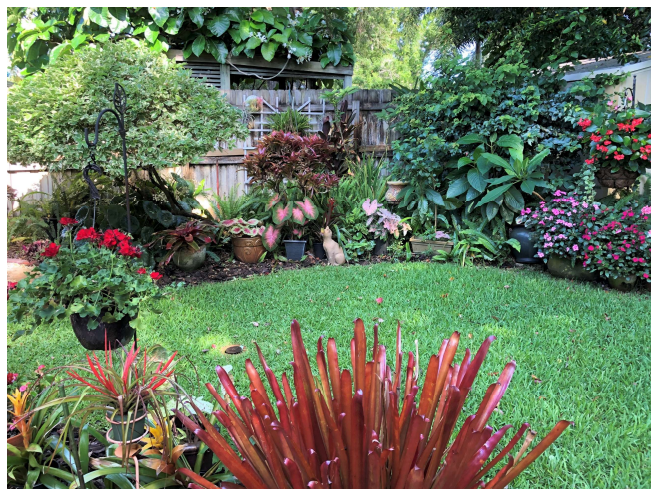
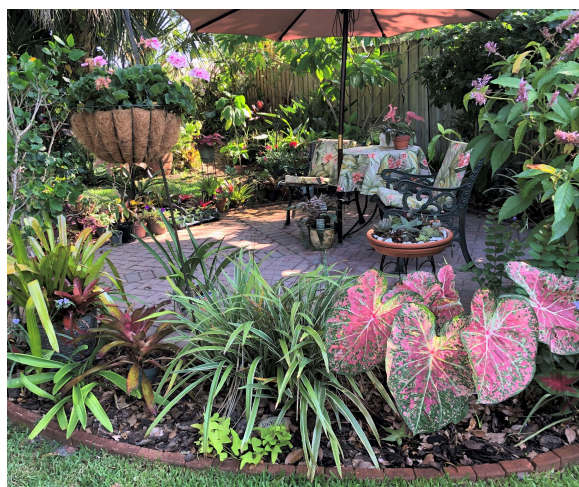
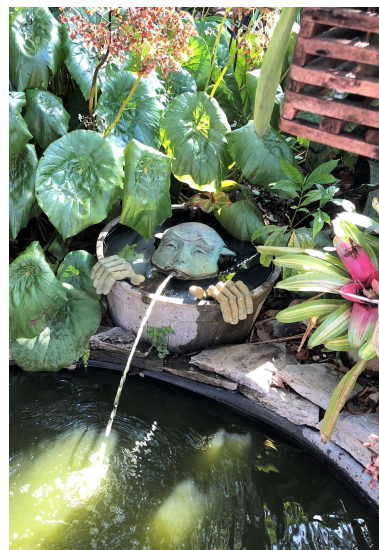
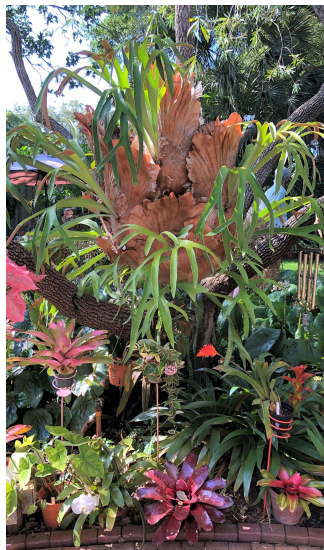
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### Karen Mills Garden

Member Karen Mills grows lovely bromeliads along with many other types of tropical plants. Wanting to share the plant wealth, as it were, and clean out space in her garden (for more plants?), last month she had a sale at her home of some of those plants. The sale was a wonderful excuse to get out of the house, interact with other plant lovers, and see her lovely yard shown in pictures below.



Karen at her work bench



### Best Buy Bromeliads

In April 2011, Terrie Bert gave a presentation to our group titled *Best Buy Bromeliads* with her tips for getting the best value when purchasing bromeliads. These are a few of her suggestions.

