

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2018

Celebrating over 64 Years in Bromeliads

fwcbs.org



December 2018 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: Tuesday, December 4, 2018; 7:30 pm
Location: Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

Holiday Party

Put on your holiday cheer for our next meeting, which will be dedicated entirely to our annual Holiday Party. There will be no business meeting and no plants sale. Instead we will have bromeliad giveaways, raffle, and plant swap and a great deal of good food. There will be Prize Plants and pups for members who are present so be sure to wear your nametag to be eligible for these. There will also be a Special Raffle and a Plant Swap for both members and guests alike. If you want to participate in the Plant Swap, bring a clean, labeled plant to swap for a plant someone else has brought to exchange.

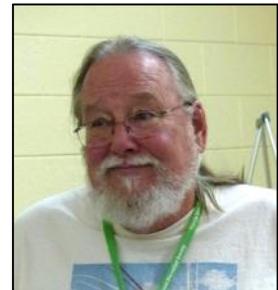
Party Refreshments

Bring your favorite holiday dish to share. Our members never disappoint with the food they provide for our parties and we look forward to seeing and eating the culinary delights, from appetizers to desserts, you will provide this year.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

Stephen Littlefield's presentation *Bromeliad Images-In the Beginning* showed us his view of bromeliad as art and how his bromeliad art has evolved over the years. Steve is an artist who paints and makes prints (e.g., mezzotint, woodblock, linoleum) and was a teacher for 25 years at the Dunedin Fine Arts Center, where he founded their printmaking program. Two years ago he retired from teaching but he is still active at the arts center where he continues making art and exhibits his art work. He is also a member of the Florida Printmakers Society. Steve and his wife Kathy Risley have been members of the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society since 1994.



Art has always a part of Steve's life. He started out as a painter and expanded his medium to printmaking while at University of South Florida in the early 1970s. In his early years he

produced primarily black and white paintings, etchings, and prints. His subjects included Florida landscapes and graphic designs.

Steve was introduced to bromeliads in the 1970s when he and Kathy became friends with Morris and Helen Dexter and began 17 years of house sitting for them. Morris was a pioneer in the Florida bromeliad community, and he and Helen were early members of the FWCBS. Morris would walk with Steve through his garden and show him his collection of bromeliads. In 1981, Helen saw Steve making a drawing of a rose while he was staying at her house, and she offered him his first bromeliad commission, etchings of four bromeliads, in a limited edition of five each.

When Steve and Kathy attended their first Bromeliad Society International World Bromeliad Conferences (WBC) in 1992 in Saddlebrook (Tampa), he saw that one could enter art in a conference's bromeliad show. He decided to show his art at the next WBC, in 1994 in San Diego, and entered two black and white block prints--*Vriesea* 'Red Chestnut' and *Tillandsia bulbosa*. In the 1996 WBC in Orlando he again entered his art and won in his art division with his print titled 'Tillandsia Xerographica Squared'. It was an example of his blend of graphic and visual attraction to shape, form, and perspective in bromeliads. Steve continues to show his art at world conferences and often wins awards for his work.

Steve's bromeliads from his own collection remain a great source of inspiration to him in his bromeliad art. He is attracted to the different and sometimes surreal shapes and forms of bromeliads. And he loves the contrasts between organic lines of the plant with inorganic (i.e., graphic) lines. His attraction to the shape of *Tillandsia xerographica* inspired his 'Tillandsia Xerographica II' print that won the Best in Division in the 2016 WBC show in Houston. He has created images of it on paper and T-shirts and he says it is his most sold image.

Each wood cut or linocut starts as a pencil drawing. Then he slips on his headphones – he loves books on tape – and begins the long intricate process of carving whatever medium he is using, such as wood, linoleum, or copper. Steve says a drawing ability is key to art, along with using your eyes to really see both the subject and the impact light has on what we perceive. He then makes a black and white print from the carved material which he then paints. Below is an example of the progress from live plant to black-and-white print to color for a *Tillandsia magnifica*.



