



# FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES

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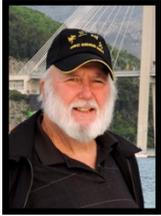
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**PUBLICATION:** This newsletter is published four times a year, February, May, August, and November, and is a publication of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. Please submit your bromeliad related activities, articles, photographs, society shows, news and events of your society. **DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS ARE:** February issue deadline is January 15; May issue deadline is April 15th; August issue deadline is July 15; and November issue deadline is October 15th.

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Cover Photograph: *Aechmea chantinii* Black #3 BGTB Show entry by David Johnston, Photo by Carol Wolfe



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## *I love Bromeliads... By Carol Wolfe, Editor*

The Florida weather has been a delight this year with only one freezing night in January when the temperature dropped to 26 degrees for six hours. It damaged a lot of our bromeliads but you will see from the pictures they are real survivors and bloomed in spite of the foliage damage. February was beautiful with twenty days over eighty degrees. It was great weather to woo visitors to the Florida State Fair. Bromeliads were the featured flora and it was a perfect place to display our bromeliads. It is more than a State Fair as people from all over the world visit and an impressive place to show off our bromeliads!

We have a great staff of people writing articles for this issue of the Newsletter. We begin with Teresa M. Cooper, PhD, for the current *Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report* on the status of the work to save Florida's Bromeliads and the special thank you to the members of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay and the members of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society for their contributions to the Al Muzzel Weevil Fund. Thanks to Theresa M. Bert, PhD, for her excellent contribution, *Tips for Preparing Bromeliads for Shows-Mounted Plants*. We are so pleased to share her bromeliad expertise with you. Next, our roving reporter, James Thurrott, former BSI President (2010-2016), bringing us a report on the Bromeliad Society of South Florida's 40th Annual Show held at Fairchild Gardens. I am sure you will enjoy roaming through the show with him. Another former BSI President, Tom Wolfe, (1999-2005), writes about *The Importance of Using Water with the Proper PH* as well as the minutes from the last FCBS meeting. Thanks to Calandra Thurrott for proofing the Newsletter and for the corrections!

We are excited to publish the description and photograph of *Aechmea caudata* "Silver Spire" received from Derek Butcher of Southern Australia. We have a connection in that it was imported from Brazil by Tropiflora Nursery of Sarasota, Florida. In 2008, Derek Butcher was awarded the first recipient of the "Friend to the FCBS." The FCBS.org website states, "This award was established to recognize and to thank those persons whose contributions have advanced the Council's goal to promote the education and science of bromeliads, served the bromeliad community of Florida and enhanced the standing of the Council. No one exemplifies these standards better than Uncle Derek." The Council established its web site in 1997 under webmaster Michael Andreas. Originally the goal was to be a source for bromeliad pictures and when none was contributed, Derek offered his extensive picture collection to the FCBS. Derek had world-wide contacts and soon his international friends were also sending pictures to the FCBS website.

We have so much species information available to us online. *Encyclopaedia Version 4* has just been released from the website: <http://bromeliad.nl/encyclopedia/?Buy>. In Bromeliad Resources, I share how you can get the full online program for just \$12.79 US Dollars a year. It is a must have program!

Hybrids are registered on the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry located on the *BSI.org* website. The BSI is the only International Cultivar Registration Authority for Bromeliaceae, appointed by the International Society for Horticultural Science's Commission for Nomenclature and Cultivar Registration. I placed shortcuts on my desktop for these two programs and with one click of a mouse, I can check names, spellings, pictures, descriptions, and research information on species and hybrids.

As the first lady when husband, Tom Wolfe, was President of the Bromeliad Society International, I had the opportunity to meet many wonderful bromeliad folks. Two of these special people were Sylvia Plever and Ardie Reilly and both have just passed away. Herb Plever's beautiful love story of 67 years with Sylvia is reprinted from *Bromeliana* (Feb. 2018). Martha and Steve Goode share the story of Jack and Ardie Reilly's life in the *Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago* (Mar/Apr 2018). Jack and Ardie married and their love story ran for 62 years. I read the following in the *Selby Gardens Tropical Dispatch* (Jan-Apr 2018) Words of Advice: "When you get married, two do not become one. You become a team of two. Each person brings their own special ideas and talents to make a dream team. Therefore you both have to give it your all." These couples certainly exemplified the dream team, gave it their all in loving each other with enough love left over for bromeliads and the people that grow them. I hope you enjoy the stories of these wonderful, talented women along with our memories of their lives.

It is a great privilege to meet people through bromeliads that otherwise we might never have known!



## Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report

1 February - 15 April 2018

Teresa Marie Cooper

Save Florida's Bromeliads Conservation Project

Newberry, Florida

At the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary (EFS), we have collected all of the seeds from the 2 giant airplants (*Tillandsia utriculata* L.) that began releasing seeds in January and we have started several Recruitment Sites in the forest. On 3 March 2018, members from the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida visited the Enchanted Forest and were able to help us create some of those Recruitment Sites. On that day, we were fortunate and found, fallen from the canopy, a large giant airplant with an inflorescence that was actively releasing seeds (Figures 1 and 2). We used those seeds, as well, to create Recruitment sites. For each Recruitment Site, we rubbed seeds on the trunks of oak trees. We reserved a portion of the seeds for use in the Gardens. We stretched burlap over a cedar frame, rubbed the seeds on the burlap, and hung the

Garden Structures in the Gardens (Figure 3).



**Figure 1.** Angie Howell, a volunteer at the Enchanted Forest, holding a large giant airplant, that had fallen from the canopy and that was releasing seeds.

The tiny and small plants in the Gardens are doing well. Several of the small plants have grown into medium size (longest leaf length 12") and have been moved from the Gardens, set up as Trail Plants, and placed on the trails. The twice-yearly Garden Count was made in February. The first plants were placed in the Gardens in March 2016 and the last plants were placed in the Gardens in March 2017. We will continue this experiment until March 2019, then make an assessment of how well the 3 types of Garden Structures work in relation to the locations of the Gardens.

Nearly half of the Trail Plants have been put in the Forest and we continue to collect baseline phytotelmata samples. We made our first application of the *Beauveria bassiana* on those plants that were randomly selected for treatment.

We have added several new plants with emerging inflorescences to the Conservation Cages. Since we moved the cages to their new locations, the health of the plants have improved. And now, because the cages are on a public trail, we often have the opportunity to tell visitors about the bromeliads and the weevil and the work we are doing to save these wonderful plants.



*Figure 2. A close up of the inflorescence from the giant air-plant that had fallen from the canopy of the Enchanted Forest; we used the seeds to start Recruitment Sites in the forest.*

Please, if you can, make a donation to the Al Muzzell Weevil Fund at: [FCBS.org](http://FCBS.org). The AMWF is managed by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies; all funds are used for the conservation project and donations are tax deductible.

And please visit our Web site at: <http://www.savebromeliads.com> or like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/SaveBromeliads](https://www.facebook.com/SaveBromeliads).

Presentations Cooper TM. 21 Feb 2018. Save Florida's Bromeliads Conservation Project. Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. Orlando, Florida.



*Figure 3. Marilyn Howser (from the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida) holding our new Garden Structure (burlap stretched over a cedar frame) with seeds newly applied to the structure*



**\$2,000 DONATIONS MADE TO THE AL MUZZELL WEEVIL FUND OF THE  
FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES**



Thank you  
Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay  
and  
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society  
for your generous donations to the  
Al Muzzell Weevil Fund!

*The volunteers of the Save Florida's Bromeliads Conservation Project and I are extremely grateful to the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay who donated \$750.00 and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society who donated \$1,250.00 to the Al Muzzell Weevil Fund. Their generosity will be critical in supporting our efforts to keep our native bromeliads alive and to find an alternative solution to control the Mexican bromeliad weevil.*

*We have many research projects in process and many more lined up for the near future and these funds will be critical in achieving these goals. As we progress with our work, we will continue to provide Carol Wolfe with Weevil Reports to be published in the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Newsletter.*

*Our native bromeliads are so precious and such a unique part of ecosystems and I am so heartened that so many people care and are willing to give to support our work!*

*Signed: Teresa M. Cooper PhD*

## Tips for Preparing Bromeliads for Shows—Mounted Plants

by Theresa M. Bert



Theresa M. Bert, PhD

In the last issue of the FCBS newsletter, I shared some ideas about why we bother to enter bromeliads in shows, confessed my early-career proficiency in getting yellow ribbons, disclosed some of my growing tips, and provided some guidelines for preparing potted bromeliads for shows. Here, I'll talk about the steps I take to prepare mounted bromeliads for shows.



