

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2009



APRIL MEETING

Date/Time:

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Doors open at 7 pm and meeting starts at 7:30.

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church

1698 South Belcher Road

Clearwater, Florida 33764

Speaker:

Dennis Giardina is the Everglades Regions Biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Invasive Plant Management Section and works with public and non-profit land managers on issues related to exotic plants and animals. His work has included the search for additional parasites of the Mexican bromeliad weevil that was introduced into Florida in the 1980s and has since spread across the southern portion of the state, decimating native bromeliad habitats and threatening hobbyists' collections. Dennis's talk will focus on his expedition to the volcanic heart of Guatemala in Fall 2006.

MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Cathcart's Certificate of Appreciation

The Society presented Dennis and Linda Cathcart, owners of TropiFlora Nursery in Sarasota, Florida, with a lifetime membership certificate for their continued support and generosity to the Society. This is only a small token of our appreciation for their efforts in promoting both bromeliads and our Society.

Vice President Nominations

Nominations have been requested to fill the position of Vice President, but none has been offered. This position has remained vacant since the first of the year and members are encouraged to consider volunteering for the position. The Vice President's duties are to perform the duties of the President when needed and to serve as Chair of the Program Committee. The program responsibilities are not as daunting as they might appear and Society members have always been able and willing to assist on organization and execution of programs.

Newsletter Editor

Linda Sheetz is now the Newsletter Editor. In an effort to reduce the cost of printing and mailing newsletters, members with an email address will eventually receive their newsletter via the internet, unless they tell Linda they prefer a mailed copy. Be patient, as the newsletter will be a work in progress for some months to come. Suggestions/comments are welcome lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com.

Show and Tell

Plants were shown by Barret Bassick, Barbara Gardner, Mike Gimeno, Bob Herberich, Gary Lund, Linda Sheetz and Helga Tarver.

Workshop

Helga Tarver made a short, concise, informative presentation on *Ethnobotanical Uses of Bromeliads*. Major categories of cultural uses include: 1) religious adornments, 2) fences/barriers, 3) source of

fiber for ropes, nets, and mattress stuffing (Spanish moss), 4) food for humans, cattle, hogs, and poultry (using seeds, stems, fruit, inflorescence, leaves), and, 5) medicinal (for headaches, hemorrhoids, intestinal parasites, and antibiotic, absorbent bandages (Spanish moss)).

Speaker

Dennis Cathcart gave a talk on “Terrestrial and Lithophytic Bromeliads in Their Habitats” that was well documented with abundant pictures of bromeliads growing in their natural habitat, either in soil (terrestrial) or on rocks (lithophytes).

THIS AND THAT

Meeting Refreshments

Janet Bankhead, refreshment Committee Chair, reports the April refreshment subscribers/volunteers are John Espey, Judy and Gary Lund, and Kathy and Steve Littlefield. She needs a fourth volunteer and interested members should contact her. All members are encouraged to support the efforts of Janet and these subscribers by bringing additional food.

Sales Events

Society members will be selling bromeliads at the following sales events:

- March 28-29, Greenfest, University of Tampa
- April 11-12, University of South Florida Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Fest
- April 25-26, Greenthumb Fest, Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg

If you are interested in selling and/or volunteering to help with the sales, contact John Bankhead (jbankhead@tampabay.rr.com), the Sales Committee Chair. Please review the Sales Rules to be sure you understand the process.

Semi-Annual Garden Cleanup, Florida Botanical Gardens, April 18
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm

Bob Albanese, a FWCBS member and staff member at the Pinellas County Extension, and Judy Lund have graciously agreed to coordinate our cleanup effort in the gardens. Among other tasks, Bob would like to do some massive relocation of plants. For example, he wants to move large Aechmeas and Porteas that are not getting enough sun in their current locations. Bring your favorite tools that will be useful for the work, such as loppers, saws, hand pruners, hammers, wood stakes to hold transplanted plants up-right, sharp knives/blades, hand trowels, pitchforks, and/or shovels. Wear appropriate protective clothing and sunscreen, and bring water or other beverages to keep well hydrated. Judy will have a sign-up sheet at the April meeting. Members who will not be at the meeting and would like to volunteer, can call Judy on her cell (439-7782) to sign up.

Annual Auction, May 5th, Plant Donations

Now that winter has passed and we begin cleaning our bromeliad gardens and beds, we should set aside bromeliads that would be a nice addition to our annual auction that takes place May 5th. The auction is one of our major fundraisers and member participation, both through donations and purchase, has always added to its success.

FWCBS OFFICERS

- President: Robert Herberich, bubbasotis@verizon.net
- Vice President: (Vacant)
- Treasurer: Brian Corey, bcorey2@tampabay.rr.com
- Secretary: John Bankhead, jbankhead@tampabay.rr.com