

BROMELIACEAE

Postal Address : P.O. Box 565, Fortitude Valley, Q.4006.

Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. QBH 1849.

SEPT.-OCT. 1992
VOLUME XXV No.11



Canistrum aurantiacum

THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

General Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month except December at the Uniting Church Hall, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm, commencing at 7.30 pm.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P O Box 565,
Fortitude Valley,
AUSTRALIA Q 4006

-o0o-

PATRON: *Mr. Harold Caulfield*

PRESIDENT: *Mr. Len Trevor* 3511203
 SECRETARY: *Mrs. Val Urquhart* 8240627
 VICE-PRESIDENT: *Mrs. Phyllis Hobbs* 2864156
 TREASURER: *Mr. Bob Paulson* 2976415
 EDITOR: *Mr. Len Butt* 8483515
 SHOW ORGANISER: *Mr. Don Hobbs* 2864156

COMMITTEE: *Mr. Neville Ryan, Mr. Bob Paulson, Mr. Bob Cross, Mr. Michael O'Dea, Mrs. Patricia O'Dea, Mr. Paul Bird, Mr. Barry Gen, Mrs. Olive Trevor.*

-o0o-

PROGRAMMES:

September - Commentary - Olive Trevor
 Beginners' Class - Spring Activity by Len Trevor
 Item - World Conference Delegates
 Mr. & Mrs. Carpenter and Shane Zaghini

October - Commentary - Len Trevor
 Beginners' Class - Bob Cross
 Item - Open Merits of Attending a Conference
 by Patricia O'Dea

EDITORIAL Two main events happening in one month, and both to strengthen what we feel about the Bromeliad Society of Queensland.

The first, started on the 6th of August, with the start of the 1992 R.N.A. Show. Our display stand for the second time being situated at the opposite end of the Horticultural Hall.

To describe this year's effort, let me first say it was extremely colourful, especially with an abundance of *Vriesia* and *Guzmannias* predominating on one side, very ably augmented by very colourful *Neoregelias*. Of the latter, everyone has their ideas as to what is their particular favourites, and I am no exception. For me it was *Neoregelia carolenaey meyerdorfii* in the cultivar "Inferno"; especially in the plants displayed, which have the centre leaves standing upright, coming into the high colour of flowering time! Add to this the matte black beauty of *Neoregelia Voodoo*, a real sight to see at any time.

Toward the rear of the three side view stand large *Aechmeas* "strutted their stuff" with all the beauty of flowering plants at that time.

One comment I heard was that the bromeliad tree was a little lacking in colour this year, and for what it is worth I pass this on.

Looking over the stand, here are several worth a mention:-

Guzmania Fantasia, *Vriesea alata*, *Aech. Ramose-fulgens*, *Aechmea alvarez*, *Vriesea fosteriana* "Red Chestnut", *Guzmania wiltmaekii*, *Neoregelia M. Inferno*, *Aechmea fendlerii*, *Vriesea gigantea*, *Aechmea Fascinii*, *Neoregelia carolinae* 'Orange Flush' and *Neo. Voodoo*. Central on the bromeliad tree a large, and I am told unnamed *Tillandsia* with deep pink base bracts and upper green - yellows elongated fans was the centre of much comment.

Plaudits to all who put it together and those who manned the exhibit as an on-the-spot roster.

Lectures were given by four members over the on the spot microphone. Len Trevor, Len Butt, Bob Paulson and Mrs. Phyllis Hobbs.

All in all I think an all round success story.

This has been a year to remember, and the big event, our Silver Anniversary Dinner at the Carindale Hotel/motel was no exception. Very well organised, and thoroughly enjoyed by the 68 odd enthusiastic bromelians attending. Old friends we see not enough of and members mingled in friendship and much nostalgia. A very

busy private photographer captured it for posterity.

Honoured guests from that unaugural day in January 1967, and still with us were, Len Butt, Harold Caulfield and Peter Paroz, all attending with their wives, and all delivering relevant speeches of what happened in earlier days. The dinner, I feel, was a great success and a credit to the people who did the organising, that great badge emblazoned cake, the entertaining singers, and last but not least the actual venue, a sample of what is in store in Easter '93.