*Tillandsia boliviensis*  
Photo by Derek Butcher

In most standard BSI shows, mounted bromeliads fall into the Horticultural Display category. Here, we'll focus on bromeliads that can be displayed in that category. The Horticultural Display category includes bromeliads mounted on wood or other natural (e.g., rock) or man-made (e.g., ceramic items) materials and bromeliads grown without potting media in open, natural (e.g., wooden slat) or man-made (e.g., clay) baskets. Importantly, the mounting medium should not be decorative. That's a different category. In this article, "mount" and its derivatives refer to bromeliads attached to or growing in wood or other media, without a potting medium. Requirements for the Horticultural Display category include evidence that the plant has been grown on or in the mounting material and is established there. Judges look for evi-

dence in the form of roots attached to the host material or other evidence of establishment and longevity.

The most commonly mounted bromeliads are members of the genus *Tillandsia* and its closely related genera (numerous new species in the subfamily Tillandsioideae have been moved to new genera; check them out at <http://www.bromeliad.org.au/news/DD0217.htm>); but many types of epiphytic bromeliads grow quite well when mounted, including aechmeas, neoregelias, and billbergias.



*Tillandsia chiapensis*  
Photo by CWolfe

Preparing mounted bromeliads for shows begins when you mount the plant. First, use a mount (e.g., piece of wood) or basket that's of appropriate size. Big bromeliads need big mounts or baskets, and vice versa.

Think about the size of the plant after it's multiplied for a few generations and how you want it to appear on or in its mount. Do you want it to cover the mounting medium, to spill over the sides of a basket? Do you want the mount to show around the plant, perhaps to enhance the overall appearance? Also, some bromeliads make pups in an upward direction; others in a downward direction. Mount your bromeliad so that it has room to grow in the appropriate direction.



*Tillandsia caerulea*  
Photo by Herb Plevier

Before you mount the plant, attach the hanger. There are several ways to make nifty hangers, but those are best explained in a workshop. Of all that I've tried, making a hook using sturdy galvanized steel wire threaded through a hole I've drilled in a wooden mount or modifying an S-shaped hanger to hook at the base of the wood and using cable ties to strap it to the wood are the easiest and fastest. Of course, there are ready-made hangers for baskets, available at most hardware stores and plant nurseries.

There are several ways to mount bromeliads on wood or materials. I've tried attaching the plant with liquid nails, fence post U-shaped nails, plastic-coated wire, and cable ties. My favorite is to use cable ties—quick, stable, and rust-proof. You may need to drill



*Tillandsia aeranthos x  
T. tenuifolia*  
Photo CWolfe

holes in the wood and thread the cable ties through the holes to get a tight fit. Importantly, try not to choke the basal leaves when you mount the plant. Try to attach the plant at the stem level, below the leaves. Also, using two cable ties separated by a bit of space on the stem will ensure stability. If the plant has no stem, consider putting it in a basket. It can take up to 6 months for the plant to strongly adhere to the mount, so planning ahead for this initial step is critical if you would like to present the plant in a show.

Then, let the plant grow. The basal leaves die as the plant grows, particularly on many tillandsias. To prevent this, mist or drench the plant with water every 2 – 3 days; when the atmosphere is hot and dry, daily is even better. It's important to put the plant in a place where the exposed parts of its leaves will dry quickly or it may rot. You're trying to strike a delicate balance between giving the plant enough moisture to keep all of the leaves and allowing it to dry quickly enough to avoid rotting. I keep my best mounted tillandsias suspended in an airy place near an outdoor faucet and spray them each time I'm using the hose attached to the faucet. In 2017, four of the five mounted tillandsias I put into the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale won awards, including two Best of Division and the Best of Show. When you find good places for your mounted plants, never move them!

Most tillandsioids are not prone to getting scale; but nevertheless, it's a good idea to spray them with a systemic pesticide twice a year, to ensure that the Mexican bromeliad weevil is kept at bay. Its favorite host plants are the two biggest Florida tillandsias—*T. utriculata* and *T. fasciata*. If you have those species, it's essential to spray not just those, but all of your bromeliads with a systemic insecticide (see the January FCBS Newsletter for more information).



*xBiltanthus 'Red Burst'*  
formerly known as  
*xCryptbergia 'Rubra'*  
(see BCR entry 2/2013 on BSI.org)  
Photo by CWolfe



*Tillandsia fasciculata var.  
densispica*  
Photo by Dorothy Berg

It's a good idea to do that anyway. The added benefit is that you'll never need to worry about scale. The negative side is that spraying can negatively affect beneficial insects and cause other environmental damage as well. Spraying judiciously will reduce those effects.

As you would do for potted plants, about 6 – 8 weeks before the show, scan your mounted bromeliads for potential show plants. Take extra care to mist or lightly water those several times per week. Trim off any old plants or protruding old-plant bases and any errant roots. Don't wait until the last minute to do this step because the trimming takes a few weeks to weather, which makes it far less noticeable. If possible, also trim out plants that have bloomed, or trim the old blooms out in a way that minimizes the noticeability of the cut end. Check the wood or mounting medium for extraneous growth such as moss, algae, ferns, or other bromeliad species that may have colonized. Clean those off as much as possible. The presence of any of these can reduce your score for that plant in the judging. Technically, you can have more than one bromeliad species growing on a mount, but in 30 years of observing, growing, and judging bromeliads, I have never seen multi-species mounted bromeliads do well in Horticultural Display category.

Just before the show, strip or trim any dead leaves or dead plants, ensure that your mounting medium is clean, and show your plants. Mounted bromeliads are rare in some shows. Having a stash of mounted bromeliads of show quality can be very beneficial if you enjoy exhibiting bromeliads in competitions. Even if you aren't inclined to compete in bromeliad shows, you can enjoy showing your beautiful mounted bromeliads to your fellow society members at meetings.

Lastly, some tillandsioids never make roots. Growing them for shows can be a bit problematic. How would they stably attach to the medium, particularly a piece of wood? How would the judges know that the plant had been growing on or in the mount long enough to be firmly established? Tillandsioids that grow very few or no roots should be grown in slat baskets rather than attached to wood or other media that they would hang from. These bromeliads grow beautifully in wooden slat baskets, eventually spilling over the top and growing in between the slats. Small plants that might slip through the spaces between the slats can be attached to individual slats using cable ties, which can be removed when the plant has grown sufficiently to block big spaces in the basket.

Mounted bromeliads can be attached to or hung from trees, fences, or racks. They provide an opportunity to grow more bromeliads of different types and to decorate vertical surfaces with beautiful bloomers. They're among the easiest to grow because problems with weeds are minimized. They can also be taken indoors when blooming to decorate the house. All that's needed is a place to hang them. I keep a hook on the wall just for blooming mounted bromeliads. So hang some of your bromeliads and have fun!



*Tillandsia Corinne X T. capitata*  
Photo by CWolfe



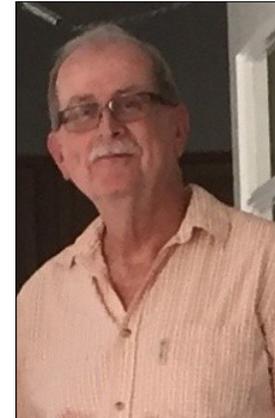
Clump of *Tillandsia funckiana*  
Photo by Moyna Prince

## Bromeliad Society of South Florida Hosts its 40<sup>th</sup> Judged Show at Fairchild Gardens

By Jay Thurrott

A visit to Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Coral Gables is always a treat for me. I just can't get enough of the place and if I lived closer (it's a good 4 hour drive from my house) you would find me visiting there all of the time. As wonderful as a visit to the gardens can be, once a year the call to South Florida becomes simply irresistible – that's when the BSSF hosts their annual judged bromeliad show and sale.

