

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2011



NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, **January 11th**, 2011
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30.

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

Program

Peter Bak of Cornelis Bak B.V. Nursery (web page: <http://www.bromelia.com/en>) in The Netherlands is our speaker. With more than 50 years of experience in bromeliad propagation and hybridization, Bak B.V. specializes in seedlings, in vitro and tissue culture, and sale of young plants. Mr. Bak will tell us about the nursery's plant production and the state-of-the art technology they use. We will likely hear about their roofing systems that have continuous ventilation windows fitted with insect-proof netting and the specialized materials they use on their greenhouse roofs, ends, and side gables that maximize light transmission performance and insulation values.

Refreshments

Refreshment Chair Cindy Redmond reports Bob Dalzell and John and Janet Bankhead signed up to bring refreshments to the January meeting. Please help them and bring your own contribution to our legendary food table.

Raffle Table

Remember to bring contributions from your garden to put on the raffle table. At one time or another, each of us has been a happy recipient of plants from the monthly raffle. Since this event is a fundraiser for the society, it is important to support the raffle both by purchasing tickets and by donating at least one bromeliad for each one you win. A note of interest to all: pups not claimed during the December holiday party will be added to the January meeting raffle table, so members will have another chance to win one or more of them.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program: Christmas Holiday Party

The December meeting was our annual Holiday Party, and we had good food and free plants for all members present. Each member received a free pup and had the chance to win a mature prize plant. The plants were of great quality and included the spectacular x *Vriecanthera* 'Inferno', a John Arden hybrid, and a large *Bil. rosea* with multiple plants.

Members Dennis Cathcart (Tropiflora Ltd.), Dave Johnston (Bromeliads Galore), and Michael Kiehl (Michael's Nursery), and friend of FWCBS, Grant Groves (Color Zone Tropicals, Inc.), helped make the plant giveaways possible. We thank them for their help and generosity. They also donated plants for a special raffle, plants of such quality and interest to the members that he sale generated a tidy sum for our treasury.

Linda Cathcart made and donated the lovely bromeliad centerpieces. We missed Linda at the party as she was ill and unable to attend. We hear she has made a full recovery.

The food table groaned under the weight of the abundant and tasty food our members brought for all to share. Cindy Redmond, the new refreshment chair, and her cohort Janet Bankhead, along with numerous volunteers, put it all together. We are truly grateful to them.



Centerpieces made and donated by Linda Cathcart

←← Giveaway pups



John Bankhead and Bob Dalzell

←← Patty McCloskey with
Bil. 'Casa Blanca'

Tommy Crocker with
Neo. "Black Moon" →→



←← *Neo. 'Purple Breeze'*

*Neo. carolinea x
cruenta (red form)*

→→





Bil. rosea (special raffle plant)



Nancy and Earl Ellis



Alton Lee and his sister Sandy



Chip and Marion Hill

THIS AND THAT

2011 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.

New Member

Patricia Grimes became a new member earlier this month. Welcome, Patricia, and we hope you enjoy our group.

Condolences

We offer our deepest sympathies to FWCBS secretary Suzanne Bogacki whose father passed away in December. Suzanne says he was considered a local expert on birding and dragonflies in Buffalo and was very involved in the city's Tift Nature Preserve. She attributes her interest in nature and conservation to him.

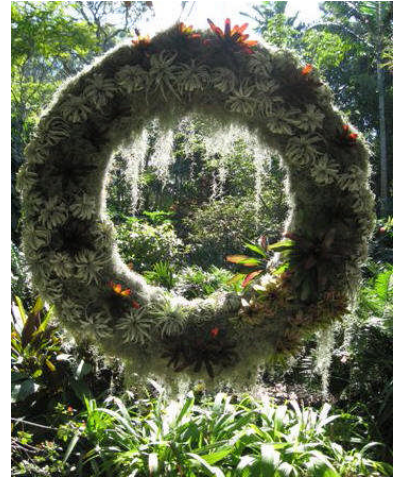
Frost Cloth

In November, Dave Johnston researched sources for the best bargain in frost cloth for covering plants in cold weather. He had 17 people order the material he found, at least eight of whom were FWCBS members, and he ordered 2,100 linear feet (seven rolls, each 15 feet wide and 300 feet long). The cloth arrived in time for December, which is now, officially, the coldest December on record for the Tampa Bay area. Thanks, Dave. Those interested in frost cloth to get through whatever cold weather awaits us for the remainder of this winter should contact Dave at johnston28@tampabay.rr.com.

Neoregelia Christmas Tree



The Marie Selby Gardens put up their usual "Neoregelia tree" as part of their holiday decorations. They also had a lovely wreath made with various genera of bromeliads. (Photos courtesy of Alton Lee)



UPCOMING EVENTS, 2011

March 26-27, GreenFest Plant Sale

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL (tampagreenfest.com)

April 1-3, Tropiflora Spring Festival

Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 (tropiflora.com)

April 9-10, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

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

April 30-May 1, Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL (Chairman: Carol Lucia, 727-393-8276)

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