

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2016

Celebrating over 62 Years in Bromeliads

FWCBS.org



September 2016 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, September 6, 2016
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:

Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

Program

Dennis Cathcart will be the evening's speaker with a presentation titled *Bromeliads in the Wilderness*. He will share with us some of his collecting adventures and the plants he has seen in their natural habitat.

Dennis and his wife Linda own and operate Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota, FL. Established in 1976, the nursery has become one of the largest collector-oriented exotic plant nurseries in the United States. An internationally renowned bromeliad expert, Dennis's experience as a collector and grower of bromeliads and other exotic plants has spanned over 40 years. His work collecting, studying, photographing, writing and speaking about these plants has taken him to many countries around the world. He has made over 100 collecting trips to almost 30 countries, from the Caribbean and Latin American to South East Asia, Africa and Madagascar. His explorations have resulted in the introduction of a number of new species of bromeliads to science and cultivation. Three species of bromeliads--an *Aechmea*, a *Neoregelia* and a *Vriesea*—are named after him and bear the name *cathcartii*.

Plant Sales

The speaker will be the sole plant vendor for this meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Jay Thurrott, president of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI), shared with us some details about and photos of the 22nd World Bromeliad Conference (WBC) held in Houston this past June. The event was sponsored by BSI and hosted by the Bromeliad Society/Houston, Inc.

Jay began his talk by summarizing the history of WBCs held in the past decade: 2006 in San Diego, CA; 2008 in Cairns, Australia; 2010 in New Orleans, LA; 2012 in Orlando, FL; 2014 in Honolulu, HI; and 2016 in Houston, TX. Then he described the primary activities for this WBC which followed the typical format of events that take place over four days and

included seminars, plant sales, a plant show, tours, a banquet, and a rare plant auction. On the opening night, conference attendees went to Jimbo's Nursery (grower of bromeliads, cacti, and succulents) for a barbeque dinner, which was a Texas 'Meet and Greet' version of an ice breaker. For this year's conference there were eight seminars by distinguished speakers:

- Gregory Brown, Professor of Botany, University of Wyoming, *Bromeliaceae Systematics—Stepping Back to Move Forward* (refocused efforts on traditional systematic data and old-fashioned field work to augment molecular systematic studies of bromeliads)
- Thomas Givnish, Professor of Botany and Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, *100 Million Years of Bromeliad Evolution* (a review of what has been learned in the last few years about the evolutionary history of bromeliads – their origin, ecological innovations, geographic spread, and species diversification)
- Eric Gouda, Curator, Utrecht University Botanical Garden, and Renate Verwer, Netherlands, *Bromeliad Treasure Hunting in the Peruvian Andes* (their journey during two trips to the Andes)
- Alan Herndon, Bromeliad Society of South Florida, BSI Journal Editor, and Eric Gouda, *The Status of the BSI Journal & Website*
- Bruce Holst, Director of Botany, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, Florida, *Exploring Bromeliads in Belize*
- Pamela Koide-Hyatt, Tillandsia hybridizer and expert, Bird Rock Tropicals, California, *Thirty Plus Years of Hybridizing Tillandsias, What I've Learned*
- Elton Leme, lawyer, judge, professor, and bromeliad taxonomy scholar, Brazil, *Cryptanthoid Complex Upside Down: New Circumscriptions for Cryptanthus and Allied Genera* (splitting the genera *Cryptanthus*, *Orthophytum*, and *Lapanthus* into new genera)
- Jose Manzanares, botanist, horticulturist, and author, Ecuador, *The Genus Mezobromelia; Status and New Species*

Elton Leme was also the keynote speaker at the banquet, with a presentation titled *Bromeliad Conservation in Brazil: Current Situation and Perspectives*.

The last two days of the conference, the attendees had the opportunity to take tours of six private homes and nurseries: David Klein Estate (bromeliads, cacti, succulents, cycads and palms), Malcolm McCorquodale (private home in an urban setting), Carol and Rick Richtmyer (*Cryptanthus* hybridizer), Gordon Stowe (greenhouse with state-of-the-art features and construction), Frank and Cherie Lee (bromeliads, ferns, cacti, succulents) and the Edmonsons (bromeliad species collector).

At the end of his talk, Jay announced that the next WBC will be held May 29 through June 3, 2018, in San Diego, CA. For more information about the 23rd WBC go to the BSI website at www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/.



Tillandsia fasciculata
'Tropiflora'

THIS AND THAT

New Member

New member Ken Storms joined our society at the meeting last month. Welcome, Ken.

New Website Address

Dick Dailey has secured for us a new website address--FWCBS.org—to replace our old one. Dick and our webmaster John Edwards are working to improve the site and add new features, and we thank them for their efforts. Contact either of them if you have suggestions for features you would like to see on the website.

***Aechmea* 'Burning Bush'**

In the Show and Tell session Janet Stoffels showed her favorite bromeliad, *Aechmea fulgens* x *Aec. ramosa*, which she calls her 'hurricane' bromeliad because it always blooms in the summer during our hurricane season. Below is a picture (on the left) showing how she has used this bromeliad to line her walkway and in the landscape around an oak tree. Below (on the right) is a picture of one of the floral arrangements (this one with bromeliad and ginger plants) Janet makes for the St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts where she is a volunteer.



BLOOMING THIS MONTH



Aechmea 'Del Mar'



Neoregelia 'Lou Wilson'



Aechmea mulfordii



Tillandsia dyeriana



Guzmania lingulata

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2016

September 9-11, Sarasota Bromeliad Society Show and Sales, Bewitched Bromeliads
(sarasotabromeliadsociety.org; 941-567-4176)

September 30, October 1-2, Tropiflora Fall Festival
Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 (tropiflora.com)

October 8-9, USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (www.cas.usf.edu/garden)

December 3-4, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale
Terry Park, 3451 Marion Street, Fort Myers (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

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