



East London Bromeliad Society

South Africa

NEWS
LETTER
April
2019

Established: 25 July 2009

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

ELBS SA is an Affiliated Society  of Bromeliad Society International

The March Meeting was our First Mini Judged Show!

Wow! What an awesome success our first show was. Members brought along some of their best plants and all contributed to a fantastic array of Bromeliads and Tillandsia to feast our eyes on. We held the show in the Little Beacons Pre-Primary School hall. The hall was just big enough to accommodate the displays and seating for members and visitors, of

which there were many new faces. The standard of the plants on show was excellent and it was great to see so much member participation which was one of the reasons for organising the event. Don't ever feel your best plants are not good enough, it might be the only one of its kind on show! That is what happened, there was such a variety of plants, which was very encouraging to see. Of course the biggest group was the outstanding presentation

of so many wonderful Neoregelia! Oh my word! how do you choose the best amongst so many well grown plants?!

It was good to welcome Dawid and Scherine



Show Champion Runner Up *Tillandsia ehlersiana* grown by Rob and Tracy Moss.



Show Champion, *Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii* grown by David Gower.



Best in Mini Neoregelia, N. 'Intense Heat' grown by David Gower.



Best in Bi-generic, hybrid or other genera class, *Dyckia* 'Arizona' F2 grown by David Gower.



Best Neoregelia-Medium class, *Neoregelia* 'Lorena Lector' grown by Dawid Botha.

Next Meeting: Sunday 28th April, 2 for 2.30pm. To be hosted by Brian and Bridget Kroger at 67 Beaconhurst Drive, Beacon Bay. See you there!



Guzmania unnamed grown by Brenda Wegner.



Botha from Port Elizabeth. When he heard we were having a show, wild horses wouldn't have kept him away. He also encouraged our local member, David Gower to bring along some of his outstanding plants as well.

Thanks must go to the members of the committee and Robert and Tracy Moss for all their guidance and assistance in preparation and on the day of the show. We are definitely thinking of making this an annual event but possibly over 2 days or a weekend.

Hopefully this will encourage other country members to make a trip to East London with their special Bromeliads and Tillandsia for a show. Can you imagine how that will spread the love of bromeliads in our East London community if they get to view it! We have learnt a lot and have received positive and valuable feedback which we will take into account when organising the next event like this. So bear this in mind when working with your bromeliads and begin grooming some of your young plants for a show next year. Watch this space!!!



Members of the committee busy accepting entries on the day, Lyn Odendaal, Tracy Moss, Brenda Wegner, Betty Heunis and Xenia Winther.



Mark Bradfield and Xena McLaren admiring the Guzmania.



David Botha, David Gower, two of our show winners with Lynda Gower and Scherine Botha.



One of the four judging groups led by Tracy Moss discussing the merits of the plants on show in their class.



Billbergia 'Hallelujah' grown by Michael and Zena McLaren.



Mavis Downey's *Tillandsia* and *cryptanthus* in a palm frond.

ELBSSA Mini Judged Show - Winners

Show Champion	1. <i>Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii</i>	David Gower
Show Champ Runner Up	2. <i>Tillandsia ehlersiana</i>	Robert and Tracy Moss
Aechmea Flowering:	1. -	
	2. Aechmea 'Loie's Pride'	David Gower
	3. -	
Aechmea Foliage:	1. Aechmea 'Ash Blonde'	Dawid Botha
	2. Aechmea 'Black on Black'	Brenda Wegner
	3. Aechmea 'Gold Tone'	David Gower
Billbergia:	1. <i>Billbergia</i> 'Beadleman'	Lyn Wegner
	2. <i>Billbergia</i> 'Casa Blanca'	Lyn Wegner
	3. <i>Billbergia</i> 'Forest Lights'	Lyn Wegner
Cryptanthus:	1. <i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Thriller'	Rob and Tracy Moss
	2. <i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Crazy Moon'	Lyn Wegner
	3. <i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Pink Starlight'	Rob and Tracy Moss
Guzmania:	1. Guzmania variety	Brenda Wegner
	2. Guzmania variety	Brenda Wegner
	3. Guzmania 'Salinas'	Robert and Tracy Moss
Neoregelia Med Large:	1. <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Lorena Lector'	Dawid Botha
	2. <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Gerry's Touch'	Robert and Tracy Moss
	3. <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Zodiac'	Dawid Botha
Neoregelia Mini:	1. <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Intense Heat'	David Gower
	2. <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Brown Recluse'	Eddie and Barbara Black
	3. <i>Neo punctatissima rubra</i> x 'Hannibal Lector'	David Gower
Tillandsia Flowering:	1. <i>Tillandsia ehlersiana</i>	Robert and Tracy Moss
	2. <i>Till. fasciculata</i> 'Panama' x <i>capitata</i>	Lyn Wegner
	3. <i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i> 'Tropiflora'	Eddie and Barbara Black
Tillandsia Non flowering:	1. <i>Tillandsia xerographica</i>	Dr Boots Horsfall
	2. <i>Tillandsia tectorum</i>	Lyn Wegner
	3. <i>Tillandsia juncea</i>	Brenda Wegner
Bigeneric & any other species:	1. <i>Dyckia</i> 'Arizona' F2	David Gower
	2. x <i>Sincoregelia</i> 'Small Wonder' x <i>navioides</i>	Lyn Wegner
	3. <i>Quesnelia</i> 'Rafael Oliveira'	Lyn Wegner
Vriesea Flowering:	1. <i>Vriesea</i> 'Astrid'	Rob and Tracy Moss
	2. <i>Vriesea</i> variety	Michael and Zena McLaren
	3. -	
Vriesea Foliage:	No entries	
Bromeliad Species:	1. <i>Hohenbergia-leopoldo horstii</i>	David Gower
	2. <i>Aechmea bromeliifolia rubra</i>	Michael and Zena McLaren
	3. <i>Aechmea purpurea rosea</i>	Rob and Tracy Moss
Artistic Expression:	1. <i>Cryptanthus</i> & <i>Tillandsia</i> creation	Mavis Downey
	2. <i>Billbergia</i> 'Hallelujah' in a cup	Michael and Zena McLaren
	3. <i>Tillandsia</i> in a frame	Andre Eybers

