

Gainesville Bromeliad Society



The plant above is my *Alcantarea imperialis* in which this sweet, little tree frog took his nap.~Hj.

GBS Workshop Game-Plan for Sunday, April 27, 2014

April 2014

Beginning 12:30pm:

- Set up begins. Room will be set up with plant tables along the walls, food & drink tables in hall, etc. Same setup as last year. Use of projector for power point presentation & Youtube bromeliad videos (Howard).
- Ron will bring the 30 GBS pamphlets & we will need help folding them into pamphlet form
- **Meet & Greet** table will be just at the end of the walkway (Larry & Ellen). Sign up sheet (name, email, phone number, address, etc) name tag and brochure available. If someone wants to become a member we can do this too. Guide them to Lorene's table inside the meeting room. She/Peggy or Worth can help with a new membership.
- Please bring snack food that is finger friendly. We'll serve lemonade & ice tea.
- We need a supply of plastic grocery bags so folks can tote their purchases home—start saving now.

A **big** thank you to everyone for donating your plants! This is a great opportunity to share our bromeliad enthusiasm and have new members join the club. Woods, Bob, and Carolyn will help with the plant table setups, answer questions—cold hardy or not, etc, and ALL the rest of us will help out wherever needed.

Show Time - 2:00pm:

- Folks will gather, look at plants, grab a bite & drink and then say **2:15pm**, I'll welcome everyone & talk about GBS and the benefits of joining. My talk, 20 minutes, is called "Bromeliad 101" & will use power point & have a table display of plants.
- Ron Schoenau will follow with his "Tool-Time Black-Box Favorites", 20 minutes or so.
- Bobby Ing will then be up for a show & tell about his wire-display of bromeliads.
- I think we can wrap up the talks by 3:30pm-ish, we'll just stay flexible and see what the crowd wants. Then that leaves an hour for sales or less.
- Gainesville Sun printed ad runs, Sun 4/20, Thurs 4/24 and Sat 4/26. Plan is to be on the printed newsroom calendar on Today's events 4/27.

This is going to be fun!!

Gainesville Bromeliad Society: March 23rd Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order just after 2 PM on Sunday, March 23rd, and was conducted by our vice president, Sandy Burnett. Twenty-one people attended, including our guest, Julieta Brambila. The program this month consisted of a talk by Ron Schoenau about his many experiences growing bromeliads over the last 39 years. We also discussed details of the upcoming bromeliad society workshop to be held during our meeting time next month on April 27th.

Ron shared many bits of wisdom gained from experience. For example, he said that many bromeliads do not like to be in pots. They can get too wet and their roots will rot. One extreme example showed that a plant produced a pup from the center of its growth whorl, to escape the “wet feet”. He suggested that removing a bloom as soon as possible will encourage the mother plant to produce pups faster.

As far as fertilizer, a “Peter’s” 20–20–20 is generally good. Avoid a high Nitrogen fertilizer. Also avoid slow-release fertilizers like “Osmocote”. For minor elements, he suggested a product that can be found in Wal-Mart called “Super Thrive”. A little of this can be added to the balanced 20–20–20 with good results. As far as the amount to use, 1/3 the amount suggested for orchids should be sufficient. Fish emulsion is smelly and can attract animals.

He discussed the concept of “growing hard”, using no fertilizer at all. For some plants, like some of the *Neoregalia* and *Billbergia* species, best color can be achieved this way. After the bloom, the pups should be fertilized. Ron spoke to us about the importance of clean water for bromeliads. Salts can build up when they are grown in pots. It’s important to water thoroughly to help avoid this problem. Also, it’s a good idea to occasionally remove the water from the bromeliad tanks and replace it with clean water.

Ron mentioned a product sold at aquarium stores to get rid of algae when it builds up. Scale insects, usually black or brown spots that can be lifted off with a fingernail, can be set back with a “Bayer” insecticide for that purpose. The “plant and flower” spray comes ready to spray; however, the “tree and shrub spray” is concentrated and can be diluted by 80 or 100 with good results. Sprays that are definitely harmful to bromeliads are any that contain copper. Horticultural oil products are likewise bad for these plants. If a fungicide is necessary, you can look for a wettable fungicide without copper.

Bromeliads like fresh air and good air circulation. They are often successfully mounted on wood, to mimic their natural growth habits. In all cases, avoid treated wood. Drips from treated lumber can kill the plants. Ron gave an example of a grower who had used treated lumber for a greenhouse with disastrous results.

It was interesting to see the items that Ron kept in his bromeliad tool box. He showed us a long forceps that was very helpful in keeping the tanks free of too much debris. He suggested that we use a #2 pencil on plastic tags for good results. He showed us that a regular steak knife was better than an expensive fishing knife for cutting pups from the mother plant. For example, if you are growing a variegated plant and the

pups are not variegated, it's best to cut them off and wait for a variegated pup to grow.

As far as identification of the plants, Bromeliad Society International (BSI) is keeping an alphabetical list of Bromeliad genus and species names current. If you aren't a member of BSI, there's a good list on the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens website from when Harry Luther worked there. The website is "selby.org" and the list there, from 2008, is still pretty good.

We paused for refreshments and then resumed with our business meeting. Woods asked that someone volunteer to attend the next Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) meeting in Apopka. Sandy said that she could go.

Jean presented a sample brochure, with a picture of a painting by Peggy Mixon and text from the BSI website, to hand out at the workshop and passed it around. Ron said that there was a color printer at the Oaks Hammock and that he could probably make enough copies for the workshop. Sandy asked for volunteers to speak at the workshop.

Sandy and Howard will set up videos of how-to-pot *Tillandsias* and Bobby will bring the display he brought to the last meeting. Peggy and Worth will handle money for memberships and from plant sales. Larry will be a "greeter" out front. Carolyn will help with plant sales, and be able to share her knowledge of such things as which ones are cold-hearty etc.

We'll design an 'information sheet" and ask people to let us know how they heard about the workshop and what their main interests are. People will be able to sign-in, pay membership fees, and/or join the society. The room will be opened at 12:30 on Sunday, April 27th, and we can begin setting up at that time.

Ray Lemieux, from the Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota, FL, will speak with us on May 25th. He is a long-time plant collector and an authority on terrestrial bromeliads and succulent plants in general.

We finished the meeting around 4 PM with a number drawing for door prizes of bromeliads.

Jean Thomas, Secretary

I am writing to invite the Gainesville Bromeliad Society to place an ad or notice in the conference program for the BSI World Bromeliad Conference, "**Bromeliads in Paradise**," to be held in Honolulu this September.

As shown on the attached form, the rates and sizes are the same as for Orlandiana '12 (\$50 for a quarter page, \$100 for a half page, \$150 for a full page). Unfortunately, we cannot accept credit card payments, but only checks or money orders payable to WBC 2014, and mailed to the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society, at P.O. Box 61191, Honolulu, HI 96839.

The deadline for receipt of ads is July 1; ads may be in color or black and white, and may be submitted either electronically or on paper.

Please let me know if you would like any additional information, and I look forward to seeing members from Gainesville in Honolulu.

With good wishes,
Stan Schab