



FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES

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Quesnelia marmorata 'Tim Plowman'



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FRONT COVER: *Quesnelia marmorata* 'Tim Plowman' photos by Carol Wolfe



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January 15 for February issue

April 15th for May issue

July 15 for August issue

October 15th for November issue

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I Love Bromeliads... by Carol Wolfe, Editor

Greeting FCBS Members:

It wasn't that long ago that we breathed a sigh of relief that the holidays were over and the grandchildren were back in school. So how did we get to May so fast, the grands are out of school for the summer which means Grandma is going to be busy! Well, it must have been the *Express Train* because the World Bromeliad Conference is only three weeks away!

WBC 2024 — "A Florida Treasure" will be held on May 22-25, 2024 in West Palm Beach, Florida, USA. Tom Ramiccio and his crew, Bromeliad Society of West Palm Beach, have worked hard and they are ready and waiting for you to arrive. They have some great speakers lined up for the seminars and I hope you'll take time to read about them in this issue.

We are sorry to hear of the deaths of Derek Butcher of Queensland, Australia and Paul Isley, III of Manhattan Beach, California. These two have contributed so much of their knowledge, time and talent to the bromeliad world and they will be deeply missed.

Derek Butcher, fondly known to Florida bromeliad people as Uncle Derek and as he sometimes signed his emails just UD! If I had a question about plants for the Newsletter and wanted to be sure my information was correct, he was always willing to review it. Sometimes, he couldn't help himself and said he had to laugh at the questions.

On Australia Day, 26 January, 2022, it was announced nationally that Derek and Margaret Butcher had each been awarded one of Australia's highest civilian honors, the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for 'service to bromeliad horticulture'. This is a highly deserved award and they were certainly worthy of the recognition.

Derek really wanted the USA folks and especially emphasizes Florida folks, to name and register the bromeliads that are floating around Florida with the parentage on the labels, and not registered with a proper name. He said if a plant was worthy of entering into a bromeliad show, then it is worthy of being given a name. Herb Plever was of the same opinion and they both mentioned it many times during the last ten years. Once Derrick asked how many children were in my family. I told him ten. Then he asked me how would you have liked for all the kids in your family named the same name? Nope, that would not have worked! According to Uncle Derek, if your plants have the names of the parentage, or if you know the parentage, take a picture, complete the cultivar registration form online, give the bromeliad a name and click send and *Voile* the bromeliad has a name! I am sure our BCR registrar, Geoffrey Lawn, will be happy to answer any questions regarding the procedure. His email is: cultivars@bsi.org

Uncle Derek was pleasant, always positive, and is and shall be missed. We send our sympathies and comfort to his family. Our condolence to the family and friends of Paul Isley III, Paul will be greatly missed by all of his friends in the Bromeliad World. Paul's books and videos on YouTube are informative and can be very helpful in growing your Tillandsias.

I hope you enjoy Ken Stokes' article on his beautiful yard as much as we did walking through it! Thanks Ken for the article and the tour!

As always, my thanks to Calandra Thurrott, Greg Kolojeski, and Tom Wolfe for their assistance in proofing! You are the best support team ever! Thank You!



Water and Light the Two Most Important Factors in Growing Plants Indoors

By Tom Wolfe

A lot more people are growing houseplants because they are staying home, working from home and want a prettier, healthier house. Unfortunately, most homes don't have enough good quality light inside for plants that need bright light.

Several years ago when I was installing landscapes all over the Tampa Bay area, there were numerous requests for indoor plants. Most homeowners had no idea as to their location, care or type of plant that would be suitable for their needs. Placing plants in a public building was even worse. They usually received too much water or not enough water and light, which are the two most important factors growing plants indoors.



Exposure to heat and air conditioning also affects the plants. The best way to water indoor plants, is to feel the soil with your hands to determine if more or less water is needed. I find that consistently watering the plants on the same day each week produces healthier plants.

Not every light bulb or the quantity and quality of light it produces will work for growing plants indoors. The measurement scale of the color of light is expressed in the temperature scale of degrees Kelvin or K.

Sunlight at noon on a slightly overcast day is around 6,500K, a normal incandescent light is much cooler around 12,800K; while a cool, white-blue fluorescent light is a warm 4,000K.

