



May 2021

WEBPAGE: <http://www.bssf-miami.org/>



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Bromeliad Society of South Florida

http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSSF/?bookmark_t=group



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Bromeliad Society of South Florida

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida/84661684279>



FCBS Newsletter

<https://www.fcbs.org/newsletters/FCBS/2021/02-2021.pdf>

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MAY 18, 2021 LIVE MEETING 7:30 PM
COME EARLY TO BUY PLANTS- 7:00 PM
GARDEN HOUSE – NOT CORBIN BLDG
Speaker: Tom Wolfe
“Kaleidoscope of Neos”
NO FOOD OR DRINK – SEE RULES DIRECTLY

BSSF Covid Rules

To Insure Your Safety the Following are Covid Rules for In-Person Meetings.
There will be one entry and one exit at the back of the Garden House. The kitchen entry will be locked.
Per Fairchild requirements, temperatures will be taken at the entry and covid waivers must be signed.
No food or drinks will be served.
Masks are required and 6 ft. social distancing will be observed at plants sales, raffle, and auction tables.
If you do not feel well or have a temperature – please stay home. Seating will be 6 ft. apart. Family members or social bubble members may sit together.
There will be only a short break.
Plan to arrive early to purchase plants.
Members will need to exit in an orderly fashion, back row first. Masks, disinfecting wipes, and hand sanitizer will be available at the entry.

WORLD CONFERENCE POSTPONED

Bromeliad World Conference of June 8, 2021 to June 12, 2021 Has Been Postponed
<https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>
If you booked rooms for this event, remember to cancel and rebook your reservations.

President's Message

Thanks to all who attended our April in-person meeting. It was well attended and everyone behaved themselves. We do have to watch our social distancing a little more, though, myself included. If you want to attend but have not yet been vaccinated, the vaccination process has evolved. You can now walk into selected Walgreen's without an appointment and get your shot. Over 60% of our members have had at least one shot. On another note, our long time editor, Robert Meyer, has resigned, and I hope you will join me in thanking him for his many years of service to our society. We have a new feature starting this month in the Advisory. Ask Dr. Brom will happily answer all of your bromeliad questions. Nothing is off limits. Remember, the time has passed for you to buy new plants to enter into our October show. So take a look around your garden and see what looks like a possible entry so you can baby it or them for the next few months. Also, hurricane season is about to begin so you will want to have a hurricane plan not just for yourself, but for your bromeliads. We have a great speaker this month as well as lots of plants for you.

See you at the meeting!

Maureen Adelman

Wanted - Membership Rep

We need a member to collect membership applications for new and renewing members at our meetings. For someone who wants to volunteer but does not have a lot of time this is the perfect job for you. You collect membership forms and payment at the meeting. Give the payment to our Treasurer, Olivia Martinez and mail the forms to Melody Ray, who publishes our roster. Call or contact our president at the meeting.

Speaker: Tom Wolfe

Kaleidoscope of Neos

Tom Wolfe will be presenting a program, "Kaleidoscope of Neos", which is an overview of Neoregelias emphasizing their color, the size, their adaptability, their hardiness and charm.

Tom joined the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay in 1965. Over the years he has held many positions and is presently serving as President of the Society. Tom has always been instrumental in encouraging and working with the BGTB members to present annual shows, participating in community shows and sales to promote bromeliads, refurbishing bromeliad beds at public venues and for non-profit organizations. Tom helps members create a display at the Florida State Fair annually promoting bromeliads and club members pass out literature to thousands of fair attendees.

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies consist of twelve societies located in the State of Florida. Tom is presently serving as the chair of the organization and President of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Inc.

Tom became an accredited BSI Bromeliad Judge in 1982 and is now a Master Judge. He served on the BSI Board of Directors for 14 years serving as Director, Secretary, and 6 years as Vice President and 6 years as President. Tom was the first BSI President to serve two consecutive terms.



Tom worked tirelessly through the years providing leadership and promoting bromeliads on the local, state, national and international levels.