Peter Paroz, launched the printed Society History, which considering some of the work involved was well researched.

Editor

-oOo-

SECRETARIAL NOTES

July Lucky Door - Bert Wilson; Raffle - Len Trevor, Meryl Snow, Jo Ketelaars, Mavis Paulsen.
 Popular Vote - Novice - *Guzmania sanguinea* - John Higgins.
 Advanced-- *Till. brachycaulus multiflora* - Ruth Wilson
 Judges' Choice - *Neo. ampullacea X pauliflora X Granada* (imp)
 Doug Upton.

Mini Show

Class 2 Vriesia - Foliage

1. --
2. Vr. Fosteriana Greg Aizelwood

Class 3 - Any Other Tillandsioideae

1. Till. multicaulus Phyllis Hobbs
2. Till. umbulata Phyllis Hobbs

Class 5 - Billbergia

1. Bill. Vittata Hyb. Greg Aizlewood

Class 6 - Any other Bromeliad

1. Neo. Dr. Oeser's 100 X *Drthophytum navoides* Neville Ryan
2. Aechmea orlandiana 'Ensign' Narelle Rowe
3. Neo. Two Tone Narelle Rowe

August Lucky Door - Shane Zaghini; Raffle - Nancy Kickbush, Greg Aizlewood (2), Bruce McClure, Bert Wilson, Eric Turner.

Popular Vote - Novice - Guz. vulcan X gloriosa

Neville Ryan

Advanced - Till. Bulbosa - Large form

Ruth Wilson

Judges' Choice - Guz. vulcan X gloriosa

Neville Ryan

COPYRIGHT Permission granted provided the proper acknowledgements accompanying each letter or article when reprinted.

MT. GRAVATT SHOW This year for the first time we presented a display at the Mt. Gravatt Show on the last weekend in July. A great deal of interest was shown by the public especially in Tillandsias. Our thanks to our small band of helpers, namely Len and Olive Trevor, Maurie and Thelma Muller, Paul Bird, Neville Ryan, Nancy Kickbusn and Val Urquhart. Sales were not as high as we would have liked but quite a lot of plants found new homes. Who was the gentleman looking very elegant in his new hats and the two ladies with sample bags and goodies won on the lucky number stall?

-oOo-



Neoregelia meyerendorffii C.V. Inferno

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE UPDATE

Bromeliads 7 Conference Easter 93

Summary of the main details, which will be expanded when our official brochure is available in about one month.

VENUE - Carindale Motel, Carindale Conference Rates

Accommodation charges ... \$72.00 per night - Single
 \$82.00 " " - Double
 \$82.00 " " - Twinshare

Conference Registration Fee... \$85.00 - Single
 \$160.00 - Double
 \$50.00 - (One day only)

Fee includes - Lectures Saturday and Monday; Evening social gathering with light meal & drinks Friday; Working days - morning and afternoon teas and lunches; a copy of the printed proceedings.

Saturday night banquet with after dinner talk and slide presentation - \$35.00 per person.

The cost of the Sunday Bus Trip is yet to be determined but will include morning tea and lunch and a trip to the garden of Grace Goode and to a commercial nursery. (Brisbane Bromeliads).

Sales facilities will be available under conditions to be specified.

COMPETITION - it is proposed to arrange a competition table, parameters are still under discussion.

KEY SPEAKERS - Elton Leme from Brazil,
 Dennis Cathcart from Florida U.S.A.
 Bob Whitman from Texas U.S.A.

LOCAL SPEAKERS - John Higgins Patricia O'Dea
 Len Butt John Catlan

NSW SPEAKERS - Peter Tristram &
 Bob Larnack

The program will be a full one and the range of topics covered very diverse. The wealth of experience and knowledge offered, not to be missed with the support of our members we look forward to a very successful Conference. Don Hobbs (Co-Ordinator)

STREPTOCALYX BIFLORUS AND LIGHT - N.J. Catlan

June '88 we acquired a flowered plant of *S. biflorus*, it was well past its prime but its bract was still bright yellow gold, the size of a tennis ball. Being in the process of shifting Phyl and Don were good enough to babysit our pride and joy.

