

BromeliAdvisory

June 2013



Tillandsia victoriana – Photo by Robert Meyer

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BromeliAdvisory

May 2013

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What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

JUNE 18, 2013 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Alan Herndon

RAFFLE TABLE: Miguel Nicolas

FOOD: Usual Suspects

Speaker

Our own Alan Herndon will deliver a speech he recently created. Hybridizing bromeliads. Many of you interested in the matter will learn the basics of how to create more bromeliads than your yard can ever withstand. Really interested? Then brush up with some classic article. In 1996 Mulford Foster wrote "Pollination and Hybridization" which you can find at <http://fcbs.org/articles/foster.htm>. BSI members can



go online and pull down another article in the Journal of the Bromeliad Society's Vol. 58 Issue 4, p172 – Jul/Aug2008.



President's Message by Barbara Partagas

In South Florida we are blessed with a year round growing season. Our Northern relatives lament about how short their growing season is and how they can't wait to set seeds in the Spring.

Although we have to be vigilant in winter and avoid freezes and winds, we have mild enough winters to work with our bromeliads. Then comes the hurricane season with its set of challenges. We have a plan for our homes and families. So should we prepare our plants. If the majority of the plants are in the ground, they will "weather" the storm. Those of us who have our collections in pots or on patios or hanging must decide which plants to bring in and which to sequester or leave to face the elements.

Take some time this hurricane season to make a list, prioritizing your most prized and valuable plants. It will make it easier to decide well in advance of bad weather what needs to be done. Once heavy rains cease, remember to dump out the excess water in the cups of bromeliads to prevent rot. Let's hope for no land bound hurricanes this year. Be prepared and stay safe.

Barbara Partagas

In Case You Missed It by Robert Meyer

Chuck McCartney, a fourth generation Floridian, came to enlighten our crowd about the 16 native bromeliads which he has seen over the years with visits to swamps and similarly enchanting venues in the Sunshine State. Each had a picture – Chuck is a relic slide machine man whose use of the slides proved the age of some of the pictures. At least he used a carousel machine as opposed to the straight line 50-slide holder which preceded its use.

Most of the native Florida Bromeliads can be found in the Fahkahatchee Strand – 84,000 acres of swamp made up of multiple sloughs and ponds.

This environment, located about 30 miles east of Naples, Florida, is accessible off of Alligator Alley on Highway 29. T

A long trough cut into the limestone, through which water runs slowly north to south, finally emptying into the Gulf of Mexico in the Ten Thousand Islands area, this environment offers a great opportunity to see native bromeliads

Tillandsia fasciculata led off the lecture showing off

a red inflorescence, followed by *Tillandsia balbisiana*, *Tillandsia xsmalliana* (cross of *fasciculata* and *bulbisiana*), *Tillandsia variabilis*, *Tillandsia simulata* (a skinny *fasciculata*), *Tillandsia bartramii* (similar to *setacea*), *Tillandsia paucifolia* (Key Largo favorite), *Tillandsia flexuosa* (the zig zag of inflorescence), *Tillandsia recurvata*, *Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish Moss), *Tillandsia utriculata* (That thing growing high in the oaks), and *Tillandsia mystery*.

Catopsis followed with slides of *Catopsis berteroniana*, *Catopsis floribunda*, and *Catopsis nutans*.

Guzmania shown included *Guzmania monostachia* (a/k/a monostachya).

If interested in seeing these natives, make a trip to Fahkahatchee Strand.

Garden notes April 2013

by Alan Herndon

The first day of the new month brought a welcome rain. We had over an inch of water deposited on our plants – the first decent watering they have had in about a month. In the meantime, daytime temperatures have, with increasing frequency, been reaching highs near those seen during the summer, but nighttime temperatures were still slightly cool at the end of the month.

We actually had light rain several times during the month that, according to recent history, should be positively arid. Several large late-winter (and spring) storms were large enough to push cool fronts, with their accompanying rains, through our region. Near Homestead, we actually got mostly pre-frontal rains. The rain band along the main front was usually breaking up by the time it reached us. Those of you further north, near Miami and Ft. Lauderdale, probably received twice as much rainfall.

