



Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

January, 2006

This Month's Meeting

Guests are always welcome!

Bring a plant for the raffle table. Plants must have names and be sure they are free of scale.

Bring plants for show & tell.

Bring a plant for the friendship table.

Wear your name tag.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 3, 2006, at Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater. The doors open at 7 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The speaker this month will be Dave Johnston. Dave will give a talk on **Neoregelias - My Favorite Genus**. He will bring in lots of plants for sale, including rare Neo species. Dave encourages everyone to bring in plants they would like to sell.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month we enjoyed the annual holiday party. We thank everyone for the excellent food they provided for the affair. Each member brought in a plant for the gift exchange raffle. Everyone enjoyed opening the surprise packaged plants, given by the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society, all of which were beautiful, and top quality. Everyone had a great time (lots of ooh's and aaah's).

The President's gavel was passed on by Carol Schultz to Anne Kavanagh. Other officers who begin their term this month are Gyula Nemeth, Vice President; Judy Lund, Secretary; Gary Lund, Treasurer; and Phyllis Steil, Bob Albanese and Michael Palandro, Directors.

Dues

Remember that all members are required to pay their dues for this year. Rates are \$15.00 for a single membership and \$25.00 for a family membership. See Gary Lund, or send your dues to him at 904 Oakwood Drive, Largo, FL 33770.



Happy





Upcoming Events

Harry P. Leu Gardens Annual Spring Plant Sale

March 25 + 26, 2006

1920 North Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL

<http://www.leugardens.org/>

Tropiflora's Spring Festival

March 31- April 2, 2006

3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota, FL

<http://www.tropiflora.com>

20th Annual Green Thumb Festival

April 29 + 30, 2006

Walter Fuller Park

7891 26th Avenue N., St. Petersburg, FL

<http://www.stpete.org/fun/parks/greenthumb.htm>

Refreshments

Bill & Marianne Schumacher are handling the refreshments this month. No one has signed up as yet, so if you would like to help out, please call Bill or Marianne at 584-6477 to let them know what type of food you would like to bring. [We need your help!](#)

Potting Media

A good potting mix must drain freely, be water retentive, and be light in space for air gases. Good mixes begin with peat and perlite in even volumes.

Peat is the top layer of soil in the Canadian "bush". It is dead, spongy, vegetable matter, mostly moss with leaves, needles and occasionally a twig. It retains water and can be saturated in prolonged summer rains.

Perlite is an artificial pumice-like stone created in a furnace for the express purpose of conditioning the soil. It consists of light, fluffy, white granules of air-expanded rock and does not degenerate. While it will absorb some water, it cannot be saturated. It should be wet down before mixing. Use an increased percentage of perlite in the summer to reduce the likelihood of saturated peat conditions.

Fernwood fragments increase aeration and can be used alone, preferably as coarse fragments. This medium can be expensive and is becoming scarcer due to over-cutting fern forests.

Adapted from: Source uncertain, November 1996