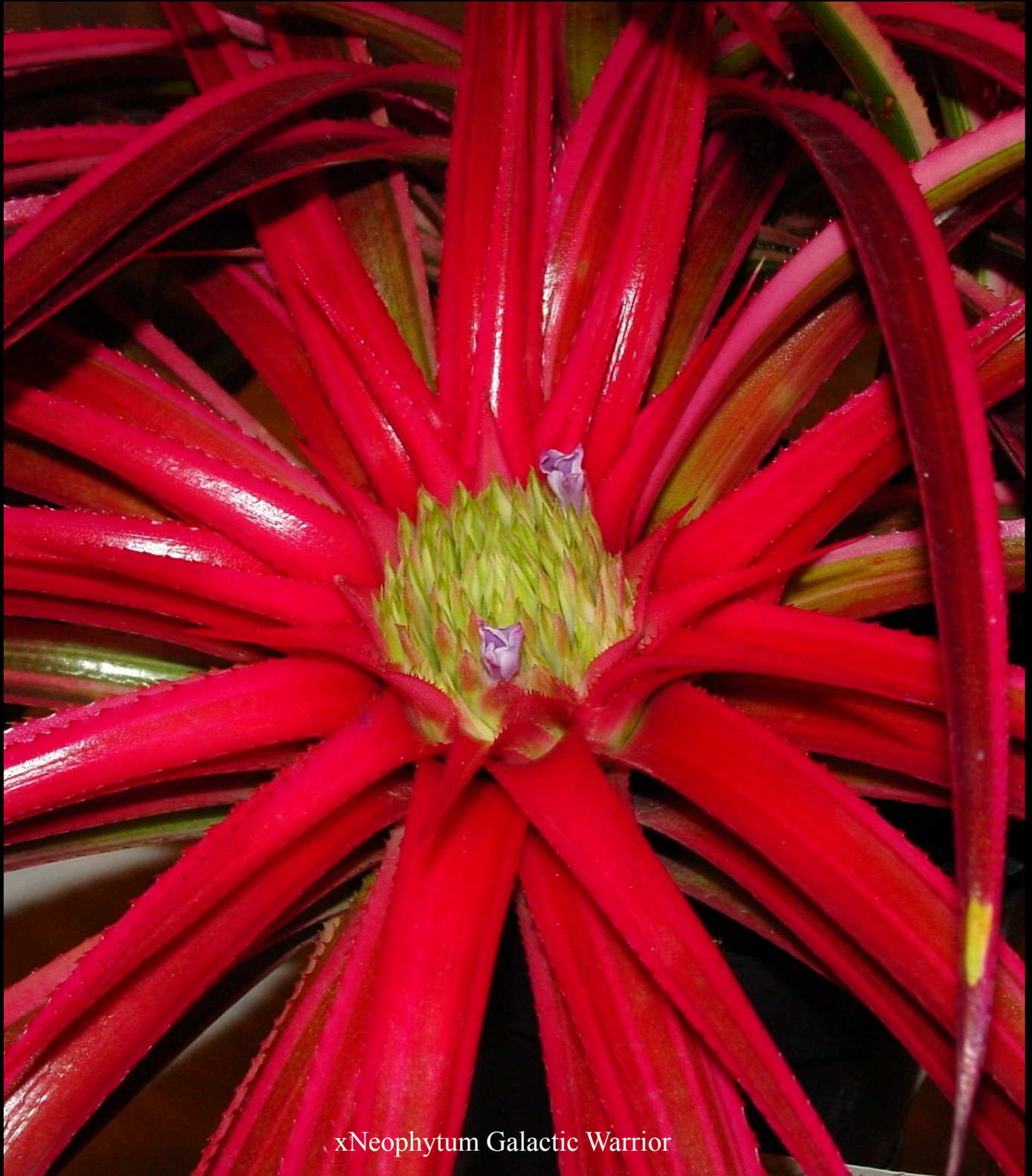




FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES

Volume 40
Issue 3
August 2020



xNeophytum Galactic Warrior



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January 15 for February issue

April 15th for May issue

July 15 for August issue

October 15th for November issue

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***FRONT COVER: xNeophyllum Galactic Warrior by Terrie Bert at the
2002 WBC in St. Petersburg, FL***

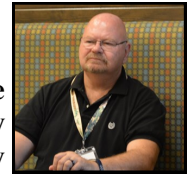
Photo by Carol Wolfe



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

Hi Everyone and Wishing You a Healthy & Happy Day,

We hope this Newsletter finds you and your family members safe from the flu. We certainly didn't have any idea that we would be secluded in the middle of summer for a flu bug. We are experiencing daily temperatures in Tampa of 90°f plus. We understand why the summer is called the "Dog Days of Summer" because it's too hot for the dogs to lift their heads and bark!

We sure do miss our bromeliad friends, bromeliad shows, bromeliad meetings and the excellent speakers and meetings that were cancelled. Occasionally, some people have had an opportunity to participate in a Zoom "Bromeliad" meeting. However, hats off to all the *Newsletter Editors* of the local clubs as they have kept the communications active with their membership through the Newsletters. They called for more participation from their club members and many responded with beautiful bromeliad pictures. Let's keep going with more creative ideas to keep in touch during this pandemic!

Also our thanks to Mike Andreas for his work with this newsletter transmitted to him via Dropbox. Michael then post the Newsletter on the FCBS website and provides a link so that the pictures do not have to be reduced in our Newsletter. We appreciate the quality of the photos that we have been able to communicate to our readers. Also thanks to Mike Andreas for his assistances in converting one of Tom Wolfe's Power Point programs to a slide program so it could be emailed to the BGTB members as a slide program.

Since bromeliad shows were cancelled this year, I took the camera outside and made pictures of our front yard for the last edition of the FCBS Newsletter. So this time, I took pictures in the backyard but I did not try to name all the bromeliads as there are too many and squirrels are constantly stealing the tags but I hope you enjoy the pictures.

Tom made a list of many of the companion plants that he incorporated into our landscape and if you are doing some landscaping in your own yard, the list may be helpful. He also wrote about our feature plant, *Aechmea capixabae*.

