

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, January 14th, 2018 1:30pm.  
Colony in the Wood – club house  
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

January, 2018

## Happy New Year 2018!

**President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700**

**Co-Vice Presidents –Jane Vila-Lobos 386/446-0341**

**Hedy Quirk 386/427-2314**

**Secretary – Ruth Gessner 386/767-3499**

**Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041**

### **Another year gone by...**

...and another great year for FECBS! Our group continues to grow, we continue to learn more about the family Bromeliaceae, and most importantly – we're still having fun! Our officers have been busy planning a series of great programs for the upcoming year and I don't think you'll want to miss a single one – starting with our January meeting.

We've made it through the end of 2017 without any killing cold-snaps, but can this continue through January of 2018? What should you do when you hear that weather reporter saying "...bring in the pets and cover your plants – it's going to get cold tonight"? That will be the subject of this month's meeting and I hope that we aren't visited by cold weather before our meeting takes place! We'll talk about what to do before the cold air arrives, what plants can tolerate it and which ones can't and what to do for cold-damaged plants once the warmer weather returns. Be sure to join us for our January program titled "Preparing for cold weather – let's hope we don't need to know this!"

### **Last month's meeting –**

Our last meeting of the year was our annual Christmas party and each year that party



There were so many outstanding centerpieces this year that only a few votes kept several entries like this one from being the winner!

seems to get better and better. Rick and Francisco – we can't thank you enough for all that you do in pulling together this annual holiday extravaganza. There really was something for everyone. Great food (that's always first on my list!), beautiful centerpieces (congratulations Brad Rauch on



Bradly's winning entry for 2017

winning the best centerpiece competition!),



Brad Rauch with the pineapple-related prize for his centerpiece.

and beautiful little gifts for everyone in the form of a small Tillandsia mounted in a Christmas-themed ceramic container.



Another crowd-pleaser was a 50/50 raffle featuring a beautiful Christmas wreath



Who wouldn't want a wreath like this to decorate their home for the holidays?

– and can you believe it? Bill Hazard just stepped off a plane returning from North Carolina, came directly to our party...and

won the 50/50 drawing! Congratulations Bill!

During the meeting/Christmas party club officers received gifts in appreciation for jobs well done during 2017. Incidentally, you might note in the newsletter heading that the secretary is now listed as Ruth Gessner – so you might want to thank Rose for her service to the club last year and also welcome Ruth to our group of officers.



Ruth Vincel, Jane Villa-Lobos, Ever Krauth, Rick Ryals, and Hedy Quirk. Club officers throughout 2017

Following that presentation, club members Rick Ryals and Francisco Cardoso were honored with life memberships for their too-numerous-to-count contributions to the club over the years. This was only the second time that such an award has been presented in the club's history and we certainly appreciate all that they do!



Rick Ryals and Francisco Cardoso – newest Lifetime members of FECBS



Francisco holds up the beautiful crystal vase engraved with the new FECBS logo.

**Special thanks to P.M. Reddy**

—  
for providing all of the great photos (above) that were taken during the January meeting. P.M. has been

kind enough to share many of his photos taken during club meetings over the past year and we are especially appreciative for his photographic expertise!

**Let's not forget 'Show and Tell'**

Everyone doesn't have the opportunity to travel to bromeliad shows to see a large variety of these plants, displayed to their best advantage and for many of our members our "Show and Tell" feature during the club meetings is an opportunity to see plants that other members have grown for a while, are proud of how they look, and have brought to show the rest of the club. If you have a plant that you are particularly happy with in the way it looks, by all means – bring it in to show everyone during that portion of our meeting. Share with the rest of our group what conditions you grow it in, how long you've had it, and if you don't remember it's correct name – maybe some of our older members can help you with that too...and by "older members" I mean those that have been club members for a while, not physically older...well, you know what I mean.

**Birthdays for January:**

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Virginia Dornbach | Erna Jones   |
| Laura King        | Chuck Mamele |
| Jacque Mamele     | Alice Rigdon |
| Rosemary Roseland |              |

**What's blooming in your yard?**

It's Winter and around here that usually means that you should check on your Billbergias because, heaven knows – their blooms are so short-lived that if you blink twice, the bloom may be over! I had hoped that these plants would hold off long enough for me to bring them in for "show and tell" at the next meeting, but they seem have a mind of their own when it comes to the time for them to bloom – and that's why it is so unusual to see a Billbergia in bloom at a bromeliad show. Anyway, here's a few that were blooming when I began working on this newsletter:



**Billbergia leptopoda.**

I got this plant from Boggy Creek Bromeliads back in 1993 and it rewards me each year with a brief bloom. The bloom is something less than spectacular, but foliage is so attractive that I can forgive the small inflorescence.



*Billbergia* 'L.O.L.'

This is an unregistered Marty Baxley hybrid that was given to me last February. This is the first time that I have seen it bloom.



*Billbergia amoena* (red form).

Not only is this an attractive plant with its red foliage, it's also spineless so I like this plant almost as much as the Tillandsioideae group!



*Aechmea recurvata* var. 'Benrathii'

OK – it's not a Billbergia, but this little plant has a terrific looking bloom and I'm sure it will be faded by the time we have our January meeting. What else does this plant have to make it attractive? It tolerates bright sun and high temperatures in the Summer and is very cold tolerant in the Winter!

**Looking ahead:**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**

Volusia Soil & Water Conservation District annual native tree sale  
8am to 2:30pm at Volusia County Fairgrounds, Deland

**February 3-4**

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Fest  
Plants for sale include palms, ferns, orchids, bromeliads, Florida natives, herbs, succulents, bamboo and roses.  
Riverside Park, Vero Beach

**February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies  
First meeting of 2018. Hosted by the Gainesville Bromeliad Society

**March 10 – 11, 2018**

Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale  
Leu Gardens in Orlando – free admission

**April 21-22, 2018**

Bromeliad Society of South Florida annual show and sale at Fairchild Tropical Gardens  
10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables

**May 29 – June 3, 2018** World Conference, San Diego, Ca.



**Florida East Coast**  
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