

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, November 8th<sup>th</sup>, 2015 1:30pm.  
Colony in the Wood – club house  
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

November, 2015

## The Beginning of Wisdom...

**President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850**

**Vice President – Linda Stagnol 386/212-8138**

**Secretary – Ed Meiser 386/785-4830**

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

A saying attributed to Confucius can be translated to “*the beginning of wisdom is to call things by their proper name.*” I like that. It’s simple, to the point, and if I didn’t know better might even suggest that Confucius grappled with name tags on bromeliads in his spare time...when he wasn’t coming up with enduring words of wisdom! Calling bromeliads by their ‘proper names’ is not always as easy as it may seem. To start with, it is not unusual at all to purchase a bromeliad with either no name (many bromeliads for sale in garden center have tags that simply read “bromeliad”) or an incorrect name. To avoid this, it is always best to acquire your bromeliads from a reputable supplier and this is clearly one of the benefits of belonging to a bromeliad club. Generally, the speakers at club meetings are either commercial bromeliad vendors or experienced hobbyists who often go to great lengths to ensure that the names on their plants are accurate. Even here, however name tags have a way of falling out of pots, replaced in wrong pots, or disappearing altogether.

How can you tell if your plant tag is incorrect? That’s not always easy to do, but a good start would be to always keep an open mind regarding the identification of your plant. If you show the plant to a fellow

bromeliad grower and he says that his plant of that name looks much different from yours, you might want to give some thought as to ‘proper name’ for your plant. Observe your plant as it matures and comes into bloom. Does the bloom on your plant look like the ones pictured on the BSI and FCBS websites? If not, it may be time to begin a little detective work.

I have a plant in my collection that I purchased at a plant sale many years ago that was labelled as *Aechmea orlandiana* ‘Rainbow’ but looked nothing like photos on the Internet of plants bearing that name



*Aechmea orlandiana* ‘Rainbow’ – photo courtesy of FCBS website

and furthermore, as the alleged *Aechmea* 'Rainbow' grew it developed a low, symmetrical arranged rosette of very smoothly textured leaves with a very bright and even pattern of variegation. What Genus does that remind you of? Members of the *Aechmea* group usually grow in a more upright growth pattern. A check of the FCBS website showed that *Aechmea* 'Rainbow' looks pretty much like the other cultivars of *Aechmea orlandiana* – the plant has thick, winding stolons (offsets on my plant were closely attached to the parent plant – no stolons involved!), the leaves are heavily edged with black spines and those leaves have an odd wrinkly texture that accentuates the dark bands splotches against green leaves.

Once it seemed clear that my plant was not *Aechmea* 'Rainbow' but more likely a variegated *Neoregelia*, identification became a matter of looking at bromeliads at plant shows and sales until I noticed some that resembled what I had acquired. A plant at a Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay show and sale looked exactly like mine – that gave me the name 'Milagro' and a review of the photo of *Neoregelia* 'Milagro' on the FCBS website confirmed it to most likely be the true identity of my plant – mystery solved.



*Neoregelia caroliniae* x *concentrica* x Royal Burgundy 'Milagro'  
Winner - Division III, Section b - Harvey Beltz  
13th World Bromeliad Conference, Houston, Texas July 1 - 5, 1998

FCBS photo of Neo. 'Milagro'

It's not important that the mistake was made, but now it is up to me to correct the tag and see that the error is not perpetuated!

#### **Last month's meeting –**

Thank you Rick for sharing photos from the recent Bromeliad Extravaganza in Miami at the October meeting! This year's Extravaganza was a really memorable event and we were glad that those who were unable to attend could see some of the highlights at the meeting.

Calandra and I were very sorry to miss last month's meeting, but had a wonderful time in New Orleans attending and judging the SW Bromeliad Guild's 2015 show and eating some of that wonderful New Orleans cuisine!

#### **This month's meeting –**

We always enjoy Dr. Terrie Bert's programs. Not only does she bring us enlightenment in her series of bromeliad Genera explorations, but she also brings great plants for sale at low, low prices so be sure to be there this month as we hear "Surveying the Ultimate Wonders—the S through W Uncommon Bromeliad Genera".



