



FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES

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xGuzzyriesea Garden Party



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Cover Photograph: *xGuzvriesea* Garden Party by ©Carol Wolfe

INTRODUCING OUR 2018 FCBS OFFICERS

2018 CHAIRMAN: Michael Michalski Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Mike was born on Miami Beach and has remained a lifelong resident. He loves fishing in the beautiful waters surrounding Miami and was also a boat captain.

Mike worked at the Miami International Airport for more than 25 years installing and taking care of all the automatic doors.

Now retired, he loves hybridizing bromeliads, traveling and collecting lots of goodies from all over the world.



2018 Vice Chairman: Mike Saunders Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Mike Saunders is a retired prosecutor who has lived most of his life in Orlando. He became involved with bromeliads and the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida about five years ago. He attributes Lisa Robinette with BSCF with getting him really interested in the colorful foliage rather than just the colorful inflorescence. He currently serves as President of that Society. His addiction to bromeliads (and to orchids) covers the spectrum. His philosophy is “if it looks beautiful, it’s worth adding to the collection”.

2018 Secretary: Tom Wolfe Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Tom has been interested in bromeliads since his first bromeliads purchased for landscaping his home in 1964. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. Tom promotes the local society’s importance as a beginning point for introduction to bromeliads and it is there that interest in growing bromeliads and enthusiasm for bromeliads is encouraged. Tom has served FCBS as a rep for many years and under the umbrella of the FCBS, the Florida societies working together have accomplished much to educate the public, lead the fight in preventing the weevil problem, and promoting bromeliads around the world.





2018 TREASURER: Sudi Hipsley
Seminole Bromeliad Society

Sudi was born and raised in Thailand and met an American man in Thailand and they were married in Kinshasa, Zaire. They moved to Leesburg, Florida in 1990 and she was soon hooked on bromeliads. She has been collecting them since 1994, starting with a purchase of a *Tillandsia cyanea* at a bromeliad show & sale. Sudi then joined Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society where she is currently serving as Vice President and Treasurer. She is also an active member of Bromeliad Society of Central Florida & Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society. She is a Lake County Master Gardener and volunteer with Discovery Gardens in Tavares and Nehrling Gardens in Gotha. She is also VP & Treasurer of Groveland/Mascotte Garden Club too. She has served as Treasurer of FCBS since January 2005.

**2018 FLORIDA COUNCIL OF
BROMELIAD SOCIETIES
REPRESENTATIVES & COMMITTEES
& EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Tom Wolfe, bromeliadsociety@juno.com
Carol Wolfe, bromstudio@hotmail.com

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Betsy McCrory, betsymccrory@aol.com
Mike Saunders, presbyter64@gmail.com

Bromeliad Society of South Florida
Michael Michalski, pgonza7782@aol.com
Patty Gonzalez, pat.gonzalez3@aol.com

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society
Vicky Chirnside, dampearth@me.com
Pete Diamond, lygodium63@hotmail.com

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society
Calandra Thurrott, Calandra.thurrott@att.net
Rick Ryals, rickryals@bellsouth.net

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Ashley Graham, adglaw@gmail.com
Susan Sousa, susansousa1@yahoo.com

Gainesville Bromeliad Society
Tootie Richey, tootie2t@yahoo.com
Mary White, gatormary96@yahoo.com

Sarasota Bromeliad Society
David Johnson: Davidjohnson929@comcast.net

**Seminole Bromeliad &
Tropical Plant Society**
Sudi Hipsley, sudii@embarqmail.com
Greg Kolojeski, greg@gregstropicalgarden.com

Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society
Lyn Marino, teammarino@bellsouth.net

Committee: Al Muzzel Weevil Fund
Karen Andreas, Chairman, Karen@digital.net
Tom Wolfe, bromeliadsociety@juno.com
Jay Thurrott, cajat@aol.com

FCBS Newsletter Editor
Carol Wolfe, bromstudio@hotmail.com

FCBS Webmaster
Michael Andreas, webmaster@fcbs.org

FCBS Roster Maintenance
Susan Sousa, susansousa1@yahoo.com

Weevil Research
Howard Frank, PH.D, jhfrank@ufl.edu
Ron Cave, PH.D, rdcave@ufl.edu
Teresa M. Cooper, PH.D
SFBCP@savebromeliads.com

I love Bromeliads...By Carol Wolfe, Editor

Greetings and Happy New Year! Hoping that you and your family shared wonderful holidays and wishing you success, happiness, great family gatherings and meals, and luscious bromeliad gardening in 2018! With the New Year ahead of us and with New Year's resolutions to inspire us, I'm hoping that your resolutions contain some garden related ones. Some members may desire a "greener thumb" this year perhaps by becoming a bromeliad judge, or a master gardener, while others may want to spend more time in the garden to "Stop, smell, and admire the flowers." Whatever your desires and resolutions for the new year, we hope your enthusiasm will carry you through the year doing what you love.

In a 1950's Federation of Garden Clubs bulletin, their theme for the year was "All the World is a Garden"! What a great theme and I am adopting it as mine for this year! The first humans, Adam and Eve, started their lives in the Garden of Eden and perhaps that is why we yearn to live in a Garden. Whether we are having our morning coffee and enjoying our view, working in the greenhouse, potting bromeliads, preparing for a show, taking a stroll through the garden, or quietly admiring our favorite bromeliads, let your world become your garden.



David Fairchild was responsible for the introduction of more than 200,000 exotic plants and varieties of established crops into the United States, including soybeans, pistachios, mangos, nectarines, dates, bamboos, and flowering cherries. It is not surprising that he wrote the book, *The World was My Garden: Travels of a Plant Explorer*, and today we have his beautiful Fairchild Gardens in Miami to explore and enjoy.

If you looked at "All the World is a Garden", would it change your perspective of the world around you? Would it inspire you to do great things like David Fairchild? I believe that looking at all the world as a garden lifts our spirits and inspires us to enjoy the world around us!

In this issue of the Newsletter, we are thankful to have so many writers contributing to the Newsletter. Dr. Teresa Cooper's update on the Mexican Weevil is always interesting and informative. Dr. Theresa Bert, retired Research Scientist formerly with Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, joins us in writing two articles, *Tips for Preparing Bromeliads for Show* and a *Call for Nominations for the BSI Wally Berg Award of Excellence*. She has agreed to supply additional articles for our Newsletter in the coming months. Linda Sheetz with the able assistance of Kathy Risley and Alton Lee, provided us with wonderful insights into the remarkable life of Helga Tarvar, a FWCBS member who passed away in July. Tom Wolfe shares a story of a misnamed bromeliad and a mystery about its pups existence in freezing temperatures. Mike Michalski updates us with his progress after Hurricane Irma with a new greenhouse. Jay Thurrott provided pictures of his and Calandra's visit to the Southwest Guild Show held in Dallas this fall. Thanks to all our contributors for your articles!

