



# GAINESVILLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

*Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas!*

## November Meeting Details

November 2012

**TIME:** Sunday, November 25th - 2:00 PM

**PLACE:** UF Entomology/Nemotology Building, Natural Area Drive east of the Performing Arts Center on Hull Road, U of F. or the 5th left turn on Archer Road coming East from 34th Street.

**PROGRAM:** From the President, David Silverman

Be sure to join us for the holiday meeting of the Gainesville Bromeliad Society on Sunday, November 25th. This will be the last meeting of the GBS this year. We are featuring our gift exchange. Please bring a plant to the meeting that you will exchange for one brought by another of our members. It does not have to be a bromeliad. Please wrap or place the plant in a bag, if practicable, to present as a gift.

We hope you can join us for the exchange, for the good company, and for the refreshments.

### Agenda

- Holiday plant exchange
- Presentation by the nominating committee of members running for office. Nominations from the floor.
- Election of officers for 2013
- Officers' reports for 2012
- Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and Extravaganza 2014
- Recruiting new members
- Ideas for our meetings in 2013
- Show and Tell, Door Prizes



*Have a Happy  
Thanksgiving!*





Vriesea hybrid  
by David Fell



Neoregelia 'Patches'



Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman'



Alcantarea 'John Stoddart'

Gainesville Bromeliad Society  
is affiliated with:



<http://www.fcbs.org/>



<http://www.bsi.org/>

***NO MEETING IN  
DECEMBER***

**GBS Officers and Staff:**

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## Secretary's Notes: From Last Meeting, October 2012

President David Silverman called our October 2012 meeting to order at 2:15. Our program was a presentation by Ray Lemieux, of Sarasota, entitled "Tearing up Terrestrials". And tear it up he did. Ray showed us how to clean up, divide, and repot some of the spiniest bromeliads on the planet. His plant surgeon skills were amazing. I think we were all stunned by the way he handled such prickly plants.

His first specimen was the very succulent *Cryptanthus leopoldo horspii*, from Brazil. His potting mix of choice for this plant is "dirty perlite": 75% perlite (large granule) and 25% soil (regular soil mix). There were about 20 off-sets from the mother (that had already bloomed). It had overgrown its pot. Dead foliage was cut or pulled off the mother plant before putting it back into the same pot. The trick is to pack the soil right up around the base of the plant in order to get more pups, and then feed it like crazy. (Note on dirty mix: Vermiculite doesn't work like perlite and is not a good substitution).

A *Deuterocohnia* was the next plant patient. There are 2 types; ones with small rosettes and ones with big rosettes. (Secretary's note: I missed some detail about the flower stalk being a live and perennial bloom spike). Ray had a bunch of seedlings from which he pulled off dead leaves and potted 3 to 5 to a pot in a standard soil mix. This was *D. laurenciata*.

A species of *Neoglaziovia*, from Brazil, was next. It sends pups way down the stem. On one of their expeditions, Wally Berg found some pups, on a wild plant, 3 feet down. Pots for these plants necessarily need to be taller. Ray had some plants that were grown from seed and grew into a pink variety. The soil is a heavy mix. This plant should be potted a little deep so it doesn't flop around in the pot and not root. It produces a skinny, reddish spike with purple flowers.

Next, was a *Dyckia*. *Dyckia* can produce so many leaves that water can't get to the soil. Ray cut off any leaves that curled down over the lip of the pot. This plant was a hybrid of *D. reetzii-rubra* with *D. X "Mercury"*. Ray cut off the base of the roots, then grabbed dead leaves from the base of the trunk with his nippers and twisted them off, then took off any other leaves not needed. To separate plants, he cut out more leaves and cut the base and plucked off any leaves not needed. Cultural note: even tiny little *Dyckia* pups can usually be grown on.

