

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2014



NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, April 1
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:

Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

floridabromeliads.org

Program

Member **Barret Bassick's** talk, *Bromeliads -- "Why They Thrive On Neglect (Some Adapted Strategies of Bromeliaceae)*, will present general science about the vast adaptability of bromeliads to a range of growing conditions. Perhaps the most adaptable of all plants, they occupy a vast array of habitats. Barret has been growing bromeliads since 1973. He also grows orchids. He is a past member of the Bromeliad Society of San Francisco, and was co-founder of a Bromeliad Study Group in northern California (now defunct). In 1990 he lost most of his collection due to a severe frost that occurred while he was away on a business trip and it was not until 2000 that he was again growing and collecting bromeliads. We are glad he moved to Florida and is part of our group.

Plant Sales

All members are welcome to sell bromeliads at the April meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

I. Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

The first of our two speakers, **Ashley Graham**, gave us insight into the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (the Council, FCBS). Our society is one of the now nine Florida bromeliad societies affiliated with the Council, and Ashley is currently serving as the Council Chairman.

The Council is a confederation of bromeliad societies in Florida and each society has two representatives to the Council, both of whom are voting members at Council meetings. The Council meets four times a year, with meetings hosted by member societies at different locations throughout the state on a rotation basis. Our society will host the October 2014 quarterly meeting.



Established in 1977, the Council is incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in the State of Florida. Its goal is to share bromeliad information throughout the affiliated societies and globally and it does that through various means that include:

- Sponsorship of state-wide bromeliad conferences such as the Bromeliad Extravaganza®
- Compilation and maintenance of educational programs and materials, articles, and lectures, primarily through its website, fcbs.org
- Unification of member bromeliad societies so that they may act as a single body in achieving goals established by the Council

The Council's first publication was the magazine *Grande* (aka *The Magazine for Bromeliophiles*) in 1978-1979. It was an ambitious periodical, full of color pictures and articles about bromeliad collections and collectors. Publication expense proved to be prohibitive and only four issues were produced. In 1981 FCBS

Quarterly Newsletter began publication with Carol Johnson as editor, and since 2000 Karen Andreas has been editor. For more than 30 years the newsletter was printed in black and white and then mailed to all affiliated societies' members. Starting with the first issue of 2014 the Council newsletter is now produced in electronic form and sent to members via email.

Since the late 1980s the Council has sponsored the annual Bromeliad Extravaganza with a member society serving as host. The Extravaganza started out with plant sales, a banquet, and a rare plant auction that serves as an FCBS fund raiser. In later years bromeliad-related seminars were added to this event. The Council is considering revising the Extravaganza concept and/or frequency but no firm details are available yet.

In the late 1980s a Mexican weevil (*Metamasius callizona*) that feeds on bromeliads was accidentally imported into south Florida and it then steadily moved north through the state, threatening Florida's native bromeliads along with other bromeliads as well. For many years the Council, along with some of its member societies, provided sole funding to find a control or management plan for the weevil through research conducted at the University of Florida.

In 1996 the Council created a website, fcbs.org, to promote bromeliads, bromeliad research and bromeliad interest. Under its webmaster Michael Andreas the site has blossomed into a wealth of bromeliad information that is used world-wide. The following can be found at fcbs.org:

- FCBS history
- Bylaws and Standing Rules
- FCBS meetings minutes
- Schedules for meetings and officer rotation
- Current and previous FCBS newsletters
- Information about member societies, including their newsletters
- Upcoming bromeliad events
- Photo Index; with more than 25,000 pictures of bromeliads it is the largest collection of bromeliad photographs on the internet
- Links to other sites of bromeliad interest and resources
- Articles on culture, notable bromeliad people, classification and taxonomy, book reviews
- Information about the Mexican bromeliad weevil
- Resource databases: Photo Index, Species, Neoregelias, Natural Hybrids, Seed Collection, and Bromeliad Tank Dwellers

Note: Some of this information was derived from the FCBS website, fcbs.org. Additional information about FCBS is also available on their Facebook page.

II. Bromeliad Society International

Our second speaker, **Gary Lund**, enlightened us about the Bromeliad Society International (BSI). Gary is currently on the BSI Board of Directors serving as one of four directors from Florida in the Southeast Region. Formally established in 1951, the initial organizational meeting for the future BSI was held in California in 1950 with 12 people from around the United States. Those 12 people formed the first Board of Directors for the organization and included such bromeliad luminaries as Mulford Foster (the first BSI president and called by many the "father of the bromeliad"), Victoria Padilla (one of the early editors of the BSI Journal), and Lyman Smith (referred to as the "father of bromeliad studies").



