

**ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY
INCORPORATED**

NEWSLINK

July 2022



Tillandsia jalisco-monticola
Steve Wain's winning plant in *Tillandsioideae* in May
Photo by Edwina Wain

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- The Society is, by the holding of meetings, displays and competitions, to provide a forum for the people of the Illawarra region who are interested in the culture and collection of bromeliads.
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ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY INCORPORATED

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BANK DETAILS FOR FEE PAYMENT, ETC: GREAT SOUTHERN BANK; BSB No. 814 282; Account No. 50997160

MEETINGS - The Society meets from 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm on the first Saturday of each month (February to November) at the Berkeley Neighbourhood Centre, Winnima Way, Berkeley

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS - Due 30th June each year: \$15 single/\$25 family.

NEWSLINK ISSUED QUARTERLY - January, April, July, and October and at <http://www.bromeliad.org.au>

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

MONTHLY RAFFLE PRIZE ROSTER: Each rostered member is asked to bring up to five bromeliad plants--or goods related to the cultivation of bromeliads--for the raffle. The quality of plants should comply with the requirements of 'Plants for Sale' and should you be unable to provide items for the raffle on your rostered day please contact the Program Officer (Bob Stephens 04 1283 4985) so that appropriate re-arrangements can be made.

July	-	Glenn Martin, Maureen Wheeler, Judy Hunt, Cheryl Mathews
August	-	David Hastings, Julie Stringer, John Boyd, Isabella Chambers
September	-	Gary Claydon, Jenny Starling, Ana Mallon, Freda Kennedy
October	-	June Smith, Barbara Scott, Beth Clague, Heather Thain
November	-	Beverly Irvine, Dawn Harvey, Ivy Bell, Edwina Wain

MEMBERSHIP FEES: A reminder that membership fees are due and payable by June 30 each year and that you must be a financial member to enter into plant competition, vote both at these competitions and at our AGM, receive copies of Newslink, etc. Our banking details are on page 2 of Newslink if this makes things easier for you to pay.

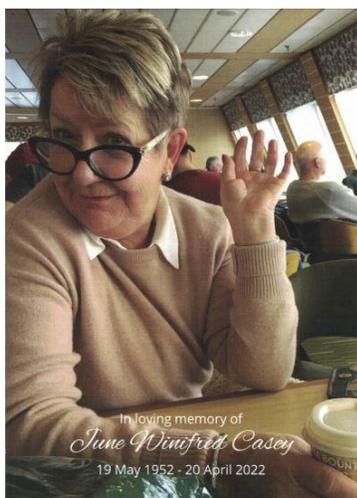
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Notice is given that our Annual General Meeting, with election of Officers, will be held on Saturday, August 6, 2022.

OUR SPRING SHOW IN SEPTEMBER: Yes, it's time again to talk of our Spring Show, which, for the information of newer members, is held in the Uniting Church Hall, Russell Street, Corrimal during the second weekend in September—this year September 10th/11th, with setup from 12.30 pm on Friday, 9th.

As there has been a significant increase in new members since we were last able to hold our Show in 2019, I would like to let you know how much your membership is appreciated and that if you have the time to help out at our Show it is a nice opportunity for getting to know each other better and to find out, perhaps, what your particular interest(s) in bromeliads might be.

There are all types of jobs going over the 3 days—from setting up the display and competition and sales tables on the Friday to packing up on the Sunday afternoon. As we provide tea/coffee/cakes/slices to visitors (plus lunch for workers and judges) on the Saturday, providing goodies and/or some time in the kitchen could be one way of helping or manning the information and raffles tables another.

Sharyn also needs plants suitable for her display—and, also, I hope that you won't feel shy about entering into our competition as every plant is a winner when it gets the attention of our visitors. People coming to our Show love to see all of the different varieties of bromeliads that we have in our collections—so come, be part of the team, and help to make this year a very special event.



VALE - JUNE CASEY

It was with the greatest sadness and shock that we learned of June's passing on April 20 as it all seemed to happen so quickly after her cancer diagnosis in October last.

