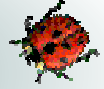


Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society



September, 2006

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be the **second** Tuesday of the month, September 12th, due to local elections 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 are honored to welcome Harry Luther as the guest speaker this month. The topic will be "Bromeliads From N to Z". Harry is the Director of the BSI's Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center and a Taxonomist and Curator of Living collections at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota. Harry is one of the leading bromeliad experts in the world. If you have any questions about bromeliads, this is the man to ask. Harry has had numerous bromeliads named for him. For over 25 years he has contributed to the bromeliad literature with articles in journals, magazines, newsletters and newspapers. In 1975, as a very young man, Harry was President of the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society.

Harry does not sell plants; members can bring in plants they'd like to sell.

FYI: Helga has received the tree hangers. If you ordered any of these, please come to the next meeting to pick them up.

- 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!

Last Month's Meeting

We are always delighted to have Dave Johnston as a guest speaker at our meetings. He gave an excellent presentation on "Variegated Bromeliads" and sold many of the plants he brought in for the lecture.

Ann Kavanagh announced that the field trip to Grant Groves' nursery, Color Zone Tropicals, will be Saturday, November 4th. This is a popular field trip, giving you the opportunity to view their nursery and having the chance to add some wonderful bromeliads to your collection. The nursery is in Winter Garden, so the trip by bus will take approximately 2½ hours. Members who are interested need to put their names on the sign-up sheet and leave a \$10 per person deposit. Grant is cooking lunch for all of those who attend. The October meeting will be the last chance you have to sign up for this trip, since we need 30 days notice to charter the bus.



Show & Tell for August 1, 2006

Chip Hill: *Neoregelia* 'Fairy Godmother'
Neoregelia 'Helga's Joy'
Neoregelia Isabel 'Las Vegas'
Neoregelia 'Yellow Delicious'

Linda Sheetz: *Aechmea tillandsioides*
Neoregelia compacta
Neoregelia rosea

Helga Tarver: *Guzmania* 'Rana'
Tillandsia limbata
Tillandsia stricta
Tillandsia 'Pink Fountain'



Have a relaxing Labor Day holiday.

Upcoming Events

FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza
September 30, 2006
Miccosukee Resort & Convention Center, Miami
<http://www.fcbs.org>

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Annual Sale
November 18 & 19, 2006
Terry Park, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL
For more information contact Larry Giroux; email:
DrLarry@comcast.net

Refreshments

Food for the refreshment table is being provided this month by: Adelle Blackman, Brian & Linda Covey, Bob Dalzell, Giselle Fischer, and Mike Gimeno.

Welcome!

We would like to welcome 2 new members to our society, Kathy Farley and Barbara Gaines. Looking forward to seeing you at the meetings.

About Bromeliad Biota

A few hundred species of animals and plants are known to science to depend to a greater or lesser extent on bromeliads as a place in which to live, or as food. These few hundred species probably are a small fraction of those that exist, because these animals and plants, together called the bromeliad *biota* (the word *biota* means all living organisms, regardless of whether they are animals, plants, fungi, bacteria, or viruses), are yet poorly studied by biologists and there is an enormous amount of research left to do. It would not be surprising if there are more species of these organisms than there are of bromeliads.

Some of the animal species among this biota, and by *animal* is meant invertebrate as well as vertebrate animals, depend totally upon bromeliads. Without access to bromeliads, the specialist animals among them could not exist. When a population of a bromeliad species in nature becomes rare, endangered, or extinct, the specialist animals likewise must become endangered or extinct. Even though some extremely rare bromeliad species are now maintained in culture by bromeliad enthusiasts, little or no thought has been given to maintenance of the animal species that depend upon them. Loss of a bromeliad species on the coast of Brazil or in the mountains of Ecuador, even if the bromeliad is maintained in culture in botanical gardens or private collections, may cause extinction of species of frogs, insects, and other animals.

Adapted from: bromeliadbiota.ifas.ufl.edu/bromelex.htm