Your FCBS representatives have provided the speakers names and title of programs for the combined Speakers List for the previous year. Wow, what a list of great speakers we have in Florida! This list should be especially helpful to new program chairs in our clubs. It is a smorgasbord of speakers to choose from! We are so very fortunate to have such diversity in the bromeliad programs and very fortunate to have members willing to give great informative up-to-date live programs!

Congratulations to The Caloosahatee Bromeliad Society and all the hard working members who put on a great show in December. They had lots of space in their new location for a show and a large auditorium full of beautiful bromeliads for sale. If you missed their show, I hope you enjoy the pictures of their award winning bromeliads and I only wish we had room in the Newsletter to show all the entries.



Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report

November - January 2018

Teresa Marie Cooper

Save Florida's Bromeliads Conservation Project

Newberry, Florida

At the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary (EFS), we have received funding from the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies to begin research to test the entomopathogenic fungus, *Beauveria bassiana*, to protect our Trail Plants from the Mexican bromeliad weevil. Trail Plants are medium to large giant airplants (*Tillandsia utriculata*) that we are attaching to cedar sticks which are then tied to trees in the forest (Fig. 1). We will test 180 plants, 90 in a control group (no fungus is sprayed on the plants) and 90 in the treatment group (sprayed monthly with the fungus). David Humphrey, Editor of the Sea Rocket Florida Native Plant Society's newsletter, has volunteered to make the trail sticks for us. Volunteers Lora Losi, Martha Pessaro, Angie Howell, Madison Giuntoli, Kathy Mocko, Tiffany Gray, Rachel Freier, and I will collect, set up, and put the plants on the trails that connect our Forest Gardens, as well as apply the fungus and collect and analyze the data. Giant airplants are tank bromeliads and hold water in their leaf axils (called phytotelmata) which support complex aquatic ecosystems. Because the fungus might have an effect on the insects that live and grow in this water, we will also sample the phytotelmata throughout this study. We will catalogue the insects that are present in the sample and monitor the populations over time. We have begun collecting baseline phytotelmata samples.

Also at EFS, we have 2 large giant airplants with inflorescences that have begun releasing seeds. We have been collecting the seeds and will spread them in the forest in March. At the T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve, Donna Day, Ernie Winn, and Art Smith have 11 plants with inflorescences that are also beginning to release seed. They are collecting seeds and preparing to put the seeds and the plants into the forest at the Carlton Reserve. On 11 January 2018 I met with the volunteers at the Carlton Reserve, Lemon Bay Park, South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve, and the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast at the Carlton Reserve. We discussed what we had accomplished since our last meeting in early 2017. Topics included dealing with Hurricane Irma and methods for collecting, keeping, and putting giant airplant seeds into the forests. As at the Enchanted Forest, the plants in their Gardens and Conservation Cages survived the hurricane and are doing well. Since that meeting, we have had a couple of severe freezes that reached deep into Florida; the plants survived these events as well. After our meeting, Donna Day, Ernie Winn, and I went into the forest at the Carlton Reserve and put some seeds on an oak tree. They used a method that was developed by Sherm Stratton and Linda Lovallo using a duster pad on a telescoping stick. First, the tree is misted with water. Giant airplant seeds are placed on a duster (Fig. 2) then the duster is raised and tapped lightly against the tree. The seeds fall off easily and adhere to the tree. The method worked very well.



Figure 1 *Tillandsia utriculata* that we are attaching to cedar sticks which are then tied to trees in the forest

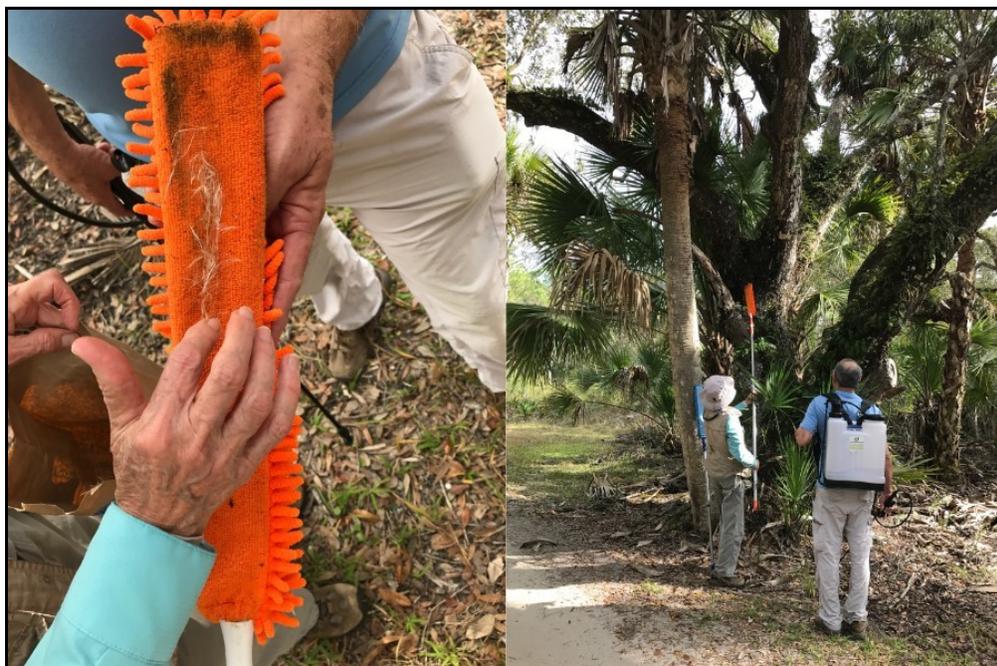


Figure 2: Volunteers Jeff Mills and Leander Houston-Enjady

(fig. 3). With so much help it was easy to relocate the cages. Now, they are up on a ridge next to a canal, with breezes and soft, dappled sunlight. You can see the video of this event at: <http://www.savebromeliads.com/sfbcp-updates>.

And finally, at EFS, we moved our Conservation Cages to a new and better location (Fig. 3). The area where the cages were previously located had too much canopy coverage and surrounding forest and required too much maintenance to provide enough light and aeration. On 11 December 1 2017, our volunteers along with Jeff Mills and Leander Houston-Enjady came together and made it happen



Figure 3 Volunteers working with Jeff Mills and Leander Houston-Enjady

Please, if you can, make a donation to the Al Muzzell Weevil Fund at: 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. 10-12 November 2017. Save Florida's Bromeliads Conservation Project. Native Rhythms Festival. Melbourne, Florida. Poster presentation.

Cooper TM, Day D, Winn E. 11 January 2018. Saving Florida's Endangered Bromeliads. Manatee-Sarasota Sierra Club, Osprey, Florida.