June was the bright, effervescent, smiley face at our Welcome Desk, preparer of the special dishes for our Show time lunches, and to me, personally, a wonderful friend. June was also a nature lover, taking frequent trips into the nearby Royal National Park and having a love for the birds, tadpoles/frogs that live there. Her cats were also very spoilt!

She is sadly missed by her partner and fellow Illawarra Bromeliad Society member, Brian Smith, and, as we heard from all those attending her funeral service, her generous nature will also be greatly missed by her work colleagues and friends, as we will all be the poorer without her.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION – THE MERI STEFANIDAKIS MEMORIAL TROPHY: We recognise that there are many plants that cannot be entered in the monthly competitions because they are too big, or growing in the ground, or in flower at the wrong time, and so in 2018 Noel introduced a competition for photographs of these plants, to be judged by the members at our November meeting.

For those of you new to our Society the Meri Stefanidakis Memorial Trophy was thought to be an appropriate way to honour our dear member, Meri, in some way and the Photographic Competition seemed the ideal choice as Meri had such a flair for photography and art work. Her friends, Beth and Jim Clague and Monica De Clouett proposed and donated this trophy in her memory.

The competition was run in 2018 and 2019 when it was won by Michael Drury (2018) and Noel Kennon (2019), but now, after COVID (hopefully), we return this year to this competition and the rules are set out below.

1. The competition is being held specifically for plants that flower at times that do not coincide with the monthly competitions or plants that are too large to be transported to the meeting room.
2. The Society invites members to photograph such plants during the period February to October.
3. For each plant, two photographs—A and B—are required and must be taken on the same day.
4. Photograph A is to be of the entire plant and photograph B is to be the flower. For large plants, a size scale of some kind must be included in photograph A.
5. Mostly, it is those plants which have prominent flowers that are eligible subjects for the competition.
6. Plants grown specifically for foliage are not eligible subjects for the competition: such plants include, but are not restricted to, neoregelias, cryptanthus and some vrieseas.
7. Entries photographed on days coinciding with, or nearly coinciding with, monthly competitions may not be eligible as the plants could have been entered in the competitions.
8. The photographs may be printed by the entrant or may be printed commercially and are to be post-card size (i.e., 10 cm x 15 cm), with or without a border.
9. Each photograph of the pair (A and B) must have a label on the back setting out the appropriate information.
10. This information is:
 - Photograph A or Photograph B
 - The name of the entrant
 - The name of the plant
 - The date on which the photograph was taken
11. Every member is eligible to enter the Competition and is permitted up to three entries.
12. Entries comprising two photographs—A and B—are to be submitted in a blank envelope at the November General Meeting.
13. The entries are to be submitted to the Competitions Officer (Sharyn Baraldi) who will arrange for the eligibility of all entries to be assessed.
14. The eligible entries will be displayed at the Christmas Party in December.
15. The entries will be judged by popular vote and each member may vote for three entries.
16. As far as possible, judging should be concerned with the appearance of the plant and flower rather than the quality of the photographs.
17. The winner will be the entry receiving the highest number of votes.
18. The owner of that entry will receive an appropriate prize.

April 2, 2022 – Competition Plant Results

Open:

1 st	Bob Stephens	<i>Hohenbergia correia-araujoi</i>
2 nd	Bob Stephens	<i>Nidularium fulgens</i>
2 nd	Bob Stephens	<i>Neoregelia 'Shamrock'</i>
2 nd	Suzanne Burrows	<i>Guzmania 'Stephanie'</i>
3 rd	Cheryl Mathews	<i>Neoregelia 'Blackout'</i>
3 rd	Ann Kennon	<i>Dyckia 'Starfish'</i>
3 rd	Ann Kennon	<i>Dyckia 'Port Wine'</i>
3 rd	Suzanne Burrows	<i>Cryptanthus 'Marble Green'</i>
3 rd	Suzanne Burrows	<i>xNiduregelia 'Something Special'</i>

