

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2011



NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, July 5, 2011

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

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

Program

FWCBS member Dave Johnston will talk to us about *Must-Have Species*. He has chosen this topic because he had noted that, increasingly, people seem to choose the 'flash and show' of hybrids over species plants. With this in mind, his powerpoint presentation will focus on species he considers a "must have" in any collection because: 1) these plants might disappear if we don't continue to grow them, 2) they can have every bit as much flash and show as hybrids, and 3) we should not forget that a lot of hybrids come from species plants. Dave is owner of Bromeliads Galore and has been a nurseryman and FWCBS member for many years.

Plant Sales

All members are invited, and encouraged, to sell plants at this meeting.

Refreshments

Cindy Redmond, Refreshment Chair, reports that Sharon Smith has volunteered to assist with the refreshments for the July meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

In his talk titled *Pitcairnioideae - Have We Forgotten Them?* Al Muzzell shared some of his vast knowledge on Pitcairnioideae, one of the three subfamilies of bromeliads (i.e., Bromeliaceae). According to Al, it is the oldest subfamily, going back approximately 20 million years, and developed from grass. These bromeliads originated in northern Peru and Ecuador and spread counterclockwise from there around to the llanos plains located east of the Andes in northwestern South America (primarily Colombia and Venezuela). Their native habitat is typically dry and at high altitude, and they are almost all terrestrial with a developed root system. Some are saxicolous (growing on or among rocks). Al's theory on why these bromeliads are not as commonly grown in cultivation as bromeliads in the other subfamilies is that, in addition to being hard to grow outside their native habitat, they are usually thorny and have a short blooming cycle.

Pitcairnioideae currently has over 1,000 species in 16 genera and Al showed us numerous examples of them from his own collection. Based on findings in recent studies, eight subfamilies for the family Bromeliaceae have been proposed instead of the current three (Pitcairnioideae, Tillandsioideae, and Bromelioideae). According to a paper Al, under the suggested changes the subfamily Pitcairnioideae would be reduced to only six of the current genera (*Abromeitiellea*, *Deuterocohnia*, *Dyckia*, *Encholirium*, *Fosterella*, and *Pitcairnia*), while the other 11 genera currently in this subfamily would be reorganized among five new subfamilies (Brocchinioideae, Lindmanioideae, Hechtioideae, Navioideae, and Puyoideae).

Below are pictures of five of the six genera proposed to remain in the subfamily Pitcairnioideae. Not shown is the genus *Abromeitiella*. (Photos source: Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website: fcbs.org)



Deuterocohnia brevifolia

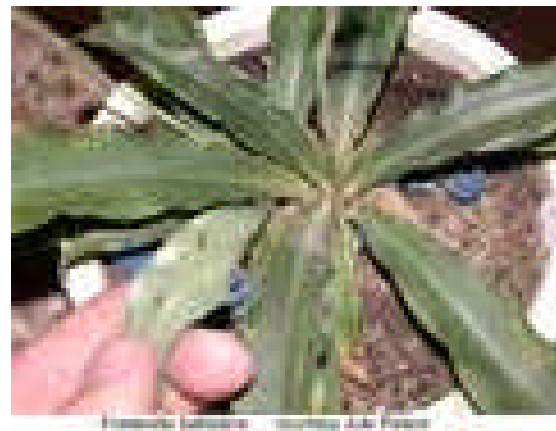


Dyckia beateae



Encholirium horridum
13th World Bromeliad Conference, Houston, Texas July 1 - 5, 1998

Encholirium horridum



Fosterella batistana



Pitcairnia smithiorum



Pitcairnia harrylutheri

Show and Tell

Tommy Crocker *Neo.* 'Orange Crush'

Chip Hill *Til. streptophylla*; *Til. fasciculata* var. *uncispica*; *Til. caput-medusae*

Dave Johnston *Neo.* species; *Hoh. humilis*; *Bil.* 'Poquito más'; *Til. compressa*; *Til. novakii*

Alton Lee *X Cryptananas* 'Pink Utopia'; *Vriesea erythroductylon* hybrid; *Vriesea simplex* x *Vr.* (unregistered Wurthmann hybrid)

Mike Petryszak *Aec.* 'Reginald'

Linda Sheetz *Til.* 'Curly Slim'; *Til.* 'Purple Passion' (*seleriana* x *tricolor*); *Til. flabellata* (large form)

Helga Tarver *Til. didisticha*; *Til. concolor*; *Til. streptophylla*; *Til. streptophylla* x *Til. concolor*; *Til. paucifolia*; *Til. hammeri*; *Guz.* 'Wendy'



Neo. 'Orange Crush'



Til. fasciculata var. *uncispica*



Guz. 'Wendy'



Til. streptophylla

Birthday Celebration



One of our long-time members, Tom Tarver, celebrated his 90th birthday in June, a special milestone. To help him celebrate, the Society presented him with his favorite dessert, chocolate cake with chocolate icing, with the stipulation he share it with the other members present. He and wife Helga took home the small remnant to enjoy later.

THIS AND THAT

2012 World Bromeliad Conference; Raffle

Janet and John Bankhead have volunteered to organize and run the raffle at the September 2012 World Bromeliad Conference to be held in Orlando, Florida, and want help furnishing baskets for the event. Donations of materials can consist of baskets of any size, ribbon of any color or type, basket filler material such as clear cellophane wrap, and any other appropriate items you may have. Bring your items to the meeting where you can give them to Janet who will collect and store them until she is ready to assemble the baskets.

Member Service Recognition Award

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, if you would like to nominate one (or more) of our members (past or present) for the FWCBS Member Service Recognition Award, please submit your nomination, in writing, to FWCBS Secretary Suzanne Bogacki on or before the July meeting date. At the quarterly Board of Directors meeting to be held later in July, the Board will review the nominations and determines who, if any, among the nominees merits the award.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2011

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

Hosted by the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society and sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and includes the 12th Annual International Cryptanthus Society Show

Go to fcbs.org for more information.

This event is coming up fast. Don't be left out; make your hotel reservations now.

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