

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September 2013



floridabromeliads.org

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, September 3
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

Program

Longtime member and bromeliad grower **Dave Johnston** will tell us about *Foliage Vrieseas*, a group of *Vriesea* hybrids that have particularly beautiful color and marking, and about the species that growers have used to make these hybrids. He will tell us how to grow and care for them to keep them healthy and happy, and to maximize their potential.

Plant Sales

All members are welcome to sell bromeliads at the meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Husband Brian Corey and I (Linda Sheetz) showed pictures of and talked about the 'Cool Broms' bromeliad conference we attended last March in Auckland, New Zealand. It was hosted by the Bromeliad Society of New Zealand (BSNZ) and was one of the best (if not the best) such conferences we have attended. It was well run, friendly, informative, and cohesive. It included seminars, sales, a judged show, a banquet, an auction, garden tours and a couple of evening outings.

The hotel and auditorium facilities were most accommodating. Common areas around the hotel held bromeliad displays installed by local growers, and the majority of the plants were *Vrieseas* and *Neoregelias*. We were awed of the stunning color and foliage produced by the local growers, qualities not easily achieved in our growing conditions.

There were about 230 registrants, most of whom were from Australia followed by New Zealand, with five from South Africa. The U.S. was well represented with 13 -- eight from Florida (the Cathcarts, the Kiehls, Terrie Bert, Eloise Beach, and Brian and I), Ed Doherty from Texas, Steve and Martha Goode from Chicago/Arizona, and David Fell and wife Sandy Kasman and Lisa and Ken Vinzant from Hawaii.

The bromeliad show had about 240 plants, the majority of which (caution: using a faulty memory) were *Vriesea* and *Neoregelia*, followed by *Tillandsia*, *Aechmea*, and a small number of other genera. The colors produced by the local growers were, again, stunning.

The seminars were well presented and informative. There were eight speakers: Dennis Cathcart and Michael Kiehl (U.S.), Elton Leme (Brazil), Jose Manzanares (Ecuador), Andrew Maloy (New Zealand), Hawi Winter (New Zealand), Graeme Barclay (New Zealand), and Nigel Thompson (Australia). Audience attendance and enthusiasm were boosted by the fact that the show and plant sales were closed during the talks; camaraderie among the group was enhanced by the mid-morning tea and coffee breaks and noon buffet lunches served each day in a room adjacent to the auditorium. In the afternoons, we were treated to tours of five home gardens and shade houses: Kiwi Nursery (Andrew Maloy), Totara Waters

Milford Sound, a fjord on the South Island



(Peter and Jocelyn Coyle), Pandora Nursery (Bev and Lester Ching), Peter and Jeanette Waters's terraced garden and shade house, and Margaret Flanagan's gardens and shade house.

Kiwis are serious about their bromeliads and it showed at the auction that followed the banquet. There were about 45 items offered for bidding and bids started at 100 \$NZ. The highest winning bid was 1,600 \$NZ for Vr. 'Kiwi Summer Fever' (Andrew Maloy hybrid), and the next highest was 1,000 \$NZ for Vr. 'Candyman'. The auction raised about 14,000 \$NZ (about 11,600 \$US).

After the conference Brian and I toured some of the rest of New Zealand for about two and a half weeks and saw many wonderful and diverse things. We walked on a volcanic island still spewing steam and mud, hiked Mount Ruapehu (next to famed 'Mount Doom' from the Lord of the Rings movies), visited impressive public gardens in Auckland and Christchurch, saw glow worms in caves, cruised along a fjord, enjoyed geothermal features and a traditional Maori hangi ((feast) at a Maori cultural center, checked out an old gold mining town, and savored Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir wines (New Zealand specialties) at a winery.

We had about 250 pictures in the presentation, most of which we ran through rather quickly to give the audience a general idea of the variety of beautiful bromeliads we saw and the great places we visited across New Zealand. (We also hurried through them to avoid taxing the audience's endurance!) The BSNZ has posted their pictures of the conference, including the growers' exhibits, the show, the banquet and the garden tours, on their website. To see those, go to BSNZ.org and click on the 'Cool Broms 2013' link at the top of the page.