Jay and Calandra Thurrott used their free time to visit Lew Gardens in Orlando with their beautiful granddaughter, Lilly. You will enjoy Jay's interesting article and pictures of Lew Gardens. Calandra Thurrott shares her first oil painting and her experience working with oil paints.

Whatever happened to *Nidularium regelioides*? Our thanks to Derek Butcher for the answer in his article, *Nidularium Rutilan Regel*, reprinted from the website, *Bromeliads in Australia*.

Terrie Bert wrote about "Bromeliads Named for Harry Luther". It was originally published in the *BSI Journal* and Terrie has updated bromeliad names and respectfully dedicates it to our beloved Harry Luther (1952-2012). We all miss Harry and his brilliant expertise in the "Bromeliad World". Thanks to Terrie for sharing her excellent article.

Mike Michalski, Patty Gonzalez and Grant Groves share pictures from their trip to Costa Rica and we hope you will enjoy them. Our thanks for sharing the trip with us.

I have tens of thousands of bromeliad pictures from shows in past years and I thought it would be fun to randomly select a few out of the archives and share the exhibitor's name as well as the bromeliad picture with you. I hope you enjoy and look closely, it might be a picture of your bromeliad!

In the listing of 2020 FCBS Officers and Members, you will find a new listing for the FCBS Newsletter Editorial Panel consisting of Jay Thurrott, Tom Wolfe and Calandra Thurrott. Jay and Tom have accepted the job of Assistant Editors and Calandra Thurrott as the Copy Editor. We have been working together as a team in our sixth year and their articles, contributions, advice, corrections, loyalty and help have been extremely valuable in putting together this publication. This Newsletter would not have been possible without them and I am very happy they accepted the jobs and are officially appointed to this committee. I am truly blessed to be working with a great team!



Aechmea capixabae

By Tom Wolfe

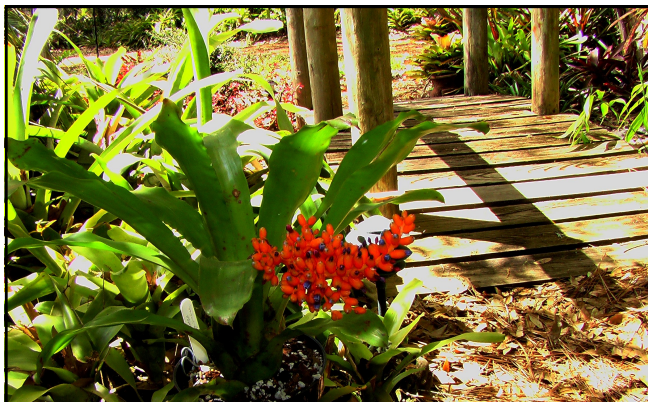


Aechmea capixabae is a very showy plant when in bloom. However, without the inflorescence, it receives very little attention although it's a very attractive medium sized plant with dark green shiny leaves that are slightly serrated.

I had started on an article on this species for the Florida Council of Bromeliad Society Newsletter when I received the BSI Journal in the mail and coincidentally saw that Jerry Raack had entered an article on the same plant.

I received the plant some twenty years ago from the late Harry Luther at Selby Botanical Gardens. He warned me that it might be cold sensitive for Central Florida landscapes. Subsequently, I found that it is not a good outside landscape plant but does well potted and protected during the coldest nights.

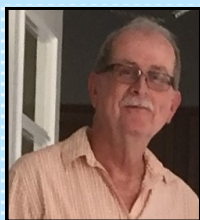
The inflorescence is an outstanding pyramid crowded with a multitude of bright yellow to orange floral bracts and sepals and purple flowers edged in white. The Plant must be pollinated by a moth or humming bird as the flower barely opens at the tip.



I use a mix of 4 parts Canadian peat, 4 parts wood chips and 2 parts perlite and charcoal in a 6" azalea pot. Fertilizing with a pinch of time release fertilizer when potting the pup.

I would highly recommend this plant as an outstanding addition to your collection.

Photos by Carol Wolfe



Places to Get Away From it All – Leu Gardens

By Jay Thurrott

©Photos by Jay Thurrott

One of the simple pleasures our family has enjoyed during the past six months has been frequent visits to Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando. Not only has this site been one of the few botanical gardens remaining open throughout the worst of the State's corona virus "shut-down" order, but entry fees were actually waived for several months to encourage people to enjoy the beauty of this 50 acre gem!

Primarily known for its camellia collection begun by Mr. Leu shortly after purchasing the property in the 30's, this collection has grown through the years to become the largest in



Meet beautiful "Lilly" the granddaughter of Jay and Calandra Thurrott.

the Southeast with over 230 cultivars of camellias represented in over 2000 plantings! Of course our interests tended more toward bromeliads and we found that the gardens have acquired an impressive variety of bromeliads that are scattered over a broad range of habitats. Volunteers have kept the bromeliad beds looking good by removing leaves and debris from the dense tree canopy in the gardens and many if not most of the bromeliads have been identified with permanent metal tags placed in the ground by the plants. Unfortunately, the "permanent" markings on many of the tags have faded so badly that they are difficult to read and in some cases the writings have completely disappeared.



When wandering the gardens, you sometimes have to look closely to notice the bromeliads that are right there in front of you:



Palm tree bordering one of the paved walkways through the gardens.



Tillandsia fasciculatas, *Tillandsia bartramii*, and possible *Tillandsia xFloridana* growing on that same palm tree.



Most visitors walking by this bench on their way to the bathroom...



...didn't notice this nice *Goudeae ospinae* var. *gruberi* at the base of the shrub in the photo above.

The Leu Gardens House entrance building is also the meeting place for the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida as well as several other horticulture groups.

Unfortunately, with the daytime temperatures quickly climbing into the 90's, now is not the best time to stroll the gardens, but Fall will soon be here and with the arrival of cooler temperatures we will once again be looking forward to exploring the garden paths of this true gem in Orlando.



Waiting Out a Virus or Quarantine Share

By Calandra Thurrott

I took a painting class at the end of last year with my daughter Kate. I'd never used oil paints before but found I like them. Since then I thought I might enter the painting in a bromeliad show but that's not happening so maybe I could share it with you. I think this is Grant Groves' Neoregelia Grace. I used my photo for reference. If there is any better subject than a bromeliad for me to use, I don't know what it would be.





