

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

August 2012



NEXT MEETING

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

Program Members' Showcase

Our VP/Program Chairman Susan Sousa has put together a "Members' Showcase" program for our August meeting. We did this type of program in 2010 and it was very popular. It is composed of short (5 to 10 minutes) workshops and presentations. Each 'showcase' presentation is set up at a different table and people move about the room visiting whichever table interests them and spending as much time as they want/need there.

Susan is looking for volunteers to do these mini-presentations, which do not need to be complex or technical. The topics can be general bromeliad growing tips such as potting, mounting, growing, light and watering requirements, and fertilizing. Past topics have included cold weather preparation for bromeliads, Hechtia care and feeding, reasons to collect and grow bromeliad species, and growing bromeliads in small places. Please contact Susan (727-420-4269; susansousa1@yahoo.com) if you would like to be a 'showcase' presenter.

Plant Sales

All members are welcome to sell bromeliads at the meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Dave Johnston's presentation *A Tribute to Chester Skotak* showed us examples of bromeliad hybrids Chester Skotak has made over the years. Chester Skotak is a world-renowned bromeliad hybridizer in Costa Rica. His DuraFlor Nursery is located in Palmares, northwest of San Jose. You might recall Chester was one of the subjects in a talk George Aldrich gave to our group in February of this year that chronicled his 2001 three-week trip across Costa Rica. (For more information about Chester, review your March 2012 newsletter that summarizes George's presentation.)



Dave showed us pictures of Chester's nursery and some of his spectacular hybrids. Most of us have one or more plants related to those he created. He works largely with *Neoregelia* and has used *Neoregelia carolinea* in a lot of his crosses. He is also known for his *Aechmea*, *Ananas*, and variegated *Alcantarea* hybrids. Two bromeliad species have been named in his honor: *Guzmania skotakii* (from Costa Rica) and *Aechmea skotakii* (from Ecuador).

Nominating Committee

Kathy Risley asked for volunteers to serve on a Nominating Committee to present names in October for election of the 2013 officers and trustees. Those currently serving in the positions of president and treasurer will be retiring along with one of the Board Trustees who will be rotating out of office. Contact Kathy if you are interested in serving on this important committee.

Show and Tell

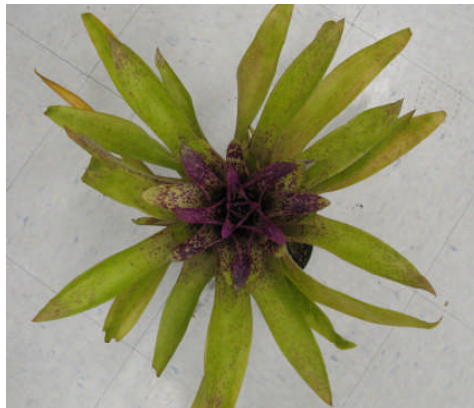
Reported by Helga Tarver

- Tom Crocker *Neoregelia eleutheropetala* hybrid
- Bob Dalzell *Neo. cruenta*; *Neo. johannis* 'DeRolf'; *Aec.*'Fascini (albomarginated form)'; *Aec. fasciata*
- Chip Hill *Til. leiboldiana* (variegated form)
- Dave Johnston *Nidularium* 'Leprosa'; *Til.* (species unknown); *Vriesea* 'Red Chestnut' hybrid and two unnamed *Vriesea* hybrids
- Alton Lee *Cryptanthus* 'Pink Starlite'; *Aec. pubescens*; *Vriesea* 'Vogue'; *Aec. tillandsioides*; *Neoregelia* (unknown cultivar, probably Ray Coleman hybrid)
- Linda Sheetz *Til. mallefontii*; *Neo.* 'Brown Recluse'
- Helga Tarver *Til. caput-medusae*; *Til. flavobracteata*

Below are pictures of Show and Tell plants.



Neo. 'Brown Recluse'



Nidularium 'Leprosa'



Til. leiboldiana



Vriesea 'Red Chestnut' hybrid (left) and two unnamed *Vriesea* hybrids



Vriesea 'Vogue'



Til. mallemonitii

THIS AND THAT

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) Report

Reported by Ashley Graham, FWCBS Representative

The FCBS quarterly meeting was held July 14, 2012, and hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida.

- Weevil Research: The fly colony at the University of Florida is not increasing so FCBS voted to donate \$700.00 for the collection of additional pupae from Honduras.
- World Bromeliad Headquarters: The Bromeliad Society International (BSI) is working on establishing their world headquarters at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota. BSI and Selby are finalizing the details.
- Judges School: Judges School 1 will be held during the World Conference in Orlando on Tuesday, September 25, 2012 from 9am to 5pm.
- Extravaganza 2013: FWCBS reported they are close to securing a location for the event and will have as many details as possible finalized prior to the World Conference.
- 2014 World Conference: The location for the 2014 World Conference has been determined and will be revealed at the World Conference 2012.
- World Bromeliad Conference—Orlandiana 2012: Conference Chairman Betsy McCrory needs additional volunteers to help with the World Conference. She would appreciate if some of our members take a shift or two helping with the plant sale, registration table or anywhere else they would like. There will be several tours during the World Conference. Make sure to sign up for tours in advance, otherwise there will be an additional \$10.00 charge if you sign up at the Conference. If you are available to help, please contact Betsy (betsymccrory@aol.com).

World Bromeliad Conference 2012, September 24-October 1, Orlando, Florida,

After waiting these last two years, the next WBC it is upon us and will finally take place next month! Be sure to confirm your hotel reservations before August 25 to get the conference discounted room rate. Go to fcbs.org and click on the 'Upcoming Events' link for full information. Be sure to check out the updated Schedule of Events on the FCBS website so you can effectively plan your stay and navigate through the many events taking place.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2012

August 4-5, USF Bromeliad Bonanza

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

August 11, USF Bromeliad Day

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

August 18-19, Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society Sale

Garden Club of Sanford, 407-539-4314 (SB&TPS)

September 24-October 1, World Bromeliad Conference, Orlandiana '12- Kaleidoscope of Bromeliads

Caribe Royal Hotel, Orlando, FL, USA ([fcbs.org/Upcoming Events](http://fcbs.org/Upcoming%20Events))

October 13-14, USF Fall Plant Sale

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

December 1-2, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale

Terry Park, Ft. Myers (vickychir@aol.com)

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