



FLORIDA COUNCIL OF
BROMELIAD SOCIETIES

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Neoregelia Luxurians



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by Carol Wolfe



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Bromeliad Society of South Florida

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Sudi Hipsley
Seminole Bromeliad Society



VOTING REPRESENTATIVES:

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 Palm Beaches

Tom Ramiccio, tramiccio@aol.com
Nick Bethmann, nbethmann@bellsouth.net

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
Jack Dunlop, Jgdkoi@gmail.com

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

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
Marian Kennell, mmkennell@verizon.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

COMMITTEES MEMBERS:

Non-voting unless serving in a dual role of
Member Society Representative

Al Muzzel Weevil Fund

Karen Andreas, Chairman, Karen@digital.net
Tom Wolfe, bromeliadsociety@juno.com
Jay Thurrott, cajata@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:

Non-Voting, Invited FCBS meeting guests
Howard Frank, PH.D, jhfrank@ufl.edu; Ron Cave,
PH.D, rdcave@ufl.edu; Teresa M. Cooper, PH.D
SFBCP@savebromeliads.com

BSI Officers and Directors from Florida

Non-Voting, Invited FCBS meeting guests
Jay Thurrott Past President, cajata@aol.com
Rick Ryals, Vice-President, rickryals@bellsouth.net

Directors: Bruce Holst, bholst@selby.org;
Barbara Partagas, bpartagas@bellsouth.net;
Alex Bello, abel-lo1@dadeschools.net;
Gregory Kolojeski, greg@kolojeski.com;

Archives Committee: Steven C. Provost,
3fox3@att.net;

Journal Editor: Alan Herndon, aherndon@bsi.org

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

The Sarasota Bromeliad Society held a party at their October meeting at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens to honor Linda and Dennis Cathcart. It was a real success with many friends attending the celebration! Dennis said he was honored and humbled by the event. Although he said it was one of the surprises of his life to have so many friends attend, it was no surprise to the rest of us. We are indebted to Dennis for all the wonderful, informative programs he has shared with us for many, many years! We've traveled with Dennis and Linda to Central and South America, down the Amazon River, Mexico, Costa Rica, Madagascar, Borneo, South Africa, Gardens by the Bay in Singapore and a lot of other places! Wow, we traveled thousands of miles with Dennis and Linda and never once had to pack a suitcase!

Thanks to Marian Kennell, President of SBS, for the pictures and info for the Newsletter and for the hard work to make the event a great success.

Don Beadle, aka Mr. Billbergia, is working hard registering his billbergia hybrids with the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry. He has organized and converted 4,000 slide into digital files. Way to go, Don!!

We happy to bring an article from Dr. Terrie Bert on Sun-and Salt-tolerant Bromeliads, Part I: Aechmea and Alcantarea. There will be a continuation of this subject in future issues. Jay Thurrott, another faithful and loyal writer, has some unknown plants growing in his bromeliads! Thanks to my supportive husband, Tom Wolfe, for his article on Tillandsia fasciculata. Thanks to Derek Butcher from Southern Australia for his research and article on *Lutheriana splendens* and his challenge for a Florida detective for *xNeomea 'Ralph Davis.'* Thanks so much to Calandra Thurrott, an excellent proofreader!

Our sympathy to Teresa Cooper in the recent death of her father and this week the death of her mother. Her report on the Mexican bromeliad weevil will continue in the next Newsletter.

Recent deaths of FCBS, BSI, and The Cryptanthus Society members are: Eleanor Kinzie, Kay Klugh, Maureen Frazel and Chet Blackburn, who have taken up residence in their new eternal home. Our lives were enriched by knowing them. We honor them in the following pages of the Newsletter with information about their life and activities. Our love and sympathy to their families.

After the Newsletter was finished, we were notified of other deaths: Flo Adams, Houston, Tx., a founding member of the Cryptanthus Society; Elise Carr, BGTB member; David Higgs, Horticulture Society of the Bahamas; and CBS member, Vicky Chirnside's husband.

According to the Bible, "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord". So when our spirits leave our bodies and go with the Lord our bodies are left on the earth to be planted as seed in the ground. As gardeners, we love to plant seeds and eagerly await the new plants to rise from the seed. We understand that in order to do that, the seed must germinate and the seed gives its life to produce roots and stems for a new living plant. The body, the seed, is dormant waiting for a signal from God to rise again. The planted seed is a beautiful picture of an experience we will go through one day.

Jesus promised that all who died, believing in him, will return with Him to the earth. When He appears in the sky, with a shout, with the voice of an archangel and God's trumpet blows, the graves will open and the bodies in the ground, the seeds, will rise up as new resurrected bodies, never to be sick, diseased, or to die again but perfect bodies joining their spirits for eternity. Then, we who are alive and remain on the earth, will also receive resurrected bodies. The Bible says this transformation will happen in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye and we will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord! What a celebration it will be!!

What an exciting future we will have with resurrected bodies, not limited to time and space, we will be able to travel and explore galaxies, the milky way, the moon, the stars, the unknown 2600 newly discovered planets, roaming in the Garden of Eden enjoying bromeliads and all the plants we love, attending family reunions with thousands of generations, able to stay and visit as long as we want, for a day or a year(s), never rushing because we will be together again forever with the Lord!

These dear friends will be greatly missed as we continue our journey here on earth; but, we are confident that one day we shall see them again!

UPDATE 11-1-2018: This morning we learned that Don Beadle has passed away. We will include more info about his life in the next issue of the Newsletter.



Sun-and Salt-tolerant Bromeliads

Part I: *Aechmea* and *Alcantarea*

by Theresa M. Bert



Last year, I prepared a presentation (Sun, Sand, and Sea—Bromeliads that Rise to the Occasion) about bromeliads that are sun-tolerant, drought-tolerant, and saltwater-tolerant, for the Manatee River Garden Club. I put a lot of work into my presentations; and consequently, give each one to multiple bromeliad and plant societies. My presentation about sun-, sand- (a substitute for drought), and salt-tolerant bromeliads has been very popular because most bromeliad growers in Florida live near a coast and have some parts of their yards bathed in bright sunlight. In addition, all Floridian bromeliad growers must deal with two sometimes extensive dry periods: spring (mainly April and May) and fall (mainly October and November). Thus, several people asked me to write an article based on that presentation. There's too much information to fit into a single article, so this article is the beginning of a series that eventually will cover the entire presentation. Although some hybrid bromeliads meet these tolerance criteria, my presentation and this article series deals with species.



Tillandsia tectorum
by CWolfe

To begin with, no bromeliad is perfect. There are sun-tolerant bromeliads that can withstand salt air and sun tolerant bromeliads that can tolerate dry conditions; but as far as I know, there are no bromeliads that can withstand dry and salty conditions or that are sun-, drought-, and salt-tolerant. If you know of one, please give me the name! (How about *Tillandsia tectorum*?)

Most species that meet my criteria evolved in Brazil. The southeastern region of Brazil is a mecca for bromeliad evolution. Numerous different habitats with different sun and moisture conditions are in close proximity, and several exist along the coast. Expansive sand dunes with patches of low foliage (restinga) lie between the ocean and moister, cooler mountains. Coastal lowland or mountainous rainforests and cloud-forests abut white sand beaches. Mangrove swamps line intercoastal waters; and dry, chapparral-like hills give way to rocky beaches. The diversity of habitats and climatic conditions in close proximity and availability of three-dimensional structures (trees, rocks, cliffs) provide an ideal setting for diversification of bromeliads. More different bromeliad genera and species live in southeastern Brazil than anywhere else within the range of the Bromeliaceae.

Most bromeliads that are both sun- and salt-tolerant are big and/or have big tanks (the rather tubular centers of the plant, formed by the inner leaves), and belong to a surprising diversity of genera. *Aechmea*, *Alcantarea*, *Androlepis*, *Hohenbergia*, *Neoregelia*, *Portea*, *Quesnelia*, and *Tillandsia* all contain at least one species that can withstand intense sun and salty air. In this article, I'll talk about *Aechmea* and *Alcantarea*.

