

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2011



NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2011
Location: Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764
Time: Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Program

Dr. Howard Frank will talk to us about the Mexican bromeliad weevil *Metamasius callizona* that is killing native bromeliad populations in Florida and has spread to bromeliads in private collections. His talk, *Hunting Bromeliad-Eating Weevils in Belize*, is about his 10-day trip to Belize in October-November 2010 to collect such weevils for study and will include photographs of bromeliads, wildlife, and scenery.

Dr. Howard is a professor of entomology at the University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville. His field of study is applied insect ecology and specifically the use of biological control against pest insects. He teaches a graduate level course on biological control, has guided many graduate student projects, and conducts his own projects, including his current study on the control of *M callizona*. He has been interested in bromeliads and the insects associated with them since he lived in Jamaica in 1968-1972. He is a member of the Gainesville Bromeliad Society.

Nominating Committee, November Officers Election

At the October meeting, the Nominating Committee will present a full slate of nominees for our 2012 officers and trustees. Members will vote on the slate at the November meeting. Additional candidates may be added to the slate any time before the voting takes place.

Plant Sales

All members are invited to sell plants at this meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Ray Lemieux from Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota continued his series of talks to us on the subject of growing and repotting terrestrial bromeliads. He had about 12 of these plants with him, all but one in the subfamily *Pitcairnioideae*, that he used as examples to make his points. Highlights of his talk included the following.

He uses a liquid fertilizer followed by a time-release fertilizer to get the largest size plant in the shortest time.

Hechtias are primarily from Mexico and prefer to be dry, drier than Dyckias, especially in the winter. He adds limestone to the potting medium for these bromeliads since it is typically part of the medium in which they grow in their native habitats.

For terrestrials that like more water, he uses a medium that contains a chunky peat with a little perlite in it to get them to grow larger than typical. Using this medium recipe, he has grown a *Pitcairnia* and a *Navia nerida* up to 4 feet across in a 10-inch diameter pot.



Dyckias are primarily from Brazil and grow spikes with red, yellow, or orange flowers. He considers *Dyckia brevifolia* 'Moon Glow' a succulent bromeliad and while it likes to be moist, keeping it on the drier side will enhance its color.



Dyckia brevifolia → →



← ← *Navia igneosicola* grows at high altitudes in Venezuela in cool, moist habitats, prefers clean (non-chemical) water, and grows best in a narrow temperature range, neither too hot nor too cold.



X *Deuterocairnia* → →

Ray created this bi-generic cross, using *Deuterocohnia longipetala* for its thick spiny leaves and *Pitcairnia burle-marxii* for color.



← ← *Dyckia* 'Mercury' f2 is a banded and unregistered bromeliad Ray grew from seed.

Show and Tell

Reported by Alton Lee

Tom Crocker	<i>Aechmea fendleri</i> hybrid
Alton Lee	<i>Aechmea fulgens</i> x <i>ramosa</i> ; <i>Tillandsia cyanea</i> (variegated)
Gary Lund*	<i>Aechmea fendleri</i> ; <i>Hohenbergia</i> species undetermined (resembles <i>Hoh. Attenuata</i>)
Linda Sheetz	<i>Tillandsia copanensis</i>

* After the Show and Tell, Gary Lund donated his 'field-grown' landscape *Hohenbergia* to our raffle table. The lucky winner was Nicole Matwijczyk. To see what she did with it, read the **THIS AND THAT** section below.

Below are photographs of some of the plants from the Show and Tell, including Gary's Hohenbergia.



Aechmea fendleri hybrid



Aechmea fulgens x *ramosa*



Hohenbergia species



Tillandsia copanensis

THIS AND THAT

Dr. Helen Louise Taylor Dexter

Longtime FWCBS member and bromeliad advocate Helen Dexter passed away Tuesday, September 20, 2011, at the grand age of 103. We offer our condolences to her family and friends. She will be missed. Helen had been a lover, grower, and promoter of bromeliads since the 1960s and was FWCBS member Bob Dalzell's mother-in-law. Helga Tarver reports that Aec. 'Helen Dexter', an albomarginated cultivar of *Aechmea apocalyptica*, was named for Helen. A picture of her namesake plant is on the right. (Photograph source: Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, fwcbs.org/pictures.)



Salvador Dalí, Nicole, and a Hohenbergia

The next time you are in St. Petersburg, check out the 'Living Wall' at the entrance to the new Salvador Dalí Museum. The wall of plants is composed almost entirely of bromeliads, and the design they create was intended to reflect Dalí's aesthetics in his art. Ever since the wall plants were installed prior to the early 2011 opening of the museum, FWCBS member Nicole Matwijczyk has maintained, repaired, added to, and improved this vertical garden. In the pictures below you can see Gary Lund's Hohenbergia that she added to the wall. As an employee of the City of St. Petersburg, Nicole works with shows and events at the Dalí and the nearby Mahaffey Theater, bakes for events at these venues, and oh, yes, is into plants, especially bamboo and now bromeliads. You can purchase an example of her baking artistry in the Dalí gift shop, where they sell her 'Melting Clock' cookies, each one laboriously hand decorated by Nicole.



Entrance to the Salvador Dalí Museum, with the 'Living Wall' garden on the far right, March 2011



Close-up view of the wall garden, September 2011



↑ ↑ Above is another angle of the wall garden that shows the Hohenbergia (on the far right) that Nicole won in the September meeting raffle. A closer view of the Hohenbergia is on the right. → → → →



UPCOMING EVENTS, 2011

September 30, October 1-2, Tropiflora Fall Festival

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

October 8-9, USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale

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

November 4-6, Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2011

The Plaza Resort and Spa, Daytona Beach, FL, hosted by the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society and sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies; includes the 12th Annual International Cryptanthus Society Show (go to <http://theartofbromeliads.wordpress.com/> for more information.)

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Newsletter Editor, Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society, P.O. Box 4185, Clearwater, FL 33758