

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May 2013



NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2013
Location: Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764
Time: Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Annual Bromeliad Auction

The May meeting is the occasion of our Annual Bromeliad Auction, which is an enjoyable evening with good food, an opportunity to acquire some remarkable and less commonly available bromeliads, and a fundraiser to beef up the Society's coffers. Members can participate in four ways:

1. **DONATE** items to the auction.
2. **BRING** refreshments to share with others.
3. **VOLUNTEER** to set up, arrange, and display auction items and to set up and clean up refreshments.
4. **BID** on auction items!

Here are some auction guidelines:

- Donated items should be limited to bromeliads and bromeliad-related objects such as artwork, posters, ceramics, and books.
- 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. The Auction Committee will determine whether an item goes to the Live Auction or the Silent Auction.

Please note that there will be **NO** business meeting, show and tell, member plant sales, and raffle. If you have questions or need more information about the event, contact Vice President John Edwards (JohnRN56@aol.com)

Refreshments

This is one of two times during the year (in addition to the December Holiday Party) when all members are asked to bring refreshments to share. The refreshment table will be open for the length of the auction, allowing members to 'graze' throughout the evening to help sustain their bidding strength. The Society will provide beverages, plates, napkins and eating utensils.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Alton Lee's presentation, *Nidulariums: an Undervalued Bromeliad Genus*, was an overview of the pros and cons of Nidulariums and how to care for them. He showed us examples of a number of bromeliads in this genus from his collection and the collections of Chip Hill and Dave Johnston. Primary points from his presentation are as follows:

- There are about 50 species of Nidulariums and they are primarily from Brazil and especially in the area around Rio de Janeiro.
- Their disadvantages (cons) are:
 - they are extremely slow-growing,
 - they are typically not generous puppers, and
 - many are unpredictable about when they bloom.



- Their advantages (pros) are:
 - they are good in the landscape,
 - they are cold-hardy,
 - they have soft leaves and are only slightly spiny,
 - they have pretty and long-lasting blooms,
 - they are shade-loving and can grow in deep shade, and
 - they are slow growing and not overly productive. (Note: these were also listed as cons.)

- Care of Nidulariums:
 - They grow in low and early morning light,
 - they like well-drained but moist soil,
 - they do not like to dry out between waterings,
 - they do well and look their best with moderate feeding, and
 - they are not prone to scale and mealy bugs but can be sprayed for these if present.

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

Mary Sue Beeler	<i>Ananas</i> 'Lava Burst'
Tom Crocker	<i>Aechmea caudata</i> var. <i>melanocrator</i> (unrecognized variety; grown under this name by the late Dr. Dexter); three unnamed Guzmania hybrids: a <i>Guz.</i> 'Fortuna' hybrid, a <i>Guz. squarosa</i> hybrid, and a <i>Guz.</i> 'Grand Prix' hybrid
Bob Dalzell	<i>Neoregelia johannis</i> 'DeRolf'
Barb Gardner	<i>Tillandsia</i> (unknown species or hybrid)
Bruce Garley	<i>Til. tricholepis</i>
Alton Lee	<i>Guz.</i> 'Candy'; <i>Guz.</i> 'Claire'; <i>Vriesea</i> hybrid (unnamed Herb Hill cull); all three are unregistered
Robert Lindstrom	<i>Aec.</i> 'Harvey's Pride'; <i>Bil.</i> 'Wendii'; <i>Pitcairnia</i> (unknown species or hybrid)
Franne Matwijczyk	<i>Canistropsis</i> (unknown species or hybrid)
Fred Reid	<i>Til.</i> 'Elektrik' (unregistered); <i>Til. cacticola</i>
Larry Sousa	<i>Neo. melanodonta</i> hybrid (Michael Miashira, Hawaii)
Sharon Steinmann	<i>Aec. pectinata</i> ; <i>Vr.</i> 'Highway Beauty' (<i>V. bituminosa</i> x <i>V. saundersii</i>)

Below are pictures of Show and Tell plants.

Photos by Alvaro Maranhao



Aechmea caudata var. *melanocrator*



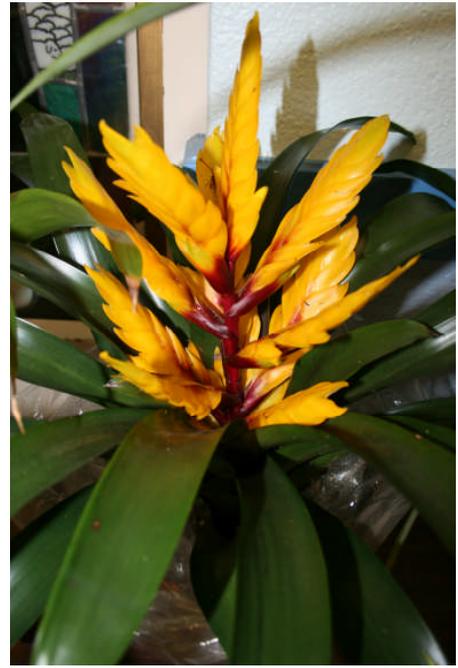
Ananas 'Lava Burst'



