

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May 2009



MAY MEETING

Date/Time:

Tuesday, May 5, 2009
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30.

Location:

Hope Presbyterian
Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

Program:

Annual Bromeliad Auction

The FWCBS Annual Bromeliad Auction will take place at the May meeting. Members are asked to donate items for the auction and be generous with their bids. Linda and Dennis Cathcart (TropiFlora Nursery), Harry Luther (Marie Selby Gardens), and Donna and Michael Kiehl (Michael's Bromeliads) have also committed to donating plants from their collections. These are typically terrific specimens and often unusual or hard to find. Bargains to be had for all. Some basic information about the event:

- Auction items will consist of bromeliads and bromeliad-related items such as artwork, posters, ceramics, and books, only.
- Plants donated for the auction should be of special interest or distinctive quality, or they should be rare or particularly fine specimens.
- Plants must be saleable quality, clean, and disease- and pest-free.
- Plants must be clearly labeled.
- There are two parts to the auction, a Live Auction and a Silent Auction.
- The Auction Committee will determine whether an item goes to the Live Auction, the Silent Auction, or the raffle table.
- There will be no business meeting, show and tell, or member plant sales during the meeting.
- Raffle plants will be available.
- The refreshment table will be open for the length of the auction. In order for food to be available during the auction, we are asking members to bring something to share with the group. As usual, the Society will provide the beverages.

APRIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Speaker, Dennis Giardina

Dennis, a biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Invasive Plant Management Section, gave a profusely and superbly illustrated presentation on "The Search for an Alternate Parasite for the Mexican Bromeliad Weevil." His slides showed examples of weevil-damaged bromeliads and areas in Guatemala where in Fall 2008 he and Dr. Howard Frank, who is with the Entomology & Nematology Department, University of Florida, searched for additional parasites of the Mexican weevil in Guatemala. While they found and collected many bromeliads that had been infested with the weevil, they have not yet identified other parasites. The search will be on going as budget and scheduling permit. His stories and photos also branched out to include the local Guatemalan children, a hike up a volcano, and trapping and tagging panthers in the Everglades, which is where his interest in bromeliads was fostered.

Library

Sharon Philyaw, the Society librarian, gave a concise review of the resources in the Society's library, which is located in our meeting room. Members are encouraged to look through the collection and see the wealth of information available. Ask Sharon about it; she will gladly provide a "guided tour" of the library.

Show and Tell

Barret Bassick, Merle Deland, Mike Gimeno, Bob Herberich, Alton Lee, Steve Littlefield, Gary Lund, Kathy Risley, Linda Sheetz, and Helga Tarver exhibited bromeliads from eight genera, along with one example of a bi-generic bromeliad.

*****UPCOMING EVENT*****

Field Trip, Color Zone Tropicals Bromeliad Nursery

The Society is sponsoring a field trip to Grant Groves' bromeliad nursery, Color Zone Tropicals, in Winter Garden, north of Orlando. The date is Saturday, May 23rd. Judy Lund has reserved a bus for the trip and made arrangements with the bus company to make a lunch stop on the way to Grant's nursery. The cost for the trip is \$20 per person (lunch not included). The bus has 36 seats and members can reserve seats by making payment to Judy at the May 5th meeting/auction. Members who will not be able to attend the meeting can send payment to Judy at 904 Oakwood Drive, Largo, Florida 33770. Sign up soon to reserve a seat, as the bus is already about a third full.

The bus will depart at 9 AM sharp and return around 5 PM. Cindy Redmond has graciously allowed us to park at her house where we will board the bus. She is at 2898 Belcher Road, about 3 miles north of Hope Presbyterian Church. Written directions will be available at the May meeting.

For more information, contact Judy on her cell at 727-439-7782 or by email at garybrom@yahoo.com.

THIS AND THAT

Semi-Annual Garden Cleanup, Florida Botanical Gardens, Largo



On Saturday, April 18th, FWCBS members met at the Florida Botanical Gardens and had a great time working in the bromeliad section our Society established there in the early days of the gardens' development. Thanks go to Bob Albanese, a FWCBS member and staff member at the Pinellas County Extension, and Judy Lund who organized the event. In addition to Bob and Judy, other FWCBS members who provided their labor were Brian Corey, Paul Devia, Jason Ghormley, Robert Herberich, Chip Hill, Alton Lee, Steve Littlefield, Gary Lund, Cindy Redmond, Kathy Risley, Marianne Schumacher, and Helen Younskevicius, along with several volunteers from the gardens. The next cleanup effort is scheduled to take place October 24th.

Sales Events

This spring, the FWCBS participated in the following sales events in the Tampa Bay area:

- March 28-29 Greenfest, University of Tampa
- April 11-12 University of South Florida Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Fest
- April 25-26 Green Thumb Festival, Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg

Member vendors in one or more of these sales events were John Bankhead, Marty Baxley, Randy Garcia, Mike Gimeno, Dave Johnston, Larry Lord, Bob Powell, and David Smith. Members who helped at the sales were Janet Bankhead and Jean and Roland Schnabel. We offer our many thanks to these sellers and volunteers; revenues generate at the sales, along with the annual auction, are the Society's primary sources of income.

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