

# FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

December 2012

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## NEXT MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, December 4, 2012  
**Location:** Hope Presbyterian Church  
1698 South Belcher Road  
Clearwater, Florida 33764  
**Time:** Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

### Program: Holiday Party

It is the time of year for parties and good cheer. We will have our share of both at our Holiday Party on December 4. It will be an all-evening party with no business meeting (except as noted below), no speaker, no general raffle table, and no friendship plant table. As we have done in the past, each member present will receive a free pup supplied by some of our grower members. In addition, members will have the chance to win one of a number of prize plants, also supplied by some grower members. Be SURE to wear your nametag to be eligible for these prizes.

There will also be a Gift Plant Swap in which both members and their guests can participate. For the Gift Swap, you bring a plant and swap it for a plant someone else has brought to swap. Please bring only one plant and it should be clean, labeled, and of such quality that you would like to receive it as a gift yourself.

### Refreshments

To assist the party atmosphere, good and plentiful food will be required. To meet this need, members are asked to bring their favorite dish (from appetizers through desserts) to share, along with the proper serving utensil, if needed. Members should also bring their own beverage. The Society will supply paper plates, napkins, and eating utensils.

### Member Service Recognition Award

During the evening our Board of Directors will announce the name of our member who will be presented our Member Service Recognition Award for their service to the Society. The honoree's name will be placed on the FWCBS plaque at the Florida Botanical Gardens that the FWCBS has established for this award.

### 2013 Officer Election

During the evening the Nominating Committee will present for vote the name of a nominee for our 2013 vice president. A vice president nominee was not presented for the vote at the November meeting and the committee has since identified a candidate for that position. (See below; Last Meeting Highlights section.)

## LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Program

**Dean Fairchild's** presentation, *Bromeliad Taxonomy: the New Subfamilies*, summarized findings of recent DNA analyses conducted to examine the relationship between genera of the bromeliad family *Bromeliaceae*. The findings have been helpful in determining when evolutionary divergence within the bromeliad family took place and suggest a new organization and number of subfamilies. The main points of the findings are:

- Bromeliads arose about 70 million years ago from a common, primitive ancestor; the first plants were terrestrial.



- Bromeliads originated in the New World, specifically in the northeastern portion of South America that includes present-day French Guiana, Guyana, Surinam and parts of Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela. From there, they spread throughout South America, Central America, and southern USA.
- A single species, *Pitcairnia feliciana*, is found in western Africa and is believed to have arrived there about 10 to 12 million years ago by means of seed dispersal from the New World.
- The DNA studies indicate modern genera and subfamilies began to diverge from each other about 19 million years ago.
- There are currently three Bromeliaceae subfamilies, *Bromelioideae*, *Tillandsioideae*, and *Pitcairnioideae*, to which bromeliad genera have been assigned based mainly on shared features such as flower, fruit, and seed characteristics.
- The studies further suggest the number of bromeliad subfamilies should be expanded from three to eight based on both shared morphological and genetic (DNA) information.
- In the new taxonomy scheme the three original subfamilies are retained but 10 of the 16 genera currently in *Pitcairnioideae* are moved into five new subfamilies for a total of eight subfamilies.
- Researchers at the University of Wisconsin who conducted the DNA analyses state that their work was based on a limited number of bromeliads and caution that additional DNA data are needed before changing/expanding the current subfamily taxonomy.

For information about bromeliad taxonomy and a link to the University of Wisconsin DNA study, go to the Bromeliad Society International website at [http://www.bsi.org/brom\\_info/taxonomy.html](http://www.bsi.org/brom_info/taxonomy.html). For information about the proposed revision of the subfamilies, check out an article by Derek Butcher on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website at [http://fcbs.org/articles/Bromeliaceae\\_and\\_its\\_eight\\_subfamilies.htm](http://fcbs.org/articles/Bromeliaceae_and_its_eight_subfamilies.htm).

### Officers and Trustees for 2013

At the November meeting members elected the following new officers to serve on the nine-member 2013 Board of Directors:

President	Susan Sousa
Treasurer	Mary Sue Beeler
Secretary	Suzanne Bogacki
Trustee	Gary Lund, three-year term

While no nominee was presented for the office of vice president at the time the vote was taken, John Edwards later volunteered to serve in that position, subject to members vote at the December meeting. Current president Kathy Risley will remain on the board in the position of immediate past president. Also returning to the Board are two trustees, Barret Bassick and Judy Lund, who will serve out their respective three-year terms, and the Newsletter Editor, Linda Sheetz.

### Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver and Alton Lee

Barbara Gardner	<i>Aechmea pectinata</i>
Alton Lee	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Beryl Allen' (cv of <i>amoena</i> var. <i>amoena</i> )
Gary Lund	<i>Aec.</i> 'Pagoda'; <i>Aec.</i> Stalker' (from Chester Skotak)
Nicole Matwijczyk	<i>Tillandsia xerographica</i>
Susan Sousa	<i>Aec. weilbachii</i> var. <i>viridisepala</i>

Below are pictures of Show and Tell plants.



*Aec. weilbachii* var. *viridisepala*



*Aec.* 'Stalker'



*Aec.* 'Pagoda'

#### THIS AND THAT

#### ***Billbergia* 'Poquito Más' Polyploid**



At the October meeting Fred Reid showed us a *Bil.* 'Poquito Más' (shown on the left) he acquired from the Grant Groves display at the recent World Bromeliad Conference in Orlando. You will note his 'Poquito Más' appears to be larger and more colorful compared to the typical 'Poquito Más' (well, certainly more so than any I have grown). That is because his plant is a polyploid, which is to say it contains more than two paired sets of chromosomes per cell. Plants are normally diploid, meaning they have two sets of chromosomes, one from the mother and one from the father. In the case of Fred's plant, it has four sets of chromosomes, which makes it a tetraploid. A polyploid plant is usually a vigorous grower, with larger flowers, and hardier, faster growing, and in general more desirable than

the normally diploid parents. While polyploid plants can arise spontaneously in nature by several mechanisms, they can also be induced chemically, which is frequently done in breeding plants commercially to produce a larger, more robust plant, such as this *Billbergia*.

#### **New Members**

We welcome new members Barbara Carter and Carol Gardinier who joined at the November meeting. Please seek them out at future meetings and make them feel welcome.

#### **Correction**

The plant on the right was mis-identified in the last newsletter. The correct name is *Vr.* 'Rosita' (albomarginated) and it is one of Chester Skotak's hybrids.

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### **Mayor's City Beautiful Award, 2012, Salvador Dalí Museum and Nicole Matwijczyk**

This year the City of St. Petersburg bestowed its annual City Beautiful Award to the Salvador Dalí Museum in recognition of its well-landscaped grounds and 'Living Wall', which is a vertical garden of bromeliads. It was one of 14 sites around the city selected to receive the award this year. The choice of the museum is particularly notable to us because, as most of you will recall, FWCBS member Nicole Matwijczyk has maintained and nurtured the 'Living Wall' of bromeliads since it was installed when the museum opened in January 2011. The museum's landscaping was chosen for the public availability and connectivity of its space, use of local materials to express an artistic theme, and integration of artistic work. At the right is a picture of Nicole accepting the award on behalf of the museum. For more on Nicole and the Living Wall, check out the FWCBS October 2011 newsletter that profiled both of them.



Living Wall garden at the entrance to the Salvador Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg, September 2011

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS, 2012-2013**

December 1-2, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale

Terry Park, Ft. Myers ( [vicky chir@aol.com](mailto:vicky chir@aol.com) )

March 23-24 GreenFest Plant Sale

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL ( [tampagreenfest.com](http://tampagreenfest.com) )

April 5-7, Tropiflora Spring Festival

Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 ( [tropiflora.com](http://tropiflora.com) )

April 13-14, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL ( [cas.usf.edu/garden](http://cas.usf.edu/garden) )

April 27-28, Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL

September 21, Bromeliad Extravaganza® 2013

The Holiday Inn Harborside, Indian Rocks Beach, hosted by the FWCBS and sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (contact Judy Lund at [glund@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:glund@tampabay.rr.com) )

## 2012 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Kathy Risley, linocut1@tampabay.rr.com
Vice President	Susan Sousa, susansousa1@yahoo.com
Secretary	Suzanne Bogacki, gdkeller@msn.com
Treasurer	Brian Corey, bcorey2@tampabay.rr.com
Immediate-Past President	Robert Herberich, bubbasotis@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor	Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com
Trustees (3)	Gary Lund (2010-2012), garybrom@yahoo.com Judy Lund (2011-2013), glund@tampabay.rr.com Barret Bassick (2012-2014), barretb@myway.com

*Newsletter Editor, Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com*

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