Novice

1 st	Judy Hunt	<i>Neoregelia 'Small World'</i>
2 nd	Judy Hunt	<i>Neoregelia 'Painted Desert'</i>
3 rd	Judy Hunt	<i>Neoregelia 'Break of Day' X N. 'Sweet Dreams'</i>

Tillandsioideae

1 st	Bob Stephens	<i>Tillandsia crocata</i>
2 nd	Suzanne Burrows	<i>Tillandsia caerulea</i>

May 7, 2022 – Competition Plant Results

1 st	Cheryl Mathews	<i>Neoregelia 'ItsaGoodie'</i>
1 st	Steve Wain	<i>Aechmea orlandiana 'Red Line'</i>
1 st	Suzanne Burrows	<i>Guzmania sanguinea 'Tricolor'</i>
2 nd	Bob Stephens	<i>Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman'</i>
3 rd	Bob Stephens	<i>Aechmea orlandiana</i>
3 rd	John Toolan	<i>Neoregelia</i>

Novice

1 st	David Hastings	<i>Billbergia 'Kolan Opal Joy'</i>
2 nd	Judy Hunt	<i>Neoregelia concentrica X carolinae</i>
3 rd	Judy Hunt	<i>Neoregelia 'Red River'</i>
3 rd	Judy Hunt	<i>Neoregelia 'Groves Red Tiger'</i>

Tillandsioideae

1 st	Steve Wain	<i>Tillandsia jalisco-monticola</i>
2 nd	Suzanne Burrows	<i>Tillandsia stricta 'Bak'</i>
3 rd	Steve Wain	<i>Tillandsia leiboldiana</i>

June 4, 2022 – Competition Plant Results

Open

1 st	Suzanne Burrows	<i>Vriesea ospinae</i>
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Novice

1 st	David Hastings	<i>Aechmea recurvata var. benrathii</i>
2 nd	David Hastings	<i>Billbergia 'Our Rena'</i>
2 nd	Judy Hunt	<i>Neoregelia 'Lucifer'</i>
3 rd	Judy Hunt	<i>Neoregelia concentrica X carolinae</i>

Tillandsioideae

1 st	Ann Kennon	<i>Tillandsia jucunda</i>
2 nd	Judy Hunt	<i>Tillandsia 'Eric Knobloch'</i>
3 rd	Julie Stringer	<i>Tillandsia stricta</i>

GROWING BROMELIADS FROM SEED

By David Hastings (Notes from a talk given by David at our June, 2022 meeting)

What you will need:

- Viable seed: mature seed that is not too old, has been stored correctly and is free from disease.
- A takeaway container with a lid, a label, a marking pen and an HB pencil for the label.
- A soilless potting medium that is able to hold moisture well, such as peat moss, sphagnum moss or coconut coir.



Bromeliad seeds: Aechmea recurvata var. recurvata

Method:

- Moisten growing medium and place in a growing container.
- Sprinkle seed onto medium, then spray lightly to wet seed and make good contact with medium.
- Do not cover them; bromeliad seeds require light to germinate.
- Place in a warm, well-lit position. Some bottom heat (heat mat) may be needed for fast, uniform germination as most seeds require a soil temp of 21C.

Watering:

- Watering is not needed due to condensation in the sealed container.
- Water only when seedlings have their first true leaves and you have periodically removed the lid to let them dry out. Only then should you spray them lightly.
- They must dry out before watering to allow air movement throughout the potting medium.



Watering by condensation

Potting up:

- Potting up should be done as soon as seedlings can be handled.
- Seedlings should be placed into small containers or trays so as not to hold too much water and to be able to dry out weekly.
- Place in a well-lit airy position.
- Protect from pests.



Seedlings potted in a tray

Potting mix:

- Potting mix for epiphytes should have an air content of 40 – 50% v/v and 30 – 40% v/v for most other bromeliads.
- A mix of 2 parts coarse pine bark, 1 part peat moss and 1 part coarse perlite is a good starting point and then you can adjust for your conditions--e.g., more bark for drainage, or peat moss or perlite for moisture holding.

