



Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

January, 2007

This Month's Meeting

Guests are always welcome!

Bring a plant for the raffle table. Plants must have names and be sure they are free of scale.

Bring plants for show & tell.

Bring a plant for the friend-

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 2, 2007, at Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater. The doors open at 7 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The speaker this month will be James (Jay) Thurrott. He talked to our society about *Vrieseas* in October, 2004, and his topic this time will be "A Visit To John Anderson's Epiphitimy Extension Station in Texas - Everything Grows Big In Texas!" Jay has been employed with the City of Daytona Beach for over 30 years as Chief Chemist and, recently, as Manager for the Daytona Beach water utility system. He has been growing bromeliads since the 70's and grows over 500 varieties in Port Orange. Jay has been a longtime, active member of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society. He has served as secretary, vice-president and president of FECBS and is their newsletter editor. Jay is also one of the co-editors of the Council's quarterly newsletter. For many years Jay served as representative to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. In 2006 he was the Vice-Chairman of the Council, and in 2007 he will be the Chairman. Jay is also currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Bromeliad Society International, and he is a BSI accredited judge.

Jay will bring plants to sell and invites members to do likewise if they wish.

Last Month's Meeting

We all had a great time at our holiday party. Some wonderful plants were brought in by each member for the gift exchange, and there was an incredible amount of food on the refreshment tables for the occasion. We also had a raffle of some gorgeous bromeliads that were provided by FWCBS.

The President's gavel was passed on by Ann Kavanagh to Dave Johnston. Dave is looking forward to working with everyone in 2007 to make it a great year. Other officers who begin their term this month are: Vice President - Linda Sheetz * Secretary - Judy Lund * Treasurer - Gary Lund * Directors - Bob Albanese/Marty Baxley, Ann Kavanagh, Michael Palandro, and Bill Schumacher.



Happy New



Upcoming Events

Harry P. Leu Gardens Annual Spring Plant Sale
March 24 + 25, 2007
1920 North Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL
<http://www.leugardens.org/>

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Spring Plant Sale
April 14 + 15, 2007
200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford, FL
<http://www.fcbs.org>

20th Annual Green Thumb Festival
April 28 + 29, 2007
Walter Fuller Park
7891 26th Avenue N., St. Petersburg, FL
<http://www.stpete.org/fun/parks/greenthumb.htm>

Dues

Remember that all members are required to pay their dues for this year.

Rates are \$15.00 for a single membership and \$25.00 for a family membership. See Gary Lund, or send your dues to him at:

904 Oakwood Drive,
Largo, FL 33770

Refreshments



Bill & Marianne Schumacher are handling the refreshments this month. No one has signed up as yet, so if you would like to help out, please call Bill or Marianne at 584-6477 to let them know what type of food you would like to bring. **We need your help!**

Viviparous Pups

In most bromeliads, pups appear at the base of the plant or grow out from the leaf axils. Sometimes they grow on the inflorescence spikes at their tips or near the flowers, or at the base of a spike, or at one of the internodes of the scape or stem of the inflorescence. These pups are called viviparous or proliferating. Examples of species using this method of pupping are *Orthophytum benzingii*, *O. gurkenii*, *Tillandsia denudata* var. *vivipara*, *T. secunda*, *T. somnians*, and others. Dr. David Benzing notes that *Tillandsia* species that proliferate from the inflorescence often scramble over the ground and sometimes grow into low shrubs.

Dr. Benzing's book gives instances of the variability of bromeliad species and of how the same species display different characteristics in different environments. Patterns vary within species. *Tillandsia utriculata*, a native Florida bromeliad, flowers once

(monocarpic) in its lifetime. However, the same species grown in Mexico flowers in successive seasons (iteroparous). *Tillandsia secunda* produces offshoots on the inflorescences and from leaf axils in northern Ecuador, BUT further south in the same country it relies exclusively on seeds. Dr. Lyman B. Smith's Monograph reports that *T. secunda* grows terrestrially and on rocks and cliffs at high altitudes up to about 6,000 feet. While northern Ecuador is high, rocky and mountainous, its southern area is somewhat lower, less rocky and warmer, which favors the production and distribution of seeds. The adaptability of plants to their environment never ceases to amaze!



Orthophytum lucidum
Pups at internodes & tip
Photo by Len Colgan
Courtesy of fcbs.org



Tillandsia secunda 'Vivipara'
Pups growing on inflorescence
Photo courtesy of Tropiflora

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