Question: I contacted Derek Butcher because we, Wolfe(s), could not find any information on *Nidularium regelioides*, which we have had for many years. So what happened to *N. regelioides*? Derek's answer lies in this article from the Bromeliads in Australia web site: <http://bromeliad.org.au/pictures/Nidularium/rutilans.htm>

Nidularium Rutilan Regel

was *Nidularium rutilans variegata* and *regelioides* before that.



Ken Woods 9/04
as *rutilans*
variegata



Peter Franklin 11/17
as *rutilans*
variegated



Nina Rehak 11/17
as *rutilans*
variegated

Nidularium 'Rutilan Regel' by Derek Butcher Oct 2017

To the *Nidularium* grower these two words will sound familiar and will be the registered name for an old survivor which went by the illegal name of *Nid. regelioides variegata* or *Nid. rutilans variegata*. It has been around for over 40 years but nobody has reported when or where it sported/mutated.

The Taxonomist needs to know who collected a plant in the wild and where, before he considers it worthwhile to make a herbarium specimen and formally describe it.

The Cultonomist also likes to know where a plant originated! And recorded.

The Grower in many cases, takes the easy way out by using quasi-botanical names.

Plants evolve in the wild where it is mostly, survival of the fittest. Plants in cultivation face a different sort of survival depending on the whims and fancies of growers. When the BCR was first published in 1998 there were a few Neoregelia names published with the comment "Grace Goode indicated that she felt this plant was not still in cultivation". The problem here was that when I was Registrar after 1998 I came across some that had actually survived. In other words nobody knows where or how selected plants survive in captivity. The more you read the BCR entries the more you realise that some of them are seemingly extinct after only a short space of time i.e. 5 years whereas others have survived. In this case it has survived since the 1980's. In fact it got a mention in *New Standardized Cultivar Names* by Nat De Leon, BSI Hybrid Registrar in *Journ Brom Soc* 35(1): 34-37. 1985 but regrettably not according to the ICNCP rules on variegated plants. I quote "*Nidularium regelioides* 'Variegata' (syn. *rutilans variegata*)".

I put my query to Ross Little and he confirmed he had this plant alive and had been popular with the Buchanan's when they owned Pinegrove nursery. Their records showed they had received the plant from various sources as follows BBK #350, *Nidularium rutilans* variegated, 4/83 Schaefer, 4/85 Sax, 8/85 Goode, Schaefer, 1/86 Wasley, 6/86 Gleeson.. None had claimed being the first to notice the variegation so it would appear it originated in either Europe or the USA. I did consider Brazil but Seidel does not have it in their catalogues. It is in Kent's 1979 catalogue under *Nid rutilans variegata* and in 1981 *Tropiflora* under *Nid. regelioides variegata*.

Sometimes the primary bracts can be variegated too.

As for the name, you can thank Ross Little for that.

Our thanks to Derek Butcher for giving us permission to reprint this article.



Bromeliads Named for Harry Luther

Theresa M. Bert

Author's note: An earlier version of this article was published in the BSI Journal in the 2012-2013 issue dedicated to the memory of Harry Luther (Bert et al. 2012-2013). (That issue of the journal crossed years.) Much, mostly genetically based, taxonomy since that year has changed some bromeliad subfamilies and genera considerably. This article reflects those changes and is respectfully dedicated to Harry Luther.



Introduction

Harry Luther (1952 – 2012) was a world-renowned bromeliad expert on the staff of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens for 32 years. During that time, he served as the resident bromeliad expert, curator of the living, preserved, and pressed bromeliad collections, and Director of the Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center at the Gardens. In 2010, Harry accepted a position as Assistant Director of Horticulture at Singapore's famed Gardens by the Bay. Harry participated in numerous field trips throughout Latin America and was recognized for his expertise in bromeliad taxonomy. He named or contributed to the naming of 191 of the 3626 (5.3%) bromeliad taxa recognized today (<http://bromeliad.nl/bromNames/>). Harry contributed particularly to the *Greigia* and *Guzmania* species currently recognized; naming, 28% of the 36 recognized taxa in *Greigia* and 27% of the 215 of the taxa in *Guzmania*. He also named 10 *Pitcairnia* taxa, 20 aechmeas, and one to five taxa in 22 other currently recognized genera. Harry also authored or coauthored nearly 200 scientific publications. In recognition of his substantial contribution to bromeliad taxonomy and cultivation, eleven species and a newly described genus (Barfuss et al. 2016) are named for Harry. The year of Harry's death, a special issue of the Journal of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI Journal, volume 62, issue 6) was dedicated to him. In this article are photos and information for some of the bromeliads named after Harry, as well as stories about his explorations, friendships, and contributions to the bromeliad world. Some information presented here on the species named after Harry were taken from that issue of the BSI Journal. As is perhaps appropriate, each taxon bearing some form of Harry's name is special in some way--in having unusual or spectacular morphological attributes; living in single, restricted, special locations; or being intriguing in its very naming.

The Taxa

Cryptanthus lutherianus I. Ramírez 1998 (Figure 1). This morphologically unusual Brazilian species has long, slender leaves reminiscent of *C. incrassatus* and *C. maritimus*. *Cryptanthus lutherianus* is cultivated in Florida (Whitman 1996) and elsewhere. According to Ramírez (1999), it grows in humid coastal grasslands ("capoeiros") at about 100 m (324 ft) elevation in the Guarapari municipality of Espírito Santo state, Brazil. It's cold-sensitive but can be easily grown by hobbyists if it's protected from prolonged cool temperatures (< 50°F).