Some light bulbs are sold as "daylight, sunlight, natural, balanced, or whole spectrum". These terms mean the bulb is producing a color of around 5,000 to 6,000K. Plants grown by a mix of cool and warm fluorescent lights, and the plants grown by full spectrum bulbs will outgrow other plants.

High-output full-spectrum fluorescent lamps are a great choice for indoor plant growth. They are 3 to 7 times more efficient than incandescent bulbs but they need to be placed close to the plant.

LED'S- Led's or light-emitting diodes used to be expensive but now are very competitive in price with other bulbs. They use very little electricity, produce very little heat and last much longer than all other bulbs. So in the long run, they are cheaper, cooler, and produce a very good quality of light. The light quality can vary. Check the package to see what color range the bulbs will produce.

LED bulbs in the 5,000 to 6,000 K color range will be best for plants. Otherwise, you may need a pair of bulbs, one in the blue range, and one in the red range, to get a good quality color for your plants.

Excerpts from the Epoch Times.



2024 Speakers Bureau	Subject of Program
Alex Bello	Tillandsia
Dave Johnston	Generics, Part 1; Generics Part 2
Bob Smedley	Alternative Mounting Media
Calandra Thurrott	Australia and New Zealand, A Photo Journal
Chip Jones	Works of a Bromeliad Magician; Breeding by Chester Skotak; Featuring Variegated Neoregelia
Dave Johnston	Bi-Generics, Part 1; Bi-generics: Part 2; My Favorite Neos
David Denholm.	The Jardim Botânico
David Sands.	Bromeliads
Dennis Cathcart	A Naturalist Visits Cuba
Guillermo Rivera.	Diversity of Bromeliads in Central America
Jason Mellica	Neoregelia Hybrids
Jason Mellica	New Neoregelia Hybrids 2023
Jeannie Manning	Artistic Arrangements
John Boardman	Catopsis
Kenneth Stokes	Creative Mounting of Bromeliads; The Subtropical Landscape with Bromeliads
Lee Magnuson	Hybridizing And Tips & Tricks For Bromeliads
Marty Baxley	Life in Ecuador
Marty Folk	Growing Bromeliads: Secrets Revealed From Thirty Years of Trial and Error
Mike McMahon	Tillandsias: When A Bromaholic Runs Out of Space
Mike Michalski	Costa Rica
Mike Saunders	Bromeliad Word Potpourri
Nancy Abramson	Interior Design Using Bromeliads
Nick Bethman	Hybridizing Bromeliads
Pam Marion	Bromeliad Nomenclature & Labelling
Ray Lemieux	Tearing Up Terrestrials
Robert Nelson	Let's Do It (pots and fertilizing)
Shane Maloy & Brett Weiss	Next Generation Houseplant; Greenhouse Operations
Steve Beaudoin	Mini-Neoregelias
Terrance Hoffmann	The Pineapple in World History
Terrie Bert	Growing Bromeliads in Central Florida; Growing Bromeliads
Tom & Carol Wolfe	Bromeliads in Paradise
Tom Wolfe	The Benefits of Mounting Tillandsias; Beautiful Bromeliads; Cold Hardy Bromeliads; Aechmeas - Where the growing is easy



Neoregelia "Dorothy Howson" photo by D Cathcart

The Natural Garden

By Kenneth Stokes

When one visits a natural garden, the first impression is that it has always been there as you see it, just carefully maintained. My first visit to Central Park was accompanied by someone's comment, "Now you know what Manhattan looked like before it was developed." Nothing could be farther from the truth. Before Almstead and Vaux designed the park, the land was flat except for one natural outcropping of rock and the area was a dump for everything no one wanted. Every feature of Central Park is artificial; however, the features, vistas and plantings are based on natural elements of a landscape. The hills, trails, ponds and meadows

have been utilized to make places for human activities while creating an enjoyable visual experience. This concept can be adapted for gardens anywhere, though situations where open land is more prevalent than structures are the best locations. Floridians are mostly unaware that Olmsted designed 'Mountain Lake', the area surrounding and at the base of Bok Tower in Lake Wales. It appears to be a Tuscan landscape transported from Italy.



