



November 2019



xEnchotia 'KayJudy' inflorescence photographed by Dave Vitolo at Tropiflora. xEnchotia is cross Ray Lemieux made between *Encholirium horridum* and *Hechtia rosea* (previously *Hechtia maddougallii*). It was named for the two SBS members, Kay Weber and Judy Hermann, who pooled their money to give the winning bid. They won permission to name an unnamed grex of a cross by Ray Lemieux.

## **Sarasota Bromeliad Society November Meeting**

**Location:** Great Room at Selby Gardens, 811 S. Palm Ave, Sarasota

**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019

**Time:** 4:30-6:30 Membership setup for Auction

6:30-7:00 Refreshments and Preview of Auction items.

7:00-9:00 Auction

Note: We will NOT have regular business meeting on Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Officers - 2019**

**President** Marian Kennell (mmkennell@verizon.net)

**Vice President** Ray Lemieux

**Secretary** David Bates

**Treasurer** Dianne Cantalamessa

**Membership** Bob Stickney

**Historian** Shirley Evans

**Newsletter Editor** Marian Kennell

**Workshop** Kay Weber

**Refreshments** Nancy Abramson and Barbara Wetzel

**FCBS Representatives** Marian Kennell and Nancy Abramson

**Facebook** Betty Gundlach and Marian Kennell

**Librarian** Marian Kennell

**Shop** Mark Kennell

**Photographer** Dave Vitolo

**Auction Wednesday November 13<sup>th</sup>! – There will NOT be a meeting on Monday November 11<sup>th</sup>.** Members should arrive early to help setup. Please dig deep in your collection, pun intended, for plants for the Auction. We are hoping to have guests from outside our club and want to make sure there are plenty of beautiful bromeliads to go around. This is our one big fund raiser so please be generous. We are asking members to bring their plants by 6:15, 6:30 at the absolute latest) to the Great Room so that Terrie Bert will have time to enter the plants. Please invite your friend and neighbors. Guests should arrive around 6:30 to enjoy refreshments and have time to preview the plants for the Live Auction and view and place bids on the plants available for the silent Auction. Nancy Abramson has spent time making a few wonderful raffle baskets filled with unique desirable items. Kay Weber has several large pieces of wood perfect for the mounting some of the plants you purchase at the Auction. I have had a peek at the plants Jerry Cowley is donating and there are some very desirable plant in that group. Terrie Bert always donates some treasures. Tropiflora, Michael's Bromeliads, Selby, and David and Stephanie Glosser (Plant Parents). For art lovers, Nancy Abramson is donating a giclee bromeliad colored pencil drawing. She has also put together a couple of gourmet baskets she will donate. Marilyn, David Vitolo's wife, will be donating some plants from David's collection. This is our one big fund raiser so I am hoping everyone tries to bring at least a couple desirable plants, mounting material or bromeliad related items for the auction. Thank you for helping to make our Auction a success. The doors will be open at 4:30 to start dropping off items for the Auction. Please make sure your plants and pots are clean and free of insects, scale, and dead leaves. You may bring clean bare-rooted plants. I know Bob Stickney is planning on putting some plants in baskets as a special treat for Ray, our illustrious Auctioneer.

**To promote the 2020 BSI World Conference** at the Tropiflora, the Sarasota Bromeliad Society set up a table to provide information about the upcoming WBC. Our members answered questions, provided written information on the World Conference as well as Ourmupsoming Auction and benefits of joint the Sarasota Bromeliad Society. There were several attendees who expressed an interest in our Auction, joining SBS and attending the World Conference. Thanks to Nancy Abramson, Betty Gundlach, Steve Gundlach, Kay Weber, Mark Kennell and Marian Kennell for offering their time to man the table. Welcome to the two new members Howard and Sherry Davis who signed up to join the SBS while at the festival!



A special thanks to Dennis and Linda Cathcart for allowing SBS to have a table at their Fall Festival to promote the BSI World Conference, our upcoming Auction, SBS membership and our love for bromeliads. Photographed are Betty Gundlach (upper right), Marian Kennell (lower left), Mark Kennell (lower right), not photographed were volunteers Judy Abramson, Steve Gundlach, and Kay Weber.

**Judges School II** was held in Fort Myers on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The focus was on learning the criteria for Major Award Judging which included a hands on demonstration as well as a test at the end of the class. All the instructors did an excellent job on their presentations. Dr. Terrie Bert gave a hands on presentation explaining the points on judging The Genus Tillandsia which made it clear the importance of live classrooms rather than trying to learn the material strictly by reading. Hands on experience is essential to the learning process.



Betty Ann Prevatt conducting a mock vote to determine which plant will make it to the head table.



Terrie Bert using Tillandsia chiapensis as an example.