- Before a sale, decide what you want and like and where you would put it in your garden.
- Be knowledgeable and informed about what bromeliads prefer which growing conditions.

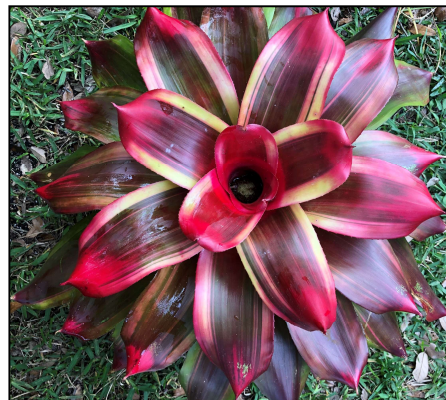
- Be adventuresome and willing to buy a young plant that is less than attractive since it might be a gem when an adult.
- Consider unregistered, unnamed plants that are typically cheaper and may also be gems.
- Private vendors (as opposed to commercial growers) typically have more specialty plants at sales.
- Look for colorful spots on young plants as these plants might grow into colorful larger plants.
- Labels can be an indication of what a young plant might look like when mature with names such as *Neoregelia* 'Blue Barron' and *Neoregelia* 'Beet Red'.
- Wait until the final minutes of a sale to find plants that might be available at a reduced price.

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### IN THE GARDEN

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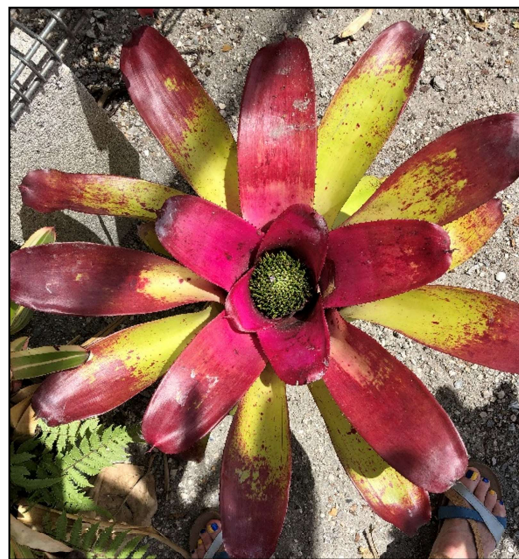
What a difference a month makes in the color of the *Neoregelia* 'Magali' variegated (top two pictures below) when the spring sun moved further north and more directly onto the plant.



*Neoregelia* 'Magali' variegated, change in color between March (left) and April (right) 2021



*Bromelia* species



*Neoregelia* 'Candy Apple'

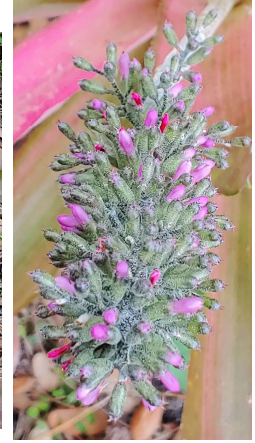
Barb Gardner



*Hechtia tillandsioides* flowers



*Aechmea* 'MEND'



Bob Levine sent these pictures of his *Alcantarea imperialis* 'Rubra' that is finally blooming after about 20 years. The inflorescence is about 5.5 feet tall and the overall height of the plants is about 8 feet.



*Alcantarea imperialis* 'Rubra', initial growth of inflorescence



Close-up of flowers



Mature inflorescence

## **BROMELIAD AND OTHER PLANT EVENTS, 2021**

### June 12, Rare Plant Network Plant Sale

Garden Club of St. Petersburg, 500 Sunset Drive South, St. Petersburg; 9 am to 1

### October 9-10, USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale **TENTATIVE**

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (<https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/botanical-gardens/>)

### October 29-31, Tropiflora Fall Festival

Tropiflora Nurser, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota ([Tropiflora.com/events](http://Tropiflora.com/events))

## **2021 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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