Pictures in this article provided by TM Cooper

Tips for Preparing Bromeliads for Shows

by Theresa M. Bert

Entering bromeliads into bromeliad shows is fun, rewarding in more ways than just winning prizes, challenging in more ways than one, and considerable work. Going to the trouble of preparing bromeliads for entry into show is a commitment, at least for a few days or weeks. We owe it to ourselves, to the society sponsoring the show, and to the visiting public who want to see really nice and interesting bromeliads to “dress our bromeliads up” as well as possible for shows. Here, I’ll present a few points that have helped me to enter prize-winning bromeliads through the years.

Early in my “bromeliad career” (actually, a hobby run amuck; I’m a marine biologist), I was the queen of yellow ribbons at bromeliad shows. It’s true; I received more yellow ribbons (or no ribbons at all) for more bromeliads than anyone else I know or ever have known. Gradually, I learned more about preparing bromeliads for shows from friends in the bromeliad world, from serving as a clerk for judges during bromeliad shows, and from studying to be a judge certified by the Bromeliad Society International. However, actually doing all of the work that it took to prepare potentially prize-winning bromeliads for shows seemed formidable. And, I worked full-time. How could I have the time to do all of that work?

Actually, it’s not difficult or extraordinarily time-consuming to prepare bromeliads for shows; and it is rewarding to see the plants after they’ve been cleaned up and dressed up for a show. Here is my list for showing nice broms:

About 8 – 10 weeks before the show, spray your broms for scale. Actually, it’s best to regularly spray them. I use systemic sprays—Cygon 2E and Dominion, plus Sevin when I have a weevil infestation. The chemicals to look for include neonicotinoids (acetamiprid, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam) and organophosphate acephate (orthene). Some of these are killers—carcinogenic, so protect yourself. All but Sevin will protect your plants for 4 – 6 months. You may not wish to use such drastic insecticides. If not, you’ll need to spray more often. (Just a note: if any readers have other ways to control scale, please share that information through the FCBS newsletter.)

About 6 to 8 weeks before the show, scan your bromeliads. Check for really nice bromeliads hidden in back of or beneath others, note the bromeliads that may be in the early stages of developing blooms; those with particularly good coloration; those that have large, artfully structured clumps; and those that are rare. Don’t move them. If there are other broms touching them, move those. Maintain the watering and light regimes they’re used to and just keep an eye on them. You can be sure that many will deteriorate in some way just before the show (!), so have backups that may bloom or develop beautifully in that 6 – 8 week interval.



Aechmea kertesziae
by Terrie Bert

About a week before the show, assess all of your bromeliads again. You never know where a beauty might be lurking. If you plan to show many (10 – 15 or more), start bringing them to a good spot with about the same sunlight and water as they had in their original environment. I bring mine into my pool cage.

You’ll be judged not only on the quality of the inflorescence, but also on its developmental stage (maturity). If it’s very immature, several points will be taken off; so be prepared for that if you choose to show the plant.



Terrie Bert in front of her award winning *Tillandsia duratii* at the Caloosahatchee Show in December 2017. It won the Mulford Foster Best of Show Horticulture and The Gene McKenzie Best Tillandsia Award Best of Show

My procedure for preparing the plants differs between potted bromeliads and mounted bromeliads. The procedure described below is for potted bromeliads.

A day or two before the show (depending on the number of plants you want to enter into the show), start the cleaning process. Bromeliad judges are trained to judge every component of an exhibited plant, so be prepared to clean the plant, the pot, the potting medium, and the inflorescence (which is the blooms plus the bracts—modified leaves—around them, and the stalk that supports the whole structure). Here are the steps I take for potted bromeliads. If I really mess up a bromeliad at any of these stages, or if it's just too damaged to repair, I don't show it.

Wash the bromeliad. Flood it with water. With your hand (preferably gloved), rub away any dirt or algae at the bases of the leaves and on the leaves' surfaces. If the plant is "scurfy" (appears fuzzy, sometimes in horizontal stripes), be careful not to remove much scurf. Remove any debris or bugs from the interstices of the leaves. Carefully wash the inflorescence. Flood the plant again to rinse it.



Neoregelia Night Spot by Terrie Bert



**Till. Pruinaria
by Terrie Bert**

Inspect the bromeliad. Is it potted in the middle? If not, repot it, placing it more centrally in the pot.

Is it potted too deeply? If it looks like it's been potted well up into the leaf base, repot it, placing it higher in the pot and removing some of the potting medium that's on top. After repotting, you'll probably need to water it to remove the remaining potting medium that sticks to the base of the plant.

Is it potted too shallowly? If the base of the plant or the roots are well above the top of the pot, repot it more deeply. Don't be afraid to spread the roots or cut some off to more deeply set the plant. After placing the plant in the pot, add potting medium to the pot to stabilize the plant and cover the exposed base or roots. Don't add potting medium up to the very top of the pot.

Is the pot dirty, scarred, cracked, or covered with algae or calcium deposits? If the pot has a large dose of any of these afflictions, repot the plant in a clean pot.

Prepare the bromeliad's leaves. Be sure to clean off any scale on the plant. Cut leaves that are 1/2 or more deteriorated at the base. The more leaves the plant has, the more leaves you can cut at the base rather than trim. After cutting leaves at the base, assess whether the plant looks a bit bereft of leaves. If not, minimally trim the remaining damaged leaves. When trimming leaves (I use surgical scissors), try to mimic the natural



Neoregelia Midget by Terrie Bert

look of the plant's leaves. After trimming, lightly coat the cut edges with something that seals the wound—aloe, Aquaphor, beeswax (avoid Vaseline). Do not put any leaf-shine on the leaves; That guarantees a low judging score. If you find that you've trimmed many leaves and it shows, be prepared to be penalized. Show the plant anyway. If you really like it; others will, too.

Prepare the bromeliad's inflorescence. Pull out any spent flowers, if possible, particularly if they are obvious. Trim any damaged or wilted bracts. Be careful with this step; any trimming is highly noticeable.



***Nidularium procerum* by Terrie Bert**

Prepare the potting medium. Remove any moss or weeds. Cut any exposed roots. Many growers put a top coating on the medium. This can hide a myriad of little imperfections. Use earth-colored rocks (very small), wood chips, or other inert natural materials. Do not use highly colored coverings or living (or dead) plants (including Spanish moss); this will detract from your plant and cost you points with the judges. Ensure that the topping doesn't protrude above the pot.

Prepare the pot. Do this last because the previous steps may get the pot dirty. You've already inspected the pot, so you now have the pot that will go into the show. Clean it well. Some growers use ArmorAll. This magic stuff will obscure scars, ease the removal of calcium deposits, make old pots look nearly new, and make new plastic pots shine. I even use it on clay pots—works wonders. Worth the effort.

Now you're ready to show your prize bromeliads. Pack them carefully. To protect pots in 4 in. to 6 in. pots, I use plastic sleeves that I've saved from bromeliads that I've bought. For larger plants, I use plastic bags that I've saved from mail-order purchases. Recycling is always good.

