

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2013



floridabromeliads.org

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, October 1
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

Program

Tom Wolfe, longtime bromeliad grower and member of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, will tell us about *Landscaping with Bromeliads*. We will learn what bromeliads do well in the various light and watering conditions present across a lawn. Bring your questions about specific bromeliads and conditions in your yard and let Tom help you with your landscaping.

Plant Sales

All members are welcome to sell bromeliads at the meeting.

Nominating Committee, November Officers Election

At the October meeting, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of nominees for our 2013 officers and trustees. Members will vote on the slate at the November meeting. Additional candidates may be added to the slate any time before the voting takes place.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

In his presentation *Foliage Vrieseas* **Dave Johnston** talked about Vriesea hybrids that are notable for their color and markings. (The definition of foliage according to Merriam Webster is "a plant cultivated chiefly for its ornamental or attractive leaves.") Dave showed us pictures of numerous foliage Vriesea hybrids made from crosses that include at least one of five Vriesea species--fenestralis, fosteriana, hieroglyphic, gigantea, and platynema.



- Species fenestralis is native to southeast Brazil and cold tender, and its markings tend to carry through into its hybrids. Foliage hybrid examples are Franklin Forest (*Vr. fenestralis* x *Vr. fosteriana*) and *Vr. fenestralis* x *platynema*.
- Species fosteriana is native to coastal forests of Brazil, found at about 3,000 feet elevation, and is cold tender. Foliage hybrid examples are Bianca and Robert Kautsky (*Vr. fosteriana* x *Vr. gigantea*).
- Species gigantea is a slow grower, native to southern Brazil, grows to about 3 feet tall and 5 feet wide. It has a yellow flower that blooms at night and is pollinated by bats. One foliage hybrid using this species is Daintree Forest (*Vr. gigantea* x *Vr. fosteriana*).
- Species hieroglyphica is finicky, has a narrow temperature range (not too cold, not too hot), and is hard to grow in Florida. Foliage hybrid examples are Tiger Lily (*Vr. hieroglyphica* x *fosteriana*) and El Supreme (*Vr. hieroglyphica* x *Vr. fenestralis*).
- Species platynema is somewhat cold tender, and its leaves have purple tips that tend to carry through into its hybrids. Foliage hybrid examples are Frost Bite (*Vr. platynema* var. *variegata* x *fenestralis*) and Lavender Lady (*Vr. gigantea* x *Vr. platynema* var. *variegata*).

According to Dave, two of the top Vriesea foliage hybridizers and some of their creations are:

- David Fell and wife Sandy Kasman, owners of Sunshine Nursery in Hawaii, have produced Vriesea hybrids such as Abigail Jean, Candy Stripe, Gold King, Magic, Pink Chestnut, Pink Dream, and Strawberry Ice Cream.
- Andrew Maloy of Kiwi Nursery in Auckland, New Zealand, has for more than 30 years been hybridizing foliage Vrieseas such as Kiwi Black, Cherry Ice, Misty Pink, Kiwi Pink Magic, Kiwi Starbright, Tasman Rose, and Tasman Vanilla Ice.

Below is a picture of a group of Vriesea hybrids Marty Baxley brought to the meeting to show us the diversity of foliage Vrieseas Dave discussed.



Dave offered the following tips, and cautions, for growing Vrieseas:

- Vrieseas do best in areas with good air circulation. This can be enhanced by placing them in a basket pot or hanging them on monofilament line (if applicable for the plant). If they are planted in regular plastic pots, consider hanging the pots for better air circulation around the plant.
- Vrieseas can take a lot of fertilizer, for example up to a tablespoon of a slow release fertilizer.
- Vrieseas can rot if they are kept too wet. They do best in a well-drained medium such as very loose potting soil with a lot of perlite.
- Signs of rot include brown middle and lower leaves. The plant may also appear unstable, or wobbly, in the pot. At the first sign of rot, treat with a fungicide, such as Captan.

- Vrieseas can be very slow growers and often take five or more years to produce a bloom stalk, which even after the wait is often not spectacular. But most folks grow them for their lovely foliage.

Dave owns and operates Exotic Landscapes Nursery, has 1,200 to 1,300 different types of bromeliads, and has been a member of our society for 23 years.

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

Marty Baxley	Several foliage Vrieseas, among them: <i>Vri.</i> 'Tulip' and <i>Vri.</i> 'Kiwi Sunset'
Robert Lindstrom	<i>Tillandsia capitata</i> 'Red"; <i>Aechmea chantinii</i> x <i>A. fulgens</i> var. <i>discolor</i>
Gary Lund	<i>Pitcairnia</i> unknown species; <i>Til. Chiapensis</i>
Linda Sheetz	<i>Til. duratii</i> (large form)

Below are pictures of Show and Tell plants.



Til. capitata 'Red"



Aechmea chantinii x *A. fulgens* var. *discolor*



Til. duratii (large form)



Pitcairnia unknown species (plant and closeup of stalk)



THIS AND THAT

Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2013

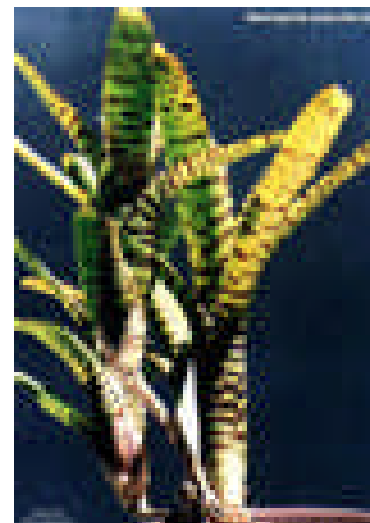
As those of you who were at the Bromeliad Extravaganza last weekend know, it was a great event. Susan Sousa, the event chairman, was the main task manager who with a lot of help from so many others carried it off. A full report on the event, with pictures, will be in the next newsletter.

November Meeting Date

PLEASE NOTE! Our meeting in November will be held the **second Tuesday of the month, November 12** (and not the first Tuesday of the month). This is because this year the first Tuesday of November is Election Day and our meeting room will be in use as a polling place.

Neoregelia 'Regalia'

Derek Butcher, former BSI Cultivar Registrar, wants to know if anyone in our group or someone you might know is still growing *Neo. 'Regalia'*. He says it should look like a *Neo. ampullacea* and was sold by Tropiflora in 1981. The pictures on the right are *Neo. ampullacea*. (The photos are from the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website, fcbs.org, and were taken by Derek.)



UPCOMING EVENTS, 2013

September 27-29, Sarasota Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale

Banquet and Rare Plant Auction on the 28th, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota (<http://sarasotabromeliadsociety.org>)

October 4-6, Tropiflora Fall Festival

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

October 12-13, USF Fall Plant Sale

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

December 6-8, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale

Terrie Park, 3451 Marion Street, Fort Myers (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

2013 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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