

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, January 13th, 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

January, 2013

FECBS Welcomes You to a Whole New Year!

President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700
Vice President – Eretta Morris 386/677-9557
Secretary – Jillian Thurrott 386/801-2500
Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/763-2084

President's Message

Another memorable year behind us and an exciting year at our front door. If you were one of the lucky folks who attended our Christmas party last month, I'm sure you'll agree; "A good time was had by all!" The food, gifts, center pieces, door prizes and friendship were wonderful and another example of all the great things, that as a club, we have accomplished this past year. Thank you to everyone, who made the party such a memorable event. By far, one of the highlights of our party was the presentation to Jay and Calandra Thurrott, as our very first, 'FECBS Lifetime Members'. An award that is most deserving and appeared to be a real shock to both of them. I've written just a little more about our two favorite members in an accompanying article in this same newsletter, I hope you'll enjoy it.

While our little club has doubled in membership in the last year, we still see some very familiar and smiling faces. And 2013 will once again bring familiar faces to our list of club officers and one new face. Eretta (Vice President), Eve (Treasurer) will continue to join me in leading the club for another year. And Jillian

Thurrott will join the fray as Secretary. We will continue on our current path of another year of fun, friendship and bromeliad education. Our good friends and members, George and Irene Aldrich, from Plants N Things in Ocala, graciously donated a large variety of Tillandsias as gifts for everyone in attendance at the party. We have included several photographs of those given with their correct names. You just need to identify the ones you have. And for those of us, that are Tillandsia challenged, we've included some care and growing tips (**Editor's note - look for those next month – we're running short on space**). By this summer and fall, we'll be looking for those plants to be a part of our monthly show and tell, so take good care of them.

While I'm no weatherman, I believe we've already seen colder temperatures this past December than what we experienced in all of last winter. I miss wearing my tee-shirts and shorts so much! And I can just look at my bromeliads and dream; as many are in desperate need of re-potting and splitting. But I'm resisting the urge and just preparing them for a long winters nap (thank goodness I purchased more frost cloth from

the Aldrich's). And all of this while the news reports that 2012 was one of the warmest in recorded history.

I look forward to 2013 and spending it with each of you as we share our interest and fondness (ok –love affair or sickness – depends on how you look at it) with bromeliads!

Rick



(Editor's note – Winter may not appeal to everyone, but the cool weather and short days certainly help the Billbergias to put on a show! Here's Rick with one of his beauties. Can you name that plant?)

To all of our members -

Calandra and I were deeply moved by the honor that you all bestowed on us last month at the Christmas party. We had no idea that you planned on making us “lifetime members” of FECBS and can't tell you how much that means to us! Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts!



We're often asked to print recipes for especially tasty foods that find their way onto the table at our holiday parties. This one is from Irene Aldrich combining the best of two worlds: Cornbread and salad! Enjoy:

Southern Cornbread Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 batch cornbread, cut into 1-inch cubes, recipe follows-
- > 1 (14.5-ounce) can red kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- > 1 (15-ounce) can niblets corn, drained
- > 1 medium Vidalia onion, finely chopped
- > 1 large green bell pepper, finely chopped
- > 3 large tomatoes, chopped
- > 2 cups grated sharp cheddar
- > 1 (8 ounce) bottle ranch dressing
- > Chopped fresh parsley leaves, for garnish (optional)

Directions:

In the bottom of a large glass bowl, place cornbread cubes. Layer beans, corn, onion, bell pepper, tomatoes, and cheese on top of cornbread. Spread ranch dressing evenly over cheese. Cover, and refrigerate for at least 2 hours.

Garnish with fresh parsley, if desired.

(Editor's note - in case you don't have any cornbread handy, here's Irene's recipe for cornbread)

Cornbread:

- > 1/2 cup vegetable oil, plus 1/4 cup for greasing pan
- > 1 cup self-rising cornmeal
- > 3/4 self-rising flour
- > 1 cup cream-style corn
- > 2 eggs
- > 1 cup sour cream
- > 1 cup grated sharp cheddar, optional
- > 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper, optional

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.

Generously season a cast iron skillet with up to 1/4 cup vegetable oil. Preheat the pan either in the oven or on the stove over medium-high heat.

