



East London Bromeliad Society South Africa

NEWS
LETTER

June
2024

Established: 25 July 2009

ELBSSA is an Affiliated Society of



Bromeliad Society International

*Our aim is to promote and encourage awareness and interest in
Bromeliads in East London and all of South Africa!*

From the Editor



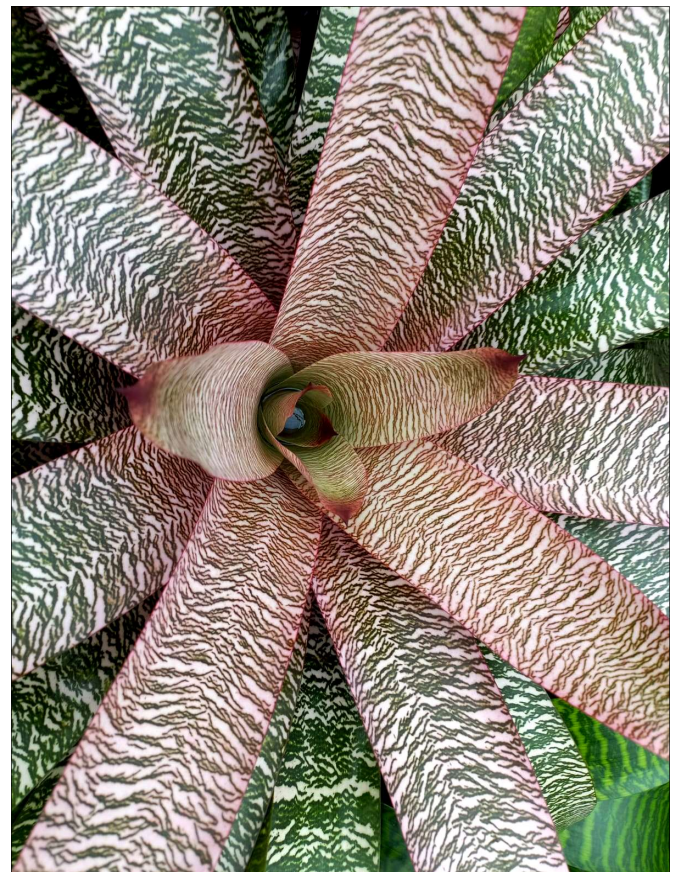
Wow, what a super turnout we had at Mavis and Terence Downey's home last month for the May meeting. Thirty four of us turned up, including two visitors, Greg Schaffli who was one of the stall holders at the recent show, and Michelle Diedrich, Mavis and Terence's daughter. I think Michelle was there to check that her mom didn't get up to anything too strenuous, considering her recent time in hospital. All is on the mend and Mavis is looking well again. The meeting took place in the shade house area directly off the back of the house, full to the brim with orchids and all sorts of exotic plants all nurtured by Mavis. Love and patience! A nice cozy sunny area for plants and humans! Thank you so much to both of you for hosting us again for a

meeting at your home. Please check out Brenda's photos of the meeting on our fb page or on the Whatsapp group. Thankfully the meeting was not last weekend. East London had a deluge, which seems to have come up the coast and

affected many cities, some devastatingly so. Lyn and Trevor Wegner have recorded 306 mm from Friday night till Monday morning, and the rain continued for a few more days. Winter has really arrived, it is cold and everything is wet through and muddy. The hardest thing for many



Our awesome hosts for the May meeting, Terence and Mavis Downey.



Plant of the Month - People's Choice for May - Vriesea 'Pink Chestnut' grown by Robert Moss.
Photo: T. Moss.

Next Meeting: Sunday 30th June. 2.00pm for start at 2.30pm. Our hosts for this meeting will be Les and Andre Dry at 27 Hillcrest Drive, Beacon Bay. We hope to see you all there!

of us is being trapped indoors and not being able to go out into the garden to work with our plants. I did move all my *Tillandsia xerographica* type plants under shelter. They don't seem to like endless days of rain and dampness. I lost a large *T. xerographica* once, so that lesson was well learnt.

South Africa has such diverse climates and I am sure that some of you have prepared for frost and really low temperatures already. Luckily we do ok in East London's sub tropical climate, these winter months are fairly windless, which is absolutely wonderful.

It is generally a great time to be outdoors working with your plants, so enjoy this time, once everything has drained, we have soil to relocate to where it came from and some buried plants, lots of seepage everywhere on our steep plot.

We hope to see another bumper turnout at the end of June meeting at the home of Les and Andre Dry in Beacon Bay. Blessings to you all till then.

Barbs



The May Meeting

The topic of the meeting was Vriesea! who could resist seeing all the incredible Vriesea on display for the People's Choice vote as you arrived for the meeting! Then there were those shown during the meeting. Oh WOW!!! They do have the wow factor amongst bromeliads, and we have two members in South Africa specifically hybridising Vriesea, Robert Moss, local, and Trevor Brauckmann in Pretoria, who has written a nice piece about what drives a person to do this. Watch these guys! We are going to be spoilt for choice.

