

# FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2022

*Celebrating over 68 Years in Bromeliads*



## July 2022 Newsletter

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### NEXT MEETING

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**Date & Time:** July 5, 2022; 7:30 pm  
**Location:** Good Samaritan Church  
6085 Park Boulevard  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

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### Meeting Protocol—Masks Required

Due to the recent increase in levels of Covid-19 cases the CDC has raised the risk status in parts of Florida, including Pinellas County where we meet, to 'high-risk' level. Based on this, the church where we meet has re-instituted their mask policy as a condition for use of the meeting hall and requires people to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status when on their campus.

### **PROGRAM**

Member Richard Poole will give a presentation on the 24<sup>th</sup> World Bromeliad Conference held in Sarasota in early June of this year. Richard served as co-chair of the conference and did a great job. He will be joined by Barb Gardner and Suzanne Bogacki who will tell about their experiences as clerks for the judged bromeliad show. Susan Sousa, who was the chair for the volunteers committee, will also participate with comments and will show the award-winning plants she had entered in the show.

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### LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

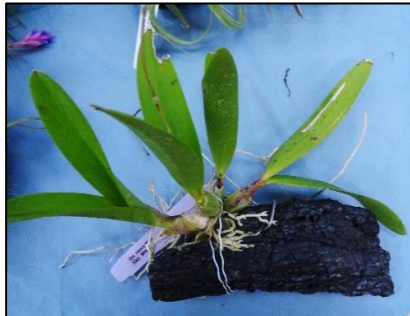
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**Phil Monnig** showed us examples of methods and materials he uses to mount and display his bromeliads, most of them in the genus *Tillandsia*. He has been clever with some of the materials he has used, which include lava rock, planks and tongue-in-groove pieces of cedar wood, oak tree branches (from which he removed the bark for plant root stability), coconut husks, odd-shaped pieces of pine wood, and anything else that strikes his fancy as suitable material. He prefers to use rubber-coated copper telephone wire to tie the plants to the mounting material, being careful that the copper wires inside the coating do not come in contact with the plants. He acquired a large amount of this wiring when he remodeled his home and removed the no-longer-used phone lines from the walls. He finds that monofilament tends to cut into the plants and becomes brittle and breaks too quickly.

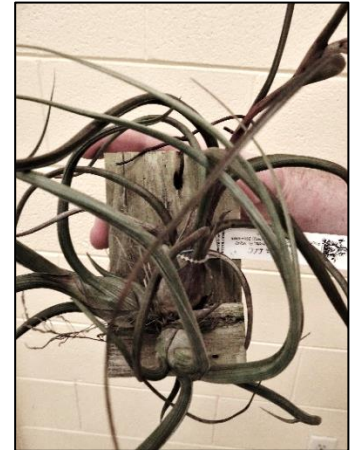
As the mounted plants grow over time, he adjusts the wires, as needed, to keep the plants stable and removes dead plants while being careful not to disturb roots of remaining plants. When he is selecting mounting material and positioning plants on it, he takes into consideration the plant's growth habit. Some plants are more attractive if they are allowed to grow in a clump. Some plants put out pups on stolons that will need space to grow along the mounting material. Many Tillandsias do not produce robust roots, and these Phil hangs from thin galvanized wire or places in a clay or net pot without any soil. Below are pictures of some of these plants.



*Tillandsia* and orchid on coconut husk



Orchid on lava rock



*Tillandsia pseudobaileyi* on pine wood



L-R: *Til. bulbosa*, *Til. harrisii*, *Til. ehlersiana*, on oak branch



*Tillandsia setacea* on oak



Tillandsias hung on galvanized wires



*Tillandsia espinosa* cluster on oak



*Neoregelia* 'Wee Willie'





*Tillandsia hammeri* on galvanized wire



*Tillandsia* 'Kiana Knuth' in clay pot

To display his mounted plants, Phil constructed two 'walls' (pictured below) that he placed under the roof eave where the plants are protected from too much direct sunlight. He constructed them using 4x4-inch posts for the sides that he buried into the ground and a 1x6-inch board placed across the top and between the posts for stability. He then ran about six strands of clothesline between the posts, on which the plants are hung.



The two display walls Phil made to hang his mounted plants.

To water the plants, he adapted his sprinkler system to deliver water from the top, above the plants. He attached PVC sprinkler pipes near the top of the support posts and then ran drip irrigation tubing from it, along the top of the frame. These are pictured below.



Phil's irrigation set up for the display wall he made for the mounted plants.