African Plants

THE STOKES GARDEN

When Ken purchased property on South MacDill in Tampa, twenty-five years ago, there was close to a half acre of land and a large added-upon house. Both had been neglected for twenty-five years. Every inch of the sandy soil around the house was covered by invasive plants, including, sand spurs, cherry laurel, Brazilian pepper, camphor trees, white mulberry, potato vines, trumpet vines, cabbage palms and Mother-in-laws tongues or *Sansevieria*. Friends were overwhelmed when they saw it, saying I was crazy for having bought it. The solution



A natural meandering of a vine.



was to bulldoze everything, sod the entire area and build a new house. So much for the lack of vision and a common solution for dealing with “big uglies”. The reason cities are filled with huge mediocre buildings on small lots is that no one wants to maintain landscapes and builders make lots of money building more square footage.

Kenneth took the more difficult approach. This began with the evaluation of major trees. There were five oaks and one cedar tree that were at least one hundred years old. Such irreplaceable treasures would remain. The tallest of the cabbage palms would remain. With a reciprocating saw, he began removing unwanted vegetation and hired a tree trimming company to remove the ones that were too large to handle. He began the practice of removing weeds before they bloomed, but the reader should understand that weed seeds can remain in the soil and viable for seven years. So, a constant new crop of weeds is always on the way. The old way to deal with them is to chop them with a hoe. That is a temporary fix, as weeds can re-root if not raked from the soil. The disturbing of the soil brings more weed seeds to the level in the soil that is optimum to their germination. This is where the use of weed killers comes into play. Massive spraying is not advisable, but localized spraying of week-old weeds, especially where they have floated in puddles, is the beginning of weed control. He began covering open spaces with four inches of tree trimmer mulch. The breaking down of the mulch and the shading of the soil does prevent weeds from sprouting. The mulch also holds moisture and adds to the humus content. The quality of his soil today is because of the use of mulches over many years.

The ground level in the garden was typical of Florida, flat. There was no drainage pattern to remove rain run-off from the buildings. The entire property flooded during storms and hurricanes. Kenneth located a main intake drain location to one of the many trunk lines that drain south Tampa to the bay. It required a lot of hand shoveling, a front-end-loader and a Bob Cat to create a drainable and multi-level ground surface. It included a retention pond, a dry wadi, multiple berms and lowered walkways that functioned like streams when it rained. This replaced the typical solution of sodding the flat soil and adding cheap shrubs in rows to create the typical Florida landscape. Having traveled to the Tropics, Kenneth had seen real and natural landscaping and made mental notes. Thus, he had a vision of what was possible. Zones were planned for full sun plants with excellent drainage to damp shady areas and all the nuances in between. Zones were created, where collections of plants from Africa, Southeast Asia or tropical America would be grown together.





One of the first rules of landscaping is to begin with trees, as they take the longest to grow and create the conditions for plants in other families. Even being aware of the size trees can reach, it is possible to plant too many. Kenneth began with fruit trees. Many of the trees planted would never produce anything other than a novelty crop of marginally useful fruit. The ones that did produce a significant crop after many years, drew squirrels that would destroy the entire crop. Some flowering trees like Jacaranda, Bauhinia (Hong Kong Orchid) and Tree of Heaven are no more than trash trees with a nice flower. It is an ongoing process, still going on today, the removal of trees that serve no purpose and create maintenance problems. Temporary shade can be achieved by using small trees in large plastic tubs that are kept pruned and by planting temporary trees that are easily removed like tall, rooted cuttings of schefflera or Gumbo-limbo. Papayas will also grow quickly into trees and are easy to remove. Trees in the Ficus or fig family can quickly dominate a landscape. They should be grown in containers or severely pruned every year, back to a manageable trunk.

In addition to fruiting and flowering trees, the natural tropical landscape includes plants in the following families: Palm, Cycad, Strelitzia, Aroid, Fern, Heliconia, Bromeliad, Gesneriad, Begonia, ornamental grasses and Orchids. Tropical deserts also include Euphorbias, Aloes, Agaves, Pachypodiums, Cacti, Beaucarneas and other succulents. One of the keys to creating a natural landscape is the blending and intermingling of plants from various families. This is contrary to the typical landscape, where every shrub, tree and border and bedding plant has its own defined space where it is allowed to grow. So, it is not only the families of plants used in a natural tropical landscape, but how they are placed, allowed to co-mingle and maintained that allows for the naturalness to emerge.





A natural log provides a natural nest for a Jewel Orchid.



