

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November 2012



NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2012
Location: Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764
Time: Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Program

Dean Fairchild's presentation, *Bromeliad Taxonomy: the New Subfamilies*, will update us on the proposed reassignment of several bromeliad genera into new subfamilies. This is a reprise of the talk he gave at the 2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza wherein he discussed results of recent studies on bromeliad DNA that have led to a proposal to expand the current three bromeliad subfamilies to eight. Dean asks members to bring in lots of plants and he will use them as examples in his presentation.

2013 Officers Election

The national campaigning and elections are at long last over and now it is our turn. At the November meeting, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of nominees for our 2013 officers and trustees. Be sure to attend if you want your vote to count. Additional candidates may be added to the slate any time before voting takes place.

Plant Sales

All members are welcome to sell bromeliads at the meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Carole Richtmyer presented *The Earth Stars*, a well-organized and comprehensive talk about the genus *Cryptanthus*, on which she has vast experience gleaned from many years of growing and hybridizing them. She and her husband Rick attended the recent World Bromeliad Conference in Orlando, and we were pleased she lingered here so that she could share her vast knowledge with us before returning home to Texas. Some of the points she made about *Cryptanthus* were:

- They are primarily terrestrial in nature and prefer to be in soil. As such, they should be grown as potted plants.
- Some *Cryptanthus* are saxicolous (i.e., grow on rocks).
- They are genetically related to the genus *Orthophytum*.
- *Cryptanthus* native habitats are found within limited areas in Brazil including the Atlantic rainforest and drier rocky areas.
- Cultural conditions (temperature, light, moisture, time of year) impact the size, width, length, and color within individual species and hybrids.
- While their ideal temperature range is within 60 to 80°F and they are typically damaged below 50°F, some can adapt to a wider temperature range.



- They grow in a wide variety of light conditions, from full sun to shade. In general, too much light will cause bleaching and sunburn, and too little will result in poor coloring.
- Most Cryptanthus like a lot of water but they do not like to sit in it. Use a potting mix that has good drainage and contains coarse sand, tree fern, perlite, and/or orchid bark. And there are some varieties that like hot and dry conditions.
- They love fertilizer but do not apply it to their leaves.
- Pups grow at the leaf axils, on stolons, or at the base on the parent plant and should not be removed unless they are at least 1/3 the size of the mother plant. Having said that, some varieties release pups by themselves when the pups are sufficiently mature.
- When planting a pup, remove the small leaves at the bottom of the plant to allow for root formation. Be sure to stabilize the plant in the pot to keep it from wobbling about and to allow for proper root development.

For more information about Cryptanthus, check out <http://fcbs.org/cryptanthussociety/>.

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

Robert Herberich	<i>Aec. chantinii</i> ; <i>Crypt.</i> 'Black Magic'
Chip Hill	<i>Neo.</i> 'Bobby Dazzler'; <i>Neo.</i> 'Picolo'; <i>Vriesea elata x zamorensis</i>
Dave Johnston	<i>Bil.</i> 'Sacabamba'; <i>Bil.</i> 'Bruddah Iz'; <i>X Bilmea</i> "Casper"; <i>X Bilmea</i> 'Barbara Ellen'
Alton Lee	<i>Nid. angustifolium</i> ; <i>Til. jalisco-monticola x T. rolland-gosselinii</i>
Franne Matwijczyk	<i>Crypt.</i> 'Elaine'
Fred Reid	<i>Bil.</i> 'Poquito Mas'; <i>Vr.</i> 'Rosita' (unregistered hybrid); <i>Guz.</i> 'Sophia' (unreg. hybrid); <i>Guz.</i> 'Denise' (albomarginated form)
Linda Sheetz	<i>Neo.</i> 'Jungle Gems' (unreg. Marty Baxley hybrid), <i>Til. novakii</i>
Larry Sousa	<i>Neo.</i> 'Comet', <i>Aec. contracta</i> ; <i>Neo.</i> 'Ardie' (unreg. hybrid; named for Ardie Reilly)
Helga Tarver	<i>Til. albida</i>

Below are pictures of some Show and Tell plants.



