

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2013



floridabromeliads.org

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, July 2
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

Program: Panel Discussion

At the July meeting a panel of some of our in-house experienced bromeliad growers will host a question and answer session. Alton Lee will head the panel aided by Barret Bassick, Marty Baxley, and Dave Johnston. While they will take questions from the audience, it would be useful if questions could be submitted prior to the meeting. You can email your questions to Alton at halpcl@aol.com. In addition to answering individual questions, panel members will give short talks on specific topics that will include the role of weather in growing bromeliads, how to prepare bromeliads for storms, fertilizers for and diseases of bromeliads, and how to remove and pot pups.

Plant Sales

All members are welcome to sell bromeliads at the meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

In **Jay Thurrott's** talk titled *Why Isn't My Plant at the Head Table?*, he gave us tips on what judges look for when they are evaluating bromeliads in a show. He is well suited to talk on the subject based on his 40 years of experience in growing bromeliads and his status as a Bromeliad Society International-accredited bromeliad judge. Becoming a BSI-accredited judge is a multi-step process during which the candidate is thoroughly vetted in judging skills. The process starts with the BSI Judging School that consists of six courses over a three-year period and related examines. Additional requirements include growing and showing award-winning bromeliads, and participating in a number of BSI-accredited shows as chairman, clerk, and/or judge.



Jay did a fine job of presenting basic aspects of the somewhat complex subject of bromeliad judging, and rounded out his talk with pictures that demonstrated both desirable and undesirable features in show plants. Show plants are evaluated based on the judges' informed opinions applied to a point scale system. Categories of characteristics judged are the following:

1. Cultural perfection: how well grown, health, condition, presentation
2. Conformation: how it compares to the ideal of its kind in shape, size, symmetry
3. Color and markings on leaves
4. Overall balance and symmetry
5. Inflorescence (if applicable): size, quantity, quality, color
6. Maturity

Judges deduct points from an initial score of 100 for deficiencies in the categories listed. Features for which points are commonly deducted include, but certainly are not limited to, gaps in leaves, leaf damage, discolored leaves, disease, scale, dull foliage, too small, too large, dirty pot, plant, and soil, improperly trimmed leaves, uneven color or variegation, color breaks on leaves, lanky, spent blooms or brachs, and inadequate branching in an inflorescence (if applicable).

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

Bob Dalzell	<i>Neoregelia cruenta</i> ; <i>Aechmea fasciata</i> x <i>nudicaulis</i> ; Neo. 'Sybil' (unregistered hybrid); <i>Aec. fasciata</i>
Steve Littlefield	<i>Tillandsia xerographica</i> with five inflorescences at the base of the leaves
Gary Lund	<i>Til. utriculata</i> ; <i>Dyckia</i> 'Arizona' F2; <i>Aec. fendleri</i> ; <i>Aec. caudata</i> (albomarginated form); <i>Til. didisticha</i> ; photos of <i>Bromelia balansae</i> and <i>Bromelia pinguin</i>
Fred and Mary Reid	<i>Hechtia podantha</i> ; <i>Hechtia malvernii</i>
Kathy Risley	Neo. 'Pimiento'
Helga Tarver	<i>Til. concolor</i> ; <i>Til. streptophylla</i> ; <i>Til. concolor</i> x <i>streptophylla</i>

Below are pictures of Show and Tell plants.



Neo. 'Pimiento'



Aec. caudata



Dyckia 'Arizona'



Til. xerographica, with pups at leaf bases



Til. concolor;
Til. concolor



Til. streptophylla



A cross of the two plants pictured above produced the hybrid below.



Til. concolor x streptophylla

THIS AND THAT

FWCBS Website

Dick Dailey is sponsoring a website for our society and has been instrumental in setting it up for us. You can check it out at floridabromeliads.org. Already attractive and with a good layout, it is still under construction and additional information and features will be added over time. Susan Sousa has taken on the task of managing the website. Those of you with appropriate computer skills who want to assist may

contact her. Please note that the current website name is temporary and is being used for now to support our efforts in hosting the Bromeliad Extravaganza in September. After that event the website name will be changed to one more recognizable as related to our group, such as FWCBS.org.

Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2013

It is only three months until the Bromeliad Extravaganza 2013 event our society is hosting on September 20 and 21. Information about it can be found on our website, floridabromeliads.org, including deadlines for registration and for hotel reservations at the special event price. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is available at each meeting. If you have not already done so, look it over and add your name to one, or more, of the committees listed there.

May Auction

The last newsletter neglected to thank Helga Tarver for organizing the silent auction part of our annual auction held this past May. Thanks, Helga.

Questionnaire

At the last few meetings Susan Sousa circulated copies of a questionnaire that is designed to find out what types of programs are of particular interest to members. The questionnaire lists a variety of topics, and members are to select them in order of their personal preference. If you have not yet had a chance to fill one out and want to express your opinion about future programs, get a copy from Susan. She will announce the survey results soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2013

August 10, Bromeliad Sale

University of South Florida Botanical Gardens, Tampa, FL (cas.usf.edu/garden)

August 17-18, Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale

The Garden Club of Sanford, Sanford, FL

September 20-21, Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2013

The Holiday Inn Harborside, Indian Rocks Beach, hosted by the FWCBS and sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (contact Judy Lund at glund@tampabay.rr.com)

September 27-29, Sarasota Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale

(details pending)

December 6-8, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale

Terrie Park, 3451 Marion Street, Fort Myers

2013 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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