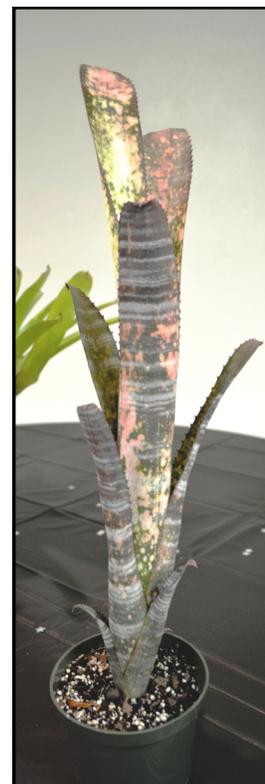
Once, I prepared about 50 bromeliads for a show, stuffed them carefully in my car, and was driving to the show. I was wiping up some coffee that I spilled in my car when BAM! I drove right into the car in front of me. Of all the trouble that cause me, the most painful part was the crashing of my carefully prepared bromeliads into each other in the car. By the time I got to the show venue, I had many fewer bromeliads to put into the show. I always drive to shows very carefully now.

Bromeliad shows always need more show plants. Don't be shy; show your beautiful plants, and good luck!

About the author: *Dr. Theresa M. Bert, Ph.D. (Yale University, 1985). She has been a member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society since 1988 and a member of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society since 1997. Her major show awards in the SBS, CBS, and BSI World Conference shows are numerous.*

She has served on the FCBS as a representative and Chair of the Society and she has served on the BSI Board since 1990 in many capacities. She is an Internationally Accredited Bromeliad Judge, 1998, and Internationally Accredited Master Judge in 2008.

Dr. Bert is well known for her excellent bromeliad programs and is in demand as a speaker in the USA and abroad.



***Billbergia Tuti Fruti* by Terrie Bert**



***Catopsis berteroniana* by Terrie Bert**

The photos in this article are from the 2017 CBS Show of Terrie's prize winning bromeliads. Photos by Carol Wolfe©

HELGA TARVER, 1925 - 2017

By Linda Sheetz

Long-time member of the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society (FWCBS) Helga Tarver passed away July 21, 2017, at the age of 92. She had been a bromeliad enthusiast for almost 40 years and was well-known and respected throughout the bromeliad community for her expertise in bromeliad identification, horticulture, taxonomy, and hybrid registration.

Helga grew up in a small town in Germany when the country was under Hitler's rule. As a young teenager she was forced to join the Hitler Youth organization and would work with the group at night clearing away rubble from bombed buildings. After the war, she graduated from the University of Bonn, Germany, and La Sorbonne, University of Paris, France.

Helga was fluent in German, French and English and after graduating she taught languages in a small school in Germany. The school's headmaster recognized her inquisitive and sharp mind and encouraged her to travel abroad. In 1952 she followed his advice and moved to Saigon, Vietnam, where she lived for 12 years and taught German, French, English, Latin, and Greek in the French school system.



Helga with Kathy Risley and Kathy's *Alcantarea imperialis*

The first few years after she arrived, Vietnam was still one country and she had the opportunity to visit and fall in love with Hanoi, which she considered a city of culture and learning. After South Vietnam was established as an independent republic, an insurgency began, initially at a low level and mainly in the countryside. Helga said one could go to the top of a hotel during the noon siesta, have cocktails, and watch the war unfolding at a distance.

While living in Saigon, she met her future husband Tom Tarver, a U.S. Army officer stationed there. Tom was a career soldier and West Point graduate who had done tours in the Pacific Theater in WWII, and later in Vietnam, Greece, and West Germany.

The year after the 1963 coup overthrew the South Vietnamese government, Helga and Tom moved to Frankfurt, Germany, where Helga taught German at the University of Maryland University College Europe. In 1972, Tom retired from the Army, and he and Helga moved to Florida and built a house on the Intra-Coastal Waterway in Clearwater where they spent the rest of their lives.



Helga Tarver

While living in Frankfurt, Helga developed an interest in roses and continued to pursue that interest for a while after they moved to Clearwater. Her new next door neighbor was Ann Jones who was a member of the FWCBS at the time. It was Ann who introduced Helga to bromeliads and soon Helga had forsaken roses and delved enthusiastically (of course) into bromeliads.

In 1980, Helga and Tom joined the FWCBS and over the years she served almost continually as the society's historian, librarian, and in-house bromeliad expert. Throughout their years together, Tom was Helga's biggest fan



Helga and Tom Tarvar

and supported her in all her endeavors including her passion for bromeliads. He was by her side at every bromeliad event she attended, whether it was a monthly club meeting or a world conference.

In 1997, Marty Baxley and Andy Price registered one of Andy's hybrids and named it *Neoregelia Tom Tarver* (*Neo. tristis* and *Neo. King of Kings*), to honor his devotion to her. Tom passed away in March 2013.



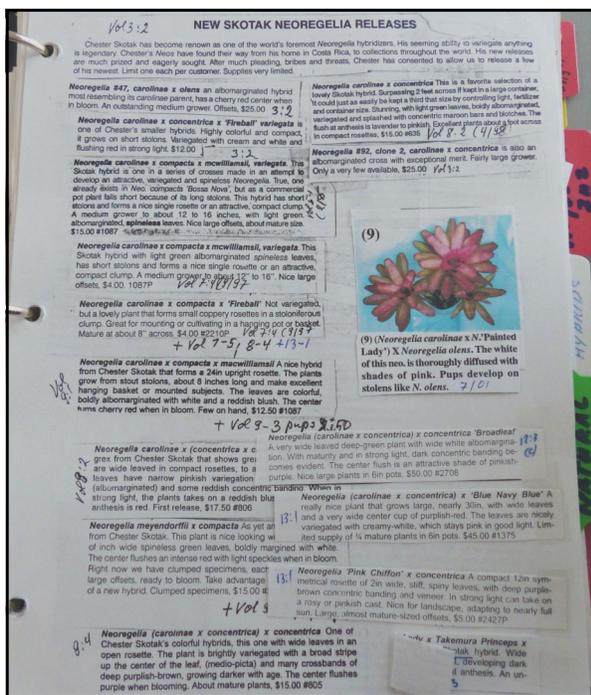
Neoregelia Tom Tarver
By L. Sheetz

Helga was well known by her friends and colleagues for being a stickler for facts and proper names and for having a steel-trap memory. She felt it was important that all species and hybrids be properly named and that hybrids should not be called solely by their formula name when published or sold. When she discovered a bromeliad was improperly named she would do meticulous and tenacious research to determine the plant's history and correct name. She was a scholar for the joy of being a scholar.

