

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November 2013



NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, November 12
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

floridabromeliads.org

November Meeting Date

PLEASE NOTE! Our meeting in November will be held the second Tuesday of the month, November 12 (and not the first Tuesday of the month). This is because this year the first Tuesday of November is Election Day and our meeting room will be in use as a polling place.

Program

This month's speaker, Alton Lee, will tell us how to protect our bromeliads from cold weather, which is a timely topic as we move into the winter season. A good many of our bromeliads, and likely many of our other plants, are sensitive to low temperatures and can benefit if we use the tips we will hear.

Plant Sales

All members are welcome to sell bromeliads at the meeting.

2014 Officers Election

At the October meeting Kathy Risley, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented a slate of nominees for our 2014 officers and trustees, as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| President | Susan Sousa |
| Vice President | Franne Matwijczyk |
| Secretary | John Edwards |
| Treasurer | Gary Lund |
| Trustee (three-year term) | Carol Schultz (to serve from 2014 through 2016) Judy Lund (to serve from 2014 through 2015, which are the last two years of Gary Lund's Trustee term which he resigned to run for treasurer) |

Members may add nominations to the slate (with permission of the nominee) any time before the voting takes place. Be sure to attend if you want your vote to count.

Other members on the Board who are not subject to the voting are Barret Bassick as a Trustee serving the last year in his three-year term, Kathy Risley as Immediate Past President (should Susan Sousa be re-elected as President), and Linda Sheetz as Newsletter Editor.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

Tom Wolfe, *Landscaping with Bromeliads*--

As a commercial landscaper, Tom shared with us the basics of landscaping with an emphasis on using bromeliads. He talked about how to use landscaping to frame a house, soften its corners, and enhance the overall appearance and property value. The following is a suggested order and tips for executing a landscape project:



1. Establish a plan; lay out a diagram of the overall concept.
2. Install an irrigation system.
3. Lay out the plant bed areas with paint or stakes.
4. Install trees to give them time to get established.
5. Install sod.
6. Install foundation plants and walkways and fences, if any.
7. Allow space for the plants to grow within their location.
8. Be sure the plants, especially bromeliads, are placed in appropriate shade or sun conditions. (Tom gave us a list of bromeliads that are considered to be full-sun plants, a copy of which is available on the FCBS website at <http://www.fcbs.org/articles/full-sun-bromeliads.htm>.)
9. Use an odd number of the same plants, where possible; it provides a better visual effect.
10. Vary plant colors and textures.
11. Vary height of plants for a stepped look, to create depth.
12. For soil cover and weed control use pine needles, oak leaves and/or prepared cypress or pine bark mulch.
13. If the project is a large one, to avoid becoming overwhelmed start in one area and after completing it, move on the next.
14. Add some artistic elements, such as sculptures, where appropriate. Blend rocks, boulders, and/or driftwood with plants.
15. Make the planted area people friendly; install seating areas, children's play areas, an area for grilling, and so on.

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Barbara Gardner | <i>Pitcairnia smithiorum</i> |
| Robert Herberich | <i>Aechmea</i> 'Loie's Pride' |
| Dave Johnston | <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Crayola'; <i>Vriesea fosteriana</i> var. <i>seideliana</i> |
| Nicole Matwiczkyk | <i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Menesca' |

Below are pictures of Show and Tell plants.
Photos by Dick Dailey and Nicole Matwiczkyk



Neoregelia 'Crayola'



Vriesea fosteriana var. *seideliana*



Aechmea 'Loie's Pride'



Pitcairnia smithiorum

THIS AND THAT

Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2013

The Bromeliad Extravaganza 2013 our society hosted this past October was a great event and we have heard many kind words and kudos from those that attended. We are grateful to the many people who worked on the event including the three speakers for their enjoyable talks, and the vendors for their efforts. A pictorial report (photos by Dick Dailey and Bruce Garley) on the Extravaganza is being prepared and will be sent out later.

December Meeting/Holiday Party

Please note that the December meeting will be on December 3, which is only three weeks after the November meeting. The December meeting is our annual holiday party and members will be asked to bring their favorite dishes to share. A food sign-up sheet will be available at the November meeting. The December newsletter will have full details about the meeting and the plant giveaways.

University of South Florida Fall Plant Sale

We are grateful to the members who sold plants or otherwise volunteered to work in our sales booth at the recent USF October Fall Plant Sale. Sellers were Marty Baxley, Bruce Fairbanks, Gary and Judy Lund, Robert Powell, and Joe and Karen White, and volunteers were Blandine Triestman and Mary Sue Beeler. Bob Dalzell donated plants from his collection that were added directly to the sales to profit our Society. We are also grateful to Carol Schultz, Sales Chairman, who organized the sale effort, and who had planned to sell but was unable to attend.

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Newsletter

Starting in 2014 the quarterly FCBS newsletter will cease being distributed by U.S. mail and will be distributed electronically. As you know, four times a year every household that is a member of one of the Florida bromeliad societies affiliated with the FCBS receives a copy of its newsletter. Up until now that newsletter has been printed, bound, and then delivered to us via U.S. Postal Service. The cost to print and mail the newsletter limited the length of it and did not afford the luxury of color. The move to an electronic version will allow the Newsletter Editor Karen Andreas to expand it as needed/desired, include color, and achieve the added benefit of less expense with no printing and mailing costs.

It is anticipated Karen will forward the newsletter electronically to the current FCBS Chairman (Ashley Graham in 2014) who will then forward it to each of the member societies who will then in turn forward it to their respective members. For our society, your newsletter editor will be forwarding the newsletter to our members. The FCBS Webmaster Michael Andreas will also post the newsletter on the FCBS website, fcbs.org. Those of our members who do not have access to the Internet will receive a printed copy of the FCBS newsletter in the same manner they currently receive our own society's newsletter.

What's in a Name?

In the last newsletter a picture of an Aechmea cultivar was identified by its parent's names (*Aechmea chantinii* x *Aec. fulgens* var *discolor*) and not its cultivar name ('Filip van Onsen'). Derek Butcher, past Bromeliad Registrar for the Bromeliad Society International, noted that and wrote to say the following regarding the use of the parents' names to identify the plan:

"PLANTS HAVE FEELINGS, TOO, and resent being identified after their parents. They like their own name just like humans. So 'Filip van Onsen' was perturbed to see a photo of himself under his parents names. Mind you [Aechmea] 'Fia' could also have been worried because one may have quoted the wrong mother... In 1979 Dutrie created Filip van Onsen by crossing *Aechmea chantinii* with *Aechmea fulgens* v *discolor*. In 1990 or thereabouts Deroose created 'Fia' by crossing *Aechmea fulgens* v *discolor* with *Aechmea chantinii*. There is also a possibility that some Floridian grower has done the same cross but has not bothered to claim his/her work or checked what had happened before and just identified it by its parents."

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2013

December 6-8, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale
Terrie Park, 3451 Marion Street, Fort Myers (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

2013 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| President | Susan Sousa, susansousa1@yahoo.com |
| Vice President | John Edwards, JOHNRN56@aol.com |
| Secretary | Suzanne Bogacki, gdkeller@msn.com |
| Treasurer | Mary Sue Beeler, msbeeler@mindspring.com |
| Immediate-Past President | Kathy Risley, linocut1@tampabay.rr.com |
| Newsletter Editor | Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com |
| Trustees (3) | Judy Lund (2011-2013), glund@tampabay.rr.com Barret Bassick (2012-2014), barretb@myway.com Gary Lund (2013-2015), garybrom@yahoo.com |

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