Open Zone with mulch and groundcover displaying plants of different sizes leaf shapes, textures and colors.

STOKES



Berm covered in interspersed tropical makes a place for unique plant staging.

As the contouring of the garden was taking place, Kenneth began transferring plants from his other garden and began acquiring additional plants. As a garden is a growing thing, the transformation was a transition, with additions and subtractions, corrections and inspirations. Other features, such a land-



Ferns, Aroids and gingers in the same MOIST ZONE

scaping stone and garden statuary were added. Today, the garden is considered low maintenance. That does not mean NO maintenance. There is no mowing, edging or sheering of bushes. The yearly massive leaf fall needs to be raked, dead limbs removed, trimming of flowering plants after blooming and re-mulching of the garden, all need to be done as time permits. No noisy equipment is required. Just casually walking about the garden with some hand tools keeps the natural garden growing.



Kenneth Stokes inspired a former neighbor to develop this small tropical garden.

STOKES



Need a good laugh? The gender of non-living things.....

You may not know this but many non-living things have a gender.

- 1) Ziploc Bags are Male, because they hold everything in, but you can see right through them.
- 2) Copiers are Female, because once turned off, it takes a while to warm them up again. It's an effective reproductive device if the right buttons are pushed; but can wreak havoc if the wrong buttons are pushed.
- 3) A Tire is Male, because it goes bald and it's often over-inflated.
- 4) A Hot Air Balloon is Male, because, to get it to go anywhere, you have to light a fire under it, and of course, there's the hot air part.
- 5) Sponges are Female, because they're soft, squeezable and retain water.
- 6) A Web Page is Female, because it's always getting hit on.
- 7) A Subway is Male, because it uses the same old lines to pick people up.
- 8) An Hourglass is Female, because over time, the weight shifts to the bottom.
- 9) A Hammer is Male, because it hasn't changed much over the last 5,000 years, but it's handy to have around.
- 10) A Remote Control is Female. Ha! You thought it'd be male, didn't you? But consider this - it gives a man pleasure, he'd be lost without it, and while he doesn't always know the right buttons to push, he keeps trying!

FROM THE WEBSITE: [The gender of non-living things..... \(livejournal.com\)](http://www.livejournal.com)

**DEREK ROBERT BUTCHER**

**October 4, 2034 to
January 12, 2024**

Derek Butcher passed away peacefully at Bucklands Aged Care in Queensland, Australia on January 12, 2024.

He was the loving husband of Margaret for 66 memorable years. He was the loving father of Jane, Michael and Cathy, Robert and Chris.

He is the cherished Grandad/Pa of Nick, Daniel and Sarah, Amy, David, Mark and Victoria.

He is the Great-Grandad of Noah, Blake, Cohen, Jaxson, Evelyn, Isabel, Mackenzie, Willow and Oliver.

**Order of Australia Medal (OAM)**

Derek and wife, Margaret Butcher, were both awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM), Australian's highest award to individuals for their dedication and work in bromeliads horticulture and bromeliad botany. They worked together for 45 years.

The Order of Australia has five levels: Knight/Dame of the Order (AK/AD) Companion of the Order (AC) Officer of the Order (AO) Member of the Order (AM), and Medal of the Order (OAM). The Order of Australia is the preeminent way Australians recognise the achievements and service of their fellow citizens.

**2008 Derek Butcher, Friend to the
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
By Karen Andreas**

Reprinted from the Florida Council of Bromeliads website: FCBS.org

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies is pleased to announce that Derek Butcher is the first recipient of the Council's award of recognition: "Uncle" Derek is the first and foremost "Friend to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies".

This award was established to recognize and to thank those persons whose contributions have advanced the Council's goal to promote the education and science of bromeliads, served the bromeliad community of Florida and enhanced the standing of the Council. No one exemplifies these standards better than Uncle Derek.

Many of you know Derek as the Cultivar Registrar of the Bromeliad Society International. Before that, however, Derek played (and continues to play) a pivotal role in the development of the Council's website. Through his efforts, the Council gained international standing and set the standards for bromeliad websites world wide.



The Council established its web site in 1997 under webmaster Michael Andreas. Originally the goal was to be a source for bromeliad pictures. Unfortunately, no one in Florida was contributing any! Derek had offered his extensive picture collection to one bromeliad website that was not interested. He then turned to Michael and made the same offer - and a partnership was born. Derek has worldwide contacts with bromeliad enthusiasts willing and eager to share pictures. Soon Michael was posting pictures not only from Derek but from new international friends as well.