Dudley introduced the topic and then the show was on. We went through the usual topics of the meeting with much discussion and hilarity thrown in. So nice to see a good crowd. We need to encourage each other as it takes a lot to organise a meeting and make sure that you, our members, learn something and most of all enjoy the content of the meetings and the social time afterwards where we can learn so much from each other. Please let Lyn Wegner know if you have any ideas to improve or add anything that would appeal to everyone at a meeting. We are open to considering all suggestions.



Dudley Reynolds discussing the many attributes of Vriesea.
Photo: BK Black



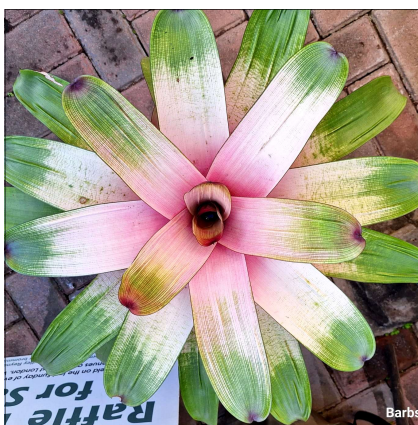
Vriesea variety. Not sure of the owner. Apologies.
Photo: BK Black

Fabulous Vriesea

Presented by Dudley Reynolds:

Dudley gave a short overview of Vriesea with many of you showing and discussing your own Vriesea. Up to 345 species have been found in Central and South America as well as Mexico and the West Indies. They are found in the sub family Tillandsioideae. They are found in similar environments to the Guzmania genus.

Vriesea are tank type epiphytes



Vriesea 'Tasman' hybrid grown by Robert Moss.
Photo: BK Black



Robert Moss chatting about the Vriesea he has grown from seed and those he has hybridised.
Photo: BK Black

which are found growing in partial shade with good air movement and high humidity. Generally they are medium sized with smooth spineless leaves. Some develop a flattened inflorescence with bracts resembling a sword. The bract is the part of the inflorescence from which the flowers emerge.

They are a popular commercial plant which has many hybrids which are distributed throughout the world along with the genus *Guzmania*, and often sold as house plants.

Other *Vriesea* which are referred to as foliage *Vriesea* are more sought after and grown for variegation and markings on the leaves. Many of these foliage *Vriesea* have been hybridised with great success in Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii.

Our very own members, local, Robert Moss and Trevor Brauckmann from Pretoria have been hybridizing *Vriesea* over the last few years and have some amazing plants in the pipeline. Keep up the good work!

My experience with *Vriesea* has not been that great, I have just a few in my collection. Personally I prefer other genera.

Barbs: I have to add this little snippet, mainly because I love the word, 'fenestration'. Have you ever looked at a foliage *Vriesea* leaf closely? Not the coloured lines and markings, but the light squiggles and lines that almost form little block or linear shapes. They are usually whitish and that is because they let the light into the leaf, like little windows, so that photosynthesis can occur. These patterns are called fenestrations.



Fenestration markings on the leaf of a foliage *Vriesea*.

Show and Tell

Brenda, Wegner, Robert Moss, and Dr Pete Pfister brought some *Vriesea* to show and discuss for Show and Tell.



Brenda Wegner's *Vriesea gwydonia*
Photo: BK Black



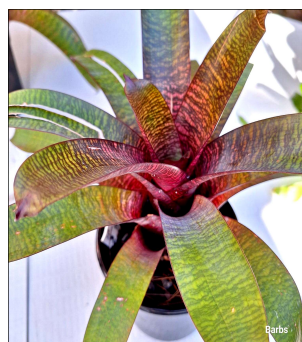
Vriesea 'Margarita'. Someone mentioned at the meeting that this was a species but on the BCR here it is with its parents: V. 'Asahi' x V 'Red Chestnut' Photo B Wegner



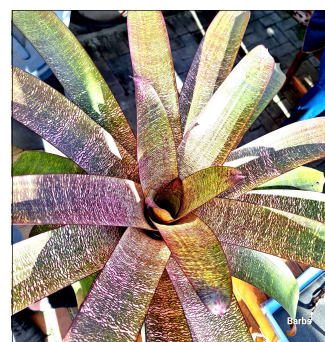
Brenda Wegner is looking for a name for this *Vriesea*. Any one know it?
Photo: B Wegner



Mavis Downey has grown a whole bunch of *Vriesea hieroglyphica* from seed in her shade house.
Photo: BK Black