If you've never been to a judged bromeliad show – and a surprising number of bromeliad club members fit into this category, you really should



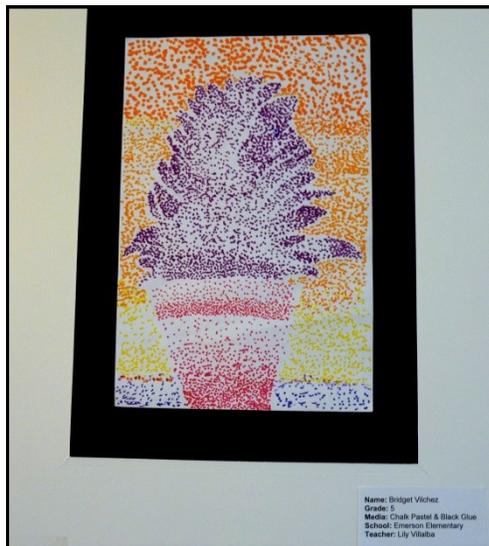
plan on attending one in your area to see what they are all about. You will not only see bromeliads that have been grown, groomed and displayed to their very best advantage, but you will also see plants that may be in less than perfect condition. This can be as interesting and educational as the award winners and often is an opportunity to view plants you wondered about the correct name (you will find it on the exhibit tag for each plant) as well as bromeliads that you have never seen before. Regardless of whether you are there for the prize winners or to peruse the red and blue ribbon winners, a bromeliad show is always a great learning experience! To give you just a taste of what to expect, I've included a few photos of this year's BSSF show at Fairchild Gardens.

One feature that sets this show apart from others is the presence of a judged student art show along with the bromeliad show.

Students in neighboring schools are encouraged to enter photos and original artwork focused on bromeliads. Judging from the quality of this year's entries, a number of these students may have promising careers ahead of them as artists.

Artwork submitted by students for Judging



**Artwork submitted by students for Judging**

For those of you unfamiliar with bromeliad shows, the judging takes place in two stages.

First, the judges view each entry from top to bottom and start with the assumption that the plant they are looking at is perfect (100%) and then as defects are noted, the score decreases. If only a few minor defects are seen on the entry, an 'Award of Merit' or A.M. ribbon is awarded. If there are a few more defects, the ribbon color may be reduced to a blue ribbon, a red ribbon, or something even less. Once this first round of judging is completed, then the clerks collect all of the plant entries in each category of the show that were awarded A.M. ribbons and the judges now must choose the "best" entries for each category.



Those aren't bird's eggs nestled in this entry of *Acanthostachys pittcairnioides*, that is the inflorescence!



**Rick Ryals led the judging after the first ribbons were awarded.**



Also, in this year's show were many plants from commercial growers that were not entered in the show, but were there for the public's enjoyment.

Bullis Bromeliads provided beautiful displays including the bromeliads below:



*Aechmea haltonii*



*Lutheria 'Splendide Vista'*  
formerly known as *Vriesea splendide* "Vista"

And then, of course, there are the gardens to wander through – and that in itself is worth a trip to Fairchild Gardens. If you look carefully, you will find many bromeliads in natural settings just waiting to be noticed!



**Clump of *Aechmea bracteata* in bloom.**



**Florida's native *Tillandsia utriculata* set high in the trees.**

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end, and we found ourselves heading north again to Port Orange, but we'll be back!



All photos in this article  
by Jay Thurrott



## THE IMPORTANCE OF USING WATER WITH THE PROPER PH

By Tom Wolfe

In Florida, this is the time of the year that we have the least amount of rain so we spend a lot of time concentrating on water for our bromeliads.

Although most tap water is acceptable for growing bromeliads, avoid alkaline or salty water. PH is a measurement for the degree of acids or alkalis present. The PH scale runs from 0 to 14.0 value below 7.0 being acid and above 7.0 being alkaline. To check your PH, try litmus paper or an inexpensive PH meter. Most pool supply stores have products to check Ph of water.

Since Florida sits on a bed of limerock, most well water tends to be on the alkaline side no matter the depth of your well. If you're pumping from a lake, river, stream, or pond, the PH may be on the acidic side. Municipal water is usually 6.5% to 7.5% (hard water containing chemicals for purification) but can vary in different areas of the country.

If you are growing Vrieseas or Guzmanias and are experiencing brown spots or brown leaf tips, a high PH may be your problem. A high PH not only makes the plants look unsightly but can cause leaf dieback. It is my opinion most bromeliads enjoy a PH of 5.8 to 6.5.

There is a device called a Dosatron which, when installing it in your water system can inject acid (citric, hydrochloric or sulphuric) into your water at whatever setting you choose. This device can also be used to inject liquid fertilizer or insecticides. I have one in my greenhouse but not in my property irrigation system. This can be a bit pricey for the homeowner but it works well. Another way for the homeowner or hobbyist, with a smaller collection, is to flush the center of the tanks on a weekly basis which can prevent the concentration of minerals.

Good luck with watering and before you know it the Florida monsoon rains will be here.



Quesnelia foliage damaged by the freeze but in full bloom.



### BROMELIADS SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

In spite of the damage to the foliage from the 26 degree temperature for six hours in Lutz, FL these plants survived and bloomed.

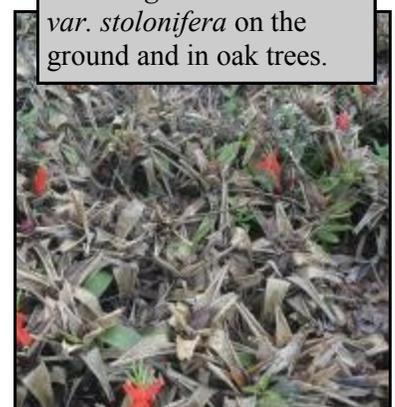
Photos by CWolfe



Frozen *Quesnelia testudos* on the ground and in trees.



*Blooming Bill. amoena*  
*var. stolonifera* on the  
ground and in oak trees.



***Aechmea caudata* ‘Silver Spire’**  
by Derek Butcher  
March 2018

*Aechmea caudata* Lindman, Svensk. Akad. Halldl. 24(8): 29, pl. 6, figs. 1-9. Feb 1891.

*Hoplophytum platzmanni* E. Morren, Belg. Hort. 25: 362. 1875; nomen.

*Hoplophytum luteum* E. Morren ex Baker, Handb. Bromel. 42. 1889; nomen.

*Aechmea floribunda* sensu Baker, Handb. Bromel. 42. 1889; as to *Hoplophytum luteum*; non Martius ex Schultes filius, 1830.

*Aechmea platzmannii* Wittmack, Bot. Jahrb. 13(Beibl. 29): 12. Mar 1891. Type. Sao Francisco, Santa Catarina, Brazil, Schenck 1234 (B ? n v), 20 Nov 1886.

*Aechmea henningsiana* Wittmack, Bot. Jahrb. 13(Beibl. 29): 12. Mar 1891. Type. Sao Bento, Santa Catarina, Schenck 1356 (B ? n v), 25 Nov 1886.

Description from Smith & Downs 1979

Plant flowering to 9 dm high.

Leaves 10-15 in a broadly funnellform rosette, 5-10 dm long, minutely appressed-lepidote;

Sheaths ovate or elliptic, distinct or obscure, entire, brown toward base;

Blades ligulate, broadly rounded and apiculate, to 8 cm wide but often much narrower, laxly serrulate with spines less than 1 mm long, sometimes dark toward apex.

Scape usually erect, 4-10 mm in diameter, white-flocculose;

Scape bracts erect, lanceolate, acute, entire, membranaceous, red, subglabrous, the upper usually much longer than the internodes.

Inflorescence densely or sub densely paniculate, 10-25 cm long, to 11 cm in diameter, bipinnate to the middle or higher and the remainder simple, white-flocculose;

Primary bracts like the scape-bracts, usually shorter than the branches;

Spikes spreading, laxly 4-7-flowered; rhachis slender, strongly geniculate.

Floral bracts ovate, attenuate to a slender brown spine, 7-17 mm long, entire, nerved, red, the margins free from the rachis;

Flowers sessile, spreading, 18-25 mm long.

Sepals 7-11 mm long including the long spine, connate;

Petals ligulate, obtuse, 12-15 mm long, yellow, turning purplish on drying, bearing 2 small scales at base;

Stamens shorter than the petals, pollen biporate;

Ovary sub cylindric, epigynous tube evident, crateriform; placentae extending nearly the full height of the cell; ovules obtuse.

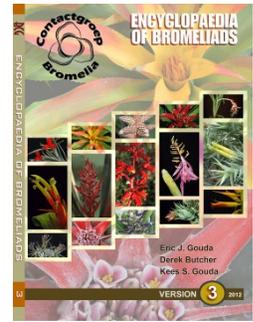
The number of synonyms suggest that this species can be variable and you will note that there is no colour for sepals. It was not until Reitz in Bromeliaceas, page 385. 1983 do we see “SEPALS a little connate at the base, 6 mm long (with the spine), 3-4 mm wide, long mucronate, semi-reniform, rounded at tip, clearly asymmetric, beautiful red;” This in line with my experience that sepals vary between orange and red. So it was a surprise when Ping Li of the Shanghai Chensan Botanical Gardens sent me a photo of a plant with green sepals under the name of ‘Santa Catarina’. This needed investigation and it appears that Tropiflora nursery ( Florida) imported the plant from Brazil around 2000 called ‘Santa Catarina’ and assumed it had been collected in this State. Since that time it has been in the USA Trade under this unofficial name. The immediate thought was to formally register the name in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register but alas the name had already been used for another plant. The inflorescence does look silvery so what better than to call it ‘Silver Spire’.