Ever more plants are coming into bloom as the sun and temperatures continue to rise.

Aechmea chantinii 'Tarapoto' is the only clone of the species I had in bloom during the month, but buds are appearing on other plants now and I know we will soon have many plants from different clones in bloom. *Aechmea retusa*, a near relative of *Aechmea chantinii*, began to bloom during the final week of the month. Also, the less closely related *Aechmea serrata* continued to bloom through the month. There was a big show of flowers from species of *Aechmea* subgenus *Orgiesia*. These

included *Aechmea comata*, *Aechmea kerteziae*, *Aechmea cylindrata*, *Aechmea organensis* and *Aechmea gracilis*. Rather unexpectedly, two rosettes of *Aechmea orlandiana* produced blooms this month. The closely related *Aechmea milsteiniana* continued to bloom from last month. *Aechmea germinyana* also continued to bloom through the month, but appeared to be reaching the end as the month drew to a close. *Aechmea racinae* and the large clone of *Aechmea victoriana* continued to bloom from last month. *Aechmea lactifera* also continued bloom from last month. Two plants that look quite different, *Aechmea warasii* with broad leaves and *Aechmea warasii* 'Seidelii' with narrow leaves bloomed for the second time this year. Both have pendant inflorescences. *Aechmea pubescens* and *Aechmea disjuncta* (formerly known as *Hohenbergia disjuncta*) were also new to the list of blooming plants. Finally, I have an *Aechmea tayoensis* in bloom for the first time. This plant does not look as good when in flower as it does when it is actively growing. Fortunately, offsets are produced well before blooming, so it is possible to keep a series of younger plants on hand to replace the old one when it starts to look too tattered.

Several *Billbergia* species also came up with their second or third bloom of the season. Different clones of *Billbergia amoena* popped up at several times during the month. Flowers were also seen on *Billbergia nana* and *Billbergia seidelii*.

Fosterella petiolata was the sole species in the genus that remained in bloom during April

A single rosette of *Neoregelia* 'Marble Throat' (an apparently wild-collected miniature species that is not clearly linked to any of the named species found in our collections, so it is best identified by the cultivar name) produced flowers towards the end of the month. Other small species in flower included members of the *Neoregelia olens* group: *Neoregelia olens* (including both red-leaved and green leaved clones), *Neoregelia camorimiana* and *Neoregelia eltoniana*. *Neoregelia burle-marxii meeanum* also bloomed. Among the intermediate size *Neoregelia* species in bloom were *Neoregelia guttata*, *Neoregelia carolinae* and *Neoregelia magdalena*. The latter two are familiar plants with the color of the inner leaves changing during bloom to produce a circle of intense color around the open flowers. This display presumably attracts pollinators that ensure the consistent production of viable seeds, but *Neoregelia* species without colorful centers have competed quite successfully. In fact, a majority of species in the wild lack bright centers, although this may not be apparent from our collections. Our own overriding interest in bright colors has led us to concentrate on species and hybrids with central color. From the amazonian subgenus, *Neoregelia*

eleutheropetala bicolor continued in bloom throughout the month.

Nidularium innocentii continued to flower from last month. It was joined by *Nidularium rutilans*, *Nidularium meeanum* and *Nidularium longiflorum*. The latter species is very similar to *Nidularium innocentii*, down to having clones with both red leaves and green leaves and the white flowers.

As expected, plenty of *Orthophytum* species remained in bloom. *Orthophytum benzingii* and *Orthophytum alvimii* continued to produce new generations of flowering stems rapidly enough that they never lacked open flowers. *Orthophytum lymanianum* also remained in flower, but primarily due to the extremely long lived branches of the inflorescence in this species. Production of new flowering stems took many months, but the old stem remained in flower even longer. *Orthophytum rubiginosum* and *Orthophytum grossiorum* continued in bloom along with *Orthophytum harleyi* and *Orthophytum gurkenii*. *Orthophytum grossiorum* is another species that keeps in bloom through the rapid production of new blooming stems. Often, these new generations of stems grow from offsets formed at the terminal end of the previous generation. The same pattern is seen in *Orthophytum sucrei* on a much larger scale. Here again, a new generation of stems grows from the terminal ends of the previous generation, but the stems on the new generation are often as long as those on the previous generation. You may end up with five or more generations separating the current flowering plants from the original pot. *Orthophytum lanuginosum*, *Orthophytum magalhaesii* and *Orthophytum maracasense* round out the species observed in bloom this month.

