

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2011



NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30.

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

Program

Terrie Bert is back again, this time to talk to us about “*Best Buy Bromeliads*”, with tips for interested buyers on how to get the best value for the money when purchasing bromeliads. Based on her many years of selling and buying bromeliads and observing purchases made by others considered to be bromeliad experts, she has learned which bromeliads sell and which don't. This topic will be of particular interest to anyone who wants to improve or enlarge their collection without breaking the bank.

Plant Sales

Ms. Bert will be the sole vendor of plants for this meeting and therefore there will be no member plant sales.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Alton Lee talked to us about bromeliads not commonly found in current collections in his presentation *Missing in Action: Great Bromeliads No One Grows Any More*. These are bromeliads that were typically found in collections in the earlier days of bromeliad collecting. Alton covered almost 50 species and hybrids within eight genera and had examples, either living or photographs, of them. Some of the live plants were from Dave Johnston and Marty Baxley's collections. While some of the ones we saw are admittedly not as stunning as some of today's popular bromeliads, Alton stated they are often underappreciated for their place in the evolution of today's many popular hybrids. They were also often hardy and generous puppers. Alton urged growers to continue to raise them and keep them in circulation



Show and Tell

Barret Bassick
Dave Johnston

Bil. euphemiae var. *purpurea*; *Til. jucunda*
Bil. decora x *B. tessmannii*; *Aec.* (species unknown)

Alton Lee

Aec. recurvata (red form); *Bil.* 'Windii'; *Vr. bituminosa* x *Vr. saundersii*

Larry Sousa

Aec. calyculata x *miniata*; *Bil. pyramidalis* (winter form)

Helga Tarver

Til. lonantha var. *vanhyningii*; *Til. gardneri* var. *gardneri*; *Til.* 'Eric Knobloch'; *Til. bulbosa* (large form)



Bil. euphemiae var. *purpurea*

FWCBS Home Garden Tours

On Saturday, March 12, many in our society took advantage of the FWCBS Bromeliad Gardens Tour and visited gardens at the homes of members John and Martha Espey, Kathy Risley and Steve Littlefield, and Susan and Larry Sousa. Below are some photographs of our hosts and their gardens.

John and Martha Espey's Garden



John and Martha



Decorating with bromeliads



Tom Tarver enjoys refreshments set out by our hosts.



A bromeliad "wall" garden in the roots of an upturned tree.



Phyllis Steil inspects the back of the bromeliad "wall" garden.

Kathy Risley/Steve Littlefield's Garden



Steve and Kathy



A berm of bromeliads in front of the house



Some of Steve's yard art and a geodesic dome shade house



Inside the dome shade house



A bromeliad 'tree'



Another shade house



Steve's wire 'wheel' for hanging Tillandsias



←← More yard art by Steve

Susan and Larry Sousa's Garden



Larry and Susan



Bromeliads in the landscape in the front



Water feature with bromeliads



Sun bromeliads



Shady path lined with bromeliads

THIS AND THAT

Refreshment

Refreshment Chair Cindy Redmond posts the following note regarding the March meeting: "A great big THANK YOU to all the folks who brought refreshments and assisted with the set-up and take down. It was a great turnout for the club and a delicious dinner for our guests. Our members continue to live up to our reputation for setting out a delicious menu for our meetings."

She also reported that food volunteers in March were Bob Dalzell, Steve Littlefield, Kathy Risley, and Gary and Judy Lund and volunteers for April are Teresa Dunkin and Barbara Gardner. We thank as well the unnamed others who also contribute food.

May Auction

Now that spring weather is here, many of us are getting out into our gardens, cleaning, pruning, replanting, and such. Since our annual auction will be held at the May 3 meeting, as you are doing your spring garden cleanup, be sure to start setting aside bromeliads to donate to the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2011

April 1-3, Tropiflora Spring Festival

Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 (tropiflora.com)

April 2-3, Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Show and Sale

Tampa Bay Garden Center, Tampa, FL

April 9-10, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (cas.usf.edu/garden)

April 30-May 1, Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL (Chairman: Carol Lucia, 727-393-8276)

April 29-30, Sarasota Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL

November 4-6, Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2011

Daytona Beach, hosted by the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

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The lovely and uncommon *Ursulaea macvaughii* →→

