

# FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2010



## JANUARY MEETING

### Date & Time:

Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30.

### Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church  
1698 South Belcher Road  
Clearwater, Florida 33764

### Program

**Dr. David Benzing** will give a presentation on adaptive radiation of bromeliads with illustrations of how some characteristics exhibited by different species show the conditions under which they grow in nature and how those conditions can be duplicated in cultivation. David is recently retired from Oberlin College in Ohio where he spent 41 years teaching biology (specifically plant systematics, ecology, and evolution) and environmental science. He now spends winters in Sarasota and volunteers at Marie Selby Gardens where he holds the Jessie B. Cox Chair in Tropical Botany. He is a founding member of the *Selbyana* Editorial Board and an Associate Editor. He has a B.A. in zoology from Miami University and a M.S. in biology and Ph.D. in botany from the University of Michigan.

His research and writings have dealt primarily with the biology of epiphytes, mainly bromeliads and orchids, including their impact in tropical forests and the use of bromeliads for monitoring air quality. He has published about 75 research reports in professional journals, has contributed chapters in over 20 technical publications, and authored three books. He also co-authored a fourth, *Native Bromeliads of Florida*, in 2009 with Harry Luther, Director of the Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center at Selby Gardens. He is currently finishing up a fifth volume that features the epiphytes and is intended for nonspecialists.

### Refreshments

Starting with the January meeting, the position of Refreshment Chair will be vacant. To continue our reputation for outstanding and bountiful food, which we ALL enjoy, the Society needs someone to assume that position. If you are interested, contact Janet Bankhead ([jbankhead@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jbankhead@tampabay.rr.com)) for information about the job details. Typically, duties include purchasing paper products, drinks, and ice, and occasionally food, to supplement what our generous volunteers bring to each meeting.

## DECEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Program: Christmas Holiday Party

The December meeting was our annual Christmas Holiday Party, and there were good food and free plants for all members present. Plants not claimed during the party will be added to the raffle table at the January meeting.



Bountiful food table



Phyllis Steil's chocolate treats



Stu Kaminsky and Tom Crocker each select a plant



Dick & Nancy Dailey



Chip Hill & prize plant

Special raffle prizes → →



### Alton Lee Honored

At the December party, the Society honored Alton Lee, a 30-year member of our Society, as a member who has served the Society in a way that significantly promoted its goals. A bronze plate bearing his name will be added to the list of past honorees on the plaque next to the bench in the Bromeliad Garden at the Florida Botanical Gardens. Check it out next time you visit the Gardens.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

April 16-18, Bromeliad Judged Show and Sale

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Tampa Bay Garden Center, Tampa, FL

April Florida Botanical Gardens Cleanup (date to be determined)

July 26<sup>th</sup> thru August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, 19<sup>th</sup> World Bromeliad Conference

New Orleans, LA; [www.bsi.org/events](http://www.bsi.org/events)

### THIS AND THAT

#### 2010 Dues Due in January

Society dues are payable in January and will be considered delinquent if not paid by the first of March. They are still a bargain at \$15 per year for an individual and \$25 per year for a household. You may pay your dues at the January or February meeting, or you may send a check, payable to FWCBS, to the club treasurer Brian Corey, 1153 Williams Dr S, St. Petersburg FL 33705.

#### Hand and Arm Protection in the Garden

Most of us wear gloves when working with bromeliads, especially the thornier ones, but arm protection often eludes us. One commonly used and inexpensive solution is to convert cotton tube

socks into a protective sleeve by cutting a hole in the toe end of the sock and adding an elastic band, if needed, to the top to keep the sleeve in place. Beyond that, one can find several interesting choices for hand and arm protection on the internet that include products made with the following materials:

- Terry cloth, with an elastic cuff at the wrist and elastic at the upper arm
- Unbleached cotton, 3-inch diameter tubular knit material that comes in a 12-foot roll and can be cut to any desired length
- Kevlar®, a light, strong, synthetic fiber (especially desirable for Hectia and Dykia lovers)
- Stainless-steel mesh
- Blue denim cotton sleeves with elastic

Use your favorite search engine to find these products. Many are at reasonable prices.

### Neoregelia Christmas Tree

Each year in December, Selby Gardens in Sarasota constructs and displays a large (over 15 feet tall) neoregelia Christmas tree. It is entirely made up of neos supplied by Dennis Cathcart at TropiFlora Nursery, a longtime FWCBS member. This year, four different neos were used in the tree: 'Jeffrey Block', 'Margaret', 'Perfection', and *tricolor*. After the holidays, the tree will be dismantled, and on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010, from 1 to 3 pm, the neos sold to the public. For more information about seeing the tree and/or buying some of the neos from the tree, call Selby Gardens at 941-366-5731.

Another longtime member, Andy Price, supplies Selby with neos in their plant shop. Check them all out the next time you visit the gardens.



### Bromeliad Glossary

Want to get a better understanding of botanical terms? Check out the July 2009 version of a bromeliad glossary prepared by Derek Butcher that is now posted on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website (FCBS.org). On the FCBS home page, click on "Bromeliad Information" in the list on the left, then click on "Glossary" on the next page. Derek, who is with the Bromeliad Society of South Australia and was past Webmaster for the BSI website, compiled the glossary from numerous botanical sources. An example entry: "**clone**: two or more individuals, originally derived from one plant by asexual propagation, which remain generically identical."

### More Holiday Party Pictures



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