Portea petropolitana extensa continued to bloom throughout the month, although it appears to be near the end of its season..

Quesnelia edmundoi has an inflorescence in the shape of a tight cone. The white petals of the flower barely stick out between the 'scales' of the clone., but they were visible enough for me to add the species to the flowering list.

Tillandsia baileyi and *Tillandsia roland-gosselini* continued in bloom from last month. They were joined by *Tillandsia pueblensis* and the natural hybrid *Tillandsia correalii*

An old, much beloved hybrid, *Vriesea* 'Splendide', came into bloom at the very end of the month. This hybrid, very fortunately for us, combines the traits of its parents: *Vriesea splendens* and *Vriesea glutinosa*. *Vriesea splendens*, grown in the correct

climate, maintains a wonderful appearance with boldly cross-banded leaves and a striking 'feather' style inflorescence, but, when we try to grow it, the cross-bands morph into random blotches scattered around the leaves after a few years. *Vriesea glutinosa* has stable cross-bands, but they are not as bold and regular as those on *Vriesea splendens* and the species does not flower frequently for us. *Vriesea* 'Splendide' produces cross-barred leaves consistently and has an inflorescence much like that produced by *Vriesea splendens*, differing only in consistently producing 2-3 branches. *Vriesea carinata*, the small form of *Vriesea erythrodactylon*, and *Vriesea barilettii* continued blooming through the month. New to the flowering list were *Vriesea warmingii* and *Vriesea muelleri*.

Garden Notes - May 2013

by Alan Herndon

Despite the slow, unsteady increase in air temperature during the month, May turned out to be milder than expected. With a series of large spring storms overrunning southern Florida, most days had maximum temperatures in the mid 80s. For those of us working outdoors year-round, this is still a comfortable temperature, but we know it won't last. Nighttime temperatures have reached summer levels and the daytime temperatures will soon follow.

The last several days of the month were uncharacteristically wet and windy. By this time of year, we are usually beyond the reach of the spring storms from up north and our winds die down unless you are close enough to the coast. (On the coast you will always have the sea breeze during the day and the land breeze at night.) This year, however, the spring storms are still coming far enough south that the resultant pressure gradient frequently drives strong winds over the southern tip of the state. In addition, we have had frequent day-long rains at the time when we should be in our standard pattern of dry mornings with rainy afternoons.

All this extra rain has certainly given some bromeliads all the encouragement they needed to bloom.

Aechmea chantinii is again producing many inflorescences. It was joined in flowering by two near relatives: *Aechmea zebrina* and *Aechmea retusa*. Two slightly more distant relatives, *Aechmea serrata* and *Aechmea dichlamydia dichlamydia* were also in bloom throughout the month. *Aechmea nudicaulis*, although near the end of its blooming season, managed to send up blooms from a few stragglers and a mass bloom among a group of

Aechmea nudicaulis 'Telephone Hill' that were potted earlier this year. The large form of *Aechmea victoriana* and *Aechmea lactifera* continued in bloom from last month. Several blooms were also seen on plants in subgenus *Ortgiesia*. Unfortunately, the plants in question were ones I do not have a good name for. The same plant of *Aechmea disjuncta* is still in flower and is expected to remain in flower for another month or two. *Aechmea fulgens* bloomed for the first time this year.

A plant *Alcantarea glaziouana* started to bloom during the month.

Another group of *Billbergia nana* made a brief appearance with flowers during the month. I also had several plants of a helicoid *Billbergia* that I have always called *Billbergia brasiliensis* (without justification and probably incorrectly) also flowered. This plant has a long tubular shape with nicely cross banded leaves. The petals are a bright violet color and curl up in the typical 'watchespring' manner of the helicoides. It is one of very few helicoides that grow well in our area.

Canistrum seidelii came into bloom during the month.

