

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March 2010



MARCH MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, March 2nd, 2010
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30.

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

NOTICE!!!!!!

If you have not renewed your FWCBS membership for 2010, sadly, this could be the last newsletter you will receive.

Society membership renewal dues were payable through February. If you pay soon, you can maintain your membership without interruption. You may pay at the March meeting, or send a check, payable to FWCBS, to Brian Corey at 1153 Williams Drive South, St. Petersburg FL 33705.

Program

Ray LeMieux, always an informative and entertaining speaker, will present the program at the March meeting. His work at TropiFlora Nursery in Sarasota is primarily with terrestrial bromeliads including Hectias and Dykias, along with succulents that include sansevierias. His program in March is on terrestrial bromeliads and will include growing techniques, propagation, soil mixes, and sunlight requirements. He will also talk about how he propagates them and share some of his other experiences with them. He will also have plants for sale.

FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

As advertised, **Terrie Bert's** program demonstrated how to find and use bromeliad information resources available on the internet, and specifically the FCBS Bromeliad Encyclopedia website. While it is informative on its own, the FCBS website has many links to other websites in the bromeliad world that are also tremendous resources. It's at fcbs.org. Check it out.

Harry Luther Leaves Selby

Society member Harry Luther, Director of the Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center (BIC) at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, has left Selby and is taking the position of Assistant Director of Horticulture at the Garden by the Bay in Singapore. Harry joined the Society when he was a teen and in the following years gained expertise and recognition as a world-class authority on bromeliads. He will be missed. The members approved a motion for the Society to honor Harry in some manner, which will be announced at the March meeting. The future of the BIC is currently uncertain.

Florida Botanical Gardens and the Bromeliad Section

The Florida Botanical Gardens (FBG) plans to move the Bromeliad Section of the gardens to an area near the Wedding Garden. The Society established the Bromeliad Section 10 years ago and has made efforts to maintain it since then. FWCBS member Bob Albanese works at the Pinellas County Extension Center with which the FBG is affiliated, and the FBG Director has asked him to provide

input with the proposed relocation efforts. The Society has offered to assist Bob, if possible. While the new location is a smaller area, it is also more visible and secure. The current location is outside the main gardens, in an out-of-the-way location that has allowed theft of many of the bromeliads there.

Show and Tell

Dave Johnston *Neo. carcharodon* 'Rainbow'

Helga Tarver *Til. xerographica*, *Til. ionatha* var. *ionatha*, *Til. nizandensis*, *Aec.* 'Reginald'

THIS AND THAT

Raffle Table

While the refreshment food table at the last meeting was, as usual, bountiful, the raffle table offerings left much to be desired. Certainly, the cold and miserable weather these past few months – miserable at least for tropical plants – has not helped the health of those plants and/or one's desire/ability to get into the garden and tend to them. Hopefully, the recent warmer weather has encouraged members to look through their gardens and see what they have to donate to the raffle table and/or sell at the meetings. Remember, raffle ticket sales are among the Society's sources of income.

Florida State Fair Horticultural Show

Several members entered plants, some of which won ribbons, in the horticultural show at the recent Florida State Fair held in Tampa. These entrants included Marty Baxley, Merle Deland, and Brad and Dave Johnston.

Bylaws and Standing Rules

Some members have indicated they do not have copies of the current bylaws and standing rules. You will find copies attached to this newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 27-28, GreenFest Plant Sale

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL

April 10-11, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

April 16-18, Bromeliad Judged Show and Sale

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Tampa Bay Garden Center, Tampa, FL

April 17-18, Sarasota Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL

April 24-25, Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL

July 26 thru August 1, 19th World Bromeliad Conference

New Orleans, LA; www.bsi.org/events

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