

## Personal Data for Dennis Cathcart:

DOB: August 19, 1948. Lifelong Florida resident.

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 has become 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 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 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 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*.

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. Dennis also judged at the 2013 Philadelphia Flower Show, the largest indoor flower show in the world.

Lecturing takes us to many fascinating places and 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 again was the keynote speaker at 'Bromsmatta' the Australasian Bromeliad Conference in Sydney, Australia in April 2015. Dennis also delivered the keynote address at the World Bromeliad Conference: "Fiesta de las Bromelias" held in San Diego, California May 29th to June 3rd of 2018.

## **Tropiflora facts:**

Tropiflora was established in 1976. Specializing in rare and exotic plants, featuring bromeliads, and includes orchids, cycads, caudiciforms, succulents, ferns, palms and more. Tropiflora maintains the largest variety of bromeliads, especially Tillandsias, available in the USA. Our stock of exotic plants runs well over 7000 varieties, with an inventory in excess of one million five hundred thousand plants.

Tropiflora's plants come from around the world, many of which were collected as seeds and cuttings on over 100 collecting expeditions, spanning over 35 years and over twenty-seven countries. Linda and Dennis both make frequent forays to the world's wild places in search of new plant treasures, which are then painstakingly cultivated and propagated for the collector market. Most of our stock is produced at Tropiflora, the rest being imported from other nurseries in various countries abroad.

Tropiflora clientele run the gamut from interiorscapers and landscapers to serious collectors and hobbyists. Most sales are by mail order and plants are daily shipped worldwide. Live arrival and complete satisfaction is guaranteed, or money refunded. Customer satisfaction is a goal and Tropiflora is constantly striving to find better ways to serve its customers.

Tropiflora supplied the anchor collection of plants to the now world famous 'Gardens by the Bay' project in Singapore. We supplied and shipped over 300,000 bromeliads and succulent plant specimens to Singapore for the project.

Tropiflora maintains a comprehensive website; [www.tropiflora.com](http://www.tropiflora.com), which has color photos, cultural information and much more for all the plant varieties that we offer.

Visitors are welcome at Tropiflora, which has become a Mecca for serious collectors and lovers of unusual flora. Don't be in a hurry! It will take many hours to peruse miles of isles in over 200,000 square feet of greenhouses. Tropiflora's knowledgeable staff, most of whom are veterans of collecting expeditions to exciting tropical countries, can answer your most detailed questions. We also host two festivals each year, our spring festival on the first weekend of April and fall festival the first weekend of October, both of which attract thousands of plant enthusiasts.