

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2019

Celebrating over 65 Years in Bromeliads

fwcbs.org



April 2019 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: Tuesday, April 2, 2019; 7:30 pm
Location: Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

PROGRAM

Dave Johnston, longtime FWCBS member and commercial grower, will talk to us about *New Bromeliad Species and Hybrids*, specifically about species discovered and hybrids created within the last 10 years. Dave has been growing bromeliads since 1985 and at one time had a collection of up to 2,000 different species and hybrids. He is currently focused on hybridizing Billbergias. He has been a member of our society since 1992 and served as our president for two terms. He joined the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay in 1985 and served as chairman of the 1992 World Bromeliad Conference. In 1990, he started Exotic Landscapes, a full-service landscape contracting company, and Bromeliads Galore, a bromeliad nursery.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

Mary Sue Beeler's presentation titled *Singapore's Gardens by the Bay Revisited* described her recent trip to these gardens that have received world acclaim for their engineering and landscape design. Planning and construction for the gardens began in 2007 and the first phase was opened in 2012. Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota, owned by FWCBS members Dennis and Linda Cathcart, supplied a massive amount of bromeliads and other tropical plants to the project. In July 2010 and September 2012, Dennis gave our society presentations on the then-soon-to-be-completed gardens.



In her presentation, Mary Sue showed some of the photographs Dennis took of the gardens when they first opened, and compared them to her own photographs to show what the differences might be five years later. She commented that while her photographs indicated denser vegetation, Dennis' earlier pictures show the gardens were already fully realized, and finished when they opened. Although her talk emphasized the gardens and their many

amazing features, she included a short travelogue about Singapore proper. Below is a summary of her comments followed by a few of the many pictures she took while there.

About Singapore

- The Republic of Singapore is an independent city-state island in Southeast Asia, at the southern tip of Malaysia. It is about 278 square miles in area and has a population of about 5,800,000; it is about the same size as Pinellas County, which has a population of only 970,000.
- Singapore is located about 2 degrees north of the equator, which means its climate has a fairly constant condition of heat (average high 89° F; average low 75° F) and high humidity (average about 80%).
- While it is considered the most expensive city in the world, Mary Sue found one can get by somewhat modestly. She paid about \$200 a day for a hotel apartment with 2 bedrooms/2 baths, and a kitchen and living area, breakfast included. She ate at some of the many food courts located throughout the city and found good ethnic dishes (e.g., Chinese, Indian, Middle Eastern) for very little money.
- The metro system is convenient, clean, safe, on-time, inexpensive, and pleasantly decorated.
- Singapore has world-class museums that include the Chinatown Heritage Centre, the Asian Cultures Museum with thousand-year-old arts and crafts, and the National Museum of Singapore with a rich array of history and art.
- The Singapore Botanic Gardens, founded in 1859, is a 202-acre tropical garden with a Bromeliad House and National Orchid Garden. It is in the forefront of orchid studies and a pioneer in the cultivation of orchid hybrids, leading to the nation's status as a major exporter of cut orchids.

About the Gardens by the Bay

- The Gardens by the Bay are the result of Singapore's drive to create green spaces in the highly urbanized city, and it is now celebrated as a 'City in a Garden'.
- The gardens are a lush, expansive 250 acres, built on land reclaimed from the adjacent Singapore Strait. They have received more than 40 million visitors since they opened in 2012.
- Supertree Grove
 - Supertrees are tree-like structures from 82 to 160 feet tall that act as vertical gardens covered with unique and exotic ferns, vines, orchids and a vast collection of bromeliads among other plants.
 - They perform a multitude of functions and work as environmental engines for the gardens.
 - They are fitted with environmental technologies such as photovoltaic cells that harness solar energy that can be used for lighting. They also collect rainwater for use in irrigation and fountain displays.
 - They serve air intake and exhaust functions as part of the conservatories' cooling systems.

- There is an elevated walkway between two of the larger Supertrees that provide a panoramic aerial view of the gardens.
- Conservatory Complex
 - The conservatory complex comprises two glasshouses, the Flower Dome and the Cloud Forest, each about 2.5 acres. They are intended to be an energy-efficient showcase of sustainable building technologies and to provide an all-weather 'edutainment' space within the gardens. Rainwater is collected from the surfaces and circulated in the cooling system that is connected to the Supertrees, which are used both to vent hot air and to cool circulated water.
 - The Flower Dome replicates a mild, dry climate and features plants found in the Mediterranean and other semi-arid tropical regions. It maintains a temperature between 73° and 77°F and is the world's largest, columnless glasshouse.
 - The Cloud Forest replicates the cool moist conditions found in tropical mountain regions at elevations between 3,300 and 9,800 feet above sea level. It features a 138-foot tall "Cloud Mountain" that has a 115-foot tall waterfall, billed as the world's tallest indoor waterfall. It is clad in epiphytes such as orchids, ferns, mosses, bromeliads and anthuriums.