Pete Pfister showed his *Vriesea* 'Red Samurai'.
Photo: BK Black



Vriesea 'Leina'ala' grown by Dr Pete Pfister.
Photo: BK Black

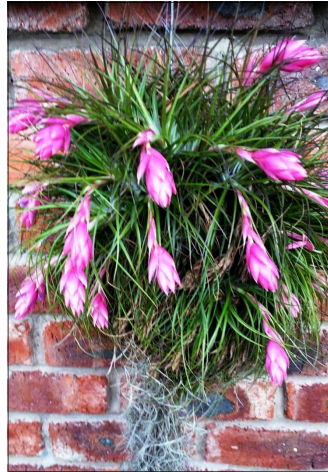


Vriesea 'Nelson' grown by Brenda Wegner
Photo: B. Wegner

Lyn Odendaal brought along a beautiful example of *Tillandsia stricta* that has formed a perfect ball and obligingly, all blooming in unison. It was received a while ago at one of our meetings as a give away donated by Dr Peter Pfister. They are all starting to bloom around East London. It never ceases to amaze me how clever plants are that they respond to the call of nature, without any interference from us. Thanks for sharing it with us Lyn! An absolute stunner!



Lyn Odendaal with her *Tillandsia stricta* ball.
Photo: BK Black

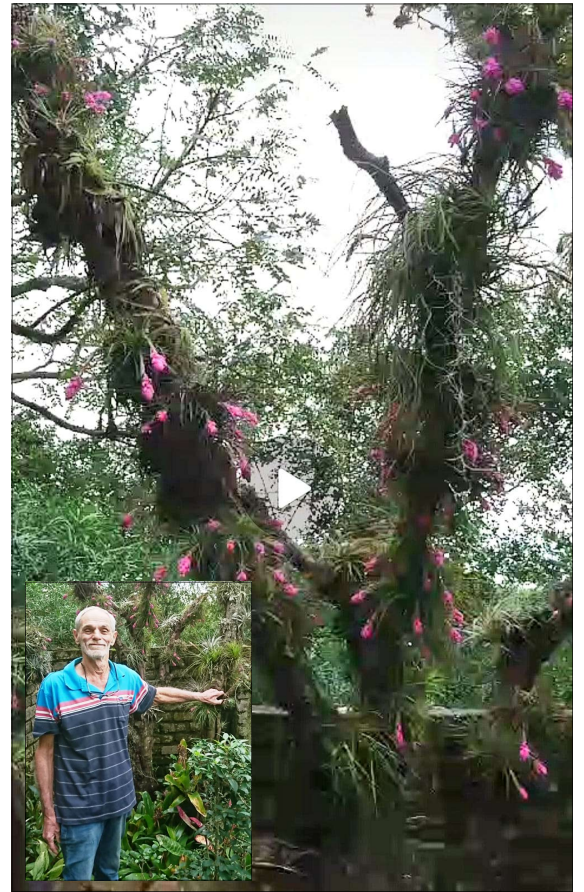


Tillandsia stricta Photo: L Odendaal

Dr Pete Pfister posted a few photos on the Whatsapp group this week of *Tillandsia stricta* flourishing around his garden. It truly is its time to bloom in East London. In the photo on the right they have clearly all self seeded on this tree over many years to get so populated.

I think most of us have this little beauty to cheer up a cold day in our gardens, thanks to Pete, who is always so generous, always sharing *Tillandsia* in the give away plants at meetings. Thanks Pete!

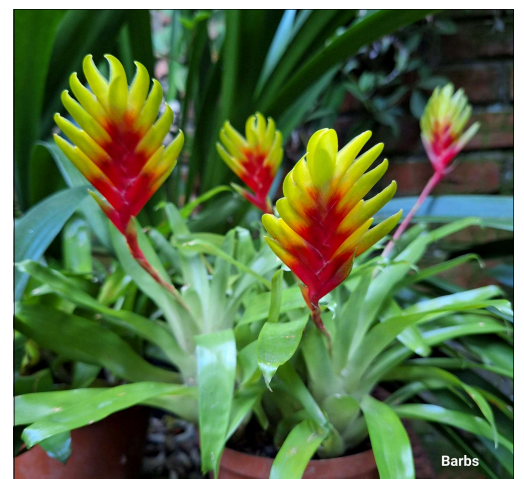
Tillandsia stricta is native to South America and Trinidad. I have heard that there is more than one form of this plant. It is a species in the genus *Tillandsia*. It is an evergreen, clump-forming perennial with leaves arranged into thick, short-stemmed rosettes and this little tilly grows epiphytically. It is a medium-sized species that forms lovely clumps. Leaves are recurved and covered with frost-like scales called trichomes which let in light, food and moisture. There is a form that has darker leaves. They produce a bright red or bright pink coloured inflorescence on an upright spike with bright blue flowers that emerge from the bracts. The spike is at first held upright but then droops as it lengthens with the weight of the bracts and flowers.



Tillandsia stricta galore in one of Pete's trees!!!!
Photo: Dr P Pfister

Species

Barbara Black showed a clump of *Vriesea carinata*. This little *Vriesea* is a species plant and endemic to Brazil. I have had this plant for many, many years and am very fond of it for its stunning, colourful red and yellow bracts with yellow flowers that emerge at blooming time, one at a time, nature is so clever. They are easy to care for and grow. Get one and in a few years you will have a nice clump. I keep mine potted in a free draining mix and they can tolerate a shady spot with filtered sunlight. The leaves are light green, soft and smooth. I can imagine them growing in a forest setting. Remember that they do not rely on the roots for moisture and nutrients, so can be grown epiphytically. Instead, they absorb water and nutrients through tiny scales on their leaves called trichomes. Very easy to grow, from seed or from a pup that is large enough to be separated from the mother plant. I give them



Vriesea carinata.