### SHOW AND TELL

- Monika Hale *Lutheria splendens* (formerly *Vriesea splendens*; picture below)  
 [Note: The common name 'Flaming Sword' is often used for this plant and other *Vriesea* and *Lutheria* specimens that have a similar colorful, feather- or sword-like inflorescence.]
- Alton Lee *Lutheria* (formerly *Vriesea*) *splendens* (variegated; picture below)
- Franne Matwijczyk *Nidularium innocentii* (picture below)  
*Ananas ananassoides* (formerly *Ananas comosus*) fruit with a large pup (picture below)  
 [Note: According to the *Bromeliad Taxon List*, there are only three species names and one variety currently accepted in the genus *Ananas*. These are *ananassoides*, *ananassoides* var *nana*, *paraguayensis*, and *sagenaria*. It is likely that previously accepted species names such as *bracteatus* and *lucidus*, and common names such as 'tri-color', will continue to be used by some.]  
*Pitcairnia* 'Starry Delight' (a *Pitcairnia brongniartiana* hybrid from Reginald Deroose)  
*Tillandsia* 'Curly Slim' (*Til. intermedia* x *Til. streptophylla*)  
*Tillandsia flexuosa*  
*Racinaea sinuosa* Ecuador
- Nicole Matwijczyk *Aechmea chantinii* cv. 'Snow Flake' pup (picture below)  
 x*Canmea* 'Fiesta' pup (x *Canmea* 'Wild Leopard' x *Canmea* 'Wild Leopard'; picture below)  
 x*Lapacoraea* 'Solar Blast' pup (*Lapanthus duartei* x *Sincoraea navioides*; picture below)



*Edmundoa* species

*Vriesea warmingii*

Karen Mills

*Neoregelia* 'King's Ransom' (Neo. 'Foster's Red' x Neo. 'Royal Burgundy'; picture below)

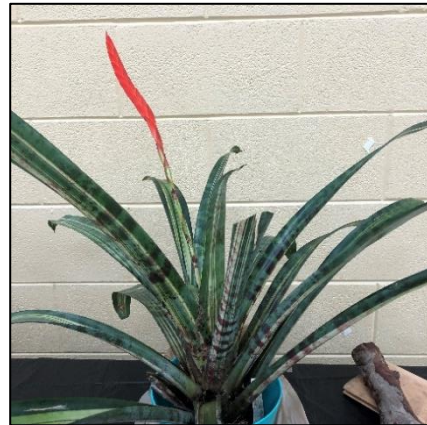
Brunilda Wicker

Mounted *Neoregelia* 'Kokomo'; picture below (((((Neo. *carolinae* variegated x Neo. 'Hannibal Lecter') x Neo. 'Skotak's Tiger') x Neo. 'Punctate Red') x Neo. 'Tunisia')

### SHOW AND TELL PLANTS



*Lutheria splendens*



*Lutheria splendens* (variegated)



*Nidularium innocentii*



*Ananas ananassoides* fruit and pup



*Aechmea* 'Snow Flake' pup



x*Canmea* 'Fiesta' pup



x*Lapacoraea* 'Solar Blast' pup





*Neoregelia* 'King's Ransom'



*Neoregelia* 'Kokomo'

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### THIS AND THAT

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#### A New Hybrid?

Barb Gardner sent the picture on the right of a new 'hybrid', a pairing of *Portea petropolitana* and *Aechmea blanchetiana*. It was made by the simple trick of cutting *Portea* inflorescences that had become too droopy and placing them into the water-filled tanks of *Aechmea blanchetiana*. If only it was that simple to create a hybrid! Think of all the new hybrids one could swiftly create. And it turns out that many bromeliad inflorescences will last a long time when cut and placed in water and are often used in flower arrangements.



*Portea petropolitana* stalks placed in center of *Aechmea blanchetiana*

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### IN THE GARDEN

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Submitted by Barb Gardner



*Aechmea* 'Samurai'





*Aechmea miniata* var *discolor*

Submitted by Alton Lee



*Aechmea* 'Patricia' (variegated form pictured below)

Submitted by Linda Sheetz



*Aechmea* 'Patricia's Secret' (*Aechmea* 'Patricia' variegated)

## **BROMELIAD AND OTHER PLANT EVENTS, 2022**

August 20-21, Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Annual Fall Plant Sale  
Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford, FL, 9am-4pm each day  
(<https://www.sanfordgardenclub.com/sbtps>)

October 9-10, USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale  
USF Botanical Gardens, Tampa, FL 10 am to 3 pm  
(<https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/botanical-gardens/>)

November 4-5, Mead Botanical Garden Plant Sale and Fall Fest  
Mead Botanical Garden, .1300 South Denning Drive, Winter Park  
(<https://www.bromeliadorslando.com/activities>)

### **2022 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Phil Monnig, <a href="mailto:pjmonnig@gmail.com">pjmonnig@gmail.com</a>
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