

Advanced**1st Lou Baker's***Tillandsia brachycaulos***Novice winner and placings****2nd Pat Pennell's**
Neophytum 'galactic warrior'**1st Lesmar Debrincat's**
Guzmania 'nuance'**3rd Mark Pearce's**
Neoregelia 'cane fire' pink

Printed by Glasshouse Country News

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

Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 12

June 2010



Sunday 22nd May saw the running of the Glasshouse Country Sustainability & Garden Expo which gave us a chance to showcase our club. What a great job members did with the bromeliad display. Positive comments were made all day from everyone passing through. All members were kept busy promoting the advantages and enjoyment of growing bromeliads and joining our club. Plant sales were fantastic with more than one comment made about the variety members made available for sale. Congratulations to everybody that made themselves and their plants available for the event.



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No plants were submitted for judging in the advanced section in April

Novice winner and placings

1st Bob McLean's
Tillandsia cyanea



2nd Mark Pearce's
Neoregelia 'Olens X Brazil'

3rd Bob Mc Lean's
Neoregelia 'Treasure Chest'



The Wish list: If you have a plant you wish to own and can't find it, let us know and we will add it to our wish list each issue.

Pat Pennell would like to obtain A *Neoregelia hell fire*, a *Neoregelia angelita* GG and a *Neoregelia shamrock*. If you have any contact Pat on 54387375

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Garden Expo Photos



I would personally like to thank all the members for a job well done lending plants, setting up our display and manning the sales stall. Without your help the day could not have been the success it turned out to be.

Thank you one and all.

Pat Pennell

What's on When in 2010

June 6: 2.00 pm Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society meeting Mary McKillop Centre Beerwah Guest speaker—Nigel Thompson

July 4th: 2.00 pm Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society meeting Mary McKillop Centre Beerwah

August 1st: 2.00 pm Glasshouse Country Bromeliad Society meeting Mark & Donna Pearce's residence 13 Acacia Ave Beerburum

September Saturday 11th 8.30 am - 3pm & Sunday 12th 9.00 am—2pm Noosa Bromeliad Market Noosa Bicentennial Hall. Bicentennial Hall Drive, Sunshine Beach. Free Admission—Bring your camera. Information Ph: 0412 884 116

Contributors to this Issue: Len Waite. Carol Johnson.(FCBS newsletter 1995)

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Len's Timely Tips

1: Winter time being almost a rest time for our bromeliads should give us time to do the things that we say we never have time to do. 2: This can be a fun time and a learning experience, simply fire up your computer, log onto Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. There is enough information on this site to keep anyone busy all Winter. I find the photo index very helpful as a reliable reference guide. 3: Remember to go easy on the water through the cooler months, only water when you know they have had a chance to dry out. Too much can cause crown rot, too little will cause cold damage such as dehydration. 4: I have probably said this before, only take pups that are quite mature and have roots at this time of year.

Happy Bromming
Bye for now

Waitey.

Some Photos From Our Bundaberg Trip



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

Well, we have been out once more flying the society flag.

The expo display team presented a great display. I am not sure that the smaller site did justice to all of your hard work. The range of Bromeliads certainly gave the patrons a view of what can be done with Broms. Well done team.

Averil has tendered her resignation as the Society Librarian, this has created a casual vacancy on the management committee. The management committee offered the position to Donna Windzar, which Donna accepted. Donna will hold the position of Librarian until the AGM in September. Although we have three months to go it is time for members to start looking at members you would like to have on the management committee. As you are no doubt aware all positions will be declared vacant and will need to be refilled. It is time for some new blood to become involved with the management of the Society.

After the April meeting I can now see how you can downsize and still enjoy bromeliads. The range of Tillandsias that Neville Ryan brought along to show was great. It's not as though we have not seen a range of this Genus previously but I think the way Neville presented his information was so entertaining. I know we will be starting to collect Tillandsias in the not too distant future. I can see a lot less bending, a smaller space and less water, with a little patience you will soon experience the beauty of these hardy group of Bromeliads. I am sure we will get a lot of fun out of these.

Please don't forget this is your newsletter so make the effort to assist the newsletter team with your contribution. Remember every one will have a spectacular plant at some time that you can't bring along to enter in the plant of the month so take a snap and send it in to the team. A photo with the plant name attached at the peak of its bloom will make a perfect contribution. So share the beauty of your garden and your plants with all the members.

Happy Growing, Bob

Management Committee

President: Bob McLean

Vice President: Len Waite

Secretary: Pat Tennant

Treasurer: David Binstead

Committee member: Bob Watkins. Librarian: Donna Windzar

Editorial Committee:

Pat Pennell,

Margaret von Konigsmark,
Bob Watkins

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By: Carol Johnson

December 1995 FCBS newsletter

AECHMEA: Each species in the genus should be considered separately since the habitat covers nearly every geographic area where bromeliads are found. The Aechmeas of Brazil, Bolivia & Chile are more hardy than those from Central America, the Caribbean & Amazonian South America. Some require feeding, some are hurt by application of fertilizer. Nearly all do well when mounted provided they are started young, before the plants are heavy, but, remember that mounted plants require daily care indoors. Plant size ranges from very small to very large. Plants which will ultimately be large should be weighted at potting time with rocks in the bottom of the pot. After blooming, many Aechmeas produce colorful, attractive seeds, all of which are edible.

BILLBERGIA: With few exceptions this genus should be protected from freezing. Plants should be underpotted and fertilized very sparingly. Overfeeding produces lush, green growth at the expense of foliage color & it may take 5 generations of pups before color is restored. Those from subgenus *Helicodora* are the least cold hardy. Subgenus *Billbergia* species nearly all bloom during the winter months when their blooms, though fleeting, are welcome.