*Aechmea caudata* ‘Silver

**RESOURCES FOR BROMELIAD INFORMATION****Encyclopaedia of Bromeliads**

By Carol Wolfe



I have subscribed to the Encyclopaedia of Bromeliads on-line program for several years and it is an invaluable tool in looking up species for correct spelling of bromeliad names for newsletters, labels, names and spellings for sales and show programs, entry tags, labeling digital pictures, comparison of pictures for identification, and hours of enjoyment. My hobby is photographing bromeliads and after many years and thousands of pictures, I need all the help that I can get to make sure that I have the correct name, plant, and identification. I updated to Version 4 this week and it is a great working program!

You can become a registered member/donor of the project for € 10 a year and you will have full online access. The cost of €10 a year with PayPal converts to \$12.79 US dollars. I promise it will be the best \$12.79 you spend on bromeliads this year, and so easy to sign up and pay through PayPal, AmEx, Visa, MC!

**History: Encyclopaedia of Bromeliads - Version 4 How to Subscribe****Introduction**

October 2005 the first version of this Bromeliad CD project was presented, combining as much information and photos as possible about all existing Bromeliad species and names. We did realize that this was a monster project and we can not do it on our own. Especially we need picture donors to get most of the species illustrated.

The project started with a collaboration of three BCG members: *Eric Gouda*, *Hugo Claessen* and *Kees Gouda*. For literature references *Leo Dijkgraaf* has been asked to share his efforts in his search for Bromeliad literature and he was willing to do so. Soon *Derek Butcher* joined to work on the huge task to get the plant description data ready to be included. After four years (October 2009) a fully redesigned version 2 was introduced, that looked much nicer and had much more photographs. After an other 3 years (October 2012) we introduced version 3 (no longer available).

Current version 4, due to several reasons, is initiated 3 years late, March 2018, and is not yet available on CD/DVD. An inventory will follow to check the interest for it. We have many online Members already and we hope that most of the people who bought the CD/DVD-v3, and had online access too, will become an online member now. Information will follow on our Facebook account.

**What is new in version 4**

- More images are possible to be shown. There is one image TAB now which will show thumbnails of all images available (Mar. 2018)
- References (link) to Tropicos, link will result in a search in the Tropicos database (including synonym names) (Jan. 2018)
- The image quality has been improved to show more detail especially in difficult contrast situations (Jan. 2018)
- Taxon references has been moved to its own TAB, so that more space is available for additional images at the bottom of the screen. There is one Pictures TAB and each image can be shown separately in larger size. (Aug. 2017)
- Orthographic errors are added to the main Taxon information screen (July 2017)
- Direct/permanent links to Taxon information has been added to the website <http://bromeliad.nl/species/Genus/species> (July 2017)
- Literature List is given by Subject and within the subject 'New Taxa' listed by Genus (June 2017)
- Subgenus (classification) has been added to the Taxon pages (placed between parenthesis below the name). Taxon pages for the subgenera will be added soon, including a list of species belonging to it.
- Online version can be called with a ?find= option to access a taxon page directly from an external call
- Description Tab is linking back to the Literature page, from which it was edited and diagnose is added.
- The Literature Reference pages are extended with a linked list of Taxa (species) published in that publication, (including page numbers) and you can access each of them right away from that list with one click.
- In the Introduction menu the entry '*Species counts*' is added to show the current state of species numbers known/recognized per Genus including infra specific counts.
- In the Features menu two entries '*New in [year]*' are added to show the newly described species and varieties in the last two years.
- Larger *Species indices* will be preceded with a jump start ( a - b - c - etc.)

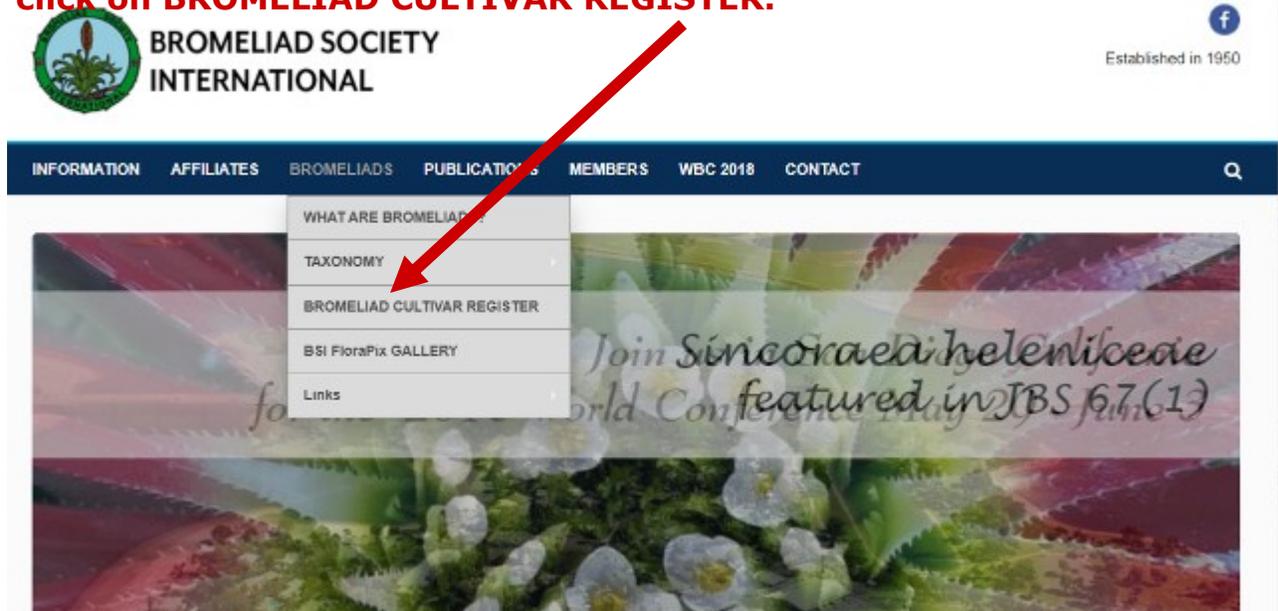




- Q. People often ask, "How do I get to the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry?"**  
**A. Easy, we answer. Just go to BSI.org. Picture of the website below.**  
**Q. How much does it cost?**  
**A. It's FREE! This website is financed by the BSI for educational purposes .**



**Now that you are at the website, follow the blue ribbon to BROMELIADS and Click for a drop down window and go to the third line and click on BROMELIAD CULTIVAR REGISTER.**





Now you are at the Bromeliad Cultivar Register, click on your favorite Genus in the left hand column.

BCR   Advanced Search   New registration   What's New   Information   Name List   Catalogues

## Bromeliad Cultivar Register

Compiled and maintained by the  
**Bromeliad Society International**

*The BSI is the only International Cultivar Registration Authority for Bromeliaceae, appointed by the International Society for Horticultural Science's Commission for Nomenclature and Cultivar Registration. Publication of bromeliad cultivar photographs and relevant information on any other website do not constitute registration.*

**Cultivar Registrar: Geoffrey Lawn**  
E-mail: [cultivars@bsi.org](mailto:cultivars@bsi.org)

in collaboration with  
**Derek Butcher and Eric Gouda**

Search the BCR

All  Name  Breeder  Parents

As you move the display bar down, more information is available to you.