Bil. 'Bruddah Iz'



Bil. 'Poquito Mas'



Crypt. 'Elaine'



Neo. 'Jungle Gems'



Guz. 'Denise'



Neo. 'Picolo'



Neo. 'Ardie'



Til. jalisco-monticola x *T. rolland-gosselinii*

THIS AND THAT

Harry Luther, 1952-2012

Harry Luther passed away last month from a cerebral hemorrhage in the Republic of Singapore where he had been living and working for the past two years as Assistant Director for Horticulture at Singapore's new Gardens by the Bay. Prior to moving to Singapore he was with the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota for 32 years, where he served as the director of the Bromeliad Identification Center and Curator of Living Collections. He was recognized internationally as an expert in the horticulture and botany of bromeliads and as one of the leading experts on the systematics of the bromeliad family. On the road to that recognition, he described over 100 new species, had several bromeliads named after him (e.g., *Crypt. lutherianus* and *Vriesea lutheri*), produced the bi-annual publication *Alphabetical List of Bromeliad Binomials*, wrote and published more than 200 journal articles, was a major contributor to many books and editorial advisor to a number of journals, and gave of his time tirelessly to those in need of assistance.

Harry was all that and so much more more. With his passing, words have already been written about him by many, and more will be written in the days to come. These will be snapshots of various parts of Harry's life, based on how we knew and remembered him, and how we recall our individual interactions with him within the sphere of our own lives. Our group will remember him as a native of St. Petersburg and longtime member of the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society where he developed and grew his initial interest in bromeliads. Perhaps someone will be able to assemble those snapshots into a complete picture for us, and describe the full breadth of his accomplishments and his significant place in the world of bromeliads. Perhaps then we can begin to fathom the loss his passing will leave to that world. His departure was too sudden and too soon and he will be missed in many different ways.

World Bromeliad Conference September 2012, Orlando

After the big build up and two years of planning and hard work, the 2012 World Bromeliad Conference in Orlando has come and gone and it measured up to the advertised hyperbole. Our congratulations go to the FCBS and all the volunteers for putting on a great conference.

The hotel's conference center was more than ample to meet the conference needs (and in the case of the rare plant auction, the room was cavernous compared to the space needed!). A full description of the conference would take pages but in summary, there were bromeliad displays by various bromeliad societies and nurseries, nine seminars, six poster sessions, daily raffles, a three-day bromeliad sale (with 13 commercial vendors and 19 member sellers), a judged bromeliad plant show with just under 300 entries, a judged bromeliad art show, a rare plant auction, a banquet, and tours of three private home gardens, four commercial nurseries, a public city garden (Lue Gardens in Orlando) and an environmental study area (showing bromeliads in native habitat). During the banquet, Nat DeLeon (Miami) and Herb Plever (New York), both long-time members of the Bromeliad Society International, were honored for their 50-plus years of promoting bromeliads.

Thirty-five FWCBS members attended all or part of the conference, 23 of whom registered and attended three or more days. All had a great time. FWCBS members Marty Baxley (Jungle Gems), Linda and Dennis Cathcart (Tropiflora Nursery), Randy Garcia (Randy's Bromeliads), Dave Johnston (Bromeliads Galore), Michael Kiehl (Michael's Bromeliads), and Steve Littlefield (Underhill Studios) were among the conference vendors. (Some pictures about the conference are at the end of the newsletter.)