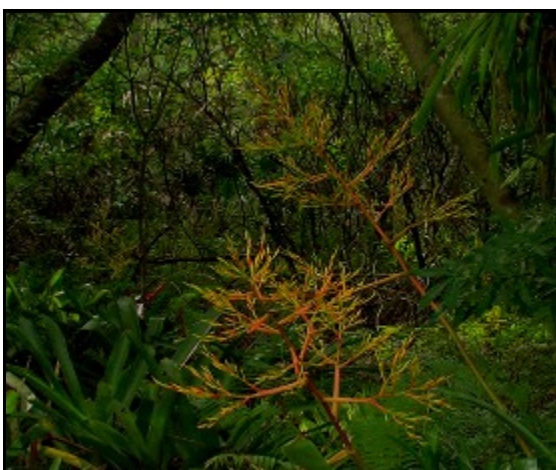


Aechmea

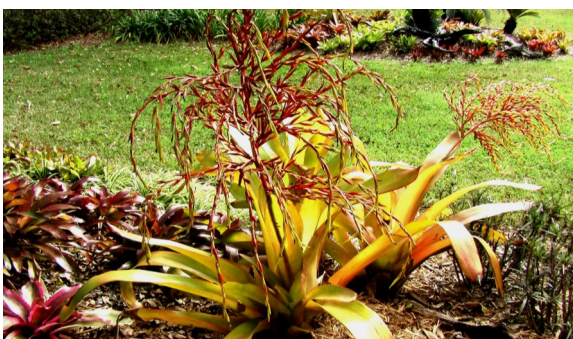
Aechmea is a speciose (about 279 species), broadly distributed genus, ranging from Mexico to Argentina and throughout the Caribbean. *Aechmea blanchetiana* and its close relatives--*Ae. eurycorymbus*, *Ae. rubens*, *Ae. emmerichiae*, and *Ae. aquilega*--are all sun tolerant and can be grown in full sun. In Brazil, they grow in the restinga, so they are well-adapted to Florida sandy soil. They are big plants and can also withstand some dry conditions because they can develop big tanks. Of the group, *Ae. blanchetiana* is the most salt-tolerant. That species can be grown in yards along a coast. *Aechmea blanchetiana*, and even moreso, *Ae. eurycorymbus*, are by far the most beautiful in the group. *Aechmea blanchetiana* exists in red, green, golden and variegated forms.



Aechmea blanchetiana by CWolfe



Aechmea eurycorymbus by CWolfe



Aechmea blanchetiana by CWolfe



Aechmea rubens by CWolfe



Aechmea aquilega by CWolfe

In my yard, the golden form is the biggest and most beautiful. The leaf edges and spines are orange. When in bloom in July or August, the plant looks like it has an orange and yellow tree coming out of the center. The bloom lasts for 6 months, turning redder as time goes by. The inflorescence can be cut and used as a nice Christmas decoration. *Aechmea eurycorymbus* has an even more elaborate bloom but is less salt-tolerant. Of this group of species, *Ae. aquilega* has the smallest and simplest bloom, is the least salt-tolerant, and the most cold-sensitive. I grow *Ae. blanchetiana* and *Ae. eurycorymbus* in an area where they get full sun, all day

and water from my sprinkler system.

Other sun- and salt-tolerant *Aechmea* species are *Ae. bracteata*, *Ae. mariae-reginae*, and *Ae. mexicana*. *Aechmea bracteata* is a big, beautiful, vase-shaped bromeliad with huge black spines (which are part of its intrigue). This species does well in trees, as well as in fully sun. It has a long, branched, long-lasting inflorescence with bright red bracts (modified leaves) at the base. The fruits turn nearly black as they develop and, like *Ae. blanchetiana* and *Ae. eurycorymbus*, extend the beauty and interest of the inflorescence for months. *Aechmea mariae-reginae* and *Ae. mexicana* are also very large species. *Ae. mariae-reginae* exists in green and variegated forms and has a large, corncob-shaped inflorescence with enormous pink bracts at the base. The flower head blooms from the base to the top and the flowers change color (from yellow to black) after they have passed their pollination prime, saving the pollinators energy and time because they cue into the color of the flowers that can be pollinated. *Aechmea mexicana* exists in green and albomarginated forms. Its inflorescence is long, rather fuzzy, and somewhat branched. The small flowers are reddish-purple. Overall, the inflorescence is not as spectacular



Aechmea bracteata
by CWolfe



as that of any of the previously described species; but the large, spreading plant (particularly the albomarginated form) is beautiful. Both *Ae. mariaereginae* and *Ae. mexicana* are very cold sensitive and should be covered if the temperature drops to 40°F (4.4°C) or lower.



Aechmea mariaereginae by CWolfe



Aechmea mexicana by CWolfe



Androlepis skinneri by CWolfe



Alcantarea

Alcantarea is one of my favorite genera! Most *alcantareas* are big, sun-tolerant, salt-tolerant, cold-tolerant, and leaf litter-tolerant; and all species have no spines. The inflorescences can extend up to 8 or more feet (2.5 meters) and are long-lived. Some *alcantareas* can be in bloom for a year, from the time the inflorescence starts to emerge from the plant to the time of last flowering. The flowers are large; white or yellow; and have long, curly petals. The downside is that some *alcantareas* (notably *Alcan. imperialis*) take a long time to bloom—up to 30 years! (Calculate your present age versus purchasing a very young *Alcan. imperialis*—how old will you be when it blooms?) Many *alcantareas* in cultivation bloom in 2 - 5 years (e.g., *Alcan. extensa*, *glaziouana*, *nahoumii*, *regina*). Others (e.g., *brasiliana*, *imperialis*, *odorata*) can take many years to bloom. *Alcantarea imperialis* exists in several color forms, ranging from green to deep purple, as well as a variegated form; and *Alcan. extensa* and *Alcan. glaziouana* have variegated, albomarginated, or lineated forms.



Alcantarea imperialis by CWolfe

I grow *alcantareas* in two places. Various species, almost all green, constitute a large fraction of my front-yard landscape, where they grow in full sun and get showered on by oak leaves and the tiny blossoms. I clean out the oak litter once or twice a year. Unlike numerous other bromeliad species, leaf litter in the plant doesn't seem to inhibit blooming. In my back yard, mostly colored and patterned (variegated, etc.) *alcantareas* grow beneath coconut palms, in mottled light; whereas green forms and a few patterned *alcantareas* grow in full sun, intermingled with *Aechmea eurycorymbus* and various color forms of *Aechmea blanchetiana*.

In nature, *alcantareas* grow on the near-vertical sides of enormous (up to thousands of feet or meters tall) granite domes. They cling to the cliff sides with strong, root-like holdfasts that penetrate the rock and weave through cracks in the rock. Because they grow on cliff sides and because they can be very heavy (bending under their own weight), *alcantareas* will develop long "trunks" that bend along the ground through time if they are planted directly in your yard. They



will also bend toward the side of the pot if planted in pots, regardless of how you center the plant when you initially place it in the pot. Eventually, the plant will attach to the side of the pot. The “roots” will grow into the pot, whether it is clay or plastic. Often the pot must be cut off the plant when repotting. I grow *alcantareas* in large plastic pots. I typically don’t use potting mix but simply put them in bare pots, sometimes with clay trays set in the bottom of the pot to retain a bit of water. I stabilize them using broken clay pot parts or red volcanic rock. When repotting *alcantareas*, I use a sawzall (circulating saw) to hack the pot off the plant and cut the lower part of the trunk off. The plant will grow new “roots” and continue growing.

Another peculiarity about *alcantareas*—they like to have leaf “skirts.” On cliff sides, the lower layers of leaves die and drape down, covering the bases of the plants. In cultivation, if you remove those dead and dying leaves, the plant will generate more. If you continue to remove the dead and dying leaves, you will eventually end up with an *Alcantarea* with a long, twisting trunk and a few living leaves at the top. Tug on the dead leaves. If they come off, then you can remove them; if not, leave them on the plant. To make the plant more attractive, I give the dead leaves a haircut—trimming them like bangs, just above ground level. If you wish to show an *Alcantarea* in a bromeliad show, you will need to remove all dead leaf parts. Save this serious trimming for that event.

