



Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

June 2006

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be the first Tuesday of this month, June 6, 2006, at Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

We will have a workshop this month, mounting bromeliads on driftwood. FWCBS will buy the plants and driftwood. If you have plants at home that you would like to use, bring them with you. If you have liquid nails, large staple guns, plastic ties, small hammers, fishing line or wire, please bring them in. This is only if you happen to have any of these supplies. We do not expect you to buy them. FWCBS will be bringing tools, but the more we have the better, so that all of the members can be working together on their project.

Last Month's Meeting

The auction was a huge success. There was an excellent variety of bromeliads for sale. Thanks go out to the auctioneers, members that volunteered to work the auction, and the incredible spread of food that people were kind enough to provide.

We would also like to thank all of the guests who came in to honor Helga Tarver for her contributions to the bromeliad world. Michael and Karen Andreas, Harry Luther, Dennis and Linda Cathcart and Ray Coleman from Tropiflora, and Vicky Chirnside all paid tribute to Helga. Michael presented Helga with the Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar's Special Award, signed by Derek Butcher. Vicky, Chairman of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, congratulated Helga on the award she received, recognizing her diligent efforts to correct bromeliad names and make identifications. Helga also received the *Portea* 'Helga Tarver' bromeliad from Dennis Cathcart, named in her honor. Harry Luther gave Helga a copy of the Herbarium Specimen for *Portea* 'Helga Tarver'. Members and guests all gave her a standing ovation, and it was noted that this was the first time we have witnessed Helga at a loss for words.

Remember

Please bring a friend. Guests are always welcome!!

Bring a **raffle plant!** Plants must have names and be sure they are free of scale.

Bring plants for show & tell.

Bring a plant for the friendship table.

Wear your name tag!





Michael Andreas presenting the Cultivar Registrar's Special Award to Helga.

Photos courtesy of Karen Andreas



Dennis Cathcart with Helga when she received *Portea* 'Helga Tarver'.



Portea 'Helga Tarver'
Picture courtesy of Dennis Cathcart



Refreshments

Bill & Marianne Schumacher are in charge of the refreshments. Food for the table is being provided this month by: Adelle Blackman, Giselle Fischer, Barb Gardner, Mike Gimeno, Ella Hartman, and Vivian Lurie.

Upcoming Events

Bromeliads on the Border

June 6 - 11, 2006

17th World Bromeliad Conference

<http://www.bsi.org>

Bromeliad Society Show & Sale

July 15 - 16, 2006

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

<http://www.selby.org>

Sad News

Helen Streck passed away May 2nd. She was a long-time member of FWCBS. Helen was also a member of the Florida West Coast Orchid Society and a former President of FWCOS. She was a WWII veteran in the U. S. Coast Guard. Heartfelt condolences from all of us to her sister, Wilma Murphy. Wilma has graciously donated Helen's entire *Tillandsia* collection. All plants are mounted on cork bark and will be sold at rock bottom prices. Proceeds will benefit our treasury. Don't miss this unique sale .

Portea 'Helga Tarver'

As related by Dennis Cathcart, "We received this plant from Chester Skotak in Costa Rica as simply *Portea* species 'Yellow'. We had a single plant and put it in the greenhouse for propagation. Over the years it had multiplied until we split them up just recently. A specimen was sent to Harry Luther with the data we had, and he received this statement from Chester Skotak: "The yellow and purple-blue *Portea* that has an affinity with *alatisepela* (but is not) comes from Brazil, Minas Gerais, Jequitinhonha County. Collected on top of a lonely mountain at 500 meters, in Nov., 1996, by Pedro Nahoum, myself and my son Ches, Jr." We learned of the honor planned for Helga and knew that we wanted to be a part of it. We wanted to name a plant in her honor but couldn't decide on one. When this beautiful *Portea* bloomed, we knew that was the plant."