

GAINESVILLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Where Guests are Welcome and Members Are Encouraged!

May Meeting Details

May 2012

TIME: Sunday, May 27th - 2:00 PM

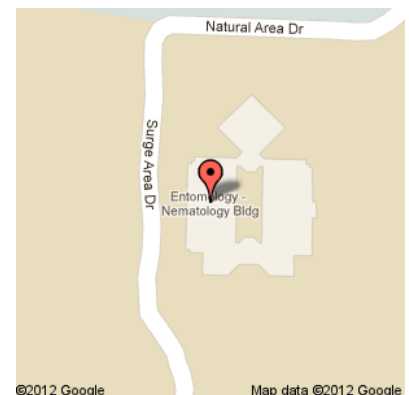
PLACE: UF Entomology/Nematology Building, Natural Area Drive east of the Performing Arts Center on Hull Road, U of F. or the 5th left turn on Archer Road coming East from 34th Street.

PROGRAM: We are planning a very exciting meeting for May 27th. Our speaker will be **Dennis Cathcart**, who is very prominent in the bromeliad community. Dennis and Linda own and operate Tropiflora in Sarasota. Dennis has traveled to over 25 countries and has made more than 100 trips and expeditions. Dennis' program is titled '*Remembering Wally Berg*', who was a frequent expedition companion.

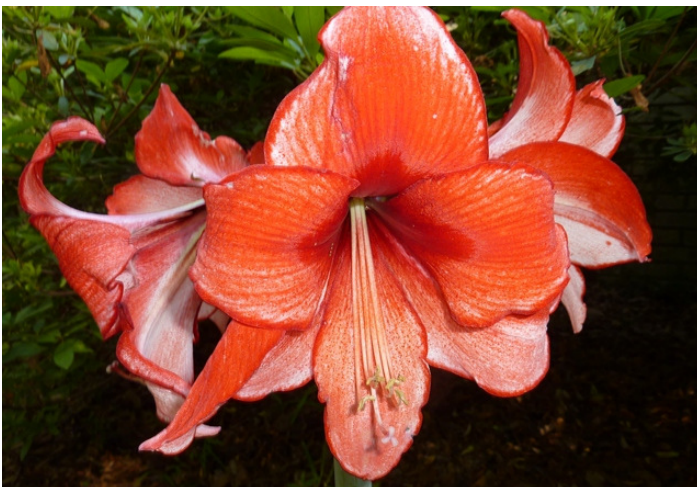
Dennis will bring plants for sale, and he always has an interesting and beautiful selection. **Bring your wallets** so you can be sure to take home some beautiful plants.

We are also planning a discussion of ways to increase our membership. Please bring your ideas to contribute.

EVENTS: Door Prizes, Silent Auction and Refreshments



GBS Map from Howard Frank



One of our new members, Larry Hice, sent in a photo he took of his luscious Amaryllis grouping. He has been growing these and Irises in his garden. He says:

"Last year I took over 100 photos of the blooms and I have about that many photos in 2012 but my son has to help me set up an album and web page for the 2012 photos."

Thank you for your contribution to our newsletter, Larry! Send us a link to your website when up!

Secretary's Notes: From Last Meeting, April 22nd, 2012

Irene Aldrich introduced our speaker, Jay Thurrott who among other roles is current president of the Bromeliad Society International. His topic was "Back to the Basics". Jay began with a bit of taxonomy describing the family of Bromeliaceae and its subfamilies of **Bromelioideae**, **Pitcairnioideae**, and **Tillandsioideae**, mentioning a few characteristics of each. Jay then began describing the appearance and growing tips for major genera, taking them alphabetically and showing us examples in each genus. Some highlights were a description of **Aechmea** and how Jay likes to mount them on pieces of driftwood. They respond well to fertilizers, but are not cold hardy. In contrast, Jay recommends not fertilizing **Billbergia**, which look good as hanging plants when viewed from below. Jay made a few comments about **Cryptanthus**, but these are not his favorite to grow, nor are the species in the genera **Dyckia** and **Hechtia**. Jay spent some time describing **Neoregelia**, which grow readily in Florida. He finds his neoregelias are sensitive to the water source and may do better with collected rain water. He does not fertilize his neos.

Jay spent some time with the genus **Tillandsia**. Some of these are Florida natives, besides the omnipresent Spanish and ball mosses. For example, *Tillandsia fasciculata* is very popular in gardens and landscapes throughout the state. Jay displayed a sample of *Tillandsia novakii* showing us how it had no roots, as a true epiphyte. Plants in this genus do well with fertilizing. Jay spent some time talking about members of the genus **Vriesea**, which in general do well in hot Florida summers but tolerate cold temperatures as well. *Vrieseas* are sensitive to water quality and Jay commented that we should try rain water on them. They seem to like soil that is a bit acidic and Jay says one can water them using one-half teaspoon of vinegar per gallon. We talked about *V. ospinae* which grows to be large like a shrub.

Jay fertilizes typically using 12-4-8 at half the recommended concentration. Often he uses slow release fertilizers such as granules of Osmocote or Nutricote, sometimes using it in the potting mix, or scratched into the surface of the soil. He finds that scale is a problem especially with his billbergias. One can wash off the scale with insecticidal soap or treat with Bayer's "Tree and Shrub", which requires just one application a year.

During the break we greeted some first-time attendees, purchased some plants from Jay, enjoyed tasty refreshments, and chatted among friends. Upon resuming the meeting, we commented on our attractive, new web site. Howard relayed to us the offer of free bromeliads in a newly acquired property in Evinston. Those interested should contact Howard Frank or David Silverman for more information. Nancy pointed out some very nice dyckias in bloom on NW 41st Street near the Atrium approximately opposite Fresh Market. Lorene reported that the GBS earned \$277 at the Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival. For Show and Tell, Peggy brought a very beautiful *Tillandsia streptophylla*. David brought in an intensely colored neo that he had complained at our February meeting never did anything interesting. Ron made some informative comments on *Fosterella spectabilis*, and later gave us an update of the activities of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. The meeting ended at 4:20 pm after distribution of sufficient door prizes that all but an unlucky few got to take home a bromeliad.

A NOTE FROM NANCY MASON:

"I have some extra **Neoreglia spectabilis bromeliads** that they are welcome to have. Just give me a call at 352-338-1351. I can bring them to the next meeting or they can arrange a time to come by and pick them up. I have about 4 or 5 clumps."

**On the subject of Cold Hardy Bromeliads:
From 'Garden in a Minute'**



Aechmea blanchetiana - Fairchild Garden:

Source for sharing: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gardeninginaminute/2211749097/>

http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/giam/plants_and_grasses/houseplants_foliage/hardy_bromeliads.html

Another look: [http://fcbs.org/cgi-bin/dbman/db.cgi?](http://fcbs.org/cgi-bin/dbman/db.cgi?db=photo&uid=default&photon=19&ww=on&mh=5&view_records=View+Records)

[db=photo&uid=default&photon=19&ww=on&mh=5&view_records=View+Records](http://fcbs.org/cgi-bin/dbman/db.cgi?db=photo&uid=default&photon=19&ww=on&mh=5&view_records=View+Records)

**Anyone have a pup to share?
Love the color!!**



**Gainesville Bromeliad Society is
affiliated with:**



<http://www.fcbs.org/>



<http://www.bsi.org/>

Dear Bromeliad Societies, Individual
Growers and Commercial Growers,

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and the Bromeliad Society International are asking for your support, in purchasing awards for the 2012 Bromeliad World Conference, being held this September in Orlando, Florida.



Please send your donations made out to WBC 2012 to;

Steven Wagner
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Orlando, FL 32812

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