In addition to the photographs, Derek has also contributed an extensive list of articles about bromeliads and their taxonomy including clarifying and unraveling the mysteries of bromeliad cultivars and bromeliad origins, discussing growing from seed, and nomenclature. He published "An Amateur's Guide to the Greyish Leaved Tillandsioideae" which is available on the Council site, and he maintains the Species Database and the Cultivar Databases, both of which are also online. His tireless efforts to promote, educate and improve bromeliads and the bromeliad world found an outlet on the Council site and we have all been the richer for it.

By the way, Derek lives in Australia! He has been a member of the Bromeliad Society of South Australia since 1977 and has been extremely active in the Australian bromeliad community, as a judge, speaker, editor and author, organizer, and grower of a comprehensive and well-grown bromeliad collection with perhaps the largest Tillandsia collection in Australia. "Uncle" Derek has a world-wide presence and bromeliad enthusiasts all over the world read what he says in his corner of the Council website.

Thanks to Derek's long-time contributions, in partnership with Michael Andreas, to the Florida Council website, the Council enjoys a world-wide presence as the place to go for bromeliad identification, pictures and information on the Internet. Derek's service to and influence in the bromeliad community extends far beyond Florida, and so we count ourselves lucky to have Derek Butcher as Friend to the Florida Council.

Derek Butcher, Bromeliads

By Carol Wolfe

After the presentation from the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies in 2008 and in the following years, Derek continued to be a friend to many of us and assisted us with articles, pictures and encouragement such as the email that follows received on 10/23/2019:

Carol,

Being an Editor of any newsletter must be fun. Otherwise there is no sense in taking up the job. You should get a warm fuzzy feeling when sharing your knowledge with others. From time to time you will get criticism but treat it in a way to improve not a negative.

Uncle Derek

BTW this name comes from years ago in NZ when Andrew Flower was Editor of their newsletter and he was my fictitious nephew Bertie. You may have noticed he is now the editor of the BSI Journal

I treasure the wisdom of his emails and I call them "Life's Special Nuggets" from "God's Special People"!!



Paul T. Isley III
Rainforest Flora in Venice, CA
April 17, 1948 — March 18, 2024

On March 18th Paul T Isley III passed away at home peacefully, after a prolonged battle with cancer, with his family by his side. Paul, also known to his friends as Ty, was born April 17, 1948 .

In 1974, he followed his passion and started his own company, Genus: Tillandsia, the first company dedicated to the wholesale distribution of Tillandsia Air Plants throughout North America. In 1976, Paul, along with Bill Harris and Jerry Robinson formed Rainforest Flora in Venice, CA. Paul traveled throughout Central and South America to locate, study, identify, and collect rare and exotic Tillandsias. Rainforest Flora became world-renowned for the Tillandsia hybrids it developed and distributed all over the world. Rainforest flora is currently located in Torrance, CA.

An intrepid adventurer throughout his life, Paul traveled to all 7 continents and the Arctic Circle. He summited Mt. Whitney, Mt. Kilimanjaro, and Mt. Elbrus, and trekked to Everest Base Camp. An avid scuba diver who had a fondness for deep sea exploration, he was able to explore Lake Baikal in Russia on the deep-sea submersible, Mir I, the same one that was featured in the movie, Titanic. He was proud to be a member of the world-famous Explorer's Club and a former officer and board member of the Los Angeles Adventurer's Club.

Paul wrote and published two books, Tillandsia and Tillandsia II. He also translated *The Deep* by Anatoly M. Sagalevich, a seminal volume on deep sea exploration. Paul loved his books, early morning runs, an evening scotch, fine wine, hosting grand parties, Tillandsias, the people he worked with, close friends, talking to strangers, and most of all his family.

