

# 10/17/2018 Bromeliad Conservation Workshop Discussion Summary

by Brad Brad Oberle, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Biology

Div. Natural Sciences, New College of Florida

## Consensus items

### I. Collaborations promote success

Evidence: Volunteers, public servants, researchers and citizens have made great strides with limited budgets because of a common commitment to saving bromeliads and to effective communication.

#### Actions:

1. Continue annual meetings.
2. Seek more partners in new areas.
3. Develop a communication plan
  - a. Key messages
    - i. Bromeliads are beautiful, protected but still threatened
    - ii. Provide actions as “dos” and “donts” (e.g. do get involved with a “friends of [park X]” volunteer organization, don’t remove a bromeliad from your property)
  - b. Media
    - i. Signage for parks is targeted, but expensive
    - ii. Social media may reach people, but requires design

### II. Coordinating basic and applied research can improve conservation

Evidence: Volunteer groups and research organizations have progressed with monitoring, ex situ conservation, and modelling. Several reported methods for dispersing/germinating seeds and protecting reproductive adults with varying levels of effort and success. Groups have observed earlier flowering for *T. utriculata* and widespread storm impacts. Basic scientific research is beginning to have broader impacts.

#### Actions

1. Consider adapting existing monitoring/reporting platforms for bromeliad conservation citizen science (e.g. “I’ve got one” and the sentinel plant network)
2. Assess options for databasing growth, demography and responses to alternative conservation interventions.
3. Use models to inform conservation efforts.

III. Recognize Teresa for the tremendous talent and time she has contributed to growing our community.