

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2012



NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2012
Location: Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764
Time: Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Program

Carole Richtmyer will talk to us about what she has learned over her many years of growing and hybridizing *Cryptanthus*. She has been a bromeliad collector and hybridizer for over 30 years and while she grows many different bromeliad genera she is especially interested in the genus *Cryptanthus*. She lives in Texas where she is a member of the Bromeliad Society/Houston. She is also a member of and one of the guiding hands behind the Cryptanthus Society and is an international, accredited Master Judge.

Nominating Committee, November Officers Election

At the October meeting, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of nominees for our 2013 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.

Plant Sales

All members are welcome to sell bromeliads at the meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Dennis Cathcart's presentation, *Singapore and the Gardens by the Bay*, was a spectacular story of a new, world-class park in Singapore that, when finished, will consist of three waterfront gardens: Bay South Garden, Bay East Garden and Bay Central Garden. His association with the park began a number of years ago when he was approached by the people behind the park development about supplying plants for the park. After years of sending them 300,000 plants, mostly bromeliads, it culminated in June of this year when he and his wife Linda (and about 700 others) attended, by invitation, the grand opening of the first phase.



The government initiated an international design competition for the park in January 2006 and the first phase, Bay South Gardens, broke ground in November 2007. This phase was completed in 2012, at a cost of many billions of dollars. The result is a combination of plants and environments from around the world together in one place and a melding of nature, art, and environmentally sustainable technologies never before attempted. Situated on reclaimed waterfront land, the choicest real estate in all of Singapore, the park is a diverse array of plants and climate-controlled conservatories.

Singapore is a small (about 3½ times the size of Washington D.C.) city-state with a tropical rainforest climate of uniform temperature and pressure, high humidity, and abundant rainfall. The government's goals in developing the Gardens by the Bay park are to transform Singapore into a city in a garden, improve quality of life in the city, and become Singapore's premier urban outdoor recreation space and a national icon. The park will allow Singaporeans to see plants and their habitats they would not otherwise

experience, and all in one place. Based on what we heard and saw throughout Dennis' talk, Singapore is well on its way toward those goals.

The park covers about 250 acres, has a one-acre underground parking area, and along with the gardens has restaurants and shopping and entertainment areas. Truly a park for the people, admission is free except for the conservatories and overhead walkways, and it is open 22 hours a day to accommodate all visitors, including many there who work 10-plus hours a day. A night visit is enhanced by brilliant light displays that make it worth a return trip for those who see the park during the day.

Primary features of the newly opened Bay South Gardens are the Supertrees Forest, two Conservatories and a lake system with two main lakes, Dragonfly Lake and Kingfisher Lake.

The **Supertrees** are gigantic structures, 125 to 160 feet tall with concrete core and steel skin of pipes and cables. They are vertical gardens, covered with 163,000 plants, mostly bromeliads with some aroids, orchids, and ferns, all from Tropiflora, including 1,000 pounds of Spanish moss (*Til. usneoides*). Voltaic cells on the trees create electricity for nighttime lighting and biomass generated is burned underground and the heat produced is vented through the trees, creating wind.



Supertrees Forest

The two glass-covered, cooled conservatories house all kinds of plants, from alpine to tropical. To supply the specific light and humidity conditions for each plant type and habitat, the domes have moveable shading systems that respond to inside temperature and brightness throughout the day as the sun and clouds pass overhead. The glass roofs were engineered without the use of center support structures.



Crystal Mountain

'**Cloud Forest**' is a cool-wet climate conservatory similar to a Tropical Montane region. It is about 2.5 acres in area with a height of 190 feet and is maintained at 73 to 77° F during the day and at 62° F during the night with an average relative humidity of 80%. Its focal point is Crystal Mountain that reaches almost to the roof and has a 100-foot tall waterfall and a below ground grotto and river. The dome houses native sculptures from Pacific island cultures and a Lost World garden of carnivorous plants.

'**Flower Dome**' is the cool-dry climate conservatory similar to a Mediterranean climate. It is 3 acres in area, 190 feet high, and maintained at the same temperatures as the Cloud Forest but with a humidity of 70%. Outside it is surrounded by a bromeliad-covered berm and inside is an 'ocean' of blooms in a valley surrounded by vegetation-covered hills. It features a Cactus Garden and abundant pieces of driftwood supplied by Tropiflora. → →



The lake system in the park is an extension of the nearby Marina Bay Reservoir project and captures water run-off from within the gardens where aquatic plants clean it before discharging it into the reservoir. The filtered water is also used in the park irrigation system. In addition to serving as a natural filtration system, the lakes provide aquatic habitats for biodiversity such as fishes and dragonflies.



Part of the lake system (with one of the two conservatories in the background)

For more information about Singapore's Gardens by the Bay, go to www.gardensbythebay.org.sg.

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

Tom Crocker

Aec. purpureorosea

Chip Hill

Neo. 'Margaret' (unregistered Bullis hybrid); *Neo. 'Carol Johnson'* (johannis x 'Angel Face')

Helga Tarver

Til. fasciculata 'Tropiflora'

Below are pictures of Show and Tell plants.



Neo. 'Carol Johnson'



Neo. 'Margaret'



Til. fasciculata 'Tropiflora'



Aec. purpureorosea

THIS AND THAT

November Meeting Date

PLEASE NOTE! Our meeting in November will be held the **second Tuesday of the month, November 13** (and not the first Tuesday of the month). This is because this year the first Tuesday of November is Election Day and our meeting will be in use as a polling place.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2012

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

It is here at last. See you all there!

October 5-7, Tropiflora Fall Festival

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

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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