

## What Plant is This?



Perhaps this plant seems familiar to you since it was chosen as the logo for the Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society.

In 2003 a love of bromeliads provided the incentive for Margaret McLean and Norm Bailey to meet with like minded people, to learn more of these fascinating plants. Norm advertised in the local paper for interested people and the Glasshouse Country Friends of Bromeliads Society was subsequently formed on October 10th 2003. Norm Bailey was the inaugural president with Margaret Mc Lean secretary. Subsequent meetings were usually held at the Bailey home.

The Society needed a banner with a suitable logo and as the Glasshouse Mountains area was famous for pineapple production, the decision was reached to use a pineapple producing plant in the logo. A plant of *Ananas comosus* var. *ananassoides* (formerly classified as *A. nanus*) was provided by Norm, and a suitable logo was chosen from a series of drawings created by Pat Pennell.

The Society's name was changed to Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society in May 2006 and after incorporation in June 2006, Inc. was added

Recently a group of Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Inc. members gathered for morning tea to present Norm & Bev Bailey with a Wayne Ellis print of the Glass House Mountains. This was in appreciation of the work Norm has done in establishing the group. Norm & Bev will be able to enjoy the memories of the Glass House area by reflecting on this print at Vala Beach, NSW.



Printed by Glasshouse Country News



## Inside!

Plant of the month—	2
President's Message	3
Did you know?	4
Len's Timely Tips	5
What's on	6
The Fly Speck Scale Curse.	7
What a day	
What Plant is this?	8

Merry Christmas

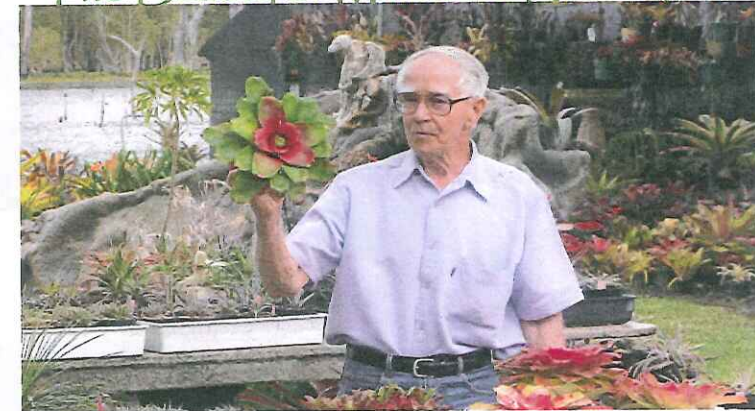


# Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society

Volume 2 Issue 3

December 2008

## The Beauty of Miniature Neoregelias



Arnold James, our guest speaker for the November meeting, wowed us with a selection of beautiful mini neoregelias and his knowledge of their cultivation. He highlighted the many factors which impact on the growth of bromeliads, especially environmental issues such as moisture and light. Some fine details of the tautness of shade cloth, the plane in which it is placed and its orientation to the sun were surprising facts to many members. The garden of Len and Sheryl Waite provided a perfect venue for the meeting and our thanks to them for their hospitality.



Arnold with *Neoregelia* 'Gold Lotto' - a beautiful cultivar hybridized by Grace Goode with seed parent 'Maid of Honour'



Tender Contractor  
Sunshine Co  
Regional Council

85 Roberts Road, Beerwah,  
Markets every Saturday 9am - 5pm  
Telephone: (07) 549467

Glasshouse Country News are pleased to be able to support  
Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society in their public



# Plants of the Month—November



## Advanced

1<sup>st</sup>: Len & Sheryl Waite

*Neoregelia 'Apricot Nectar'*

2<sup>nd</sup>: Len & Sheryl Waite

*Neoregelia 'Victoria's Secret'*



## Novice:

1<sup>st</sup>: Steve Waite

*Neoregelia 'Tiger'*

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ron Rhuland

*Neoregelia 'Rubeo'*



Note: Due to a visit to the Olive Branch nursery for our October meeting, there were no Plants of the Month

Printed by Glasshouse country News

# The Curse of the Fly Speck Scale



*Is this statement overdramatic? Let's consider some important points, especially the need to ensure your plants are free from this pest before they are brought to our Society meetings or sold to the public.*