Alcantareas are some of the most carefree bromeliads I grow. I highly recommend them. They’re fun, interesting, and beautiful.

For more information on sun-tolerant bromeliads, check out Moyna Prince’s article in the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies’ website (<http://fcbs.org/articles/full-sun-bromeliads.htm>) and Tropiflora Nursery’s list (<https://www.tropiflora.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Full-Sun-Bromeliads.pdf>).

Additional pictures of the bromeliads mentioned in this article series can be found in the FCBS website (<http://www.fcbs.org/pictures.htm>).



Alcantarea imperialis by CWolfe



Accidental Plants

By Jay Thurrott



Has this ever happened to you? You purchase (or are given) a new bromeliad and a few months after you get it home, some additional vegetation begins to show up in the pot alongside your new bromeliad. Most people look at this as just another weeding chore and dispose of the unwanted tag-along without much further thought. I can't help myself though – I have to let this new visitor grow large enough to where I can try to identify it as either a bromeliad friend or foe and sometimes these “accidental plants” turn out to be more interesting than the original occupant of the pot. Where do they come from? How do they find their way into my pots? It's all a mystery to me. Some of these are clearly weeds like the ‘artillery plant’ (*Pilea microphylla*) and once they get started, you may have a very long-term relationship. There are also some weedy, scrubby little begonias that sprout without warning in my potted bromeliads and as soon as I pluck them out of one pot and dispose of them, they turn up in another. I like begonias, but these are just plain ugly. There has been one exception though and I'm still wondering exactly where this begonia came from. The plant is really something special and has turned out to be quite attractive and even occasionally rewards me with tall sprays of pink flowers – clearly worth keeping!



It's definitely a begonia, but which one?

Another nice plant that appeared unexpectedly in a pot of bromeliads is what I believe to be *Rhipsalis pilocarpa*. Where did it come from? It doesn't matter and has proven itself to be a very nice house plant that rewards us each year with attractive little flowers on the tip of each branch.

Nice flower that even has a bit of a fragrance



One of the first accidental plants that I decided to cultivate appeared a few years ago when an interesting looking seedling popped up in a potted *Neoregelia johannis* hybrid that I had purchased at a plant sale in Plantation. It turned out to be strangler fig (*Ficus citrifolia*) and that tiny seedling is now a robust specimen tree in our front yard. Then there was the Florida elm tree that sprouted in another pot of *Neoregelias* – now easily 30 ft. tall and a nice shade tree that is always the first to sprout new leaves in the spring and the first to lose them in the fall.



Here's a photo of another accidental plant that just "appeared" in a potted bromeliad. It's clearly a ginger and I know that I have never knowingly acquired a ginger but here it is. This one has done so well this year that I granted it its own pot and have been rewarded with a nice blooming ginger that I've identified as a variety sometimes known as 'Dancing Lady', but is really *Globba schomburgkii*.



Dancing Lady – an accidental acquisition

And finally, here's still another accidental plant that showed up one day in a pot of *Neoregelias* that I had purchased many months earlier.



What is it? It's anyone's guess and I don't even know where to begin to look for its identification. I just know that it's a handsome house plant even if the bloom (inflorescence?) is a bit weird and so, I continue to grow it.

The next time an unexpected plant sprouts in one of your potted bromeliads, give it a chance to mature before you tear it out and ban it to the compost pile. Every once in a while these accidental plants turn out to be more interesting than the plant they rode in with!



Tillandsia fasciculata

By Tom Wolfe

Photos by Carol Wolfe

Tillandsia fasciculata is without a doubt the showiest bromeliad among the Florida natives. During my many hunting/camping trips in the 1960's and early 1970's my camping friends and I took time to enjoy the serene quiet and solitude that only a place like deep in the Everglades can provide. It was on these trips that some of us would hunt deer while a good friend, Harry Cunningham, III, a charter member of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, would concentrate on hunting bromeliads and orchids. During this period of time the practice was not considered illegal on private property. With the help of Harry's swamp buggy, we would tour all the old logging trams throughout the Big Cypress Swamp.

Tillandsia fasciculata was in abundance in the Big Cypress Swamp and the Fakahatchee Strand, south of the then proposed Alligator Alley and north of US 41 (Tamiami Trail). *Tillandsia utriculata* is the only native bromeliad larger than *Tillandsia fasciculata* making *T. fasciculata* easy to spot in the bald cypress and other native trees.

The western side of the Everglades, toward Monroe Station has a thin layer of top soil over the underlying limerock base. Therefore, the cypress trees are what I call scrub cypress (stunted). This is a harsh environment for *T. fasciculata* or any other plant. The *T. fasciculata* were stunted and looked stressed. The more robust looking plants were in the very wet swampy area where the shade and humidity provide a much more desirable environment for the plants.



***Tillandsia fasciculata* var. *densispica*
forma *alba* with white flowers**



***Tillandsia utriculata* in seed.**





Till fasciculata var *clavisipica* with a spent bloom

We were able to find all three varieties of *Tillandsia fasciculata*: var. *densispica*, var. *clavisipica*, and var. *densispica* forma *alba* and var. *densispica* is without a doubt the most common variety. The inflorescence is erect with the scape rising well above the gray-green leaves with multiple branches sporting rose, red and yellow flower bracts. The inflorescence of var. *clavisipica* is very similar but with more laxly (spreading) branches than the var. *densispica*. The var. *densispica* forma *alba* has pale green flower bracts and white flowers. This one is much more rare than the other two.

There is one more variety *T. fasciculata* variety *fasciculata*. According to Harry Luther, it is known only from a single collection made in southern Miami-Dade County. There are other varieties throughout Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America but these are hard to find in cultivation.

Unfortunately the “evil weevil,” *Metamasius Callizona*, has taken a toll on the larger Florida native bromeliads. There is ongoing extensive research conducted by scientist at the University of

Florida. They are searching for a natural predator that can be released throughout the state. Hopefully this pest will be brought under control in the near future.



Tillandsia fasciculata var. *densispica* with purple flowers



DON BEADLE, Also Known As (AKA) “MR. BILLGERGIA”

Photo by Joann Buell

Don is busy attempting to put in order 4,000 plus bromeliad slides. Check out this photo for proof! With a renewed passion for bromeliads, he is registering his Billbergia hybrids for posterity and future bromeliad lovers. Watch for his new hybrids on BSI.org and click on the ribbon Bromeliads, at the drop down window go to Bromeliad Cultivar Registry, and go to “What’s New” to see Don’s newly listed hybrids. Don keep up the good work!





Date	Calendar of Events
November 12, 2018 7 PM	Sarasota Bromeliad Society Auction (See Flyer) Great Room Selby Gardens
November 10-12, 2018	77th Ramble 10901 Old Cutler Road Coral Gables, FL 33156 https://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events-Community-Outreach/Events-Details/fall-garden-festival-featuring-the-77th-annual-ramble
Saturday, December 1, 2018 9 AM –4 PM and Saturday, December 2, 2018 10 AM—3 PM	Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Sale (See Flyer) Arab Shrine Temple 2010 Hanson Street Fort Myers, FL
SEPTEMBER 2019	Date of the 2019 Extravaganza to be announced soon by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida—most likely date September 2019 but we will be giving further information as soon as contract negotiations are finished.
March 16-17, 2019	Annual Show March 16-17, 2019 BSSF 10901 Old Cutler Road Coral Gables, FL 33156 https://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events-Community-Outreach

**TWO FLORIDA SOCIETIES CONTRIBUTE
AL MUZZELL WEEVIL FUND**

Sudi Hipsley, Treasurer for the FCBS announced the following contributions to the Al Muzzel Weevil Fund:

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society contributed \$500
The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida contributed \$500

We are very appreciative of the members of Seminole and Central Florida Societies for their contribution to the Fund. The Al Muzzel Weevil Fund is administered by the Weevil Committee of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

These funds are used for research to find a solution to stop the invasive Mexican Weevil, *Metamasius Callizona*. The committee and the FCBS work with Teresa Marie Cooper, Phd., and Save Florida’s Bromeliads Conservation Project. Dr. Cooper attends the FCBS meetings as well as reporting the activities to the membership through the FCBS Newsletter and the website: <http://www.savebromeliads.com>.

