

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February 2014



floridabromeliads.org

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, February 4

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

--NOTICE--

February Meeting Location

Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park 33781

Program

Phil Elting, of Elting's Exotic Plants nursery in Riverview, Florida, will give a presentation on *The Three P's of Bromeliads: Potting, Popping, and Propagation*. A native of Tampa, Mr. Elting has been growing bromeliads, orchids, and plumeria for almost 40 years. He has 40,000 square feet of greenhouse and shade house operations, 90 per cent of which is used for growing bromeliads. He grows Vriesea, Guzmania and Tillandsia and specializes in tissue culture and hybridizing Vriesea. Most of his production has gone to Europe. Phil has greenhouses in both Riverview and Costa Rica, and he was one of the vendors at the Bromeliad Extravaganza our society hosted last September.

Plant Sales

All members are welcome to sell bromeliads at the February meeting. Sellers are requested to donate at least one plant to the evening's raffle table.

Ask-an-Expert Feature

Have a bromeliad questions? Need help with the name of a plant, where to put it in the garden, how much sun or shade to give it, or a diagnosis of why it looks unhealthy? At the February meeting we are introducing a new feature: Ask an Expert. During the refreshment break one of our more knowledgeable members will be seated at the Ask-an-Expert table and available for these and similar questions you might have. This month it will be Barret Bassick. If you bring in examples to demonstrate your query, be sure they are clean and dry.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Ray LeMieux of Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota gave us pointers how to identify 17 different bromeliad genera and their growing conditions. As usual, Ray had with him a lot of examples to demonstrate each of the genera he talked about, at least one of which he had pulled from his front yard just before the meeting.

He reminded us bromeliads do best in well-drained soil, and recommended a soil mixture that is a combination of peat moss, perlite, and pine bark chips and occasionally some mulch. He also suggested that when removing bromeliads from pots and placing them directly into the ground the soil around the plants should be amended with mulch to allow better drainage around the plants.



For control of pests such as scale and weevils Ray recommended the use of the insecticide imidacloprid (found in Bayer Advanced plant care products). To reduce the occurrence of scale, plants should not be crowded closely, and deceased mother plants should be removed as soon as possible. For controlling snails he suggested the use of liquid Sevin, and for both snails and slugs he suggested a slug bait insecticide product.

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

- Bruce Garley *Tillandsia bulbosa* (large form); *Til. bulbosa* (small form); *Til. 'Joel'* (*Til. ionantha* x *Til. bulbosa*)
- Susan Sousa *Vriesea sucrei* x *Vr. 'Marios'* (Marlow?); *Til. punctulata* (or *Til. tricolor*)

Below are pictures of Show and Tell plants.



Tillandsia bulbosa (large form)



Til. bulbosa (small form)

THIS AND THAT

2014 Dues Payable

If you have not paid your dues yet, you can do so at the February meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting you can send a check, payable to FWCBS, to the treasurer Gary Lund, 904 Oakwood Drive, Largo, FL 33770.

Plants Blooming in January

One of the charming things about bromeliads is that there are a number of them that bloom late in the year and into the first of the new year when the weather is cooler (cold for some of us) and other plants are looking rather tired and spent. Below are pictures of a few of the plants in our yard that are still in color and pleasing to the eye and to the soul.



Aechmea 'Bonnie's Pearl' (allegedly a natural hybrid)



Guzmania musaica x "Fortuna"



Portea 'Candy'



Ursulaea macvaughii

...and some with lost tags but pretty nonetheless.



UPCOMING EVENTS, 2014

February 22-23, Selby Plant & Garden Festival

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL (www.selby.org/events/2014-plant-garden-festival)

March 1-2, Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Bromeliad Show and Sale

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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