Tom and his wife Carol live in Lutz and grow their bromeliads on their 2.5 acres of land and greenhouses. He has designed and installed many residential and commercial landscapes featuring bromeliads. He is in demand as a speaker throughout Florida and the United States presenting programs on bromeliads to horticulture organizations and bromeliad societies around the United States.

In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein

People wearing masks have long been an important part of my life. The Lone Ranger wasn't just great entertainment every Saturday; the program also introduced me to what is still one of my favorite pieces of music – the overture to the opera "William Tell." If the blood needs stirring, it's a sure bet. However, in the last year – for some reason – the mask-wearing thing has started to grow a little less appealing. But finally the date is approaching when masks will again be relegated to special occasions – Halloween parties or bank robberies.

A major step toward resumption of life as we knew it took place on April 20 when nearly 30 souls emerged from seclusion to attend the first in-person meeting of the BSSF in 13 months. Former Miamian Kenneth Stokes ushered in the new era with a program on sun-loving bromeliads. The longtime resident of South Tampa offered information on growth characteristics of these interesting plants at different stages of development.

One of Kenneth's key pieces of advice is not to grow *Dyckias* and *Hechtias* as tangled spines. That habit only works to keep each plant small, so division is the key to success. The way to do that without shredding your fingers is to take the bromeliad out of the container and sneak up on the plantlets from below, snipping them apart and cutting away dead leaves. New roots can develop at the sites of old leaves. Kenneth used *H. texensis* as an exemplar.

Rainfall, as a provider of nitrogen, makes the bromeliads greener outdoors, but a mustard yellow coloration can be achieved in the greenhouse. Because nature provides, Kenneth doesn't fertilize much. He adds that stress—higher light, lower nitrogen, less water—brings out the best in many species. As for potting material, sand, perlite, and humus make for a good mix, but he likes to cover the perlite with mulch, not only for aesthetics, but also to keep the perlite from floating out of the container.

Kenneth prefers to work more with species than with hybrids. He points out that small-growing species can look better when grown in clusters. Some of the sun-loving bromeliads feature interesting characteristics. For instance, some *Orthophytums* are viviparous, i.e., they produce new plants at the end of inflorescences. And *Hechtia mooreana* is multi-headed. Not only can each head be snapped off to live independently, but the main stem will continue to produce new plants. Some *Hechtias* don't pup. *Dyckia estevesii* blooms between the leaves; plants like that produce lots of pups.

D. estevesii is also one of the few bromeliads that grow distichously, i.e., with all leaves arranged in a single plane.

Returning to the subject of plant division, Kenneth recommended using forks or tweezer-like tools to help lift the plant from its container. He also advised cutting off extraneous roots. He uses needle-nose pliers to snip off dead leaves once or twice a year, and he prefers to trim leaves to a point if possible. An X-Acto knife is a must for working with *Hechtias* and *Dyckias*. A small saw is a valuable aid in separating spiny plants. If the pot is large enough, four pups can be left together.

Sun-loving bromeliads have interesting characteristics: *Hechtias*, *Dyckias*, and *Deuterocohnias* don't always die after flowering. Some species aren't even dangerously spiny. Some are caulescent, i.e., they grow long caudices which eventually fall over and root.

Some forbidding-looking bromeliads are less challenging than they appear at first glance. *Bromelia humilis*, though viciously-armed, is easy to separate, because it produces long stolons. At maturity, it turns red and flattens out. It needs little care.

And xerophytic species aren't the only bromeliads that can thrive in full sun. *Aechmeas* and *Neos* have species that can adapt. Plants can be acclimated to full sun slowly. The same is true with *Quesnelia*.

Clarification regarding the March 2021 program

During Chester Skotak's video presentation, he mentioned that he fertilizes his *Aechmeas* and *Neoregelias* with Osmocote. While Osmocote – a slow-release product – can work very reliably in the mild temperatures typical of 3,000-ft. elevations in the tropics, readers should be aware that it tends to break down more rapidly in the hot summer temperatures common to Florida.