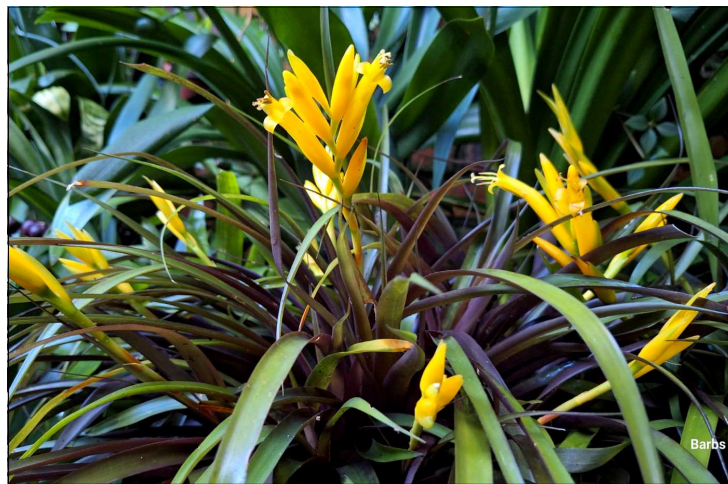
Photo BK Black

some water in the central cup now and then, or when I remember.

Barbs also showed *Vriesea bleherae* (renamed from *Vriesea bleheri* by Harry Luther, BSIJ Vol.49 #2)

This lovely little plant is endemic to Brazil, Costa Rica and Panama and is found in humid forests. It is also epiphytic, but I have my clumps potted. Originally collected by mother and son Amanda and Michael Bleher,

They have narrow and fairly long leaves, a really good example of discolour leaves with green on top and red/maroon on the undersides to enable the plant to absorb more light in shady spots. Told you, nature is very clever! The inflorescence has yellow branched bracts with yellow flowers. The bright yellow contrasts beautifully with the dark foliage. I love it. It is easy to care for and requires minimal maintenance. It has low light requirements similar to *Vriesea carinata* but apparently can tolerate a wider range of temperatures as the leaves are a bit tougher than *V. carinata*. They produce pups close to the mother plant base, so also grow into a lovely clump.



Vriesea bleherae.

Photo BK Black

From our Country Member

I asked Trevor Brauckmann, one of our country members, to describe what drives him to undertake this all consuming, hobby of hybridising, you have to have what it takes.... Thank you for sharing with us Trevor!

Trevor Brauckmann in Pretoria on hybridising:



I started hybridising because I had these ideas of creating plants that nobody had, that would be so much better than what was out there. Sounds easy

enough, but how wrong was I? I think in the first year that I did hybrids I created over a hundred different Neoregelia, thinking that all these fantastic variegated plants would present themselves. I could not have had it more wrong. Out of possibly 1000 seedlings, I had about 5 variegated seedlings. Major disappointment and I nearly stopped hybridising.

I then got in contact with some people in Australia and they explained to me how to look for transmitters and a couple of other tricks. My success rate is now much better and I am quicker to cull and get rid of seedlings that are not going to amount to anything.

The biggest test in hybridising is patience. Once you have decided what you want to achieve, you have to wait to have the right plants flowering at the same time, or



Vriesea 'Dad's Favourite' x Vriesea 'Dad's Favourite'.

Photo T Brauckmann



Two *Vriesea 'Red Chestnut' x 'Mambo'*. Hybrids from the same grex. Photo T Brauckmann



Vriesea 'Kiwi Dusk' hybrid Photo T Brauckmann



Vriesea platynema hybrids showing some variegation. Photo T Brauckmann

you must save pollen. This can often take a year or two to have the right plants. Once you have pollinated the plants, it takes on average of between 3-6 months for the seeds to ripen. These have to be labeled properly and washed well and then put into closed containers with your desired germination mix. Another 2 to 8 weeks on average to wait, for the seeds to germinate. Another year to have seedlings that are about 1-2cm big. I don't grow with growing lights, but will at sometime in the future. The seedlings will then grow faster. Biggest danger at this stage is mould in the containers.

Once you have de-flasked the seedlings from the closed containers, the first culling must be done. If you are trying to grow variegated plants, all the green ones must go. Space now becomes a problem, as 1000 or so seedlings take up a lot of space. It then takes another 2-5 years on average, to grow these seedlings (even longer with Tillandsia) into flowering mature plants. At this stage the plants start pupping and I cull all plants that don't breed true to the mother, as they are unstable and therefore no good. I find it much harder to cull Vriesea seedlings as they change a lot in appearance over a 2-4 year period. Some of these plants I will never register, and only use them to breed with, for their special characteristics.

