

# BROMELIANA

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(visit our website [www.nybromeliadsociety.org](http://www.nybromeliadsociety.org))

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## THE WBC IN HAWAII - Updates and Corrections

by Herb Plevier

My report of the World Conference in the October issue was silent about visiting a local grower. We were scheduled to visit Larry McGraw's garden during our trip to Lyon Arboretum and Nu'uaniu Pali overlook, but were advised that we had to skip the visit because our bus couldn't make the steep turnaround on the narrow road up to the garden. (We were running late.)

But I learned from the report in the East London Bromeliad Society (South Africa) Newsletter that another bus did manage to visit Larry McGraw's garden and the people were very impressed. The adjacent photo is from that Newsletter.

We did not stay to the end of the Rare Plant Auction on Saturday night after the banquet, as we had an early flight to Kona the next morning. A report on the funds collected has not yet been made, but I hear that the total will be about equal to the sum collected 2012. Some plants went for \$500-\$600 due to hot competition.



In Larry McGraw's garden - what looks like *Neo*. 'Fireball' in the back, *Tillandsia streptophylla* in the middle and *Tillandsia xerographica* in front.



Lisa Vinzant's unnamed Auction Neo.

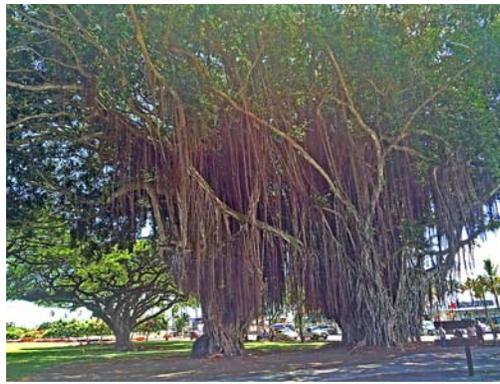
There was a lot of suspense about the beautiful, unnamed *Neoregelia* generously donated by Lisa Vinzant, but it had not yet been auctioned when I had to leave. Lisa had given the buyer the right to name the plant (subject to her approval). I have heard that the plant went for \$600 but the purchaser likely believes that is a bargain for such an outstanding plant. The winner and any name given the plant have not yet been confirmed. (See photo above.)

Two trees dominated the coastal landscape on the Big Island of Hawaii: the Rainbow Shower tree (*Cassia x nealiae*) and the Banyon tree (it is a fig - *Ficus benghalensis* in subgenus *Urostigma*). We saw many Shower trees in bloom, some with red, some with with yellow and some with white flowers. Hilo

**NEXT MEETING** - Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. sharp at the [Ripley-Grier Studios 520 8th Ave. \(between 36th & 37th St\) Room 16M](#)  
**THE QUALITY OF YOUR AVAILABLE LIGHT** - We'll assess the light in each member's apartment, and discuss and recommend plants that will grow well in low and medium light, and those that need high light. We'll also discuss and explain fluorescent and other artificial light, lumens and watts. Some slide photos of those plants will be shown. Please bring in plants for sale and for Show and Tell.



Rainbow Shower tree in Hilo



Banyon trees



Neoregelia 'Hawaiian Beauty'

has an avenue that circles around the peninsula shore called Banyon Drive. It is lined with Banyon trees planted by many famous celebrities in the arts, sports and politics; planting began in 1933 with the first trees planted by Cecil B. DeMille and Babe Ruth.

I must correct an error in the October issue of Bromeliana where, at the top of page 3, the photo at the right margin was wrongly identified as *Neoregelia* 'Island Beauty' and its hybridizer as Lisa Vinzant. The true name of the plant, shown above, is *Neoregelia* 'Hawaiian Beauty' and it was made by Sharon Peterson, not Lisa Vinzant. The true *N.* 'Island Beauty' shown in the adjacent photo was made by Sharon.



Neoregelia 'Island Beauty (Peterson)

Other lovely plants by Lisa Vinzant in the display from her Olomana Tropicals nursery were *Neoregelia* 'Strange Brew', *N.* 'Cat's Pajamas' and *N.* 'Sugar Buzz' - all shown at the bottom of this page.

In the October issue I told you about Joan Darvey who runs "Bromeliads Etc.", a nice collection of bromeliads and other plants on Napoopoo Road on the south shore of the Big Island in what New Yorkers would probably say is the middle of nowhere. But the plants are worth a visit if you are in that area.

(Some photos of her plants are on page 3.) Ms. Darvey can be reached at P.O. Box 64, Captain Cook, HI 96704.

We were able to drive up to the Kilauea crater in Volcano National Park, but most of the top was off limits because the nearby Pahoa/Puna Cone had been erupting a large lava flow. The flow was and still is a threat to the small town of Pahoa below. At this writing (October 18<sup>th</sup>) the flow had stalled about .6 miles from the town, but it is still a threat to the town and its 945 inhabitants, including Dennis Heckart who attended the conference.

The large Kilauea crater was smoking but not erupting, but the few places we were allowed to reach by car had many vents and cracks that were throwing smoke (and fumes) into the air. It was a very scary sight. On the next page there are photos of the crater taken by me and of the lava flows taken from the internet.

