

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2012



NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 3, 2012
Location: Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764
Time: Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Program

Tom Crocker, a 30-plus year member of our Society, will talk to us about breeding bromeliads, including the use of tissue culture. Tommy has been a member of our group since he was a teenager and over the years has gained abundant experience in growing them. Bring your questions.

Plant Sales

All members are invited, and encouraged, to sell plants at this meeting.

Raffle Table

Now that the holiday season is winding down, please remember the 'gift of giving' throughout the year by donating the occasional bromeliad to our raffle table. While the few pups not claimed during the December holiday party will be added to the January raffle table, donations from members are still needed to round out the offerings.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program: Holiday Party

Our annual Holiday Party was well attended and enjoyed by all. While all members present received a pup (from Michael's Bromeliads and Marty Baxley), about half won one of the prize bromeliads (from Michael's, Tropiflora, and Marty Baxley). Plants donated by Marty were from Andy Price's collection, which he recently acquired. Over 30 people participated in the Gift Plant Swap and there were five who won one of the five spectacular plants in the Special Raffle. Linda Cathcart made and donated the lovely bromeliad centerpieces. As it turns out, the party fell on Linda's birthday and we were happy to celebrate it with her. The food was plentiful and delicious. We thank all who helped make the party a success.





Sharon and Bert Smith



Maria and Tom Berendzen



Special Raffle plants



Barret Bassick and prize plant

Member Service Recognition Award

This year during the Holiday Party two people were named recipients of the FWCBS Service Recognition Award with tributes made on their behalf by members Marty Baxley and Alton Lee, and a guest, Herb Hill, owner/operator of Hill's Raingreen Tropicals in Lithia, FL.. Each recipient's name has been inscribed on a separate bronze plate that will be added to the list of past honorees on a plaque at the Florida Botanical Gardens. Both of the honorees were nominated by Helga Tarver.

The first honoree is Henry Rahmlow, who retired to Florida in the 1950s at a time when bromeliads were not well known and were hard to find. His interest in a variety of plants soon brought him to bromeliads and to FWCBS where he was intensely active and contributed much to advance the Society's goals. As his bromeliad collection grew, his plants won ribbons in shows, and he generously sold many of them at nominal prices to members and the public at large. He initiated the FWCBS newsletter, which was the first newsletter for any bromeliad society in the US. As its editor, a position he maintained until his passing in April 1980, he brought much-wanted horticultural information to the readers.

The second honoree is Andy Price who joined the FWCBS in the mid-1970s. He has promoted our Society's goals in numerous ways. He pushed us to get involved in local plant sales and served as Sales Committee Chairman for many years. In his growing career, he hybridized numerous bromeliads, many of which have yet to be registered, and has educated us through his various workshops on growing bromeliads, including hybridization and growing them from seed. He was also one of the driving forces behind our society's displays at three of the World Bromeliad Conferences (1980, 1992, and 1996), two of which won first prize (1980 and 1996). Andy recently sold his bromeliads and greenhouses to Marty Baxley, so, he has essentially retired from growing but it is likely he will keep his hands in the bromeliad world.



One of Andy's hybrids, Neo. 'Mercury in Love' → →



Herb Hill (left) and Marty Baxley (right) making their tributes to Andy.

THIS AND THAT

2012 Dues Due in January

Society dues are payable in January and will be considered delinquent if not paid by the first of March. They are still a bargain at \$15 per year for an individual and \$25 per year for a household. You may pay your dues at the January or February meeting, or you may send a check, payable to FWCBS, to the club treasurer Brian Corey, 1153 Williams Dr S, St. Petersburg FL 33705.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2012

March 24-25, GreenFest Plant Sale

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL (tampagreenfest.com)

April 6-8, Tropiflora Spring Festival

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

April 14-15, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

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

April 28-29, Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL

September 24-30, 20th World Bromeliad Conference, Orlandiana '12

Orlando, FL, USA (bsi.org/events/2012/Orlando2012)

FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Kathy Risley, linocut1@tampabay.rr.com
Vice President Susan Sousa, susansousa1@yahoo.com
Secretary Suzanne Bogacki, gdkeller@msn.com
Treasurer Brian Corey, bcorey2@tampabay.rr.com
Immediate-Past President Robert Herberich, bubbasotis@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com
Trustees (3) Gary Lund (2010-2012), garybrom@yahoo.com
Judy Lund (2011-2013), glund@tampabay.rr.com
Barret Bassick, 2012-2014, barretb@myway.com

Newsletter Editor, Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society, P.O. Box 4185, Clearwater, FL 33758