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Sarasota Bromeliad Society Newsletter

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Ray Lemieux

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David Denholm

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Susan Stobo

***TILLANDSIA KRUKOFFIANA*, A HUGE *TILLANDSIA* WITH A SPECTACULAR BLOOM, BUT DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH FOR IT. THIS ONE TOOK 20 YEARS TO BLOOM!.**

(PHOTO BY JOHN STEVELY)



Sarasota Bromeliad Society Monthly Meeting

LOCATION: Activities Center, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, Florida

DATE: June 8, 2015

TIME: 7:30 PM

EXTRAS AND NEWS:

FCBS Extravaganza, in September--

The Bromeliad Society of South Florida and Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Invite you to join us for the 2015 Extravaganza: "Bromeliads in the Magic City"

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2015 (It's best to go there the day before) Starts at 8:00 AM

Place: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Miami Airport and Convention Center, Miami, Florida

Extravaganza registration includes admission to Friday night "Meet and Greet", lectures, plant sales, banquet, and rare plant auction. Reduced parking rate. Mention "Bromeliads in the Magic City. Just google "FCBS Extravaganza Miami" and click on the FCBS website.

Extravaganzas are excellent events. Loads of plants for sale, many of them rare; meet bromeliad enthusiasts from other parts of the state;; listen to excellent lectures; buy rare plants at the auction; enjoy the banquet; make new friends. I highly recommend it—Terrie Bert, SBS Newsletter Editor

Workshop 6:45 PM, Shirley Evans will again be doing the workshop. She will do a Q & A on anything related to bromeliads, for instance potting media, sunlight, watering, propagation- when and how, bring your questions, don't be shy, Shirley has many years of experience growing bromeliads.

Tropiflora summer sale—June 26th and 27th. Plan to attend! Check their website for times and more information.

Show and Tell—Hey, folks, bring plants to show and tell about at the meeting. One of the best features of the meeting is Show and Tell. That's one way we learn about bromeliads, see what our friends are growing, see what's in bloom, and generally have fun interacting. So bring your plants, good or bad, to show everyone.

This month's tip, from Terrie Bert: Have plants that won't bloom? Try changing their light regime. I've gotten many of mine to bloom, after years of just vegetative growth, by increasing their sunlight.

Have a good tip on bromeliad care to share? Send it to Terrie.

UPCOMING MEETING:

Business:

Lights in Bloom--Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is already soliciting volunteers for the Christmas Lights in Bloom event. President Ray Lemieux will again be asking for volunteers. This is a good time to lock in the night that SBS members will volunteers to help with the show. Time to vote on a date to participate.

Annual Show and Sale—Watch for lots of activity in July. It's fun to help with the show! Don't be shy, volunteer.

June Program:

Director of Botany, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Bruce Holst will give the program this month. Bruce always has exotic tales to tell. This month's talk is entitled "A Botanical Adventure in Belize" Bruce will take us on a trip to an unusual and remote cenote (pronounced see-no-tay, a sinkhole) in an area rich with bromeliads and the presence of the ancient Maya, and one of the most floristically diverse locations in the country.

REMINDERS:

Bring food or drinks, to be eligible for the special food-contribution bromeliad door prize!

Please bring your clean, labeled extra plants for the monthly raffle.

Pots, fertilizer, and plant hangers will be available for sale, for very reasonable prices. MICK AND JOHN TAKE CREDIT CARDS, so payment is easy.

MINUTES, SBS April, 2015 MEETING:

Minutes of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society from May 11, 2015.

The workshop was given by Shirley Evans prior to the club meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Ray Lemieux. Treasured Susan Stobo gave the treasurer's report. No new members were at the meeting.

David Johnson reported that he will require \$75 to pay for food for the upcoming Florida Council meeting. Motion was made to allocate the \$75 and it passed by over 25 member votes.

Ray mentioned that Selby Gardens is hosting its annual December Holiday Lights in Bloom event and they will request 15-20 members to volunteer for help. We have any night open to choose at the present.

Hospitality. Kathy Knuth reported that Eva Talbert is now out of the hospital and is recuperating at home. She brought her a card during her hospital stay.

Ray discussed plans for the upcoming show and sale this year; it will be held October 27 through November 1. The club membership at large discussed having a judged show again this year and 17 voted yes, and 6 voted no. So, the motion passed to have a judged show this year. In addition, various support tasks will needed to be organized, primarily publicity will need to start early. Inez Dolatowski and Steve and Susan Upton volunteered to help.

The Florida Extravaganza will be held September 26.

There were no plants for show and tell.

The speaker for the evening was Ray Lemieux, who talked about growing plants from seeds. Ray identified the three main subfamilies of bromeliads: the Bromelioideae, Tillandsioideae, and Pitcairnioideae. He showed his techniques for extracting seeds from the pods, whether they are yolk-containing pods or dry seed pod with filamentous seeds in them. He attaches them to a screen and then moistens it daily until the seeds germinate in a few days. He then puts the plants in small pots called clamshells in order to grow further. Some neoregelias require a mold to help germinate. The mold is not a sign of infection taking over and the seeds should not be discarded. For tillandsias, he uses a wet screen to put the plants on and actually grows and anchors them there. It may take up to one year for fuzzy growth to appear from *Tillandsia* seeds. When a seed is monocarpic, it is not viable. Even pollinating a plant will not necessarily guarantee a fertile seed.

The attendance was 32 for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

David Denholm, Secretary.

TILLANDSIA USNEOIDES. NOW THAT'S A LOT OF SPANISH MOSS! PRETTY, THOUGH. SECOND PHOTO IS ITS FLOWER. SMELLS NICE.



Tillandsia usneoides

photo by Ken Marks