

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY
1954-2015

Celebrating over 60 Years in Bromeliads



May 2015 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

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

Location:

Good Samaritan Church

6085 Park Boulevard

Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

Program

Our Annual Bromeliad Auction is always one of our premiere events. Members are asked to donate items for the auction and to 'bid early and bid often'. We typically have some outstanding plants donated from our generous members, be they hobbyist or commercial grower. Here are some things to know about the evening.

- The meeting will be all auction; there will be no business meeting, show and tell, member plant sales or raffle.
- Auction items will consist of bromeliads and bromeliad-related items only, such as artwork, posters, ceramics, and books.
- Plants should be clean, disease- and pest-free, clearly labeled and of a quality that you feel you would want to bid on yourself.
- There will be two parts—a Live Auction and a Silent Auction. The Auction Committee will determine into which part a donated item will be placed.

Refreshments

The refreshment table will be open throughout the auction, and we count on members to supply the table with their favorite food items. We need good and abundant food to keep our auctioning energy up. As usual, the Society will provide the beverages.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program: 2014 World Bromeliad Conference

Last year Larry and Susan Sousa and Gary and Judy Lund attended the World Bromeliad Conference (WBC) held in Hawaii and hosted by the Hawaii Bromeliad Society and sponsored by the Bromeliad Society International (BSI). For our evening program Gary and Larry talked about their experiences there and showed pictures they took while there.

The primary activities for a WBC typically take place four days, each day filled with events. The 2014 conference was true to that custom and had with seminars, plant sales, a plant show, tours, a banquet, and a rare plant auction. The seminars at these conferences are typically informative and well-presented by knowledgeable lecturers, and the Hawaii conference did not disappoint. There were six seminars, as follows:

- Geoff Lawn, Australia, current BSI Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar, *BSI's Bromeliad Cultivar Register* (the history of naming cultivated plants and creation of international naming codes, purposes and advantages of bromeliad registration, and how to register a cultivar)
- Alan Herndon, Miami, BSI Journal Editor, *Shades of Chantinii* (the large number and variety of clones of the species *Aechmea chantinii* that is among the most variable bromeliad species)
- Nigel Thomson, Australia, Dandaloo Valley Nursery, *To Feed or Not to Feed: The Good, the Bad, or the Ugly* (controversy about whether or not to fertilize and types of fertilizers, how and when to feed and methods of fertilization)
- Andy Siekkinen, California, BSI Director, *The Bromeliads of Oaxaca*, (botanical wealth and cultural interests in Oaxaca, how the land, plants, and culture are tied together, with an emphasis on *Tillandsia* and *Hechtia* found there)
- Pamela Koide-Hyatt, Bird Rock Tropicals, California, *Tillandsia Hybridization: Natural, Artificial, and Accidental* (cultivation and hybridization of *Tillandsia*)
- Heidi Leianuenue Bornhurst, University of Hawaii, horticulturist, author and columnist, *The Pineapple and its Effect on the Culture of Hawaii*
- Jay Thurrott, Florida, Florida, current BSI president, and Alan Herndon, *Let's Discuss: The BSI Journal & Website*

Tours offered at the conference included:

- Several local private gardens, Oahu
- Harold L. Lyon Arboretum, a tropical rainforest setting, Oahu
- David Fells, Hawaiian Sunshine Nursery, on both Oahu and The Big Island (Hawaii)
- David Shiigi's Bromeliad Nursery, The Big Island
- Sharon Peterson's Sharon's Plants, Oahu

Below are pictures of some of the nurseries and gardens the Sousas and Lunds visited.





Aechmea blanchetiana on a raised bed of lava rock at Sharon's Plants nursery.



An *Alcantarea*, with Larry next to it for scale.

Gary and Larry showed us pictures of some of the bromeliads they saw at the conference bromeliad show and on the tours they took. Below are some of the pictures they showed us. Principal among the real stunners with outstanding colors were Vrieseas and Neoregelias. The Hawaiians, as well as the Australians and New Zealanders, tend to get brilliant colors out of their bromeliads, colors that many in the mainland U.S. have difficulty achieving. It is related, in part, to light conditions they have in those countries relative to sun path, the earth's tilt on its axis, and climatic conditions.



An unscheduled event took place when the Sousas and Lunds were on one of the tour buses heading to a nursery. Without warning they noticed two tires from their bus rolling ahead of the bus. Len Wegner of the East London Bromeliad Society, who was also on the bus, reported one wheel flew across five lanes, into a ditch and then bounced over a barrier, and the other tire rolled alongside the bus and then in front of it and into the grass on the side of the road. Such things are what help make these conferences unforgettable and unpredictable.

Election of new Trustee

One of our three trustees, Carol Schultz, resigned last month from her trustee position on our Board of Directors, having filled just the first year of her three-year term. She was a past-president of FWCBS and has been a hard-working member. She will be missed. At the last meeting Joe Ventimiglia was nominated and then elected to fill the last two years of her three-year term that will run through 2016.

Art in Bloom

Member Janet Stoffels asked if our society would be interested in participating next year in the festival of arts and floral design called *Art in Bloom* that the St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts puts on each spring. It is a three-day festival in which plant clubs and professional designers create floral arrangements inspired by various works of art in the museum. Our group responded with an enthusiastic 'yes'. We have a lot of creative minds in our group and we look forward to contributing ideas and plants to the event.

Show and Tell

By Helga Tarver

- John Edwards *Aechmea disticantha* var. *disticantha* forma *albiflora* (picture below)
- Steve Littlefield *Tillandsia utriculata*
- Gary Lund *Billbergia viridiflora* (picture below)
- Mike Petryszak *Vriesea* hybrid (picture below)
- Kathy Risley *Neoregelia olens* 'Vulcan'
 Neoregelia 'Ninja'
- Helga Tarver *Tillandsia* 'Showtime' (*T. bulbosa* x *T. streptophylla*, a Dimmitt hybrid, sometimes found as a natural hybrid in Guatemala, picture below)

Show and Tell plants



Aechmea disticantha var. *disticantha* forma *albiflora*



Billbergia viridiflora



Vriesea hybrid

Tillandsia 'Showtime'



THIS AND THAT

New Member

We have two new members, Kim Foust and Karen Mill, who joined at the April meeting. Be sure to seek them out and say "welcome" to them.

Correction

Sharp-eyed Derek Butcher, Bromeliad Society of South Australia and former Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar from Australia, noted the name for a *Billbergia* submitted to the Blooming this Month section of last month's newsletter was mis-identified. The correct name is *Billbergia stenopetala* (not *B. brasiliensis*).

Billbergia stenopetala



Blooming this Month



Androlaechmea 'O'Rourke'



Guzmania 'Denise'
, (albomarginated)



Hohenbergia stellata



Billbergia 'Poquito Mas'
(tetraploid)



Vriesea 'Vogue'



Billbergia 'Moulin Rouge'

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2015

June 26 - June 27, Tropiflora's Summer Blowout Sale

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

August 15-16, Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale

The Garden Club of Sanford, Sanford, FL (Ben Klugh at Klughka@yahoo.com)

September 26, **Bromeliad Extravaganza, Bromeliads in the Magic City**

Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Miami (<http://www.bssf-miami.org>)

2015 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Ashley Graham, adglaw@gmail.com
Vice President	Larry Sousa, lawrencesousa@yahoo.com
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Immediate-Past President	Susan Sousa, susansousa1@yahoo.com
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