

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2019

Celebrating over 65 Years in Bromeliads

fwcbs.org



January 2019 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 8, 2019; 7:30 pm
Location: Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

PROGRAM

Alton Lee will present a program titled *Cryptanthus: Wonderful, Overlooked Bromeliads*. Bromeliads in the genus *Cryptanthus* are also called 'earth stars' because of their shape, which is different from most other bromeliads. We will learn what other features make them different from most commonly grown bromeliads and why they can be a delight to grow.

As most of our members know, Alton has a long association with bromeliads and the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society (FWCBS). He joined FWCBS in the 1970s and at one time served in the role of president. He has also been a longtime member of the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens which he joined in 1978. A prolific writer, he has contributed bromeliad articles to the Bromeliad Society International Journal, the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies newsletter, and other publications. He grows, as he says, "an obscenely huge number of bromeliads" and many other tropical plants.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

LAST MONTH

Dick Dailey has been our president for the past two years and during his tenure, he was an effective and pro-active leader, always looking for and suggesting ways to promote our society and bromeliads. As a token of our esteem for him, at the December meeting we presented him with a lovely specimen of *Neoregelia* 'Star Wars', a plant he had coveted. In January 2019 he will hand over the gavel to Barb Gardner, our new president, but he will remain on the Board of Directors in the position of Immediate Past President.

Holiday Party

Our December meeting is when we celebrate the past year and the holiday season with our annual holiday party, and this year was no exception. Members brought their favorite food dishes to share, and every member present received a free pup. Members also had the opportunity to win a prize plant and participate in a plant swap (with an anonymous 'Secret

Santa'). As usual, thanks go the helper elves who donated food and/or plants and helped set up and/or clean up. Susan Sousa was once again the event chair and organizer and when she could not make it to the party, her organizational skills were on display in the form of the detailed instructions she had for her husband Larry and the volunteers who put it all together. Below are pictures of some of the folks, food and plants from the evening.

Prize Plants

Barret Bassick, pictured on the right, is holding a *Billbergia* 'Tickled Pink' that he won from the Prize Plant table, and he said he was 'tickled pink' to get it. Below are pictures of other members with the prize plants they won.



Pups

On the right is the group of pups from which members could choose as the members' names were pulled at random from a basket. Everyone was a winner. Below are close-up pictures of some of those pups.



Neoregelia 'Lila'



Neoregelia 'Castigado'



Vriesea vagans



Neoregelia 'Spicy Hot'



Neoregelia 'Ice White River'



Neoregelia 'Flama'



X *Sincoregelia* 'Firecracker'



Neoregelia 'Tarnished'

Raffle Plants

In addition to the pups and prize plants, people also had the opportunity to win bromeliads from the Special Raffle table that were donated by various members. Below are pictures of those plants.



Neoregelia 'Wolfgang', donated by Dave Johnston



Tillandsia 'Avanti', donated by Linda & Dennis Cathcart



Aechmea weilbachii, donated by Barb Gardner



Guzmania 'Optima'



Neoregelia 'Magali' variegated, donated by Michael Kiehl



Guzmania hybrid

THIS AND THAT

2019 Dues Payable in January

Membership dues for FWCBS are payable in January, still a bargain at \$15 per year for an individual and \$25 per year for a household. Members may pay their dues at the next meeting, or may send a check, payable to FWCBS, to the club treasurer Gary Lund at 904 Oakwood Drive, Largo, FL 33770. Dues will be considered delinquent if not paid by the first of March.

New Members

Two people joined our society for 2019 at the December holiday party. They are Tina March (picture on right) and John Lopez. We look forward to having them at our events and meetings. (These two new members joined late in the year, therefore, their memberships are considered paid through 2019.)



Artistic Food Display

The artistic and tasty cheese loaf in the form of a pineapple—pictured on the left—was created by Debbie Castronova to grace the refreshment table at the December party. Whole pecans cover the cheese loaf and a real pineapple head sits the top of the dish.

Field Trip to Caloosahatchee BS Sale

On December 1st, about 30 of our members took a bus trip to the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society (CBS) sale in Ft. Myers. The cost of the trip was subsidized by FWCBS and trip details were organized by Ashley Graham. A very early start (6:30 am) was timed so that participants would arrive as the sale opened and take full advantage of the bargains to be had. After a few hours at the sale, the group departed for lunch at a restaurant, after which they stopped at Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota for further bargains. Most of the nursery's growers typically at the nursery on a Saturday were busy instead at the CBS sale in Ft. Myers, and Linda Cathcart kindly arranged to have enough staff on-site to help with the group's questions and purchases. All participants said it was a great way to spend a lovely fall Saturday, with family, friends, great weather, and bromeliads.

IN THE GARDEN THIS MONTH



Pitcairnia sanguinea x undulata



Aechmea phanerophlebia



Vriesea 'Sunset'

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2019

February 9-10, Edison Spring Garden Festival

Edison and Ford Winter Estates, Ft. Myers, FL

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

March 9-10, Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale

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

March 30-31, Tampa GardenFest Plant Sale(formerly GreenFest Plant Sale)

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

April 5-7, Tropiflora's Spring Festival

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

April 13-14, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

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

April 27-28, Green Thumb Festival

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

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