Fertiliser:

- Seeds contain all the nutrients they need to germinate.
- Fertilise only after seedlings have their true leaves and then only ¼ to ½ strength, alternating with water.

FOR EVERY RULE, THERE IS AN EXCEPTION! - [CRYPTANTHUS WREATH]

By Jay Thurrott (Reprinted from FCBS newsletter, February 2016, Vol. 36[1])



There are lots of “Rules of Thumb” for successfully growing bromeliads—rules like ‘don’t separate offsets if they’re less than one half to two-thirds the size of the parent plant’, don’t try to grow the strictly epiphytic varieties (like *Tillandsia duratii*) in a potting mix’ and don’t try to mount the strictly terrestrials (like *Ananas* or *Cryptanthus* varieties) without a potting mix’ and, for most of us, these are good rules to follow. Of course, we also hear that ‘rules are made to be broken’ and in the case of at least one species of *Cryptanthus* Rose Vincel of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society has clearly

demonstrated that a very attractive Christmas wreath can be made by using *Cryptanthus bivittatus* and a bit of ingenuity.

Rose first purchased a basic wreath made of twisted and woven vines from a local craft store (wait until after Christmas to buy this and it will be 50% off!). Next, she took a plastic tray with an open lattice work bottom (large enough to hold the wreath without it being too crowded), [put in several layers of] newspapers and thoroughly watered the papers. She prefers to use collected rainwater rather than tap water and, depending on your source of water, this may be another good ‘rule of thumb’ to add to your collection.



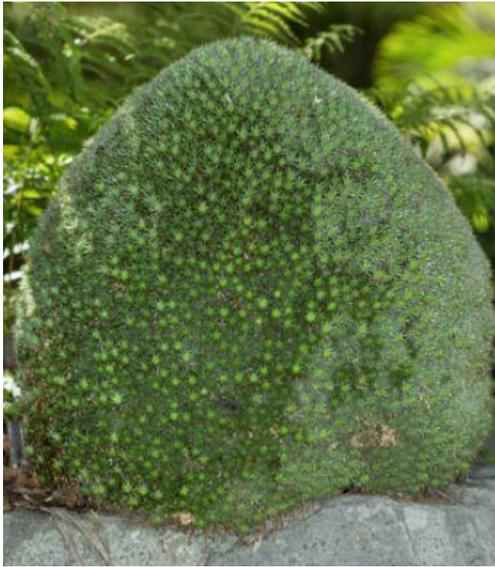
She then inserted multiple plants of *Cryptanthus bivittatus* between the woven vines in the wreath and placed the wreath on top of the newspapers—cryptanthus side up. The tray with the wreath on top of the papers was watered frequently over the course of many months and placed in a bright location in her yard—possibly breaking another rule of thumb that cryptanthus should be grown under low light conditions. In a surprisingly short time roots from the cryptanthus plants began poking their way through the wreath to reach the wetted newspapers and, by doing so, the plants became securely anchored into the wreath.

As one of the more ‘prolific pupper’ varieties of *Cryptanthus*, each of the original plants produced many offsets which she separated and inserted into more areas of the wreath until it was completely covered in plants. By the time the Holiday Season arrived Rose had a beautiful Christmas wreath completely covered in permanently rooted cryptanthus--making this a display that she can enjoy year after year.



SOMETHING A BIT DIFFERENT - DIFFERENT WAYS OF GROWING

Photographs reprinted from various issues of the San Diego Bromeliad Society's newsletter, *The Bromeliad Blade*.



Tiny green rosettes of Deuterocohnia brevifolia cover every inch of this big boulder at the San Diego Zoo.



Dyckias in the garden of Roberto Menescal, Brazil. Photograph by Robert Kopfstein (September 2019)



Orthophytum 'Copper Penny'. From The Blade, June 2017



Tillandsia usneoides (Spanish Moss) spheres.



