

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY
1954-2018

Celebrating over 64 Years in Bromeliads

fwcbs.org



January 2018 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 2, 2018; 7:30 pm
Location: Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

PROGRAM

The program for the evening will be a change of pace: rather than listening to one speaker talk about a single topic, every member is invited to contribute to the program with a short (1-2 minutes) show-and-tell type of presentation on the bromeliad topic(s) of their choice. Suggested topics include:

- My most favorite bromeliad species/hybrids, and why
- My LEAST favorite bromeliad species/hybrids, and why
- My favorite bromeliad tools, tricks, or techniques
- Tools, tricks, or techniques that do NOT work for me
- My bromeliad is not doing well -- what am I doing wrong?

Those who choose to participate are asked to bring examples of their bromeliad topic, if applicable. This program is meant to be informal and fun for all, speakers and audience alike.

Plant Sales

All members are welcome to sell bromeliads at the meeting. Sellers are requested to donate at least one plant to the evening's raffle table.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

LAST MONTH

Holiday Party

Our annual December holiday party was, as usual, filled with lots of plants to give away to members, along with good food to eat and camaraderie to enhance the event. Susan Sousa did a stalwart job of organizing it all and had plenty of help in doing so. Our thanks go to the members who helped make it another great party. Below are pictures of some folks enjoying themselves.

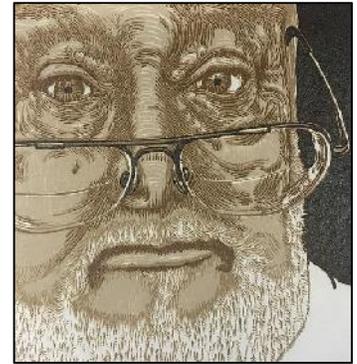


There was also a Special Raffle in which five of those who bought raffle tickets went home with one of the prime plants shown on the right. These are, in the back row, left to right, *Neoregelia* 'Star Wars' (a new Skotak hybrid) donated by Grant Groves, *Tillandsia utriculata x limbata* donated by Michael and Donna Kiehl, a pot with three plants—a *Neoregelia*, a *Guzmania* and a *Vriesea*—donated by Dick and Nancy Dailey, and in the front row, left to right, *Neoregelia* 'Luanna' donated by Linda and Dennis Cathcart and *Hohenbergia* 'Karla' donated by Marty Baxley.



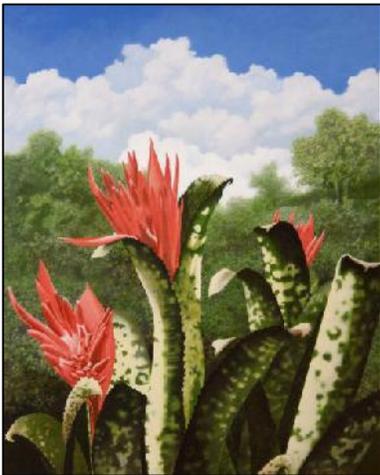
Membership Service Recognition Award

At the December meeting President Dick Dailey announced the recipient of this year's FWCBS Member Service Recognition Award: **Steve Littlefield**. His name will be added to a list of past honorees on a plaque located in the bromeliad garden at the Florida Botanical Gardens. Steve and his wife Kathy Risley joined our society in 1994, and they both have been active bromeliad enthusiasts. Steve's special contribution to FWC and other sectors of the bromeliad world has been through his artistic talents that have helped expand the bromeliad brand and increase awareness of these plants.

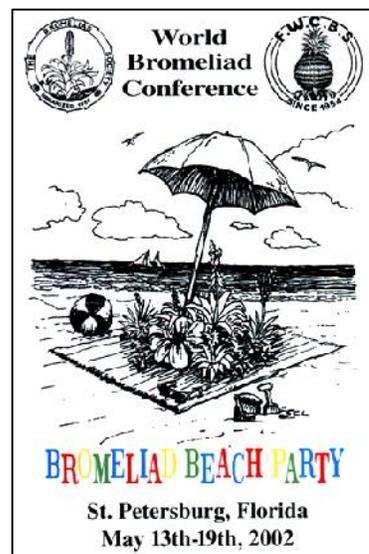
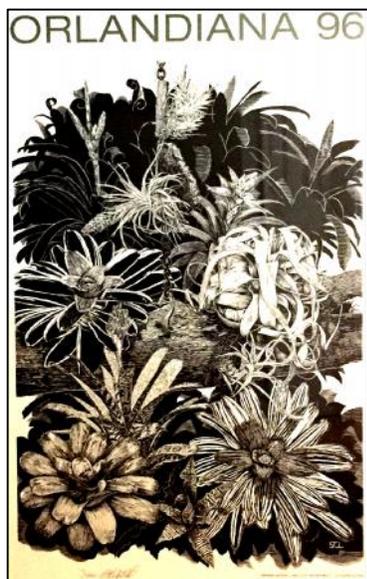