So it is a long time game of planning, and a lot of unknowns as well. But, very special when your plans for a hybrid turn out with the desired results. There are also lots of disappointments, when the plants don't come out as planned, but that is part of the fun. I have the utmost respect and admiration for the big names like Chester Skotak and Jacob Koning and many others for their complex hybrids that they have created. I am forever optimistic, to one day creating something very different and unique.



Vriesea 'Dad's Favourite' hybrid.

Photo T Brauckmann

May Raffle Winners

- Lynn Friend chose Vriesea 'Manoa Valley'.
- Robert Moss chose Dyckia 'California'.
- Dr Pete Pfister chose Vriesea David Fell hybrid.
- Nico Fouche from Pretoria Aechmea 'Meteor Shower'.
- Clint Gordon from Hoedspruit chose Aechmea mexicana (variegated).
- Ann Carter from Cape Town chose Neoregelia 'Utmost Satisfaction'.

Raffle tickets sold: 33 Local and 67 Country .

Lucky Draw plants: There were numerous!

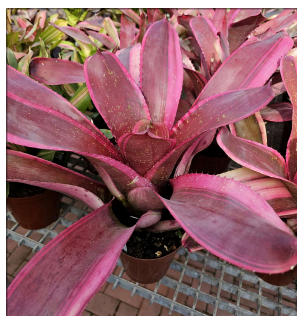
Give-away plants: There were plenty for members to help themselves to.

- Members can buy their raffle tickets @R10 from Lyn Odendaal at the door when you collect your badge from Betty Heunis.
- Members are welcome to supply quality bromeliads or Tillandsia for the raffle selection. You can claim the cost of your plant that is selected by a winner from the Treasurer, Lynn Friend.

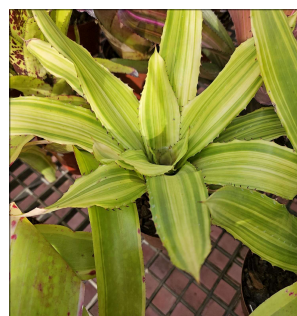


Dr Pete Pfister, Lynn Friend and Robert Moss with their raffle wins. Enjoy!

Photo BK Black



Neoregelia 'Utmost Satisfaction'. Photo: D Gower



Aechmea 'Meteor Shower' Photo: D Gower



Aechmea mexicana (variegated) Photo: D Gower

Plant of the Month - People's Choice for May - Vriesea

- 1st: Vriesea 'Pink Chestnut' - Robert Moss
- 2nd: Vriesea 'Kiwi Pixie' - David Gower
- 3rd: Vriesea 'Candy Stripe' - David Gower

Mini Auction

The mini auction raised R435.00 towards the society coffers at the May meeting. Thank you to Dave for running the Mini Auction, the donors of the plants and to the bidders!

50/50 Draw

The 50/50 Draw raised R125 in May with Lyn Wegner winning half of the amount - R100. Thank you to Lynda for organizing the Draw.

Thank you for your support and good luck with our next draw. Lady Luck awaits!!

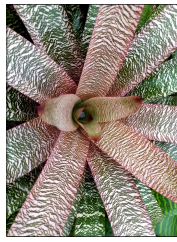
Committee matters

- When paying the Treasurer, Lynn Friend, please don't forget to make use of the envelopes supplied to pay monies at the meetings.
- Some of the items from our recent committee meeting: A proposed talk at Selborne Primary School has been welcomed by the school. We are waiting for a date that will suit the school.
- We will use our sound system during meetings as some folks struggle to hear members talking without it.
- Wearing of name badges at meetings is still required.
- Members please collect your refreshments and move from the tea station to allow those waiting in the queue to collect theirs.
- The June topic and People's Choice: Aechmea orlandiana family.
- People's Choice will be restricted to a max of 3 entries per person. A clip board will be available for members to write their name and plant entries for People's Choice. Brenda will assist you.
- We discussed our Bromeliad Magic Show which we plan to hold in March next year. We have the use of the hall during the school holidays.
- Dave will send out the country raffle photos a few days before the meeting. Country members will be able to see what is on offer as do the local members at our meetings.
- Anything you feel needs discussing, please let Lyn Wegner know or come and join us at a committee meeting, we would love to welcome you. It is held the Tuesday after the meeting at various spots around EL, eg, Lavender Blue, we order a bite to eat afterwards and solve the worlds problems! Ha!

Upcoming Society Events

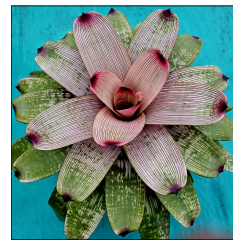
Sunday 30 June. Our hosts for this meeting are Les and Andre Dry at 27 Hillcrest Drive, Beacon Bay. We meet at: 2.00 for a sharp 2.30pm start.