We collected *S. biflorus* that spring it had two offsets and we parted with one of them. The remaining offset was potted in our normal mix and put with our *Aechmeas* under 50% shade cloth.

During Spring '89 Phyl and Don flowered their plant, but we missed out. They parted with an offset to Grace and as our plant was looking a little yellow it received a dose of Nutricote and we removed a large offset.

During Spring '90 Phyl and Don flowered another plant and Grace flowered her plant, and we missed out. Our plant was still looking a little yellow so we took off two large offsets and shifted it to a darker location.

During Spring '91 we actually flowered *S. biflorus*. The plant was a deep green 80 cm across, the centre turned orange/red to about one third the length of the leaf, the colour lasted two to three weeks. The yellow gold ball shaped bract was 13 cm across and 13 cm high. The flowers were dark blue, receiving its name from the fact that it has two flowers to each bract leaf. The bract holds its yellow gold colour for at least six months, the seed pods are bright blue. In autumn '92 (April) another *S. biflorus* flowered.

Conclusion about *S. biflorus* 1. flowering time is normally spring, except in autumn '92 when everyone with a mature plant seemed to have flowered it.

2. It is a dependable flowerer. An offset should normally flower within two years.
3. It needs 70% shade cloth cover to promote flowering, if anything I would err just a fraction towards more shade.
4. Cold tolerant.

S. pallidus is definitely *S. biflorus*' companion, similar conditions, size and shape. The flush of colour to the leaves could be described as red, the bract a more egg shape than round, is white and flowers blue and light blue. It flowers in autumn. When we flowered *S. pallidus* it was in a heavily shaded area and the colour lasted. Phyl and Don from experience find that too bright conditions cause

the colour to fade before the flowering has finished.

John & Genny

Mango Mansion 4208

-o0o-

YOUR OWN POTTING MIX - N.J. Catlan

When you buy your bromeliads, your bonus is a variety of potting mixes. It will not take long to realize that there are more potting mixes than bromeliad growers. The reason is that each grower develops his mixes around available ingredients and his conditions both have a tendency to change and so the grower changes his mix. A time comes when you have such a variety of bromeliads growing in different mixes that you will find your plants will grow better in a mix you develop yourself.

"Soil Life" should be the first consideration when planning a bromeliad mix. It must last through the growing cycle from offset, to flowering plant, and until you have harvested the offsets, without the mix breaking down to a point where the air content falls below 15% for terrestrial bromeliads and 20% for epiphytic.

When your mix has satisfactory "soil life" and it comes to repotting your bromeliads it's just a matter of removing the plant from the old pot and "potting on". That is centering the plant in the new container and filling in around the undisturbed root ball and growth of the plant will proceed undisturbed.

Should inspection of the rootball indicate that the mix has broken down or will not last through the next growth cycle it will be necessary to repot. This means hosing all the old mix from the root system, removing any dead roots or old plant stems, selecting the right size container and working fresh potting mixture through the root system. A lot of extra work, but it is necessary when the potting mix lacks "soil life".

You can make a choice from an assortment of ingredients including peat moss, pine bark (*pinus elliotii* and *P. radiata*) hoop pine bark, sand, perlite, polystyrene beads, peanut shells, rice hulls, coke ash and others. The selections and combinations you find that are best for you will reflect the conditions you grow under; that is water quality and how often and how long you water, air movement, light, temperature and humidity.

Peat moss is very light but will hold large quantities of water; it has no toxic properties but will hold onto fertilizer which together

with its water content is readily available to the bromeliads. I would recommend that a good bromeliad potting mix contains 10% by volume of peat moss. Fluff the peat moss up if your source of peat moss is compacted bales.

I use 1/7 by volume in my mix which works out to 13.3% by volume but I sieve my other ingredients and remove all particles below 1 mm in diameter and I water often. What I am trying to achieve is a potting mix which has "soil life".