The BSI was founded to promote bromeliad culture and information for world-wide bromeliad enthusiasts. As of 2012 it had 46 affiliate societies, including our society, with individual members in 40 states throughout the US and Puerto Rico, and in 42 countries world wide. The BSI is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations made to them are tax deductible.

Every other year (in even-numbered years) BSI hosts the World Bromeliad Conference (WBC). These are enormously informative and entertaining events with plants sales, show, seminars, nurseries and gardens tours, a rare plant auction and a banquet. Our society co-hosted the WBC in 2002 in St. Petersburg, and the most recent WBC was co-hosted by the FCBS in 2012 in Orlando. The next WBC will take place September 2014 in Hawaii. Its theme is *Bromeliads in Paradise*, and it is co-hosted by the Hawaii Bromeliad Society. All are encouraged to attend, and there is full conference information on the BSI website at www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner.

Membership in BSI offers the opportunity to be part of an extended international family, to expand bromeliad knowledge in many directions and to contact and visit collectors in other states and throughout the world. Membership benefits include a subscription to BSI's flagship publication, the *Journal of the Bromeliad Society International*, which is published four times a year (previously published six times a year). First published in 1951 as the *Bromeliad Society Bulletin*, it is intended for the amateur and professional grower as well as the bromeliad scientist and conservationist. Back issues can be found on the BSI website, bsi.org, for the years 1951-1989 and 2006-2012. A 50-year index of articles in the Journal is also available on the website.

Additional prominent BSI activities are:

- Provide financial support to the newly established Harry Luther Bromeliad Research Center at Marie Selby Gardens in Sarasota, Florida, and a student intern for that program
- Provide financial support for bromeliad research in Germany and the Netherlands
- Established guidelines and oversee schools for training judges for BSI-accredited bromeliad shows, and provide plaques for two awards in these shows.

The BSI website, bsi.org, like that of the FCBS, provides an abundance of bromeliad information, including the following:

- The Cultivar Registry, last updated December 2006; contains over 10,000 registered cultivars as well as links to other bromeliad databases such as the FCBS Bromeliad Photo Index (fcbs.org).
- List of Bromeliad Binomials; an alphabetical list of every bromeliad species that was maintained by Harry Luther until 2012
- A key to 57 bromeliad genera
- Bromeliad Cultural Information
- Bromeliad Taxonomic Information
- An online Bookstore that offers BSI products and publications and commercially published bromeliad books
- BSI Directories as of 2012; lists BSI members, affiliated societies, and BSI officers, directors, committee chairs and accredited judges
- Events Calendar
- An online discussion focusing on bromeliads
- Competitive Show Information
- BSI Bylaws
- BSI History

Note: Some of this information was derived from the BSI website, bsi.org.

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Mary Sue Beeler | <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Charming DeRolf' |
| Gary Lund | <i>Tillandsia</i> , most likely <i>Til. propagulifera</i> ; had a pup on both its inflorescence and at the base of the plant |
| Mike Petryszak | <i>Vriesea</i> hybrid |

Below are pictures of Show and Tell plants.



Vriesea hybrid



Likely *Til. propagulifera*



Close up of pup inflorescent

THIS AND THAT

Annual Auction, May 6

Frane Matwiczuk reminded members of our upcoming annual bromeliad auction this May, which is our primary fund raiser. Now that winter has passed, and the oak trees have hopefully finished dropping their leaves and other debris, we are getting into our yards and cleaning our bromeliads. This is the time to go through your plants and put aside those that would be good candidates for the auction. Contact Frane (franne@bgbamboo.com or fmmdesign@aol.com) if you have questions about the auction and donations.

New Members

Please welcome Judy Ridenour and Sally O'Brien who joined our society at the last meeting. Welcome, ladies.

Plants Blooming in March



Aechmea nudicaulis



Aechmea pineliana var. *minuta*



Billbergia 'Pink Champagne'

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2014

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)

2014 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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|--------------------------|--|
| President | Susan Sousa, susansousa1@yahoo.com |
| Vice President | Frane Matwiczzyk, frane@fbgbamboo.com |
| Secretary | John Edwards, JOHNRN56@aol.com |
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| Newsletter Editor | Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com |
| Trustees (3) | Barret Bassick (2012-2014), barretb@myway.com Judy Lund (2014-2015), glund@tampabay.rr.com Carol Schultz (2014-2016), carolcurrieschultz@gmail.com |

Website: floridabromeliads.org

Contact: Judy Lund, 727-439-7782

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