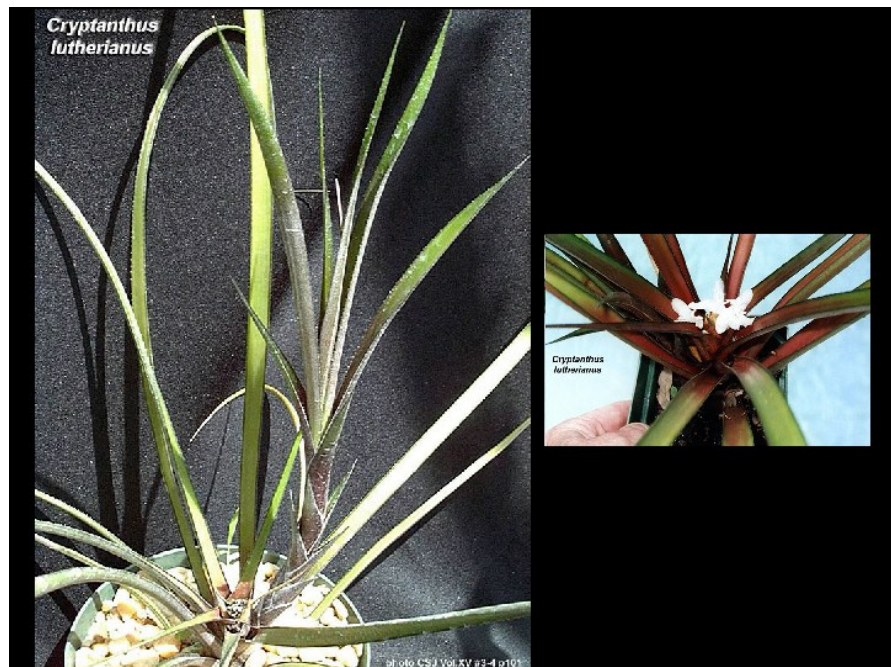


Figure 1. *Cryptanthus lutherianus*
Full-plant photo appeared in the *Cryptanthus Society Journal* 15(3-4): 101
Photo of the inflorescence appears in the FCBS Photo Gallery



Hohenbergia halutheriana Leme 2012-2013 (Figure 2). This large, epiphytic species grows in great clumps very high in tall trees inhabiting moist, low-elevation Atlantic Forest in southern Bahia.

Figure 2. *Hohenbergia halutheriana*

All photos by E.M.C. Leme, appearing in the BSI Journal 2012-2013 vol. 62 no.6

Genus *Lutheria* Barfuss & W. Till (Figure 3). Four species are in this recently established genus: *L. bibeatricis*, *L. glutinosa*, *L. soderstromii*, and *L. splendens* (Barfuss et al. 2016). Two, *L. glutinosa* and *L. splendens* are commonly cultivated. *Lutheria splendens* is an interesting species with five varieties: *L. s. var. chlorostachya*, *L. s. var. formosa*, *L. s. var. oinochroma*, *L. s. var. splendens*, and *L. s. var. striatifolia*. Species in this genus are found on islands near the northeastern coast of South America (Trinidad & Tobago, Isla Margarita) and in northeastern South America (Venezuela, Surinam, Guyana). These versatile (terrestrial, lithophytic, epiphytic), low-altitude, Amazon and Orinoco river-system species require warm, moist conditions. One species, *L. soderstromii*, is known only from its 1862 original collection at the rim of an escarpment in Essequibo, Guayana.

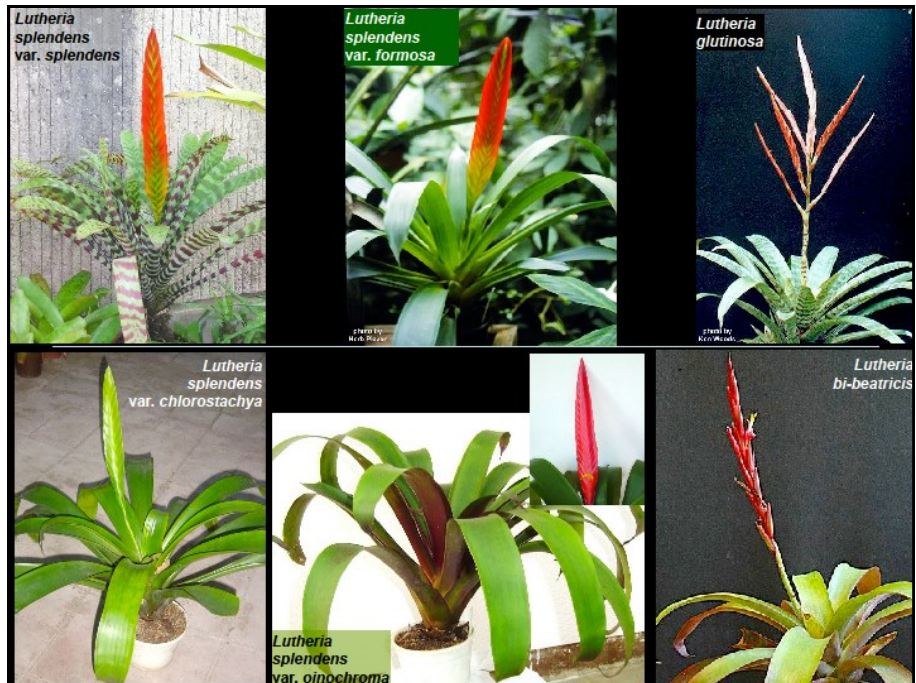


Figure 3. Three of the four species in the genus *Lutheria*. All photos from the FCBS Photo Gallery.



Pitcairnia harrylutheri (Luther) [D.C. Taylor and H. Robinson 1999](#) (Figure 4). Only three populations of *Pitcairnia harrylutheri* are known. All are in Morona-Santiago province in Ecuador. This rather large (approximately 3-4 ft, 1 - 1.3 m) terrestrial species inhabits tropical, moist, low-montane forest (1,100 - 1,300 m, or approximately 3,600 - 4,200 ft). Its beautiful inflorescence, seeking light and open space (probably to attract pollinators), can extend upward, curve outward from the plant, or crawl along the ground (Figure 4). This species is threatened by deforestation and is red-listed as a species of conservation concern by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). It is not known to occur in any protected areas but is cultivated.



Figure 4. *Pitcairnia harrylutheri*
Photos from the FCBS Photo Gallery



Pitcairnia lutheri [Manzanares & W. Till 2005](#) (Figure 5). This beautiful, tall (about 150 cm, or nearly 5 ft), terrestrial species inhabits a limited area. Only one population is known. It occupies an area < 20 km², or 7.7 mi²) in the low montane rainforest (about 1,550 - 2,200 m, or 5,000 - 7,100 ft) of the Ecuadorian coastal region (Pinchincha Province). On a long scape that extends above the leaf mass, the plant has a large (33-cm, or 13-in) inflorescence with 100 - 150 bright red, tightly packed flowers that protrude at an angle from the scape, giving the inflorescence a bottle-brush shape. This species is also cultivated.