FCBS

FCBS, or the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, is the state bromeliad organization, comprised of members from 12 Florida bromeliad societies. Their newsletter is published quarterly and contains some very interesting articles. The link to the newsletter is on the first page. Enjoy. Also, their Bromeliad Photo Index on their website, www.fcbs.org/pictures.htm, is one of the most comprehensive sites in existence for identifying bromeliads. Try picking just one genus and going through all the photos and I guarantee

you will learn a thing or two. Our representatives to FCBS are Mike Michalski and Patty Gonzalez. They will be reporting from time to time on current news from FCBS.

FCBS newsletter,
<https://www.fcbs.org/newsletters/FCBS/2021/02-2021.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 23-24, 2021
BSSF Annual Show
@ Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

October 1-3, 2021
Tamiami International Orchid Festival
<https://www.facebook.com/tamiamiorchidfestival/>

Ask DR. Brom

Dear Dr. Brom: What are the tiny, raised black spots on my bromeliads?

Those would be scale insects, one of the main insect pests of bromeliads. Scale is an ancient insect pest with over 8000 species that can attach themselves to the top or bottom of leaves. Scales can be soft or armored. Soft scales secrete excess fluid as honeydew on which sooty mold grows. Soft scales also attract ants. Your bromeliad's scales are armored, extruding wax for protection. There are over 175 armored scale species in Florida. They pierce plant tissue with their mouth parts and remain in place, feeding on sap. Bromeliad judges do not like scale and will penalize your plant if they see it.

You can start your treatment with the easiest remedies, especially if your plant only has a mild infestation. Ladybugs released in your garden can help but the results will be uneven. Next you can scrape them off by hand, a tedious process. But even if you scrape them off you will have to use another treatment to get any eggs left behind. The Bromeliad Society International recommends wiping over them with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol. Next you can try insecticidal soap. You can buy this at a garden

center or make your own by mixing a little dishwashing liquid or baby shampoo with water and spraying the plant. The soap will suffocate the scales. Rinse after treating.

If the infestation remains, you can move up the treatment spectrum to horticultural oils. These oils may work but may also suffocate the plant so be sure to rinse your plant the next day. Since scales are resistant to contact insecticides, your final step would be to use a systemic pesticide. Systemic pesticides work by poisoning the sap of the host plant. Three of the commonly used systemics are Acephate, Imidacloprid and Dinotefuran. Merit is one such product. These products are not cheap and you must follow the directions carefully but they are effective. Good luck treating your scales!

Dr. Brom welcomes your questions on bromeliads. Send emails to mhadelman@comcast.net or text to 786-253-2444.

Garden Notes

by Stephanie LaRusso

What's In a Name?

If you buy alot of Bromeliads, you have probably noticed that Bromeliad names can be just as colorful and complex as their foliage. While you may find them to be a mouthful to say and impossible to spell, Bromeliad names can tell you alot more about your plant then you ever imagined! In this article I'm going to show you how many things you can learn just from your Bromeliad's name.

The first thing to know is that Bromeliad names are written scientifically using binomial nomenclature, a two name system. These two names are not random and but must follow the rules below.

Your plant's first name is always the plant's Genus and is always capitalized. The Genus names found in the Bromeliaceae family are listed below.
Acanthostachys, Aechmea, Alcantarea, Ananas, Androlepis, Araeococcus, Barfussia, Billbergia, Brewcaria, Steyerm, Brocchinia, Bromelia, Canistropsis, Canistrum, Catopsis, Ciporopsis, Connellia, Cottendorfia, Cryptanthus, Deinacanthon, Deuterocohnia, Disteganthus, Dyckia, Edmundoa, Eduandrea, Encholirium, Fascicularia, Fernseea, Fosterella, Glomeropitcairnia, Goudaea, Greigia, Gregbrownia, Guzmania, Hechtia, Hohenbergia, Hohenbergiopsis, Jagrantia, Josemania, Lemeltonia, Lindmania, Lutheria, Lymania, Mezobromelia, Navia, Neoglaziovia, Neoregelia, Nidularium, Ochagavia, Orthophytum, Pepinia, Pitcairnia, Portea, Pseudaechmea, Pseudalcantarea, Pseudananas, Puya, Quesnelia, Racinaea, Ronnbergia, Rokautskyia, Sequencia, Sincoraea, Steyerbromelia, Stigmatodon, Tillandsia, Ursulaea, Vriesea, Wallisia, Werauhia, Wittrockia, Zizkaea

Many plants within the same Genus have similar characteristics. One example is the Genus Neoregelia, which are known to have flowers that sit low within the Bromeliad cup. If you learn the key characteristics of each Genus, Bromeliad names can help you understand how plants may bloom and grow even before you add them to your collection.

