

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

December 2009



DECEMBER MEETING

Date/Time:

Tuesday, December 1st, 2009
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30.

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

Program

The December meeting is our annual Christmas Holiday Party. There will be no business meeting, speaker, general raffle table, or friendship table. Instead, there will be:

1. good food (and lots of it),
2. free pups or larger plants for all members present,
3. an opportunity to win one of many prize plants (provided by TropiFlora Nursery and Michael's Bromeliads), and, above all,
4. good company and plant talk.

Additional Event: For those who want to participate in it, there will also be a plant gift swap: bring a plant, get a plant. Bring a plant you would like to receive as a gift and swap it for one someone else has brought to exchange.

Member Award

The name of the Society member to be honored this year by our group will be announced. Each year, the Board of Directors asks for recommendations for a member, past or present, who has served the Society in a way that significantly promoted its goals. The honoree's name will be added to the plaque on the rock next to the bench in the Bromeliad Garden at the Florida Botanical Gardens. Check it out next time you visit the FBG.

Refreshments

All attendees are encouraged to bring something to contribute to the food table for this special party meeting. Hopefully, Phyllis Steil will continue her tradition of bringing her homemade chocolate candies.

NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Terrie Bert gave a presentation titled *Diving Even Further into Unusual Bromeliad Genera*, about 11 rarely cultivated bromeliad genera starting with the letters D, E, F, and G. Seven of these have only one to three species. (Terrie did not include Dykia and Guzmania in the group since they are commonly cultivated.) Based on her descriptions and pictures of their natural distribution, habitats, and growing conditions, it was apparent why many of these genera are not commonly cultivated. Some have a limited temperature range, live at high altitudes, reproduce sparingly, and/or might be considered less than attractive, i.e., not very desirable. An example of limited distribution is *Greigia vulcanica*, which grows in only one location: on the inside of a single volcano in Colombia.



Election of Officers

Members voted on the Nominating Committee's slate of nominees for the next year's officers. Prior to the vote, a call was made for additional nominees and none were proposed. The slate was approved by unanimous vote, as follows:

President	Robert Herberich
Vice President	Gina McDowell
Secretary	Vacant; no candidate
Treasurer	Brian Corey
Trustee	Gary Lund

You will note the position of secretary remains vacant. This is a critical gap in the Society's ability to function smoothly and effectively. Help, anyone? Someone?

Show and Tell

Barret Bassick	<i>Aec.</i> 'Delmar', <i>Aec. dealbata</i> x <i>chantinii</i> , <i>Bil. disticantha</i> , <i>Til. floribunda</i> (possible)
Kathy Risley	<i>Neo.</i> 'Fireball', <i>Neo.</i> 'Purple Star' and a cross of the two
Alton Lee	<i>Aec. chantinii</i> 'Shogun', <i>Bil. amoena</i> cv. 'Beryl Allen', <i>Bil.</i> 'Poquito Más'



Aec. dealbata x *chantinii*



Neo. 'Purple Star' x 'Fireball'



Aec. chantinii 'Shogun'

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4th thru 6th, 2009, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale

Terry Park, Ft. Myers

Judged Show, Friday, Dec. 4th;

Show and Sale open to the public, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5th & 6th

July 26th thru August 1st, 2010, 19th World Bromeliad Conference

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

THIS AND THAT

2009 Annual Bromeliad Extravaganza, November 13th thru 15th, Orlando

Attendees enjoyed this year's Extravaganza, which was hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. There were abundant opportunities to purchase plants from numerous vendors. Registrants thronged into the sales area for the one-hour preview sale on Friday night and returned on Saturday for more bargains. Two silent auctions and a live auction afforded additional opportunities to acquire plants. FWCBS members who donated bromeliads or bromeliad-related items to the live auction included Marty and Bernie Baxley, Dennis Cathcart, Michael Kiehl, Steve Littlefield, and Linda Sheetz. Four world-renowned speakers and tours of two nurseries and two private gardens rounded out the educational portion of the event.



Marty and Bernie Baxley



Judy Lund & Linda Sheetz win banquet table centerpieces.



Steve Littlefield's print (far left), among some of the auction items.

← ← ←



Clever space solutions seen in Lisa Robinette's garden, one of the Extravaganza tours.

Scenes from the tour of Russell's Nursery, which specializes in Tillandsia



HELP WANTED

Position:	Secretary, Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Proficiencies needed:	Fine motor skills (i.e., can use a pencil or pen); reading and writing, preferably English; punctuality a plus
Responsibilities:	Institutional memory facilitator (i.e., note taker)
Hours:	A few hours a month (a little more than that for any other member)
Compensation:	Enduring gratitude of the Society
Perks/Benefits:	See "Compensation"

Correction

One of the refreshment volunteers listed in the November newsletter was incorrectly identified. The correct name of the volunteer is Nancy Dennis. Apologies to Nancy for the error.

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