Figure 5. *Pitcairnia lutheri*. Photo by Peter Tristram

Puya harrylutheri [Gouda 2012-2013](#) (Figure 6). Eric Gouda named this nocturnally blooming bromeliad after Harry in an article in the BSI Journal dedicated to Harry's memory. Nocturnally blooming plants are very rare in the *Puya* world; this plant may be only one of two night-blooming puyas (the other is *P. wrightii*). Although this species is genetically closer to *Puya* than to *Pitcairnia*, it superficially looks more like a *Pitcairnia*. Although its range is given as the heavily forested Orinoco region of Amazonas, Venezuela, it was found near Puerto Ayacucho (the capital of Amazonas state) in an open savannah patch. Since such patches are rare in the Venezuelan Amazonas, this species may be very rare, indeed.

Figure 6. *Puya harrylutheri*. Photos by Eric Gouda,
published in BSI Journal 562(6), 2012-2013





Puya lutheri [W. Till 1992](#) (Figure 7). This rather small (by *Puya* standards; about 1 m, or 3 ft, tall), Peruvian *Puya* is known to live in Huascarán National Park (Yungay Province) near a rivulet that runs between two glacial moraines in a high-altitude (3,930 - 4,500 m, or 12,700 - 14,600 ft), dry grassland also inhabited by sparsely distributed shrubs (*Polylepis* spp.). The inflorescence is club-like and dense, with pale blue flowers. Little else is known about this remotely situated, high-altitude species.

Figure 7. Puya lutheri
digitized from a slide supplied by Walter Till



Racinaea lutheri [Manzanares & W. Till 2012-2013](#). (Figure 8). This species is epiphytic in the cloud forest of Morona Santiago, Ecuador, in the Cordillera del Condor and near Indanza. The plants can extend out in many directions to form small clusters. As for many racinaeas, the species inhabits very wet areas in an upper montane Amazonian headwater region, colonizing tree and shrub branches that are exposed to the sun. Curiously, inflorescence coloration is quite different between the two populations; inflorescence coloration in the Cordillera population is apparently far more colorful (Manzanares & Till 2012-2013).



Figure 8. *Racinaea lutheri*
Manzanares & W. Till 2012-2013
Photos by Jose Manzanares.



Stigmatodon harrylutheri (Leme & G.K. Brown) [Leme, G.K. Brown](#) & Barfuss (in Barfuss et al. 2016) (Figure 9). This grayish, *Tillandsia*-like, stiff-leaved lithophytic species is one of the many that inhabit the Brazilian Atlantic coastal region and one of the few that are endemic to the gigantic inselbergs distinctive to the south-eastern part of that region. Formerly *Vriesea harrylutheri*, this species was moved to the new genus *Stigmatodon* (Barfuss et al. 2016).



Most members of that genus inhabit vertical, bare granite surfaces. *Stigmatodon harrylutheri* lives low on the inselbergs at about 200 m (650 ft) elevation. *Stigmatodon harrylutheri* occurs at a single locality in Serra County, Espírito Santo state, and forms dense aggregations in places where the plants are exposed to the full force of sun and weather. Its rather pinnate inflorescence bears pale yellow-green flowers that bloom at night and smell somewhat like garlic. This species has been in cultivation for approximately 20 years.

Figure 9

Stigmatodon harrylutheri. Photos from FCBS Photo



Vriesea lutheri [Manzanares & W. Till 2000](#) (Figure 10). During an expedition to southern Ecuador in April 1997, while crossing the Nudo de Sabanillas mountains in Podocarpus National Park (Zamora-Chinchi Province), several prominent bromeliad enthusiasts found this small, grayish, epiphytic, stiff-leaved *Vriesea* blooming in dense, humid Andean forest at about 2,700 m (8,750 ft) elevation. The rather pendulous inflorescence is magnificently large for the size of the plant. It has prominent orange-red primary bracts and green flowers. This species is known only from the collection site and type specimen and is therefore red-listed as a species of conservation concern by the IUCN.

Figure 10. *Vriesea lutheri*. Photos from the FCBS Photo Gallery



Vriesea lutheriana [J.R. Grant 1992](#) (Figure 11). This colorful Costa Rican epiphyte inhabits mid-level highland forests (1,200 m, or about 3,900 ft). It has soft, deep-green leaves and a very long, distinctive (for the region) tripinnate inflorescence composed of brilliant orange floral bracts and pale bluish-gray flowers. This species is also cultivated.

Aside from its vibrant inflorescence, the most interesting feature known about this species is its taxonomic affiliation. It is morphologically more closely related to several species from the Guayana Highlands and Andean regions of northern South America than to other vrieseas inhabiting Central America. This suggests that the ancestor of *V. lutheriana* originated in northern South America rather than more locally in Central America. *Vriesea* seeds are wind-dispersed. Perhaps some seeds from a northern South American *Vriesea* species blew into Costa Rica during a tropical storm that swept

westward over the southern Caribbean; or, a population may have become isolated from other populations of the ancestral species sometime during the changing climates of the late Pleistocene. In either situation, over generations, adaptations to local environmental conditions may have resulted in the evolution of the ancestral form into *V. lutheriana*.



Figure 11. *Vriesea lutheriana*. Photos from FCBS Photo Gallery

Werauhia lutheri [S. Pierce & J.E. Aranda 2000](#) (Figure 12). The authors who named this species found it in Panama, in the elfin cloud forests (tree height about 8 - 15 m, or 26 - 49 ft) of Mount Jefe, Chagres National Park (Panama Province), and in El Copé National Park (Veraguas Province). It was also collected by Harry Luther in Fortuna (Chiriqui Province). Although the general location of *W. lutheri* is cloud forest with high rainfall (up to 4 m, or 13 ft, per year), within those forests *W. lutheri* lives in more open areas that are sometimes windy and have exposed conditions. It grows just above the dense understory, in the upper parts of trees.