[LAPANTHUS](#)  
[LEMELTONIA](#)  
[LINDMANIA](#)  
[LUTHERIA](#)  
[LYMANIA](#)  
[MEZOBROMELIA](#)  
[NAVIA](#)  
[NEOGLAZIOVIA](#)  
[NEOREGELIA](#)  
[NIDULARIUM](#)  
[OCHAGAVIA](#)  
[ORTHOPHYTUM](#)  
[PEPINIA](#)  
[PITCAIRNIA](#)  
[PORTEA](#)  
[PSEUDAECHMEA](#)  
[PSEUDALCAN-TAREA](#)  
[PSEUDAECHMEA](#)  
[PSEUDALCAN-TAREA](#)

[PSEUDANANAS](#)  
[PUYA](#)  
[QUESNELIA](#)  
[RACINAEA](#)  
[ROKAUTSKYIA](#)  
[RONNBERGIA](#)  
[SECUENCIA](#)  
[SINCORAEA](#)  
[STEYERBROMELIA](#)  
[STIGMATODON](#)  
[TILLANDSIA](#)  
[URSULAEA](#)  
[VRIESEA](#)  
[WALLISIA](#)  
[WALTILLIA](#)  
[WERAUHIA](#)  
[WITTMACKIA](#)  
[WITTROCKIA](#)  
[XAECHBERGIOPSIS](#)  
[XAECHOPSIS](#)  
[XANAGELIA](#)

[XANAMEA](#)  
[XANANANANAS](#)  
[XANDROLAECHMEA](#)  
[XBARVRIESEA](#)  
[XBILLMEA](#)  
[XBILLNELIA](#)  
[XBILLYA](#)  
[XBILTANTHUS](#)  
[XCANEGELIA](#)  
[XCANMEA](#)  
[XCRIPTANANAS](#)  
[XCRIPTBERGIA](#)  
[XCRIPTMEA](#)  
[XDEUTEROCAIRNIA](#)  
[XDYCKCOHNIA](#)  
[XDYCKTIA](#)  
[XENCHOTIA](#)  
[XFORZZANTHUS](#)  
[XGUZGOUDAEA](#)  
[XGUZLANDSIA](#)  
[XGUZLUTHERIA](#)  
[XGUZVRIESEA](#)

[XHECHCOHNIA](#)  
[XHOHENELIA](#)  
[XHOHENMEA](#)  
[XHOHENQUESMEA](#)  
[XHOHENTEA](#)  
[XLUTHANDSIA](#)  
[XNEOBERGIA](#)  
[XNEOBERGIOPSIS](#)  
[XNEOMEA](#)  
[XNEOPHYTUM](#)  
[XNEOROCKIA](#)  
[XNEOSTROPSIS](#)  
[XNEOTANTHUS](#)  
[XNIDBERGIA](#)  
[XNIDULISTRUM](#)  
[XNIDUMEA](#)  
[XNIDUREGELIA](#)  
[XNIDUSINCORAEA](#)  
[XORTHOCOHNIA](#)  
[XORTHOGLAZIOVIA](#)  
[XORTHOLARIUM](#)  
[XORTHOMEA](#)

[XORTHOTANTHUS](#)  
[XPITINIA](#)  
[XPITKIA](#)  
[XPORTEMEA](#)  
[XPSEUDANAMEA](#)  
[XPUCKIA](#)  
[XPUCOHNIA](#)  
[XPULIRIUM](#)  
[XQUESISTRUM](#)  
[XQUESMEA](#)  
[XQUESREGELIA](#)  
[XRACINDSIA](#)  
[XROKAUTANTHUS](#)  
[XROKAUTSINCORAEA](#)  
[XSINCORAECHMEA](#)  
[XSINCOREGELIA](#)  
[XSINCORGLAZIOVIA](#)  
[XSINCORPHYTUM](#)  
[XSINCORTANTHUS](#)  
[XURSULEPIS](#)  
[XURSUMEA](#)

[XVRIERAUHIA](#)  
[XVRIESGOUDAEA](#)  
[XVRIESLANDSIA](#)  
[XVRIESLUTHERIA](#)  
[XWALLANDSIA](#)  
[XWALLFUSSIA](#)  
[XWITTMEDIA](#)  
[XZIZKAGOUDEA](#)  
[ZIZKAEA](#)

After clicking the mouse on the Genus of your choice, you have a listing of bromeliad hybrids. Choose and click for all kinds of great information about hybrids. Click on the picture and it will enlarge for a great detailed view.

**BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL** *Bromeliad Cultivar Register*

BCR Advanced Search New registration What's New Information Name List Catalogues

**AECHMEA (839)** **Bromeliad Cultivar Register (13395)**

***AECHMEA 'America'*** Bullis P 2005

Mature upright rosette to 70cm. diameter x 1 metre tall in flower. Mid-green, slightly spiny leaves with central cream / yellow variegation. Vibrant, branched, rosy red spike with purple ovaries and purple flowers. A vegetative sport off Aechmea 'Blue Tango' which occurred in 2005 at Bullis Nursery, Princeton, Florida.--a U.S.A patented cultivar (U.S. PP20160353632 P1) . Reg. Doc. 4/2016.  
Country of origin: **Florida USA**

www.BullisBrom.com

- A l'Orange
- Abbey Road
- Adolph's White
- Adonis
- Ala Nigra
- Alaya
- Albo-vittata
- Albright Red
- Alegria
- Alice Springs
- Altmanii
- Alvarez
- Alvin
- Amazonense
- Amazonsis
- America
- Amethyst
- Ametista
- Andromeda
- Angelica
- Angra Dos Reis
- Angulation
- Anri Vincent
- Anonymous
- Ankon
- Apocalypse Now
- Apricot Torch
- Arcs
- Armed Spearpoint
- Pipin
- Amiba
- Ash
- Ash Blonde
- Alon
- Aurora

*This information is furnished by the FCBS Editor in hopes that you will use the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry on the BSI.org website to assist you in growing and identifying your bromeliads.*

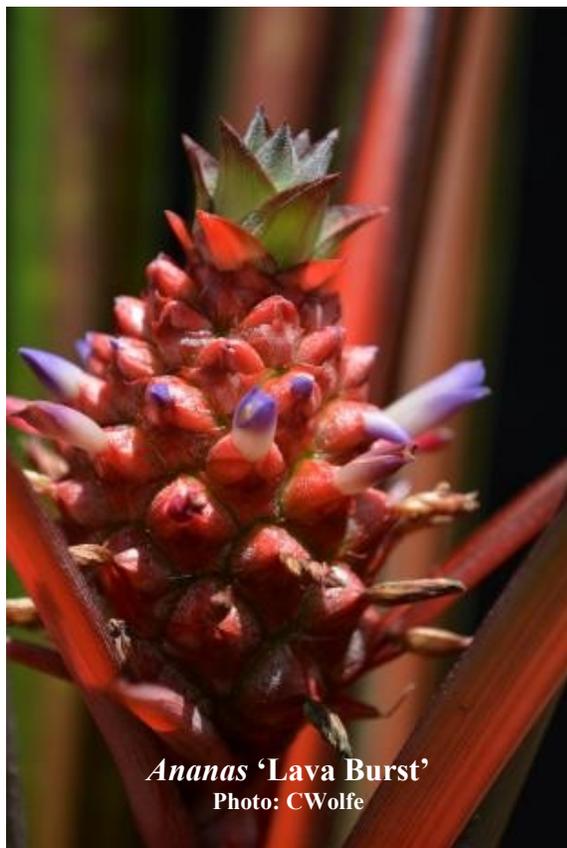
*Permission for use in Newsletters for educational purposes is given by the Bromeliad Society International.*





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 11, 12, & 13 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida  
Annual Mother's Day Show & Sale, Fashion Square Mall, 3201 E. Colonial Dr,  
Orlando, FL 32803
- May 18-19, 2018 Redland International Orchid Show Fruit and Spice Park 24801 SW 187th Ave.  
Homestead, FL 33031 <http://www.redlandorchidfest>.
- May 29–June 3, 2018 BSI World Conference in San Diego, CA. <http://www.bsi.org/new/conference>. May is  
only a month away. The World Conference will be held in sunny San Diego. Other  
than the usual show, you have the following: (a) exciting Optional Bus Excursion up to  
see two fantastic member gardens; (b) a visit to the San Diego Botanic Gardens where  
they'll have an Alfresco dinner together; (3) a stop in Balboa Park to see the world-  
famous Botanical Building; (4) included in your registration fee is a half-day afternoon  
tour in central San Diego; and (5) more. Want to register online for \$290. go to  
<http://www.bsi.org/new/wbc-registration/>
- June 2–3, 2018 Central Florida Orchid Society 62nd Annual Show and Sale, "An Orchid Garden  
Party" BSCF will have a sales booth and also a display area. Held at the National  
Guard Armory, 2809 S. Ferncreek Ave, Orlando, FL
- July 27-29, 2018 Caladium Festival Stuart Park Lake Placid, FL <http://www.lpfla.com/caladium.htm>
- Aug. 18-19, 2018 Annual Fall Plant Sale, (9-4 each day) Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society  
2018 Annual Fall Plant Sale at the Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford, FL



## FLORIDA STATE FAIR

By Carol Wolfe

The Florida State Fair started in 1904 when there were only 45 stars on the flag and the President of the United States was Teddy Roosevelt. Although the fair continued every year it was not officially sanctioned by the Florida Legislature as the “State Fair” until 1975. A new home consisting of 330 acres of land was purchased just 7 miles from downtown and in 1977 the Fair moved to their permanent home.

