

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2013



NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 8, 2013
Location: Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764
Time: Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Program

Helga Tarver, long-time FWCBS member and Tillandsia expert, will demonstrate how to mount Tillandsias and grey-leafed Vrieseas. Assisted by Chip Hill, she will tell us how to select appropriate mount materials and plants, followed by a hands-on demonstration of the mounting process.

Plant Sales

All members are welcome to sell bromeliads at the meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Holiday Party

It was another grand Holiday Party and thanks go to the many people who helped make it the success that it was. The food was glorious and bountiful and there was little left over for anyone to take home. And there were plants for all. Every member present got a free pup, many won one of the 42 Prize Plants or one of the 10 lovely centerpieces, and about 30 people participated in the Plant Swap. On top of those goodies there were six exceptional plants, donated by Tropiflora Nursery, Michael Kiehl, and Grant Groves, that were won by lucky ticket holders in the Special Raffle. Below are some pictures from the party.





Pups for everyone



Bountiful Feast

← Special Raffle plants

Centerpieces →
(with Cryptanthus)



Member Service Recognition Award

President Kathy Risley announced that this year's recipient of the FWCBS Service Recognition Award is Helga Tarver, and Dennis Cathcart and Alton Lee paid tribute to her as part of the award presentation. Helga has been a member of our society for about 30 years during which time she has served almost continually as our Historian, Librarian, and in-house bromeliad expert, positions well suited to her vise-like memory and laser-sharp mind. While most know her for her love of and expertise in Tillandsias, she is also passionate on the subjects of bromeliad taxonomy and hybrid registration. Over the years she has corresponded regularly on these subjects with recognized experts such as Derek Butcher, the former BSI Bromeliad Registrar, and the late Harry Luther, and she has done so without benefit of a computer and the internet, using instead a manual typewriter and the US Postal Service. With her vast knowledge of bromeliads she is a person our members, and others, often go to for bromeliad identification and horticultural information. One of her goals is to encourage hybridizers to register their new plants, and in some cases she will register them for the grower. In his remarks, Alton also recognized her husband Tom for facilitating and supporting her participation in the world of bromeliads and, thus, her impact on that world.



THIS AND THAT

2013 Dues Payable 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 new club treasurer Mary Sue Beeler, 2755 Feather Sound Drive, Clearwater FL 33762.

***Billbergia* 'Poquito Más', one more time...**



On the left is a blooming *Billbergia* 'Poquito Más' from this editor's garden that is a tetraploid (see discussion in the December 2012 newsletter.) As you can see, the extra pair of chromosomes in this polyploid has resulted in a more vigorous plant, with more vibrant color and larger flowers than the same hybrid that has only the usual two sets of chromosomes.

Salvador Dalí Museum Bromeliad Christmas Tree

Nicole Matwijczyk sends the holiday greeting, on the right, that shows the Christmas tree at the Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg that she put together using various types of bromeliads. The view is from the bottom of the tree upward through the center of a spiral staircase, to the glass roof.



UPCOMING EVENTS, 2013

March 16-17, Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale

Leu Gardens, Orlando, FL (leugardens.org)

March 23-24 GreenFest Plant Sale

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

April 5-7, Tropiflora Spring Festival

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

April 13-14, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

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

April 20-21, Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society Sale

Sanford Garden Club, Sanford, FL (407-539-4314)

April 27-28, Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL

May 11-12, Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Mother's Day Sale

Fashion Square Mall, Orlando, FL (mybscf.org)

August 10, Bromeliad Sale

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

September 21, Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2013

The Holiday Inn Harborside, Indian Rocks Beach, hosted by the FWCBS and sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (contact Judy Lund at glund@tampabay.rr.com)

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