An amateur grower has advantages over a commercial grower, they do not have to cost their labour and experiments but also they do not need truck loads of potting mix. They can blend into their own mix exotic ingredients such as charcoal, quinkan gravel, pumicestone, pine cones, leather dust, ground cork, urea formaldehyde foam, macadamia shells and no doubt there are growers who have come up with other ingredients.

When talking to other growers ask and discuss your own and their problems. You will advance your knowledge and growing technique; in the end your bromeliads will judge your potting mix. You will have to observe their reaction.

John & Genny
Mango Mansion 4208

-o0o-

INTERESTING TILLANDSIA FACTS A couple of interesting facts about Tillandsias have come to light at No.25 Explanade in the last couple of months. I thought they may be interesting enough to pass on for a debating point even if for nothing else.

Strange Event No.1 At the Combined Show in June I purchased several Tillandsias. I found difficulty in finding a place for a couple of large *Till. fasciculata* or *fasciculata* crosses. I had also a couple of smaller Tills. too many for existing space so as a temporary measure I put them on a wall in my heated phalaenopsis shed but temporary turned into permanent. What happened in this atmosphere which never gets less than 15°C? Surprise, surprise, all plants over doubled in size in about six weeks. Question for discussion - should a lot of our Tillandsias for excellent growing be heated in winter?

Strange Event No.2 I mount small seedling Tillandsias on polystyrene. I'm afraid I'm not a devoted seedling grower and my



Virgin rain forest - as it was

methods are hit and miss and I lose a good proportion. Two or three months ago I took down the mounts with dead offspring. Well so I thought they were all dead. I keep all my mounts in boxes in a dark shed. Around this time I cleaned up the shed. The box with the deceased Tills. went on the bottom layer under two boxes of mounts. This week I was having a big mounting session and needed all the mounts I could muster. When I took one mount from a box, on the mount was a beautiful live specimen of *Tillandsia bandenensis*. To show this was no fluke later on I came across the second live member. These two specimens have now joined their former mates to see if they can die again. Naturally of course they weren't dead in the first place but it was just I who made the mistake of declaring them dead. The strange outcome of this to me is how long can Tillandsias live in a position minus light and moisture, buried under dozens of mounts? I guess that can never be answered. I know these were there for approximately three months. From this I conclude Tillandsias have developed a great instinct for survival. I wait for further tales from others who have found strange happenings in the Tillandsia world.

D.L. Andersen

-oOo-

BRISBANE BROMELIAD CENTRE

Thelma & Laurie MULLER, 342 Beckett Rd., Bridgeman Downs, BRISBANE
Ph. (07) 263 2516

Huge selection of Aechmeas, Vriesias, Guzmannias, Neoregelias, Nidulariums, Tillandsias, together with a variety of rarer species and hybrids.

VISITORS WELCOME

PINEGROVE BROMELIADS

Specialising: NEOREGELIAS, AECHMEAS, TILLANDSIAS, VRIESIAS,
GUZMANNIAS, RARE SPECIES AND HYBRIDS.

Visitors welcome - opportunity to view over 8000 different
species and hybrids - OPEN 7 DAYS

Large S.A.E. for mail order list

June & John Buchanan, Pine Street, WARDELL NSW 2477

P O Box 61

Ph. 066 834188

FOREST DRIVE NURSERY

Located at Repton, south of Coff's Harbour, specialising in species
and variegates from mostly imported stock.

Tillandsias to titillate even the most discerning fanciers.
Beautiful Vriesias including silver species, Guzmannias, Aechmeas,
Neoregelias, etc.

Visitors welcome - PLEASE PHONE FIRST on 066 554130 (A/H)

Mail Order List - Send S.A.E. c/- Repton. NSW 2454

Proprietor: Peter Tristram

"BROMAGIC" BROMELIAD NURSERY

One of Queensland's largest collections of bromeliads, including
Tillandsias.

IMPORTING TILLANDSIAS REGULARLY

We specialise in mail order - send \$1.50 for complete list
(refunded with first order) to:

"BROMAGIC" M.S. 956,
Hunchy Road,
PALMWOODS. Q 4555

Visitors welcome by appointment

Ph. (074) 429303