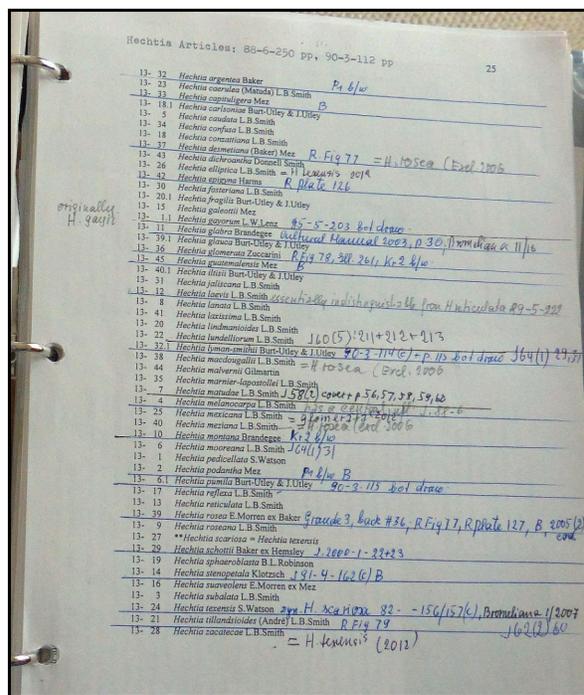
Helga never owned or used a computer. Without access to the wealth of bromeliad information available on the internet, she made her own 'data base'.

She plowed through newsletters, periodicals, books, and whatever literature related to bromeliads she could find. She would make copies of pertinent bits of information and then assemble them into what would become dozens of three-ring binders. She also kept extensive notes in copies of Harry Luther's annual list of bromeliad binomials. When she was asked for information about a plant, she could go to the exact notebook and page to find the answer. She was her own search engine.





A page from one of Helga's reference binders



Example of Helga's notes in the list of bromeliad binomials

Her favorite genus was *Tillandsia*, followed closely by *Neoregelia*, but she was knowledgeable about dozens of genera grown in cultivation. In 1979 Helga purchased a *Neoregelia* hybrid by an unknown hybridizer. She researched its origins to determine the parent plants (*Neo. melanodonta* and *Neo. concentrica*) and registered it in 2003 after the then-BSI Cultivar Registrar Derek Butcher hounded her to do so. She named it *Neoregelia* Helga's Joy because, as she said, it had given her nothing but joy and lots of pups over the years.



Portea Helga Tarver
Photo D. Cathcart

Photo Courtesy of
fcb.org

In May 2006, the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies presented Helga with the Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar's Special Award to recognize her tireless efforts to correct bromeliad names and make bromeliad identifications. As part of that presentation, Dennis Cathcart of Tropiflora Nursery presented her with a bromeliad that he had named in her honor, *Portea* Helga Tarver, calling her 'the inquisitive cultonomist from Clearwater Florida'. In 2012 Helga received the FWCBS Membership Service Recognition Award for her long and significant contributions in advancing the society's goals of encouraging cultivation, identification, hybridization and/or preservation of bromeliads.



Neoregelia Helga's Joy
Photo T. Tarver

Photo Courtesy of fcb.org

In her quest to understand and refine bromeliad taxonomy and encourage hybrid registration Helga corresponded regularly with world-renowned experts who came to recognize her fine mind and valued her probing questions and opinions. She did that without benefit of a computer and the internet, using instead a typewriter and the US Postal Service.

Among her most frequent correspondents were Herb Plever, editor of the New York Bromeliad Society newsletter, and Derek Butcher of the Bromeliad Society of South Australia and former BSI Cultivar Registrar. Below are excerpts from their tributes to Helga.



Helga Tarver

Herb Plever: “While attending the World Bromeliad Conference in St. Petersburg in 2002, I made it a point to contact Helga Tarver who was a subscriber to our newsletter *Bromeliana*. I was privileged to spend several hours with Helga at her home and we discovered our common passion for Tillandsias. For more than two decades she was a subscriber to *Bromeliana* who soon became a far-away but close friend and frequent correspondent who commented on or questioned material in many of the articles I wrote. She was an editor’s dream reader - a knowledgeable, experienced grower who took the trouble to respond to what I wrote with comments that were helpful and supportive.”

Derek Butcher: “In 1990 Harry Luther started his 'Binomial Lists' and we, in Australia, took a keen interest in them. Shortly after we found here was a certain Helga Tarver asking similar questions. These were not so much about the listings themselves but how some names disappeared and others just appeared! Inevitably we exchanged notes and collaborated, Helga with her prized ancient typewriter and me trying to convert her to emails. So we had a succession of Helga's friends who acted as proxy correspondents and who would read out the emails over the phone to Helga. Isn't it great to have friends like that?”

Note: Thanks go to Kathy Risley and Alton Lee, both long-time friends of Helga’s, who provided some material for this article.



Neo. Aussie!Aussie!Aussie! by Pete Diamond



Cryptanthus delicatus by Larry Giroux

Tillandsia xLineatispica

By Tom Wolfe



I originally acquired *Tillandsia* xLineatispica from Bill and Maureen Frazel of Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 2008, which was tagged *Tillandsia propaqualifera*. However, after blooming it nearly ten years later, I took it to the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay's monthly meeting for Show & Tell. Ray Lemieux, from Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota, Florida was our speaker for the evening and informed me that it was *Tillandsia* xLineatispica clone #2, a natural hybrid between *Tillandsia fasciculata* and *Tillandsia uriculata*. Apparently this is a very variable plant with at least four known clones.

As you may guess, it's a large plant measuring approximately three feet overall. The plant is stemless with many narrow long leaves coming to a sharp point. The surface of the leaves are coated with small scales (trichomes) which gives the plant a soft silvery/green appearance. The inflorescence is sparsely branched and turns red to burgundy when fully mature.

Tillandsia xLineatispica was found in the Virgin Islands vicinity which would indicate that it isn't very cold tolerant. In January, the temperature reached 24°F in Tampa for over six (6) consecutive hours. I had four of these mounted on separate pieces of driftwood and they were fully exposed to the elements.



All four of these mounted pups were hanging side by side and all approximately one-third mature. The four plants all came from the same parent plant and two days later two of them were completely frozen and two were untouched.

Why two were frozen and the other two untouched is a mystery and I am searching for an explanation to this cold, strange phenomenon.

