

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2017

Celebrating over 63 Years in Bromeliads

fwcbs.org



November 2017 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 7, 2017; 7:30 pm
Location: Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

PROGRAM

Dennis Cathcart will be the speaker with his presentation, *New Explorations and Discoveries in Brazil--Parts II and III*, which is a continuation of the first part of the talk he gave to us in July 2014. It will conclude the story of the trip he and his wife Linda took to Brazil just prior to that talk to find Dyckias and other terrestrial bromeliads.

2018 Officers and Trustee Election

At the November meeting members will vote on a slate of nominees for our 2018 officers and trustee, as follows:

President	Dick Dailey
Vice President	Brian Corey
Secretary	Nancy Dailey
Treasurer	Gary Lund
Trustee	Joe Ventimiglia (three-year term, 2018 through 2020)
Trustee	Karen Mills (one-year term to replace Sal Vactor's vacated last year of her three-year term)

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 yourself, please contact Susan Sousa, Nominating Committee Chairman, at susansousa1@yahoo.com. Nominees elected from the slate presented in November will serve on our 2018 Board of Directors along with four others: Sal Vactor and Judy Lund (the two other trustees currently serving overlapping three-year terms), Ashley Graham as Immediate Past President, and Linda Sheetz, Newsletter Editor.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

LAST PROGRAM

Jay Thurrott's presentation titled *Judging Bromeliads* described the procedures by which one could become a Bromeliad Society International (BSI) accredited bromeliad judge, on

what basis bromeliads entered in a show are judged and awarded ribbons, and what features a bromeliad should exhibit to get an award and what 'faults' to avoid. Jay is well qualified on the topic of judging bromeliads. He is a BSI-accredited master judge, has exhibited many times in numerous bromeliad shows, and is one of the organizers and teachers in the series of BSI judges schools offered to those who want to become bromeliad judges.

Becoming a BSI-Accredited Judge

- Before becoming a certified judge, students undergo a rigorous training program that is a combination of classroom instruction by certified judges combined with home study, testing, and participation in actual shows as clerks and student judges to practice the judging skills they develop in the classroom.
- Becoming a judge is a lengthy process and can take several years.
- Classroom instruction is a series of six schools, each held about six months part. Also, because bromeliads shows are not held frequently throughout the year and may not be common in many locales, meeting the requirement of serving as a clerk or student judge can add to the time required to complete the training.
- The primary textbook used is *Handbook for Judges, Exhibitors and Affiliates* published by BSI.
- Training is focused on precision. That is, every judge should have the same knowledge and expertise to be able to arrive at the same rating for any plant entered in a show.

Judging Schools Curricula

- School I: Overview of judging, point scoring, judges, nomenclature, and review and criteria for judging genera in the Pitcairnioideae, Brocchinioideae, Lindmanioideae, Hechtioideae, Navioideae and Puyoidea families and their hybrids and intergenerics
- School II: Standard Show guidelines, types of entries (individual, multiple, horticultural displays), judging for major awards, and review of and criteria for judging the genus Tillandsia (After successfully completing School II, students can participate in shows as student judges as long as the judging panel includes two fully accredited judges.)
- School III: The BSI-judged show rules and review of and criteria for judging genera in the Bromelioideae subfamily
- School IV: Artistic arrangements, decorative containers, exhibits, and other recommended categories
- School V: Further review of genera in the Bromelioideae subfamily and review of and criteria for judging for the remaining genera Hohenbergia through Wittrockia
- School VI: Review of and criteria for judging genera in the Tillandsioideae subfamily and review for final exam
- Final Exam

BSI-Accredited Standard Show Criteria

- The show must be sponsored by a BSI affiliate or group of affiliates.
- The show must meet all requirements listed in the *Handbook for Judges, Exhibitors and Affiliates* and in the Show Schedule prepared by the BSI affiliate(s) that describes the organization of their show.

- The affiliate's Show Schedule and individuals who will judge the show must be approved by the BSI Affiliate Show Chair and the Judges Certification Committee.