Vr. 'Highway Beauty'



Guz. 'Candy'



Vriesea hybrid (Herb Hill cull)



Aec. 'Harvey's Pride'



Til. tricholepis
(actual size: about 5 inches long)



Til. cacticola

Bromeliad Extravaganza Theme Contest

Susan Sousa announced the winner of our contest to name a theme for the Bromeliad Extravaganza 2013 we are hosting in September 2013. The winning theme name is *Bromeliads on the Rocks* and was submitted by Gary Lund. For his efforts Gary was awarded a free banquet meal at the Extravaganza. The two other members who also submitted theme names, Peggy Goodale and Franne Matwiczky, were awarded free tickets for the evening's raffle.

THIS AND THAT

Tom Tarver

We are saddened to report that long-time member Tom Tarver passed away March 26. Tom and his wife Helga have been members of our Society for more than 30 years, and Tom was Helga's backup and support for all she has done for the Society. Helga is most appreciative of those who have sent her cards and who have helped and provided her with support. The family has asked that any memorial contributions people might wish to make be directed to Suncoast Hospice.



GreenFest Plant Sale

Our thanks go to Dave Johnston, Carol Schultz, and David Smith who sold plants at the FWCBS booth at the GreenFest plant sale in Tampa in late March. We also appreciate the work of JC Campbell and Robert Lindstrom who were there helping the sellers. It was windy, rainy, and blustery, and customer traffic was a bit slow; while not the best of conditions for a successful fundraising event, there was a profit made by both the sellers and the Society. We appreciate your hard work, folks.

USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Festival

Our thanks also go to Mary Sue Beeler, Judy and Gary Lund, Bob Powell, Carol Schultz, and David Smith who sold plants at our booth at the recent USF Botanical Gardens plant sale. They were aided in the booth by Rick Beeler (Mary Sue's husband), JC Campbell, and Susan Sousa. The weather was fair, sunny, and most conducive for drawing the large crowds of browsers and buyers that showed up.

Bus Trip

On Saturday, April 20, 24 of our members took a bus trip to visit Michael Kiehl's Nursery in Venice, and then, after a lunch stop, moved on to the Marie Selby Gardens in Sarasota. Michael cordially showed them through his shade houses, and many in the group took the opportunity to purchase plants from him. At Selby, Bruce Holst, Director of Botany, Collections, Herbarium, and Research Administration, served as a gracious host to the group. He showed them a short movie about Selby Gardens, after which he took them on a behind-the-scenes tour, which included two greenhouses that hold plants in their collections used for scientific research and plant identification. Judy Lund did a fine job of putting the trip together, and those who went express delight in the outing and eagerness for more such trips.

Clone vs. Sport

Last month's newsletter included a picture (on the right) of Kathy Risley's *Neo*. 'Red Eye' that showed two different pups (offshoots) from the same mother plant. The variegated pup on the right in the picture is a mutation of the mother, which was unvariegated like the pup on the left. The newsletter referred to both the pups as 'clones'. Fortunately, Derek Butcher (editor of the South Australia Bromeliad Gazette) provided the following correct terminology for the mutated pup: "Your puzzle regarding the two different sorts of offsets is best explained by using the word 'Sport' rather than clone. A clone is an offset but when you get a mutation like this it is a Sport."



Derek suggests the use of the word 'Sport' as a temporary measure to cover aberrant offsets. Below are additional definitions (source: thefreelibrary.com/Terminology) for terms used to describe offsets:

- clone: two or more individuals, originally derived from one plant by asexual propagation (for example, as an offset), which remain genetically identical.
- sport: an apparent mutation which has occurred on part of a plant (for example, a variegated offset)

FWCBS Library

As most of you know, our Society has an extensive library of bromeliad literature. It is maintained in a storage area in the meeting room and is readily available for members to review on the spot and then perhaps borrow until the next meeting. The material is fairly comprehensive and a useful resource for any level bromeliad enthusiast/grower. For more information about the library, contact the new librarian, Kathy Risley.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2013

May 10-12, Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Mother's Day Sale
Fashion Square Mall, Orlando, FL (mybscf.org)

May 18, Clearwater Garden Club Plant Sale
405 Seminole Street, Clearwater, FL (727-441-9374)

May 19, Rare Plant Network Annual Sale
Garden Club of St. Petersburg, 500 Sunset Drive South, St. Petersburg, FL (727-381-8920)

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 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)

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