

# FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May 2012

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## NEXT MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, May 1, 2012  
**Location:** Hope Presbyterian Church  
1698 South Belcher Road  
Clearwater, Florida 33764  
**Time:** Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

### May Meeting: Annual Bromeliad Auction

It is here again, our Annual Bromeliad Auction, always a fun event and a chance to get some great bromeliads. Members are asked to donate items for the auction and bring food. Below are some major points for you to know about the event:

- Auction items will consist only of bromeliads and bromeliad-related items such as artwork, posters, ceramics, and books.
- Plants donated for the auction should be of special interest, distinctive quality, and/or particularly fine or rare specimens.
- Plants must be saleable quality, clean, disease- and pest-free, and clearly labeled.
- There are two parts to the auction, a Live Auction and a Silent Auction.
- The Auction Committee will determine whether an item goes to the Live Auction or the Silent Auction.
- There will be no business meeting, show and tell, member plant sales, or raffle.

Members Michael Kiehl (Michael's Bromeliads) and Dennis and Linda Cathcart (Tropiflora Nursery) will be providing plants from their nurseries, and there will also be plants from Color Zone Tropicals nursery (Grant Groves) in Apopka.

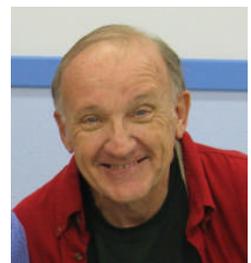
### Refreshments

To add to the festive air of the event, the refreshment table will be open for the length of the auction. A number of members signed up at the last meeting to bring food and other members are asked to bring a dish to supplement those offerings. We need good and abundant food to keep our auctioning energy up. As usual, the Society will provide beverages.

## LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Program

Our scheduled speaker could not make it to the meeting, so member Alton Lee stepped in with five minutes notice and gave the talk he was scheduled to give to us this next June. (The scheduled speaker Ken Stokes will now give his presentation in June.) Alton's talk was on the genus *Vriesea* and because he had such short notice, he had to be resourceful with his visual aids. He used *Vrieseas* that he and others had brought for Show and Tell and borrowed several more from the Raffle Table. The main points of his talk were the following:



- *Vrieseas* are among the easiest bromeliads to grow.
- They can be prolific puppers.
- They are typically cold hardy with exceptions such as *Vr. splendens*, *Vr. heliconioides*, *Vr. 'Red Chestnut'* and *Vr. gigantea*.

- While most have great bloom stalks, many are collected for their beautiful foliage which can be appreciated when the plant is not in bloom.
- Their blooms last at least a month and some last up to a year.
- They do best in a potting medium that provides fast drainage. Consider including charcoal flakes, shredded tree fern, and/or orchid bark in the soil used.
- They like space to breathe, so do not crowd them together. Place them at least 6 inches apart.
- They prefer shade.
- Fertilization can improve growth and enhance foliage marking and branching.
- Give them a foliar feeding, i.e., powder fertilizer mixed with water and sprayed on the entire plant.
- Vrieseas are sensitive to water quality and some city water might not be to their liking. Do not use recycled water and if using well water, be sure it does not have high iron and sulphur content.

### Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

Barret Bassick	<i>Ananas lucidus</i> ; <i>Aechmea maculata</i> ; <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Mercury is in Love',
Marty Baxley	<i>Neo.</i> 'Treasure Chest' X ' <i>N. Bingito</i> ' X <i>Neotanthus</i> 'Cardboard' X <i>N. lilliputiana</i>
Tom Crocker	<i>Guzmania</i> 'Sunshine' (variegated form); <i>Guz.</i> 'Mini Exodus' (variegated form)
Dave Johnston	<i>Aec. macrochlamys</i> ; <i>Aec.</i> 'Chocolate'; <i>Aec. nudicaulis</i> 'Big John'; <i>Canistrum</i> (undescribed species); <i>Hohenbergia vestita</i> ; <i>Hoh. urbaniana</i>
Alton Lee	<i>Tillandsia dyeriana</i> ; <i>Billbergia viridiflora</i> ; <i>Vriesea</i> 'Ming' Vr. 'Indrus' ?(Grant Groves unregistered hybrid); <i>Aec. fasciata</i> 'Sangria'; <i>Vriesea</i> (unknown cultivar)
Gary Lund	<i>Bil. viridiflora</i> ; <i>Aec. distichantha</i> var. <i>distichantha forma albiflora</i>
Franne Matwiczzyk	<i>Bil.</i> 'White Cloud'
Bob Powell	<i>Bil. stenopetala</i>
Kathy Risley	<i>Neo.</i> 'Donga'
Larry Sousa	<i>Neo.</i> 'Treasure Chest'; <i>Neo.</i> 'Voodoo Doll'; <i>Neo.</i> 'Rosea Striata'
Helga Tarver	<i>Til. concolor</i> ; <i>Til. seranthos</i> ; <i>Til. baileyi</i> ; <i>Til. pseudobaileyi</i>