Dr. Cooper is available to speak to local societies about the work and research project to save Florida’s bromeliads. She can be reached at sfbcp@savebromeliads.com.



DENNIS AND LINDA CATHCART THE KING AND QUEEN OF BROMELIADS Honored by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society

The Sarasota Bromeliad Society and President, Marian Kennell, wanted to honor Linda and Dennis so Marian sent the following invitation: *To my fellow members of bromeliad societies in Florida, The Sarasota Bromeliad Society is having a party to honor Dennis And Linda Cathcart on Monday, October 8th at 7 PM. It will be held in the Great Room at Selby Gardens. Their*



children and grandchildren are planning to attend. There will be food, drinks, prizes, and an amazing slide show. We want to invite members of your club to attend. So often we wait until somebody is sick or dying before we thank them or let them know how they have positively affected our lives. We are asking guests to write on a card or email a happy memory, special thought, or funny story you have of Dennis, Linda, or Tropicflora. We will share them at the party.

So on Monday, October 8, 2018, the Sarasota Bromeliad Society honored Dennis and Linda Cathcart with a catered dinner held at Selby Gardens. During the evening a room full of guests enjoyed viewing the large screens on each side of the podium containing an awesome slide show of the Cathcart's bromeliad adventures around the world.

After dinner, Ray Lemieux and Marian Kennell, Masters of Ceremony, read letters of congratulations sent to honor Linda and Dennis for their contribution to the bromeliad world and its people.

Letters to the Cathcarts: Moyna Prince: Thank you for the invitation. I wish I could join you all. And my late husband, Ed would have been there like a shot. Dennis and Linda have been friends for many years. My life in bromeliads would not have been the same without them.

There is one particular incident I must share with you. Many years ago Dennis and our good friend Wally Berg were going collecting in South American and left their car at our house, just 20 minutes from the airport. We planned to pick them up on their return and have them to stay the night here. Knowing they had healthy appetites I prepared what I thought would be a suitable dinner for two hungry American boys. Well, the phone call came and Ed went off to the airport. About an hour later I was shocked to see the car pull up with a dozen - or more - suitcases jammed in the back and trunk and Dennis and Wally folded up in the front passenger seat! Instead of keeping the suitcases with the plants over night for inspection they had all been released! The travelers had also been well fed on the flight but hearing I had cooked chili (Jackie Gleason's recipe) they valiantly downed decent portions before taking off for home! I will never forget the kindness and consideration for this hostess's feelings on that occasion! Oh, that was the last time they left the car with us!! Thank you for all the happy memories. Moyna

Paul Isley III: Of course, Jerry and I have many wonderful memories with King and Queen of unselfish—Dennis and Linda Cathcart. One memory comes to mind that's a bit different. Jerry and I were staying at the Cathcart's in January of 1994 and it was about 7:00 AM when Dennis called into our room, "Hey, Paul, I think y'all are havin' a earthquake out there in L.A." I've been through many earthquakes in my time so I wasn't particularly excited about this one. But when I saw a collapsed overpass on the 10 freeway at La Brea, an area I know well, I went into my OMG mode. Of course the phones were out and I couldn't reach my wife, Betty. The earthquake was a little after 4:00 AM local time and the power was off so it was completely dark. She said it was like a freight train going through the bedroom. I'll never forget Dennis' understated drawl, "Hey, Paul..." It was so typical Dennis. Best regards. Paul



Photos of Cathcart's slides from the program



Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society: The members of Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society would like to thank you for all you have done for bromeliad lovers all over the world. Your contributions are too numerous to list, but we just want you to know how much we appreciate you both. Thank you.

Tom Wolfe: Congratulations to the King and Queen of the Bromeliad World! Dennis and Linda have been the stalwart supporters of the Bromeliad Society International, The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and the Sarasota Bromeliad Society for as long as I can remember. Dennis has been an explorer, collector, world renowned speaker, grower, and hybridizer. He has done it all. Above all Dennis and Linda have

been good friends and advisors.

Judy & Pete Barnhart: Congratulations on your lifetime contribution to the lives of bromeliad lovers in the Sarasota area! Pete and I are sorry that we can't join in your celebration on October 8th. Your devotion to the Sarasota Bromeliad Society has positively affected our life and enjoyment of exotic plants. Your gracious interaction and educational influence has kept us energized.

Dave & Joan Anderson (Auckland NZ): Thank you for the invitation to attend Dennis & Linda's Celebration. Unfortunately, we will not be attending, but do pass on our very best wishes to them



both and wish them all the very best for the future.



Len and Inez Dalatowski: I have known Dennis and Linda since our early bromeliad days in Chicago back in the early 80's. We used to order plants from them for our show and sales at the Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago and had Dennis as a speaker on quite a few occasions. There were always parties in our society when they came to town. Since most of our vacations were in Florida we always stopped and visited. Our daughter, now in her 30's, still remembers picking up shells in the greenhouse when she was a toddler and considers herself part of their family. As time went on, we moved to Florida. Linda helped us with having our furniture

stored before our drive down. We have been fortunate to have participated in almost every Tropiflora Festival as well as other festivals and attended many bromeliad and Cactus conventions with them. We don't think of it as work, we think of it as fun! They have not only been business friends but plant buddies for many years and truly appreciate them for the caring, friendly, knowledgeable friends they are.

Lyn Wegner, President of BSI: How I wish I could be with you both tonight, to share this very special celebration being held in your honour at Selby. There are 2 memories in particular I would like you to relive with me. The first took place on the 4th September 2007 in my garden in East London, South Africa! What an exciting afternoon it was! What an honour to have you, Dennis, in my garden for the afternoon! An afternoon I will never ever forget. We had some refreshments and chattered as we walked around my garden and you even asked for permission to take some photos! Wow!

Dennis Cathcart
September 4, 2007
Photo by Lyn Wegner





Photos of Cathcart's Slides from program



I will always remember Dennis pointing out plants and I remember one in particular. Dennis said 'I see you have *Neo. Chiquita Linda*', and I thought I was being very knowledgeable when I corrected Dennis and said 'No, that is *Neo. lilliputiana* x Fireball'! Of course I later discovered, much to my embarrassment, that of course Dennis was correct! How could I have thought he wouldn't be! *Neo. lilliputiana* x Fireball is *Neo. Chiquita Linda*! Thanks Dennis for being so polite and friendly and accepting my incorrect correction without any comment! I look forward to another visit Dennis, but this time I need you to bring Linda with you! I have *Neo. cathcartii* and *Neo. Linda* Cathcart in my garden, side-by-side!

The second memory I would like to remind you both of, is when I visited Tropiflora in 2010, after the New Orleans WBS. Brenda Wagner my sister-in-law and I spent the day with you all. Unfortunately I spent many hours in the Tropiflora office where I was so kindly assisted by special members of the Tropiflora team, sorting out my application for a temporary passport having lost mine after the conference! Thank you to you both for taking Brenda and I out to lunch as well as offering us accommodations. Linda, I will never forget all the pineapple items and mementos that field you're home, from top to bottom what a mind blowing collection! I wonder how many more you have accumulated in the 8 years since our visit! You might remember you gave me a perfume bottle in the shape of a pineapple, which was part of your collection. I have it displayed in a prominent position on my kitchen window-sill! A constant reminder of that special time I spent at Tropiflora with you all! Love and hugs from South Africa to you both, dear Dennis and Linda!

