



Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

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Website: <http://bromeliads.club>

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40th Year Anniversary: 1977-2017

September 2017 Newsletter

Meeting Announcement:
Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017 at 2 PM
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford

Our September 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!

Please bring your plants for Show & Tell and donate your extra ones to the raffle table to benefit our society.

There is no member sale at the September meeting, but there will be one at the October meeting with members then able to bring up to 5 plants each for a silent auction.

The SBTPS will be providing the refreshments for the September meeting.

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 at the World Bromeliad Conference in San Diego on May 29th to June 3rd of 2018.

President's Message

Annual Fall Plant Sale

Our plant sale results were up 15.6% over last August. It was our 2nd most successful sale ever--only exceeded slightly by our April sale. Credit card sales exploded and now make up almost 2/3rds of the total. With 20 members as plant sellers and many others volunteering as well, we were able to give our customers great service. As a cashier, I heard compliment after compliment about our members! We now have a well-deserved break until our next set of "A" sales (April and August) in 2018.

Rare Plant Found at the Fall Plant Sale

Although I waited until the last hour of the last day of the plant sale, I somehow managed to snag what was probably the most rare plant at the sale—an Aechmea 'Candy Stripe'. With a little effort, I was able track down its history. It was introduced by Nat DeLeon, a Bromeliad legend. His nursery was tissue culturing Bromeliads paying special attention to those with variegation. 'Candy Stripe' was likely tissue cultured from Aechmea ramosa x fulgens.

George Aldrich found it in the rare plant auction at the 1998 Extravaganza in Daytona Beach where it was donated by Nat DeLeon. After some vigorous bidding against another collector, Karl Green, George acquired it for well over \$100. Karl had first seen the plant at a Bromeliad Society of South Florida 'Show and Tell' and had fallen in love with it. He later acquired one in trade from George when George visited him in Miami.

Sanford Garden Club

[Sanford Garden Club](#) (SGC) is not just the name of the building where we have our meetings. The SGC, a Florida not for profit corporation, was founded in 1923. It is made up of 3 garden circles with the SBTPS as the largest of the three with 66 members and the other circles, Wildflower and Jacaranda, at about 5 members each. All SBTPS members are also members of the SGC; so we make up more than 85% of the SGC membership. The SGC owns the building which means all of the members own the building.

As a circle of the SGC, the SBTPS pays annual dues to the SGC, which amounted to \$1,133 this past April and will likely be more next year. Election of SGC officers occurs every two years and will occur this coming February at a SGC meeting which coincides with the regular SBTPS meeting. Five of the six current members of the SGC Board are also SBTPS members.

Plant Picture of the Day

We continue to post a daily **Plant Picture of the Day** at <https://www.facebook.com/SeminoleBromeliadSociety/>. The picture shown to the right reached over 600 people making it the most popular picture we have ever posted. Many of the recent posts show plants from Lisa's fabulous collection.

October 15th Meeting: Prem Subrahmanyam
[Orchids in Our Backyard: Florida's Wild Orchids](#)

Business Matters for September Meeting

Two business matters are scheduled for a vote at this month's meeting: a Charitable Policy and a Refreshment Policy. With all the info that was emailed to members, it is hoped that we may have votes on these matters after short discussions.
---Greg Kolojeski



Aechmea 'Candy Stripe'



8/30/17 Plant Picture of the Day:
Lisa Robinette's Vriesea 'Manoa Valley'