ANDROLEPIS ANANAS, ARAEOCOCCUS, ORTHOPHYTUM, X NEOPHYTUM: These have all been lumped together since they seem to thrive on similar treatment. *Androlepis* & *Ananas* (Pineapple) are large plants. The others are more manageable in size. All require strong light, rich soil, generous pot size, regular feeding and plenty of moisture. Most prefer warm weather and growth is slowed during winter months.

QUESNELIA, HOHENBERGIA, PORTEA, STREPTOCALYX: Until the switch to *Aechmea* is official, I shall continue to list *Streptocalyx* as a separate genus. There are some big, mean plants in these four genera. *Quesnelia* is the most cold hardy, most surviving outdoors under trees in Central Florida. *Portea* is the next hardiest, while *Hohenbergia* & *Streptocalyx* are always very tender. Strong light & cessation of feeding when the plants are mature produces best foliage color & promotes blooming. Be selective growing *Hohenbergia*. Many have nothing but size to recommend them, having green foliage & colorless blooms. We list only the attractive forms. *Streptocalyx* have very spiny leaves, but are extremely beautiful in bloom. Grow warm, on the dry side & furnish lots of light.

CANISTRUM, CRYPTANTHUS, X CANMEA, NIDULARIUM: Here again, these take similar treatment. *Cryptanthus* are always terrestrial, but the other 3 can be grown mounted. All like rich soil, plenty of moisture, and should be fertilized regularly. A fairly low light level is important. *Crypts* & *X Canmea* do best in 60% shade, the rest tolerate even lower light levels. *Nidulariums* are tolerant of cold, wet conditions and are greatly under-rated. They are great as poolside specimens or under shrubbery in the yard. Because they resemble *Neoregelias*, they are often grown the same and the result is disappointing. Don't be alarmed if they drop lower leaves. That is normal for the genus. Treat *Canistrum* as *Nidularium*.

<http://fcbs.org/>

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NEOREGELIA: Offsets of *Neoregelia* from the same plant, grown by two different people in different areas, can mature with very little resemblance to one another. The plants are very sensitive to light, fertilizer and pot size and these make a world of difference in the finished plant. Most do best when underpotted and underfed, grown on the dry side, and, here in Florida, subjected to as much strong light as they can endure. 50% shade is always safe. Neos do well outdoors in summer, but can pick up a lot of leaves & debris which makes them unsightly. With good growing conditions the Neos give more satisfaction with less work than many other bromeliads. Set offsets upright in an empty pot for at least 10 days to harden off before potting, but keep water in the cup. Off-sets should not be taken or potted during short days.

THE PITCAIRNIOIDEAE: This subfamily was the forerunner of all bromeliads, evolving in the deep past from the grass family. All (*Dyckia*, *Hechtia*, *Pitcairnia*, *Deuterocohnia*, *Fosterella*) are terrestrials requiring copious amounts of water & fertilizer when grown as pot specimens. Either water daily or grow standing in saucers of water. *Dyckia* is from Brazil and very cold hardy. *Hechtias* are native from Texas thru Central America & are extremely tender. *Pitcairnias* are becoming more popular, even though the foliage is often grassy and sloppy. Blooms are spectacular red, yellow, orange. *Pitcairnia* habitat is damp creek banks and shady locations. They seem to enjoy a dormant, dry recess for several months during winter, which forces bloom when watering is resumed. *Dyckias* & *Hechtias* should be grown in strong sunlight, and since they have enormous root systems, need to be overpotted. There are no valid bi-generics in *Pitcairnioideae*.

TILLANDSIA: Collectors visualize *Tillandsias* as dry growing, sun-loving epiphytes. That is the exception rather than the rule. Those with the heaviest coat of peltate (fuzzy) scales will survive dry conditions best, but this is their mechanism for extracting moisture from the air. All of the *Tillandsias* need moisture. In the wild, many grow on tree limbs where they are protected by the foliage, nourished by bird droppings & leaf mold. Do not treat them all the same. Research the habitat and treat accordingly. Greenhouse grown plants require applications of liquid fertilizer. Size span is 1/2 inch to 7 feet.

GUZMANIA: Low light, warm air, plenty of plant food and moist pot space. *Guzmanias* are truly tropical plants and frustrating for many new growers. Neglect of any sort is intolerable. Feed heavily and keep in a constant, stable environment. The *Guzmania* hybrids are easier to grow than the species and usually more spectacular. Grow outdoors at your own risk.

VRIESEA: These are the aristocrats of the bromeliaceae. They come small & huge, with plain green or exotically patterned and colorful, spineless foliage. The plants look fragile, but are probably the hardiest of all bromeliads. They have shallow root systems and should, therefore, be fed thru the leaves with liquid fertilizer. Dry conditions are tolerated better than wet, but surrounding air should be moist and cool. Some like strong light, but the general rule is 60-65% shade. Small to medium-size green leaved *Vrieseas* make the best showing when allowed to clump, and their bloom season is late winter.

FERTILIZER & POTTING SOIL: We add superphosphate & potash to our potting mix and top dress with slow release nitrogen fertilizer only as needed. This has improved the quality of our plants. Just recently, I have begun the practice of introducing some lime (dolomite) into the potting mix when planting bromeliads which are naturally terrestrial. This includes nearly all the *Pitcairnioideae*, plus *Orthophytum* and especially the *Cryptanthus* which is very dependent on the soil mix for good growth.

Everyone has his/her own recipe for potting mix. Whatever works is good enough. I mix like I cook—a little of this and maybe a dash of that, then top with a little Osmocote and also cover that with some bark or sand so it doesn't wash away.

Your contribution to our newsletter can be sent to: bobwatkins69@yahoo.com.au or call 0418 782 538 and we will pick it up from you.