November, 2006

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

This Month's Meeting

Because the first Tuesday in November is election day, this month's meeting will be Tuesday, November 14, 2006, at Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater. As always, the doors open at 7:00 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Kathy Risley and Steve Littlefield will show a Power Point presentation on the 17th World Bromeliad Conference, "Bromeliads on the Border," held in San Diego in June.

Kathy was our Vice President in 1996 and 1997 and our President in 1998 and 1999. She co-chaired our own World Bromeliad Conference in 2002. Steve is the founding instructor of the Printmaking Program at the Fine Arts Center in Dunedin. Among many other things, he re-designed our FWCBS logo and created the beautiful banner for our speaker rostrum. He has received numerous awards for his work, including first place awards at several World Bromeliad Conferences. He also created posters for the 1996, 2000 and 2002 World Conferences and the commemorative pin for the 50th Anniversary of the BSI.

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

Dennis Cathcart gave an excellent presentation on "Bromeliads in the Landscape." We saw some amazing gardens from across the globe, as well as Wally Berg's former landscaped home & screen rooms in Sarasota.

DON'T FORGET: **November 4th** is the bus trip to Grant Groves nursery in Winter Garden. We will board the bus at Hope Presbyterian Church, and we are allowed to park our cars for the day in the church's front parking lot. We are leaving at 9:00 a.m. sharp. Seats on the bus are still available, so if you haven't signed up yet and are interested, call Judy Lund at 439-7782 or 586-5865, no later than Tuesday, October 24. The cost is just $10.00 for this one-day trip, and Grant is providing lunch for all of us. By the way, since the trip will be 2 to 2½ hours, the bus we have rented has bathrooms.

ALSO: **November 11th** is the BIC Benefit Barbecue at Tropiflora in Sarasota. All members (and friends) of the Caloosahatchee, Sarasota, Florida West Coast and the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay are invited. There will be a plant auction to benefit the Bromeliad Identification Center at Marie Selby Gardens. If you are able, you are invited to bring a plant to donate. Exotic plants other than bromeliads are also welcome for the auction. Dennis has asked that we please **R.S.V.P. at least one week in advance** by email or phone, so they are able to know how many to prepare food for. You can contact them at 800/613-7520 or email to linda@tropiflora.com.

Show & Tell for October 3, 2006

Dave Johnston: *Cryptanthus* 'Ruby Star'
Hohenbergia pennae

Helga Tarver: *Tillandsia rothii*

Neoregelia lilliputiana - This is the smallest member of the *Neoregelia* genus. It is a true species from the rain-forests of Brazil, but unfortunately not widely grown in cultivation. Quite a few of the newer miniature *Neoregelia* hybrids have this species as one of their parents. It is epiphytic, preferring medium to bright light. The flowering plant shown is 2" high by 2" across. Given more light, it would have had lighter green leaves and darker markings.

Refreshments

Bill & Marianne Schumacher will again be in charge of refreshments. Food for the table is being provided this month by: Donna Donner & Michael Palandro, Mike Gimeno, and Andy & Sharon Philyaw. Any member is welcome to bring a dish to share & receive a free raffle ticket.

Upcoming Events

FWCBS Field Trip to Grant Groves Nursery
November 4, 2006
Color Zone Tropicals, Winter Garden, FL

BIC Benefit Barbecue
November 11, 2006
Tropiflora, 3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota, FL

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Annual Sale
November 18 & 19, 2006
Terry Park, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers
Contact: DrLarry@comcast.net

The Breast Cancer Site

The Breast Cancer Site is having trouble getting enough people to click on their internet site daily to meet their quota of donating at least one free mammogram a day to an underprivileged woman. It takes less than a minute to go to their site and click on the pink button "FUND FREE MAMMOGRAMS." This doesn't cost you a thing. Their corporate sponsors & advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate a mammogram in exchange for advertising. Here's the website: http://www.thebreastcancersite.com. So that I remember, I made this website my home page (Tools/Internet Options/Use Current Home Page). Could it be any easier?

The Inflorescence

As a general rule, a bromeliad's inflorescence rises from the center of the rosette of leaves that make up the plant. The group of "embryonic" cells in the center of the cups is referred to as the meristem. This meristem tissue is the source of new leaves as the bromeliad grows but becomes altered in some way when the plant reaches maturity and produces an inflorescence instead of leaves. This is the reason often offered for why most bromeliads only bloom once in their lives. Once the inflorescence is produced, there is no longer meristem tissue to form new leaves, and the plant slowly dies.

A bromeliad inflorescence may take a number of different forms. The form alone may be distinctive enough to aid in identification of the plant. This can be **erect** (upright), **pendant** (dangling), **semi-pendant** (leaning), or even **reflexed** (pendant and then recurving back toward the upright). A **simple** inflorescence would be a single, unbranched stalk, like *Tillandsia bartramii. Tillandsia utriculata* is an example of a **compound** inflorescence -- one that branches. A **digitate** inflorescence is one where the attached structures arise from one point and fan outward like fingers. If the inflorescence has closely attached structures on either side of the stalk, we say that the inflorescence is **pinnate** -- resembling a feather. This type of bloom is often seen in members of the *Vriesea* genus. (Ed. Note: *Vrieseas* are among the most popular bromeliads because of their long-lasting, colorful inflorescences.)

Adapted from: Article written by Jay Thurrott for the newsletter of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society, July, 2005