Topic: The Aechmea orlandiana family, which are starting to bloom in the



Vriesea 'Pink Chestnut'

Photo: T. Moss



Vriesea 'Kiwi Pixie'

Photo: D Gower



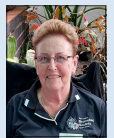
Vriesea 'Candy Stripe'

Photo: D Gower

Thanks

- Dudley Reynolds for presenting the main topic of the meeting.
- Members for all their input to the topic. We learn from each other, constantly!
- Trevor Brauckmann for his interesting article on hybridising.
- Dr Pete Pfister and Lyn Wegner for give-away plants.
- Dr Pete Pfister and Lyn Wegner for lucky draw plants.
- David Gower and Lyn Wegner for Mini Auction plants.
- Jean Rathbone for delicious eats at tea time.

From the Treasurer Lynn Friend



Are your subs due? You can pay me at the meeting or you can do an eff directly into the society account. Please put your name as a reference on the deposit so that I can identify the payee.

Standard Bank

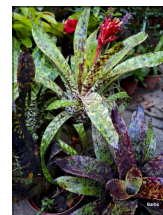
Account Holder: East London Bromeliad Society South Africa (ELBSSA)

Branch: Vincent Park

Branch code: 051001 for eff's

Cheque Account Number: 10169269351

You can contact me, cell: 083 318 1179 or lynnfriend1@gmail.com



What you can look forward to, Aechmea orlandiana varieties, please bring yours along too.

Winter sun!

Plant of the Month - People's Choice for May is Aechmea orlandiana and hybrids containing Aechmea orlandiana as one of the parents.

So please bring along yours from your garden or collection. Don't forget to place your plant as early as possible, before 2.20pm, to get more votes!

If you are needing a solution to a problem or an identity for your bromeliad or Tillandsia, please bring it along.

The Mini Auction will take place after 3.15pm when electronic bidding closes. Dave Gower will post auction photos on our whatsapp group just after 2pm. All members, not present at the meeting, country and local, may submit bids to Dave's number by 3.15pm latest.

Don't forget to buy your 50/50 Draw R5 tickets from Lynda Gower when you arrive and pay @R15 for tea and collect your name badge.

Please bring your chair and plate, mug and spoon for tea.

There will be member sales before and after the meeting as usual.

Upcoming activities for the year:

July: AGM and 15th Birthday Bash! 'Bromeliads for Africa' in Sunnyridge. We will be turning 15 !!

August: We need a venue please.

September: We need a venue for September.

October: Kathy and Lindsay Wegner who live close to the Springbok Farm Stall on the Gonubie Road.

November: End of year Christmas Function, venue to be advised.

As you can see, we are needing venues for August, September and November. We are appealing to members, if you are interested in hosting a meeting, please contact Lyn Wegner. It need not be a daunting experience and it is so much nicer to meet in a garden environment than the hall, which we try to save as an emergency venue if the weather is bad. All we need is access to a plug point for the urn and the sound system.

Some Notes on Growing Bromeliads Part 2

Many of our newer members have lots of questions about growing bromeliads. There is a lot to be learnt just by coming to the meetings, asking questions and sharing with other members during our very social tea time. So, for those who need to know more, I am continuing with Part 2 of Some Notes on Growing Bromeliads which I have adapted to our South African conditions. The article originated from the New Zealand Bromeliad Society Journal, authored by Graeme Barclay.

Growing Tips for Beginners – Part 2

We are going to continue from where we left off last month, where we covered the general growing requirements for bromeliads. We are going to look at the basics of getting started with growing bromeliads in the garden or shade house. A lot of this might seem like repetition and echo what has been discussed at meetings. There is no harm in reading it again to assist us in getting the best out of our bromeliads!

Acclimatisation and Light

While most bromeliads are often very adaptable, a common mistake that is often made is to bring home a plant or cut off a pup and put it straight into an environment it is not used to. This often causes the plant to go into shock, fade/burn/elongate its leaves, or flower prematurely, regardless of whether it is a young pup or a mature specimen. End result is always disappointment for us! Always try to find out what conditions it was growing under *before* you got it. A bromeliad taken from a warm, sheltered shade house will normally not survive very well if planted out into a cold, wet and windy garden, or the blazing hot sun that we experience in our summer months. If you wish to have it positioned in a much sunnier or windier spot, make sure you acclimatise it slowly over a few months by gradually giving it more outdoor time/sun/wind before putting it in its eventual permanent position. However, any pups that form on the mother plant in the new environment will normally be able to handle the new conditions much better than "mom" did – remember they can adapt!