Ben Sill's Bromeliads Raffle

The special bromeliad raffle at last month's meeting was a resounding success. The plants, approximately 50, were donated by Ben Sill, a bromeliad grower in South Carolina. On a recent trip to our area he left the plants with his longtime friend Dave Johnston, who cared for, organized, and delivered them to the meeting. Over the years Ben has hybridized and registered about 25 bromeliads, both Billbergias and bi-generic Bilmeas. While the majority of his raffle plants were Billbergia hybrids, they also included X Bilmeas, Neoregelias, and Aechmeas.

According to Ben, the number of bromeliad enthusiasts in his area is limited, as is the space in his greenhouse. Because of this, his donation objective was two-fold: 1) to give him more space in his greenhouse, and 2) to get his hybrids out to the public, especially to bromeliad lovers who could care for, grow, and, ultimately, share them. As a token of our gratitude, our Board of Directors awarded him an FWCBS membership. We hope to see him at future meetings in the summer months when he comes to our area. Below are pictures of some of his hybrids that were in the raffle. [The photos are from the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website.]



Bil. 'Pink Blush'



Bil. 'Anna Louise'



Bil. 'Mary Louise'



Billbergia 'Stimpy' photo by Ben Sill

Bil. 'Stimpy'



'Allison Sill' photo by M Kiehl

Bil. 'Allison Sill'



Billbergia 'Crimson Candle' Photo by Ben Sill

Bil. 'Crimson Candle'



Billbergia 'JCS' photo by Ben Sill

Bil. 'JCS'



X *Bilmea* 'Rosebud'



x*Bilmea* 'Barbara Ellen' photo by Ben Sill

X *Bilmea* 'Barbara Ellen'



x*Bilmea* 'Casper' photo by Ben Sill

X *Bilmea* 'Casper'

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

Marty Baxley

Neoregelia 'Hija Morado'; *Neo.* 'Tom Tarver' (*Neo. tristis* x 'King of Kings'), an Andy Price hybrid named for Helga Tarver's late husband and which Marty plans to register

Tom Crocker

Tillandsia fasciculata

Bruce Garley

unknown *Tillandsia* hybrid, possibly *Til. stricta* x *xiphiodes*

Gary Lund

Aechmea fulgens var. *discolor*; *Aec.* 'Yellowstone'

Linda Sheetz

Aec. 'Star of Linda'

Helga Tarver

Til. fasciculata 'Tropiflora'

Below are pictures of Show and Tell plants.



Til. fasciculata 'Tropiflora'



Aec. 'Star of Linda'



Neo. 'Tom Tarver'



Neo. 'Hija Morado'

THIS AND THAT

Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2013—Registration Deadline September 14

It is only a few weeks away until Bromeliad Extravaganza 2013 is upon us. It includes the biggest bromeliad sale in the area and provides the opportunity to acquire bromeliads not commonly available and at great prices. Other features are a rare plant auction and speakers Don Beadle, Charlie Birdsong and Dennis Cathcart, who are renowned experts known for entertaining and informative presentations. Don't miss it! Go to our website floridabromeliads.org for more information.

Member Service Recognition Award

If you would like to nominate one of our members for our annual Member Service Recognition Award, submit your nomination, in writing, to Secretary Suzanne Bogacki on or before the October meeting date. The Board of Directors will review the nominations at the next quarterly Board meeting to be held in October.

2014 Officers and Trustees

At the October meeting, a Nominating Committee will present a slate of nominees for our 2014 officers and trustees. Members will vote on the slate at the November meeting. Additional candidates may be added to the slate any time before the voting takes place. Contact Susan Sousa if you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee and/or running for an office.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2013

September 20-21, Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2013

The Holiday Inn Harborside, Indian Rocks Beach, hosted by the FWCBS and sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (floridabromeliads.org)

September 27-29, Sarasota Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale

Banquet and Rare Plant Auction on the 28th, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota (<http://sarasotabromeliadsociety.org>)

October 4-6, Tropiflora Fall Festival

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

October 12-13, USF Fall Plant Sale

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

December 6-8, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale

Terrie Park, 3451 Marion Street, Fort Myers (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

2013 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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