©Photos by Carol Wolfe

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show December 6, 2017



Tillandsia duratii
By Terrie Bert
 Mulford B. Foster Award
 Best of Show-Horticulture,
 Best of Divisions I, II, III



Cryptanthus Ice Age
in a decorative container
By Larry Giroux
 Morris Henry Hobbs Best of
 Show-Artistic



Sweepstakes Award
by Terrie Bert
 Representative
 Plant: *Neoregelia*
 Big Bopper



xDychlirium
***Dyckia burle-marxii* x**
Ench. horridum
By Michael Kiehl
 Best of Div Section A



Vriesea gigantea
By Gary Nelson
 Best of Division

Bromeliads in a
bamboo well
By Sharalee Diaz
 Best of Division IV
 Sec A Decorative
 Containers



Hechtia lanata
by Brian Weber
 Best of Division II

***Tillandsia tectorium* x**
Tillandsia paleacea
By Terry Bert
 Best of Division III
 Best Horticultural Display



Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show December 6, 2017



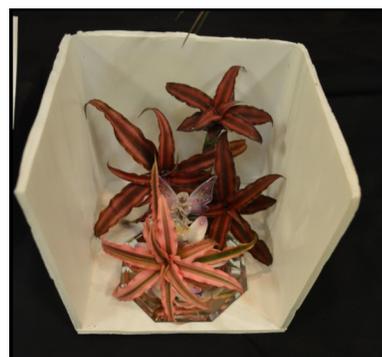
***Cryptanthus Cape Coral* By Larry Giroux**
Best of Div II Sec A



***Cryptanthus odoritissimus* by Terrie Bert**
Bob Whitman Best Cryptanthus Species Award



***Cryptanthus McDreamy* by Jeff Joffe**
Warren Loose Best Cryptanthus Hybrid Award



Mini Arrangement Music from the Stars: *Cryptanthus Pink Starlight* & *C. Ruby* by Larry Giroux
Best of Division IV Sec B Best Artistic arrangement



Tillandsia Veronica's Mariposa
By Terrie Bert Best of Div III Section B

Portea alatapsepla
By Patty Gonzalez
Best of Div VI,
Section C
Best Cut Inflorescence



Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show December 6, 2017



Dyckia Arizona F₂
By Brian Weber
Members Choice Award 1st Place



Tillandsia Clara Kouchalakos
by Alex Bello
Members Choice Award 2nd Place



Tillandsia jalisco monticola
By Terrie Bert
Best of Division III Sec A



Tillandsia concolor x T. roland-gosselinii
By Pete Diamond
Members Choice Award 3rd Place



Decorative Container:
Ortho. naviodes x sucrei, T. juncea, T. utriculata
by Pete Diamond

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show December 6, 2017



Aec. correia-araujoi by
Kyle Wade



Aec. Frosty the Snowman
by Carly Susttil



Bill. Catherine Wilson
by Robert Meier



Bill. Limestone
by Jeff Joffe



Crypt. Absolute Zero
by Mike Michalski



Bill. Smokestack by Alex Bello



Vriesea Kilauea
by Diane Cornelison



Crypt. Lisa Vinzant
by Jeff Joffe



Neo. Deep Space
by Michael Kiehl



Crypt. Ruby
by Gary Nelson

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show December 6, 2017



Crypt. Strawberries Flambe
by Betty Ann Prevatt



Dyckia goehringii
by Michael Kiehl



Neo. Ariel
by Eleanor Kinzie



Till. usneoides by Geri Prall



Neo. Aurora 'Redneck'
by Eleanor Kinzie



Crypt. Strawberries Flambe
& *C. Sea Foam*
by Sharalee Dias



Hectia lundelliorum
by Stephen Seal



Dyckia White Fang
by Kyle Wade



Neo. tristis 'oppenheimer' x pauciflora
by Betty Ann Pevatt



Neo. Magali x Grace
by Grant Groves (New Hybrid)



Neo. Magali x Maria
by Grant Groves (New Hybrid)



2017 Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show in Dallas, Texas

By Jay Thurrott

Sometimes we are so focused on bromeliad-related activities in our home state of Florida we overlook the fact that other parts of the world also have active groups of dedicated bromeliad enthusiasts. There are many other organizations that share our same interests (or *addiction* – depending on your level of involvement!). One such group in the U.S. is the Southwest Bromeliad Guild -- made up of 8 affiliated societies in the southwestern portion of our country and including the Bromeliad Society of Austin, the Bromeliad Society of Baton Rouge, the Corpus Christi Bromeliad Society, the Golden Triangle Bromeliad Society, the Greater Dallas Fort-Worth Bromeliad Society, the Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Society, the Bromeliad Society/Houston, Inc., and the River Ridge Bromeliad Society. This SW Guild is very similar to the Florida Council in its goals and activities and also, like the Florida Council members... it's made up of a great bunch of people!

Where member societies of the Florida Council host that event known as the 'Bromeliad Extravaganza', the SW Guild affiliates host a BSI Standard Show and sale – an event that also includes lectures, a banquet, rare plant auction, and tours of area members' gardens. You could almost look at a SW Guild show as a "mini" World Conference. This year the show was held in Dallas and in addition to the Guild show also included the Cryptanthus Society's judged show as well as the annual BSI board meeting, so there was truly something of interest for everyone!

Calandra and I were invited to help in the judging of the show, but while Calandra was able to participate in the judging, I was confined to the BSI board meeting that took place on the same day as the show.



BSI Directors gather for their annual board meeting in Houston. International directors who were unable to attend participated through Skype during the meeting. You may recognize a few Florida faces in this photo. ©Photo by Jay Thurrott

After the meeting however, there was ample opportunity to stroll through the show area, pick up some new additions for my collection in the sales area, and enjoy the company of our friends in the Guild at the banquet and rare plant auction.

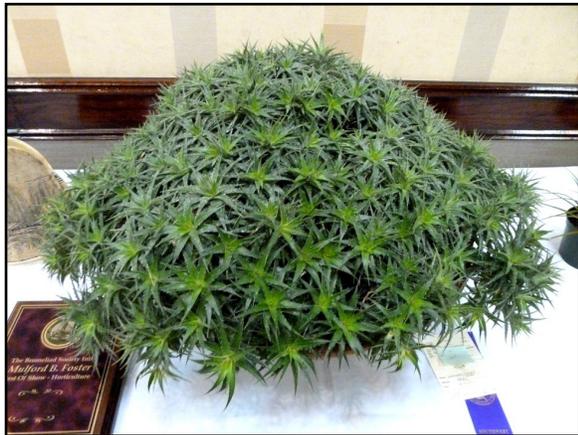
Southwest Guild Show and The Cryptanthus Society Show, Dallas, Texas October 2017



Show exhibit of *Dychonia* June



Cryptanthus show best Judges entry quilt
by Calandra Thurrott



Mulford B. Foster award – best in show for *Deuterochonia brevifolia* cv. *Chlorantha* entered by Bryan Windham



Silent auction plants on display during banquet
at the SW Guild Show and inspected by Dennis Cathcart.



Rare plant auction – *Hohenbergia* Double Hyphen



Dyckia Magnifica – auction plant at SW Guild Show

Also like Florida's Extravaganza, the weekend for the Guild show was over much too soon and we found ourselves on a flight returning home with a few photos and some warm memories of time shared with our counterparts in the SW portion of the country.