Paul rediscovered his Holy Catholic Faith and was a staunch Traditional Catholic. Paul was a resident of Manhattan Beach for over 45 years. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Betty, son Paul T. Isley IV, daughters Kimberly Simich (John Ryan Simich), Kacey Tandy (Bradley Tandy), grandson John Jett Simich, brothers Chris Isley (Linda Isley), Tom Isley (Desti Overpeck) and sister Mary McCulloch (David McCulloch). A Traditional Latin Mass in Paul's memory will be held at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Wilmington, CA on Wednesday April 3rd at 10:00 am. In lieu of flowers you may donate to Paul's favorite charity, padrepio.org



To read the full article about Paul's interesting life go to
The Adventures' Club of Los Angeles, California, <http://adventurersclub.org>
Credit for photo from The website. Adventurers Club of Los Angeles
Obituary from the Daily Breeze Newspaper, April 3, 2024
<https://www.dailybreeze.com/obituaries/paul-t-isley-iii-manhattan-beach-ca/>



Bromeliad Society International Presents
World Bromeliad Conference 2024
May 22-25, 2024 • West Palm Beach, Florida

WBC 2024 will feature an exciting slate of events including a welcome reception, botanical tours, a banquet dinner, several world-renowned speakers & guests, the world's largest bromeliad sale and a professionally judged bromeliad show.

Conference registration for attendees includes:

- Welcome Reception — International poolside barbecue
- Historic WBC 2024 tote bag
- World conference banquet dinner with speaker
Andrew Devonshire on 'Hybridising, The Kiwi Way'
- Mounts Botanical Garden tour by luxurious motor-coach
- Access to world renowned speakers & honored guests
- World's largest bromeliad sale
- Professionally judged bromeliad show



Don't wait — register and reserve a hotel room online soon to save!

(Special reduced rates are available to all current BSI members)

Grant's Farm Nursery Tour



Join us for a special, behind-the-scenes tour to Florida's oldest bromeliad nursery! Reserve your space online for only \$25.

WBC 2024 World-Renowned Speakers



Find the latest WBC 2024 news and registration links online:

www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/

We look forward to seeing you at WBC 2024!

Conference Chairman Tom Ramiccio (Tramiccio@aol.com) & Conference Co-Chairman Alex Bello

Post-Conference Ecuador Field Trip with Plant Expeditions



Complete your conference experience with a 15 day tour through Ecuador. See over 150 bromeliad species in their native habitat!

Also see wildlife—butterflies, birds, insects and monkeys!

For more tour information and to reserve your space visit:

www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2024/ecuador



WBC 2024 - Speaker Bibliography

World Bromeliad Conference, May 22-25, 2024

West Palm Beach Marriott



Andrew Devonshire Andrew has been growing bromeliads, collecting bromeliads and hybridising bromeliads over the last 20 years. He has also been a member of the Bromeliad Society of New Zealand since 2002.

While alcantarea were the plants that introduced him to the world of bromeliads, it is neoregelia that have become his primary focus and he is best known for his mini to midi sized neoregelia hybrids.

Andrew's hybridising programme is carried out at his home, a residential site on Auckland's North Shore. This approach requires a focus on space allocation and therefore the smaller sized neoregelia hybrids have proved to be ideal for this style of propagation.

Hamilton in the Waikato Region of New Zealand was Andrew's place of birth in 1965, he moved to Auckland in 1972. Andrew has always had a fascination with plants and animals. He kept and bred axolotls (Mexican walking fish) from an early age, had a range of aviary birds including the NZ native parakeet (Kakariki) and was a member of the Avicultural Society of New Zealand.

Andrew also built up a large collection of tropical fish, native freshwater fish, native salt water fish and invertebrates. He was actively involved with the Auckland Fish keepers Association and a member of the North Shore Aquarium Society for many years.

Andrew is married to Delysse, they have three daughters McKenzie, Taylor and Casey and a granddaughter, Kaia.



Peter Tristram I have always had a love of nature, and a desire to know about natural systems. From native flower pressings in Dad's huge Webster's dictionary to cicada safaris and rock and mineral collecting, my childhood was always busy.

Bromeliads entered my life early – there were billbergias in my childhood garden that fascinated me, with their tanks of water and rotting vegetation and the dazzling flower spikes that emerged. It wasn't until I began teaching in Sydney's far west in 1977, that I discovered them again, and so many types. I began collecting 'broms' in earnest and haven't stopped since. I also married my lovely Bev, moved to the Coffs Harbour area in northern NSW where I taught for 30 years and began the process of rearing 3 wonderful children. Life was never dull!