Growing Medium

Almost all bromeliads like a very free draining, 'loose' growing medium. Do not plant them in clay or heavy/waterlogged top-soils, as they are likely to suffer and rot at the base. Any loose potting soil with a fair amount of fibre in it is ideal to use. The key is to ensure any bagged mix does NOT contain high levels of nitrogen slow release fertiliser, as this can cause the plants to grow excessively soft and strappy. However, a small amount of 3-6 month slow release fertiliser in potting mix is normally fine for most broms and will give pups a good start. A good tip to make your potting mix go further is to add in other media such as 30% to 50% of the volume in: river sand, coarse gravel, bark chips and broken pieces or balls of polystyrene. Bromeliads are not that fussy

about what you use... and remember, no-one can see what is inside your pots. The ratios of media in your mix can vary – there are no set rules – as long as they help make the mix porous, allowing good drainage, reasonable airflow and drying ability around the base and roots.

Planting and potting

Most bromeliads do not need roots to be formed when they are planted. They will develop good roots over time if the mix is free draining, they are watered and not knocked around or stressed. You can use sosatie sticks placed around the bromeliad to stabilize it in position until it has made roots.

Garden Planting

Dig a 5-6 inch wide and deep hole for smaller plants and 6-9 inches for larger plants. If the soil is heavy clay etc, use a steel rod or garden fork to make a few 4-6 inch deep drain holes in the bottom of the hole. This will aid draining water away from the base of the plant after heavy rain/excessive watering. $\frac{3}{4}$ fill the hole with your free draining potting mix (as explained above), insert the plant into the mix and press the mix firmly - not tightly - around the plant on all sides. Take care to ensure the plant is NOT positioned too deeply, as excess moisture and pressure can cause basal rot. Fill the rest of the hole around the plant and use larger bark pieces, pebbles or small stakes if necessary to keep the plant stable in any wind etc. Alternatively, a good tip is the whole pot the plant is in can either be partially or fully buried in the ground. This allows easy removal and repositioning at a later date if desired.

Potting

Choose a pot big enough for your bromeliad when it will be mature. Put around 1 inch deep of larger media (chunky bark, polystyrene chips, stone, etc) in the bottom of the pot to ensure good drainage so the pot and roots will never sit in any water. Pot the plant in the centre of the pot with the base as high as possible without it becoming unstable. Two or three sosatie sticks are great for holding young pups upright in the pot until they form their roots and can stand on their own. Another good tip is to also put a layer of smaller bark (or pebbles) around the top of the potting mix to prevent moss and weed growth and help retain moisture in hot weather.

Tree and Rock Mounting

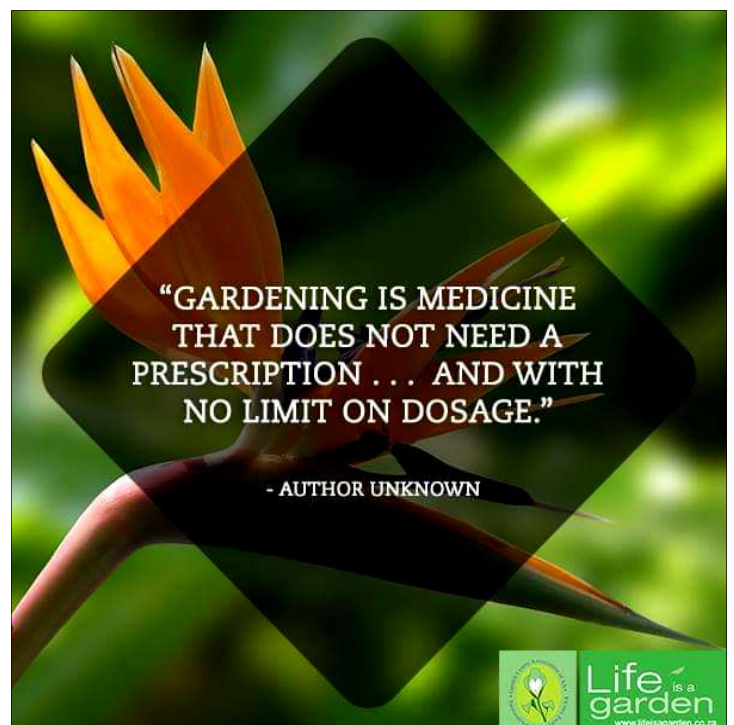
Many bromeliads are also epiphytic (will grow well in trees) so they do not need any soil at all. These can simply be tied on with strips of stocking, cable ties or use a large tack or staple hammered through or around the woody part of the base (stolon) onto the tree, glue can also be used to fix a bromeliad to a rock. DO NOT fix bromeliads to or allow them to touch any tanned timber poles, trellis, decks or oil painted surfaces, as the copper chemicals used in these are highly toxic to most bromeliads and can kill them. Always ensure the plant base is stable and doesn't move in the wind. It will then normally put out new roots, helping it attach more securely.

Library Resources

Please remember that we have a lot of interesting and varying resources available in the library to learn more about bromeliads. Please contact Brenda Wegner, cell: 082 743 2141 and she will bring along a selection of what interest you.

Next month we will deal with the basics of getting started with bromeliads in the garden or shade house.

Reference: Adapted from Bromeliad Society of New Zealand - Graeme Barclay



Glossary of new Bromeliad Terminology

We are maintaining a list of new terminology used during meetings when talking 'bromeliad language'. The Annual Quiz is coming up, so take a glance through this list, I bet you Dudley will ask some questions relating to a few of these words.