**Election of officers** – An election for the Executive Committee was held at the October meeting. The officers elected were as follows:

**President:** Ray Lemieux

**Vice President:** Marian Kennell

**Secretary:** David Bates

**Treasurer:** \*David Vitolo

\*with David Vitolo passing the position of Treasurer will need to be filled. PLEASE let Ray Lemieux or Marian Kennell know if you would be willing to accept the nomination for this open position. Thank you.

**The FCBS meeting was held in West Palm Beach on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.** Thanks to the Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches and their representatives, Nick Bethmann and Tom Ramiccio for hosting and providing the representatives lunch. Michael Saunders introduced the new slate of officers for next year. A representative from Sarasota will serve as Vice Chairman next year. An update regarding the financial success of the Extravaganza was reported. Carol Wolf told us that the FCBS newsletter will be sent via Dropbox in order to maintain the quality of the photographs. You may download and print the newsletter if you wish. Jay Thurrott updated us on the Weevil Control status. See below for an article on the Bromeliad Conservation Group Conference that will be held in Sarasota on November 22. All interested parties are invited to attend. Marian Kennell and Greg Kolojeski gave updates on the BSI World Conference. It was announced that Tom Rimiccio will be the Publicity Chair for the 2020 World Conference. FCBS Representative Nancy Abramson will present a summary of the meeting at the next business meeting.



Tom Ramiccio, Publicity Chair for 2020BSI World Conference, addressing the FCBS Representatives at the Quarterly meeting in West Palm Beach .

**A Bromeliad Conservation Working Group Conference** will be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00am-3:00pm in the Great Room on the Bay. The Mexican bromeliad weevil (*Metamasius callizona*) continues to attack certain native Florida bromeliads, particularly *Tillandsia utriculata* and *Guzmania monostachia*. A group of experts in the field will be gathering in Sarasota at

**The theme of the upcoming Bromeliad Society World Conference is “The Big Show.”** It would be nice to see our members participate in as many of the events as possible at the World Conference. A BSI Show is BIG! The Co-Chairs for the Show will be Terrie Bert and Betty Ann Prevatt. With her permission, I am enclosing an article that Terrie wrote on preparing plants for a show. It is the first in a series of articles and workshops to help our members appreciate and prepare for the conference. Terrie will give a presentation on the subject at the April 13, 2019 SBS meeting. Thanks Terrie!

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

Early in my “bromeliad career” (actually, a hobby run amuck; I’m a marine biologist), I was the queen of yellow ribbons at bromeliad shows. It’s true; I received more yellow ribbons (or no ribbons at all) for more bromeliads than anyone else I know or ever have known.

Gradually, I learned more about preparing bromeliads for shows from friends in the bromeliad world, from serving as a clerk for judges during

bromeliad shows, and from studying to be a judge certified by the Bromeliad Society International. However, actually doing all of the work that it took to prepare potentially prize-winning bromeliads for shows seemed formidable. And, I worked full-time. How could I have the time to do all of that work?

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

About 8 – 10 weeks before the show, spray your broms for scale.

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

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

About a week before the show, assess all of your bromeliads again. You never know where a beauty might be lurking. If you plan to show many (10 – 15 or more), start bringing them to a good spot with about the



same sunlight and water as they had in their original environment. I bring mine into my pool cage.

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

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

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

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

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

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

the plant and cover the exposed base or roots. Don't add potting medium up to the very top of the pot.

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

Prepare the bromeliad's leaves. Be sure to clean off any scale on the plant. Cut leaves that are 1/2 or more deteriorated at the base. The more leaves the plant has, the more leaves you can cut at the base rather than trim. After cutting leaves at the base, assess whether the plant looks a bit bereft of leaves. If not, minimally trim the remaining damaged leaves. When trimming leaves (I use surgical scissors), try to mimic the natural look of the plant's leaves. After trimming, lightly coat the cut edges with something that seals the wound—aloe, Aquaphor, beeswax (avoid Vaseline). Do not put any leaf-shine on the leaves; That guarantees a low judging score. If you find that you've trimmed many leaves and it shows, be prepared to be penalized. Show the plant anyway. If you really like it; others will, too.