Tillandsia balbisiana (?) growing on a roof in Nicaragua
 Photograph by Scott Sandel, *The Blade*, December 2017



Framed by redwood 4x4s backed by marine plywood in a "sandwich design" of chicken wire covered with sphagnum moss - if anyone wanted to do one.
 Photograph by Scott Sandel, *The Blade*, August 2018

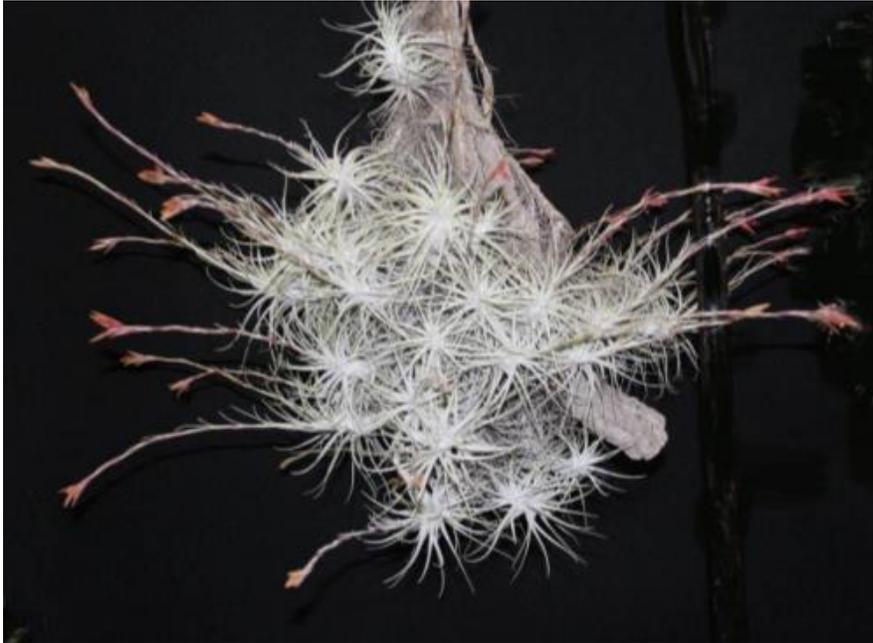


Hechtia argentea – looking perfect in a tall planter where it can spread its tentacles at will.
The Blade, October 2019.

TIPS FOR PREPARING BROMELIADS FOR SHOWS – MOUNTED PLANTS

By Theresa M. Bert, PhD (Reprinted from FCBS newsletter, May 2018, Vol. 38[2])

(Photo: *Tillandsia tectorum*, grown by Bill Tweet—photo by Andrew Wilson--from the Bromeliad Society of San Diego's *Bromeliad Blade*, July 2017, Volume L11[7])



In the last issue of the FCBS newsletter, I shared some ideas about why we bother to enter bromeliads in shows, confessed my early-career proficiency in getting yellow ribbons, disclosed some of my growing tips, and provided some guidelines for preparing potted bromeliads for shows. Here I'll talk about the steps I take to prepare mounted bromeliads for shows.

In most standard BSI shows, mounted bromeliads fall into the Horticultural Display

category. Here we'll focus on bromeliads that can be displayed in that category. The Horticultural Display category includes bromeliads mounted on wood or other natural (e.g., rock) or manmade (e.g., ceramic items) materials and bromeliads grown without potting media in open, natural (e.g., wooden slat) or man-made (e.g., clay) baskets. Importantly, the mounting medium should not be decorative. That's a different category. In this article, "mount" and its derivatives refer to bromeliads attached to or growing in wood or other media, without a potting medium. Requirements for the Horticultural Display category include evidence that the plant has been grown on or in the mounting material and is established there. Judges look for evidence in the form of roots attached to the host material or other evidence of establishment and longevity.

The next commonly mounted bromeliads are members of the genus *Tillandsia* and its closely related genera (numerous new species in the subfamily *Tillandsioideae* have been moved to new genera (check them out at <http://www.bromeliad.org.au/news/DD0217.htm>); but many types of epiphytic bromeliads grow quite well when mounted, including aechmeas, neoregelias, and billbergias.