Edmundoa lindenii rosea, in particular, the clone of *rosea* with the inflorescence held above the leaves started to flower.

Guzmania lingulata was the only member of the genus observed in flower during the month.

Many *Neoregelia* species were also observed in flower during the month. Among the miniature species, we had *Neoregelia maculata*, *Neoregelia* 'Devine Brown' - a wild-collected plant from within the loosely defined *Neoregelia ampullacea* complex, both red leaf and green leaf clones of *Neoregelia punctatissima*, *Neoregelia roethii* and *Neoregelia crispata*. Medium size species in bloom included a stoloniferous clone of *Neoregelia carolinae*, *Neoregelia eletheropetala bicolor*, *Neoregelia guttata* and *Neoregelia angustifolia*. Large blooming species are *Neoregelia johannis*, *Neoregelia correia-araujo* and one of the many *Neoregelia carcharodon* clones. *Neoregelia carcharodon* does not bloom frequently for me.

Nidularium innocentii, both clones with red leaves and green leaves, were still in flower this month.

Orthophytum provides the usual large group of species in bloom. *Orthophytum harleyi*, *Orthophytum lymanianum*, *Orthophytum alvimii*, *Orthophytum rubiginosum*, *Orthophytum sucrei*,

Orthophytum conquistense and *Orthophytum grossiorum* were all in flowers at some point during the month. *Orthophytum* 'Leme's Red', *Orthophytum vagans* and *Orthophytum navioides* were the only new species coming into flower this month. *Orthophytum navioides* and *Orthophytum vagans* are additionally the only members of the *Orthophytum amoenum* complex in bloom this month. *Orthophytum* 'Leme's Red' is of interest because this is the first time in over a year that I have seen the plant with flowers. For many months, the inflorescences have been very small. Although a few flowers were apparently produced in each inflorescence, the number was so small, that they escaped notice. All I ever saw were the new offsets growing at the ends of the inflorescence branches

A few flowers of *Portea petropolitana extensa* were still left to open in May, but the flowering season ended for this species near the beginning of the month.

Quesnelia edmundoi continued to bloom through the month and was briefly joined by *Quesnelia marmorata*. *Quesnelia marmorata* has an open, colorful, and short-lived inflorescence.

Among species of *Tillandsia*, flowering was common. There are still plants of *Tillandsia baileyi* blooming, although new buds are no longer evident. *Tillandsia pueblensis* and *Tillandsia rolando-gosselini* continued in bloom from last month. *Tillandsia rolando-gosselini* is unusual in having white flowers. Just in time for summer, *Tillandsia ionantha* and its hybrid progeny *Tillandsia* 'Victoria' bloomed. Just as during the winter, the entire rosette of a blooming plant turned red during the short flowering period. *Tillandsia concolor* began to flower during the month. I first noticed the clone with the shiny green flower spike in bloom. On checking, the clone with the red flower spike was also in flower. A large form of *Tillandsia brachycaulis* flowered during the month. Although the plants appear completely different, this species parallels *Tillandsia ionantha* in flowering traits. In both the leaves of the entire rosette color up as the flower buds develop. Both have the violet, tubular flowers with the anthers and stigma sticking out far beyond the petals, and both finish flowering in short order. This particular clone of *Tillandsia brachycaulis*, with rosettes probably 20 times as large as the rosette on a typical clone of *Tillandsia ionantha*, and considerably more flowers in each rosette, has a longer blooming period (2-3 weeks compared to 1 week or less for a single rosette of *Tillandsia ionantha*.) Two additional species that started to flower during the month were *Tillandsia caput-medusae* and *Tillandsia streptophylla*.

The small clone of *Vriesea erythrodactylon* continued to bloom into the month, but seems to have

finished before the end. Another blooming species, *Vriesea inflata*, is quite similar in appearance to *Vriesea erythrodactylon*. In both, the inflorescence is of the feather type. That is to say, the flowers are arrayed on opposite sides of the inflorescence axis, and completely concealed within large, colorful floral bracts except for a brief period when they are blooming. The inflorescence on *Vriesea inflata* is taller and narrower, and the clone I have in bloom has entirely red bracts, compared to the inflorescence of *Vriesea erythrodactylon* that features floral bracts with a green to yellow base and red tips. *Vriesea carinata* and *Vriesea warmingii* remained in bloom from last month. Individual plants of *Vriesea carinata* produce flowers for approximately 1 month, so it is clear that the extended blooming season observed here is due to different plants producing inflorescences at slightly different times.