Terrie Bert: I am so sorry that I cannot attend the party in your honor. I'm in Spain and couldn't change the dates of the trip. I hope you enjoy the party! I wanted to tell you how much both of you mean to me. Dennis, I've always appreciated your knowledge of bromeliads and the advice and counseling you've given me. Your knowledge of bromeliad species and ecology is amazing. I've also loved purchasing bromeliads from Tropiflora. Over the thirty years that I've grown bromeliads, I've spent more than \$50,000 on plants (almost all bromeliads) at Tropiflora. I love going there. It's so peaceful and beautiful, and your staff is excellent. Many of them (e.g., Ray, Brian, Robin, Scott) are like family to me. Linda, I love your vivacious personality and infectious joy in living. You always make me smile and make my day brighter. We've shared some great stories about love, life, and even strife and sadness. You are a wonderful personal friend. I'll look forward to many more years as your friend and a loyal customer! Best wishes.

Kay Weber: Enclosed is a photo of Dennis giving a talk to the Horticulture Study Group of Sarasota Garden Club. We have



Photo by Kay Weber



been there 3 times over the past 5 years. As well as they came & spoke at our club several times over the years also. Dennis, Linda & their children have been ever so helpful over the years. Our members also always look forward to attending their plant sales as well. As a SBS member they are so generous to come & speak at our meetings also. I miss the emails about Dennis & Linda's adventures on their many trips to find more & different Bromeliads. I always thought they were both in an "Indiana Jones" movie. Wish I could be there but I am away on vacation. Congratulations.

Marian Kennell, President, SBS: (Excerpts) It was our honor to throw you and Linda a party. Ray and the Sarasota Bromeliad Society thought you should be the first to be honored because of the impact you have made. You told me that you didn't know how I was able to get so many of your friends to attend...I should have asked you both to stand up and turn around so that you could see how happy everyone was to celebrate the two of you. All I had to do was to let them know we were having a party. Bromeliad Societies are at first glance about the bromeliads. In reality they are about the people in the societies sharing a common passion, or some may call an obsession. There is honestly no one I can think of who shared their passion with as many people as you did. I can say that with confidence because the Tropiflora Cargo Report reached not only members of Bromeliad Societies, but all your customers. How many Cargo Reports did you send out each month? I know I received it for years before I became 'obsessed' with bromeliads. I enjoyed reading about your adventures...I am thrilled that Scott and Robin brought their children. They are awesome! I thought it was important for them to know how much grandpa and grandma are respected for simply having a love for something, giving it all their heart and sharing it with others....There are many places you can buy bromeliads, including the big box stores. You have something unique at Tropiflora. You have a unique niche in the wide variety of species and hybrids. You stock the hard to grow plants that would likely be lost to the collector if it wasn't for you and your excellent staff. I hope that Tropiflora stays open for many more generations...I am glad you both have so many good friends, they are what made the party a success.
Sincerely, Marian

Right: Cathcart's grandchildren

Bottom left: Robin and Scott sharing stories.

Bottom right: Linda and her granddaughters

Photos by Marian Kennell





***Lutheriana splendens* that was
Vriesea splendens by
Derek Butcher July 2018**

This has been a splendid plant ever since 1845 when it was first described. It also meant that botanists were giving it different names hence the many synonyms. There is also disagreement as to the status of the varieties where the World Checklist WCSP (Based at Kew) treats them as heterotypic synonyms of the type. When Barfuss et al published their paper in Phytotaxa 279(1): 001-097. 2016 they only used DNA from *Vriesea splendens* var *splendens* as far as I am aware, so I leave this for others to ponder over because the main thrust of this article is to deal with var *striatifolia*. All variegations based purely on leaf structure, should be treated as type because they cannot be reproduced by seed and in this case, no others have been reported found in the wild. Let us look at how things stand at the moment including synonyms. Note the reference to 'Hortus' in several instances which shows how cultivars were named in the old days!



Lutheria splendens (Brongn.) Barfuss & W. Till, *comb. nov.* Phytotaxa 279(1): 001-097. 2016

Basionym:—*Tillandsia splendens* Brongn., Ann. Fl. Pomone, ser. 2. 3: 311, pl. (1845), **Lectotype** (designated by Smith & Downs, 1977: 1217):—*Leprieur s.n. in Paris Hortus s.n.* (lecto P, iso K!); *Mélinon s.n. in Paris Hortus s.n.* (syn P)

≡ *Vriesea splendens* (Brongn.) Lem., Fl. Serres Jard. Eur. 6 (Misc.): 162, fig. (1850)

= *Vriesea speciosa* Hook., Bot. Mag. 74: pl. 4382 (1848), **Type:**—*Kew Hortus s.n.* (holo ?K)

From Smith & Downs

Vriesea splendens* var *splendens

Tillandsia splendens Brongn. Hort. Universel vol. 6: 199 (1845) added Sept 2015 by Gouda

Tillandsia splendens Brongniart, Ann. Fl. Pomone 14: 311.1845.

Vriesea speciosa Hooker, Bot. Mag. 74: pl. 4382. 1848. Type. *Kew Hortus s n* (n v, typified by plate, evidently a clonotype of *Tillandsia splendens*).

Tillandsia vittata Richard ex Baker, Handb. Bromel. 215. 1889; nomen.

Tillandsia picta hortus ex Baker, Handb. Bromel. 215. 1889; nomen.

Tillandsia zebrina hortus ex Baker, Handb. Bromel. 215. 1889; nomen, non hortus ex Baker, p. 17.

Vriesea splendens "Major" hortus ex M. B. Foster, Bromel. Soc. Bull. II: 7.1961; nomen; Richter, Bromeliaceen 269, 277. 1962.



Lutheria splendens* var. *striatifolia (M.B. Foster) Barfuss & W. Till, *comb. nov.* Phytotaxa 279(1): 001-097. 2016 [All variegations should be treated as type because they cannot be reproduced by seed-**Butcher. Note that no others have been found in the wild**]

Basionym:—*Vriesea splendens* var. *striatifolia* M.B. Foster, Bromeliad Soc. Bull. 5: 92, fig. (1955), **Type:**—Foster 2808 (holo US)

Lutheria splendens* var. *formosa (Suringar ex Witte) Barfuss W. & Till, *comb. nov.* Phytotaxa 279(1): 001-097. 2016

Basionym:—*Vriesea splendens* var. *formosa* Suringar ex Witte, Sempervirens 18: 361 (1889), **Type:**—not indicated

= *Tillandsia longibracteata* Baker, J. Bot. 26: 81 (1888), **Type:**—Fendler 2449 (holo K; iso GOET)

≡ *Vriesea longibracteata* (Baker) Mez in C. DC., Monogr. phan. 9: 568 (Jan 1896)

≡ *Vriesea splendens* var. *longibracteata* (Baker) L.B. Sm., Smithsonian Misc. Collect. 126: 36 (1955)

= *Tillandsia appuniana* Baker, Handb. Bromel.: 213 (17 Aug–15 Oct 1889), **Type:**—Appun s.n. (holo BM)

Detail from Smith & Downs

Vriesea splendens* var. *formosa Suringar ex Witte, Sempervirens, Geillustr. Weekbl. Tuinb. Nederl. 18: 361. 1889.

Tillandsia longibracteata Baker, Jour. Bot. London 26: 81. 1888. Type. Colonia Tovar, Aragua, Venezuela, Fendler 2449 (GOET, K).

Tillandsia appuniana Baker, Handb. Bromel. 213. 1889. Type. Kaieteur Falls, Essequibo, Guyana, Appun s n (BM, GH photo), 1872.

Tillandsia splendens var. *formosa* Suringar ex Witte, Sempervirens, Geillustr. Weekbl. Tuinb. Nederl. 18: 361. 1889; nomen.

Vriesea longibracteata (Baker) Mez, DC. Monogr. Phan. 9: 568. 1896.

Vriesea splendens major Duval Hortus, Revue Hort. 69: 307. 1897; nomen. (! Mez).

Vriesea splendens wardelii hortus, Revue Hort. 70: 246. 1898; nomen. (! Mez).

Vriesea splendens var. *longibracteata* (Baker) L. B. Smith, Smithson. Misc. Collect. 126: 36. 1955.

