

**FLORIDA WEST COAST
BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**
November 2011



NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, November 1, 2011
Location: Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764
Time: Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Program

Alton Lee, long-time FWCBS member, will talk to us about *Protecting Your Bromeliads in a Winter from Hell*. With winter approaching, this is a timely topic for bromeliads growers, especially in consideration of the last two winters in our area that were unseasonably cold and resulted in a lot of damaged plants.

Election of Officers and Trustee for 2012

Our annual election for next year's officers and board trustees will be held at the November meeting. The slate of nominees for 2012 is as follows:

President:	Kathy Risley	Treasurer:	Brian Corey
Vice President:	Susan Sousa	Trustee:	Barret Bassick, three-year term
Secretary:	Suzanne Bogacki		

Additional nominations for these positions can be made at the meeting.

Plant Sales

All members are invited to sell plants at this meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Dr. Howard Frank's talk *Hunting Bromeliad-Eating Weevils in Belize* was about his trip to Belize to look for an insect that might prove useful as a biological control agent for *Metamasius callizona*, the Mexican bromeliad weevil that has been devastating bromeliad populations in Florida. Howard and three companions made the trip in October 2010 and spent 10 days hunting for bromeliads with weevil larvae in them. Due to its low population density, Belize still has much unspoiled forest that includes bromeliads. All the bromeliad species found there also occur in Mexico or Guatemala and some, such as *Tillandsia utriculata*, are shared with Florida.

The team found *M. callizona* in *Til. utriculata* in some old but still productive citrus groves and in *Til. dasylyriifolia* at the edge of a coastal lagoon. The team noted the adult *M. callizona* weevils in Belize are totally black and lack the orange band across the forewing seen in Florida specimens.



In total, Howard and his team found 187 weevil specimens (117 larvae, 44 pupae, and 26 adults) which they transported, live, to quarantine at their Ft. Pierce facility. Unfortunately, it turned out all specimens were healthy, i.e., there was no evidence of any insect parasitoids inside them, and, as such, had nothing that could be used as a biological control.

Howard said that with these results, the big questions now are:

- What allowed the bromeliads they saw in Belize to survive when attacked by the weevil *M. callizona* when in Florida the same bromeliads succumb to the same weevil?
- If *M. callizona* parasitoids were not present, then what regulates the weevil population in Belize?

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

Tom Crocker *Ananas* (species or hybrid unknown)
Alton Lee *Cryptanthus* 'Dennis Cathcart'
Kathy Risley *Neo.* (species unknown); *Neo.* 'Angel Face'

Below are photographs of some of the plants from the Show and Tell, including Gary's Hohenbergia.



Ananas (species or hybrid unknown)



Neo. 'Angel Face' (source: FCBS.org)



Cryptanthus 'Dennis Cathcart'

THIS AND THAT

November 4-6, Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2011 (<http://theartofbromeliads.wordpress.com>)

It is still not too late to sign up and attend this plant-filled event. Hosted by the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society and sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS), it is being held at The Plaza Resort and Spa in Daytona Beach, Florida. Room reservations are still available at the Extravaganza discount.

The \$60 Extravaganza registration fee includes the following:

Friday Night, November 4:

- Welcome Reception at the Peabody Auditorium with an Ice Cream and Cake Social
- Admission to *The Art of Bromeliads* exhibition in the auditorium
- Awards presentation for artists exhibiting in the show

Saturday, November 5:

- Admission to the bromeliad sales area one hour before the general public is admitted
- Seminars from 12 until 4
- Admission to the International Cryptanthus Show
- Raffles and silent auctions
- Evening banquet and Rare Plant Auction

It is customary for each society affiliated with the FCBS to donate five bromeliads for Saturday night's Rare Plant Auction. If you plan to donate a plant on behalf of the FWCBS, please let John Bankhead know. If you would like to donate a plant and do not plan to attend the Extravaganza, you can give your plant to John at the November meeting and he will see it gets to the auction on your behalf.

October Plant Sales Vendors

At the October 8 and 9 USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale, FWCBS members who sold plants in our booth were Marty Baxley, Randy Garcia, Bob Powell, and David Smith. We thank them for their efforts since a portion of each seller's proceeds goes to our Society. We also thank those members who volunteered their time and worked at the booth.

FWCBS 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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