Also observed in flower during the month were *Vriesea incurvata*, *Vriesea malzinii* and *Vriesea simplex*. *Vriesea simplex* has a pendant inflorescence. It is one of the plants that is so easy to overlook amid a jumble of other plants on a bench or on the ground. This is a species you want to put into a basket and hang somewhere you can see it from all sides. *Vriesea triangularis*, a member of the *Vriesea corcovadensis* group, started to flower near the end of the month. This species has a rosette that closely resembles the rosette of *Vriesea lubbersii*, but the inflorescence is very odd for a member of the complex. Instead of having flowers arranged in a spiral along the axes of the inflorescence with small floral bracts (the common pattern among members of the complex), *Vriesea triangularis* has large floral bracts that largely cover the flowers, and the flowers are arranged distichously (on opposite sides of the axis)

As we have already had considerable rain during our normal dry season, it would be a good time to attend to any spring cleaning that you haven't already done. By spring cleaning, or course, I mean going through your *Tillandsia* collection and remove dead leaves from the lower reaches of the plant. This is especially important with species that form dense clumps. Remember, time spent cleaning the plants now will save you much more time trying the salvage bits and pieces of a clump after it starts to rot during the peak of the rainy season.

Even though the air temperature during summer can make your outdoor garden feel like an oven, you should find some time, perhaps early in the morning, when you can enjoy being there. See for yourselves the changes as new species come into flower to replace the species going out. Happy gardening.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 28 - Saturday June 29

Tropiflora's Summer Sale!
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days!
www.tropiflora.com

August 17th - 18th

Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society Sale
The Garden Club of Sanford
(on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd)
9:00 - 4:00

September 21st, 2013

Bromeliad Extravaganza – Hosted by the Florida
West Coast Bromeliad Society
Indian Rocks Beach, Clearwater
401 2nd Street, Indian Rocks Beach 33785.
Phone 727-595-948
Holiday Inn Harborside. Free parking!
Contact Judy Lund at 727/439-7782
glund@Tampabay.rr.com

October 5

Members' Day Plant Sale
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
9:00-1:00
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=10-2013&eventID=750>

December 6th - 8th

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale
Terrie Park
3451 Marion Street,
Fort Myers

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

PREVIOUS CHAPTERS MAY BE SEEN IN
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

73.

With bromeliad matters whirling around Boss in chaotic manner, delivering his attention to other crimes was becoming immensely difficult. Boss had been directly told by the Captain to get the matter of the plants resolved, and in impressive manner he had done just that within the past two sunrises. But, as his momentum peaked, Boss saw Willie Newcome arrive with an inevitable request for money and demand for time.

“Willie,” Boss said while walking toward a regular visitor of the precinct, “we are very busy here today

and wondered whether you could come back tomorrow when things are a little slower. Is that okay with you?”

Willie was not your ordinary customer. By some accounts, Willie was the premier voter fraud in the United States of America. And, being from Miami, that crown to glory required worthy accomplishment. Some of his greatest works included: a pamphlet by an organization called “United African American Voting Front” which said across-the-board Democratic voting would trigger a delete button on the voting machine and annul all votes for all candidates chosen; an aggressive phone bank calling black and elderly Democratic voters to inform them that they could vote on-line and need not come to the polls; another phone bank to elderly voters that they could stay at home and use the telephones to cast their votes; and the hiring of two rough black men to stand by the entrances of various predominantly white suburban polls where voters became intimidated and the turnout records were one half of any previous low year. Willie was a master, and after he designed the ploy, others would copy.

As great as Willie’s stories always were, and as entertaining as he could commonly be, Boss was too focused on other things. He cared not to listen to or deal with the eccentric criminal. He nodded to Rodriguez to handle the matter, but Willie refused to be persuaded by Rodriguez’s physical communication. Willie would not go away.

