



www.SarasotaBromeliadSociety.com

Sarasota Bromeliad Society *Newsletter*

February 2021



Encholirium horridum is native to Espírito Santo in eastern Brazil.

Officers for 2021

President Ray Lemieux

Vice President Marian Kennell

Secretary David Bates

Treasurer Dianne Cantalamessa

Membership Bob Stickney and Nancy Abramson

Historian position available

Newsletter Editor Marian Kennell

Workshop position available

Refreshments Nancy Abramson and Barbara Wetzel

FCBS Representatives Jason Mellica, Terrie Bert (alternate)

Facebook Betty Gundlach and Marian Kennell

Raffle Bob Cantalamessa

Door Prize Ray Lemieux

Librarian Marian Kennell

Shop Mark Kennell

Sarasota Bromeliad Society March 3rd Zoom Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm - Speaker Guillermo Rivera

“Diversity of Bromeliads in Central Brazil”

(meeting will open 15 minutes [prior to meeting])

8:00 pm – Show and Tell

Note: We are not currently able to conduct meetings in the Great Room at Selby. We are looking forward to having live meetings again once it is safe to do so. Richard Poole, Vice President of the FWCBS and a SBS member, asked if SBS would be interested in cohosting a Zoom Meeting with the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society. I called Guillermo Rivera and he graciously agreed to give a zoom presentation on the “**Diversity of Bromeliads in Central Brazil.**” We hope you will be able to join us. It will be nice to see everyone again!

The link and instructions are listed below. You can also go zoom.com and follow the directions.

Join Zoom Meeting March 3, 2021 7:00PM Eastern Time

FWCBS and SBS Zoom Meeting with Guillermo Rivera

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85864084623?pwd=UWVsYjZUUmhMelQyT1FyTmlvdkV3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 6408 4623

Passcode: 469240

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,85864084623#,,,,*469240# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,85864084623#,,,,*469240# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 858 6408 4623

Passcode: 469240

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85864084623?pwd=UWVsYjZUUmhMelQyT1FyTmlvdkV3Zz09>

Richard Poole has a Zoom account and will be organizing the Zoom meeting. He has asked that members who would like to participate in the Show and Tell to please send photographs of the plant they will be discussing to him at rapoole4469@yahoo.com so that they can be included the photographs at the end of the slide presentation. You will be given an opportunity to discuss your plant. Richard sent some information on joining a meeting for those who have not yet participated in a zoom meeting. You can also find info at zoom.com.

Zoom Meeting Instructions for Participants

These instructions are intended for those using a computer, laptop, or tablet. They do not include joining a meeting using a Smartphone, which you can do if you prefer. They were tested on a Windows PC. They should generally apply to an Apple computer as well, although the details may differ.

Things to know before a Zoom meeting

- You will need a computer, laptop, or tablet.
- You do not need to have a camera on your device. You can still see other participants; they just won't be able to see you.
- Prior to the meeting, you will receive an invitation email with information about the meeting. It will provide two options for joining join the meeting.
- If the Zoom app is not installed on your device, you will need to install it before the meeting. Instructions for how to install it are given at the end of these notes.

To join a Zoom meeting

Option one

- Find the 'Join Zoom Meeting' link in the invitation email you received and click on this link.
- A new window will open in your browser. It may have a box that asks, "Allow this site to open zoommtg link?" Click on 'Choose Application'. A second box may then appear that asks you to "Choose an application to open the zoommtg link." Click on 'Zoom Meetings' and then on 'Open Link'.
- A Zoom window will now open that will tell you "Please wait, the host will let you in soon."
- Once the Zoom host 'admits' you, a new Zoom window will open. Click 'Join with Computer Audio.'
- You should now be joined in the meeting.

Option two

- Start the Zoom app on your device.
- Click on 'Join a Meeting'. A new Zoom window will open.
- In the 'Enter meeting ID' box, enter the 9-digit (sometimes 10 or 11 digits) Meeting ID which you will find in the invitation email you received about the meeting.
- Click 'Join'.
- In the 'Meeting Passcode' box, enter the passcode which is also in the invitation email.
- Click 'Join Meeting'.
- A Zoom window will now open that will tell you "Please wait, the host will let you in soon."
- Once the Zoom host 'admits' you, a new Zoom window will open. Click 'Join with Computer Audio.'
- You should now be joined in the meeting.