Preparing mounted bromeliads for shows begins when you mount the plant. First, use a mount (e.g., piece of wood) or basket that's of appropriate size. Big bromeliads need big mounts or baskets, and vice versa. Think about the size of the plant after it's multiplied for a few generations and how you want it to appear on or in its mount. Do you want it to cover the mounting medium, to spill over the sides of a basket? Do you want the mount to show around the plant, perhaps to enhance the overall appearance? Also, some bromeliads make pups in an upward direction; others in a downward direction. Mount your bromeliad so that it has room to grow in the appropriate direction.

Before you mount the plant attach the hanger. There are several ways to make nifty hangers, but those are best explained in a workshop. Of all that I've tried, making a hook using sturdy galvanized steel wire threaded through a hole I've drilled in a wooden mount or modifying an S-shaped hanger to hook at the base of the wood and using cable ties to strap it to the wood are the easiest and fastest. Of course, there are ready-made hangers for baskets available at most hardware stores and plant nurseries.

There are several ways to mount bromeliads on wood or materials. I've tried attaching the plant with Liquid Nails, fence post U-shaped nails, plastic-coated wire, and cable ties. My favorite is to use cable ties—quick, stable and rust-proof. You may need to drill holes in the wood and thread the cable ties through the holes to get a tight fit. Importantly, try not to choke the basal leaves when you mount the plant. Try to attach the plant at the stem level, below the leaves. Also, using two cable ties separated by a bit of space on the stem will ensure stability. If the plant has no stem, consider putting it in a basket. It can take up to 6 months for the plant to strongly adhere to the mount, so planning ahead for this initial step is critical if you would like to present the plant in a show.

Then, let the plant grow. The basal leaves die as the plant grows, particularly on many tillandsias. To prevent this, mist or drench the plant with water every 2-3 days; when the atmosphere is hot and dry, daily is even better. It's important to put the plant in a place where the exposed parts of its leaves will dry quickly or it may rot. You're trying to strike a delicate balance between giving the plant enough moisture to keep all of the leaves and allowing it to dry quickly enough to avoid rotting. I keep my best mounted tillandsias suspended in an airy place near an outdoor faucet and spray them each time I'm using the hose attached to the faucet. In 2017, four of the five mounted tillandsias I put into the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale won awards, including two Best of Division and the Best of Show. When you find good places for your mounted plants, never move them!

As you would do for potted plants, about 6-8 weeks before the show, scan your mounted bromeliads for potential show plants. Take extra care to mist or lightly water those several times per week. Trim off any old plants or protruding old-plant bases and any errant roots. Don't wait until the last minute to do this step because the trimming takes a few weeks to weather, which makes it far less noticeable. If possible, also trim out plants that have bloomed, or trim the old blooms out in a way that minimizes the noticeability of the cut end. Check the wood or mounting medium for extraneous growth such as moss, algae, ferns, or other bromeliad species that may have colonized. Clean those off as much as possible. The presence of any of these can reduce your score for the plant in the judging. Technically, you can have more than one bromeliad species growing on a mount, but in 30 years of observing, growing, and judging bromeliads, I have never seen multi-species mounted bromeliads do well in the Horticultural Display category.

Just before the show, strip or trim any dead leaves or dead plants, ensure that your mounting medium is clean, and show your plants. Mounted bromeliads are rare in some shows. Having a stash of mounted bromeliads of show quality can be very beneficial if you enjoy exhibiting bromeliads in competitions. Even if you aren't inclined to compete in bromeliad shows, you can enjoy showing your beautiful mounted bromeliads to your fellow society members at meetings.

Lastly, some tillandsioids never make roots. Growing them for shows can be a bit problematic. How would they stably attach to the medium, particularly a piece of wood? How would the judges know that the plant had been growing on or in the mount long enough to be firmly established? Tillandsioids that grow very few or no roots should be grown in slat baskets rather than attached to wood or other media that they would hang from. These bromeliads grow beautifully in wooden slat baskets, eventually spilling over the top and growing in between the slats, using cable ties which can be removed when the plant has grown sufficiently to block big spaces in the basket.