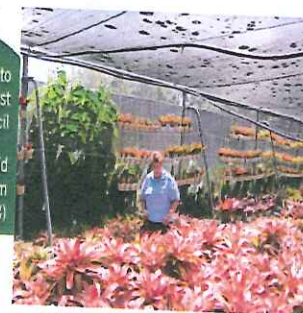
Fly speck scale is caused by insects (often *Gymnaspis aechmeae* Newstead) which are sometimes called armored scale insects. An appropriate name, as whilst eating the host plant, they produce a waxy waterproof protective scale resistant to control measures. Penetration through this armor with contact insecticides is very difficult and in many cases it is necessary to use a systemic insecticide. The scale appears as small hard black dots on the leaves which, if allowed to multiply make the plant look very unsightly. Regular inspection of your plants is vital in order to control any infestation before it becomes too serious. Products which are used by our members to control fly speck scale include 'Rogor', 'Chemspray' Antiscale and Strike-Out. All safety instructions from the manufacturers must be followed with these chemicals. Of course pre-

- Allow good air circulation and prevent plant overcrowding.
- Inspect plants before purchasing, especially if not sold by reputable supplier.
- Isolate infected plants until successfully treated.



## What a day

A great day was had by members on their recent visit to the Olive Branch Nursery. Everyone returned home armed with a wealth of knowledge and plants. Thank you to Len & Olive Trevor for making the outing one to remember



Printed by Glasshouse Country News



## What's On When in 2009

Feb. 8 Meeting at Glasshouse Mountains Neighbourhood Centre 2.00 pm

April 10-13 Bromadelaide 2009 Australian Conference  
 Hosted by The Bromeliad Society of South Australia  
 Held at Adelaide Meridien  
 21-37 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide S.A.  
 Keynote Speaker : Dr Jason Grant

Registration forms and further details are available from Margaret McLean or download them from: [www.bromeliad.org.au/BROMADELAIDE2009.htm](http://www.bromeliad.org.au/BROMADELAIDE2009.htm)

### News From the Library

Have you taken the opportunity to read an issue of Bromeliaceae from our library? This bimonthly publication from The Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc. is a treasure trove of information on bromeliads, sourced from both local and international experts. The July/Aug issue includes articles on the Winter Care of Bromeliads, Bromeliads in the Landscape and Consider Growing Vrieseas. Each issue always has beautiful photographs which may help you identify that mystery plant in your garden or perhaps you will add a plant to your wish list. At the next meeting, take the time to check out our library collection.

Bob and Margaret McLean kindly submitted these photos of their *Alcantarea Extensa* that was purchased from the 2007 Nambour home show expo. The plant has silver/grey leaves with purple spots towards the tips and is thornless.



The photo on the left shows the spike 2 weeks after it came up. The image on the right shows the flower spike 2 weeks later



Bob has promised to submit more photos in the next newsletter showing its progress in full colour



On behalf of the editorial committee may I take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families, a happy, safe and merry Christmas.

Happy New Year to everybody.

Printed by Glasshouse Country News

Hello All

The October & November meetings have set the scene for the education & learning experience which we have set as the planed direction of the society. The visit in October to the Olive Branch gave those who attended the benefit of the hospitality of Len & Olive Trevor as well as the great presentation from Len. The experience of touring the six acres of broms in all stages of growth & beauty shows the dedication they have. The kaleidoscope of color had to been seen to be believed.

The November meeting was held at Sheryl & Len Waite's Talbot Lodge. We had the pleasure of the experience & knowledge of Arnold & Phyllis James' 35 years of Bromeliad growing. We also had considerable input from members with questions to Arnold, Phyllis, Len & Sheryl. Judging by the interest, with almost forty members attending, we are providing members with what they are looking for from the society.

We had a management team meeting before the November meeting at which we decided to have the February meeting at the GHM Neighborhood Centre & at this venue each alternate month. The other meetings will be visits to gardens or nurseries. The months when meetings are held at the centre will also be the month when the management team will meet as well as the month the newsletter is produced. We have decided on this meeting rotation so as members who don't or can't travel will be able to attend the meeting & benefit from the society.

I would like to thank the newsletter team for the great work & from the feed back from members & other groups it is a top publication. Thanks go to Faye Chambers for the job as editor; unfortunately Faye has now resigned from this position to be replaced by Bob Watkins still being assisted by Pat & Margaret. I must encourage all members to support the newsletter by supplying information to assist the team in providing items of interest. This information should be short & interesting. Well done team.

The December meeting will be a fun afternoon at Avril's, with a "Secret Santa" all those attending please bring a wrapped gift preferably a plant but not restricted to a plant. Everyone should bring something & take something home (The gift should be something you would be happy with) also don't forget to bring a plate of goodies.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a happy & safe Christmas and a happy new year

Happy Growing

Bob

### Management Committee

President: Bob McLean Vice President: Len Waite

Secretary: Margaret McLean

Treasurer: David Binstead

Committee members: Kaye Notman, Bob Watkins Librarian: Pat Pennell

### To Get In Touch:

Phone Margaret at 5494 6098 or Mail Box 424, Glasshouse Mountains 4518

Printed by Glasshouse Country News



A Franciscan monk and explorer named Charles Plumier (1646 – 1704 ) is attributed as being the origin of the name 'bromeliad'. He encountered this plant while exploring the Caribbean region and named the genus after Olof Bromel (or OLAUS BROMAL), a 17th century Swedish botanist.