Program: Guillermo's presentation will focus on the variety of bromeliads from Central Brazil, particularly the states of Minas Gerais and Bahia. The habitats of Cerrado, Castinga, and Atlantic Forest are well represented in these states allowing for a great diversity of many Brazilian genera of Bromeliads: Tillandsia, Orthophytum, Dyckia, Canistrum, Billbergia, Alcantarea, Hohenbergia, among others. We will be able to make the equivalent of a 4000 km drive through Guillermo's slides from the comfort of our home!

Bios: Guillermo Rivera was born in Argentina. He is the owner of PLANT EXPEDITIONS (formerly South America Nature Tours) a company dedicated to the organization of tours for the last 17 years. He provides tours throughout South America (Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador), Mexico, South Africa, Madagascar, and Namibia with emphasis on plants: bromeliads, orchids, cacti, and succulents. Guillermo was a researcher at the University of Cordoba, Argentina. He has a BS degree in Biology from the University of Cordoba as well as a MS in Marine Biology from Northeastern University, and a PhD in Botany from University of Cordoba. He is planning trips to Baja California (April), Namibia (May), Ecuador (June-July), South Africa (August), Madagascar (October), Argentina-Chile (November) in 2021. In 2022 he has plans have tours to Baja California, Socotra, Central Brazil, Peru, Northern Madagascar, and Northwestern Argentina.

If you wish to be kept informed about future trips, please send an email to Guillermo at info@plantexpeditions.com or plantexpeditions@gmail.com or visit his website: www.plantexpeditions.com

Letter from SBS President Ray Lemieux:

Hello- I just wanted to touch base with all the members of the SBS, I hope you are all well and avoiding the coronavirus. It has been one year since we have met as a club. In 2020 a new coronavirus reared its ugly head-went pandemic and life as we knew it changed.

Social gatherings were shutdown, we now have to be cautious about many of the things we do on a regular basis. Life has taken on a different feel. I am basically focusing on work and dealing with the virus. Oddly enough, I have more work than ever.

There are several issues that have to be dealt with because of the pandemic. We haven't been able to have meetings so there will be no dues for 2021- if you were paid up in 2020 then you are all set for 2021. I will speak to the officers of 2020 to see if they will agree to continue their positions for the year 2021, but if there is anyone that wants to run for an office, please let me know. If multiple members want to run for a particular position then we will have an election.

The show must go on and yes folks the show (at this point) is still on. The BSI has to continue with the plans for the show or they will get popped for \$60,000 clams, we are still the hosting club-I am not sure where we will be with the pandemic at that point-certainly not past it-but we must still make the preparations for the conference, the pandemic is putting a terrible twist on the already difficult task of putting on a conference, I feel like we are heading into another nationwide shutdown to try to get a grip on the contagion, there are too many factors involved to know what will happen by June of 2021- if we work together we can overcome these obstacles, Ok- I will keep you posted of any new information that pops up, I hope that you are all well and that at some point we will be able to meet again as a club. Thank you- take care,

Ray

I can be reached at [941-266-4179](tel:941-266-4179) or Razotyx@hotmail.com

Update on the World Conference – While Sarasota Bromeliad Society was asked to cohost the 2020 BSI World Conference, the BSI is responsible for the contract with the hotel. Greg Kolojeski has a meeting scheduled with the Hyatt next week to determine our options. We will update everyone after that meeting. Thank you for your patience.

FCBS Representatives - Jason Mellica and Ray Lemieux will be the two SBS representative for the Florida Council. Terrie Bert will serve as an alternate.

Sarasota Fair: Ray was asked if SBS would like to have a display at the Sarasota Fair. The Fair is scheduled for March 19-28 at Robarts Arena, 3000 Ringling Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34237. We would be responsible for setting up a display. If you have any questions or think you would like to participate please contact Ray. It would be a great way to let the community learn more about bromeliads and our society. Ray will need to know if members are interested before agreeing to participate.

Election: Since we were unable to meet the past several months SBS did not have an election. If anyone would like to run for any of the offices, please let Ray know. If there no candidates who would like to run, we will ask the current officers if they are willing to continue until September when SBS would ask for nominations then hold an election in October.

Volunteers needed: Tom O'Donnell, a new 2021 SBS member is asking if SBS had any members who could help to clean up his yard. His yard was planted by a well known bromeliad landscaper. SBS has provided volunteers in the past to help him. He is in a wheelchair and unable to do the work himself. You may take home some nice bromeliads but need to clean up after yourself. Call Ray for more information.