**Figure 12. *Werauhia lutheri*
Photos from FCBS Photo Gallery**





This vase-shaped plant is about 60 cm (2 ft) tall when fully grown and up to 120 cm (4 ft) when in flower. It blooms in February, producing pale yellow flowers that open in early evening. The underside, or both sides, of the leaves are covered with a waxy coating that may function to repel water, thereby aiding gas exchange for photosynthesis in the wet habitats that the species occupies. The coatings may also protect the plant from over-exposure to ultraviolet radiation ([Krause et al. 2003](#)).

Comments

The limited distribution of each of these taxa warrants their inclusion in one of the IUCN's listings as species that must be protected. Most of these species are mid- to high-altitude or have other environmental requirements that make them difficult to grow in cultivation, thus enhancing the importance of maintaining these species in their natural environments and protecting the habitats in which they are found. Perhaps fortunately, most of these species occur in remote or protected areas, increasing the likelihood that they will persist over prolonged time periods. Nevertheless, all of these species should be specifically protected so that their ecological importance and full distribution can be discovered.

Similarly to the recognition awarded to book authors and artists after their deaths, perhaps Harry's significant contributions to the bromeliad world will be recognized in part by the naming of other new species after him in the future. One thing is certain; the experts who wish to describe new bromeliad species in the future will miss his expertise and collaboration. Like to the bromeliads that he loved, Harry was truly unique, valuable, and interesting.

Acknowledgements

We thank all photographers for their contributions. We also thank Drs. David Benzing, Greg Brown, and José Manzanares for reviewing the original manuscript published in the BSI Journal.

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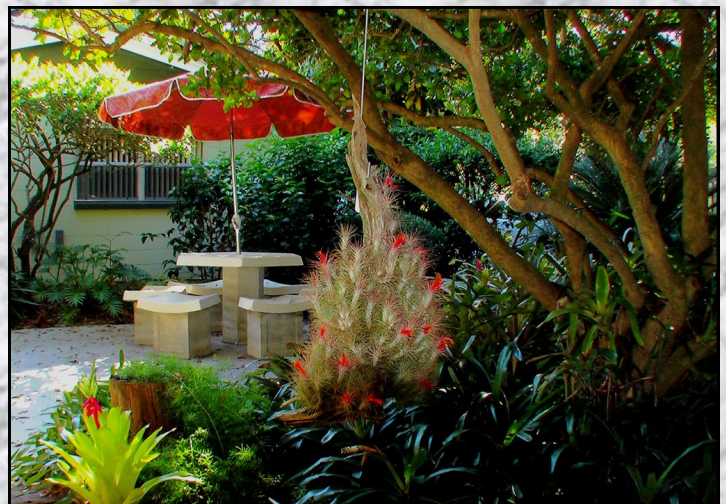
*Come and sit a spell in the Wolfes' backyard
and we'll take a moment to enjoy God's creation.*




BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT™
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®

This property provides the four basic habitat elements needed for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover, and places to raise young. It has been certified by the National Wildlife Federation as an official Backyard Wildlife Habitat site.

 People and Nature: Our Future Is in the Balance.
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**A NATURE CURVED BENCH—a gift from friends,
fits perfectly under the live oak tree.**

Come and sit awhile under the cool shade of this live oak tree and enjoy the sounds of nature while surrounded by a bed of blooming *Aechmea gamosepela*, *Aechmea burgundy*, heliconias, azaleas and palms.