Aerial view of the conservatories (left) and the Supertree Grove



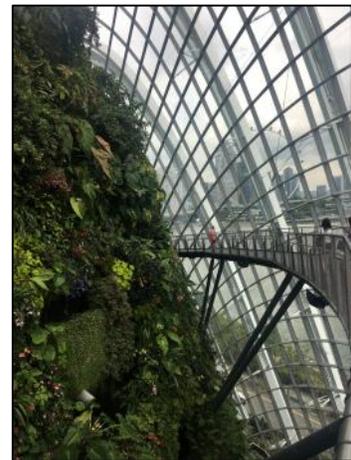
Supertree Grove



Waterfall in the Cloud Forest Conservatory



Supertree covered with bromeliads and more



Inside one of the conservatories



For more information about and pictures of the Gardens by the Bay, go to their website at <http://www.gardensbythebay.com.sg/en.html>. You can see summaries of Dennis Cathcart's Gardens by the Bay 2010 and 2012 presentations in our newsletters for August 2010 and September 2012. If you do not have copies of these, they are available on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website: <http://fcbs.org>. On the Home Page menu on the left, click on *Member Societies*, then scroll down to our society's name. There click on *Past FWCBS Newsletters* and scroll down to newsletters for August 2010 and October 2012.

SHOW AND TELL

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Dick Dailey | <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Pitch Black' (photo below) |
| Barb Gardner | <i>Dyckia</i> hybrid (photo below) |
| Monika Hale | <i>Vriesea</i> 'Red Chestnut' hybrid (photo below) |
| Dave Johnston | Three of his new <i>Billbergia</i> hybrids:
<i>Billbergia</i> 'Muchacho' x 'Survivor' (photo below)
<i>Billbergia</i> 'Tarantella' x 'Muchacho' (photo below)
<i>Billbergia</i> 'Purple Moon Dust' |
| Franne Matwiczzyk | <i>Aechmea nidularioides</i> (photo below)
<i>Aechmea serrata</i>
<i>Quesnelia arvensis</i> |
| Phil Monnig | <i>Billbergia pyramidalis</i> variegata |

SHOW AND TELL PLANTS



Neoregelia
'Pitch Black'



Dyckia hybrid (note heavy gloves!)



Vriesea 'Red Chestnut'
hybrid



Billbergia hybrid ('Tarantella' x 'Muchacho')



Billbergia hybrid;
('Muchacho' x
'Survivor')



Aechmea nidularioides

THIS AND THAT

Garden Tour Social

On Sunday, March 24, member Sandy Holloway hosted a Garden Tour Social for FWCBS members and friends at her home in Seminole, which is located in a tree-covered neighborhood adjacent to the Seminole City Park. Richard Poole arranged for the bounty of refreshments to which Alton Lee added delicious finger sandwiches. Sandy's yard is a large rambling area shaded by live oak trees that appear to be several hundred years old. A number of peacocks live in the yard and we caught a glimpse of at least one. Pictures of the gardens, refreshments, and members strolling about are below.



Hostess Sandy Holloway with
Monika Hale and Nancy Dailey





New Member

We added a new member at the last meeting, Beverly Hennig (pictured on right). Be sure to welcome her at the next meeting.



IN THE GARDEN THIS MONTH



Tillandsia bulbosa cluster on a paurotis palm trunk



Aechmea orlandiana
'White Knight'



Neoregelia 'Bob and Grace'



Aechmea bromeliifolia



Guzmania hybrid

Submitted by Gary Lund:



Aechmea mexicana albomarginated

Submitted by Alton Lee:



xWallfussia 'Antonio' (*Wallisia cyanea* x *Barfussia platyrhachis*)

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2019

March 30-31, Tampa Garden Fest Plant Sale (formerly GreenFest Plant Sale)
Tampa Garden Club, Tampa, FL (tampagardenclub.com/tampagardenfest)

April 5-7, Tropiflora's Spring Festival
Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 (tropiflora.com)

April 13-14, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (cas.usf.edu/garden)

April 13-14, Seminole Bromeliad Society and Tropical Plant Society Annual Spring Sale
The Garden Club of Sanford, Sanford, FL (www.sanfordgardenclub.com/sbtps)

April 27-28, Green Thumb Festival
Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL (stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb)

May 7, Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society Annual Bromeliad Auction
Good Samaritan Church, 6085 Park Boulevard, Pinellas Park, FL
(lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com)

May 10-12, Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Annual Mother's Day Show and Sale
Fashion Square Mall, Orlando, FL (www.bromeliadsorlando.com/activities)

August 17-18, Seminole Bromeliad Society and Tropical Plant Society Annual Fall Sale
The Garden Club of Sanford, Sanford, FL (www.sanfordgardenclub.com/sbtps)

September 20-21, Bromeliad Extravaganza[®]
Orlando, FL, Hosted by Bromeliad Society of Central Florida (www.BromeliadX.com)

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