

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

December 2013



floridabromeliads.org

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, December 3
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:

Hope Presbyterian Church
1698 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764

Holiday Party

The next meeting will be dedicated entirely to our annual Holiday Party, with plant giveaways and lots of good food. There will be prize plants and pups for members (be sure to wear your nametag to be eligible for these), along with a Gift Plant Swap and a Special Raffle for both members and guests alike. If you want to participate in the Gift Swap, bring a plant to swap for a plant someone else has brought to exchange.

Party Refreshments

Bring your favorite dish(es) to share to fill out the evening's delights. This is the time of year to show off your culinary skills. (And if you have none, you can always get help from the grocery store.)

Member Service Recognition Award

During the meeting/party, the FWCBS Board of Directors will announce the name of a member, past or present, to be honored for their service in advancing the aims of the Society. The names of members so honored are added to a plaque that is on a boulder next to the FWCBS bench at the Florida Botanical Gardens.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Program

In a timely presentation, Alton Lee shared once again his tips on helping our bromeliads survive the coming winter cold. This editor was away and did not attend the meeting, and the summary notes below are based on information provided by Alton and from a previous talk he gave on the same subject. We have a number of new members who will no doubt be grateful for this information (and some of us 'seniors' like being reminded).

- Learn to be your own weather forecaster. Observe and get familiar with the regular winter patterns.
- After a front moves through, the coldest part of the day is typically just before dawn and on the second day and night. Any day the temperature fails to reach 60 degrees offers at least a potential chance for a freeze that night.
- Learn the microclimates in your garden and keep notes about them. Monitor these areas with any one of a variety of thermometers.
- Have a list of your tenderest and most special plants and a chart that shows you where they are so you can rescue/ protect them first.
- Cover plants in the landscape with proper materials such as frost cloth, sheets, towels, and/or plastic. (Caution: don't let plastic covers touch plants.) Weigh down the covers so wind and cold do not get under them and they do not blow away. For anchors, use items readily available around the house such as bricks, rocks, paint cans, and anchors for camping tents. Holiday lights placed under the covers can be used as a heat source.

- If the day turns hot and/or rainy, remove covers other than frost cloth. Frost cloth breathes, is fast drying, and admits filtered sun, so it can be left on plants during the day.
- Supplies need not be expensive. Many can be found at thrift shops and garage sales, and most can be used around the house for other purposes.
- If the cold is too severe to depend on outside covering protection for your plants, move whatever you can into a heated space. Inside is all right for short periods of time but if cold lingers, plants will need good air circulation, moisture, and a light source. Keep the plants well spaced to promote air circulation. To add moisture to the air, water the plants directly, place water in open containers among the plants, and/or place plants on trays of wet rocks. To supplement light, use an electric shop light, and for heat, use small heat lamps and/or strings of holiday lights.
- While plants do not feel a wind chill the same way people do, wind can increase moisture evaporation from plant surfaces and soil, which reduces water available to the plants.
- After cold weather, be patient with plants that appear damaged because they might rebound in the spring or summer. And even if they do not look good, they could still produce pups.
- For lists of some of the bromeliads that are cold tolerant or cold sensitive, go to fcbs.org.

Election of Officers and Trustees for 2014

Members elected the following individuals to next year's Board of Directors:

President	Susan Sousa
Vice President	Franne Matwijczyk
Secretary	John Edwards
Treasurer	Gary Lund (resigned from Trustee position)
Trustee	Carol Schultz, 2014-2016 Judy Lund, 2014-2015 (i.e., the last two years of Gary Lund's Trustee term which he resigned to run for treasurer)

Remaining positions on the nine-member Board are Barret Bassick, who has one year left in his three-year term, Kathy Risley as Immediate Past President, and Linda Sheetz as Newsletter Editor.

Show and Tell

Reported by Helga Tarver

Barret Bassick	<i>Aechmea</i> 'Fulgo-Ramosa'
Marty Baxley	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Priceless' (Marty's unregistered hybrid, named for Andy Price); <i>Vriesea</i> 'Andy's Dream' (Andy Price hybrid); X <i>Anamea</i> "Scorpio"; <i>Pitcairnia smithiorum</i> ; <i>Pit. rubrinigriflora</i> x <i>P. smithiorum</i> ; <i>Pit. funckiae</i> ; <i>Pit. funckiana</i> (not a recognized hybrid); and Marty's new unnamed <i>Neoregelia</i> hybrid with striations
Mary Sue Beeler	<i>Aec.</i> 'Foster's Freckles'
Bruce Garley	<i>Vriesea sucrei</i>
Gary Lund	X <i>Pitinia</i> 'Purple Cloud'; <i>Aec. ramosa</i>
Larry Sousa	<i>Tillandsia ionantha</i> 'Fuego'; <i>Til. tenuifolia</i> "Emerald Green"

Below are pictures of Show and Tell plants.
Photos by Dick Dailey and Nicole Matwiczky



New unnamed Neoregelia hybrid



Aechmea 'Fulgo-Ramosa'



Vriesea 'Andy's Dream'



Billbergia 'Priceless'



Vriesea sucrei



Aec. 'Foster's Freckles'

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2013-2014

December 6-8, 2013, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale
Terrie Park, 3451 Marion Street, Fort Myers (bprevattppcc@aol.com)

March 29-30, 2014, GreenFest Plant Sale
University of Tampa, Tampa, FL (friendsofplantpark.com/greenfest/)

April 4-6, 2014, Tropiflora Spring Festival
Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 (tropiflora.com)

April 12-13, 2014, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (cas.usf.edu/garden)

April 26-27, 2014, Green Thumb Festival
Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL (stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb/)

2013 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Susan Sousa, susansousa1@yahoo.com
Vice President	John Edwards, JOHN56@aol.com
Secretary	Suzanne Bogacki, gdkeller@msn.com
Treasurer	Mary Sue Beeler, msbeeler@mindspring.com
Immediate-Past President	Kathy Risley, linocut1@tampabay.rr.com
Newsletter Editor	Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com
Trustees (3)	Judy Lund (2011-2013), glund@tampabay.rr.com Barret Bassick (2012-2014), barretb@myway.com Gary Lund (2013-2015), garybrom@yahoo.com

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