Aegeotropic	Ageotropic means growing in all directions ie not affected by gravity. <i>Tillandsia bulbosa</i> is an example of an ageotropic plant
Bigeneric	A plant that is the result of crossing two different genera. It will have an 'x' in front of its name, eg: x <i>Anamea</i> Scorpio. The bigeneric name will be a cross between the genera involved in the parentage, as in the above case: <i>Ananas</i> and <i>Achemea</i> = x <i>Anamea</i> .
Bract	This is a specialized leaf found below a flower or on the stalk of a flower cluster and sometimes brightly coloured
Caulescent	Stem-like growth
Compact inflorescence	Branched inflorescence.
Digitate inflorescence	'Finger-like' with 'branches' coming from one point. <i>Tillandsia disticha</i> has a digitate flower spike
Discolor	Having two different colours. In a bromeliad leaf it usually means a green leaf with red underside
Epiphyte	An epiphyte is plant that grows attached to another plant/tree but it is not a parasite
Flavo	Yellow margin on the leaves
Fenestration	The white spaces between the coloured markings on foliage Vriesea that let the light into the leaf, like little windows
Grex	A group of plants with the same parents
Hemiepiphyte	This is a plant that spends part of it's life cycle as an epiphyte
Inflorescence	Includes the flower stem and the flower head with usually small, sometimes insignificant flowers
Imbricate	Overlapping sections eg, on the inflorescence of <i>Tillandsia concolor</i>
Lanceolate	Large at the base then tapering to a point
Lithophyte	A plant that grows on and/or between rocks and crevices
Mesic	A growing habitat containing a moderate amount of moisture
Myrmecophyte	Ants inhabit the base of bulbous <i>Tillandsia</i> varieties. An example <i>T. bulbosa</i>
Novar	A variegated or albomarginated plant that has lost it's variegation
Pedice	Flower stalk
Rupicolous	Living or growing on or among rocks
Semi sessile	Flowers on a short stem
Simple	A single un-branched inflorescence
Stolon	Long woody runner or stem from a mother plant that a new pup develops on
Stoloniferous	Pups/plants form at the end of a stolon
Saxicole	A plant that grows on and/or between rocks and crevices
Xeric	A growing habitat containing little moisture or very dry

This is a publication for the **East London Bromeliad Society, South Africa** for the interest of its members. Articles may be used for educational purposes by non profit societies with acknowledgement to the author where applicable and East London Bromeliad Society South Africa. Please use the photos that accompany the article used. If you require higher resolution photos please request them from the Editor.

Any opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Society.

When submitting items for inclusion in this newsletter by whatsapp or e-mail, please ensure that all facts and information, including spelling, is checked and accurate.

ELBSSA is an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International.

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We meet on the last Sunday of every month at 2.00 for 2.30pm, January to November, at various venues around East London. We have a topic for each meeting and Show and Tell where members are encouraged to bring along their brag or problem plants. There are member raffles, lucky draws for those present, tea time, library and member plant sales, plus a monthly newsletter sent out via e-mail only. Visitors are always welcome and can attend three meetings before they will need to join the society in order to continue attending. Annual subs are R150.00 for individuals/families and R60 for students.

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You will find **ELBSSA on Facebook**: type 'East London Bromeliad Society' into the fb search bar. You can request to join the group and will then be able to upload your photos and comments on the wall. The ELBS SA page and other bromeliad related sites are a useful and informative forum to share and 'meet up' with other like-minded bromeliad folks.

You can view most of all the bromeliads mentioned in meetings or in the newsletter at the following websites:

The BSI's official **Bromeliad Cultivar Registry** www.registry.bsi.org which is maintained by Geoff Lawn, the BSI Cultivar Registrar. Plus other information regarding the Bromeliad Society International and bromeliads is found at bsi.org

The new **BSD** or **BSI Bromeliad Species Database** is the 'go to' resource for bromeliad species info on line which can be accessed at www.bsi.org

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies: fcbs.org This is another very useful site where you can also reference many bromeliads, clarify identification or just trawl through the site and add to your wish list!

Encyclopedia of Bromeliads <http://bromeliad.nl/encyclopedia/> (Bromeliad Taxonomists and Growers Society) has photographs. It also now has keys for the genera and sub-genera. If you like to be informed what is happening, just follow on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bromeliadsencyclopedia> Just type in 'Encyclopedia of Bromeliads' into the Facebook search bar.

For internet resources you can also go to **The New Bromeliad List** for the most authoritative and right up to date list of genera and species, accepted and new names and taxonomic keys developed by Eric Gouda - <https://bromeliad.nl/encyclopedia/or> permanent URL for species names: <https://bromeliad.nl/species/<species name>> eg: <https://bromeliad.nl/species/Tillandsia/ionantha> Taxon list: <https://bromeliad.nl/taxonlist>