Plants of the Month– November

Advanced

1st: Len and Sheryl Waite
Neoregelia 'Orange Crush'

2nd Len and Sheryl Waite
Neoregelia 'Yang'

3rd Len and Sheryl Waite

Novice:

1st:Paul Lancaster
Vriesea hieroglyphica

2nd:Bob Watkins
Aechmea nudicaulis 'Mary Hyde'

3rd Lesmar Debrincat *Neo.* 'Jaws'

Printed by Glasshouse Country News

Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Newsletter

DECEMBER 2009. VOLUME 2 ISSUE 9

Merry Christmas

Inside!

Aechmea manzanaresiana

What a beauty ! Len Waite proudly showed this plant at our November meeting.

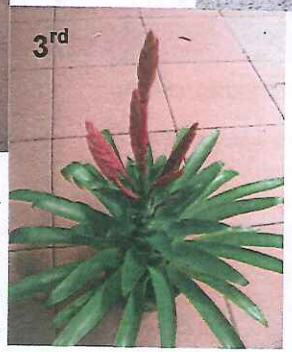
Sheryl Waite rejuvenating a plant at October meeting .

A warm welcome to members who have joined us since July 09. Vanessa Pilarski (opposite), Michelle & Shaine Riddle, Lorna Kempner (rejoined).

Lotti's granddaughter, Camillah enjoyed the November raffle

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

Plants of the Month—October



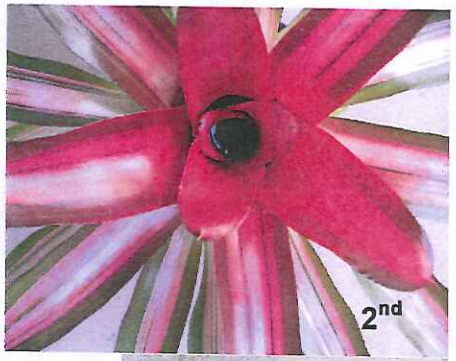
Advanced

1st: Len Waite
Orthophytum 'Ivory Tower'

2nd Len Waite
Dyckia 'White Chocolate'

3rd Len Waite
Tillandsia deppeana

Tillandsia deppeana is a tank-forming epi-phyte found mainly in Mexico, the West Indies, Central America, and northern and western South America . The adult leaves are broad and flat with sheathing bases and may reach 0.5 m in length.

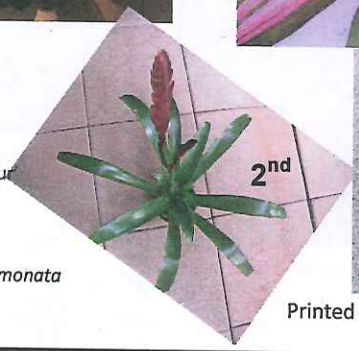


Novice:

1st: Steve Waite
Neoregelia 'Talbot Sands

2nd: Lou Baker
Neoregelia 'Perfecta Tricolour
Bob Mc Lean
Vriesa (unknown)

3rd Bob Mc Lean *Vriesea pulmonata*



There's a hole in the leaf, dear Liza, dear Liza...

Suppose you have a plant beautiful in every respect but on one of the inner leaves there is a big hole. **What to do?** Usually if plant form and symmetry will be important, it's better to leave the hole.

Another problem is deciding what bottom leaves should be trimmed and which should be removed in their entirety. Use your hand or a piece of paper and visually block out the leaf in question before removing it, for once gone it can never be replaced. If several leaves at the base of a plant are removed and the caudex is exposed, repot the plant lower to hide

Reprinted in part from Bromeliaceae May/ June 2009. Some Suggestions to Exhibitors: What ! No Blue Ribbon ?

Sick of Getting your Arms Scratched ?

Nevill Wood in an article titled "Recycling" published in the Illawarra Bromelaid Society's April 2009 publication of "Newslink" has suggested an easy method of reducing getting scratched.

Neville says " I have found that by modifying a recycled pair of thick woolen work socks and cutting out the toe section you can get a pretty good protection by wearing them on your forearms.

Good idea Neville!

