



Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

President: Greg Kolojeski
Vice Pres.: Sudi Hipsley
Secretary: Paula White
Treasurer: Sudi Hipsley
Librarian: Ginny Fortenese
Plant Sales: Alan Bennett
Publicity: Marty Folk
Hospitality: Sudi Hipsley
Helen VanHouten
Landscape: Barbara Whittier
FCBS Reps: Sudi Hipsley & Greg Kolojeski

January 2016 Newsletter

**Meeting Announcement:
January 17, 2016 at 2 PM
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford**

We will start the New Year with a presentation from Dennis Cathcart on the topic: *The 2014 Explorations and Discoveries in Brazil, Part 2 & 3*. He did a wonderful presentation with Part 1 for us in May 2014.



Tropiflora Greenhouse Bromeliads

Dennis has been exploring the Caribbean, Latin America and Mexico for more than 40 years, after becoming interested in bromeliads on a herpetology trip in 1968. Dennis is well known for his "Cargo Report" and the interesting stories he shares about his plant collecting trips in those countries. Dennis is an excellent story teller and writer!

Dennis and his wife, Linda, own and operate Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota. Tropiflora was established in 1976 and has grown to be one of the largest bromeliad nurseries in the world. Three species of bromeliads and several cultivars have been named for Dennis and Linda. They both have been long-time members of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and the West Coast Bromeliad Society and have made generous contributions to those societies and their activities.

Dennis will bring plants to sell.

There will be no member plant sales.

Please bring your plants for Show & Tell and donate your extra ones to the raffle table to benefit our society. **Also, please bring refreshments for the break.**

Membership Renewal

The 2016 membership dues are \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a dual membership. You may pay the dues at the meeting or mail your check to:

Sudi Hipsley, SBTPS Treasurer
6616 Tuscahill Dr.
Leesburg, FL 34748-9190

New! Collector's Corner Auction

Members donating plants to the raffle table are encouraged to bring one (*and no more than one*) special plant (it could be something unusual, something larger, a clump, etc.) for inclusion in a silent auction.

A special *Collector's Corner auction form* will be available at the meeting to show the name of the plant, the name of the donor and a minimum bid (which generally should be 1/3 to 1/2 the retail value). Members interested in acquiring the plant would write their names and their bid (whole dollar amounts only) on the sheet.

Bidding would end at the beginning of the second part of the meeting. The winning bidders can then claim their plants and later take the bid sheets to the Treasurer for payment before the end of the meeting. *All funds collected in the auction will be donated to the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society.*

It is our intention that there normally would be only a handful of plants available in the Collector's Corner auction.

**New! Society Email Address:
seminolebromeliadsociety@gmail.com**

The SBTPS now has an email address. You are encouraged to send comments, requests, questions, ideas, etc. Your email will automatically be forwarded to the Society's President, and you will receive a response!

President's Message

I believe that most members have three major interests:

1. Learning about bromeliads and other tropical plants, etc. (they come for the presentations)
2. Acquiring plants (they come for the raffle plants and to buy plants)
3. They come to socialize with others with similar interests

Most of what transpires during our meetings falls into the three categories above. However, the one major exception is the time spent on business matters. **It is a major goal of mine to minimize time spent at meetings on business matters.** It is my goal to spend five minutes or less on business matters at most meetings.

If a business matter requires more than one or two minutes to discuss, I will ask the members to table the matter until a future meeting. An interested group of members can then discuss the matter off-site (by email, etc.) and email a discussion and recommendation for review by the officers. Depending on the nature of the matter, a decision will either be made by the officers or, if the nature of the matter requires a vote, a PDF file will be mailed to the members for their review prior to the meeting where a vote will be taken. The PDF file should contain enough information so that a vote could be taken with minimal additional discussion needed.

Despite the foregoing, if a business matter will require more than one or two minutes of discussion at a meeting, it will normally be discussed only at an end-of-quarter meeting (March, June, or September) unless it is an emergency.



Hibiscus at the Sanford Garden Club

**February Meeting: Jon Hanson from
Paradiso Tropic Nursery in Naples**

President's Message, continued...

Once we have succeeded in reducing business matters to no more than five minutes per meeting, we will likely add a five to ten minute Garden Workshop presentation during the second part of the meeting. (Our members have a lot of plant expertise that they can pass on to the rest of us.)

Please send suggestions for topics you would like to hear more about to the society's email address.

--Greg Kolojeski

Frost Cloth

While December may have been unusually warm, more seasonal winter weather is now here. A frost or two is not unusual in January or February! At our November meeting, Terrie Bert mentioned that she sometimes kept her plants outdoors covered for up to six weeks with no ill effects.

One source used by some members for low-priced frost cloth is GreenhouseMegastore.com where you can sometimes even get another 25% off by ordering in the fall.



Bromeliads in front of Sanford Garden Club

Interesting Facts about the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

The SBTPS is part of **The Garden Club of Sanford, Inc.**, a Florida Not For Profit Corporation. Its registered information may be viewed at www.sunbiz.org. The Sanford Garden Club (which is really an informal name) has its own officers and board members.

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society is a legal fictitious name registered by and owned by The Garden Club of Sanford, Inc.