Billbergia magnifica

In 2017, Steve completed an acrylic on canvas that he titled 'Floridan Fasciculata' (picture on right) based on a *Tillandsia fasciculata* var *densispica*, a native Florida bromeliad. It was inspired by one he had in his yard with a colorful bloom stalk that caught his artistic eye. He took a photograph of it and transferred that image onto a canvas using a grid pattern. He then added layers of color, worked in the background, and then added color to the plant, spending many hours painting the stalk. Dennis and Linda Cathcart bought the painting and in 2018 donated it to the State of Florida. It now hangs outside the office of the Florida Secretary of State in Tallahassee.



'Floridan Fasciculata'
by Steve Littlefield

Steve says early on he, like many other people, did not know pineapples were bromeliads but he has now painted and printed many versions of pineapples. He incorporated a pineapple in our club logo, which he first designed in 1997 for use in the newsletter. He has since revised the logo to the version you see on the header of our newsletter.



Steve has designed posters and logos for BSI conferences, and he 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. Steve also creates pineapple-themed yard art in the form of free-standing cut-out aluminum pieces (picture on the left). He cuts the aluminum with a router to make single pieces and folding screens that are 6-feet tall and set in the ground or in concrete.

In December 2017, the FWCBS awarded Steve the Membership Service Award for his contributions to FWCBS and the bromeliad world. His merits are summarized in the January 2018 FWCBS newsletter, a copy of which is available on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website fcb.org in the Member Societies link.

2019 Officers and Trustee Election

At the November meeting members voted this slate of nominees for our 2019 officers and trustee:

President	Barbara Gardner
Vice President	Richard Poole
Secretary	Brian Corey
Treasurer	Gary Lund
Trustee	Karen Mills (three-year term, 2019 through 2021)

These folks will serve on our 2019 Board of Directors along with four others: Joe Ventimiglia and Judy Lund (the two other trustees currently serving overlapping three-year terms), Dick Dailey as Immediate Past President, and Linda Sheetz, Newsletter Editor.

SHOW AND TELL

Nicole Matwijczyk *Billbergia* hybrid, unreported parentage

Susan Sousa *Aechmea fasciata* spineless form
(picture on right)



Karen Mills *Tillandsia* 'Antonio'

This plant has been renamed x *Wallfussia* 'Antonio' because the two species used in the cross, *Til. cyanea* X *Til. platyrhachis*, were moved into two new genera based on recent DNA sequencing studies. Based on the DNA results, *Til. cyanea* was reclassified as *Wallisia cyanea* and *Til. platyrhachis* was reclassified *Barfussia platyrhachis*. Thus, the cross of these two becomes the new bigeneric x *Wallfussia* 'Antonio'.

Franne Matwijczyk *Billbergia* 'Beadle Man'
Guzmania hybrid mounted in kokedama
(picture on right)

Franne explained that kokedama is a Japanese technique for mounting a plant by placing the plant inside a ball of wet soil and covering the soil with peat moss. The peat is then fixed in place using metal or nylon wire, and the mounted plant is hung in the air. The plant should be watered regularly by submerging the ball in water. An online website suggested the best plants for kokedama are those that grow in medium to full shade, and not in direct sunlight, which will likely burn and ultimately turn the kokedama an undesirable brown color.



UPCOMING EVENTS, 2018

December 9, Florida Botanical Gardens Gift and Plant Sale

12211 Walsingham Road, Largo 727-582-2117 (<http://www.flbg.org/pdf/gift-plant-sale-flyer.pdf>)

2018 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Dick Dailey, richard@daileyadv.com
Vice President	Brian Corey, bcorey2@tampabay.rr.com
Secretary	Nancy Dailey, nancygoat2@msn.com
Treasurer	Gary Lund, garybrom@yahoo.com
Immediate-Past President	Ashley Graham, adglaw@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com
Trustees (3)	Karen Mills (2018), karen4photo@aol.com Judy Lund (2017-2019), glund@tampabay.rr.com Joe Ventimiglia (2018-2020), ventimij@gmail.com

Website: FWCBS.org

Webmaster: Richard Poole, rapoole4469@yahoo.com