

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November 2009



NOVEMBER MEETING

Date/Time:

Tuesday, November 3rd, 2009
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30.

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

Program

Dr. Terrie Bert will give a presentation on *Diving Even Further into Unusual Bromeliad Genera*, which is about uncommonly cultivated bromeliad genera starting with the letters **D**, **E**, **F**, and **G**. She will show their natural distribution, habitats, and growing conditions along with examples of species in each genus in cultivation and in nature, and describe how (or if) they can be cultivated.

Terrie has long been active in bromeliads and is an internationally accredited Master Judge. She cultivates approximately 1,200 different bromeliads in 24 genera and has authored numerous articles for the BSI Journal and the FCBS website and newsletter. She has won multiple top awards in local bromeliad shows and BSI world conferences and is a volunteer for and contributor to the BSI Bromeliad Identification Center.

Annual Election of Officers

Our annual election for the next year's officers will be held during the November meeting. The slate of nominees for 2010 is as follows:

President:	Robert Herberich	Secretary:	No nominee
Vice President:	Gina McDowell	Trustee:	Gary Lund
Treasurer:	Brian Corey		

The Nominating Committee is still searching for a candidate for the position of secretary. Please contact John Bankhead, committee chair, if you are interested. Additional nominations for all positions are welcome and may be made at the meeting.

Refreshments

The November refreshment volunteers are Marty Baxley, Mary and Jack Dennis, Bob Herberich, and Chip Hill. As you know, Janet Bankhead has been in charge of the refreshments this year and she has done a terrific job. Sadly, her tour of duty in that role will end this December. We are looking for someone to take over the job and help maintain our society's reputation for our bountiful and tasty refreshments.

OCTOBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Guillermo Rivera, owner of South America Nature Tour, gave a talk on "*Bromeliads of Peru: Land of the Incas*". Peru has three major geographical areas. The narrow coastal region along the Pacific Ocean and the Andes range east of the coast are generally sparsely vegetated due to low rainfall. The third region, the tropical rainforest east of the mountains, comprises about two-thirds of the country, is part of the Amazon Basin, and is densely vegetated. The majority of bromeliads and other plants in the Peruvian rainforest region remain undiscovered because access to the region is difficult. Guillermo



showed us pictures of bromeliads he encountered while on several of the tours he has led to the coastal and mountainous regions. His pictures also included cacti and succulents in the bromeliad habitats. One of the more interesting bromeliads was *Puya ramondii* (shown below). This bromeliad grows at high altitudes (about 12,000 feet above sea level) in the Andes, can be up to 30 feet tall, and can take 50 to 100 years to bloom. After all that, they will propagate only by seed.



Puya ramondii habitat



Puya ramondii flowers

Show and Tell

Bob Dalzell	<i>Till. duratii</i>
Bob Herberich	<i>Neo. tristis x oppenheimer</i>
Cathy Lockwood	(see below and to the right)
Gary Lund	<i>Til. disticantha</i>
Kathy Risley	<i>Aec. 'Foster's Favorite'</i>

Cathy Lockwood's driftwood mounted with two types of Neoregelia, a Tillandsia, and an Aechmea → →



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 13th, 14th, & 15th, 2009 Annual FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza, Orlando

Details for the Extravaganza have been finalized and are available at www.fcbs.org, Upcoming Events. There you will find the schedule of events and lists of speakers and garden tour locations. For every Extravaganza, each of the FCBS member societies is asked to contribute at least five plants or bromeliad-related items (such as art, collectibles, books) to the Extravaganza auction. Look around and see if you have something you would like to donate. Plants should be specimens of interest, in excellent condition, and properly labeled.

December 4th, 5th, and 6th, 2009, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale, Ft. Myers

This show and sale event is always a good source for bromeliads. This year's theme is "Bromeliads in Oz." The show starts on the 4th and continues through the sales event on the 5th and 6th. For more information, go to www.fcbs.org, Upcoming Events.

July 26th thru August 1st, 2010, 19th World Bromeliad Conference, New Orleans

Held every two years, don't miss this one. The theme this year is "Bromeliads in the Big Easy". For more information, go to www.bsi.org/events.

THIS AND THAT

October 24th Florida Botanical Gardens Bromeliad Garden Cleanup



"The Laborers"

Volunteers had a great morning at the Gardens, cleaning, weeding, sweeping, moving plants, and sweating. There were 17 volunteers: Bob Albanese, Janet and John Bankhead, Brian Corey/Linda Sheetz, Paul Devia, Robert Herberich, Joyce Janczak, Alton Lee, Steve Littlefield/Kathy Risley, Judy and Gary Lund, Dee Munderloh, Mike Petryszak, and Marianne and Bill Schumacher. Thanks to Judy Lund and Bob Albanese for facilitating the event. We plan to do the next cleanup in Spring 2010.



Cleaning plant beds



Sweeping up



Loading the truck

Neo 'Bossa Nova', started in the garden by Helga Tarver from a single plant

→ →



October 10th & 11th, University of South Florida Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Festival

We offer our thanks to John Bankhead and Gary Lund, who organized and set up our group's sale area, and to the sellers and volunteers. The two scarecrows we had on display at the booth did not win a prize but they were colorful and added to the Fall theme, although sellers and volunteers reported it was hot and muggy and did not feel like Fall!

October 10th, FCBS Quarterly Meeting

In October, it was the FWCBS's turn to host the quarterly meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. The last time our society hosted a council meeting was January 2007, and on both occasions, John and Janet Bankhead hosted the meeting in their home. Janet is a superb hostess and prepared and served a bevy of tasty dishes. John showed the council members his bromeliad collection and some got one or two of them.

Deepest Sympathies

On October 19th, FWCBS member Brenda Turner passed away after suddenly falling ill the day before. She and her husband Marc, also a society member, met in the early 1970s while they were both working at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg. We offer Marc and his family our deepest sympathies and have made a donation in Brenda's name to the Ronald McDonald House that is associated with the hospital and serves as a "home away from home" for families whose children need inpatient or outpatient care.

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