

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER September 2010



SEPTEMBER MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, September 7th, 2010
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30.

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

Program

Jay Thurrott's presentation *Bromeliads in the Big Easy - the New Orleans World Conference* is about the recent 19th World Bromeliad Conference and associated plant show, sales, speakers, rare plant auction, and banquet. Jay has been growing bromeliads since the 1970s and has over 700 varieties. He is a longtime member of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society and serves as their newsletter editor. He was recently elected President of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) and is a BSI-accredited judge.

Refreshments

Jim Lockwood, Refreshment Chair, reports that only three people signed up to bring food for the September meeting. We know we can count on others to step up and contribute, as usual.

AUGUST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Dean Fairchild, an expert bromeliad taxonomist and member of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, gave us a quick and easy method for identifying the genus of most bromeliads. The technique is described in a one-page table titled *Bromeliad Key for Dummies* that he and Derek Butcher created and is available for viewing on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) website. Go to fcbs.org, and on the menu on the left click on "Bromeliad Information". On the page that comes up, click on "Cultural" and go to the last item on the list, *How do I Grow It and What It Is?*, which is the bromeliad key.

Many of the botanical terms Dean used in his talk to refer to the various parts of a bromeliad can be daunting to both our new and more seasoned members. The good news is, help is available. The FCBS website also has a comprehensive glossary of bromeliad terms compiled by Derek Butcher. Go to fcbs.org, and on the menu on the left click on "Bromeliad Information". On the page that comes up, click on "Glossary". You can download the 44-page glossary and related appendices to your computer and/or print them if you prefer to have a hard copy for your personal bromeliad library.

Show and Tell

Dean Fairchild	<i>Orthophytum harleyi</i> ; <i>x Vriecantarea</i> 'Inferno'; <i>Canistropsis billbergioides</i> 'Red'
Bob Levine	<i>Neo.</i> 'Ying'; <i>Til. xerographica</i> <i>x T. roland-gosselinii</i> (Dimmitt hybrid)
Larry Sousa	<i>Neo.</i> 'Shocking Pink' (unregistered Grant Groves hybrid); <i>Neo.</i> 'Medium Rare' (Dean Fairchild hybrid)
Helga Tarver	<i>Til. hammeri</i> ; <i>Til. kegeliana</i> ; <i>Neo.</i> 'Magali'

Pictures of some of the Show and Tell plants:



Neo. 'Shocking Pink'



Til. xerographica x *T. roland-gosselinii*



Neo. 'Ying'

Guests

Kerry Booth Tate from Australia and Lisa Robinette from the Central Florida Bromeliad Society were guests at our meeting. Kerry gave a talk, *A Frosty Experience: Before, During and After*, at the recent BSI World Conference in New Orleans, about her experience with the phenomenon of "black frost" that can occur at very low temperatures and its impact on bromeliads.

Refreshments

The refreshments table was magnificent and all members who contributed deserve a big hand for their efforts and the gratitude of all who enjoyed it. Let's keep it up.

THIS AND THAT

New Member

We welcome new member Bob Young who joined at the August meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1-3, 2010, Tropiflora Fall Festival

Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 (<http://www.tropiflora.com>)

October 9-10, USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (www.cas.usf.edu/garden)

World Bromeliad Conference Attendees

Twenty FWCBS members along with some of their family members attended the World Bromeliad Conference in New Orleans in late July. Some are shown in the pictures below, and all reported they had a great time. Also attending, but not captured in a photo, were Gwen and Barret Bassick and Denise Garcia. FWCBS members Linda and Dennis Cathcart (Tropiflora Nursery), Randy Garcia, Michael Kiehl (Michael's Bromeliads), and Steve Littlefield were also vendors at the conference.



Linda and Dennis Cathcart



Brian Corey/ Linda Sheetz



Randy Sr. and Randy Jr. Garcia



Dave Johnston



Michael Kiehl



Alton Lee



Steve Littlefield/Kathy Risley



Gary and Judy Lund and their three sons



Mike O'Leary



Kay and Mike Petryszak



Jean and Roland Schnabel

PHOTOS OF CONFERENCE SHOW ENTRIES



Best in Show winner, *Guzmania claviformis*, Grant Groves entry



Other winners with their awards





Artistic entries by FWCBS member Steve Littlefield

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