

BROMELIANA

PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK BROMELIAD SOCIETY

(visit our website www.nybromeliadsociety.org)

September, 2014

Vol. 51, No. 6

OUR VISIT TO WAVE HILL GARDENS

by Herb Plever

On July 12th a small group of our members toured Wave Hill Gardens guided by Jennifer Shovlin, one of its gardeners. The large, historic estate called Wave Hill was created in 1843. It is located in Riverdale, the northwest section of the Bronx, on a bluff overlooking the Hudson River.

Theodore Roosevelt's family rented Wave Hill during the summers of 1870 and '71, when the future president was a youth of 12 and 13. Teddy's time here significantly deepened his love of nature and love of the outdoors that would later prompt him to secure the preservation of millions of acres of American parkland.

Mark Twain leased the estate from 1901-1903, setting up a treehouse parlor in the branches of a chestnut tree on the lawn. Of winter at Wave Hill he wrote: "I believe we have the noblest roaring blasts here I have ever known on land; they sing their hoarse song through the big tree-tops with a splendid energy that thrills me and stirs me and uplifts me and makes me want to live

always."

In 1903, George W. Perkins, a partner of J.P. Morgan, purchased Wave Hill House. Since 1895 he

had been accumulating properties to create a great estate along the river. Perkins devoted much of his extraordinary energy to enhance the property's magnificent vistas. To the existing garden and greenhouses Perkins added greenhouses, a swimming pool, terraces and the recreational facility now called the Ecology Building. The land was graded and contoured, rare trees and shrubs were planted on the broad lawns, and gardens were created to blend harmoniously with the

natural beauty of the Hudson River highlands. In 1960 the estate was ceded to the City of New York.

Now it is a 28 acre public garden and cultural center, landscaped with hundred-year old trees, shrubs, flowers, lawns, a rock garden, an herb garden, walks and greenhouses (including one for tropical plants). Newly renovated, historic Wave Hill House



l. to r. Nadine Baker, Sylvia Plever, Ben Katz, Herb Plever, Pres. Mimi Gussow, Gia Tran, Michael Riley and Barbara Lagow in front of bromeliad arbor.

NEXT MEETING - Tuesday, September 2nd, 2014 promptly at 7:00 P.M. at the [Ripley-Grier Studios 520 8th Ave. \(between 36th & 37th St\) Room 16N](#)

THREE SAN DIEGO GARDENS - A presentation of the beautiful bromeliads in three gardens in San Diego, California, courtesy of their owners. **ALSO** - We ask that you report on how the plants you bought in May have fared over the summer. Please bring in plants for sale and for Show and Tell. Most of us have more plants than we can handle and have lots of pups to bring



has a Learning Center, a Music Hall, a theater, a café and dining room.

Our visit to Wave Hill was in lieu of a June meeting and was put off to July to take advantage of a guided tour with staff Gardener Jennifer Shovlin, that Michael Riley arranged for us. Wave Hill has a large number of plant families in its gardens with many beautiful species in flower, but I will restrict this report to its collection of bromeliads that is constantly growing by acquisition of new plants.

We started out under an arbor of bromeliads mounted on cork, grape vine and fishing line as shown above: *Aechmea chantinii*, *Billbergia pyramidalis* cv. 'Kyoto', *Neoregelia* 'Kahala Dawn', *Aechmea lueddemanniana*, *Guzmania* 'Neon', *Tillandsia chiapensis*, *T. cyanea*, *T. concolor*, *T. ionantha*, *T. bergeri*, *T. aeranthos*, *T. bulbosa*, *T. edithae*, *T. tectorum*, *T. albida*, *T. juncea* and others.

On the terrace of the dining room that was a large *Vriesea* growing in a container that was labeled *V. fosteriana* 'Rubra'. It was beautifully grown and is starting to bloom. This plant is very variable in color both in habitat and under cultivation; its redness can certainly be influenced by the amount of light



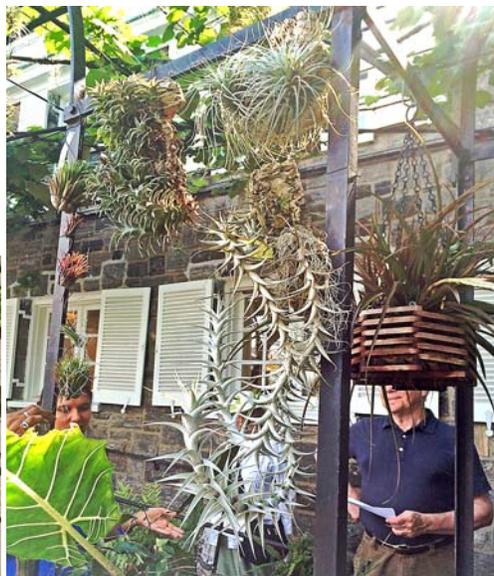
Vriesea fosteriana

it receives. Nearby in full bloom was a *Tillandsia oerstediana* with a huge inflorescence of more than 20 yellow spikes.

There were beds of *Ananas nanus*, *Aechmea chantinii*, *A. blanchetiana*, *Billbergia* 'After Glow', *B. 'Muriel Waterman'*, *B. vittata*, *Neoregelia* 'Fireball', and some *Rhipsalis* and *Anthurium* species.

