



Monthly Meeting

Time: The Boca Raton Society meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Next Meeting - 01/21/2010

Location: Mounts Botanical Garden at Military N/O Southern Blvd. 531 North Military Trail W Palm Beach FL 33415.
Meeting is in the building next to the front parking lot.
(Do not go through the main entrance gate.)

BRBS Website: http://www.bsi.org/webpages/boca_raton.html

Officers

Joe Libertucci - President
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Nick Bethmann - Director
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Kathy Silverio - Refreshments
Lynn Thompson - Editor / e-Editor
Tammy Marks - Web Master
Shawna Price - Publicist
Lynn Thompson - Membership
Kitty Phillips - Past President
Shawna Price - Events
Jeff Hutchinson - Sales
Nick Bethmann - Librarian

January Program:

Dennis Cathcart, owner of Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota Florida. See page 2 and 3 for details.

January Ramble: 1/16/2009

This Saturday, before the meeting. See page 4 for details.

President's Message

Man, I froze my broms off! I knew it was a bad sign when Jeff brought me over a yellow flowering *Aechmea nidularioides* before Xmas. I believe they don't like it below 50 (like most members of the club). I can just hear Jeff now strolling thru my yard for the rest of the year saying "That's cold damage...and that's cold damage." Every decade on average we get an unpleasant reminder that we don't live in Zone 10 but maybe this will be a good year for those high altitude plants that like it cooler. The last time I heard from Nick he said he was going to start hybridizing crosses with *Neo. Cruenta* and *Ae. Distichantha*. Good luck with your microclimate.

We're starting off the year with a great Ramble of some interesting gardens on Palm Beach. We're grouping with the Begonia Society so the Ramble is the Saturday before the meeting on January 16th. Unfortunately, I'm in California and won't be able to attend the meeting this month. I understand we've got one of my favorite speakers.

Looking forward to another great year and new pups to replace those cold damaged plants ...

Joe Libertucci

A year already!

*By Kathy Silverio
Refreshment Chair*

Now, it has been a year since I became the refreshment chair. It was crazy in the beginning, but with your contributions to the refreshment table, we became a "Culinary Club disguised as the Boca Raton Bromeliad Society". It was a great year and we ended it with a fabulous Holiday party. At least 55 members attended. The buffet tables were overflowing with an assortment of food. The dessert table was filled with every decadent sweet that you could imagine. The sangria and wine were delicious though I did miss Arlette and Luis's sangria. Thank you to everyone who attended. You make these parties fun. A special thanks goes out to Leslie for being there early so we could set-up, to the volunteer set-up crew who also came early to help prepare the room, Lynn, Mike, Carol, Michael, Harriet and Larry, to Lynn and Mike for bringing the Turkey, to Barbara and Kathy for coming early with their appetizers so we could taste them and sip wine before everyone arrived (perks of being the volunteer set-up crew), to Tammy and Ken for doing the raffle plus the Bromeliad Bingo and finally to everyone who helped clean during and at the end of the party. You made it so easy.

So now the Holidays are over we can get back on a regular schedule. Our January meeting is coming up on Thursday, January 21st. If it is your birthday month please bring in a snack or other refreshment for the table. Let me know what you will be bringing by calling me at (561) 635-1507 or email me at drrodrigis@aol.com. By the way, if I do not hear from you and it is your birthday month, you may get a friendly reminder from your favorite refreshment chair via phone or email. Don't forget, those with December birthdays may bring refreshments any month, since there is not a meeting in December.

Happy New Year, may it be the best ever!

January Program

Dennis Cathcart

For many years herpetology was my avocation, and in pursuit of this interest I spent many happy days on field trips to the Caribbean and Latin America. It was here that I became acquainted with exotic plants, sparking a new interest that has spanned over 40 years both as a collector and grower.

Linda and I own and operate Tropiflora, established in 1976, which remains one of the largest collector-oriented exotic plant nurseries in the United States. Tillandsias and other bromeliads are a specialty as well as a wide assortment of orchid species and hybrids, rare succulents, myrmecophytes, cycads and more. Through our publication, the 'Cargo Report', we stay in touch with our customers throughout the world and try to bring them into the world we know, a fascinating one of adventure and beauty.

Our work with exotic plants, collecting, studying, photographing, writing and speaking about them takes us to many countries around the world. Exploring for new plant varieties is still one of our favorite activities, and we have made over 100 collecting trips to more than twenty seven countries from the Caribbean and Latin American to Australia, South East Asia, Africa and Madagascar. Linda often is a part of these travels and has been in many different countries, roughing it along side of me. Our explorations have resulted in the introduction of a number of new species of bromeliads to science and cultivation. Three species of bromeliads, an *Aechmea*, a *Neoregelia* and a *Vriesea*, carry the specific epithet *cathcartii*.