Ray's next patient was an *Encholirium*, which is somewhat like *Hechtia*, which was grown from seed, bought from a guy in Brazil. You have to get in to the base of the plant to see what's going on. He was able to split this one into 4 separate plants. As a cultural note, *Dyckia* can grow real fast if you DON'T grow them like a cactus, i.e., give them lots of water and fertilizer. *Encholirium* grows fast, too, if fed heavily. He mentioned a fertilizer called something like "triple 13 - 180 day release". Anyone get that?

If fire ants are a problem in your plants, use Telstar or Orthene (kills mealy bug, too).

*Pitcairnia orchidifolia* is a leafy terrestrial. He showed us the tubers these plants produce, way down in the bottom of the pot. Don't throw an old root ball away. There are a lot of tubers amongst the roots and these are growable. Use a standard succulent mix. Ray's standard succulent mix contains sand and some perlite and soil. *Pitcairnia* loves water but can't be too wet. Pluck off old leaves. Provide bright filtered light. Most Pits like shade, but he spotted this plant growing in Venezuela in full sun, however they were only about 8" tall.

There are 2 types of *Orthophytum*, ones with a bloom spike and ones with a center bloom. Pot the center bloom

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type in dirty mix and liquid-feed. Pull off dead foliage to make it easier for roots to come out. Use a big pot. Ray carefully cut off dead growth from the old mother plant (don't pull because it might disturb the roots) and packed the soil back in the pot. Fertilize and push the soil right up next to the trunk to promote pups.

*Orthophytum* X "Brittle Star" (*saxicola* is in the hybrid parentage, which is stoloniferous) has a bloom spike. This plant gets a regular soil mix. Ray cleaned up the rosettes. All the dead leaves came off (leaves will burn if fertilizer sits on them). This particular plant had more than 20 pups.

"Upper-puppers" produce pups on the bloom spike up at the top of the bloom. These can be potted up after cleaning off the old flower.

Ray shared the trick to making a single pupper type plant (monocarpic) make multiple pups. He damaged the center by stabbing it (don't stab all the way through), then cut off the bottom leaves. This might make the plant produce 10 to 12 offsets. Just keep plucking them off, and then leave it as a double head or triple head or whatever pattern you'd like. Feed it like crazy. *Encholirium horridum* (monocarpic) is tricky to grow from seed. It's best to stab it before it flowers.

His tool of choice is a pair of Kamaki brand clippers (Did I get the spelling of the brand correct?)

Ray's take-home cultural note for terrestrials: Grow in bright light, feed heavily, and water well, even if it's a succulent.

Ray treated our club with offerings of *Deuterochonia longipetula*. He had a flat-full of plants for the whole membership. This plant has a perennial bloom and is cold-hardy.

Refreshments were served at 3:10.

President David Silverman resumed business at 3:30.

A nominating committee was selected (Lois Wood, Chair; Howard Frank; and Chris George).

Howard presented information about Harry Luther. Dennis Cathcart had suggested an endowed chair at UF. Howard hasn't found anyone interested in bromeliads in Biology. CALS has Horticultural Science and Environmental Horticulture but still no one who works with bromeliads. Jean Thomas mentioned that the chair of Biology might have an interest and that she will be in contact with her.

Chris George will be our FL Council of Bromeliad Societies representative next year.

Our meeting in November will include a plant exchange. Wrap it up so it is covered. David presented the question of whether our society would do an Extravaganza or combine efforts with some other society to put one on. It's something to think about. It is not a small endeavor, and requires such logistics as registration, a chairperson, organizing speakers, and providing security, not to mention contracting some sort of venue, like a hotel.

Show and Tell commenced at 3:45. Chris showed us 2 paintings he showed at the World Conference which both won Awards of Merit. He also won a Blue Ribbon for a pineapple painting, and a Blue Ribbon for a plant entry. Congratulations Chris!!!

Door Prizes were awarded starting at 3:47 and the meeting adjourned at 3:58.

**Lois Wood, Secretary**