

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2014

Celebrating 60 Years of Bromeliads

floridabromeliads.org



November 2014 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, November 4

Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:

Good Samaritan Church

6085 Park Boulevard

Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

Program

Member **Dave Johnston** will give an interactive educational program on a range of bromeliad topics such as general bromeliad knowledge, plant identification, and famous bromeliad people. His Powerpoint presentation will be in a question-and-answer format, sort of a *Bromeliad Jeopardy!* He will pose a series of bromeliad-related questions and award prizes for correct answers. If you want to participate in the question-and-answer parts, bring a pen or pencil to keep score and Dave will supply score cards. And if not, come, sit, and listen because Dave's talks are always crammed with information.

Plant Sales

The speaker will be the sole plant vendor for this meeting and there will be no member plant sales.

2015 Officers and Trustees Election

At the November meeting members will vote on a slate of nominees for our 2015 officers and trustee, as follows:

President	Ashley Graham
Vice President	Larry Sousa
Secretary	Sal Vactor
Treasurer	Gary Lund
Trustee (three-year term)	Barbra Stayer (to serve from 2015 through 2017)

Additional candidates may be added to the slate, with permission of the nominee, any time before the voting takes place. If you want to make a nomination or run for one of these offices, contact Carol Schultz, Nominating Committee Chairman, at carolcurrieschultz@gmail.com.

OCTOBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

In his talk *Bromeliads – Are They Better in the Bahamas?* **Jay Thurrott** gave us insight into how folks in the Bahamas grow bromeliads and the difficulties they experience in their efforts. Jay is a Bromeliad Society International (BSI) accredited bromeliad judge and recently judged a show for the Council of Garden Clubs, a local consortium of garden clubs in Nassau on New Providence Island in the Bahamas. The local plant clubs, such as the Horticultural Society of the Bahamas, are active and enthusiastic, and members grow a large variety of plants, including bromeliads. Two Bahamians were part of the 2012 graduating class of the BSI judges school.



Jay visited a number of private gardens where he saw a good variety of bromeliads, abundant orchids, succulents, desert roses (many of which were quite large), and odd plants such as ant plants. Below are some of the things he learned about growing bromeliads in the Bahamian environment.

- There are a number of native bromeliads in the Bahamas, similar to those native to Florida.
- While storms can bring a lot of rain, in general the water supply, either groundwater or rain water, in the Bahamas is minimal and expensive. Locals supplement their water supply with cisterns where they collect what rain water is available.
- Because of the water issues (i.e., low supply; expensive), Pitcairnia are not grown there because they require a lot of water.
- Salt spray from the waters of the Atlantic Ocean that surround the islands can be a problem, especially during large storms. As such, locals have to consider what bromeliads and other plants are salt tolerant, or not, and be careful about where they place them in the landscape.
- The temperature can get very hot there, which is a problem for bromeliads that prefer cooler conditions.
- Soil on Nassau is minimal, typically only a few inches thick and underlain by a hard limestone rock base.
- Because of the thin soil layer and hard rock beneath the soil, locals typically keep their bromeliads and other plants in pots, which they set on the ground. If they want to plant a tree they have to use a jackhammer to penetrate the lime rock.
- Because of its latitude, the Bahamas provide optimum temperature and sun angle for growing some types of bromeliads. Below are some of the bromeliads Jay saw in gardens there. (Photos of some that follow are courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website, fcbs.org.)
 - *Aechmea blanchetiana*--grows prolifically and is used abundantly throughout in landscaping. (Jay suggested the Bahamians consider making it their national plant/flower.)
 - *Androlepis*-- grows well there, along with *Aec.* 'Hacienda' and *Neo.* 'Night Spot' (last two pictured below).
 - *Disteganthus* (picture below)--a rare bromeliad genus. [Factoid from Wikipedia: This genus is in the subfamily Bromelioideae, is considered a primitive genus among bromeliads, is only found in terrestrial environments, has only three known species, and is native to northeastern South America.]
 - *Tillandsia utriculata* x *lineatispica* (a natural hybrid; picture below) and *Til. bulbosa*--common and grow in variable sizes and colors dependent on which of the islands they inhabit
 - *Til. intermedia* (picture below)--loves the environmental conditions, often grows in very large clumps.
 - *Til. xerographica* (picture below)--displays very curly leaves due to little available water. (In Florida the leaves are typically straighter because of more available moisture.)
 - *Til. barclayana* (picture below)--formerly *Vriesea barclayana*

Final note: Jay learned that it is common for bromeliads with red leaves to be attacked by birds and he showed a picture of *Neoregelia johannis* with a number of scratches and holes on it!



Aec. 'Hacienda'



Neo. 'Night Spot'



Disteganthus



Tillandsia utriculata x lineatispica



Til. intermedia



Til. xerographica



Til. barclayana

Show and Tell

Confirmed by Helga Tarver

Gary Lund *Neo. 'Stepping Up'* (Sharon Peterson hybrid; picture below)
Billbergia 'Hallelujah' x 'Afterglow' (picture below)
Bil. Beadle No. 1275 (Don Beadle hybrid; picture below))

Franne Matwijczyk *Aec. brevicollis* (picture below)

Susan Sousa *Til. 'Sandy'*; cultivar of *cyanea* (David Fell hybrid; picture below)

Show and Tell plants



Billbergia Beadle No. 1275



Billbergia 'Hallelujah' x 'Afterglow'



Neoregelia 'Stepping Up'



Aechmea brevicollis



Tillandsia 'Sandy'

THIS AND THAT

Michael's Bromeliads and Tropiflora Nursery

The word is that the bus trip on October 4 to Michael's Bromeliads nursery and Tropiflora nursery was a success. While it was a rainy day the group managed to stay dry, and many came away with armloads of plants. Michael Kiehl's nursery is located on First Dirt Road in Venice, and over the years he has landscaped the property and added a number of shade houses. It is our understanding he is planning on opening a retail shop in the near future. Both Michael and Dennis Cathcart (owner of Tropiflora) are longtime FWCBS members. Accompanying photos are of Michael's, courtesy of Franne Matwiczkyk.



Michael Kiehl



New Member

Our newest member is Pam Davis who joined our society last month. Please make her feel welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2014-2015

2014

November 7-9, Sarasota Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale, *Cornucopia of Colors*
Southgate Community Center, 3145 Southgate Circle, Sarasota (Theresa.Bert@MyFWC.com)

December 6-7, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show
Terry Park, 3451 Marion Street, Fort Myers (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

2015

March 27-29, Tropiflora Spring Festival
Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 (tropiflora.com)

March 28-29, GreenFest Plant Sale
University of Tampa, Tampa, FL (friendsofplantpark.com/greenfest)

April 11-12, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (cas.usf.edu/garden)

April 26-27, 2015, Green Thumb Festival
Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL (stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb)

September 26, Bromeliad Extravaganza, *Bromeliads in the Magic City*
Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida.

2014 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Susan Sousa, susansousa1@yahoo.com
Vice President	Franne Matwijczyk, franne@fbgbamboo.com
Secretary	John Edwards, JOHNRN56@aol.com
Treasurer	Gary Lund, garybrom@yahoo.com
Immediate-Past President	Kathy Risley, linocut1@tampabay.rr.com
Newsletter Editor	Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com
Trustees (3)	Barret Bassick (2012-2014), barretb@myway.com Judy Lund (2014-2015), glund@tampabay.rr.com Carol Schultz (2014-2016), carolcurrieschultz@gmail.com

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