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

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

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

Prepare the pot. Do this last because the previous steps may get the pot dirty. You've already inspected the pot, so you now have the pot

that will go into the show. Clean it well. Some growers use ArmorAll. This magic stuff will obscure scars, ease the removal of calcium deposits, make old pots look nearly new, and make new plastic pots shine. I even use it on clay pots—works wonders. Worth the effort. Now you're ready to show your prize bromeliads. Pack them carefully. To protect pots in 4 in. to 6 in. pots, I use plastic sleeves that I've saved from bromeliads that I've bought. For larger plants, I use plastic bags that I've saved from mail-order purchases. Recycling is always good. Once, I prepared about 50 bromeliads for a show, stuffed them carefully in my car, and was driving to the show. I was wiping up some coffee that I spilled in my care when BAM! I drove right into the car in front of me. Of all the trouble that cause me, the most painful part was the crashing of my carefully prepared bromeliads into each other in the car. By the time I got to the show venue, I had many fewer bromeliads to put into the show. I always drive to shows very carefully now. Bromeliad shows always need more show plants. Don't be shy; show your beautiful plants, and good luck!Figure .

### **Update on the The Big Show!**

I am thrilled to let you know that **Tom Ramiccio has agreed to be the Publicity Chair** for the 2020 World Conference. 2020 Bromeliad Society International World Conference. Tom is currently the Vice President of the Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches. He brings with him more than 40 years of professional marketing and Public Relations. He served 3 terms as mayor of the City of Lake Worth. He was the President/CEO of the Greater Lake Worth Chamber of Commerce (10 years). As the marketing manager for Banyan Printing he oversaw all major marketing campaigns for large corporate clients and several sports franchises. He served as the Marketing Director for the Palm County Visitors and Convention Bureau (over 10 years), Governor Florida District of Kiwanis International (37 years), Salvation Army board member (35 years). There is more but, needless to say, we are lucky to have him.



Dave Vitolo expressed his passion for plants through his talent for photography. He shared many of those photos with the Sarasota Bromeliad Society.

David passed away suddenly this week.  
Above is a collage of a few of David's wonderful photographs.

**Dave Vitolo** – It is with great sadness I share that David Vitolo passed away suddenly this week. Dave shared his time, enthusiasm, and photographs to the benefit of our society. His photographs on our Facebook page were shared and viewed by bromeliad enthusiasts all over the country and worldwide.

David was an active member of our society. He often arrived with an item for the refreshment table in one hand, a camera in the other and always a smile on his face. David was the Photography cochair for the 2020 BSI World Conference. He was elected to be the Treasurer for the Sarasota Bromeliad Society for 2020. He generously contributed photographs to our Facebook page and Newsletter. He enjoyed taking photographs of bromeliads and succulents at Selby, Tropiflora and Michael's Bromeliads, and on his travels.

While volunteering in the Botany department with Bruce Holst at Selby it became clear to Bruce how talented Dave Vitolo and had been increasing his responsibilities. What an amazing place to work if your hobby is photographing plants!

His wife Marilyn has offered to share some plants from his collection for our Auction next week. Our gratitude, thoughts, prayers and heart go out to Dave's family.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 4PM at the Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Blvd of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236. In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to the Sarasota Bromeliad Society. Checks should be made out to the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and mailed to Marian Kennell, 5816 Tidewood Ave, Sarasota, FL 34231.

If you are member of SBS or attending the Auction you may give the check to Treasurer Dianne Cantalamessa with a note 'In memory of Dave Vitolo'

Note: Like many horticultural clubs, SBS does not have a permanent mailing address and we do not currently have a donation button on our web page, which we should discuss at a future meeting.

**What should you bring to the Auction?** Besides yourself consider...

- **A friend or neighbor.** Guests are welcome, more the merrier!
- **Bringing plants for the Auction** Please make sure your plants are clean and tagged with their name for the Auction
- **Please bring a food item to share for the refreshment table** – As always, any refreshments members bring are heartily enjoyed!  
You may BYOB if desired.

**Upcoming Events:**

**November 22, 2019 The Florida Bromeliad Conservation Working Group, 2019** will meet in At Marie Selby Botanical F

Gardens, 900 South Palm Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236, in the Great Room by the Bay. Bring your own brown bag lunch and coffee cup. Snacks, water and coffee will be provided. Time: 10 am-3 pm. If you plan on attending, please register via this link: <https://selby.org/event/Florida-bromeliad-conservation-working-group-2019/>

**December 9, 2019** The Sarasota Bromeliad Society will have their Annual Christmas Party. It will be held at the same place it was held last year. The Baywood Colony Villa Recreation Center, 5895 Tidewood Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34231. We will have a pot luck dinner, gift exchange, music, fun and festivities. It will take place on the second Monday, December 9, 2019 from 6-9pm. Please save the date!

**December 13-15, 2019** The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society will have their Biennial Bromeliad Show in conjunction with their Annual Sale at the Arabia Shrine Temple in Fort Myers. All are welcome.

**June 9-13, 2020**—Bromeliad Society International World Bromeliad Conference, hosted by Sarasota Bromeliad Society at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota, 1000 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL. Registration is now available . For more information go to [www.bsi.org/new/Conference-corner/](http://www.bsi.org/new/Conference-corner/)