New Members: I would like to welcome 5 new members to the SBS. Jane Bjerklie-Barry and Lynne McAdams joined last year. Tom O'Donnell, Rosanne Robie, and Kris Perry joined this year. Welcome to our society!

Photographs for the newsletter: Next month we have an article on Alcantareas written by Dr. Terrie Bert in our newsletter. If you have photographs of Alcantareas you would like to share, please email them to sarasotabromeliad@gmail.com so they can be placed in the March newsletter. Thanks.



Bromeliads are the perfect in your landscape, mounted on driftwood or rocks and just placed in a bowl to enjoy indoors and outdoors.

Congratulations to Dennis, Linda, Robin and Scott on the 45th Anniversary of Tropiflora. Sarasota Bromeliad Society appreciates all you and your Tropiflora family has done for bromeliad enthusiasts.

Bromeliads in the Florida Landscape

By Dennis Cathcart

Spectacular, Stunning, Brilliant, Dramatic: Just a few words used to describe Bromeliads.

Columbus brought the first bromeliad from the Americas to Europe. Pineapples, on his second voyage of discovery in 1493. It wasn't until the 1940s and '50s that ornamental bromeliads became popular in the U.S. By 1970, bromeliads became vogue as elements of focus in south Florida landscapes. The subtropical climate conducive to their growth, their potential recognized, demand accelerated.

Most bromeliads grown in cultivation are for interior use. Guzmania, Vriesea and some Aechmea make superior indoor plants. Noted for tolerance for low-light, showy blooms, and enduring color. Production of bromeliads for landscape, limited by comparison, continues to grow. New varieties appear with greater demand from homeowners and landscapers.

For those unfamiliar with bromeliads, they are a diverse plant family. They inhabit every available niche in their native New World range. Bromeliads grow in full sun on the sandy beaches of Brazil and in dark, moist cloud forests of the Andes. Badlands of Mexico, Bolivia and Brazil bristle with colorful, succulent Hechtia, Deuterocohnia and Dyckia. Tillandsias bejewel trees and shrubs of scrublands and jungles from Mexico to Argentina. The rainless desert sands of coastal Peru, and boggy summits of the tepuis, in the 'Lost World' of Venezuela grow lush with bromeliads. Bromeliads range from Tierra del Fuego in Chile to as far north as Virginia (Spanish Moss). Florida can boast of twenty-four native bromeliads,

(counting species, forms and varieties). More, by far, than any other state.

The bromeliad family has eight sub families with over 3,500 species in over 50 genera. Thousands more hybrids in every combination exist.

Bromeliad landscaping has few rules. There are basic suggestions to produce stunning results. Foremost, select plants to match the requirements of your local environment. Some bromeliads thrive in deep shade, while others do well in direct sunlight. Somewhere in-between will suit most.

Most bromeliads are tropical, though many tolerate short duration freezing temperatures. Few bromeliads are frost hardy. Even those most hardy to cold will need protection in frost prone locations. Tree canopy in most cases protects from frost. A frost blanket is nevertheless prudent if the forecast predicts a heavy frost.

Lists of sun and cold tolerant bromeliads are available. Excellent sources to begin your search for bromeliad information are the websites of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies: www.fcbs.org or the Bromeliad Society International: www.bsi.org.

For those that enjoy 'rules of thumb', here are a few tips.

For shade or sun preference:

- A few indicators a plant will thrive in shaded locations, include. Soft textured, green or discolor (green above, reddish below) leaves. Small or no marginal spines.
- Higher sun bromeliads may have: Rigid, thick, or succulent leaves, stout marginal spines. It's typical for those with green

or yellow colors overlaid with silver to tolerate more sun. To a lesser degree, deep reds or burgundy colored plants.

General guidelines for preparing, planting and maintaining a bromeliad landscape:

- Be sure you have good drainage. If in doubt, build a berm or mound from earth or potting soil to prevent flooding.

Bromeliads don't thrive standing with 'wet feet'. Bromeliads are great accent plants. A mounded bed with added driftwood or rock features is an effective way to use them for greatest impact.

- Bromeliads are generally planted direct into the substrate. Some gardeners leave their bromeliads in pots and set them into a bed. A pot set on the ground with mulch built up around is a practical alternative to direct planting. Advantages are ability to change them at will or remove them in case of a freeze.