### Did you Know

NEOREGELIA is a relatively small genus of about 70 recognised species from Brazil, Columbia and Peru. Named after the 19th century botanist, Eduard von Regel, [ who was the superintendent of the Botanical Garden in St Petersburg, Russia], they underwent several name changes before getting their present classification. The French botanist, Charles Lemaire, created the name Regelia in honour of von Regel, not knowing that it had already been given to plants in the Myrtaceae family. Later the German botanist, O Kuntze, changed Regelia to Argelia. Dr Lyman B Smith, the noted American authority on bromeliads, renamed these plants Neoregelia.

[ Information courtesy of Bromeliaceae Nov/Dec 2000]

The following is a short list of disorders which can affect bromeliads

### PROBLEM

### REASON

**Brown marks on leaves**

Watering in direct sun. Overwatering. Poor Drainage. Light intensity too strong. Improper use of pesticides.

**Leaves elongated**

Not enough Light. Too much nitrogen content in fertilizer.

**Leaf tips brown (yellow)**

Drainage inadequate. Too dry or cold. Not enough air movement. Alkaline water.

**Leaves wilting.**

Lack of water. Bad Drainage.

**Inner Leaves sticking together (quilling)**

No water in cup.( reservoir of plant). Excess pesticide dosage. Insufficient misting.

**Bottom leaves yellow -brown (dying)**

Characteristic of healthy plant which sheds older base leaves as it ages. Insufficient nutrients.

**Base leaves brown at base**

Overwatering. Mixture too dense, poor drainage. Leaves embedded in mixture.

[ information courtesy of The Bromeliad Society of Australia. Inc.]

**Disclaimer:** This bi-monthly newsletter is intended to provide general information only for members of Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Inc. The producers and contributors will not be responsible for any loss or damage to property or injury to persons regarding the information provided.

Printed by Glasshouse Country news

## Len's Timely Tips for December & January

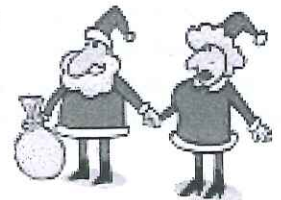
Summer has arrived, so be wary of the heat and be prepared to shift plants to spots with more shade if necessary. At times you may even need to put an extra sheet of shade cloth over the top of your shade house in areas where you grow Vrieseas and Guzmanias. At this time of the year many of us find the higher rainfalls and increased humidity hard to take and fungal infections are a common problem. Some bromeliads share this response so good air circulation around plants is essential. Don't be tempted to crowd your plants together.

Water left in buckets, saucers and other similar containers will help mosquitoes to breed and you should remember to empty these. After all, we don't want to encourage the spread of a rumor that Brom plants themselves breed mosquitoes.

If you haven't already sprayed for bindi & clover it is almost too late do it now. Perhaps mark this job now on your calendar for winter next year.

**Question time** Sheryl and I are under attack ! Something is eating the centre out of our Neoregelias, probably looking for seeds-maybe water rats or water hens. Not really sure-haven't caught the culprits yet.

On behalf of Sheryl and myself I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year. May the Bromeliad Santa smile down on you



That's all folks. Catch you soon.  
Waitey

### Bromeliad History

Bromeliads entered recorded history some 500 years ago when Columbus introduced the pineapple (*Ananas comosus*) to Spain upon return from his second voyage to the New World in 1493. On that voyage he found it being cultivated by the Carib Indians in the West Indies. Within 50 years this tropical fruit was being cultivated in India and other Old World countries. It took some time for additional bromeliads to enter cultivation. It wasn't until 1776 that another bromeliad (*Guzmania lingulata*) was brought to Europe. *Aechmea fasciata* followed in 1828 and *Vriesea splendens* in 1840. Within the last hundred years, bromeliads have become more widely used as ornamental plants. Originally only found in royal botanical gardens or the private greenhouses of wealthy Europeans, their popularity has spread to the masses. Today bromeliads are more available to the enthusiast than ever before. New species are still being discovered and plant breeders are developing ever more stunning hybrids to choose from.

[ Information kindly supplied by The Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc.]

**Editorial Committee** Pat Pennell      Margaret von Konigsmark      Bob Watkins  
Printed by Glasshouse Country News