

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2014

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, January 7

Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764



floridabromeliads.org

Program

Ray LeMieux of Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota will give a presentation titled *Bromeliad Basics 101*. According to his biographical sketch on the Tropiflora website, Ray is Tropiflora's long-time succulent grower, and is most knowledgeable about terrestrial bromeliads and succulent plants. He has been a plant collector for more than 15 years, and has traveled to Mexico, Venezuela, Madagascar and Singapore for the nursery to help collect and build a world-class succulent collection there. He is currently a member of the Central Florida Cactus & Succulent Society, the Bromeliad Society International, the Sarasota Bromeliad Society, and the Cactus & Succulent Society of America. Ray is a hands-on speaker and will have a lot of practical things to show and tell us regarding how we grow bromeliads.

**Plant Sales**

The speaker will be the sole vendor of plants for this meeting and therefore there will be no member plant sales.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Holiday Party

As we have come to expect, we once again had great food, lovely plants and good fellowship at our December Holiday Party. We had a greater variety and quality of food than we have had at past parties, so it appears people were well into the holiday spirit. And, as usual, everyone went home with at least one bromeliad, and some were lucky winners of prize plants. We can all offer thanks to the people who worked to make the party a success, from providing and/or setting up the food, to donating plants. Below are pictures of the event that can say more than mere words produced from a keyboard.

THE FOOD





THE PLANTS
PUPS



SWAP PLANTS



RAFFLE PLANTS



THE PARTY PEOPLE



PEOPLE WITH PRIZE PLANTS



Member Service Recognition Award

At the December meeting President Susan Sousa announced the recipient of this year's FWCBS Service Recognition Award: Harry Luther (1952-2012; pictured on far right). There is much to be said about Harry and why he is so deserved of this award, and we have asked Dennis Cathcart, his longtime friend and colleague, to offer a tribute to Harry at a not-too-distant meeting and tell us from his firsthand perspective what Harry meant to the bromeliad world. In the meantime the following is an all-too-brief summary about Harry's contributions to the world of bromeliads.

Harry was a native of St. Petersburg and longtime member of the FWCBS, which he joined as a teenager. Over the years he became a self-taught expert on bromeliads and went on to spend 32 years with the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota. There he served as the director of the (now former) Bromeliad Identification Center and Curator of Living Collections. During his time at Selby he created the largest living collection of bromeliads in the world, and maintained taxonomic files for more than 3,000 species and more than 2,000 photographic slides of living material. At the time of his passing in 2012 he was living in the Republic of Singapore where he held the position of Assistant Director of Horticulture at the Singapore Gardens by the Bay, National Parks Board. He was recognized internationally as an expert in the horticulture and botany of bromeliads and as one the leading experts on the bromeliad family. He had described over 100 new species, had several bromeliads named after him, wrote and published more than 200 journal articles, was a major contributor to many books and editorial advisor to a number of journals, and gave of his time tirelessly to those in need of assistance..



THIS AND THAT

2014 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 next meeting, or you may send a check, payable to FWCBS, to the new club treasurer Gary Lund, 904 Oakwood Drive, Largo, FL 33770.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2014

February 27-March 2, Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Bromeliad Show

Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden, Coral Gables, FL (305-667-1651)

March 29-30, 2014, GreenFest Plant Sale

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL (friendsofplantpark.com/greenfest)

April 4-6, 2014, Tropiflora Spring Festival

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

April 12-13, 2014, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

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

April 26-27, 2014, Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL (stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb)

September 8-14, 21st World Bromeliad Conference, Bromeliads in Paradise

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA (www.bsi.org/new/wbc-2014-registration-and-info)

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