

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September 2011



NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2011
Location: Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764
Time: Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Program

Ray LeMieux from Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota will talk to us about terrestrial bromeliads. Ray has grown bromeliads and succulents for over 15 years and is known for his expertise in thorny genera such as *Hechtia* and *Dyckia*.

Plant Sales

The speaker will be the sole plant vendor for this meeting and therefore there will be no member plant sales.

Refreshments

Volunteers for refreshments at the September meeting are Barb Gardner, Franne Matwijczyk, and Patty McCloskey. Cindy Redmond, Refreshment Chair, reports there was a great turnout at the August meeting for food and donations for supplies, which was greatly appreciated.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

In his presentation *Pictures a Novice Collector Takes*, FWCBS member **Marty Baxley** showed us slides of a bromeliad-collecting trip he and Michael Kiehl, another FWCBS member, made to Costa Rica about 20 years ago. Joining them on the trip was Peter Bak of Cornelis Bak B.V. Nursery in The Netherlands. You might recall Peter was the speaker at our January 2011 meeting. Marty's pictures told a story of muddy, rutted roads, treacherous bridges, and steep cliffs encountered in their quest to find and collect bromeliads. But collecting them is only the first hurdle; the second is getting them home alive. Out of the 50 or so plants they brought back, only six survived. But by any measure, the collectors felt the trip was a success. The trip also included a visit with Chester Skotak, world-renowned bromeliad hybridizer who moved from the USA to Costa Rica in 1978. During the visit, Chester graciously shared some of his hybridizing and growing knowledge with them.

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

Marty Baxley	<i>Nid. proserum</i> ; <i>Neo.</i> 'Bengito' (unregistered hybrid); three variations of his cross of `Neo. 'Bengito' x 'Hannibal Lector'
Tom Crocker	<i>Guz.</i> 'Irene' (red form)
Barbara Gardner	<i>Catopsis morreniana</i>
Helga Tarver	<i>Til. capitata</i> 'Peach' x <i>Til. caput-medusa</i>

Below are photographs of some of the plants from the Show and Tell.



Catopsis morreniana



Variations of *Neo. 'Bengito' x 'Hannibal Lector'*

THIS AND THAT

Raffle Baskets, 2012 World Bromeliad Conference

Janet Bankhead sends this note: "Thanks to members who donated baskets, books, wine glasses, ribbon, and basket filler. These items are most appreciated. There are still many items needed to complete enough baskets to make the raffle a success. If members have any items to donate, they can bring them to any meeting and they will be sincerely welcomed. See Janet with any donations." Janet and her husband John are in charge of organizing and running the September 2012 World Bromeliad Conference raffle.

St. Petersburg Times Article, Dr. Helen Dexter

Below is a recent newspaper article about our member, centenarian Helen Dexter.

Good for You: Dr. Helen Dexter still cruising at age 103

By Nova Beall, Times Staff Writer, Wednesday, August 3, 2011

Dr. Helen Dexter of Belleair celebrated her 103rd birthday with a cruise around Clearwater Harbor aboard the Starlite Majesty. She was born July 28, 1908, in Cincinnati to William Jordan Taylor, a physician, and his wife, Katharine.

She majored in archaeology at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania and worked on an excavation in Russia. She returned to attend Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, where she earned her medical degree and met her future husband, Dr. Morris William Dexter.

She spent two years in Belleair during World War II while her husband served in the Navy and settled there permanently in 1954. She was one of the first female physicians and dermatologists in Clearwater. The couple shared a great love of learning and traveled the world collecting bromeliads and orchids.

Dr. Dexter is one of the founders of the Girls Clubs of Pinellas County. She is a former president of the Southeastern Dermatological Association and was honored by the Retired Physicians of Morton Plant Hospital. After retirement, she served two terms as a Belleair commissioner. Her husband died in 1992.

Until she was 90, no matter what the weather, she would take a daily swim in the Gulf of Mexico.

Dr. Dexter has a son, William of Barto, Pa.; two daughters, Helen Dalzell of Clearwater and Lissa Dexter of Belleair; and four grandchildren, David Potsubay of Las Vegas, Richard Potsubay of Seattle, Liz Dalzell of Clearwater and Jordan Dexter of Barto.

Dr. Dexter traveled to the Antarctic at the age of 95. Perhaps that's the secret to her longevity; she's always looking forward to her next adventure.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2011

September 30, October 1-2, Tropiflora Fall Festival

Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 (tropiflora.com)

October 8-9, USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale

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

November 4-6, Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2011

The Plaza Resort and Spa, Daytona Beach, hosted by the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society and sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and includes the 12th Annual International Cryptanthus Society Show (go to <http://theartofbromeliads.wordpress.com/> for more information.)

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