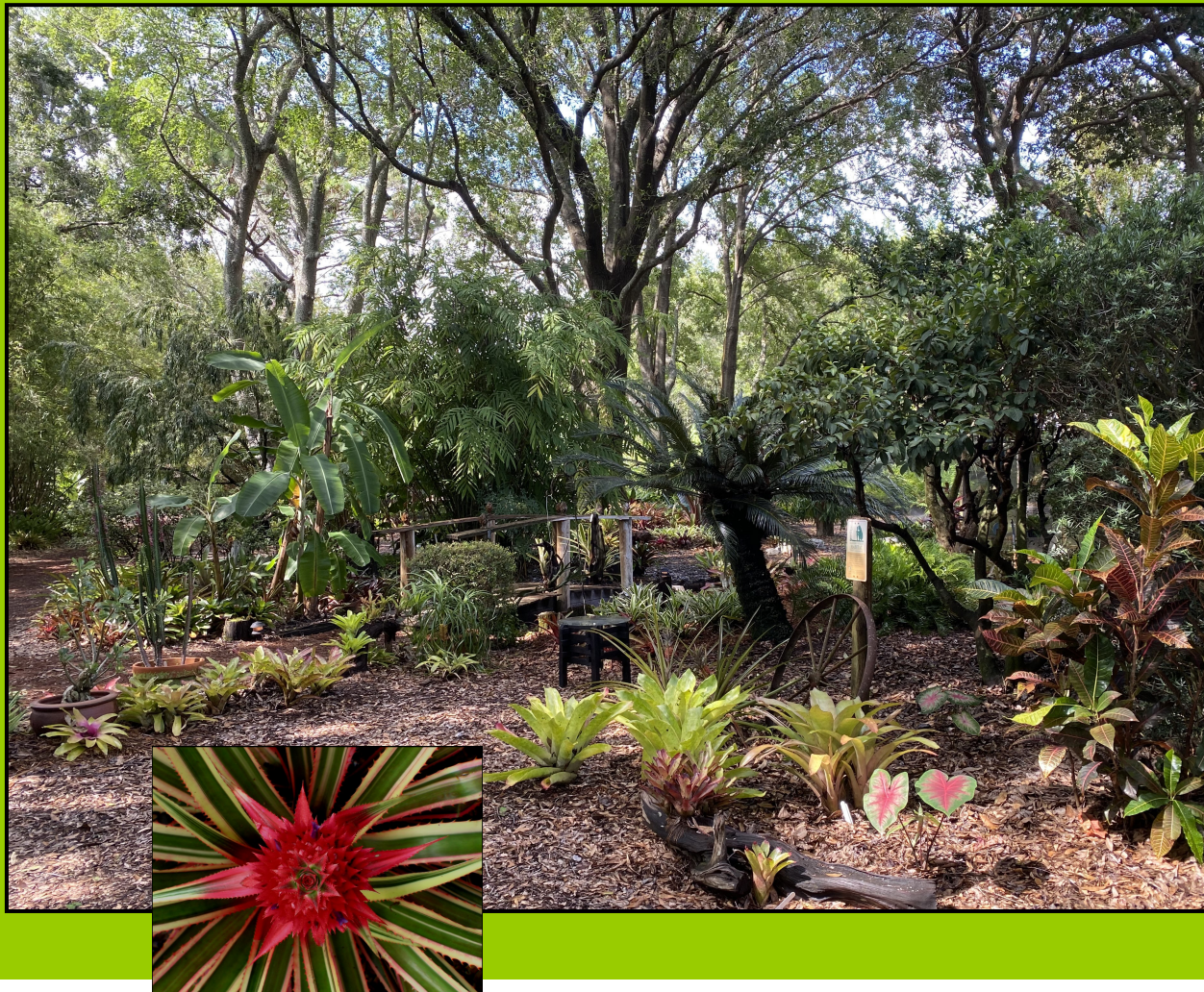


When we moved to Lutz, Florida, we had a few trees on the property and Tom planted lots of oak trees for shade. As the backyard became totally shady, it was difficult to grow grass so we replaced it with the natural look using mulch. Whether it is under the shady umbrella or the oak trees, everyone and everything seeks shade in the 90°f plus heat.

The bird bath and feeder provides water, food, and a cool bath for many varieties of birds. Animals, like the rabbits, retreat to the underbrush and the squirrels climb the trees.

A nice collection of North Carolina granite rocks, colorful crotons, *Nidularium procerum*, *Spathiphyllum* or Peace Plant, *Neoregelia concentrica* Beau Geoff, and *Neoregelia Joe's Mauve* make a warm and colorful welcome by the backdoor.





If we aren't in the greenhouse, you will probably find us in the backyard! The pathway lined with bromeliads and potted "Desert Rose", Cactus and bromeliads will lead you to the bridge. The banana trees on the left are the "Lady Finger" which produces a delicious strawberry/apple flavored banana.

To the right is an old metal wagon wheel given to us by a neighbor. It is our piece of nostalgia connecting us to the past and it is propped on the Backyard Wildlife Habitat sign. We enjoy the wildlife around us especially the birds singing. There are lots of places for nesting, hiding and raising their young.

The Chamaedorea palms are slow growers and it takes years to mature, but ours are now fully grown. When a gentle wind is ringing the chimes and the palms are slightly moving, they have a real softness, a fairy lightness and beauty to them. My favorite time in the garden is when the plants, flowers, trees, and palms come alive with movement. It is a little bit of "Heaven on Earth" as I stand in awe of God's beautiful creation.

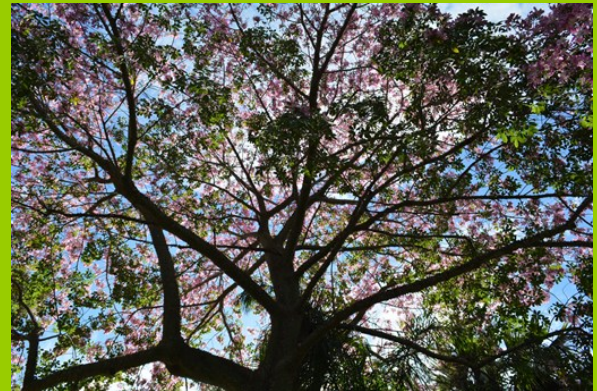




This beautiful Kapok Tree—Bombax was planted about forty years ago. It is a great competitor to the Oak trees reaching to the heaven's fighting for the sunlight.

If you look closely at the pictures below, you will see that the Bombax tree is full of thorns. On a visit to our house, Don Beadle took out his pocket knife and cut two large thorns off the tree and then stuck them on his forehead like two horns and we all had a good laugh. He said you would not even wish climbing this tree on your worst enemy!

However, it has beautiful blooms and during the early months of spring, the sky is full of beautiful pink orchid-like flowers and as soon as the March winds arrive, the ground is pink with blossoms.



Ginger zingiber



**Below:
Cycad:
Encephalartos**

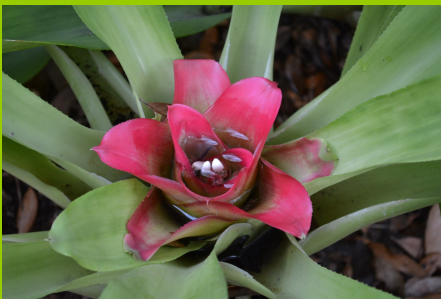




Heliconias



A SHADY BACKYARD



Neo. Fireball on driftwood hanging over Neo. Catherine Wilson.



Aec. eurycorymbus



Quesnelia Quesneliana





Above: King Sagos, Mrs. Duncan Macaw Croton, Ty plant, Agapanthus (blue flower), Neoregelia Red Apple, Canistrum Lindlii, Neoregelia Sheba, Alcantarea imperialis, and crotons are combined to make a lovely planter in a partial shady part of the yard.

Japanese Dogwood



Agapanthus (blue flowers) commonly known as Lily-of-the-Nile.





**The next generation of Gardeners, our six grands!
Wyatt, Luke, Emma, Kate, Elizabeth & Noah**



**BROMELIAD COMPANION PLANTS
ON OUR PROPERTY**by
Tom Wolfe

Below is a list of some Palms, Trees and Plants that grow well on our property in Lutz. They make excellent companion plants to bromeliads. The palms and trees provide shade as well as places to grow hanging or epiphytic bromeliads. Plants are essential for any ecosystem and they enhance the beauty of the bromeliads with their colors, textures, shapes and sizes.

