



Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

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Website: <http://bromeliads.club>

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February 2018 Newsletter

**Meeting Announcement:
Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018 at 2 PM
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford**

Our February meeting features Dennis Cathcart with his presentation: **Bromeliads on the Rocks**. Dennis will bring a number of great plants for sale.



Dennis is one of our most popular speakers for good reason. He has an engaging speaking style combined with an endless knowledge of Bromeliads and other tropical plants. Remember to come to the meeting early to get first crack at the wonderful collection of plants that he will bring!

There is no member sale at the February meeting, but there will be one at the March meeting.

Please bring your plants to donate to the Door Prize Drawing. There will be no Plant Raffle or Show & Tell at the February meeting.

Refreshments for the February meeting will be provided by Lani Berry and Jackie Vanhorn.

Dennis Cathcart 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. 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 has become one of the largest collector-oriented exotic plant nurseries in the U.S. Tillandsias and other bromeliads are a specialty as well as a wide assortment of rare succulents, myrmecophytes, aroids, orchids and more. We published the 'Cargo Report' catalog/newsletter for 19 years until we retired it in favor of a web-based business plan in 2010. We still 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 has taken us to many countries. Exploring for new plant varieties is still one of our favorite activities, and we have made over 100 collecting trips to more than 27 countries from the Caribbean and Latin American to South East Asia, Africa and Madagascar. Linda often is a part of these travels roughing it along side of me. Our explorations have resulted in the introduction of a number of new species of bromeliads. Three species of bromeliads, an *Aechmea*, a *Neoregelia* and a *Vriesea*, carry the epithet *cathcartii*.

We were an exhibitor at the first Singapore Garden Festival for which we won a silver medal for our bromeliad exhibit. We have traveled widely throughout the U.S. as well as Australia, New Zealand, Venezuela, Brazil, Bahamas, Philippines, Java, Singapore and Thailand for speaking engagements. Dennis was keynote speaker at the 'Broms on the Arafura', Australia's Bromeliad Conference in April of 2011, and spoke at the 'Cool Broms' conference March 2013 in New Zealand and was the keynote speaker at the Australasian Bromeliad Conference in Sydney, Australia in April 2015.

Dennis is scheduled to deliver the keynote address for the World Bromeliad Conference which will be held in San Diego on May 29th to June 3rd of 2018.

President's Message

January Meeting

The January meeting was a combined meeting of the Sanford Garden Club and SBTPS. *Amended Articles of Incorporation* were adopted by a vote of 20 to 10. The new Articles removed a \$100,000 limitation on the value of real estate that could be owned by the Garden Club, so we no longer have to be concerned about being compelled to sell the property.

Plant Seller Qualification for the April 2018 Plant Sale

The SBTPS Board voted 2-1 (Greg & Sudi in favor, Paula opposed) to credit members with meeting attendance for the September meeting which was cancelled due to Hurricane Irma. This applies only to qualification for the April plant sale and makes it easier to be a qualified plant seller.

Business Matters to be Voted on at February Meeting

The business part of the meeting will start with a Sanford Garden Club vote on *merger bylaws*. If it passes, the SBTPS will also vote on the merger bylaws. If both votes succeed, there will an election of garden club officers. If one of the merger bylaws votes do not pass, there will be votes on *proposed bylaws (without a merger)* for the garden club and then the SBTPS followed by a vote for garden club officers. There are number of possibilities: the merger passes or not, revised bylaws (without a merger) pass or not. The one certainty is that *new garden club officers will be elected*.

A Bromeliad Kind of a Day

On Saturday (Jan. 27th), I headed off to the *Images Art Festival* in New Smyrna Beach wearing one of my favorite Bromeliad T-shirts (yes, I have several different ones). While there, I encountered a booth using Bromeliads as accent pieces. I started taking pictures of the Bromeliads and then the artist pointed to a *No Photographs* sign. I said, "I was just taking pictures of the Bromeliads." She said, "That's OK, then." "I could sell you one of them for \$10, if you'd like." "Great, here's my ten bucks." Then I saw her name on the sign--Magali Groves. "You know, I bought a Neoregelia 'Magali' just a week ago." A short conversation revealed that Neo. 'Magali' and Neo. 'Michi' were named after her. "I would love to have a Bromeliad named after me." She said it's not too difficult when you marry a Bromeliad hybridizer. It really is a small world.

Then I go home and find an email from my daughter declaring "I won the game." With it was a picture of a Scrabble word layout with the word "Bromeliad." She wrote, "I had to explain what Bromeliad meant, they didn't know the word. Luckily I did."

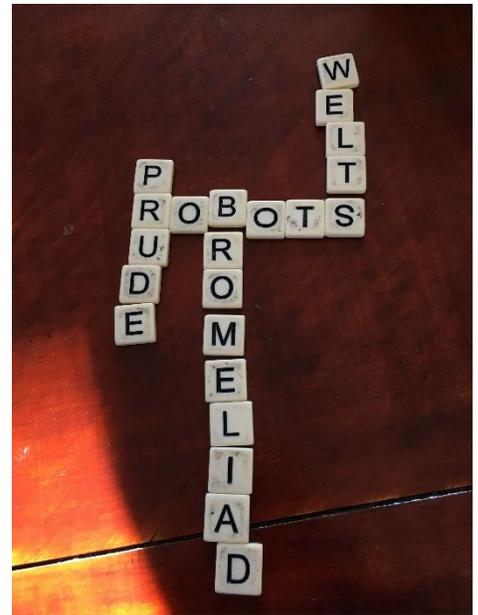
Just another day in the world of a Bromeliad collector.

New Folding Wagons

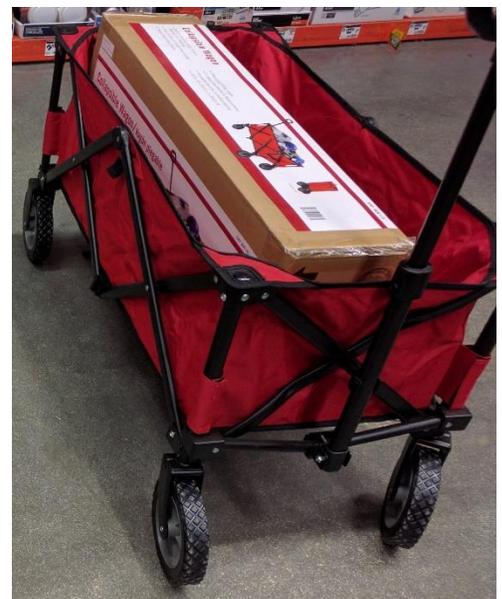
Last year, purchase of new \$69.99 folding wagons was approved. Home Depot had them advertised for their Black Friday sale at \$49. However, the wagons arrived late and were reduced to \$36.75 to clear them out. We purchased three of them. --Greg Kolojeski



Guzmania 'Passion' and Neoregelia 'Donna' Bromeliads at the Images Art Festival



The winning Scrabble layout



New Folding Wagons