Member News

- Welcome to new member Nicky Cunningham, we hope you enjoy a long association with the society.
- Welcome back Odette and Phillip Degenaar, we hope you enjoy being back in the society for a long time to come.

Thanks

- All the members who brought their beautiful plants to the show.
- Albie Reynolds for the use of the Little Beacons Pre-primary School hall.
- Rob and Tracy Moss for their enthusiastic guidance and assistance.
- The committee who worked so hard and assisted wherever needed on the day.
- Mavis and Terence for all their assistance at the Show.
- Dawid and Scherine Botha for travelling from Port Elizabeth with their show entries.
- Mavis Downey for making and donating the Champion of Show rosette.
- Barbara Black for our beautifully made show ribbons.
- Lyn Wegner, Brenda Wegner and Tracy and Rob Moss for committee eats.
- Thanks to all the members who helped pack up, move chairs etc.
- Marianne Hillstead and Dr Pete Pfister for catering tea and scrumptious goodies.

Congratulations to the March Raffle Winners

- New member, Nicky Cunningham won two raffles at her first meeting!! She chose *Tillandsia* 'Heather's Blush' and *Tillandsia* 'White Star'.
- Brenda Wegner chose a R120 voucher.
- Xenia Winther chose a R120 voucher.
- Calvin Coetzee from Pretoria chose *Billbergia* 'El Jefe'.
- Clint Gordon from Johannesburg chose *Tillandsia espinosae*.
- Shaun Hope from Johannesburg won two raffles and chose *Tillandsia espinosae* and *Tillandsia tectorum*.



Raffle winners, brand new member, Nicky Cunningham, Xenia Winther and Brenda Wegner who chose Raffle Vouchers.

From the Chairman Dudley Reynolds



Well, our first judged show has come and gone. It was very well attended with lots of fantastic plants entered. Thank you to all who participated. Thank you to my committee for all their hard work. Thank you to Tracy and Robert Moss for your positive input. Now that we have broken the ice, there is a lot of discussion about improvement for the next one. This is very exciting as it adds a new dimension to our wonderful society.

I have just moved my home and garden to a new house, which was very stressful and an enormous amount of work. The exciting part starts soon when I am able to start designing my new garden. Now that all the contractors have finished with alterations we are slowly unpacking and trying to normalise our lives. From my side until we chat again, happy bromming.

From the Committee

- Please remember to collect your name badge from Betty Heunis when you arrive at the meeting and return it to the box before leaving. If you are not wearing your name badge you will not qualify for the Lucky Draws.
- Vouchers: If you don't find a plant you want to choose as a raffle plant you can ask Lyn Odendaal for a voucher to the value of R120.00 to buy a plant from a member or accumulate vouchers, (should you be so lucky!) to buy a more expensive plant you have been wanting from a member of the society.