PALMS

Beaucarnea recurvata - Ponytail Palm
Bismarckia nobilis
Caramboda ovenhoa
Chamaedorea seifrizii
Chamaerops humilis - European Fan
Needle Palm
Palms
Phoenix reclinata-Senegal Date Palm
Phoenix roebelenii
Raphus excels "Lady Palm"
Raphus humilis "Reed Palm"
Sable - Cabbage Palm
Serenoa repens – saw or scrub palmetto

TREES

Camphor Tree
Drake Elm
Eucalyptus pulverulenta - Money Tree
Fig Tree
Japanese Dogwood - Cornus Kousa Annamomum
Kapok tree – Bombax Floss
Ligustrums
Oak Trees – Laurel & Live Oak
Overnhola Carambola – Star Fruit
Pine Trees
Sarinuim Cherry
Sweet Gum Tree
Tabebuia (pink & yellow)

CYCADS

Coontie
Dioon spinulosum
Encephalartos kosiensis - (looks like Holly leaf)
King Sago revolute
Zamia furfuracea – cardboard palm

PLANTS

African lilies
Agapanthus africanus
Asperdista
Aurelia mauwana
Azaleas: Formosa, Southern Charm, Duchess of
Cypress, & Sabalanchalotta
Camellias
Chlorophytum Comosum-spider Plant
Chorisia speciose
Crepe Myrtle
Crinum lilies—red and green forms
Croton codiaeum
Dracaena marginata
Dracaena massangeana
Giant White Strelitza Alba - Bird of Paradise
Gingers zingiber
Gloriosa Roihschildrana (flowering vine)
Habernaris floribunda aka The Toothed-
Rein Orchids
Heliconia psittacorum
Lady Finger banana
Malvaviscus penduliflorus (Turk's cap, pink form)
Mexican sunflowers
Orchids: Radican & many other species
Philodendron
Plumerias
Podocarpus
Rabenala madagascariensis – Travelers Palm
Saspidistra elatior - Cast Iron
Schefflera brassai actinophylla – umbrella tree
Ty Plants



BROMELIAD PHOTO ALBUM



Vriesea erythrudacitylon
2005 Sarasota Bromeliad Show
John Boardman,
Winner Judges



Neoregelia Roy F2 Black Tip
Name changed to Neo. Mister Odean
2007 Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Show
Dianne Molnar



Ananas Pineapple
2004 WBC Chicago
Phil Speer



Tillandsia malleontii
2004 WBC Chicago
Jay Thurrott



Cryptanthus Absolute Zero
2015 SW Guild Show
John Edmonson



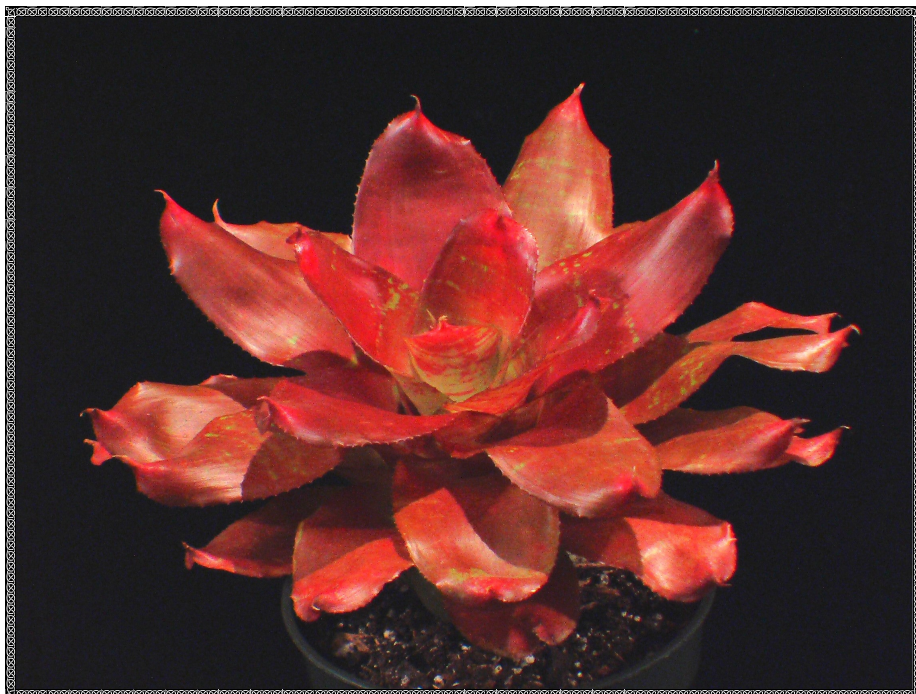
Neoregelia 'spineless'
2002 WBC St. Petersburg
Rob Branch

Photographs by Carol Wolfe



BROMELIAD PHOTO ALBUM

Guzmania sanguinea
2015 Southwest
Guild show
Elizabeth Patterson



**Neoregelia 'Small
Wonder' x N.
'Lokelani'**
2012 WBC Orlando
Paul Wingert



Rainbow Around the Sun
Sunday, July 18, 2020 from Lutz, Florida



On Saturday, July 18th, an awesome rainbow appeared around the sun. The sun was very intense and you had to have sunglasses to even glance towards it. So all you could do is hold your camera pointing to the sun and snap away!

The second picture was taken with a blue lens as I tried different things to capture the colors of the rainbow. Unfortunately I was unable to capture the beautiful colors via camera.

However, it was a great experience and brightened up our Saturday!

Photos by Carol Wolfe



These pictures are from Mike Michalski, Patty Gonzalez, and Grant Groves from a recent trip to Costa Rica



Grant Groves is holding a *Till. liboldiana*



Above - The magnetic sand beach at Puerto Viejo: I asked Grant about the black sand and he said the black sand is magnetite. It is a crystalline form of iron that is volcanic in origin, which is not so surprising with the number of volcanoes that Costa Rica has! Magnetic sand or magnetite is found on many beaches around the world but only in small concentrations. At this particular beach the sand is pure magnetite is completely magnetic. It's very strange to walk on because it is so heavy and doesn't stick to you like our beach sand.



Left - Patty Gonzalez standing on the shoreline between Limon and Cahuta on the magnetic sand beach.



Above: These strange looking objects hanging from the tree are the Weaver Bird Nest.

Left: White faced Spider Monkey



Bottom: form of *Aechmea nudicaulis*



Continued: Mike Michalski, Patty Gonzalez, and Grant Groves trip to Costa Rica



Aechmea mexicana



Sloth - Sloths were seen hanging in trees all along the roads into town.



Aechmea mertensii



Open Air Fruit Market in Puerto Viejo

Rusty boat in Manzanella
Atlantic side near border of Panama



Thanks for sharing your trip with us!!