

**Meeting Information****Next Meeting:** Thursday - 01/19/2012**Time:** 7:30 p.m.**Location:** Mounts Botanical Garden at 531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach FL 33415. North of Southern Blvd. Meeting is in the building next to the front parking lot. (Do not go through the main entrance gate.)**Website: <http://www.bsi.org/webpages/bspb>****Officers**

Joe Libertucci	- President
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Bonnie Wilburn	- Director
Jeff Hutchinson	- Director

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Betty Libertucci	- Editor / e-Editor
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Kitty Phillips	- Membership
Cathy Burger	- Past President
Vacant	- Events
Tom Ramiccio	- Sales
Cynthia Wroblowsky	- Librarian

**January Program:**

Dennis Cathcart from Tropiflora of Sarasota, Florida. The Guest Speaker's Topic is "Remembering Wally Berg".

**January Ramble:**

At Jeff Hutchinson's place around 9 AM on Saturday, January 21st. Potluck Brunch at Joe & Betty Libertucci's place.

***President's Message******January 2012***

Welcome back bromaniacs! I want to devote some time in our first meeting to getting feedback from the group of suggestions for the upcoming year, so bring your ideas to the meeting. Mark McKeefry has already mentioned the concept of developing some kind of a plant exchange. A member would identify some particular plant he was looking for and another member who had the plant might contact him to arrange a swap. Another suggestion from Jeff Hutchinson was to hold a plant workshop instead of engaging a speaker at one of the meetings for a hands-on experience for the benefit of new members.

One position that wasn't filled at the end of last year was that of the Event Chairman whose responsibility is arranging the Rambles. One of the things that make our club so outstanding is that we're an active organization. Please contact me if you are interested in filling this important position. One of my suggestions is that we arrange a bus tour to Michael's Bromeliads in Venice, Florida for one of our Rambles. Another Ramble we're planning is to reinstate the Picnic. This time we're having it in the Spring when the weather is more appropriate and Aimee has volunteered the use of her 5 acre property west of 441 for this year's event. She has two grills on the property and there will be no restrictions on moderate alcohol consumption.

It's also time to renew your membership dues. The annual dues, the Raffle table and the Mounts Sales are our principal sources of income. The last Fall Mounts Sale was not very fiscally rewarding so in order to maintain the

tradition of the President's Champagne Dinner...I mean the Speakers' fees, your support is greatly appreciated. Help fund the fun!

To get the Ramble ball rolling, this month's Ramble will be the Jeff and Joe show starting at Jeff Hutchinson's place around 9 AM on Saturday, January 21st. Jeff has a remarkable collection and will have some plants for sale – some of which may even be bromeliads. After that, it's a Pot Luck Brunch at my place (yes, Rod Silverio, I will be making some sausage and peppers).

Directions will be sent on a separate email as our newsletters are posted on the web and I don't want my ex-wife to know where I'm living.

See you at the meeting!

Joe Libertucci

### **JANUARY PROGRAM SPEAKER**

#### **Dennis Cathcart's Bio**

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.

#### **January Birthdays:**

Adra Bifano, Carol Esser, Mark Gardner, Alan Gorenstein, Diane Haines, Beth Hesselton, Elba Hussey, Shirley Jackson, Sharon Kornhaas, Elaine McKelvey, Kitty Phillips, Rod Silverio, Stan Tillotson, Sharon Tyler, Shawn Tyler, David Wilkerson, Cynthia Wroblowsky *Happy Birthday*

**January Birthday Members, please bring refreshments.**

**BROMELIAD OF THE MONTH**

**BILLBURGIA FLOISE**



Hope Springs Eternal  
by  
Jeff Hutchinson

Following weeks of using the air-conditioner and sweating while working in the garden, I thought we might be spared the work and worry of preparing for the possibility of freezing temperatures, but the New Year brought a friendly reminder that it really is winter. When I'm in my nice warm house (but it is in the 30s outside) I can almost feel

my plants suffering and hear their cry for help. Fortunately for us most commonly grown Bromeliads with a little help can handle our occasional cold-snaps.

Here are a few things that I've learned over the years to help minimize cold damage to my plant collection:

When possible, lightly water your plants a day or two in advance of predicted cold weather.

If you are able, move your most cold sensitive and special plants to a protected location. Some of us have filled our homes with our wards, great for them but not so much for us.

A more practical solution for protecting your plants is to cover them. Frost cloth, bed sheets, blankets, etc. work best but **never cover with plastic**. When it warms up, uncover and recover as needed.

Cold damage may sometimes become obvious right away, but sometimes it can take weeks to show the ill effects of the cold. Nature can seem cruel!!!!!!

After another blessed year without a hurricane, it would be great not to use every bed sheet in the house to cover plants and spending all night watching the temperature fall, but as they say "hope springs eternal".

Wishing all a Happy New Year filled with happy gardening.

*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>



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