

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2020

Celebrating over 66 Years in Bromeliads

fwcbs.org



January 2020 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 7, 2020; 7:30 pm
Location: Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

PROGRAM

Ray LeMieux with Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota will give a presentation on the genus *Aechmea*. He will talk about their native habitats, growing techniques, and light and feeding requirements. He will have live examples of *Aechmeas* to show us the diversity of this genus.

Ray is a frequent presenter at our meetings and well known to our members. He has been a bromeliad and succulent grower for about 25 years and is the succulent and terrestrial bromeliads in-house specialist at Tropiflora. He is a member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society, the Bromeliad Society International, the Central Florida Cactus & Succulent Society, and the Cactus & Succulent Society of America.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

The December meeting was our annual holiday party and all present were in good cheer. And why not? There was abundant, good food, camaraderie and gorgeous plants. All members present got to choose a bromeliad from among the tables of them, each covered by a brown paper bag. Some freely traded their choices with other members, so all went home satisfied. Three of these Prize Plant beauties were these.



Guzmania hybrid



Neoregelia 'Groves Red Tiger'



Aechmea 'Captain Mike' (not registered)

Raffle Plants

In addition to the Prize Plants, people also had the opportunity to win bromeliads and two baskets filled with bromeliad-related items (and some not so 'directly related', such as wine) from the Special Raffle table. Some items were donated by various members.



Raffle baskets of goodies



Gourd with small bromeliads and succulents



Aechmea 'White Knight'



Vriesea 'Sunset'



Neoregelia hybrid



Neoregelia carolinae x *concentrica*

Plant Swap

And then there was the ever popular Plant Swap. Members 'dressed up' some favorite plants, such as those pictured below, and got to swap them with someone else who had also brought a plant to swap.



THIS AND THAT

2020 Dues Payable in January

2020 membership dues are payable in January, \$15 per year for an individual and \$25 per year for a household. Members may pay their dues at the next meeting, or may send a check, payable to FWCBS, to the club treasurer Gary Lund at 904 Oakwood Drive, Largo, FL 33770.

New Members

Two people joined our society at the December meeting, Cindy Halfmann and Steve Prince. Pictures of them were not available this month and, hopefully, the next newsletter will have them.

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale and Show

[The following is a report by Dick Dailey of the December 14 bus trip a number of FWCBS members and friends made to the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society (CBS) sale and show in Ft. Myers. The bus and trip were sponsored by our society and organized by Ashley Graham.]

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society Travels to Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale and Show in Ft. Myers, submitted by Dick Dailey

It was a dark and stormy morning as a brave band of 21 FWCBS members and guests arrived at Good Samaritan Church in Pinellas Park to board the bus. Pouring rain and puddles surrounded the bus but people were undaunted as they boarded for the adventure. Ashley Graham helped organize the trip which included a stop for lunch and a stop at Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota, in addition to the always impressive Caloosahatchee sale

and show. Our driver Rick headed south toward Ft. Myers and faced the challenge of driving into the morning sun while still facing heavy rain plus the number of tourists who were not used to the driving challenge of sun and rain made for difficult and risky travel.

The sale featured more than a dozen vendors including Michael Kiehl, Michael's Bromeliads of South Florida, Dr. Terrie Burt, Tropiflora's extensive Tillandsia collection, and more. Additionally, the group got to see the judged show that happens once every two years, and it was good to see the quality of the plants and have many judges nearby for advice and counsel. FWCBS has four members currently attending the BSI judges school and on the path to become bromeliad judges.

The FWCBS party moved on to lunch at the nearby Farmer's Market Restaurant where the food was as delicious as the reasonable prices. Most saved room for one of the more than 20 pie selections that are baked daily at the restaurant.

The final stop was at Tropiflora Nursery where we were greeted by owners Linda and Dennis Cathcart, who are also long-time FWCBS members. Our group had the full run of the many acres of shade houses and we were given special prices and a 10% discount just for stopping by. Linda and Dennis credit the experience and knowledge they learned early on at the FWCBS meetings as instrumental in starting their own nursery, which is now recognized as one of the world's leaders in the sale of bromeliads.

The bus returned the travelers to the parking lot at the church by 4 p.m. and all thanked Rick, the driver, and Ashley, our host, for a great shopping day that ran on a precise schedule as determined by Ashley in advance.

Trip photos below provided by Dick Dailey and Richard Poole.





Sales area



Show area

Show Winners



Best Decorative Container-
Cryptanthus 'Faux Menescal'



Best Cryptanthus-
Cryptanthus 'Heat Wave'



Award of Merit-
Neoregelia 'Flame On'



Best Neoregelia-
Neoregelia 'Fancy Francis'



Best of Show-*Tillandsia concolor x roland-gosselin*



Members Choice Award-
Neoregelia 'Black Olive'

IN THE GARDEN THIS MONTH

Light and Color

Pictures below show how color in a bromeliad can vary in response to the duration and intensity of the sunlight it receives. This *Androlepis* 'Leonard Skinnard' resides on the north end of a patio under a screen enclosure. In the warmer temperatures of late spring through late summer it receives strong sun, and the colors are muted as shown in the picture on the left. In the cooler seasons of late fall and winter when the sun dips to the south, it receives a softer light and takes on the more impressive colors shown in the pictures on the right.



Androlepis 'Leonard Skinnard',
summer months



Androlepis 'Leonard Skinnard'- winter months

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2020

February 8-9, Edison Spring Garden Festival

Edison and Ford Winter Estates, Ft. Myers, FL

(www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/events/annual-events/edison-garden-festival/)

March 14-15, Leu Gardens Annual Spring Plant Sale

Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, FL (<http://www.leugardens.org>)

March 28-29, Tampa Garden Fest/GreenFest Plant Sale

Tampa Garden Club, Tampa, FL (tampagardenclub.com/tampagardenfest)

April 3-5, Tropiflora's Spring Festival

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

April 25-26, Green Thumb Festival

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

June 9-13, 24th World Bromeliad Conference, *The Big Show*, Sarasota, FL

Celebrate BSI's 70th anniversary, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sarasota
(<https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>)

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