This is the last in Dr. Terrie Bert's series of talks familiarizing bromeliad lovers with the many bromeliad genera that are not widely

cultivated. We'll look at one genus that was discovered using bromeliad DNA, two genera composed of just one or two species, another composed of big, beautiful species, and another with species that seem to have little in common. As usual, there will be a short game at the end, with rewards.

Dr. Terrie Bert has been a member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society since 1987 and of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society since 1997 and has held multiple offices in the Sarasota Bromeliad Society. She served on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies for 8 years and was secretary, vice-president and president of the Council. She has served two terms on the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) Board of Directors. She has chaired the Nominations Committee for the Board the Affiliated Shows Standing Committee. She is currently the BSI Librarian and Curator of the Wally Berg Award of Excellence; she is also an internationally accredited BSI master judge. Her bromeliad collection consists of approximately 2,500 different types of bromeliads in 45 genera. She has won multiple top awards in the shows of local clubs and BSI world conferences. She has given presentations on bromeliads to numerous bromeliad societies in Florida, Louisiana, California, and New Zealand and has been an invited speaker at BSI world conferences. Dr. Bert has authored multiple articles in the BSI Journal and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Newsletter, and is a volunteer for and contributor to the BSI Bromeliad Identification Center at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida. Her career is as a Research Scientist in marine biology for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

**Also at this month's meeting...The Bromeliads Mounted on Stuff challenge!**  
That's right, you've had quite a few months

to experiment with mounting bromeliads on different materials. Let's see what you have done!



President's message –

*Hey Gang! Recently I noticed the weather outlook for the coming months. Because of the strong el Nino, we in the southeast should expect a colder and wetter winter, while the northern midsection of the country should experience a warmer and dryer winter. Different factors contribute to the amount of liquid sunshine we get so I will go with what the experts forecast. On the temperature aspect however, I scratch my head.....if the states above us have a warmer season how is it possible for "we'un's" down here in the south to have a colder winter? Doesn't the cold air have to move through Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and Iowa to get to us?? Will their temps stay warm and then turn cold when those "cold fronts" reach Kentucky, Georgia and Tennessee? I don't get it, but then again, I just drive a truck so what do I know?*

*On another topic, I'm curious how you handle this situation. When someone means to say the word "bromeliad" but instead they say "brom-ma-lade" what do you do? How do you respond? Do you correct them like the horticulturist that you are or do you let them wallow in their ignorance? Do you roll your eyes and snicker or do you gently show them the light? Just wondering.*

*Looking forward to seeing all the various "bizarre mountings" at this month's meeting - should be quite interesting! Thanks for*



*sharing your creations with us! And just one more thing, if you've attempted to mount something for November's extremely, bizarre mounting competition but it just hasn't taken root please bring it along to the meeting.....seems several of us are in this category!*

- Bill

Birthdays for November:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

Roberta Anderson	Bryan Manion
Harriet Herrin	Theresa Pavell
Jean Hochdoerfer	Marilyn Rauch
Susan Rowley	

Out and about –

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies is made up of representatives from each of 9 bromeliad societies in Florida. Their October meeting was hosted by the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society at the home of Butch and Quyles Force in Sorrento.



From left to right: Chairman Vicky Chirnside, University of Florida researcher Dr. Teresa Cooper, Florida Council webmaster Michael Andreas with Central Florida Bromeliad Society representative Karen Andreas. In front of Karen is past Florida Council chairman and Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society representative Ashley Graham and Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society representative Susan Sousa.



Club member John Quirk celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday recently in grand fashion with a 'Roaring 20s' themed party.

Send in your articles about bromeliad events, photos of plants and blooms in your garden, or newspaper and magazine articles that may be of interest to our members (pretty much everything about bromeliads is of interest to our members!).

Looking ahead:

December 5-6, 2015

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society show and sale

April 16-17, 2016

Bromeliad Society of South Florida annual show and sale at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden.

June 13-19, 2016

BSI World Bromeliad Conference at the beautiful Westin Galleria Houston Hotel. Check the website of [bsi.org](http://bsi.org) for updates.