Upcoming Society Events

28th April: Hosted by Brian and Bridget Kroger at 67 Beaconhurst Drive, Beacon Bay. We gather at 2.00pm for a prompt start at 2.30pm. We met at their garden a few years ago, they have both since retired and have really enjoyed getting their garden where they wanted it to be. It was on the Pam Golding Show Gardens of East London last year! So, see you there. We encourage all members to bring along a brag or problem Bromeliad or Tillandsia for Show and Tell. Don't forget your chair and mug. Topic of the meeting: Lyn Wegner will be talking about scale on our bromeliads and fills, the causes and what we can do about it.

26th May: Hosted by Mavis and Terence Downey. Topic: Highlighting Neoregelia.

30th June Presentation of a BSI Media Library program, Bromeliads A TO Z, at Little Beacons Pre-primary hall in Beacon Bay.

28th July: ELBSSA 10th Birthday Celebrations, Fun Quiz and AGM !!! at 18 Wentworth Road in Sunnyridge.

Upcoming International Conferences

2019: 'Golden Broms' 17th - 20th October 2019 Hosted by the Gold Coast Succulent and Bromeliad Society Inc. at the Sea World Resort on the Gold Coast. This will be the 20th Australasian Bromeliad Conference. For contact information go to the conference website at www.goldenbroms.com

2021: This bi-annual **Australasian Bromeliad Conference** will again be hosted by The New Zealand Bromeliad Society. **'Kiwi Broms'** April 8th - 11th 2021, venue Waipuna Hotel. Start saving now!

Thoughts on why bromeliads are a global phenomenon and vastly popular with hobbyists and growers. - Marty Folk

Adapted from Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society Newsletter - July 2016

After they were discovered in the New World, the tropical and sub-tropical Americas, they were first brought to Europe in the 1700s, where they caused a sensation. The first two species being *Ananas comosus*, the edible pineapple, and *Bromelia pinguin*.

Today they are found throughout the world. Their widespread success can be attributed in part to their range of characteristics that allows them to appeal to a broad spectrum of plant lovers with different growing requirements and conditions within their personal environments. They have a little something for everyone's preferences and tastes, from purely ornamental to edible (e.g: pineapple). Here are some of their variable features:



Ananas comosus



Bromelia pinguin

- They come in all sizes. They range in size from less than 2 inches long, the smallest bromeliad *Tillandsia usneoides*, (aka Spanish Moss or Old Man's Beard), to 10 feet tall, the largest bromeliad *Puya raimondii* that can also have a stalk up to 30 feet above the main plant.



Tillandsia usneoides



Puya raimondii

- They grow in a number of shapes and forms: vase-shape, rosette, symmetrical, asymmetrical and upright.
- Their leaves come in many colours, shapes, patterns, and textures. Leaf colours include various shades of green, red, orange, brown, burgundy and some with discolour leaves that are green on top and red underneath to let in as much light to the plant as possible in shady conditions. Leaf colour can vary from top to bottom and change when the plant is flowering often with flushing towards the centre of the plant. Leaf colour can also be variegated (i.e. differently coloured zones on leaves, eg: albomarginated-white edging around the outer leaf.). Leaf shape varieties include short, long, upright, pendant, narrow (needle thin), and broad. Leaf patterns can be spots, splotches, and straight or wavy horizontal or vertical strips and foliage Vriesea have what we call fenestrations, which are little windows that let light through the leaves to lower leaves on the plant. Leaf textures include matt, glossy, scurfy, thin, thick, curly, wavy, with spines, and spineless.
- The bloom stalks (inflorescences) can also be found in a myriad of sizes, shapes, colours and textures. Flowers on the stalks come in brilliant combinations of red, blue, white, yellow, purple, orange, green, pink and crimson.
- They grow three different ways - epiphytic (growing on other plants, typically trees, using their roots to anchor onto the tree), saxicolous (growing on rocks), and terrestrial (growing with roots in the ground).
- Some love full sun, some need part shade, some are best in full shade, and still others can adapt to these different light conditions. Some thrive inside a building and others need to be grown outdoors in order to thrive.
- Some like moist growing conditions while others prefer little or no direct watering.
- They are, typically, easy to grow, water-wise and can figuratively 'live forever' through their offspring, most commonly called pups that some bromeliads provide in abundance, while yet others produce sparingly (e.g. only one).

Sources of information about bromeliads are abundant on the Internet and we also have access to many interesting books and journals about bromeliads available in the ELBSSA library. Check with Benda Wegner who is our librarian, for information on what is available. The library list is at the end of this newsletter.

From the Editor



Our 10th birthday comes up in July and in preparation for the annual Quiz, which will be back by popular demand this year, (with lots of Fizz Ananas!) I decided to include the above article, maybe you could memorise some of the key words you are perhaps not too familiar with and score points for your team, as some of them are bound to crop up!