The Fair is open for 12 days, with attendance of 500,000 plus, some years the attendance surpassed

600,000 or more. So what can you find there? Amish doughnuts, deep fried foods, funnel cake, catfish, deep fried Twinkie and Oreos, awesome shows and rodeos, 110 rides of every size and description, a ferris wheel so high it is seen miles away, horse races, quilt shows, canning, cooking competition and the list goes on and on. An unusual event occurred at the 2018 Fair when two deputies delivered a baby in the midway. The baby received a lifetime free entry ticket from the fair! Every evening from 7 to 9 PM was an awesome laser light show.



So what does the Fair have to do with bromeliads? Bromeliads were the featured plants in the Horticulture section of the Fair and created a lot of interest. Members of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

were on hand to pass out information about the club and it was a great opportunity to share bromeliads with folks from all over the country. The BGTB’s own Tom Wolfe is Chairman of the Horticulture Sales area where he and Marty Baxley of FWCBS have been supplying the public with bromeliads for many years!



Residents of the State of Florida can apply in December to enter any well grown plant for competition through The Florida State Fair Authority. There is a \$3 charge for each entry. Blue ribbons pay \$12.00 and red ribbons pay \$10. Also, any horticulture club in Florida can apply to enter an 8’ x 8’ display for competition. This would be a good way to get yourself or your club involved in the Fair.



BROMELIADS ENTERED IN COMPETITION AT THE FLORIDA STATE FAIR



*Neoregelia Magali albo-marginated*



*Neoregelia Magali*



*Billbergia Casa Blanca*



*Tillandsia fasciculata var. densispica*



*Neoregelia Harpo*



*Guzmania hybrid*



Best of Show: *Neoregelia Candy Apple*  
Shown by Marty Baxley



*Neoregelia Cotton Candy*



*Photos by Carol Wolfe*

BROMELIADS ENTRIES IN COMPETITION AT THE FLORIDA STATE FAIR



*Neoregelia* Grace



*Aechmea weilbachii* forma *pendula*



*Vriesea* Hybrid



*Neoregelia* 'Fireball'

Assorted *Tillandsias* and *Aechmea orlandiana* on driftwood



*Neoregelia* Green Apple



*Neoregelia* Caroline 'Tricolor'  
(Formerly known as *N. Carolinae*  
'Tricolor')



**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES  
FIRST MEETING OF 2018, February 24, 2018  
Hosted by the Gainesville Bromeliad Society**

FCBS Member Representatives Present:

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay: Tom & Carol Wolfe  
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida:  
Mike Saunders, Karen Steinberg  
Bromeliad Society of South Florida:  
Mike Michalski and Patty Gonzales  
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society: Vicki Chirnside  
Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society:  
Jay Thurrott, Jack Dunlop  
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society:  
Linda Sheetz, Susan Sousa  
Gainesville Bromeliad Society:  
Tootie Richey and Mary White  
Sarasota Bromeliad Society:  
Dave Johnson, Marian Kennell

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant  
Society: Sudi Hipsley  
Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society: Lynn  
Marino  
Web Master: Michael & Karen Andreas  
Save our Bromeliads: Teresa Cooper  
Archives Committee & BSI: Steven C. Pro-  
vost

Guests:

Gainesville: Ron Schoenau  
Gainesville: Elaine Young  
Gainesville: Howard Frank  
Sarasota: Mark Kennell  
Save our Bromeliads: Angie Howell  
Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society:  
Kathy Dunlop

Jay Thurrott opened the meeting at 12:53 PM and thanked everybody for his tenure as Chairman and turned the meeting over to the new Chairman, Mike Michalski.

Mike Michalski presented one of his recent hybrids, Ron & Carolyn, (*Neo. Johannis* x *N. correaia-araujai*) to Ron Schoenau in honor of Ron and Carolyn Schoenau for their many contributions to the FCBS.

Mike also presented one of his new hybrids, Tom & Carol, (*Neo. johannis* x *N. Fruit Salad*) to Tom and Carol Wolfe in their honor.

Introductions went around the room.

Mike Saunders made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Dave Johnson and approved.

Sudi Hipsley presented the Treasurer's report and it was accepted as presented and filed for audit.

Michael Andreas gave the website report followed by Karen Andreas information on copyright for the FCBS.org with the following proposal new Standing Rule from Michael and Karen Andreas. Copies of the proposed Standing Rule was passed out to all present:

**All photographs on the Council website (fcbs.org) are copyrighted and may only be used by permission. The copyright of each photograph belongs to the photographer and not to the Florida Council. The name of the copyright holder is embedded in each photograph.**

**Permission to use a photograph for any purpose must be obtained from the photographer; the Council cannot grant permission. If needed, the webmaster will assist in providing contact information to the best of his ability.**



**For permission to use any materials other than the photographs on the website, contact the webmaster or, in the case of the Council newsletter, the editor for assistance in obtaining permission.**

Karen Andreas led a lengthy discussion of copyright rules and laws.

It was noted that standing rule 3 is now changed to rule 2 in the new FCBS bylaws to be voted on today pertaining to copyright laws.

Jay Thurrott made a motion to table the vote on the new standing rule until the next meeting to give members an opportunity to consider the motion since it was new information and he felt members should have a chance to think about it. Motion was seconded by Patty Gonzales.

Mike Saunders, acting as Parliamentarian, asked Jay to delay the vote on his motion until the new by-laws were voted on under Old Business on the Agenda due to the change in the rule number of the new bylaws. Jay agreed to the delay.

*(Secretary's note: Motion was never revisited.)*

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mike Saunders made a motion to vote on the new bylaws revisions and seconded by Dave Johnson. Motion carried.

*(Secretary's note: The following motion was not old business but was handled under the agenda as Old Business)*

Mike Saunders presented a motion changing the wording in the proposed Standing Rule 2 seconded by Vicki Chirnside to read as follows:

**All photographs on the Council website (fcbs.org) are copyrighted and may only be used by permission. The copyright of each photograph belongs to the photographer and not to the Florida Council. The name of the copyright holder is shall be embedded in each photograph.**

**Permission to use a photograph for any purpose must be obtained from the photographer; the Council cannot grant permission. If needed, the webmaster will assist in providing contact information to the best of his their ability.**

**For permission to use any materials other than the photographs on the website, contact the webmaster or, in the case of the Council newsletter, the editor for assistance in obtaining permission.**

Jack Dunlop amended the motion to strike out part of the last sentence and ending at webmaster.

**For permission to use any materials other than the photographs on the website, contact the webmaster. or, in the case of the Council newsletter, the editor for assistance in obtaining permission.**

The amended motion was seconded by Patty Gonzales. Motion carried.

#### **APPROVED AMENDMENT:**

**All photographs on the Council website (fcbs.org) are copyrighted and may only be used by permission. The copyright of each photograph belongs to the photographer and not to the Florida Council. The name of the copyright holder shall be embedded in each photograph. (Continue on next page)**



***Permission to use a photograph for any purpose must be obtained from the photographer; the Council cannot grant permission. If needed, the webmaster will assist in providing contact information to the best of their ability.***

***For permission to use any materials other than the photographs on the website, contact the webmaster.***

Mike Michalski, Chairman, called on Carol Wolfe for the FCBS Newsletter Report. Carol thanked Calandra Thurrott, Linda Sheetz, and Terri Bert for their assistance in the February Newsletter. She appreciates all the great articles contributed by FCBS members. She also thanked everyone for sending in the speaker information for the annual Speakers List. The next deadline for the Newsletter will be April 15<sup>th</sup> for the May Newsletter. Mike thanked Carol for the excellent newsletter.

Dr. Teresa Cooper reported on the progress of her research on the Mexican weevil. Her team is experimenting on a fungus that is found worldwide but has never been tested on its effectiveness against the weevil and its larvae. It is now being distributed in several locations throughout the state. She introduced Angie Howell who is a volunteer assistant.

Mike Saunders made a motion to add a title to the "By-Laws to Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc." and number the pages and effective date to each page. Motion seconded by Jay Thurrott. Motion carried.

Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches are interested in becoming members of the FCBS.

After discussion from the representatives of each society, it was determined that the FCBS roster will continue to be distributed in hard copy to the membership.

Susan Sousa requested that all clubs only send her the changes in their roster from the previous year and do not send the whole list.

FCBS Club dues of \$100 annually is due by March 31, 2018 to Sudi Hipsley, Treasurer.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

BSI Scholarship Program: Susan Sousa made the motion to send \$500 to the program and it was seconded by Dave Johnson. Motion carried.

Mike Saunders volunteered to audit the financial books of the FCBS and he also volunteered to be the Parliamentarian for our three meetings per year.

Jay Thurrott made a motion to put a full page ad in the WBC 2018 program. Jack Dunlop seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FCBS thanks Ashley Graham for her service in working on the By-Laws.

Next meeting is June 23, 2018 hosted by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wolfe, Secretary

- February 26, 2018** Minutes emailed to all voting FCBS Representatives  
**March 14, 2018** Minutes emailed to all voting FCBS Representatives with corrections made from the February 26, 2018 draft minutes. Representative had 2 weeks to vote on approval.  
**March 28, 2018** Minutes approved. Secretary received positive votes and no negative votes.  
**May 15, 2018** Approved Minutes to be published in the May 2018 FCBS Newsletter as approved.



Meet & Greet before the FCBS Meeting: Tom Wolfe, Mike Michalski, Linda Sheetz, Patty Gonzales, & Vicki Chirnside



Tootie Richey from GBS and Susan Sousa from FWCBS



Ron Schoenau welcomes everyone to Gainesville

Jack Dunlop, New Rep from FECBS, wife Kathy



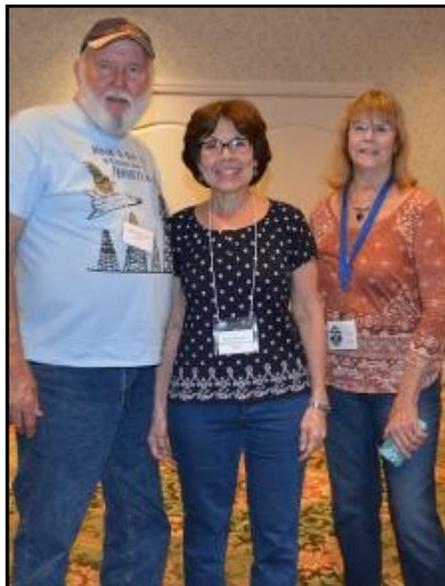
Special Guests: Angie Howell  
Teresa M. Cooper, PhD, Howard Frank, PhD



Elaine Young GBS & Lyn Marino, Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society



Dave Johnson & Marian Kennel, SBS



Mike Michalski & Patty Gonzales, BSSF & Linda Sheetz FWCBS



Sudi Hipsley and Jay Thurrott



Karen & Michael Andreas, Webmaster



The FCBS meeting was hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Gainesville, Florida at the beautiful Oak Hammond Complex where Ron and Carolyn Schoenau live. The GBS served a delicious meal and the Hammonds provided an executive room for our meeting. Afterwards, Ron gave tours through the greenhouse and gardens and very generously shared his pups and divided his bromeliads. Everyone went home with many new bromeliads!

*Photos by CWolfe*





**IN MEMORIAM - SYLVIA PLEVER  
1925 - 2018**

**by Herb Plever**

At the age of 92, my dear wife Sylvia died in her sleep in the morning of January 15, 2018, at peace with herself and without pain. She had metastatic stage 4 cancer and during the 8 months after its discovery she was a paradigm of courage, always seeking to calm the grief of her loved ones. I write to memorialize what she meant to me and our family and friends, to our NYBS club and to the BSI.

True, it was I who was well known for my 56 years spent studying bromeliads, my activities as a director and as Honorary Trustee of the BSI and my work as a founding member and as a President of NYBS and as Editor of Bromeliana since 1970 - but it was Sylvia's direct support, participation and assistance that made it all happen. She attended most World Bromeliad Conferences with me, beginning with the first one in 1972 in Houston; she proof-read Bromeliana and made suggestions to improve context and style.

For the 67 years of our loving, happy marriage, Sylvia was my love, my best friend, my constant companion and comrade, my care-giver and my fiercest, but always fair and honest critic. She came from a poor, working-class family in Brooklyn and she never forgot those roots. She quit high school in the 10th grade to work and support her family during the Great Depression. During World War II, she worked as a machinist in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. She was an avid reader of a wide range of books; she was very smart and modest without pretensions. Sylvia had a lifelong commitment to justice and equality, a commitment I fully shared.

We met and fell in love with each other in 1950 when I was about to enter law school on the GI Bill. I had little money and it was Sylvia who worked and supported me through the 3 years of law school. Sylvia and I shared a passion for opera, theater and cinema. On our very first date in July, 1950 we went to see "City Lights" by Charlie Chaplin. On our second date we saw an off Broadway play, and on our third date we went to see La Boheme at the NYC Opera. We shared a love of art, nature, growing plants, we danced international folk dances and Scottish Country dances 2 -3 a week. Our night tables were always piled with books that we read and discussed. When I started growing bromeliads in 1961, Sylvia allowed me to replace her many houseplants that were in beautiful shape. She liked the architecture of the bromeliad rosettes and the weird shapes of the Tillandsias. We ultimately had many bromeliads growing in the 6 ft. south facing window of our bedroom and she enjoyed sleeping there despite the bugaboo about it being dangerous. When I became addicted to broms, out of love for me she permitted our beautiful apartment to be converted into a tropical rainforest with one large humidifier and later four humidifiers constantly working.

The NY Bromeliad Society was organized in 1962 and at that time none of the literature was applicable to indoor horticulture. So I and my equally addicted pal, Sig Sussman, bought hundreds of broms to experiment with and to learn how to grow them indoors. We killed hundreds of plants in the process, but we learned how to successful grow and bloom many species and hybrids and we kept notes and wrote about them.

In a few years I was compulsively growing about 350 plants in pots, and I had so many tillandsias mounted on cork logs that their weekly soaks took six bathtub loads and 7-8 hours to complete. Since I was busy at my law practice all week, the bromeliad activity took up an entire weekend which sharply limited our marital time together.

This was totally unacceptable to Sylvia, and she strongly but kindly confronted me and brought me back to reality. She helped me (and pushed me) to sharply reduce my collection to the point that my tillandsias took only 2 soaks in 2 hours in the early morning, and my potted plants were reduced to a manageable 75 in 5 rooms.

Later, she pushed me to end the burdensome chore of daily filling the humidifiers, and I disposed of them. She reminded me that when I started buying hundreds of broms I had told her: “The plants will have to adapt to our lifestyle”. She said: “Let’s see if they can adapt to lower humidity” - and most of them did.

Sylvia was a people person who was interested in people from different cultures, ethnic backgrounds, religions and gender preferences. She was a good listener and she respected views which differed from hers, and she expected that her views would be equally respected. She emanated friendship, honesty and love in all relationships which she anticipated would be and was reciprocated.

We had a storybook happy marriage for 67 years. By the time our children were of camp age, we became global travelers with a special passion for Italy which we visited many times. At home we were culture vultures and were out of the house 5 or 6 days a week, but Sylvia also valued her many different family groups: her and my relatives, and those of our son-in-law and daughter-in-law all of whom kept close contact and met often on holidays and on happy and sad occasions.

Also there were the dear friends and neighbors of Rochdale Village community in which we have lived for 53 years. We had our Bromeliad Family with many long-time friends from our NYBS club and friends from the U.S. and abroad whom we met at WBCs. There was our “family” of friends from international folk dance and Scottish Country dance groups we had danced with over more than 50 years. Finally, there were our close friends in Italy whom we regard as members of our family. We were surrounded with love from our 2 children and their spouses, our 4 grandchildren and great-grandson and our many neighbors and friends who have comforted me and each other in coping with the grievous loss of a remarkable human being.

*Reprinted from the Bromeliana Newsletter of the New York Bromeliad Society February, 2018*

During the 1990’s Herb and Sylvia Plever visited Tom and I at our home in Lutz. Since I did not know them, except for a casual introduction and handshake at the 1988 Miami World Conference, I was a little apprehensive about having these people for dinner. Perhaps it was my southern heritage and not knowing anyone from New York that made me apprehensive and part of it could have been Herb’s reputation as something of a miracle growing bromeliad giant in the eyes of bromeliad folks.

