orlandiana

Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Volume no. 49, Issue no. 7

Next meeting: July 20, 2022
Where: Orlando Garden Club, 710 E. Rollins St., Orlando, FL 32803
6:30 –7:00 is time for displaying and purchasing plants
Program officially begins at 7:00 pm

CONTENTS

Visit the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Website at:
www.bromeliadsorlando.com
You will find an activities page that lists our speakers for upcoming meetings, downloadable copies of newletters, plant photos, a map to Leu Gardens, and more! This is a great place for the public to find out about our Society or send us a message. Check it out!

The President's Message

I am always acquiring new broms. That means I am always having to decide on some to re-home. There is only so much room. I hate to part with any. They become old friends. The fact is, however, that a lot of my broms aren't all that pretty compared to the amazing ones hybridizers produce today. Undoubtedly, there will be far more super beauties in the decades ahead. It is the natural consequence of hybridizers creating ever more complex hybrids.

The first hybrids were 'simple', just the offspring of two species. When two species are crossed, it is common for the offspring to be pretty much uniform in appearance. Occasionally there will be an oddball, but overall the same dominant/recessive gene combinations occur in each of the offspring. So, the phenotype (what it looks like) is uniform. However, the genotype (which you cannot see) is mixed up within the individual plants.

I got to thinking about all this after I gave someone a small Vriesea I had raised from seed. It was a cross of *V. fosteriana* x *V. hieroglyphica* crossed back with a sibling that looked identical. The parent plants of my cross were hybrids and they looked pretty much alike. Each of them had one full set of chromosomes from *V. fosteriana* and one full set from *V. hieroglyphica*. When they were crossed with one another, it was not the same as the original cross despite there being the same two species involved. The offspring did not get a full set of the chromosomes from each of the original species parents. They got mixed up genetics. While most were sort of similar to one another, each was also a little different, and they were different from their parents.

The reason for the differences is because chromosomes come in pairs. When the reproductive cells form, each pair sorts out independently. Let's say *fosteriana* has two pairs of chromosomes, **AA** and **BB**; and that *hieroglyphica* has two pairs **aa** and **bb**. The chromosome combination of *fosteriana* would be **AA-BB**. It would produce reproductive cells which were all **AB** (1 chromosome from each pair); and in *hieroglyphica* it would be **aa-bb,** producing reproductive cells all with **ab**. When the two species were crossed, there were two sets of reproductive cells **AB** and **ab**, which would produce a plant with a chromosome combination **Aa-Bb**.

So, when I crossed the hybrid with itself, there were reproductive cells with four different chromosome combinations: **AB**, **Ab**, **aB** and **ab**. When these mixed together to produce the seedlings I was raised, there could be nine different combinations: **AA-BB**, **Aa-BB**, **aa-BB**, **AA-Bb**, **Aa-Bb**, **aa-Bb**, **AA-bb**, **Aa-bb**, **aa-bb**. To determine the number of possible combinations, you multiply 3 for each set of chromosome pairs. Considering just two chromosomes pairs, the number of combinations is 3 x 3 = 9. If we considered 3 chromosome pairs, then the possible number of combinations would be 3 x 3 x 3 = 27.

However, this is very simplistic. Vrieseas have 25 pairs of chromosomes. Multiplying 3 times itself twenty-five times results in there being 847,288,609,443 different possible combinations. (Feel free to check my math and let me know if you get a different result!) And, that is just the chromosomes. Each chromosome carries hundreds or thousands of genes. This does not mean that there would be 847 billion different looking plants. Many traits are not visible. Nonetheless, there would be a wide range of variation that is visible to the eye.

Now, imagine what would happen if I raised up those seedlings and crossed them with a hybrid of, say, *V. fenestralis* x *V. gigantea*. And a decade later cross the offspring of that cross with a hybrid of *V. platynema* x *V. schwackeana*. The math is astounding. There are more possibilities than the mind can comprehend. That is what is happening today. When complex hybrids are crossed with other complex hybrids, you could have 16 or more species being mixed together. As the decades roll on, there will be ever more complex hybrids crossed with one another. The potential for amazing new creations becomes staggering.

Neoregelias are the most popular broms in Florida. There are 113 species currently recognized, with many of these having multiple varieties and forms. So, how many possibilities are there? You do the math. The real limit is the space hybridizers have for growing out their seedlings to a size that allows them to select out the plant that surpasses all the others. Some traits are not noticeable until the plant blooms, or when it pups. Nobody has the space to raise a trillion broms to full bloom. There are hundreds of thousands of undiscovered treasures still lurking in those genes.

Enough rambling. It's July. It's hot. And, soon I need to re-home some broms… all because some hybridizer did it again.

June Minutes

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2022

A member's market preceded the June meeting.

President Mike McMahon convened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Tim Dreggors, Vice President and Program Chair, introduced the guest speaker Dr. Howard Frank, professor emeritus, UF/IFAS Entomology and Nematology Department in Gainesville, FL.

