

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, January 10, 2016 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

January 2016

It's a Brand New Year!

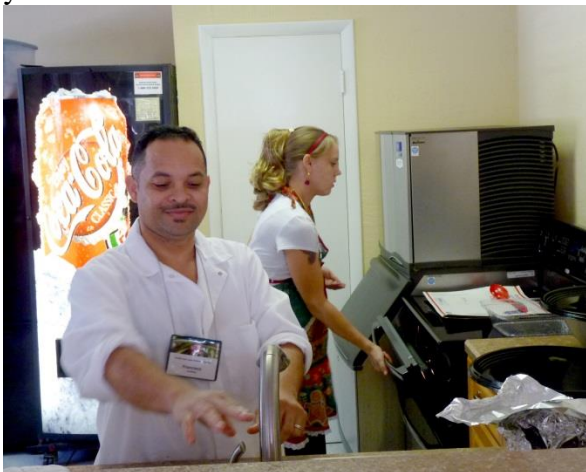
President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850
Vice President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700
Secretary – Calandra Thurrott 386/761-4804
Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041

...and who knows what's in store for FECBS in 2016? Our president has some interesting ideas that we can pursue and our Vice President has some great programs lined up, so I think it's safe to say that we will enjoy another exciting, educational, and entertaining year, so buckle up and enjoy the ride!

Last Month's Meeting –

...was our annual Christmas party and I think we all need to extend a special thanks to Rick Ryals and Francisco Cardoso for organizing and putting together this wonderful event! Great food, great fellowship – we've certainly got an outstanding club...and speaking of which, don't forget to renew your membership. See Eve at the meeting if you haven't already completed the annual ritual of paying your dues for the year.

If you weren't able to attend last month's meeting, you missed out on seeing those incredible Christmas centerpieces that were created for the annual centerpiece contest. Bryan Manion was this year's winner with a beautiful 1 meter tall Christmas tree decorated with multi-colored lights and gift wrapped packages under the tree – all made out of bromeliads! The boughs of the tree were bromeliad leaves, the packages were constructed of bromeliad leaves and even the lights on the tree were bromeliad flowers. If you didn't look closely, you would never suspect what was used in the construction of this display. A truly remarkable example of one member's creativity using bromeliads from his collection...and that's not to take anything away from the other beautiful entries- and here they are:



Brad Rauch with his arrangement on driftwood



A red and green display using *Cryptanthus* 'Warren Loose' on a bed of ripe cranberries – by Calandra Thurrott



The winning entry in this year's centerpiece contest.



What's Christmas without pineapples?
A display by Christophe Cardot



Hedy is holding one of the gift-wrapped packages from under Bryan's 'tree' – constructed entirely from bromeliad materials.



"Three Wise Men" – *Aechmea nudicaulis* mounted on driftwood.

This month's meeting –

You might not have noticed Rose Vincel's display in November's meeting. It was a beautiful wreath constructed entirely out of *Cryptanthus* plants and they were firmly rooted into the wreath. How did she do it? Rose will share some of her secrets (not all of them, mind you!) with us at this month's meeting. And don't forget Show and Tell – bring what you're proud of, what you're puzzled about, even those spectacular failures - so that we can all learn from each other's efforts!



How many Cryptanthus plants does it take to make a wreath? See if you can count them all at January's FECBS meeting.

President's message –

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I'M EXCITED!!!

2016 should be an amazing year for FECBS with a veteran crew of myself, Rick Ryals, Calandra and Eve Krauth at the helm there should be no place left hidden, no stone unturned, sky's the limit, to infinity and beyond, etc, etc, etc.... Well, you get the point. We shouldn't have any rookie mistakes and by the way, if there are, you can look at me 'cause I'm the closest to being a rookie by a long shot.

Trips, educational programs, games, fun and food! I plan on being cruel but fair as your President. Remember my slogan from last year? Well, it still applies this year - "Be careful what you vote for" as this dictatorship moves forward for another year. Seriously, we should have a lot of fun while learning much. We will start with car- pooling down to Vero Beach on Saturday, February 6th to enjoy "Gardenfest" (<http://www.gardenclubofirc.org/Gardenfest.htm>)]. McKee Gardens is also in the vicinity as is Heathcote Botanical Gardens. We can discuss what we'd like to do while in Vero as well as what ideas, hopes and dreams you may have for the coming year.

On December 22nd around 11:00pm Tree woke me saying "someone's ringing our doorbell". I got up, put my tee shirt on inside out and backwards, then headed to the door to see what was the matter. I didn't see a

miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer, but a police cruiser and an Ormond Beach Police Officer at my door! The officer said a neighbor was concerned about suspicious noises coming from our backyard and he asked if he could take a look. After he explored behind the house, he came back and said he didn't see anything unusual, but that we had a nice yard. Well.....that led him to tell me that he had recently moved here from Missouri and bought a home. His yard was pretty much a blank pallet and he'd love to learn about low care plants. Do you see where this is going...? Without hesitating, I jumped at the opportunity to discuss plant possibilities. When Tree, still standing at the door, heard where this visit was heading (as she's been down this path before) rolled her eyes and headed back to bed. Bromeliads for the most part being low care pretty much took center stage in our discussion. Hopefully, in the near future a few of us can go to his home, scope it out, draw dimensions and get ideas from our club. Kind of a community outreach project. We could even donate some plants that are common to us, but uncommon to most (Ae gamosepala, Ae disticantha, Quesnelia testudo). With all of our club's knowledge and experience in not only the bromeliad world but dare I say other plant species as well, we should be able to come up with a striking, low maintenance landscape for this public servant.

2016 should be the year of stepping out of the box and exploring options. I'm excited about the possibilities. See you January 10th! Did I mention that I'M EXCITED??

Bill

Birthdays for January:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

Carol Behnken	Chuck Mamele
Virginia Dornbach	Jacque Mamele
Erna Jones	Alice Rigdon

Out and about -

Send in your photos and articles about bromeliad events, blooms in your garden, or newspaper and magazine articles that may be of interest to our members. Email to cajat@aol.com or mail to Jay Thurrott, 713 Breckenridge Dr., Port Orange Fl. 32127

June 13-19, 2016

Bromeliad Society International World Conference. Hosted by the Houston Bromeliad Society in Houston, Texas
Don't miss it!

Looking ahead:

January 30, 2016

Judges Symposium in Apopka
See bromeliad judges for details

February 6th and 7th, 2016

Gardenfest – Free admission, parking
Over 90 vendors!
3250 Riverside Park Drive
Vero Beach

Feb. 27, 2016

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) meeting – hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

March 4-6, 2016

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay show and sale at Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs located at Tampa Garden Club, 2629 Bayshore Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33629

April 9th, 2016

Volusia County Master Gardeners Spring Sale
Volusia County Fairgrounds, ½ had only!

April 16-17, 2016

Bromeliad Society of South Florida
Annual show and sale at Fairchild Botanical Garden 9:30a.m. – 4:00p.m.

April 16-17, 2016

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society
Spring plant sale at the Sanford Garden Club