2018 BSI Judges' School

REGISTRATION FORM

BSI JUDGES SCHOOL

EASTERN JUDGING DISTRICT

I am interested in taking the BSI Judges Schools I through VI and I agree to pay for Schools I & II in advance.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE:

ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please answer the following questions:

I am a member of the Bromeliad Society International _____

I am a member of the BSI affiliate society: _____

I own (or can borrow) a BSI Judges, Exhibitors & Affiliates Handbook: _____

I grow at least 50 bromeliads in at least 10 different genera: _____

(If you don't now, you will soon!)

Per Class fee: \$25.00 _____

Cash or check payable to:

Betty Ann Prevatt

2902 Second Street

Fort Myers, FL 33916





**Call for Nominations for the BSI Wally Berg
Award of Excellence**
Theresa M. Bert

Introduction

The BSI Wally Berg Award of Excellence was initiated in 2001 to honor the late Wally Berg (1927-2000) of Sarasota, Florida. Wally and his wife Dorothy were extraordinary bromeliad growers. Their private collection was one of the most diversified and unique in the world. The garden-and-waterfall setting of their bromeliad gardens was magnificent and immaculate. Wally was an enthusiastic supporter of the BSI. He donated many rare plants for sales and auctions that benefited the BSI. He regularly contributed collected specimens to the Bromeliad Research Center at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and supported research on the “Evil Weevil” and other worthy causes. He also volunteered many hours of service at Selby Gardens. He had a broad knowledge of bromeliad horticulture and science and frequently spoke to bromeliad societies on a variety of topics, especially his adventures exploring and collecting bromeliads in Central and South America. Wally also served the Sarasota Bromeliad Society by holding many offices and donating plants for the society’s activities and sales.

He introduced numerous bromeliad taxa into culture and created several hybrids. He frequently won top awards at World Bromeliad Conferences and at Florida local and regional bromeliad shows. For his contributions to the “bromeliad world,” a number of bromeliad species were named for him.

Following are the award criteria and procedures for nominations for the BSI Wally Berg Award of Excellence. Individuals, couples, or members deceased within the past two years are eligible. All nominees must qualify in Criterion 1—the individual(s) must be past or present members of the BSI. Nominated individuals must also qualify in at least 4 of the other 7 criteria. Nominators must be present BSI members in good standing. The BSI Officers and Board of Directors will elect the winner from the cast of nominees.

Award Criteria

1. Nominees must be past (if deceased) or present members of the BSI.
2. Nominees should be bromeliad growers who are nationally or internationally recognized for diversity of species cultivated and excellence of cultivation.
3. The individuals should actively pursue one of the following activities:
 - a. Collecting and identifying bromeliads in natural environments, including collecting new species/varieties/cultivars; the members of the various bromeliad societies and organizations, including the BSI, should benefit from this activity;
 - b. Promoting the appreciation and cultivation of bromeliads at the international level, including such activities as organizing and participating in collecting trips with international representation, giving presentations and seminars to national and international audiences, or writing manuscripts for publication in national or international books, journals, or other media (e.g., Internet, CD ROMS).
4. The individuals should actively support efforts to further the scientific, taxonomic, or cultural understanding of bromeliads through donation of time, effort, or money to recognized organizations, institutions, or groups of individuals (e.g., the BSI, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens or other botanical gardens specializing in bromeliads, bromeliad clubs or councils, researchers studying bromeliads).
5. The individuals should be active in a local, regional, or national bromeliad society and be recognized by other members of that society for their contributions to the functioning of that society and its activities.

**Call for Nominations for the BSI Wally Berg - Continued**

6. If the individuals are bromeliad hybridizers, they should be internationally recognized for excellence in one or more of the following categories:
 - a. Innovation in creating bromeliad hybrids,
 - b. Success in cultivation of bromeliad hybrids,
 - c. Promotion and distribution of bromeliad hybrids.
7. The individuals should be generally recognized as experts in one or more of the following aspects of bromeliads:
 - a. Ecology, evolution, or taxonomy,
 - b. Cultivation or hybridization,
 - c. Display or exhibition.
8. The individuals should be generally recognized for their generous nature in sharing knowledge of bromeliads and for personal giving for the benefit of other people interested in bromeliads and for bromeliad organizations at all levels.

Procedures for Nomination

1. Any BSI member in good standing (i.e., dues paid for 2018) can nominate for this award. BSI Board members will elect the winner from the cast of nominees.
2. The nominator should submit the nomination by email. The nominator should provide a brief resume of the accomplishments of the nominee(s) in bromeliad-related activities (e.g., service, offices held, major awards won), following the criteria listed above. The nominee(s) must meet at least four of Criteria 2-8 listed above.
3. Past nominees may be re-nominated if they currently meet the award criteria. Previous award winners (Dorothy Berg, Dennis Cathcart, John Anderson, Harry Luther, Grace Goode, Elton Leme, Derek Butcher, Nat De Leon, Odean Head) are ineligible for re-nomination. However, nominators are encouraged to nominate other candidates.
4. Please send nominations to the following email addresses: theresa.bert1949@gmail.com and cajat@aol.com. Please send your nominations to both addresses, to ensure that it is received and not lost in cyberspace or accidentally overlooked. Theresa Bert, the curator of the award, will prepare the nominations for submission to the BSI Board for voting and conduct the voting activities.
5. ****Nominations must be received before *April 1, 2018*. This is a final deadline.**

The winner's name will be published in the BSI Journal and posted on the BSI website. The winner or his/her representative will receive the award at the 2018 BSI World Conference in San Diego, California, USA. One award is made every two years, at each BSI World Conference. The award is a rotating plaque with the current and all former winners' names and year of award engraved on it. The BSI considers this award to be its highest honor.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER OF THE FCBS:
Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society

Email Contact: **Lyn Marino** teammario@bellsouth.net

Meets: Monthly on the Last Monday of the month at **5:30 PM ; 6:00PM Pot Luck / 6:30PM Meeting**, *At:* Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens, 2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd, Port St Lucie, FL 34952

Recovering from Hurricane Irma Mike Michalski, Miami, Florida



Mike Michalski of Miami reports that he has rebuilt one of his greenhouse since Hurricane Irma and continues to enlarge his greenhouse space. See the picture below.

Mike Michalski is holding his new *Neoregelia* hybrid shown in the picture on the left.

Mike will be serving the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies in 2018 as Chairman fulfilling the responsibility of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida to provide leadership via the rotating responsibilities.