Neoregelia Margaret

Letter to the Editor from Derek Butcher (submitted after he saw a picture in our October newsletter of a plant Chip Hill showed that was labeled *Neo. 'Margaret'*)

Some people may know me as Uncle Derek on fcbs.org but many will not know that I have been the foreign correspondent with Helga Tarver for some 10 years. Each keeps the other on the straight and narrow regarding plant names. It was several months ago that I heard of a variegated *Neoregelia* called 'Margaret' growing in Florida. The only 'Margaret' I knew about was a hybrid made by Mulford Foster many years ago and my first thoughts were that variegation had occurred because of tissue culture. But then my Doubting Thomas brain took over and with a bit more enquiries by Email I found out it had its origins at the

Bullis nursery with no parentage divulged. I felt that such an outstanding plant widely grown by Bromeliad enthusiasts in Florida needed to be formally recorded. As the retired Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar I believe that if a plant is worthy of a name, then the hybridist should boast of his/her creation. Alas it did not happen in this case. So there were two different hybrids with the same name. We solved the problem by registering the variegated plant as 'Bullis' Margaret'. We do not expect the Bullis nursery to sell under this name but we do expect discerning growers to make notes on their label so that when the plant is brought to meetings, other members are not misled. Having a nurseryman's name as part of the name is not unique. For example there are 4 other Neoregelia names where Bullis' name features because of duplication.

Uncle Derek - Down Under

Editor's Note: Derek Butcher lives in Australia where he has been a member of the Bromeliad Society of South Australia since 1977. He is active in the Australian bromeliad community as a judge, speaker, editor, and author, and as a grower of a comprehensive bromeliad collection, with reportedly the largest Tillandsia collection in Australia. He previously served as the Cultivar Registrar of the Bromeliad Society International and was the first recipient of the FCBS Award of Recognition. He has a worldwide presence and bromeliad enthusiasts all over the world make frequent use of the articles he provides to the FCBS website.

University of South Florida Fall Plant Sale

We offer our thanks to the three members who sold plants at the recent USF October Fall Plant Sale: Randy Garcia, Robert Powell, and David Smith. We appreciate their hard work and the proceeds their sales made for our society.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2012-2013

November 17-18, Naples Botanical Garden Plant Sale

4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples (www.naplesgarden.org)

December 1-2, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale

Terry Park, Ft. Myers (vickychir@aol.com)

March 23-24 GreenFest Plant Sale

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL (tampagreenfest.com)

April 5-7, Tropiflora Spring Festival

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

April 13-14, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

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

April 27-28, Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL

2012 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Kathy Risley, linocut1@tampabay.rr.com
Vice President	Susan Sousa, susansousa1@yahoo.com
Secretary	Suzanne Bogacki, gdkeller@msn.com
Treasurer	Brian Corey, bcorey2@tampabay.rr.com
Immediate-Past President	Robert Herberich, bubbasotis@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor	Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com
Trustees (3)	Gary Lund (2010-2012), garybrom@yahoo.com Judy Lund (2011-2013), glund@tampabay.rr.com Barret Bassick (2012-2014), barretb@myway.com

Newsletter Editor, Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society, P.O. Box 4185, Clearwater, FL 33758

Conference Displays

Grant Groves' Color Zone
Tropicals Nursery → →



Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society



Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society



Linda and Dennis Cathcart's Tropiflora Nursery

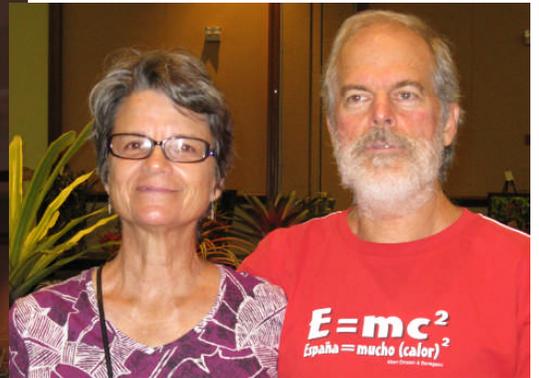
A Few People



Dave Johnston



Gwen and Barret Bassick



Barb and Gary Gardner



Roland and Jean Schnabel



Randy Garcia



Nicole Matwiczyc



Kay and Mike Petryszak



Larry and Susan Sousa



Marty Baxley



Linda Sheetz/Brian Corey



Nancy and Dick Dailey



Gary and Judy Lund

Stephen Littlefield Art

