

# FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May 2011

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## NEXT MEETING

### Date & Time:

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

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

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'. In addition to member donations, we will have plants from Tropiflora Nursery (Dennis and Linda Cathcart), Michael's Bromeliads (Michael Kiehl), and Color Zone Tropicals (Grant Groves). There will also be special bromeliads for a Special Raffle. Here are some things to know about the auction:

- There will be no business meeting, show and tell, or member plant sales.
- Auction items will consist only of bromeliads and bromeliad-related items such as artwork, posters, ceramics, and books.
- Plants donated for the auction should be of special interest, distinctive quality, and/or particularly fine or rare specimens.
- Plants must be saleable quality, clean, disease- and pest-free, and clearly labeled.
- There are two parts to the auction, a Live Auction and a Silent Auction.
- In addition to a Special Raffle for special plants, we will also have the usual raffle table for members who want to donate plants they feel are not quite up to the auction standards but nice plants nonetheless.
- The Auction Committee will determine whether an item goes to the Live Auction, the Silent Auction, or the raffles.

### Refreshments

The refreshment table will be open for the length of the auction. We are asking members to be generous with their food donations, in support of the three food volunteers for the month who are Cookie Fernandez, Chip Hill, and Connie Hill. We need good and abundant food to keep our auctioning energy up. As usual, the Society will provide the beverages.

## LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Program

**Terrie Bert** gave a talk on "*Best Buy Bromeliads*" with her tips for getting the best value when purchasing bromeliads. These are a few of her suggestions:

- Before a sale, decide what you want and like and where you would put it in your garden.
- Be knowledgeable and informed about what bromeliads prefer what growing conditions.
- Be adventuresome and willing to buy a young plant that is less than attractive since it might be a gem when an adult.
- Wait until the final minutes of a sale to find plants that might be available at a reduced price.
- Consider unregistered, unnamed plants that are typically cheaper and may also be gems.



- Private vendors (as opposed to commercial growers) typically have more specialty plants at sales.
- Look for colorful spots on young plants as these plants might grow into colorful larger plants.
- Read labels since a plant name, such as: *Neo.* 'Blue Barron' and *Neo.* "Beet Red", can be a hint about what a young plant might look like when mature.

**Show and Tell**

Alton Lee *Aec. dactylina*; *Vr.* 'Robin' (unregistered hybrid); *Til. chlorophylla*  
 Andy Price *Neo.* 'Mercury's in Love' (Andy's hybrid of *Neo.* 'Fall in Love' x *Neo.* 'Mercury')  
 Linda Sheetz *Orthophytum navioides* x *Neo. wilsoniana*; *Aec.* 'Bonnie's Pearl'  
 Helga Tarver *Til. baileyi*; *Til. pseudobaileyi*; *Til. aeranthos*; *Til.* 'Mariposa' (*T. aeranthos* x *T. leonamiana*); *Til. glabrior*



*Vresia* 'Robin'



*Neo.* 'Mercury's in Love'



*Til. baileyi*



*Til. pseudobaileyi*

*Aec.* 'Bonnie's Pearl' → →

During Show and Tell, this bromeliad was presented as a 'show and ask', and while it somewhat resembles a *Portea*, no one could come up with a name. Since then, Brian Weber of Tropiflora Nursery identified it as a plant they sell, *Aec.* 'Bonnie's Pearl', and it is a cross between *A. lueddemanniana* and *A. fendleri*. Brian also said that its bloom stalk can last up to nine months. This plant is extremely happy in its location in very bright light (on a screened patio), and its leaves will blush red in that light.



## THIS AND THAT

### Deepest Sympathies

In early April member Bernie Baxley, father of member Marty Baxley, passed away after being ill for a while. And we learned belatedly that, in March, member Wilma Murphy's husband suddenly passed away, soon after many of us saw him at the home garden tours. We offer these members and their families our deepest sympathies.