**FCBS SPEAKERS LIST**

SPEAKER'S NAME	PROGRAM
Marty Baxley	Bromeliads in Puerto Rico (before Hurricane Irma)
Nick Bethmann	<i>Aechmea orlandiana</i>
Charlie Birdsong	The Nidularioid Complex Australia Conference
Dr. Terrie Bert	Bromeliad Ecology, Evolution, and Cultivation Bromeliad Taxonomy--the Taxonomists' Conundrum with the Bromeliaceae Phylogenetic Quagmire or, What the Heck Are They Calling this Thing Now, and Do I Need to Worry About That? Florida's Bromeliads: A Story of Wind Dispersal and Survival Growing the Jewels of the New World (The Eight Most Popular Genera <i>Aechmea</i> , <i>Billbergia</i> , <i>Cryptanthus</i> , <i>Dyckia</i> , <i>Guzmania</i> , <i>Neoregelia</i> , <i>Tillandsia</i> , <i>Vriesea</i>) Beating the Odds: Growing Uncommon Bromeliad Genera
Dalene Bradshaw	Growing <i>Tillandsias</i> as Art and Garden Plants
Cliff Brown	<i>Tillandsias</i>
Steve Byram	Bromeliads 101
Dennis Cathcart	Bromeliads on the Rocks <i>Tillandsias</i> Bromeliads from the Wilderness to Greenhouse to Your Home Explorations and Discoveries in Brazil – Parts II & III
Teresa Cooper, Ph.D.	Zika and Bromeliads
Dr. Howard Frank	Zika Virus
Larry Giroux	Home Movies of Someone Else's Garden
Grant Groves & Keli Ahnen	Behind the Scenes of Bromeliad Wholesaling
Eileen Hart	The ABC's of Growing the Most Common Bromeliad Genera
Ken Hicks	Orchid Care and Potting Orchids
Bruce Holst	Explorations in Belize
Richard Hunter, Ph.D.	Zika Virus Precaution for Bromeliad Growers, Gardeners and Homeowners
Dave Johnston	Foliage <i>Vrieseas</i> Did you know the Name has changed? <i>Billbergia</i> 's Are Awesome

**FCBS SPEAKERS LIST—Continued**

SPEAKERS NAMES	PROGRAM
Chip Jones	Chester Skotak plants Landscaping with Bromeliads
Pam Koides	<i>Tillandsia hybrids</i>
Peter Kouchalakos	<i>Tillandsias</i> Steve Correale's
Alton Lee	Bromeliad Names: Why. Is It Called That?
Ray Lemieux	Terrestrials bromeliads Growing Terrestrial Bromeliads
Bruce McAlpin	Bromeliad Genus <i>Hohenbergias</i>
Mike Michalski	Hybridizing
Tom MacCubbin	Unknown
Bud Martin	A Celebration--40 Years of Our Favorite Bromeliads
Carol Richmeyer	<i>Cryptanthus</i>
Rick Richtmyer	The ABCs of Terrestrial Bromeliads
Rick Ryals	The Genus <i>Alcantarea</i>
David Sand	Miniature Bromeliads
Greg Spak	Hohenbergia
Ken Stokes	Creative Ways to Incorporate Your New Bromeliads into your Garden
Prem Subrahmanyam	Orchids in Our Backyard: Florida's Wild Orchids
Jay Thurrott	The A,B,C's of Bromeliads" The Genus <i>Ananas</i> Judging Bromeliads The World Conference in Houston, Texas
Tom Wolfe	Basic Bromeliad Culture <i>Aechmeas</i> for Everyone <i>Aechmeas</i> Where the Growing is Easy Unique Ways to Display Your Bromeliads Roberta Burle Marx Florida Native Bromeliads Landscaping with Bromeliads What's Blooming in the Wolfe's Garden Part 2

This may not be a complete list of speakers. If you have presented a program or know of others that are not listed, please let me know and we will add them to this list. Send information to : Carol Wolfe at bromstudio@hotmail.com.



Upcoming Events for 2018

February 2nd, 2018

Volusia Soil & Water Conservation District annual native tree sale 8am to 2:30pm at Volusia County Fairgrounds, Deland

February 3-4, 2018

17th Annual Garden Fest Plants for sale include palms, ferns, orchids, bromeliads, Florida natives, herbs, succulents, bamboo and roses. Riverside Park, Vero Beach

February 10-11, 2018

Edison Garden Festival Edison and Ford Winter Estates, Ft. Myers, FL
(www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/events/annual-events/edison-garden-festival/)

February 24th, 2018

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies First meeting of 2018. Hosted by the Gainesville Bromeliad Society

March 10 – 11, 2018

Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale, Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando – free admission (<http://www.leugardens.org>)

March 24 – 25, 2018

Bromeliad Society of South Florida annual show and sale at Fairchild Tropical Gardens 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables Phone: 305-667-1651

April 6-8, 2018

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

April 7, 2018 from 8:00 to 12:00 FECBS sells bromeliads in the Master Gardeners' Faire at the DeLand fairgrounds

April 14-15, 2018

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

April 28 and 29, 2018

Green Thumb Festival Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL (stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb)

May 1, 2018, 7:30 PM

Annual Bromeliad Auction FWCBS meeting place: Good Samaritan Church, 6085 Pinellas Park Boulevard, Pinellas Park, FL 33761

May 29 – June 3, 2018 BSI World Bromeliad Conference in San Diego, California

Registration: \$390 3-1-2017 until to 5-1-2018; \$425 at door

Paradise Point Resort \$184 + taxes for double occupancy per night

<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/> The next World Bromeliad Conference will be held in San Diego, California. Now is a great time to join the Bromeliad Society International as we are offering discounts to new memberships!



World Bromeliad Conference San Diego May 29th - June 3rd, 2018



Registration Fee: (in United States Dollars)

- \$290.00 New low registration fee!!!
- \$60.00 optional bus excursion

[See Conference Corner for details on optional excursion.]

If you are not a current BSI member, your annual membership fee must be paid, in addition to, the above Conference registration fee as follows:

- USA residents add \$45 single and \$60 dual membership (add \$5 for 1st class delivery)
- Other countries add \$50 single and \$65 dual membership (includes airmail delivery)
- You will automatically become BSI members with the added fee.

If you are a member, contact the BSI Membership Secretary for status of your membership. (contact info below)

NOTE: The quickest and most secure way to register is online via PayPal---Look for the link for the 2018 WBC on the BSI web page. No PayPal account will be required. You may simply use your credit card on PayPal.

Please Print Clearly Below [Complete one entry form for each registrant]:

I understand that my information **will appear** in the Conference Program as an attendee unless I check here to decline.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Name on Badge (*Membership will be verified.*): _____

BSI Affiliate (if any): _____

Amount Due: _____ *Please consider adding \$60 for optional bus tour.* Space is limited.

Payment by check in U.S. dollars payable to BSI – or indicate credit/debit card: Visa MasterCard

Other Credit Card (please specify): _____ # _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiration date: _____ / _____ (mm/yyyy)

Name as it appears on credit card (print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Refunds of 1/2 the Registration Fee are available through the end of 2017 for cases of illness only.

Please mail to: Annette Dominguez, BSI Membership Secretary 8117 Shenandoah Drive
Austin, TX 78753-5734 Membership status inquiries to: membership@bsi.org or 512-619-2750.

Hosted by: San Diego Bromeliad Society