Dr. Frank did a presentation about the *Metamasius callizona* (Chevrolat) also known as the "Evil Weevil" by bromeliad enthusiasts throughout Florida. This weevil is responsible for the destruction of a large population of native bromeliads in the state of Florida.

Mike McMahon, President, announced that member's market plants were still available for sale and reminded everyone to check out the different Cryptanthus brought in by members for the Plant of the Month tables.

Refreshment break was taken, with a variety of dishes, snacks and desserts provided by members and laid out by Hospitality Coordinator, Joe Ventura.

Business Meeting was called to order by President Mike McMahon at around 8pm.

Liesl Haas, Secretary, introduced new members and guests:
-Sandy Wirth - new member
-Dolly Charron - new member
-Jill Charron - guest
-Jane Gutherman - guest

Joyce Gibault gave the treasurer's report.

President Mike McMahon reminded everyone that the July meeting will be held in the Orlando Garden Club and directed everyone to refer to the map printed for directions on how to get there and where to park.

The July program will be different in that there will be four speakers with mini programs.

-John Boardman - Catopsis
-Mike Saunders - TBD
-Mary Anne – Name Tags and Nomenclature
-Steve Beaudoin – Mini Neoregelias

President Mike McMahon congratulated and thanked everyone who was involved and volunteered in the very successful World Bromeliad Conference.

Gregg Kolojeski, the co-chair of the World Bromeliad Conference spoke about the success of the event. The conference had the highest number of registrants compared to the last two conferences, the rare plant auction and the plant sales were both tremendous successes and came out much better than expected. The plant sales alone grossed about $100,000 in credit card sales. The big buyers were from Puerto Rico, Trinidad and New Zealand. Venue for the next World Bromeliad Conference is still being decided but rumor has it that it is going to be in Miami.

This is Joe Ventura's last meeting as hospitality coordinator. He has done a great job over the past 6 months. We need a couple of people to step up and take the hospitality chair role.

The storage cabinets need to be cleaned out as the Leu Garden renovations will start in July. Joyce, Katherine and Marilyn are taking home some of the stuff for two months for safe keeping and will bring them back in August after the renovations.

Old Business – none.

New Business – none.

May meeting minutes were published in the Orlandiana Newsletter. No corrections were made and they stand approved as filed. Joe Ventura moved the motion to approve.

A few members brought in some beautiful bromeliads for Show and Tell.

John Boardman
Rokautskyia microglazioui - won the Bob Whitman Best Cryptanthus Group Species Award at the WBC, winner of WBC Division 3 Non Blooming (BSI Silver Medallion)
Lutheria splendens - winner of WBC Division 2 Multiple Blooming (Silver Medallion)
Cryptanthus 'Pink Flamingo'
Cryptanthus 'Living Color'
Neoregelia 'Super Sonic Boom' - voted the WBC Most Favorite Plant of the Plant Show Tim Dreggors

Neoregelia 'Wild Obsession'
Neoregelia 'Tidal Wave'
Neoregelia 'Hypershock'
Neoregelia 'Hellacious'
Neoregelia 'Tesla'
Mike Sanders
Puya 'Cayata'
x *Rokautsincoraea 'Blazing Bonsai'* (bigeneric) Katherine Vaccaro
Tillandsia 'Kitty Kat'
Mike McMahon
Vriesea lubbersii
Vriesea lubbersii x V. 'Voodoo Magic'

The meeting concluded with the drawings for door prize and raffle plants donated by members.

Adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Liesl Haas, Secretary

Member Market

We will be having a Member Market instead of the secret bid silent auction. Any member can bring one or more broms to sell. (At Member Markets, the sellers are selling on their own account. The society does not get a cut.). **If you plan to bring more than a handful of plants to sell, let me know.** I'll have more tables set up if it seems we will need them. ….It will be a good time to sell your extras to make room for all the new ones you got at the World Conference. (And, fill the door prize & raffle tables, too.) There will be no 'secret bid auction' in July.

JULY Speakers: A SMORGASBORD

The July program is a series of mini-programs. The speakers are all members.

Steve Beaudoin is going to show and tell about some of his mini-sized Neoregelias. Steve was drafted to do this mini-talk. He kept declining, but we refused to accept his "no". He has a great collection of minis anyone would enjoy glimpsing. For 10 minutes or so, he

will talk about some of his minis and his experience with them. It is going to be a real treat.

Pam Marion will talk about nomenclature and plant labels. This could be a full-length program! By packing the main points into 10-12 minutes, Pam will keep it interesting and help clear some of the confusion. There are sure to be lots of questions, but save them for the break because we have to move to the next speaker.

John Boardman will talk on Catopsis. This genus is seldom the subject of a program. The species are too alike to fill an hour talking about them. Not many hobbyists grow them, but they make a neat addition to a collection. John will educate us about these oddballs and do it in only about 10 minutes.

Mike Saunders is going to present a “Bromeliad Word Potpourri". Uncertain about some of the technical words you hear? Mike will be talking about some terms from the new BSI Bromeliad Glossary, like some new genera, changes of the names of some familiar broms, and terms that strike his fancy.

