

There has been a new addition to our library, "The Book of Bromeliads and Hawaiian Tropical Flowers" by Ron W Parkhurst.

This book is full of beautiful coloured photos & lots of information.

Some of the ideas in growing & how to use Bromeliads to their advantage will be beneficial to us, so read, enjoy, learn and have fun.

The up to date sub Tropical Gardening magazine is now available

Librarian Pat

Rotary-Glasshouse Country Garden Expo

We are going to need some good looking plants (and people) for our display.

A roster on Sat 23rd May will be for mounting the display. The Beerwah Community Hall will be open for us at 3pm and this will also be the time for plants to be dropped off. If you have a plant or plants & cannot get to the hall, let me know on 54387375 & we will arrange transport.

The second roster will be for 2 hr sessions between 9am & 4pm Sun 24th May, to man our plant sale area, raffle & display. These rosters will be available at the April meeting. If you can spare the time on either or both days your assistance and companionship are welcome and greatly appreciated

Display Co-ordinator Pat Pennell.



Tender Contractors to
Sunshine Coast
Regional Council
85 Roberts Road, Beerwah, Qld
Markets every Saturday 9am - 5pm
Telephone: (07 54946798)



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Our guest speaker at the February meeting, Greg Aizlewood, gave a very informative talk on Tillandsias. He has a wide knowledge on the geographical habitats of this genus in South America. The name was sourced from Dr. Elias Erici Tillandz (originally Tillander), Swedish physician and botanist (1640-1693).

Greg chose *Tillandsia durratii* as a plant of interest for this photo. It is known for its magnificent bloom spike and the extraordinary way in which the leaves bend tightly backwards. This leaf formation provides growing support in nature. *Tillandsia duratii* sometimes covers much of a tree, appearing as a flock of resting white birds.

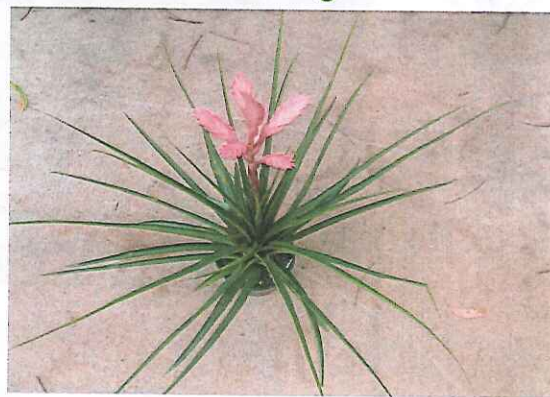
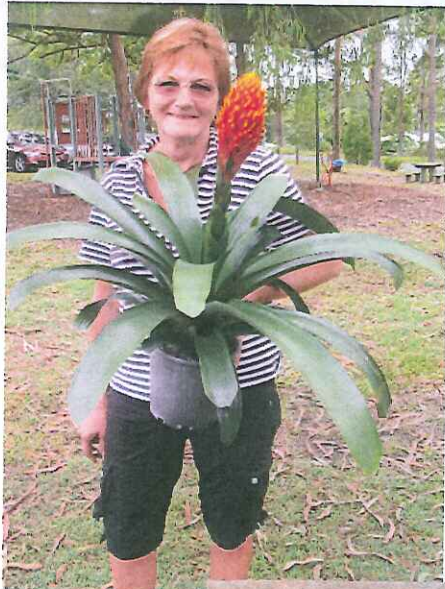
Tillandsia stricta (opposite) was one of the many beautiful plants which Greg made available to enjoy.



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

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Plants of the Month—February



Tillandsia 'Creation' is a hybrid between *T. cyanea* and *T. platyrrhachis*.

Cheryl proudly displays her Guzzie.



Vriesea 'Nova' hybrid

Advanced

- 1st Cheryl & Len Waite
Guzmania conifera
 2nd Jo Allen
Tillandsia 'Creation'
 3rd Cheryl & Len Waite
Vriesea 'Nova' hybrid

Novice:

- Mark Pearce
Vriesea guttata



Vriesea guttata

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Plants of the Month—March

No plants were submitted for judging in the Advanced Section at the March meeting.

Novice Section

1st Place

Ann Cormack's *Vriesea coreia - araujoi*



2nd Place

Margaret McLean's

Orthophytum gurkenii

Paul and Margaret were our hosts, guest speakers and guides at their Suncoast Water Gardens and Nursery

The property has a diversity of beautiful water plants and other tropical plants such as gingers and heliconias covering 6 acres.

Next year the nursery will release Crimson Velvet, a hybrid lotus which has a large peony style flower with deep red multiple petals.



The lotus flower has had significance to many ancient cultures and is often a symbol of purity, peace and beauty. It was easy to appreciate this symbolism when we were introduced to some stunning lotus plants at our meeting.

Margaret Vita admiring *Curcuma ladderwan*

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Have you got the right lead in your pencil?

Clearly labelling plants and the choice of pencil can make a difference.

Try one of these:

Artline brand **Garden Marker**. Available at Officeworks

Stabilo brand **Aqua Reliable**. Suitable for use on paper, glass, plastic and metal. Available from office suppliers.

If you have a proven marker please let us know what brand it is so that we can share it with all our members.

A Tale of Woe.

