

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September 2009



OCTOBER MEETING

Date/Time:

Tuesday, October 6, 2009
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30.

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

Program

Guillermo Rivera will talk to us about "*Bromeliads of Peru: Land of the Incas*". Guillermo, who has a BS in biology and a doctorate in botany, is owner of South America Cactus Expeditions. He organizes botanical tours to see bromeliads and cactus in their native habitats in Argentina, Chile, Brazil, and Bolivia.

Refreshments

The October refreshment volunteers are Maria Fernandez, Bob Herberich, Gary and Judy Lund, and Phyllis Steil. Additional food donations are always welcome (and you might win a raffle plant with the free raffle ticket you get for your donation.)

Slate of Officers and Board Trustee Candidates

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of nominees for the annual election of officers and one trustee. Additional nominees may be added to the slate any time after the slate is presented, up to and including the November meeting, when the members present will vote on the entire slate of nominees.

SEPTEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Speakers

Betsy McCrory and **Bob Smedley** with the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida gave us details about this year's Bromeliad Extravaganza that will take place November 13th thru 15th in Orlando (see "Upcoming Events", below). Their society is hosting the event in conjunction with the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS).

Alton Lee gave a presentation about Dr. Helen Dexter, her late husband, Dr. Morris Dexter and their involvement in bromeliads. Morris, who was from Ohio, was a heart surgeon at Bay Pines VA Hospital; he passed away in 1992. Helen is a Florida cracker and still lives in the family home, built in 1918, where she and Morris lived. She is a retired dermatologist. The Dexters joined the FWCBS in the 1950s, not long after it was formed, and played a major role in the society's subsequent growth.



Dr. Helen Dexter

Morris's interactions with the well-known grower and hybridizer Mulford Foster accelerated his passion for growing and hybridizing bromeliads. At one point, the Dexters had thousands of bromeliads in their yard and greenhouses along with orchids, aroids, gesneriads and other tropical plants. The hybrid Neo. "Dexter's Pride" is named for Morris. The Dexters knew most of the who's who in the world of bromeliads and collected plants in Peru, Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, Jamaica, Surinam, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Honduras, and other countries. Alton stated he felt Morris Dexter was one of the most interesting people he ever met and a true Renaissance man.

Show and Tell

Dave Johnston *Bil.* Beadle hybrid No. 1413, *Bil.* Beadle hybrid (unnamed), *Bil. stenopetala*
Alton Lee *Edmundoa lindenii* var. *rosea* (variegated form)
Steve Littlefield *Til. xerographica* (see below)
Mike Petryszak *Neo. cruenta* 'Sun King'
Linda Sheetz *Ananas lucida*
Helga Tarver *Til.* 'Pink Fountain' (Dimmitt hybrid)

Steve Littlefield also showed us his original oil painting of the *Til. xerographica* he had for show and tell. Steve wanted to share it with our group of "real plant people" before he delivered it to the buyer, a fellow who values the art but reportedly knows little, if anything, about bromeliads.

"Zero Gravity Xerographica" by Steve Littlefield →



Raffle Table, Correction

If you are one of the three people who received a plant from the September raffle table that was labeled *Androlepsis skineri*, please note the plant's correct name is *Androlaechmea* 'O'Rourke'.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 10th & 11th, University of South Florida Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Festival, Tampa

This event is an opportunity to acquire some great bromeliads and other plant varieties offered by over 70 vendors, including those from our society. If you are not selling at this event, please volunteer to help those who are. For more information about the sale, contact John Bankhead at jbankhead@tampabay.rr.com, and/or visit the USF website at cas.usf.edu/garden.

October 24th, 2009, 9 AM to Noon, Sunday, Florida Botanical Gardens Bromeliad Garden Cleanup

Join our society's next cleanup event of the bromeliad garden at the FBG. As you know, our society established the bromeliad garden there in 1999 and has worked to maintain it ever since. Judy Lund is coordinating the cleanup with another FWCBS member, Bob Albanese, who works at the County Extension Center that includes the FBG. See the attached flyer for more information.

November 13th, 14th, & 15th, 2009 Annual FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza, Orlando

This annual, statewide event offers talks, bromeliad sales, a raffle, a banquet, a bromeliad auction, and field trips to private and public gardens. You will also have the opportunity to meet members from the 10 other bromeliad societies, in addition to the FWCBS, that make up the FCBS. For more information, go to www.fcbs.org, and click on Upcoming Events in the menu on the left.

THIS AND THAT

New Members

We have three new members, Joyce Janczak, Gina M. McDowell, and Dee Munderloh, who joined in September. Welcome. We look forward to sharing our passion for bromeliads with you.

Bromeliad Society International (BSI) Board of Directors

Gary Lund, who served as our treasurer for 11 years through 2008, was recently selected to serve as one of the BSI directors. We wish him the best with this new responsibility. It is nice to have that recognition for him and our group.

Newsletter Editor, Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS CLEAN UP

October 24, 2009 – 9 a.m. to 12 noon

All members are requested to volunteer their services at the clean-up day we have planned at the Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

Please enter the gardens at the entrance located on Old Walsingham Road. The bromeliad garden is located in the center of the traffic circle in front of the empty museum.

Items that need our special attention include the following:

- 1) Relocate plants to a new areas of the bromeliad garden in the shade
- 2) Weeding
- 3) Mulching
- 4) Cleaning of plants

Please wear old clothes, gloves, hat and tennis shoes. If you have them, bring a hand pruner and/or trowel and any other tools you typically use when working on your bromeliads in the garden.

Bob Albanese, a member of our club who works at the Gardens, will be in charge of the group. The club will provide bottled water. There are no chairs at the gardens and if you will need a break, please bring your own folding chair.

We look forward to seeing everyone on this very important day. Remember, this is a great way to meet and talk with your fellow members and to see all the bromeliads that are planted at the Gardens.

If you have any questions, please call Judy Lund at 439-7782 or e-mail glund@tampabay.rr.com.

Did you know the bromeliad garden at FBG is the largest free public display of bromeliads in the eastern US, possibly the entire country?