Mounted bromeliads can be attached to or hung from trees, fences, or racks. They provide an opportunity to grow more bromeliads of different types and to decorate vertical surfaces with beautiful bloomers. They're among the easiest to grow because problems with weeds are minimized. They can also be taken indoors when blooming to decorate the house. All that's needed is a place to hang them. I keep a hook on the wall just for blooming mounted bromeliads. So hang some of your bromeliads and have fun!

ILLAWARRA BROMELIAD SOCIETY INC.'S

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SHOW

SEPTEMBER 10TH AND 11TH, 2022

SCHEDULE



- **CATEGORY I - DIVISION I: HORTICULTURAL - OPEN**

Class

A	<i>Aechmea</i> - Individual specimen plant
B	<i>Billbergia</i> - Individual specimen plant or multiples permitted
C	<i>Neoregelia</i> - Individual specimen plant
D	<i>Neoregelia</i> - miniature – Individual specimen plant (Not to exceed 200 mm/8" diameter)
E	* <i>Tillandsioideae</i> - Individual or multiples permitted – May be potted or mounted
F	* <i>Vriesea/Guzmania</i> - Individual specimen plant
G	Bromeliad not listed in 'A' to 'F' - Individual specimen plant or multiples permitted

- **CATEGORY I - DIVISION II: HORTICULTURAL - NOVICE**

Class

H	<i>Aechmea</i> - Individual specimen plant
I	<i>Billbergia</i> - Individual specimen plant or multiples permitted
J	<i>Neoregelia</i> - Individual specimen plant
K	<i>Neoregelia</i> - miniature - Individual specimen plant [Not to exceed 200 mm/8" diameter]
L	* <i>Tillandsioideae</i> - Individual or multiples permitted - May be potted or mounted
M	* <i>Vriesea/Guzmania</i> - Individual specimen plant
N	Bromeliad not listed in 'H' to 'M' - Individual specimen plant or multiples permitted.

- **CATEGORY I - DIVISION III: HORTICULTURAL - DISPLAY AND MULTIPLE PLANTS**

Class

O	Colony of Multiple or Clump Plants--e.g., <i>Aechmea</i> , <i>Neoregelia</i> , <i>Vriesea</i>
P	*Mounted <i>Tillandsias</i> – minimum of two (2) established plants which may be the same or different
Q	Mounted Bromeliad(s) other than <i>Tillandsias</i> – Established plant(s) which may be the same or different.

- **CATEGORY II - ARTISTIC**

Class

R	Basket or Decorative Container – minimum of three (3) plants which may be the same or different. No embellishments.
S	Bromeliad Garden – Any Container – Embellishments may be used.
T	Artistic Arrangement – to consist of predominantly bromeliad material – Embellishment may be used.

- *This class includes *Tillandsia* and allies--i.e., those species affected by the recent name changes, including *Barfussia*, *Josemania*, *Lemeltonia*, *Pseudalcantarea*, *Racinaea* and *Wallisia*.
- *This class includes *Vriesea* and allies--i.e., those species affected by the recent name changes, including *Goudaea*, *Lutheria*, *Stigmatodon* and *Zizkaea*.
- In classes covering "Individual Specimen Plants", pups are permissible on the adult plant only if they are so small that their removal might jeopardize their survival.
- When allowing for multiple plants the key word is "interconnected"—i.e., they must all have a common root system.
- In horticultural parlance the key word is 'home', meaning that this is where the plant(s) has been growing in a natural fashion, either potted or mounted.
- In Category I individual specimen plants (excepting *tillandsias*) should be potted, unless otherwise noted.
- Pots for entries in Category I, Divisions I, II and III, must be either black or dark green plastic. However, exceptions are provided for classes 'G' and 'N' where non-decorative terracotta [clay] pots may be used for succulent bromeliads such as *dyckias*, *hechtias*, etc. and in Division III, class 'O', hanging (non-decorative) baskets are acceptable.