Lutheria splendens* var. *chlorostachya (Oliva-Esteve) Barfuss & W. Till, *comb. nov.* Phytotaxa 279(1): 001-097. 2016

Basionym:—*Vriesea splendens* var. *chlorostachya* Oliva-Esteve, J. Bromeliad Soc. 56(5): 199, fig. 1 (Dec 2006), **Type:**—Oliva-Esteve 304 (holo VEN)

= *Vriesea splendens* var. *chlorostachya* Oliva-Esteve, J. Bromeliad Soc. 51(4): 184, figs. 23, 24 (2001), *nom. inval.* [Art. 40.1]

Lutheria splendens* var. *oinochroma (Steyererm.) Barfuss & W. Till, *comb. nov.* Phytotaxa 279(1): 001-097. 2016

Basionym:—*Vriesea splendens* var. *oinochroma* Steyererm., Bromeliad Soc. Bull. 17: 53 (1967), **Type:**—Steyermark 95320 (holo VEN; iso US!)

With such a splendid plant there are cultivars (infra-specific crossings) to consider such as

‘Article in French by Louis Dutrie in 1946 by Tom Lineham in English J Brom Soc 38(4): 169-170. 1988

The series of *V. splendens* constitutes the aristocracy of the genus.

• *V. splendens* Brongniart, French Guiana. A very beautiful species with upright leaves, then curved outward, leathery, ornamented on both sides with blackish brown bands, regularly spaced on a green background. The inflorescence is an ensiform, flattened spike 40 cm long, with bracts of a magnificent scarlet.



- *V. splendens major* Hort. This is the same plant, but much stronger in all its parts. However, the transverse bands are of a brown, less dark and less sharply defined than the type. Occasionally among some specimens it may be observed that on the underside of the leaves the space between the bands is tinged with brown. The floral stem attains a length of 80 cm and bears a spike larger than that of the type, but of the same scarlet color.

- *V. splendens mortfontanensis* Hort. Chantrier. (Butcher’s comment – this is now known as ‘Mortfontanensis Splendens’)The plant is of a size in-termediate between the two preceding plants, with leaves more upright, and with black-brown bands. The inflorescence attains a length of 60-70 cm, but the spike is not larger than that of *V. splendens*. The color of the bracts is perhaps a little darker.

- *V. splendens chantrieri*. This superb plant appeared for the first time at the 1939 Floralties in Belgium. Presented by its originator, M. J. Chantrier of Morte-fontaine, it was awarded the prize for new plants. It is of a size at least as well developed as that of *V. splendens major*, with the coloration of the foliage of *V. splendens*, and has an inflorescence of 90 cm in length, a spike broader than that of *V. splendens major* and of a more beautiful scarlet. It is probably a hybrid of these first two, a superb addition.

Sometimes, in batches of *V. splendens major* one comes across those in which the inflorescence carries two or three branches. It is unfortunate that these, when poorly developed, present a poor appearance. They may occur too high or too low on the floral stem, and be too erect, giving the appearance of being stuck onto the principal spike so that the inflorescence gains nothing in beauty but even loses in elegance. It is, however, probable that this tendency towards branching will bring forth someday a branched inflorescence that is well formed and more elegant.

One peculiarity to point out in *V. splendens major*, and, more characteristic still in *V. splendens chantrieri*, is that the offsets are formed at the time of flowering and remain attached to the base of the flowering plant the following year. For this reason it is possible to obtain a year after the first a second flowering giving simultaneously, according to the number of offsets, two or three flowers in this way forming quite remarkable specimens. Let us note that with other vrieseas the flowering of the offsets occurs only after two or three years.’

We now move to what is currently in the
BCR (Bromeliad Cultivar Register)

Cayenne	No photo held	Formosa	No photo held
Chantrieri		Hera	
Fascination	No photo held	Illustris	No photo held
Favoriet		Juno	
Favourite Yellow		Major	No photo held
Fire		Meyer’s Favorite	
Flammendes Schwert		Nigra	No photo held
		Splenriet	
		Tepuy	No photo held
		Trinidad	No photo held

There are no doubt other names that have not yet been registered in the BCR including ‘Era’ and ‘Espada’

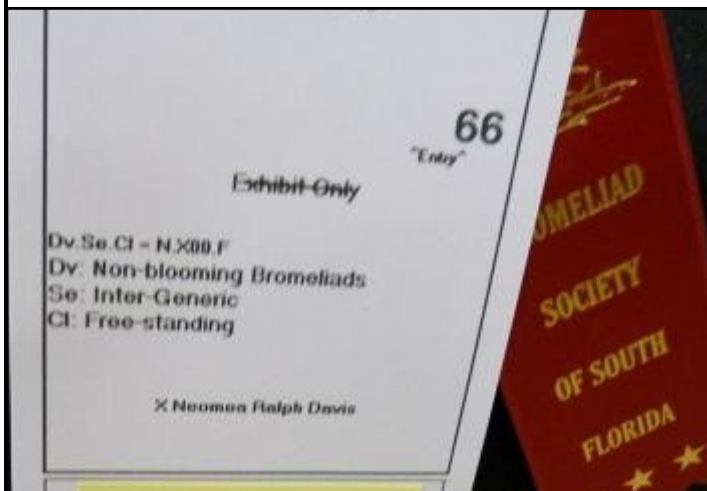
Most of these seem to have originated in large commercial nurseries rather than the ‘backyard’ collection. I wonder how these can be seen to be different except with clone crossed clone you would get some sort of hybrid vigour. Some of the registered cultivars were selected from collections made in the wild. What surprises me is that no mutation/sporting to variegation have been reported. Surely this must have happened but in too small a number to be commercially viable. The only reason I can think of is that this species is an upper pupper with offsets being time consuming to extract.

I also wonder how many of the older cultivars survive today and how many lost their label only to be renamed *splendens*. I hope that all have the typical yellow petals

So, the name *Lutheria splendens* var *striatifolia* will disappear and we wait for someone to grow on a variegated form of any of the above names so that it is stable and in sufficient numbers to be worthy of being called ‘in cultivation’ . We may even see another registered name.



***xNeomea* 'Ralph Davis'**
by Derek Butcher



We in Australia are intrigued. I am known in Australia as the Bromeliad Detective, Derek, and I am stumped. So I am seeking a Florida Bromeliad detective.

I was alerted to the problem when Geoff Lawn, the Cultivar Registrar, received the following email:

Hi Geoff,

I was just perusing the BCR and noticed that there is no photo for XNeomea Ralph Davis.



Someone had entered a plant under that name at the 2011 BSSF Show at Fairchild Gardens and I took a couple of pictures of it. I've attached them if you would like to use them.

Very best regards,
Jay Thurrott

While investigating this, both Geoff and I saw similarities with what we had as *xNeomea* 'Memoria Ralph Davis' on the BCR. Was this a case of label writing error? Is there a Floridian detective willing to take up the challenge to solve this puzzle?



Reply to:

Derek Butcher's email add:

tillands@bigpond.com

Geoff Lawn: grlcomosus@bigpond.com



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Text and Photo by Larry Giroux*

In Memoriam

**Eleanor Knight Rinkel Kinzie
1921—2018**



In the 26 years I have known Eleanor Kinzie, I noticed that she remained true and faithful to three important aspects of her life...her religion and faith in God, her devoted and very close family and her love of her hobbies, especially horticulture.

God was her rock and saw her through tough times in her life as well as granting her many blessings. When Eleanor was not at the beginning of our Bromeliad Society meetings, we knew she was attending services or helping with some function at her church.

During the many years that I have known her, I cannot recall a meeting, a party, a Bromeliad event or judging where she was not there with either her daughters Marie Bessellieu (she passed in 2001), Betty Ann Prevatt or her son Walter. In my dictionary the name Kinzie is synonymous with “family”.

Horticulture has played a major role in the lives of the Kinzies. Over six decades ago, Eleanor started a dynasty of plant lovers with a floral shop, a nursery and her family’s involvement in bromeliads and orchids. She was a charter member of the Cryptanthus Society and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society (where she served as President and committee chairs), decades long member of the BSI, Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and the local and national Orchid Societies. She was a Master Bromeliad and Flower Judge. She maintained an outstanding collection of many families of plants, with orchids and bromeliads, especially *Cryptanthus*, her favorites.