Mix all ingredients together in a large bowl, stirring with a wooden spoon or rubber spatula until combined. Pour batter into the preheated cast iron skillet. Place skillet in the oven and bake until golden brown, approximately 30 minutes. If making individual size cornbreads in smaller pans, they will require a shorter cooking time.

Note: I altered the recipe a little. I chose to use a 16 oz. bottle of ranch dressing and I used only 1/4 cup vegetable oil in the cornbread recipe.
- Irene

Ask Jay!

A new column for our newsletter where you get to ask Jay some questions that are relevant to growing bromeliads right here in the Halifax area. And remember, there are no dumb questions! We're all learning! Please send your questions to Jay at cajat@aol.com. and he will do his very best to answer as many questions as possible each month, space permitting.

(editor's note – Thanks, Rick for starting this new feature. I was thinking more of calling it 'stump the chump', but your title is a little friendlier!)

Here we go with this month's questions:

Q: Of all the Tillandsia's we received at the Christmas Party, can any of them be planted in soil? Do any tillandsia's need to be potted in dirt?

A: I know it seems contrary to everything you may have learned about gardening, but keep your Tillandsias up, off the ground, and out of the dirt. We've all heard the term "air plant" and the plants that you received at the Christmas party fit this definition, meaning that they are truly epiphytic. Look at the website <http://dictionary.reference.com> and you will find the following definition for epiphyte:

"a plant that grows above the ground, supported nonparasitically by another plant or object, and deriving nutrients and water from rain, the air, dust, etc.: air plant, aerophyte."

Origin:

1840–50; epi- + -phyte

There are some readily available Tillandsias that adapt well to pot culture (T. leiboldiana is the first one that comes to mind), but a good rule of thumb for Tillandsias is 'don't mount them in potting mix unless you are certain that they can tolerate it.'

Last month's meeting –

Wasn't that a terrific Christmas party? Thank you FECBS officers for making this the best party yet and thank you Francisco – your cooking skills put television's celebrity chefs to shame!

Birthdays for January:

Erna Jones

Virginia Dornbach

Fee Breskey

Name that plant...

This month's photos are as follows:

#1 You've already got one to identify following the president's message on page 1 of this month's newsletter. Name that Billbergia!

#2 For many, this is the first bromeliad that they acquired. The long-lasting bloom may still look great a year later!



#3 Bright red in good light, this also is a bromeliad that attracts the attention of many new members.



Last month's "Name that plant" photos were:

1. *Tillandsia ionantha* – these little jewels can be found in some of the most unlikely places. From "big box" stores selling refrigerator magnets made of seashells filled with *T. ionantha* plants to beachside gift shops selling "air plants", *T. ionantha* is a bromeliad that is readily available, inexpensive, and easy to care for – just don't make the mistake of thinking that this means that you can grow this plant indoors with no care at all! It still needs those basics of good light and adequate moisture to keep it alive and happy.
2. *Aechmea racinea* is named for Mulford Foster's wife Racine and produces a most decorative group of yellow tipped (that's actually the flower petals) red berries on a pendant inflorescence. My own plant is a little tardy in blooming this year, but usually puts on a very nice display in time for Christmas.
3. *Aechmea gamosepala* is a favorite in the landscape in this area, easily surviving all but the most devastating freezes. One of the few bromeliads with a common name ("Ohio Matchstick"), this small plant is very easy to care for and if you prefer variegated plants, can also be found as the cultivar *Ae. 'Lucky Stripes'*. Also a reliable bloomer in November and December, what's not to like about this plant?

How did you do – did you identify them all?

Looking ahead...

January 12

Quarterly meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies hosted by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society in Sarasota

January 13

Monthly meeting of the Council of Garden Clubs of the Halifax Area. 10am at the Garden Center (William Finney building)

March 23-24

Broward County Bromeliad Society show and sale

April 13-14

Bromeliad Society of South Florida show and sale at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables (Miami)

April 20, 21 2013 – Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society sale

April 27-28

Mounts Spring sale at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach

August 17-18

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society sale

September 7, 8 2013 – SW Bromeliad Guild show and sale in Dallas, TX

September 21st, 2013

Bromeliad Extravaganza – Hosted by the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society Indian Rocks Beach, Clearwater at the Holiday Inn Harborside. Free parking!

For more information, contact Judy Lund at

727/439-7782 glund@Tampabay.rr.com

2014 – BSI World Conference...Hawaii!!!

