



Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society

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October 2018 Newsletter

**Meeting Announcement:
Sunday, October 21st at 2 PM
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford**

Our October meeting features Dennis Cathcart with his presentation: **Succulents in South Africa.**



Dennis: “In 2007 I was fortunate to be able to spend a month in South Africa. I was on my way to Madagascar in the hopes of collecting and exporting Baobab tree specimens for the government of Singapore. During my stay in South Africa I traveled with Bernard Fisher, a South African nurseryman, to all major deserts in the country. We traveled across the Little Karoo, the Karoo, Namaqualand, Richtersveld, Namib and Kalahari deserts. It was early September the first of spring in the southern hemisphere. The desert was in bloom in many places and we saw an incredible array of plants and animals. All in all, it was an incredible experience.” Dennis will bring many Bromeliads and some succulents for sale at the meeting.

There will no member sale at the October meeting other than our Members Silent Auction.

Please bring your plants to donate to the Door Prize Drawing and Plant Raffle for the benefit of the Society.

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 delivered the keynote address for the 2018 World Bromeliad Conference in San Diego.

**Current Member Count:
SBTPS: 81; SGC: 86**

President's Message

September Meeting

We had 32 attendees. Terrie Bert proved once again why she is one of our most popular speakers with a great presentation and many reasonably priced plants including a number of items rarely seen. Our *Show & Tell* table included two plants for our new Plant I.D. feature which generated an interesting discussion.

As noted below, we will have elections for 2019 officers (who constitute the Boards for the SGC and the SBTPS) at the November meeting. I plan to run and will again release a platform that will show what I believe can and should be achieved over the next year.
--Greg Kolojeski

Sanford Garden Club News

The SGC Board voted unanimously (4-0 by Greg, Sudi, Lani, and Barbara) to recommend that the membership host a new annual fund-raising event every October starting a year from now. This event has a working name of **Spectacular! Garden Tables** and would be first held on Friday through Sunday, Oct. 18-20, 2019.

The public would pay an admission fee—probably \$8 per person the first year (with SGC members admitted for free). What attendees would be coming to see would be *spectacularly* decorated round tables with a floral or plant theme. The decorated tables would be created by individuals, groups of club members, florists, nurseries or anybody who wanted to create one. There would be a small charge for sponsoring a table with some of those funds used for prizes.

The major source of funds raised is expected to come from admission fees. However, additional funds are expected to be raised from the sale of a limited number of *spectacular* plants. Expect to hear a lot more about this event which will require approval in a member vote at a future meeting.

Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society News

At the September meeting, there was a discussion and vote on charitable gifts by the SBTPS. A total of \$1100 in charitable gifts was approved unanimously by those voting with \$500 going to the [Bromeliad Weevil Fund \(FCBS\)](#), \$350 to the [Bromeliad Society International](#) (BSI), and \$250 to [Nehrling Gardens](#).

Elections

The November meeting will feature elections of officers for both the **Sanford Garden Club** and the **SBTPS**. Both groups will have elections for one year officer terms in 2019. This is the first time that elections for both will be held at the same time. Also, SGC officers' terms will be for one year rather than two years as previously was the case under the old bylaws. These changes were included in new bylaws that were adopted back in February of this year. More information on the elections will be forthcoming.



9/21/18 [Plant Picture of the Day](#): Tillandsia bloom



10/1/18 [Plant Picture of the Day](#): Canna 'Cleopatra'



10/6/18 [Plant Picture of the Day](#):
Neoregelia 'Invincible' (Skotak)

November 18th Meeting:
Greg Spak: Cold Hardy Bromeliads