Below are pictures of Show and Tell plants.



*Aec. fasciata* 'Sangria'



*Aec. macrochlamys*



Neo. 'Treasure Chest' X 'N. Bingito'



Neo. 'Treasure Chest'



←← *Til. dyeriana*

*Hoh. urbaniana* →→



#### THIS AND THAT

#### Deepest Sympathies

By Barb Gardner, for her friend

Teresa Durkin passed away March 30<sup>th</sup> after a long and brave coexistence with cancer. She was a highly regarded Speech Therapist for the Pinellas County School System. Besides being fascinated by the diversity and beauty of bromeliads, she enjoyed the humor and friendliness of her fellow FWCBS members. Particularly in the last couple years, Teresa's interest and excitement about vegetable gardening and bromeliads added a special zest to her life.

*Note: Teresa joined our group in March 2009.*

#### New FCBS Representatives

Ashley Graham and Susan Sousa are now our new representatives to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. We appreciate their taking on this task and know they will work well on our behalf and with the Council. Thanks, ladies.

## Women and Bromeliad Genera

There are three bromeliad genera that carry the names of women who were promoters of our favorite plant.

- Lapa (now Lapanthus) was named in honor of Dr. Maria das Graças Lapa Wanderley, a botanist with the Instituto de Botânica in São Paulo, Brazil.
- Racinaea was named for Racine Foster, who with her husband Mulford B Foster hybridized bromeliads and contributed widely to the knowledge of this family of plants. Mulford was called by some the 'Father of the Bromeliad'. Numerous bromeliad plants found today are named after various Foster family members, and the genus Fosterella is named in honor of his work.
- Ursulaea was named for Ursula Baensch, who with her husband Ulrich founded Tropic Beauty Gardens in the Bahamas. The garden was dominated by bromeliads which they cultivated and bred and it was where they honed their plant photography skills. This led to publication of the 1994 book they co-authored, *Blooming Bromeliads*, a book filled with color photographs of species and hybrids and authoritative information. The book is a must-have for bromeliad collectors and has been out of print for a number of years.

## World Bromeliad Conference 2012

As you all (should) know, the 20<sup>th</sup> World Bromeliad Conference will take place September 24 through October 1 in Orlando, Florida, at the Caribe Royal Hotel. It is hosted by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies with participation by the Bromeliad Society International. This bi-annual, international event is not to be missed and having it so close to home with no air travel required is a treat. It provides the opportunity to meet bromeliad people from around the world, hear seminars from some of those people, attend a bromeliad sale (with about 18 vendors) with entry before the general public, see a judged bromeliad show, enjoy a rare plant auction, feast at a banquet, and join tours of home gardens and commercial nurseries. For more information, including a registration form, go to [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org) and click on the 'Upcoming Events' link.

### UPCOMING EVENTS, 2012

April 28-29, Green Thumb 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Plant Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL ([stpete.org/parks/greenthumb](http://stpete.org/parks/greenthumb))

May 12-13, Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Mother's Day Sale

Fashion Square Mall, Orlando, FL ([mybscf.org](http://mybscf.org))

September 24-30, 20<sup>th</sup> World Bromeliad Conference, Orlandiana '12

Orlando, FL, USA ([fcbs.org/](http://fcbs.org/); Upcoming Events link)

### FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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