Reprinted from Bromeliaceae Mar/Apr 2009

Some of us may worry that a white powdery marking on our brom leaves is a fungal infection when it may, in fact be scurfing, as seen on this Catopsis. These fine surface hairs (trichomes) perform many different and important functions on leaves such as

- Catching food particles and moisture for the plant to convert to food
- interfering with the feeding of at least some small herbivores and, depending upon stiffness and irritability to the "palate", large herbivores as well
- keeping frost away from the living surface cells
- in windy locations, hairs break-up the flow of air across the plant surface, reducing evaporation
- dense coatings of hairs reflect solar radiation, protecting the more delicate tissues underneath in hot, dry, open habitats.

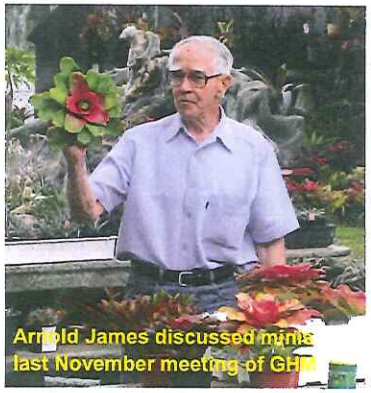
Information from Trichome. (2009, June 22). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 00:49, June 22, 2009, from http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Trichome&oldid=297824771

What's On When in 2010

July 26-Aug 1 2010 19th World Bromeliad Conference New Orleans, LA

SOME MINIATURE NEOREGELIAS by Bob Reilly)

(appeared in Bromeliad Society of Queensland's journal, Bromeliaceae and accessed at http://www.bromsqueensland.com/GrowingBroms.htm)



Neoregelias are probably the most popular bromeliads amongst Queensland collectors. There are over 100 more from which to choose.

The plants are mainly grown for their foliage, as the inflorescence usually consists of a cluster of blue or white petalled flowers, in the middle of the plant's "tank", which is formed by the plant's central leaves. The tank stores water, which helps the plant meet its moisture requirements.

Miniature neoregelias typically have an erect rosette formed by 10 or so leaves, all of which have very small spines on their margins.

Many of the ones grown today have attractively marked and coloured foliage throughout their life.

These neoregelias grow well in small pots. The containers should have a diameter of around 10 cm. Potting mixtures used successfully include:

1. Well composted pine bark to which a continuous release, over a period of nine months or more, fertiliser such as Nutricote or Osmocote is added when the plants/pups are potted; and
2. A mixture of 2 parts Peatmoss or Cocopeat combined with 1 part coarse sand. Add slow release (over a period of nine months or more) Nutricote or Osmocote to this mixture.

Many people suspend the pots in the air by using plastic hangers. This saves scarce shade-house space and also enables you to see the sunlight shining through the plant's leaves. This outcome often accentuates the leaves' attractive markings. These plants will, in many cases, also grow well on logs and stumps. They can be glued on, or tied into position using cable ties or old stockings.

These plants readily produce pups which will produce flowering plants in 12 to 24 months time. While pups can be removed from their "parent" when they are about one half of its height, a more visually appealing effect can often be obtained by allowing the plants to form a clump.

Pups can be potted straight into any of the potting mixtures described previously. Ensure the mixture holds the pup firmly in position, as this helps promote rapid growth.

President's Message

How quickly the year has gone it seems no time since we had that one cloud deliver all that rain at Avril's last December. It is wonderful to see all of our plants in flower & those Neos with their dainty little flowers sitting in the cup of the plant with the attractive colours of the mother plant & a pup or two filling the border of the pot. The year has had it challenges with all the autumn/winter rain & then to have a dry spell late winter/spring & now things are looking good.

We have been privileged to have the hospitality of our members to host the meetings at their home & to share the beauty of their hard work, thank you to all of those members. The year has provided us with much learning, assisting us to increase our knowledge of Bromeliads. Thank you to all those who shared this information.

The attendance at meetings & membership has continued to grow, so don't be afraid to invite your friends to come & join us in the New Year. I must thank all members for taking such an active part in our meetings. This involvement makes the meetings feel like a family gathering. We will continue with some new ideas in 2010, with the intention of maintaining our focus on fun & learning.

I trust you will all have a safe, happy & peaceful Christmas & New Year. Enjoy your time with family, friends & your plants, until we meet again in February.