Eleanor’s God has waited 97 years to grant her, her greatest reward and to have her closer to him. We can’t begrudge God or Eleanor what they both deserve; we will just have to cherish all the memories and good that Eleanor left to us.



**ELEANOR KINZIE ENTRIES IN THE
2017 CALOOSAHATCHEE SHOW**

These beautiful bromeliads were in the Caloosahatchee Show, November 2017, entered by Eleanor Kinzie.

Eleanor probably holds the record for her age group, at the time 96 years young, for entries in a Bromeliad Show! She may have had more entries but these are the ones that I have pictures of.

Let's watch and see who can compete with her record!



Neo. Avalon by Eleanor Kinzie



Neo. Cougar by Eleanor Kinzie



Neo. Ariel by Eleanor Kinzie



Neo. Dark Prince by Eleanor Kinzie



Neo. chloristricta x pauciflora by Eleanor



Neo. Aurora 'Redneck' by Eleanor Kinzie



Neo. Intense by Eleanor Kinzie



ELEANOR KINZIE 1921—2018

Fort Myers - Eleanor Knight Rinkel Kinzie entered eternal life on Thursday, July 19, 2018. There's no doubt she had an expedited pass straight through the Pearly Gates to be reunited with her late husband of 58 years, Girard Eric Kinzie, her eldest daughter Marie Eleanor Kinzie Bessellieu, her two sisters, Bettye Rinkel Chandler and Mary Alene Rinkel Waldron, and her bothers-in-law, Andy Chandler and Cecil Waldron. Her spirit is carried on in this life by her middle daughter, Betty Ann (Darrell) Prevatt, and son, Walter Eric Kinzie; five grandchildren, Melanie (Steve) Forbrick, Angela (Lenny) Katz, Richard (Hillary) Kinzie, Steve (Ana) and Tom (Amy) Bessellieu; eight great-grandchildren, Ashley (Ricky) Ziegler, Taylor Schlueter, Kinsey Katz, Austin and Eric Forbrick, and Graham, Luke and Lindsey Bessellieu; as well as extended family and friends from every walk of life.

Eleanor's story starts on January 8, 1921 when she was born in Ft. Myers, Florida, as the oldest child to George and Esther Rinkel. Eleanor lived a full and blessed 97 years, during which time she humbly, but with great commitment, resolved to be and do good. She possessed all of the quintessential traits of being among the most interesting women in the world: adventurous, fearless, rugged, strong, industrious and, at the same time, kind, humble, creative and an avid recycler who believed that everything was useful in it's first function and well beyond.

Eleanor lived her life in service to faith, hope and charity. She put God first above all else and was the longest tenured member of the First Presbyterian Church on Second Street in Ft. Myers, where she participated in the chancel and bell choirs for more than six decades. At a close second was her family, for whom she spent countless hours cooking, quilting, gardening and canning. She was active in operating the family businesses, Kinzie's Rose Garden, Kinzie's Florist and Kinzie's Wholesale Nursery, which is still in operation today. Next is her devotion to the community where she was born and raised. As a native of Ft. Myers, Florida, she was a member of the Pioneer Club of Lee County, and she gave back in so many ways including generous contributions to the First Presbyterian Church and P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization), which provides higher educational opportunities for women.

She loved the outdoors, admiring all the flora and fauna, and fishing the backwaters of Sanibel. Additionally, she earnestly served her passion for her hobbies, which included growing orchids and bromeliads, scrapbooking, quilting, and stamp and coin collecting. She was a member of Southwest Florida Quilters' Guild, Southwest Florida Orchid Society and Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, serving as an officer at times throughout the years, and she was an international accredited master bromeliad judge.

A Celebration of her life will be held Wednesday, July 25, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. at The First Presbyterian Church, 2438 Second Street, downtown Ft. Myers. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the funeral service. A reception will follow immediately after the service, and internment will take place at the Ft. Myers Cemetery following the reception. If you would like to make a donation in her honor, the family suggests: First Presbyterian Church, 2438 Second Street, Ft. Myers, FL 33901, or P.E.O. Foundation, 3700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312.



Kay Klugh's picture with her yard in the background.
Photo compliments of Ben Klugh

Karen 'Kay' Alesia Klugh **November 08, 1947 - October 10, 2018**

Karen Alesia Klugh, 70, of Cullman, Alabama entered into rest on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at her home.

Mrs. Klugh was born on November 8, 1947 in Cullman, Alabama. Kay was very active in her church and served as a teacher with the Bible Study Fellowship. She always believed that everyone should be treated fairly and followed that path through her life as an employee and finally as the Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for the State of Arkansas.

A memorial service will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Cullman on October 20, 2018 at 11 a.m., officiated by Brother Reagan Brown. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the American Cancer Society in her name.

Kay is survived by her loving husband of 31 years, Benjamin Klugh Jr.; step children, Amanda Robinson, Jeremy Klugh, Kelly Fugok and Scott Klugh; and seven grandchildren. She had six brothers and sisters, and a host of nieces and nephews.

www.cullmanfuneralhome.com/obituary/karen-klugh

BROMELIADS — I never met a plant I didn't like!

Kay said she never met a plant that she didn't like! Ben said Kay loved her bromeliads and the many friends she had made within the bromeliad community. When she and Ben moved to Lake Mary, Florida in 2003, she had not seen very many bromeliads. She was disappointed to learn that her daffodils and daylilies from Arkansas would not grow in Florida but she did inherit a tropical garden filled with bromeliads. They immediately began looking for bromeliad societies so they could learn about these tropical plants.

They soon joined the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society and the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida where Kay served as Treasurer. Kay represented the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society as a representative on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) as well as serving as its Secretary (2013), Vice Chairman (2014) and Chairman (2005). Ben also served on the FCBS as the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida representative. Kay and Ben served the Bromeliad Society International as Co-Treasurers of the organization.

So in addition to learning about bromeliads, they served the local clubs, the state organization, FCBS, and the international society, BSI, as officers and became an integral part of these organizations.

When they returned to their hometown in Cullman, Alabama they left a void in the Florida Societies and in the hearts of those that loved them.





CHET BLACKBURN 1933 - 2018



Chester 'Chet' Blackburn of Auburn, California passed away at his home on September 15, 2018 surrounded by his family, dog and plants. He was 85 years old and was born in Cincinnati, OH and moved to California at 18 years of age to join the service. He married his wife Jean in 1968 bringing her and her four young daughters to California.

Chet enjoyed a career in computers and telecommunications but was equally immersed in a deep passion for the natural world. He was a member of the Sacramento Bromeliad Society since 1976 serving as the past President and Treasurer. Chet was the editor of *The Journal of the Bromeliad Society International* from 1996-2002.

A plant collector since high school in Ohio, Chet had cultivated thousands of diverse and rare plants on his 8-acre garden in Auburn including 500 rare trees and shrubs as well as California natives. The upkeep of this vast plant collection kept Chet busy during retirement, sharing the maintenance with Jean. He specialized in bromeliads and native plants. Having over 1,500 varieties of bromeliads in his collection, he even had a species of bromeliad named for him: *Vriesea blackburniana*.

Chet was an invaluable member of the Redbud Chapter of the California Native Plant Society since its founding in 1991, having held almost every position on the board from President on down. He put together an impressive "Living Wildflower Show" in the spring each year, transporting plants from his home nursery. Chet was the project coordinator and co-authored two definitive reference books, "Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer Counties" and "Trees and Shrubs of Nevada and Placer County", and contributed content to the wildflower book's second edition. He will be greatly missed.

AUBURN MAN'S BROMELIADS ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD

(Reprinted from the Bromeliad Society of San Francisco Newsletter August 2014—4 years ago)

On 26 July, the Sacramento Bee published an article about Chet Blackburn, who is active in bromeliads and most other plants in the Sacramento area. Chet has been an officer and past editor of the Bromeliad Society International journal.