I'll end this travelog with a restaurant recommendation for those of you who may visit Hilo. Sombat's Fresh Thai Cuisine serves Thai food that is equal to best we can get in New York.



Neoregelia 'Strange Brew' (Vinzant)



Neoregelia 'Cat's Pajamas' (Vinzant)



Neoregelia 'Sugar Buzz' (Vinzant)



Bromeliads Etc. - *Cryptanthus* 'Ti' and *Orthophytum gurkenii* with many proliferating pups



Bromeliads Etc. - *Begonia maculata v. wightii*



Bromeliads etc. *Aech. chantinii*



Portion of Kilauea crater



Pahoehoe cone lava flow



Front edge of lava flow

## BROMELIAD ODDITIES

by Peter Paroz

(Reprinted from the April, 2011 Newsletter of the Queensland (Australia) Bromeliad Society)

Bromeliads are the only plants where flowering can be induced by chemical treatment. The first report was the effect of smoky grass fires on pineapples. Locally in spring with the burn-off of fuel for brush fire control, smoky grass fires have caused occasional premature flowering in my ornamental bromeliads. The active agent is minute traces of ethylene in the smoke.

Most bromeliads have terminal flower spikes (from the center cup - Ed.), but a few plants such as *Quesnelia lateralis*, *Tillandsia complanata* and some *Dyckias* and *Hectias* flower laterally (from side leaf



*Dyckia fosteriana* with side-axil, lateral inflorescences

axils - Ed.)

All bromeliads produce seed and most are perennial by way of producing offsets. However, a few bromeliads such as *Puya raimondii* and *Tillandsia utriculata* are monocarpic - flowering once with no offsets. Such plants produce copious flowers that are self fertile and seed very freely.

At maturity, the fruit of *Ronnbergia explodens*, spontaneously explodes and squirts the mature seeds away from the mother plant.

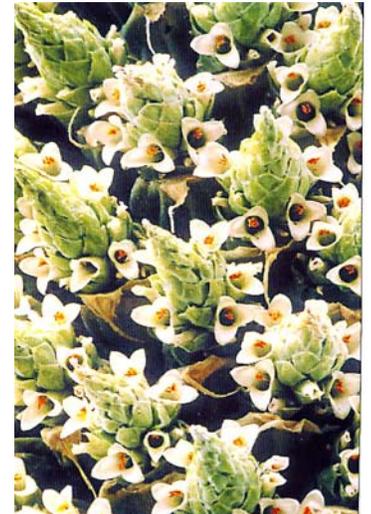
*Tillandsia bryoides* is reputedly the smallest bromeliad and can flower from a



*Tillandsia minutifolia*, a bit over ½" - formerly called *T. byoides*



*Puya raimondii* in mountain desert habitat (photo by G. Rivera from West Coast BS Newsletter, 11/2009)



*Puya raimondii* flowers (ph by Sonderheft, Die Bromelie 4/99)

plant only 15mm long (about ½" Ed.) and 5mm in diameter. The name derives from its similarity to some mosses. (It is now called *T. minutifolia* - Ed.)

*Puya raimondii* is at the other end of the scale. Imagine a bare trunk 300mm (11.8 inches - Ed) in diameter, 3.5metre tall (about 12½ feet - Ed) topped with a one metre umbrella of very spiny leaves two metres long (almost 7 feet - Ed); and topped again with a 2.2.5 meter flower spike with 10,000 + flowers. Locally (the Andes mountains in South America) this *Puya* is referred to as the ‘century plant’ reputedly taking 150 yrs. to flower. There is a reliable report of a plant in a U.S. Botanic garden flowering in about 70 years.

*(The above size and age estimates are on the low side. There is a 24 year old Puya raimondii that is now flowering at the Botanical Garden of the University of California at Berkley. It was grown from seed and is already 16 feet high. They expect the spike to reach close to 30 feet before it starts flowering, and such a huge inflorescence could produce as many as 30,000 flowers! The same Botanical Garden flowered a 28 year old P. raimondii in the 1960s. This species is native to the high mountain deserts of Bolivia and Peru where it grows at altitudes of 10,000 to 13,000 feet - well above the tree line. So it may take nearly a century to flower in its dry, cold and windy high mountain environment. But it evidently flourishes in the warmer climate of California. Ed.)*

Within the *Bromeliaceae*, *Pitcairnia macrochlamys* is the most prolific nectar producer with over 160mg. per blossom. The pineapple [*Ananas comosus*], smooth cayenne, develops interfoliar roots

in the lower whorls of the leaves. These roots have copious root hairs and readily absorb any moisture from dew enabling the plant to survive in dry climates. These root hairs also readily absorb nutrients and foliar fertilising is common in commercial pineapple plantations. □

## HOLIDAY PARTY!!!

Michael Riley and Francisco Correal have once again generously offered to host our annual Holiday Party for members and their spouses or significant others. It will be held on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at 101 West 104<sup>th</sup> Street (corner of Columbus Avenue). Michael and Francisco will provide the main courses. Please bring a side-dish, salad, fruit or dessert, and call Michael at 212-666-2395 to let him know if plan to attend and if you are bringing a dish.

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