

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2010



APRIL MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, April 6th, 2010

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

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

Program

Alton Lee, a 30-year member of our society, will give a talk on *Growing Bromeliads and Other Plants Inside*. He will add a brief, but timely, piece titled *Our Winter from Hell*, in which he will discuss cold damage problems and solutions for now and the future. Members are encouraged to bring in their wounded and dying (bromeliads) for evaluation.

MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Ray LeMieux, with TropiFlora Nursery in Sarasota, talked about terrestrial bromeliads *Deuterocohnia*, *Dyckia*, *Encholirium*, *Hechtia*, *Orthophytum*, *Pitcarnia*, and *Puya*. He provided both general and specific horticultural information on the various species, hybrids, and bi-generics he showed us (see photo below). A very few of the many points he made were:

- They prefer to grow in soil and in the sun.
- Grow them hard so they are hardier in the winter, with less tender parts to burn.
- *Dyckia* prefer more water than *Hechtia*.
- *Encholirium*, *Hechtia*, and *Orthophytum* are cold tender.
- *Deuterocohnia* and *Dyckia* are more cold hardy.
- Reduce watering when plant is blooming.

Some of the plants Ray discussed → →



Neophytum (bi-generic)



Show and Tell

Barret Bassick
Marty Baxley

Alton Lee
Kathy Risley
Larry Sousa

Helga Tarver

Edmundoa lindennii; *Nidularium* 'Leprosa'; *Neo. olens*
Dykia 'Beadelii (?) x *D. 'Espirito'* (Marty's own unregistered hybrid); *Bil.* 'Fay' x *Bil.*
'Lou Wilson' (unregistered); *Neo.* 'Treasure Chest' x *concentrica* Select
Bil. 'Beryl Allen'; *Bil.* 'Sunset'; *Aec.* 'Foster's Favorite Favorite' (Australian clone)
Ques. testudo; *Ques. marmorata*
Aec. 'Black on Black'; *Aec. calyculata* x *Aec. miniata* var. *discolor*; *Neo. johannis*
'DeRolf'; *Neo.* hybrid
Til. aeranthos x *semula* var. *aemula*; *Til. ionantha* var. *vanhyningii*; *Guz.* 'Irene'; *Til.*
'Humbug' (*ionantha* x *paucifolia*)



Til. ionantha var. *vanhyningii*



Bil. 'Sunset'



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As part of Show and Tell, Mike Petryszak showed a lovely miniature oil painting (shown on the left) of a group of bromeliads that was painted by his wife (and FWCBS member) Kay.

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New Members

Four new members have joined the Society since February: Carole Bennett, Suzanne Bogacki, Teresa Durkin, and Joanne Kliesh. Welcome all.

New Secretary

It is a great pleasure to announce our new secretary for 2010, new member Suzanne Bogacki (yes, the same Suzanne identified in the previous section), who has volunteered to serve. It is a vital position for smooth functioning of the Society, and we are grateful for her service. Please assist her in settling into her job in her new Society.

THIS AND THAT

May Auction Preparation

The recent warmer turn in our weather has given us the opportunity to get into our gardens and begin winter damage cleanup. While doing that, be sure to set aside bromeliads you plan to donate to our annual auction in May. Always a great event, it is not to be missed. It is entertaining, educational (exposure to diverse bromeliad), and a major fund-raising event for the Society.

Plant Sales

The March and April annual spring sales in which our Society sells plants are GreenFest, USF, and Green Thumb, listed below. Please support the Society by attending these, buying plants, and/or volunteering to help with the sales. For more information regarding sales and volunteering, contact Sales Chair Marty Baxley at susiebaxley@verizon.net and 727-393-6837.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 27-28, GreenFest Plant Sale

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL

April 2-3, TropiFlora Spring Festival

3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, FL

(Typically a three-day event, this year the sale will be only two days because Sunday is Easter.)

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

May 6, Annual Bromeliad Auction, Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

Hope Presbyterian Church, Clearwater, FL

July 26 thru August 1, 19th World Bromeliad Conference, Bromeliad Society International

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

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