The evening proved that I had nothing to be concerned about because they were congenial and friendly and we had a wonderful time together. Herb and Tom spent some time in the greenhouse and Herb took many photographs and later told us that he had shown the pictures to his club in New York. We were really amazed at that!

Sylvia and I had a great visit. Not only was she friendly and interesting but she was very interested in our family. From that time on, I looked forward to seeing her and Herb and it didn’t make any difference in the years that might slip in between visits, it was always friends connecting with friends. Our sympathy to Herb and family and we will all miss her. Carol Wolfe

Soon after the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay contracted to host the 1992 World Bromeliad Conference at Saddlebrook Resort, Herb Plever contacted me to find out if I would be interested in having Roberta Burle Marx of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as our keynote speaker. After I found out who Roberta Burle Marx was, I whole heartily agreed to extend him an invitation to come. It was after that when Herb and Sylvia become our good friends. Sylvia was always supportive of Herb and his passion for bromeliads and pleasant to be around. She will be greatly missed.

Tom Wolfe



Neoregelia Star Wars—Photograph taken at Michaels Bromeliads, Venice by Carol Wolfe



**ARDETH “ARDIE” REILLY Illiopolis, IL  
1934 - 2018  
By Martha & Steven Goode**

It is with much sadness, that the family of Ardeeth “Ardie” Gay Herron Reilly announces her passing on the 4th of April, 2018 after more than a decade battle with cancer.

Ardie, 83, was born September 7, 1934 in Connellsville, PA. She has been a resident of Illiopolis, IL, since 1969. After graduating from Dunbar Township High School, Dunbar, PA, Class of 1952, Ardie became a Registered Nurse in 1955 through training at the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing of Pittsburgh, PA. This was when she began dating the boy next door John “Jack” Reilly and fell deeply in love. She moved to Bay City, TX, to marry Jack on August 30, 1956 and began their life together after he graduated as a civil engineer and found employment in the oil industry. They have been together ever since and their love has been an inspiration to friends and family alike. In Texas, Ardie started her adventures in motherhood giving birth to her five children. She loved Texas, its landscape, the TexMex food, and the cowboy culture. From Bay City, her growing family moved to Borger, and then to Phillips, an oil ref Texas to Illiopolis.

Ardie worked as a visiting nurse, a school nurse and finally retired from Borden Chemicals and Plastics (BCP/Formosa) in Illiopolis, IL as the plant nurse. For a brief period, Jack and Ardie moved to Baton Rouge, LA for BCP bringing back to Illiopolis Cajun cuisine including frequent crawfish boils. It was in Louisiana that Ardie and Jack became passionate collectors of tropical Bromeliads. After their return, she and Jack built a large greenhouse across the front of their ranch house. They accumulated thousands of plants and showed them for years as members of The Bromeliad Society International. They often traveled to the Mexican Yucatan and Guatemala where they made friends, visited Mayan ruins and collected native and wholesale bromeliads for their personal company - JAR Bromeliads.

A new hybrid Neoregelia bromeliad was also named after her – the ‘Ardie.’

After retirement, Ardie began an apprenticeship at the Senior Center in Springfield, IL, attending weekly weaving sessions. She purchased several looms, and a dilapidated building in downtown Illiopolis, restored it and launched her weaving cooperative. She wove colorful rag rugs for gifts and for sale in the local store; and loved to teach people weaving, including her daughters and grandchildren. Ardie had a joyful humor, booming laugh, and radiant smile. She made friends wherever she went with her warm heart and compassion for everyone around her. Her legacy is love.

Ardie is survived by her husband of 61 years John “Jack” Reilly; her children John (Cathy) Reilly, Pamela (Michael Alexander) Reilly, David (Lisa) Reilly, Christy (Fred) Reilly Worrell, and Patricia (Eric) Reilly Bramlet; and 10 grandchildren and 1 great grandson.

Martha and I (Steve) are deeply touched by Ardie’s death. My wife got me elected to the position of Secretary in our Club in 1997, because she told me to stay home and read the papers. She put my name in for that position since Barb Temchuk vacated the position. Martha knew I had the computer skills and printer for a newsletter and she didn’t. We went to Houston for our first Bromeliad Society World Conference in 1998. Ardie and Jack helped us around and introduced us to quite a few people who became our friends in the Bromeliad Society.

We both remembered the many times that Jack and Ardie did a program on preparing your plants for a BSI Judged Show. They would explain and demonstrate how to prepare the plants and pots for the show. That was in the days when the Club had far more members. The Club imported BSI judges for the show. Ardie and Jack would bring in a large number of plants from Illiopolis for the Show. Every year, they would travel the 210 to 220 miles for the show and stay overnight for 2 to 3 nights during the show. The trip would take anywhere from 3 1/4 hour to 4 hours depending on the route. They never complained about the time and energy that it took. She shared her enthusiasm about bromeliads with everyone.

They would also travel to the Bromeliad Society World Conference where ever it was. They didn't make it to the one in Cairns, Australia in 2008. They made it to the next one in New Orleans in 2010 and Orlando, FL in 2012. They were not able to go to the World Conference in 2014 in Hawaii nor the one in 2016 in Houston.

Jack Reilly was a Vice President of the BSI in 2004 when our society hosted the World Conference. Ardie really worked behind the scenes during that conference. With Ardie's patience and good humor, the 2004 Conference was a great one.

*Information from the Bromeliad Society Greater Chicago, March/April 2018 issue.*

When Tom was serving as the BSI President, Jack Reilly was Vice President and they spent time talking about hosting a BSI World Conference in Chicago in 2004. In 2002, Jack invited Tom to come to Chicago to meet with the Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago's Officers to discuss hosting the world conference and to give the club a program at their monthly meeting. The Officers liked the idea of hosting the 2004 World Bromeliad Conference and the club voted to host the conference.

Before the meetings, we spent a great day with Martha and Steve Goode touring Chicago. Steve has a remarkable memory and as we toured Chicago's historical places he filled us in on the historical facts. After the meeting, Jack and Ardie, who lived in Illiopolis, IL about 200 miles south of Chicago, picked us up at our hotel and took us to their favorite Chicago restaurant for breakfast. Then we headed north to Michigan for a visit to a conifer nursery. The place covered hundreds of acres of land! We viewed the rarest of conifers, from very small to very tall trees, from miniatures to giants in reds, blues, greens, yellows and whites. And after that, we visited another nursery to see all kind of ornamental shrubs and annuals that we had never seen. Both couples were the epitome of the perfect host.

The following year in 2003, the BSI Board of Directors held their annual meeting in Chicago and after the meeting, Tom and I were able to visit with Jack and Ardie at their home. After enjoying their large bromeliad collections and touring the town of Illipolis, Jack showed us the bank building they purchased for Ardie's looms and we visited other quaint stores around town. Ardie truly loved people and was concerned that senior citizens continue learning. Ardie had many stories to share with us about the town, its history and its people. But the most memorable stories were those of her and her son flying the ultralight plane. At times, because of weather or mechanical problems, the plane would go down. Then, not knowing exactly where they were, they would find a phone and call Jack to come and get them. I was amazed at Ardie's spirit of adventure and equally amazing was Jack's patience, spending hours trying to locate them in cornfields, pastures, wooded areas or other places when he had no idea where they landed.

We were fortunate to have them visit us in Florida and to enjoy sharing Ardie's zest for life and people. Our sympathy to Jack and family. We will miss her too. Tom & Carol Wolfe



***Neoregelia Pemiento***

**FROM THE BCR:** R.L. Frasier says, "Plant has form of carolinae w/very broad white variegation down the center of the green leaf and a thinner leaf than 'Royal Burgundy' - the entire plant is transparently overlazed by a brilliant hot tomato-red with random windows or color breaks of no overlaze - 26 to 30 leaves - 16" (40cm) across - lavender flowers" - Skotak said, "Only the two cultivars kept from the entire grex". Reg. Doc. 1995, Country of origin: **Costa Rica**

Photo taken at Michaels Bromeliads  
Used by permission of the BSI  
Photo by Carol Wolfe

## THE MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

900 S Palm Ave,  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
<https://selby.org>

Andy Warhol  
*Flowers in the Factory*

This is a must see exhibit. Artist Andy Warhol was inspired by the repetition of shapes and varied combinations of vibrant color. The Selby horticulture team drew from these concepts as well as plants featured in his works to create beautiful displays using bromeliads. It is an awesome Exhibit!

Make your plans to see the Exhibit  
by June 30, 2018.

Photos by Carol Wolfe