Now that we are well and truly experiencing some cooler Autumn weather, it is a good time to do

a clean up in the garden and remove all those dead leaves and spent flower spikes to prevent bacteria and fungus developing over the winter months. Lyn will be telling us about spraying with a systemic poison to kill scale at the next meeting, as some of us have found flyspeck scale on Vriesea and some Guzmania. I have been using a contact spray which is quite laborious as every plant has to be sprayed where the scale occurs which is underneath the leaves. It needs to be nipped in the bud before it spreads, so do watch out for it on your softer leaved bromeliads.



Neoregelia 'Brown Recluse'.

What more can I add, the show we held last month was such a success I didn't sleep afterwards on Sunday night I was so wired! Thank you to everyone who participated, whether in helping put it all together or bringing plants to show, it was a fun and wonderful afternoon of camaraderie and appreciating awesome Bromeliads and Tillandsia! Thanks for sharing photos Lyn, Brenda and Mark. Those of you who didn't come along really missed out, but there will be another show! Dudley encouraged me to enter my Neoregelia 'Brown Recluse' which I have had for a long time, the last mother conveniently sent out 3 pups in different directions on long stolons which made a perfect specimen clump. I love their fat bellies and spined, curving leaves, I grow it in full sun all year round. I was very chuffed that it was placed second in the Mini Neoregelia Class! You would not think it was a Neoregelia just looking at it. So, look at your plants with new eyes too! They are just spectacular!

I would like to encourage all of you to send in photos of any Bromeliad, Tillandsia or artistic creation that is too big to bring to a meeting for Show and Tell, it can be published in the newsletter for all to enjoy, that goes for country members too, please share your bromeliad photos, we would love to see them!

In the meantime, I wish you a Happy Easter and if you are travelling, be safe and enjoy the long weekend! We all look forward to seeing you at the next meeting at Brian and Bridget Kroger's home in Beaconhurst Drive. See you there!

Barbs.

Some more show photos.



Best on show, *Billbergia* 'Beadleman' grown by Lyn Wegner.



Dr Boots Horsfall's beautifully grown *Tillandsia xerographica* in the Tillandsia non-flowering class.



Some of the Tillandsia entries.



Some species on show an *Aechmea* and *Neoregelia* species.



Cryptanthus 'Pink Starlight' grown by Rob and Tracy Moss.



Vriesea 'Astrid' grown by Rob and Tracy Moss.

This is a publication for the **East London Bromeliad Society, South Africa** for the interest of its members. Articles may be used 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, please ensure that all facts and information, including spelling, is checked and accurate.


ELBS SA 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 R120.00 for individuals/families and R60 for students.

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 You will find ELBS 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.

Back copies of all our newsletters can be accessed by joining the East London Bromeliad Society web page members section. You will find it at www.elbssa.co.za

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 is found at bsi.org

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

Encyclopedia of Bromeliads - <http://bromelia.club> (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 'Encyclopediad of Bromeliads' into the Facebook search bar.

For internet resources you can also go to TAXON (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 - <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php> or just type in 'New Bromeliad Taxon List', it's much easier!

East London Bromeliad Society - Library Book List

- Bromeliads under the Mango Tree
- Bromeliads Cultivation Notes
- Bromeliads for Modern Living
- Bromeliads a Cultural Manual
- Bromeliads by Walter Richter
- Bromeliads by Bill Seaborn
- Bromeliads by Victoria Padilla
- Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden by Andrew Steens
- Growing Bromeliads
- A Bromeliad Glossary (BSI)
- In Search of Flowers of the Amazon Forests (Janet – July 2016)
- Nidularium: Bromeliads of the Atlantic Forest (Lyn – May 2017)
- International Checklist of Bromeliad Hybrids (BSI)
- Checklist of Australian Bromeliads, Hybrids & Cultivars including Notes for the Hybridist – compiled by Derek Butcher (5th edition)
- Journals of the Bromeliad Society International
- Journals of the Bromeliad Society New Zealand Inc.
- Backyard Bromeliads (24 issues)
- Grande (4 copies)
- Tropiflora Cargo Report by Dennis Cathcart (57 issues)
- Genus Tillandsia
- Cryptanthus Journals
- The 20th BSI World Bromeliad Conference 2012
- Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc.
- Cool Broms - Auckland 2013 Bromeliad Conference
- 3 x DVD'S – Bromeliad Conference - Cool Broms Auckland 2013
- 1 x USB – Christo van Wijk's Garden Tour, Fernhaven Walkabout, Growing Bromeliads in San Diego
- 1 x USB – Bromeliad Conference – Cool Broms Auckland 2013
- 1 x USB – Bromeliad Conference – San Diego, California 2018 (Lyn Wegner photo's)