- Select plants first for your light exposure. Most bromeliads appreciate relief from midday sun. There are plenty that will grow without shade of any kind. Too much sun can cause bleaching or burning of the leaves. Adapting plants to direct sun is best done in winter or by degree at other times. Too much shade may cause colorful plants to lose intensity, especially those with red colors. A sign of excessive shade is etiolation. When leaves become long and strap-like.

- Established bromeliad beds can often subsist on rain without added watering. In dry periods, look for stress signs, wilted or curled leaves. Bromeliads in the ground can go weeks to months between rains without harm. Many tank-type bromeliads impound water in their centers. When watering,

water enough to flush this cup and wet the soil. Don't worry if the cup is dry, so long as the soil is moist. Never water by only filling the cup, always flush it.

- Grown outdoors, bromeliads don't need fertilizing. Bromeliads are great nutrient scavengers. They get nourishment from the soil, dust, leaves in their cups. Add to that droppings from birds, frogs, etc. Adding fertilizer risks spoiling bright colors. Potted plants out of outdoor elements welcome occasional light fertilizing. With bromeliads, more is not better!

- Insect pests are rare on bromeliads. Scale is the most common and can be prevented by reducing overcrowding. Plants may require thinning out from time to time when they multiply. Separate offsets and replant them elsewhere to improve air circulation around your plants.

As stated, these are suggestions. Your conditions will dictate the needs of your plants. Experiment!

All you need is imagination and bromeliads to produce a breathtaking display. Be bold! Experiment with placement, sizes, colors and textures. Use garden objects such as wood, stone, pottery and antiques. These objects lend themselves well to use in a bromeliad garden. Bromeliads work great with water features. Around pond borders, waterfalls or on a limb over a water feature. Few plants give as much color and visual impact, as bromeliads. They are, "The cure for ordinary landscapes."

Thanks to SBS members Betty and Steve Gundlach who invited SBS members to tour their lovely garden. Steve and Betty did a wonderful job getting their garden ready for what was hoped to be the 2020 World Conference in June. Thank again for your hospitality.



Upper left: Cryptanthus 'Rick Richtmyer' Upper right: Cryptanthus 'Rita Padden'
Bottom left: Cryptanthus 'Absolute Zero' Bottom right: Cryptanthus 'AngelDust'



Top left: *Aechmea* 'Felice' Top right: *Neoregelia* 'Canvey Carnival'
Bottom left: *Lymania corallina*. Bottom right: *Pitcairnia tabuliformis*



Ronnbergia brasiliensis



Encholirium horridum blooming this week. The chestnut brown inflorescence contrasts so beautifully with the green leaves.



Fernseea bocainensis is a very special plant. The diversity within the Bromeliaceae family is amazing!

Local Events

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens: Roy Lichtenstein: Monet's Garden Goes Pop! Feb 13-Jun 27, 2021, 10 am to 5 pm. 1534 Mound Street, Sarasota, FL 34236. While the meeting rooms are closed, the gardens are open.

Sarasota Fair: Roberts Arena. March 19-28, 2021. 3000 Ringling Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34237

Tropiflora: The Spring Festival has been postponed until further notice. Tropiflora is open to the public, but will be restricting the amount of people on the property. Call if you have questions. Sign up their VIPP specials.

Donna's Secret Garden is open to the public M-F 9 am to 5 pm.
Michael's Bromeliads is open by appointment.

Many of the clubs are turning to Zoom meetings. There have been some amazing opportunities to see different speakers. Some of the clubs are able to host very large groups and invite nonmembers to join them. Many of the meetings are recorded, if the speaker allows, and they are put on you-tube to see if you missed the live version.

[La Ballona Bromeliad Society Zoom meetings Videos](#)

If you missed the past LBVBS Zoom meetings, you can still see them. Below are links to videos they made of the meetings.

- [Bruse Dunstan on growing Tillandsias in Australia](#) from their September Zoom meeting, via YouTube.
- [Pedro Nahoum's Bromeliads of Brazil: Part 1](#) from their August Zoom meeting, via YouTube.
- [Paul Isley's evolution of bromeliad collecting presentation](#) from their July Zoom meeting, via YouTube.
- [Tillandsia presentation by Alex Bello](#) of BelloTropicals from their June Zoom meeting, via YouTube.
- [Peru trip presentation by Nels Christianson](#) from their May Zoom meeting, via YouTube.

If you know of any events that your fellow bromeliad enthusiasts would be interested in please send the information to Marian Kennell at sarasotabromeliad@gmail.com