Neoregelia Typical Bloom



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Sometimes hybridizers will cross two different Genus together to form a Bi-Generic Hybrid. Again, names help you to clue you in. When two Genera are crossed, your plant's first name will start with an X followed by a combination of the Genus that are mixed. For example a Rokautskyia crossed with a Sincoraea would be *XRokautsincoraea*.

XRokautegelia 'Blazing Bonsai' - Bi Generic Hybrid



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

The Second part of a Bromeliad name will either be a species name, a hybrid name or a cultivar name.

A species is a plant found and collected as it was naturally growing in the wild. If you plant's second name is lowercase, then your plant is a species.

Neoregelia leviana- Species



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

A hybrid is a plant, grown from seed, whose flower had been pollinated with pollen from another species. If your plant is a hybrid it's second name will be in single quotation marks.

Neoregelia 'Sunita' -Hybrid



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

When two Hybrids are crossed, a plant's second name is the first parent's name an x and then the second hybrid's name. Single quotation marks are used around parent names that are hybrids

Neoregelia 'Fireball' x 'Royal Burgandy' - Hybrid with two Hybrid Parents



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

A cultivar is an offset that when it grew had unique characteristics that make it different from the mother plant. No crossing of genetic material occurred in this case, just a variation in the way the offsets look. Cultivars can have only two names but sometimes people will use three to help differentiate hybrids from cultivars. In this case, the first name is the Genus, the second is the species of the mother and the third is the name chosen for the new different looking offset. Cultivar names are also written within brackets.

Aechmea orlandiana 'Gold Tone' - Cultivar



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Sometimes cultivars and species are not given a new name even if they show characteristics which differ from the described plant type specimen. This happens a lot in the plant trade since many variations of plants can arise from large seed crops. Additionally, cultivars can occur in the wild. This means that wild collected specimen may differ when they enter the trade. Naming and registering all these different variations can be tedious so sometimes sellers use extra descriptive words in their plant names.

These extra names are added at the end of a plant name and put into round brackets. For example below, this plant is *Neoregelia correa-araujoi* by name but it has white edges on the leaf where the typical *Neoregelia correa-araujoi* does not. When a plant has white leaf edges it is referred to as albomarginate. This plant may not have a name of its own but is different from the named species so albomarginate is added to the end of the name to help describe the difference.

Neoregelia correa-araujoi (Albomarginate)



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Plant names can also give clues to how a plant looks. Latin and Greek roots are used often when naming species to define characteristics that make the plant unique. For example *Neoregelia carcharodon*. When you break down *carcharodon* to its Latin and Greek roots, *carchar* means jagged/saw-like and *don* means tooth. If you have ever seen this plant you would know that a main feature is the very large spines on the sides of the leaves which look like large saw-like teeth.

Neoregelia carcharodon 'Skotaks Tiger'



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Bromeliad names can also teach you the names of explorers and hybridizers that you may want to look up. Species names may include the last name of the plant's discoverer and hybridizers have a habit of naming plants after each other or loved ones. If you take the time to look up the names you find on your Bromeliad tags can tap into some of the historical figures within the plant community.

The carcharodon in the last image has a cultivar name of Skotak's Tiger. Skotak is a very well known hybridizer. Below is *Aechmea correia-araujoi*. This plant is a species, and *correia-araujoi* is the last name of one of the people responsible for this plant's discovery/ collection.



As a collector or even just a hobbyist it can be fun to explore your plant names and their meaning. So pull out your tags and get to know your plants better!

What's Blooming

by Stephanie LaRusso

This month in the Herndon Collection the *Neoregelia* really come into their full blooming colors. Look for flowers also on your *Sincorea* and *Canistrum*. Happy Spring everyone!