Margaret v K asks

My beautiful new *Alcantareas* have been systemically chewed by grasshoppers recently. On my regular patrols to catch the culprits they seem to see me coming and escape. Advice on the internet includes manual removal or the use of an insecticide with persistent and regular spraying. Any other ideas?

Management Committee

President: Bob McLean

Vice President: Len Waite

Secretary: Margaret Mc Lean

Treasurer:: David Binstead

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

Website of interest

These commercial sites but have some good photos of bromeliads:

Tropiflora Online (<http://www.tropiflora.com/creport/cr18-1/p3.html>)



Potting mix is still available in 25 L bags for \$4. Contact Ardie Baker on 5494 8426

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Len's Timely Tips for April



This month we start with a few do's and don'ts.

With these tips, as always there are a few exceptions to the rule.

DO keep fertiliser on your smooth leaf Broms as most of these are aggressive feeders. Alcantareas, Vrieseas, Guzmanias, these are the main Broms that most of us grow in this category. A few exceptions are Dyckias, Deuterocohnias, Hectias and Orthophytums.

Don't be inclined to overfeed Neoregelias, Aechmeas, or my favourites, Billbergias. The exceptions are as above. As always I will be happy to discuss this at our meeting in greater detail if you wish.

When you go to shows or displays or even just a normal sale at your meeting, have a look at how plants are displayed. By this I mean clean, well grown, lots of variety and you like what you see. Use the grower's knowledge to your advantage and pick his or her brain to check on their knowledge.

Maybe I repeat myself now and then but these are things I believe in, **PRESENTATION IS THE KEY**. By this I mean most people want to buy a nicely presented plant that looks good to the eye. They don't care what it's name is, to them it will look good in their garden. We, as collectors are a different kettle of fish. We need to see a plant that not only looks good but it must have a name and be healthy. So when you are getting plants ready to show off at your meetings or for sale at the upcoming expo, near enough is not good enough, strive to excel.

Perhaps if we ask our President we may be able to get a 5 minute segment in our meetings to discuss these tips..

Cheers for now.

Waitey.

To Get In Touch with us at the Glasshouse Bromeliad Society:

Phone Margaret at 54969601 or Mail Box 424, Glasshouse Mountains 4518

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What's on When in 2009

- March 28-29 Australia's Open Garden Scheme. Queensland's Third Annual Plant Fair. 8.30am.- 3.00pm. Lot 35 Derby Rd. Logan Reserve. For information go to www.opengarden.org.au
- April 10-11 Bribie Island Easter Orchid Show. Location, Bribie Island High School
- April 10-13 Bromadelaide 2009 Australian Conference
Held at Adelaide Meridien 21-37 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide S.A.
- April 17-19 ABC Gardening Expo. RNA Showground Bowen Hills Brisbane. For further information go to www.abcgardeningexpo.com.au
- May 2-3 A Bromeliad Spectacular; The Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society Inc Millwell Road Community Centre For info tel 54967795.
- May 24 Rotary - Glasshouse Country Garden Expo at Beerwah.
See Secretary for Flyers and don't forget to sign the rosters.
- July 10-12 Queensland Home Garden Expo. Queensland's premier Sub-tropical gardening Event. For further information go to www.homegardenexpo.com.au

Erratum In the February 09 issue a production error lead to the omission of the acknowledgement of source of article 'A Cautionary Tale of *Nidularium* 'Robert Reilly'. This was written by Bob Reilly in Bromeliaceae July/ August 2002.

Editorial Committee: Pat Pennell, Margaret von Konigsmark, Bob Watkins

Contributors to this Issue: Len Waite, Margaret von Konigsmark. Bob McLean.

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.

President's Message

What a wonderful experience we had at the Suncoast Water Gardens the venue for our March meeting. We thank Margaret & Paul for their hospitality. The range of plants we saw although not all Broms, the display was interesting to all.

It was good to have Norm Bailey back with us for the meeting.

Next month; we will have our annual opportunity to show off our beautiful Bromeliads to a wide range of people at the Rotary-Glasshouse Country Garden Expo. Pat Pennell has volunteered to coordinate the exhibit but the end presentation will only be as good as the cooperation & support we contribute as a team. The need for as many members as possible to be involved by supplying quality plants for the exhibit is so important. This is your display so please become involved. We all have time to pick out that special plant, so talk to Pat about how your plant/plants can be incorporated into the display.

The garden expo planning; is coming along well, I believe we will have a significant increase in exhibitor numbers this year. This will provide for a greater number of patrons. If members wish to prepare plants for sale you will have time to prepare your stock for sale. I am sure many of our members are starting to build up a stock of young plants by now. This is a good opportunity for you to get some return for your work & to fund the purchase of those special plants you would like to purchase. **Please** have all plants named or at least the genus name. Remember the GCBS Inc. gets a commission on plants sold at the GCBS exhibit's plant sale stand.

The plant of the month is not a competition; it is about education. The presentation of plants for display helps all members to get an understanding of how to present a plant & how you can compare your plants against other members & if you get the top votes well done. We will be trialing a different identification system from this month. Each member will have a number, this is your membership number when you register your plant, Ann will have your number to place on your plant. Your number will only be valid if you are a financial member, so make sure your fees are up to date.

The newsletter team are not the only members that can supply information for the newsletter this is your newsletter & it is the members who own it, so please feel free to send photos & interesting information to the team, share your knowledge & your good experiences.

Happy growing & enjoy planting your pups.

Bob McLean
President, GCBS Inc.

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