

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March 2011



NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

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

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

NOTICE!!!!!!

This will be the last newsletter you will receive
if you have not renewed your FWCBS membership for 2011.

Membership renewal dues were payable through February. To maintain membership without interruption in your newsletters, renew at the March meeting, or send a check, payable to FWCBS, to Brian Corey (Treasurer) at 1153 Williams Drive South, St. Petersburg FL 33705.

Program

Alton Lee will give a talk titled *Missing in Action: Great Bromeliads No One Grows Any More*. If you have one or more bromeliad not typically seen around now, feel free to bring it (them) to share with the group. In his 30-plus years as a member of FWCBS, Alton has at one time or another held almost all officers' positions and in 2009 received the FWCBS Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his long and valuable service to the Society. He is active in a number of other plant societies and has been growing bromeliads and many other kinds of tropical plants since he was a young lad.

Standing Rules and Sales Rules Vote

The Standing Rules and Sales Rules that the Board of Directors revised will be presented to the members for discussion and vote at the March meeting. All members will have received copies of these before the meeting and once finalized, the new sets of rules will be distributed to all.

Plant Sales

Bromeliad sales for this meeting are open to all members who wish to sell. Since the revised Standing Rules being presented for vote at the meeting (see above) require a seller to donate at least one plant to the raffle table, any sellers should be prepared with a donation plant.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Dennis Cathcart showed us slides of and told us tales about some of the many collecting trips he has made to Latin America. We saw slides of bromeliads in their native habitats from Mexico south through Argentina and Brazil. His adventures included finding venomous snakes in plants collected, spending two weeks with three others on a 14-foot outboard motor boat in piranha-infested waters, hiking through trackless wildernesses, and taking a jeep across a rope bridge that was more suitable for foot traffic. How fortunate for the bromeliad world that he was willing and, in fact, eager to take such trips and bring new plants to us.



Show and Tell

John Espey

Dave Johnston

Welder's gloves for arm protection when handling especially thorny plants
Aec. orlandiana and cold-tolerant Aechmeas that included *Aec. recurvata* x *A. orlandiana*; *Aec. recurvata* (cross unknown); *Aec. 'Covata'*; *Aec. recurvata* x *A. distichantha*; and two unknown *Aec.* species or hybrids

Alton Lee

Guz. 'Tutti Fruitti' (variegated form); *Aec. 'Phoenix'* (*A. calyculata* x *A. recurvata*); *Bil. amoena* 'Beryl Allen'

Gary Lund

Androlepis skinneri; *Aec. recurvata*; *Bil. nutans*; *Til. intermedia*

Kathy Risley

Neo. "Gemini"; *Aec. nudicaulis*; *Neo.* (hybrid unknown)

Helga Tarver

Guz. lingulata var. *cardinalis*



Guz. 'Tutti Fruitti'



Aec. 'Phoenix' (*A. calyculata* x *A. recurvata*)



Aec. recurvata x *A. distichantha*



Aec. recurvata hybrid

THIS AND THAT

FWCBS Home Garden Tours

Our Society is invited to visit gardens at the homes of the following members on Saturday, March 12, between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM:

- John and Martha Espey, 205 Edgewater Drive, Dunedin 34698
- Susan and Larry Sousa, 5400 Bates Street, Seminole 33772
- Kathy Risley and Steve Littlefield, 1601 Grove Street, Clearwater 33755

These members have graciously made their gardens available to us, to allow us to learn what they grow, how they grow it, what works and what doesn't work. Take advantage of this opportunity along with the pleasant weather that has finally arrived in our area. Maps to these locales and contact information will be available at the March meeting and will also be sent out by email next week. For

more information and/or if you want to have your yard and garden included in this tour, contact Susan Sousa at susansousa1@yahoo.com.

Florida State Fair Horticultural Show

Several of our members entered plants in the horticultural show at the recent Florida State Fair held in Tampa and some of the entries won ribbons. These members included Marty Baxley, Bernie Baxley, Randy Garcia, and Dave Johnston. Alton Lee, who visited the show, says that bromeliads dominated the entries more than he could recall in the past.

Margaret Bailey

Helga Tarver reports that Peggy Bailey, whom some of our longtime members might recall, passed away in January. Helga says it is likely most of us grow a number of cultivars Peggy and her late husband Joe developed and sold from their nursery, most notably Neoregelias. They had been members of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and the Houston Bromeliad Society for many years.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2011

March 12, FWCBS Bromeliad Home Garden Tours

(susansousa1@yahoo.com)

March 26-27, GreenFest Plant Sale

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL (tampagreenfest.com)

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 5, Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2011

Daytona Beach, hosted by the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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