### New Members

We welcome new members Bobbie Dusenberry and Peggy Goodale who joined at the March meeting, and Bruce Garley, Constance Hill, George Martinez, Franne Matwijczyk, Nicole Matwijczyk, and Stan Mickelsen who joined at the April meeting.

### Recent Plant Sales Vendors

At the March 26-27 GreenFest Plant Sale, FWCBS members who sold plants in our Society's booth were Randy Garcia, Dave Johnston, and David Smith. At the April 9-10 USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale, members who sold plants in our booth were Janet and John Bankhead, Randy Garcia, Gary and Judy Lund, Bob Powell, and David Smith. A portion of each seller's proceeds goes to our Society and this income is an important part of our revenues. We thank these folks for their efforts on our behalf. Regretfully, I do not have the names of non-selling members who volunteered their services and helped with the sales work but please know we are thankful for you, too.

### Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) Report

Our Society's representatives to the FCBS, Janet and John Bankhead, report the following regarding the FCBS quarterly meeting held March 26, 2011, and hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Broward County .

- Bob Reilly of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland (Australia) sent the FCBS a number of bromeliad book reviews that have been published in the Bromeliad Society of Queensland publication *Bromeliaceae*. The FCBS has posted reviews of ten of those books on their website, fcbs.org, and will post reviews of additional books in the future.
- The May issue of the FCBS quarterly newsletter will include a list of state-inspected bromeliad vendors in Florida. Information such as name, address, telephone number, email address, hours of operation, if an appointment is needed, and a brief description of the nursery should be provided.
- The 2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza® will be held on November 4, 5, and 6, 2011, at the Plaza Resort and Spa, a four-star beach facility in Daytona Beach. The room rate is \$99.00 and parking is free. The event registration is \$60.00 per person, which includes a welcome reception, sales, raffles, a banquet and a bromeliad auction.
- The Cryptanthus Society Show and Sale will take place at the hotel in conjunction with the 2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza®.
- The FCBS May newsletter will also include sales rules for the Extravaganza and show rules for the Cryptanthus Society's show.
- The next Judges' School is June 25 in Daytona Beach.
- Ron Cave, University of Florida, reported the fly colony for the bromeliad weevil control project suffered a serious setback of undetermined origin. The female flies do not appear to be reproducing when released into a colony of weevils in the wild. Either the female flies are the problem or the weevils have developed immunity to the predator flies. A new colony of flies will be harvested from Honduras, and, if possible, a new predator fly will be identified. Funding is stalled in Congress, and some funds were provided by Dr. Howard Frank from his own grant.

- The FWCBS has been examining possible locations in the Tampa Bay area for the 2013 Bromeliad Extravaganza®.
- The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida is finalizing details (e.g., hotel, catering, and member societies' responsibilities) for the 2012 World Bromeliad Conference (WBC) in Orlando, Florida.
- The Council voted on entries for the contest to name the 2012 WBC and the winning name is *Orlandiana 2012*, which was submitted by Dean Fairchild, a member of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida.

### Changing Color Pattern

The two bromeliads on the right are both *Neo. 'Fab-U-Look'*, an unregistered hybrid by member Andy Price. The plant on the left has the typical color and pattern for this hybrid and the one on the right is the same hybrid but with a banded pattern. Andy has observed that in the spring, often after a particularly cold winter, young leaves on some of his bromeliads come in with a banded pattern and when the plant matures through the summer and fall, the mature leaves will come in with the typical color pattern. He poses this question: Has anyone else noticed this alternating, perhaps seasonal, color pattern in their bromeliads? If so, is there a technical term for this growth behavior?



### UPCOMING EVENTS, 2011

April 29-30, Sarasota Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale  
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL

April 30-May 1, Green Thumb Festival  
Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL (Chairman: Carol Lucia, 727-393-8276)

November 4-6, Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2011  
Daytona Beach, hosted by the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

### FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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