Lecturing takes us to many fascinating places and we have traveled widely throughout the U.S. and to such far away places as Australia, New Zealand, Venezuela, Brazil, Bahamas, Philippines, Java, Singapore and Thailand for speaking engagements. Aside from the Cargo Report, I am also a freelance writer for various publications and had been a regular columnist for the regrettably, out of print HousePlant magazine. Most recently we were an exhibitor at the first Singapore Garden Festival for which we won a silver medal for our bromeliad exhibit among sixteen countries exhibiting.

Tropiflora facts:

Tropiflora was established in 1976. Specializing in rare and exotic plants, featuring bromeliads, and includes orchids, cycads, caudiciforms, succulents, ferns, palms and more. Tropiflora maintains the largest variety of bromeliads, especially Tillandsias, available in the USA. Our stock of exotic plants runs well over 7000 varieties, with an inventory in excess of one million five hundred thousand plants.

Tropiflora's plants come from around the world, many of which were collected as seeds and cuttings on over 100 collecting expeditions, spanning over 30 years and over twenty-seven countries. Linda and Dennis both make frequent forays to the world's wild places in search of new plant treasures, which are then painstakingly cultivated and propagated for the collector market. Most of our stock is produced at Tropiflora, the rest being imported from other nurseries in various countries abroad.

Tropiflora clientele run the gamut from interiorscapers and landscapers to serious collectors and hobbyists. Most sales are by mail order and plants are daily shipped worldwide. Live arrival and complete satisfaction is guaranteed or money refunded. Customer satisfaction is a goal and Tropiflora is constantly striving to find better ways to serve its customers.

Tropiflora is currently in the process of supplying the anchor collection of plants to the new 'Garden's By The Bay' project in Singapore. We have been shipping plants for this project for over 18 months with still about a year to go to move over 250,000 bromeliads and succulent plant specimens to Singapore for the project.

Tropiflora advertises nationally in many magazines, various technical journals and trade papers. Tropiflora publishes its own newsletter, the Cargo Report, with detailed accounts of travels, growing tips taxonomic information and lists plants for sale, complete with information and instructions. Through the Cargo Report articles, the reader can accompany the Tropiflora crew on their exciting travel adventures, and gain an insight to the origin of many of their favorite houseplants.

Visitors are welcome at Tropiflora, which has become a Mecca for serious collectors and lovers of

unusual flora. Don't be in a hurry! It will take many hours to peruse miles of isles in over 200,000 square feet of greenhouses. Tropiflora's knowledgeable staff, most of whom are veterans of collecting expeditions to exciting tropical countries, can answer your most detailed questions. We also host two festivals each year, our spring festival on the first weekend of April and fall festival the first weekend of October, both of which attract thousands of plant enthusiasts.

January Birthdays:

Adra Bifano, Carol Esser, Mark Gardner, Diane Haines, Beth Hesselton, Elba Hussey, Terri Illa, Brian Moritz, Jennifer O'Brien, Kitty Phillips, Rod Silverio, Stan Tillotson, David Wilkerson, Cynthia Wroblowsky

New Members:

Sharon Kornhaas, Glen Polverari

Photos:

Holiday Party Pictures by Cynthia and Nick

<http://www.bsi.org/webpages/BRBS/10-01/Nick.html>

Bob Koehler's Plant 8' High and Still Growing

<http://www.bsi.org/webpages/BRBS/10-01/DSC05037.jpg>

Websites

BSI International:

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

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

<http://www.FCBS.org>

Boca Raton Bromeliad Forum

<http://forums.bocabromeliads.com/>

Mounts Botanical Garden

<http://www.mounts.org/home.asp>

January is dues month!!! Please see Lynn Thompson for renewal.

Presenting.....

THE RAMBLE

Back by Popular Demand

Time to get off the couch, and get outside! Put on your sneakers, grab a coat (if needed) and join us for January's Ramble! Let's enjoy the best weather South Florida has to offer, lord knows we will be melting away come July!

Who: Four Arts Garden, Mr. & Mrs. Pannill, 3rd Garden to be announced

What: Tour of 2 homes, a public garden, & lunch

When: Saturday, January 16

Where: Palm Beach, Fl

Time: 9 am at The Four Arts – 2am ... you never know with this group!

Why?? Because we like it!

** We will meet at The Four Arts Garden then carpool to the second home due to parking. After the 2nd home, lunch is optional at one of the restaurants on Royal Poinciana. Directions to follow.

Shawna Price