“I don’t have time to handle a white collar crime with someone playing mind games over another person.” Boss stated with aggressive tone. “I am knee deep in alligators right now, and unless this is life and death, I really would like for you to agree to take a rain check and come back tomorrow.”

“I could. But, before I go, can I ask a question?” Willie hoped he could get in a few words.

“If it is prefaced upon the promise that you will leave as soon as I respond, and that you agree to come back tomorrow and no sooner.” Boss answered.

“That is fine by me.” Willie said with a slightly upturned nose. “So, you ever drink at Duffy’s?”

“That’s it?” Boss thought. “He came here to ask me that silly question.” And, before he could waste more time with such thoughts, Boss answered monosyllabically, “Yes.”

And, as the answer left Boss’s tongue, Willie walked away and said before leaving the door, “So does Joshua – that boy in the morgue – who got

lucky there last night with a girl way too sophisticated for him. I don't know if he is here today, but I would bet not. And, just so that you know what to wait for in tomorrow's meeting with me, her name is 'Susie Gort.' Got to go. Bye."

But, before Willie was out the door, Boss had been able to coordinate the names in his mind and correlated the coincidence with deception. Boss nodded to Rodriguez, whose large body, and effectively placed foot at the door's jamb, prevented Willie's departure and required tomorrow's meeting to be held today.

74.

Marlene could not sleep that night. She had experienced love and loss in a short period of time to someone who was her little secret. By this time, everyone in the force knew about Candy's sexual preferences, and therefore her relationship with Candy had to be tempered in order to preserve her privacy.

Having grown up in rural south Miami-Dade County, back when it was known more simply as Dade County, Marlene understood the biases of the community and the importance of nondisclosure. She constantly flirted with men since she was a young teen, and became so successful in her practice that she was the adoration of many – almost to the point of being the most prized pursuit in the precinct. Marlene was more than another cop on the force, she was the sexiest woman on the force according to many of the men's verbal volleys and written statements in the stalls.

More important than completing one's daily routine with great concern of preventing others from revealing her little secret, Marlene lived a public life of great restraint. She had to sense out her friends, and foes, and assure that none who got close to her would kiss and tell or blurt out something which could damage years of Marlene-made secrecy. Provocative gossip was something others would perhaps suffer from, but would not be a subject involving her name. Marlene made sure of that fact.

Candy, a professional and very intelligent woman, was someone she did not have to think twice about. She had led the same life, and she had been capable of fooling the blind. She lived a life parallel to Marlene's. Candy knew what was appropriate and what was not and would not become foolish enough to be revealed. At least until a maniacal murder trespassed into her home and slashed a visitor who was scantily clad in revealing lingerie.

Like a crafty chess player, Marlene thought ahead. She wondered how she could sell a story to Boss or the Captain about the importance of her being onto Candy, all as an attempt to befriend her in an attempt to better learn what was or could be a nexus between the murder of the girl in Candy's place and the murders of Bea and the Judge. No link appeared, with one exception, Joshua's discovery of the poison. But, the unquity of that single fact brought Boss to conclude that the murders were related, and the matter of the latest knife attack being messier was not of importance to Boss or Captain – the difference may have been a derivative of interruption or response by the victim or lack of opportunity. Whatever that fact was, Boss conceded not to harbor that thought for long. He understood the focus of this investigation was to find the same man or woman for the three murders. And, Marlene understood that Boss so instinctively saw through nuances like this. And, because Boss's keen perceptions permeated throughout the precinct on a constant basis, Marlene knew that she had to extremely cautious on how to posture her reasons for becoming close to Candy and making her volunteerism appear legitimate and of her nature.

As she walked toward the far side of the office while thinking through her dialogue on how to approach this subject, Boss interrupted her thought with, "Marlene, come her on the double."

Her mind was now cleared of her story for the cover on Candy, and as she entered Boss's office she attempted to clear her head. Then Boss asked, "Do you want to find our boy Joshua with his newly found friend?"

"Sure Boss."



Aechmea haltonii as grown by our Julio Lopez. Photo by Julio Lopez. This and more great photos can be seen at our facebook pages.