There will be a lot squeezed into the usual 45 minutes. Something for beginners and something for the experienced. It is sure to be informative and fun.

Plant of the Month

Our plant of the month is *QUESNELIA MARMORATA*, named for M. Quesnel, French consul to French Guiana. *Q. marmorata* grows in eastern Brazil mainly as an epiphyte in forested areas.
There are two cultivars: 'Tim Plowman' and 'Rafael Oliveira'.

'Tim Plowman' was wild collected in Brazil in 1983 and named for botanist Timothy Plowman. This plant is popular with Bromeliad growers for its upright vase-like shape with tight curling leaves. At plant shows, I've been asked how I curl the leaves. I usually joke with hair curlers, and then I let them know it was done by Mother Nature.

' Tim Plowman ‘
photo by Eloise Beach

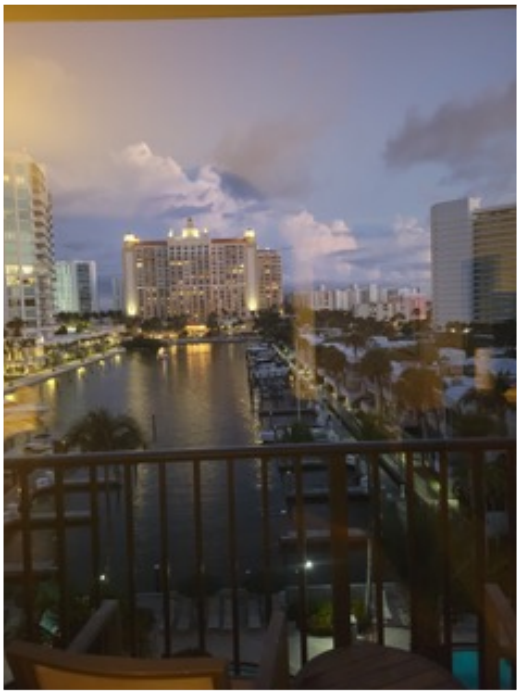
'Rafael Oliveira' is by far one the most stunning Bromeliads with beautiful yellow variegation and a pink cast to the leaves. This is a favorite of mine and is a real show stopper. This cultivar was discovered by Rafael Oliveira in Brazil and was named to honor him by Chester Skotak. Chester is responsible for this variegated beauty being in cultivation in the USA, but that's another bizarre story involving a suitcase.

'Rafael Oliveira'
photo courtesy John Boardman

What Is It?

This brom has a span of about 24 inches. It is starting to pup between the leaves; unlike other broms that pup at the base of the plant.
Do you have an idea of what this brom might be? Please reply to Dave and Cathy Schubert at email chefgrill@bellsouth.net if you have any ideas.
Thanks!!

WBC Photos



Photos courtesy John Boardman

Puya 'Cayata'
Mike Saunders

x sincorthotanthus 'Blazing Bonsai'
Mike Saunders

Tim Dreggors in the blue shirt and his wife, Diana, behind the glass door. (She was recruited to take tags.)

2022 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
MEMBERSHIP FORM

_____NEW MEMBER _____RENEWAL

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name(s)_____

Address _____

City, State Zip +4 _____

Phone /Email _____

$15 for one member, plus $5 for each additional family member at the same address.
Name Tags are optional. The price for a name tag is $7 per member.
If so desired please insert number ordered _____ $_____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED $_____ Make checks payable to BSCF
Either **bring payment to the next meeting. OR** If mailing please send to:
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, PO Box 568872 Orlando, FL 32856-8872.

Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month, from 6:30-9:00 pm (buy plants from the speaker between 6:30-7pm) at Leu Gardens, 1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments, and door prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter. Please come join us!

Treasurer: Date_____ Check #_____ Cash $ _____

Officers

President .....Mike McMahon ..... michael.mcmahon@akerman.com
Vice President ..... Tim Dreggors .....tdreggors@gmail.com
Secretary ..... Liesl Haas ..... liesl.haas@cfl.rr.com
Treasurer ..... Joyce Gibault .....gardengal1022@yahoo.com
FCBS Rep.....Mike McMahon ..... michael.mcmahon@akerman.com
Mike Saunders..... presbyter@cfl.rr.com
Editor .....John Vecchitto..... lordvec54@gmail.com
Hospitality .....VACANT.
Welcome Table/Raffles.....Robin Norton ..... robin407@att.net
Librarian .....Telka diFate .....mywc2016@gmail.com
Membership Secretary.... Marilyn Howser..... marilynhowser@gmail.com
Webmaster .....Greg Kolojeski.....gkolojeski@gmail.com

 Please send all correspondence to the address below:

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc.

PO Box 536961

Orlando, FL 32853-6961

facebook.com/BromeliadSocietyOfCentralFlorida

BSCF is a nonprofit Florida corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization.

Donations to this society are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.
BSCF is an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International, Inc., and a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. and the Cryptanthus Society.