In the tropical plants greenhouse were many nice broms; *Alcantarea imperialis*, *Aechmea* 'Foster's Favorite', *A. chantinii*, *A. orlandiana*, *Billbergia* 'Santa Barbara' (a cultivar of either *B. distachia* or *B. nutans*), *Cryptanthus* 'Black Magic', *Cr. 'Elaine'*, *Guzmania* 'Neon', *G. 'Samba'*, *Neoregelia* 'Charm', *N. ampulacea*, *Vriesea* 'Tiffany', *V. hieroglyphica* and many tillandsias mounted on cork.

We thank Jen Shovlin for her generous assistance and guidance. Wave Hill Gardens is a lovely jewel that should not be missed. New Yorkers and visitors to our city should make it a point to go up to the Bronx this summer or fall and spend the day there. (See other photos of Wave Hill Gardens on the following page.)



l. to r. *Tillandsia edithae*, *T. tectorum*, *T. albida*, *T. cyanea*.



Alcantarea imperialis at open end of tropical greenhouse



Guzmania 'Neon'



Tillandsia oerstediana



Our guide Jen in tropical greenhouse



Cryptanthus 'Black Magic'



Neoregelia 'Charm'

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE BSI LOGO

by Barbara Black

(Reprinted from the June, 2014 issue of the East London Bromeliad Society - South Africa.)

I have been trawling through some of the BSI Journals available on line. I found it interesting to read how the BSI logo came about and this is what I found: In the very first 'Bromeliad Society Bulletin' Vol. 1, No. 1, January-February 1951 there is a footnote explanation:

"Our Bromeliad Insignia used on the stationery, membership cards, etc., was designed by our president (Mulford B. Foster). This design is made up of significant parts of bromeliads. The outside circle with jagged edge represents the spiny margins found on the leaves of most of the genera of the two sub-families called *Pitcairnioideae* and *Bromelioideae*, such as the genera *Billbergia*, *Ananas*, *Dyckia*, *Puya*, etc. The plain inner circle represents the smooth-edged leaves found in the sub-family *Tillandsioideae* such as the genera *Vriesea*, *Tillandsia*, *Guzmania*, etc. Two heavily inked spots on either side of the words



"organized 1950" represent the microscopic peltate scales formed on the leaves of all bromeliads. In the center the epiphytic *Vriesea* growing on a tree limb represents one of the most recurring types of inflorescence formation throughout the two largest genera of the family, *Vriesea* and *Tillandsia*."

All the BSI journals, excluding the more recent, are now available in the online archives of the BSI website. This is a wonderful resource indeed, for anyone with the time and interest to read and learn more about the world of bromeliads. In some cases the names of bromeliads have changed over the years where they have been re-categorised, thanks to modern botanical studies that have been undertaken, but there is loads of valuable botanical and historical information.

We are indeed very fortunate to have access to this wonderful material dating back to 1951! Just

think, there were bromeliad fanatics way back then as well!

Of course our logo, an image of the brass bell with a pineapple (*Ananas*) on top, which Lyn Wegner brought back from a BSI conference in Cairns, Australia 2008, (and is used to start all our meetings), is our ELBS logo, as suggested by Andre Eybers' late wife Val, 5 years ago!

Has anyone spotted the pineapple on top of the gold Wimbledon men's singles trophy? Strangely enough, no one seems to know what a pineapple is doing on top of this magnificent cup. One theory says it has to do with the tradition of British navy captains carving a pineapple on top of their gateposts on returning home from sea, perhaps having come across this rare and delicious tropical fruit when sailing in and around Central America waters.

This is all very pertinent to us, as we consider the Eastern Cape the heart of pineapple growing country in South Africa. Happy bromming!



(Brass pineapple on top of a brass bell - the logo of the East London Bromeliad Society, South Africa. Although this society was formed only 5 years ago, its membership has increased rapidly, thanks to the dynamic leadership of Lyn Wegner. Barbara Black is the editor of its monthly newsletter. Many members have large collections of broms that thrive in the favorable sunny, outdoor weather.

When the pineapple was brought back to Europe from the Americas by the early explorers, it became the most popular, sought after plant. After some time the pineapple became the symbol of welcome and hospitality, and it appeared and still can be seen on door posts and outside railings in

many homes.

*Note that the quote from the 1951 BSI Bulletin refers to the **three** subfamilies in the **Bromeliaceae**. Today, the findings of advanced research in molecular biology have led to us to recognize **8 sub-families**. Ed.)*

UPDATE ON POTTED TILLANDSIAS

Of the five pots of tillandsias that I set up earlier this year, only 3 failed to root and ultimately died. The rest are all growing well, and one plant, *Tillandsia brachycaulos*, has flowered. Most of them have increased in size by about 25%, as shown in the photos below. I encourage readers to try this more convenient way to grow tillandsias in a pot. HP.



Tillandsia brachycaulos



6 months later

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BROMELIANA is published 9 times a year by the New York Bromeliad Society, c/o Herb Plever, 172-34 133rd Avenue, # 8A, Jamaica, NY 11434. email address: hplever@verizon.net