Judging Bromeliads

- Plants entered in shows can range from really good to really bad. Judges are expected to be able to recognize faults in a plant and to be able to assess them fairly.
- Judging is based on a point system comparing the plant's features and characteristics against the ideal for that plant. Judges begin by assuming each plant has a perfect score of 100 and as faults are noted, they deduct points to arrive at the final score for the plant. The final score determines the color of the ribbon, if any, that a plant will be awarded.
 - 95 points and above: Award of Merit
 - 90 to 94 points: blue ribbon
 - 85 to 89 points: red ribbon
 - 80 to 88 points: yellow ribbon
 - 70 to 79 points: white ribbon
- These are some of the features and characteristics judges consider when evaluating individual and multiple plant entries against the ideal plant.
 - Cultural perfection; how well was the plant grown
 - Conformation: shape and form
 - Color and markings
 - Maturity
- To do well in a bromeliad show, the exhibitor can enhance the presentation and ultimate score.
 - Start with a nice looking plant, in a clean and appropriate pot (not a ceramic or grower's pot). Clean the plant, removing all debris between leaves.
 - Trim (discretely) leaves that have tears or brown or damaged spots.
 - Be sure the mix or medium is neat, clean, level and not too far from the top of the pot.
 - Read the Show Schedule to be sure that you comply with the rules.

SHOW AND TELL

Dick Dailey

Neoregelia 'Voodoo Doll' (Photo below)

Franne Matwijczyk

Neoregelia 'Pittsburg Style' (Photo below)



Neoregelia 'Voodoo Doll'



Neoregelia 'Pittsburg Style'

Frane also showed a bromeliad growing in a clump of *Billbergia pyramidalis*, with leaves like a *B. pyramidalis* but an odd inflorescence (photo below). Derek Butcher with the Bromeliad Society of South Australia suggests it is likely *B. pyramidalis* with a case of phyllanthidea, a condition that seems to be linked to the actual flower being aborted (and sterile) and replaced by floral bracts. Derek also suggested the same condition could explain the weird center of the *Neoregelia* 'Magali' (pictured below) that was shown in last month's newsletter.



Billbergia pyramidalis



Neoregelia 'Magali'

THIS AND THAT

FWCBS Plant Sale

Our Society is holding a plant sale on Saturday, November 18 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Seminole Recreation Center located at 9100 - 113 Street North in Seminole. The recreation center is on a high-traffic street and the sale should pull in a lot of drive-by customers.

- There is no cost to those who want to sell and sellers can keep all their profits, with no fee or percentage to be paid to the Society.
- Sellers may sell other types of plants, in addition to bromeliads.
- Sellers must provide their own tables.
- All plants must be clean and free from disease.

For further information, contact Susan Sousa at sousansousa1@yahoo.com.

A Little Help for a Friend

Barb Gardner submitted the picture on the right of her *Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman'. Look closely at the picture and you will see the chrysalis for a monarch butterfly that was placed just under the leaf curl at the top of the leaf. This is yet another niche bromeliads can fill in the natural world!



BLOOMING THIS MONTH

Billbergia 'Afterglow' (below)



Portea fosteriana (on right)
(collected in Brazil by Mulford Foster in 1939)



UPCOMING EVENTS, 2017

November 4, Mounts Botanical Garden Fall Plant Sale

Mounts Botanical Garden, 531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL,
(www.mounts.org/things-to-do/event-calendar)

November 18, 2017, Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society Plant Sale

Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 - 113 Street North, Seminole, 10 am to 2 pm
(sousansousa1@yahoo.com)

November 18-19, Edison Ford Winter Estates Fall Garden Festival

Edison Ford Winter Estates, 2350 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers, FL
(edisonfordwinterestates.org/events/annual-events/edison-garden-market)

December 2-3, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale

Terry Park, 3451 Marion Street, Fort Myers (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

December 15-16, Tropiflora Nursery Winter Sale

Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota (tropiflora.com/events.cfm)

2017 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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