Identification and plant taxonomy soon absorbed me too and I joined the Australian Bromeliad Society in 1977 and the BSI soon after, attending meetings, visiting many collections and purchasing available bromeliad literature. To satisfy my desire to collect the plants that I saw in the various books and journals, I began importing, mainly species, but a fair selection of hybrids and cultivars too.

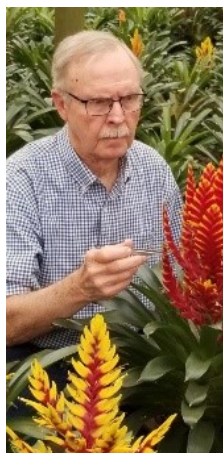
With so many unidentified plants, I started to utilise the new Bromeliad Identification Centre in Sarasota, Florida, USA and visited Harry Luther at the Marie Selby Botanic Gardens in 1988, for the first time. I then attended the World Conference in Miami. There I met so many people from all over the world and established lasting friendships. I began travelling, making trips to Costa Rica, Peru, Panama, Colombia, Brazil and Europe, as well as attending many World, most Australasian and a few German Society (DBG) conferences.

I ran a small but intensive bromeliad nursery for many years, but a recent move to the Gold Coast hinterland to be nearer family, saw me downsize mainly to tillandsias. For many years I specialised in species and eventually diverged into hybridising, continuing with species seed raising too. Now, I concentrate on mainly tillandsias.

The internet has also opened up endless opportunities to share and discuss, often in real time – email, internet forums and Facebook, Instagram are the new norms in communication.

Retired? Not really!





Herb Hill

Herb was born in Miami, Florida. Educated at the University of South Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in Geography. Worked with Ervin Worthman in the Interiorscape business; with a special interest in hybridizing bromeliads.

In 1972 he established Hill's Raingreen Tropicals, a wholesale nursery in Lithia, Florida. Currently the nursery specializes in wholesale orchids and bromeliads produced in their laboratory. On April 14, 2023, Herb celebrated 50 years of breeding Vrieseas.



Dr. Hiroyuki Takizawa MD.

PhD. Dr. Hiroyuki Takizawa is a vascular surgeon from Tokyo, Japan. Hiroyuki, affectionately known by his close friends as Hiro, has specialized in microscopic vascular surgery for the last 36 years.

Hiro took an interest in exotic plants from his childhood, when he found *Wallisia* (*Tillandsia*) *cyanea* at eight years of age and started growing it out of his own curiosity. He has always loved plants and has a fascination for many living creatures. Hiro attended his first BSI World Bromeliad Conference in Orlando in 1996. His first field research trip to Mexico was right after that conference, which was the beginning of a love affair of exploring and studying bromeliads in the wild. After that, Ecuador, Honduras, Costa Rica via Panama, again and again to Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela twice, back to Ecuador and Colombia.

Many specialists accompanied him on these field researches, Dennis Cathcart, Enrique Kamm, Pamela Hyatt, Elton Leme, Francisco Oliva Esteve, Eric Gouda, Charles Brewer Carias, Jose Manzanares and Chester Skotak. As a result of these collecting trips, Hiro described and published several new *Tillandsia* species such as *Tillandsia bulbosa* forma *alba*, *Tillandsia pseudobaileyi* forma *alba* and also *Tillandsia flexuosa* forma *alba*. He has also co-published *Tillandsia* X *marceloi*, *Tillandsia* X *bergiana* and *Tillandsia werner-rauhiana* with Pamela Hyatt.

In 1999, he discovered *Tillandsia takizawae* in the Tehuacan desert in Mexico, this *Tillandsia* was published in 2000 in JBS Volume 50(5) by Harry Luther and Renate Ehlers in his honor.

In 2023, *Tillandsia hiroi* Manzan. & Gouda (JBS Volume 72(3)) and *Racinaea hiroi* Manzan. & Gouda were published by Jose M. Manzanares and Dr. Eric J. Gouda in his honor.

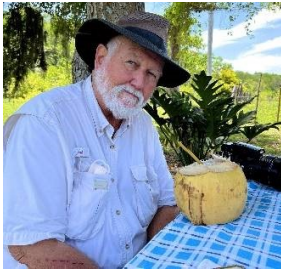
Not only exploring for plants, he has been working on creating new plants by hybridizing mainly focusing on very unusual combination hybrids using subgenus *Diaphoranthema* for example. Species of subgenus *Diaphoranthema* have very tiny flowers and Hiro's skill of microscopic surgery has brought his hybridizing work up to the next level.