Chet Blackburn saw his first bromeliad almost 50 years ago in a tropical Guatemala rain forest. Driving on a narrow mountain road, he was overwhelmed by the rainbow of colorful foliage that seemed to be everywhere – especially overhead.

"I'd never seen anything else like them," he recalled of the exotic bromeliads. "I decided then and there I had to have some." Now Blackburn has one of the largest bromeliad collections in the West. "I topped out with more than 1,500 varieties," he said. "I've tried to cut back." Greenhouses at his Auburn home are packed to the rafters with these unusual, often hanging plants. "Most of them are epiphytes," he said. "They grow in trees. They get all their water and nutrients up there. In fact, they have their own little ecosystem inside the plant."

This weekend, Blackburn will share his expansive knowledge of bromeliads and other curious plants at the 44th annual Sacramento Bromeliad and Carnivorous Plant Society Show and Sale at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park. As he's done for 10 years, Blackburn will create a gigantic display of showy bromeliads in flower. In neon shades of pink, purple, blue and orange, the flowers make these unusual plants look like they came from some alien planet, not an Auburn greenhouse. The striped and variegated foliage is just as colorful as the flowers. "These aren't your Home Depot bromeliads," Blackburn joked. "The 'vase plants' you typically see in stores are actually hybrids.



They're pretty easy to grow." His annual display is a great way to get people talking, and thinking, about these showy plants. Blackburn even has a species of bromeliad named for him: *Vriesea blackburniana*. "It's native to a particularly environmentally sensitive area of Brazil," he said. "I joke that it's a race to see which one of us will be extinct first."

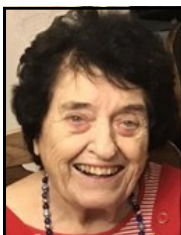
At 81, Blackburn is recognized by plant people throughout the area for his extreme depth of botanical knowledge as well as his devotion to growing things. He's finishing his second book, a guide to native shrubs and trees. His first, "Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer Counties" (California Native Plant Society), is a go-to guide for native plant lovers. "Chet has more plant knowledge than anyone I've ever known," said fellow bromeliad society member Eric Trygg. "It's phenomenal. He can look at a plant 10 feet away, any plant, and tell you what it is. He's very, very generous with his time, especially with young people just beginning to learn about plants. "And it's not just bromeliads," Trygg added, "but all sorts of plants. Chet has hundreds of rarities in his collection, plants you won't find anywhere else."

A plant collector since high school in Ohio, Blackburn keeps meticulous records. A thick green binder holds maps of his 8-acre garden and greenhouses, detailing the location of every plant plus updates on its well-being. "He's very methodical – and brilliant," Trygg said. Said Blackburn, "My garden is my own little arboretum, so I treat it as such. This way, I can keep track." At the site of a historic gold mine, his garden sprawls over the banks of Auburn's North Ravine at about 1,000 feet elevation. The home of abundant wildlife as well as plants, the garden has evolved over 42 years to feature two large ponds, a grove of redwoods and a black bamboo forest, as well as many native oaks. "I'm a collector, and I love plants," Blackburn said. "Recently, my focus has been on native plants and trying to protect those rare species."

But he also mixes in lots of surprises, such as favorite trees from his native Ohio. "I'm blessed with several micro-climates," he said, "so I can grow things that aren't supposed to grow here." Jean Blackburn, his wife, helps keep up this massive foothills garden. "I love being outdoors," she said. "He's planted just about every plant out there. When we moved here, there was nothing. This is all Chet." Among all his many plants, the bromeliads rank among his favorites.

"Why grow bromeliads? Perhaps the main reason people are drawn to them is color," Blackburn said. "No other plant family displays such a wide variety of colors and uses them in such a wide variety of ways. Interior landscapers love them both for their bright, long-lasting color and their low maintenance requirements." Interior designers also love to use them, he added. "They withstand low light conditions reasonably well, they remain in color for astonishingly long periods of time, and they require little maintenance. They have adapted to a variety of habitats in nature, and they are adaptable plants in cultivation." The plant's secret to survival is its center "cup." The tightly whorled leaves form their own little reservoir to hold accumulated rainwater or other moisture. Blackburn pointed to a bright red bromeliad. "You can water this *Vriesea*, making sure it has water in the cup, and then go off on a six-week cruise and not worry about it," he said. "Try that with your African violet." Hummingbirds that are attracted to the red and other bright colors pollinate most bromeliads. That coloring also attracts people. The more common varieties, such as the *Vriesea*, are quite at home indoors. "They're among the best houseplants," Blackburn said. "Give them excellent drainage and good light; you can hardly go wrong." Blackburn also has hundreds of carnivorous plants. Dozens of Venus flytraps keep the bug count down in his hot and humid greenhouse devoted to these oddities. Pitcher plants stretch out their hairy throats, hoping for an errant mosquito or other critter. Many of these plants also will be in this weekend's show.

"Kids are just fascinated by them," Blackburn said. "The flytraps are very interesting. The trigger is in those hairs. If a fly touches any two hairs or the same one twice, the clamshell snaps shut and that's that." With nine grandchildren, Blackburn loves to get kids excited about plants.



Maureen Sweeney Frazel 1930—2018

Maureen Sweeney Frazel, 88, Davie, Florida, passed away peacefully on October 12, 2018. Maureen was born to Dr. Denis and Alice Sweeney on May 14, 1930, in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. She wed her beloved William (Bill) Frazel December 29, 1956 and they resided in both Fort Lauderdale and Davie, Florida during their wondrous life. She is predeceased by brothers, Brendan, Jim and Jack Sweeney and sister, Marlene MacFarlane. She is survived by her devoted and adoring husband Bill, three children: Denis Frazel (Rowena), Kathleen White (Chuck), and James Frazel (Ellie). She is blessed with her eight loving grandchildren: Denis' children, Dirk, Marea, Julia, Keelin; Kathleen's children, Conrad, Jeremy; James' children Marlee Potter, and Alie.

Maureen was a medical histologist who facilitated the opening of the medical pathology laboratories at the University of Miami Medical School. Her slides were printed in the preeminent textbook on pathology.

Her skills were sought out at Broward General, Plantation, Bennett, and Margate Hospitals after which she owned Frazel Histo-Path Lab. Her expertise was in such demand that she worked in her lab until the age of seventy-seven.

All who knew Maureen think of her each time they see a bromeliad. She was an avid gardener and horticulturist and was both member and held all forms of leadership roles at the Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, the Moringa Garden Circle, the Bromeliad Society of Broward County, and the International Bromeliad Society.

She was one of the founding parishioners of St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Davie, Florida where she was the first choir leader, and Eucharistic minister. She started the Young at Heart group that she actively participated in throughout her retirement years. Matriarch Maureen was a businesswoman, an adventurer, an environmental preservationist, community organizer and hand-holder. She encouraged all in her sphere to be strong, independent and strive for excellence.

We can hear the bells ringing as we have another Angel in Heaven. Viewing on Thursday, October 18, from 5-8 pm. at TM Ralph Funeral Home, 7001, NW 4th St., Plantation, FL. Funeral mass on Friday, 10 a.m. at St. Bonaventure Church, 1301 SW 136th Avenue, Davie, Florida. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Bonaventure Church, 1301 SW 136th Ave. Davie, FL 33325.

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Sarasota Bromeliad Society

Auction

November 12th at 7 p.m.

Mark your calendar
SBS is having a Fall Plant
LIVE & SILENT AUCTION
Bring your wallet & plan on
taking home some treasures

Great Room by the Bay at Selby Gardens
811 S. Palm Avenue
Sarasota, Florida
5:30-7:00 p.m. setup
7:00-9:00 p.m. Auction



**Free
Admission**

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society



Bromeliad Sale

ARABA SHRINE TEMPLE

2010 Hanson Street Fort Myers

(Just South and Across Cleveland Ave from Lee Hospital)

Saturday Dec. 1st 2018 9AM-4PM

Sunday Dec. 2nd 2018 10AM-3PM

Contact Larry Giroux at 239-850-4048 for Info.