Self-Portrait of Steve

Steve was introduced to bromeliads in the 1970s when he and Kathy became friends with Dr. Morris Dexter, a pioneer in the Florida bromeliad community, and his wife Dr. Helen Dexter. (Note: Both the Dexters were early members of FWC and were awarded the Membership Service Recognition Award for their service and contributions.) An artist who paints and does print making (e.g., mezzotint, woodblock, linoleum), he has translated his love of bromeliads into subjects of his artwork. Below are pictures of some of his bromeliad paintings and prints.



Steve designed the logo for our society, which is on the front page of the newsletter. He designed posters for two of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) World Bromeliad Conferences (WBC)—the 1996 WBC held in Orlando (below, left) and the 2000 WBC Anniversary held in San Francisco (below, center)—and in 2002 he designed a T-shirt with the conference theme (below, right) for the 2002 WBC held in St. Petersburg, FL.



Steve has won many awards for his bromeliad art in art competitions at bromeliads shows, including BSI world conferences and Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) Bromeliad Extravaganzas. Steve has also designed and set up displays our society put together at past world conference. His also prints his bromeliad art on T-shirts, sweatshirts, tank tops, and tote bags that he sells at bromeliad events such as BSI world conferences, FCBS extravaganzas, and Tropiflora Nursery sales. He consistently and generously donates pieces of his bromeliad art to bromeliad auctions held by our and other bromeliad societies.

For the last 27 years, Steve has been a fixture at the Dunedin Fine Arts Center where he founded their printmaking program and was a teacher for 25 of those years. He retired from the teaching two years ago but he is still active at the arts center where he continues his craft and exhibits his art work at group shows and solo exhibitions. He is also a member of the Florida Printmakers Society. You can see more of his bromeliad art at www.stephenlittlefield.com.

THIS AND THAT

2018 Dues Payable in January

Society dues are payable in January and are still a bargain at \$15 per year for an individual and \$25 per year for a household. You may pay dues at the next meeting, or send a check, payable to FWCBS, to the club treasurer Gary Lund at 904 Oakwood Drive, Largo, FL 33770.

New Members

Two new members joined our society in December – Leo and Dolores Sandmann (picture on right). Introduce yourself to them and make them welcome.



Museum of Fine Arts Floral Arrangement

On the right is a picture of the latest of Janet Stoffels' floral arrangements that she makes for the Fine Arts Museum (MFA) in St. Petersburg. Her arrangements almost always include one or more bromeliad bloom stalks, as does this one, and reside on a pillar bearing her name that is located in the museum lobby. This arrangement was inspired by the current special exhibit "Star Wars™ and the Power of Costume". Note to Star Wars buffs: the MFA is the only Florida venue for this travelling exhibition, and will be there through April 1, 2018.



BLOOMING THIS MONTH

Many bromeliads get their best color in the winter when the sun is lower on the southern horizon and less strong than the summer sun. Here are three that are exhibiting great color this month.



Portea 'Tambora'
(? See note below)*



Androlepis skinneri



xAndrolaechmea 'Dean'

*Note about *Portea* 'Tambora': Terrie Bert informs me that name is unlikely because all of the approximately nine *Portea* species of which she is aware have pink bracts & blue blooms, and the one in the picture above has orange and yellow buds. She sent along the pictures below showing some examples of *Portea* bloom stalks. (Pictures source: FCBS.org)



Even though it is 'winter', as we know it here, Barb Gardner's garden is blooming as if it were spring. Below are pictures of some of her bromeliads in bloom.



Billbergia 'Windii'



Aechmea weilbachii forma pendula



Aechmea gamosepala stalk with a bee on the underside

Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman'
(cv. of *Ques. marmorata*)



UPCOMING EVENTS, 2018

February 10-11, Edison Garden Festival

Edison and Ford Winter Estates, Ft. Myers, FL

(www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/events/annual-events/edison-garden-festival/)

March 10-11, Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale

Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, FL (<http://www.leugardens.org>)

March 28-29, GreenFest Plant Sale

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL (friendsofplantpark.com/greenfest)

April 6-8, Tropiflora's Spring Festival

Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 (tropiflora.com)

April 14-15, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (cas.usf.edu/garden)

April 28 and 29, Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL (stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb)

May 29-June 3, 23rd World Bromeliad Conference, San Diego, CA

(<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>)

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