Hiro has created over 100 very unusual combination hybrids, including new bigeneric hybrids of x *Racindisia* (*Racinaea* with *Tillandsia*), x *Barcinaea* (*Barfussia* with *Racinaea*), x *Tillamatodon* (*Tillandsia* with *Stigmatodon*), x *Vriesmatodon* (*Vriesea* with *Stigmatodon*) and x *Tillafussia* (*Tillandsia* with *Barfussia*).

Hiro published the New *Tillandsia* Handbook in 1998 with Hideo Shimizu and established The Bromeliad Society of Japan in 1998. He has been President of the Bromeliad Society of Japan since then. He made many presentation as a speaker in Japanese society. In World Bromeliad Conference, *Tillandsia* Day 2020 in Australia and Kiwi Broms 2023 (21st Australasian Bromeliad Conference). In his presentation, many of his new original hybrids will be introduced.



Dennis Cathcart



Dennis Cathcart is a lifelong naturalist with a deep interest in plants. In 1976, following a decade of work in herpetology, he founded Tropiflora, LLC, a bromeliad and tropical plant nursery in Sarasota, Florida. An avid plant explorer, he and his wife Linda made frequent expeditions to many countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean. Later, they expanded their travels to Africa, Madagascar, and Southeast Asia. Their expeditions led to the discovery of many species new to science and horticulture. Hundreds of specimens they contributed reside in various herbariums and botanical gardens worldwide.

Tropiflora supplied the anchor collection for the world-famous Gardens by the Bay in Singapore. In a five-year span, they shipped three hundred fifty thousand plants by airfreight to Singapore. They made a series of trips to help with their care and installation.

Dennis is a frequent speaker at venues in the U.S. and across the globe. He has presented in Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Venezuela, Brazil, and the Bahamas.

These days he and Linda are (mostly) retired from the nursery business. Their daughter Robin and son Scott manage Tropiflora. Now a full-time, published writer, natural history remains Dennis' first interest. He and Linda continue to explore exotic lands far and near, maintaining the life of adventure they love.



Pedro Nahoum, Brazil

Pedro Nahoum, age 52, is from Niteroi, a city in the Guanabara bay region of Rio, Brazil, and has acted on native plant propagation from seeds since 1986. He got a bachelor's degree of Ecology from Rio de Janeiro Federal University and now is studying Biodiversity Management at the Brazilian National School of Tropical Botany, from Rio Botanical Gardens.

Pedro got specialized in Ananas and sun tolerant bromeliad genera in early 90s, so Alcantarea and other genera are under greenhouse growing and at sandy field production continuously running over the last 34 years at his production areas at the east coast of Rio de Janeiro.

As the BOTANICA POP company founder, Pedro has been participating in native plants studying, domestication and genetic innovation, with several new species discoveries and introductions into cultivation, and advanced generation hybrids of pineapple, bromeliads, cacti and Aloe produced over the last decades.



Dr. Terrie Bert

Dr. Terrie Bert is a longstanding member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society (SBS) and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and has held multiple offices in the SBS. She also served the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) as a representative and officer for eight years and has authored multiple articles for the FCBS Newsletter. For the Bromeliad Society International, she has been the librarian, a Florida Director, World Conference Show Chair, and Australasian Conference Judges and Show Co-chair. She has also chaired several international committees, judged several shows, contributed articles to the BSI Journal, and served as invited speaker at world conferences. Currently she is Curator of the Wally Berg Award of Excellence, a Master Judge, and member of the Judges Certification Committee. Terrie has given over 175 presentations on bromeliads to numerous U.S. and international bromeliad societies and other groups, including regional and international bromeliad conferences. She cultivates more than 2,000 different bromeliads in about 35 genera. She's won multiple top awards in local bromeliad shows and BSI world conferences. She also obtained her Master Naturalist certification from the Manatee County Extension Service. Terrie has a Ph.D. in marine biology and recently retired from her position as a research scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.





The Late Mr. Common Sense

‘Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

Knowing when to come in out of the rain; why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn’t always fair; and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don’t spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies: adults, not children, are in charge.

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn’t defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility and his son, Reason. He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers, I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame and I’m A Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

Anonymous