Happy Christmas & a peaceful New Year

Bob

Management Committee

President: Bob McLean
Vice President: Len Waite
Secretary: Pat Tennant
Treasurer:: David Binstead
Committee member : Bob Watkins
Librarian: Avril Belcher

To Get In Touch:

Phone Pat on 54941761, Margaret on 54969601or Mail Box 424, Glasshouse Mountains 4518

Contributors to this Issue: Len Waite, Barbara Murray

Editorial Committee

Pat Pennell

Margaret von Konigsmark

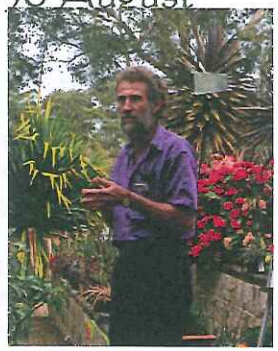
Bob Watkins

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.

Talbot Lodge Workshop Notes–30 August

Steve Flood



Discussion focussed on 4 aspects:

- Light
- Temperature
- Media
- Fertiliser

All bromeliads have 3 petals and 3 sepals

Light

Light is a critical factor when growing bromeliads. This makes intergenerics very difficult to place as they are a combination of light needs.

Generally silver/grey foliage reflects sunlight. Grey/ Blue foliage has a waxy layer called tomentum which acts as an insulation. Both take more sun than other foliage colours.

Tropical plants contain anthocyanin (foliage colours red pink purple blue). Anthocyanin acts like a sunblock and attracts pollinators.

Texture of leaf – shade plants have a thinner, softer leaf tissue.

Temperature

Use the plants that grow well locally. Grow plants suitable for the type of climate you live in.

Media

Terrestrial	grows in the ground in soil
Epiphytic	grows on live trees
Lithophytes	grows on rocks
Saprophytes	grows on dead trees

Air needs to be 15% - 20% in media

Fertiliser:

Adjust the PH and drainage management. PH testing kits are available at Bunnings.

If the PH is 5 only half of the elements will be absorbed.

If the PH is 6 then all of the elements will be absorbed.

Epiphytes have 2 types of roots – one attaches and the other feeds.

In pots they need high potassium (K) low nitrogen (N) .e.g. N10, P4, K24 in a 9 month slow release product.

Tillandsias need higher nitrogen and less potassium

Guzmanias can grow either terrestrially or epiphytically.

Liquid fertiliser - use at a 1/3 to ½ strength once a month to give colour and boost inflorescence.

Len's Timely Tips

I am sure I may have said this before, but with our really hot days and the sun changing direction, be sure to keep your eyes on your plants which may be in the firing line of the suns rays. If you don't wish to shift them, have a piece of old shadecloth as cover on the really hot days

At the November meeting, the naming of the winning plants in the Novice Section caused confusion to the Editorial team. Let me explain the story of Neoregelia Jaws and the many cousins and by the time I am finished, you will be either a little enlightened or more confused.

Jaws 1, Jaws2, and Yin are all albo marginated plants. The cross is Carolinae x Carcharodon. These all have the same parents as does Yang but the difference here is that Yang is a variegated plant.. These select plants come in many sizes and many different shades of colours. There is another one in this group called Big Bang also albo marginated form, the difference being that it was recrossed with Carcharodon. This plant is a very big version of this group.

On behalf of Sheryl and myself, I would like to wish all our friends a very merry Xmas and prosperous New Year. A very big thank you to all of you for the support at Steven's sale. It was a very successful weekend.

Cheers Waitey.

Steve Flood's presentation (cont'd from p. 4)

Seaweed extract is not a fertiliser but it contains cytokine which mobilises the elements in the plant. Minerals move around faster and are relocated to where they are most needed, enabling cell repair to damaged areas. Stress in a plant can be caused by too much or too little of water, wind, frost, sun. The plant stops producing cytokine.

If a plant is slow growing – underpot. If a plant is fast growing and large – overpot.

Alcantarea	full sun
Aechmea	strong light
Hohenbergia	good light
Ananas -	good drainage
Neoregelia	shade – too much or too little affects leaf colouring
Pitcairnia	full sun, moisture, organic extra
Billbergia	strong light, careful not to overwater, high K
Tillandsia	shade 50% no afternoon sun
Vriesea / Guzmania	high nitrogen, strong light/deep shade but in the shade will lose the colour
Cryptanthus	big range of light intensity, mainly jungle stock, needs shade, rich soil, fertiliser need to high in nitrogen

Fungicide alternative Steve outlined a process of treating fungicide on Tillandsias with organic methods (Liquid Microbe Food – LMF). The process was extremely interesting and it was agreed to invite Steve to a general meeting in 2010 to repeat this information.

Printed by Glasshouse Country News