

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2017

Celebrating over 63 Years in Bromeliads

floridabromeliads.org



January 2017 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, January 3, 2017
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:

Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

Program

Ray Lemieux with Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota, Florida, will be the speaker for the evening. He will talk to us about how to grow terrestrial bromeliads, including differences in light, water, soil, and types of containers for different species. Ray is the succulent and terrestrial bromeliads in-house specialist at Tropiflora and is a member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society, the Bromeliad Society International, the Central Florida Cactus & Succulent Society, and the Cactus & Succulent Society of America.

Plant Sales

The speaker will be the sole bromeliad vendor for the evening.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Holiday Party

We enjoyed another lovely holiday party with great bromeliads, food, and fellowship. We are grateful to all those who contributed food, helped set up and clean up, bagged prize plants, decorated the room, handed out raffle tickets, bought raffle tickets, and/or donated plants to the event. Susan Sousa and Joe Ventimiglia headed up the party committee and a dozen or so others joined in the work effort. Nice team work. Every member present got a free pup, and others won one of several dozen mature plants such as *Guzmania* 'Hasta la Vista', *Vriesea hieroglyphica*, *Billbergia* 'Teng Ea', *Aechmea* 'Zabrina Surprise', *Neoregelia* 'Christy', *Vriesea sucrei*, *Billbergia* 'Hellfire', *Neoregelia* 'Wine & Gold', *Guzmania* 'Optima', several *Cryptanthus* and *Orthophytum*. There were about 25 or 30 plants on the Plant Swap table, some of which had been decorated for the holiday party, as shown in the pictures below.

Some Bromeliad Swap Plants:



Pictures of some of the evening's smiling, happy (well-fed) people.





Two special guests for the evening were Jim Marich and Scott Sandel (photo on right) with the San Diego Bromeliad Society who were visiting in our area. Scott is the 2017 president-elect for the San Diego group.



Jim on left; Scott on right.

There was also a Special Raffle in which five of those who bought raffle tickets went home with one of the prime plants shown below.



Special Raffle: In the back row, left to right, are *Guzmania* 'Brimstone' donated by Dave Johnston and a basket of about five to six *Tillandsia* 'Tropiflora' donated by Michael Kiehl, and in the front row, left to right, are *Neoregelia* 'Magali' variegated donated by Grant Groves, *Aechmea* 'Frappuccino' donated by Susan Sousa, and *Aechmea fendleri* variegated donated by Linda and Dennis Cathcart.

Holiday Poem Challenge

Susan Sousa presented the group with a holiday poem challenge. She gave each table a word and asked them to write a two-line poem using that word at the end of the first line and a word at the end of the second line that rhymed with the word at the end of the first line. The literary output resulted in a range of poems, some clever, some charming, some, well, you know. Here are the required words and the poem results:

1. Reindeer: Rudolf loved being a reindeer, 'cuz everyone wants to buy him a beer.
2. Bells: Christmas tree, mistletoe, jingle bells; when I think of Christmas time, let's give some Christmas yells.
3. Sharing: We came together for all the sharing and we ate it all because we were daring.
4. Tree: I once sat under an apple tree and, looking up, I felt so free.
5. Chanukah: As we harmonize during Chanukah, please keep your lips off my harmonica.
6. Presents: Christmas brings you many presents, maybe even a flock of pheasants.
7. Sleigh: Here comes Santa driving his sleigh, all the way to Tampa Bay.
8. Lights: When at last I turned on the lights, I saw that all my bromeliads had mites.
9. Menorah: Jews celebrate the holiday by lighting the menorah. The Irish just drink and say 'faith and begorrah'.

It is my understanding that the current USA poet laureate is not in danger of losing that title.

Member Service Recognition Award 2016

At the December meeting, **Linda Sheetz** was recognized as this year's recipient of the FWCBS Member Service Award, and joins other members who have been honored with this award for their contributions to our society and its goals. Here is the nomination letter submitted to the Board of Directors by Helga Tarver for consideration of the award.



"As the History Delegate of FWCBS I strongly recommend Linda Sheetz as the recipient of the annual membership service award. Linda was the Society Secretary from 2000 through 2003, Vice President in 2007 and 2008 and Newsletter Editor from 2009 until today. From 2006 through 2009 she and her husband Brian Corey served as FWCBS representatives to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. She has done an outstanding job always, and especially as Newsletter Editor."
Submitted by Helga E. Tarver

THIS AND THAT

Salvador Dalí Museum Bromeliad Christmas Tree

Nicole Matwijczyk has once again created a 'bromeliad' Christmas tree for display at the Salvador Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg where she works. The plants that make up this year's approximately 6-foot-tall tree (photo below on left) are *Neoregelia* 'Morado', *Neoregelia* 'Lemon King', and *Tillandsia bulbosa*, along with two plants in the family

Cactaceae, *Lepismium cruciforme* at the top of the tree and *Schlumbergera* species (Christmas cactus) scattered throughout the tree.



As part of Nicole's job description at the Dalí she also maintains the living bromeliad wall (photo below on the right) that is outside the building, next to the museum entrance.



2016 Bromeliad Christmas Tree, Salvador Dalí Museum

FWCBS Bromeliad Social

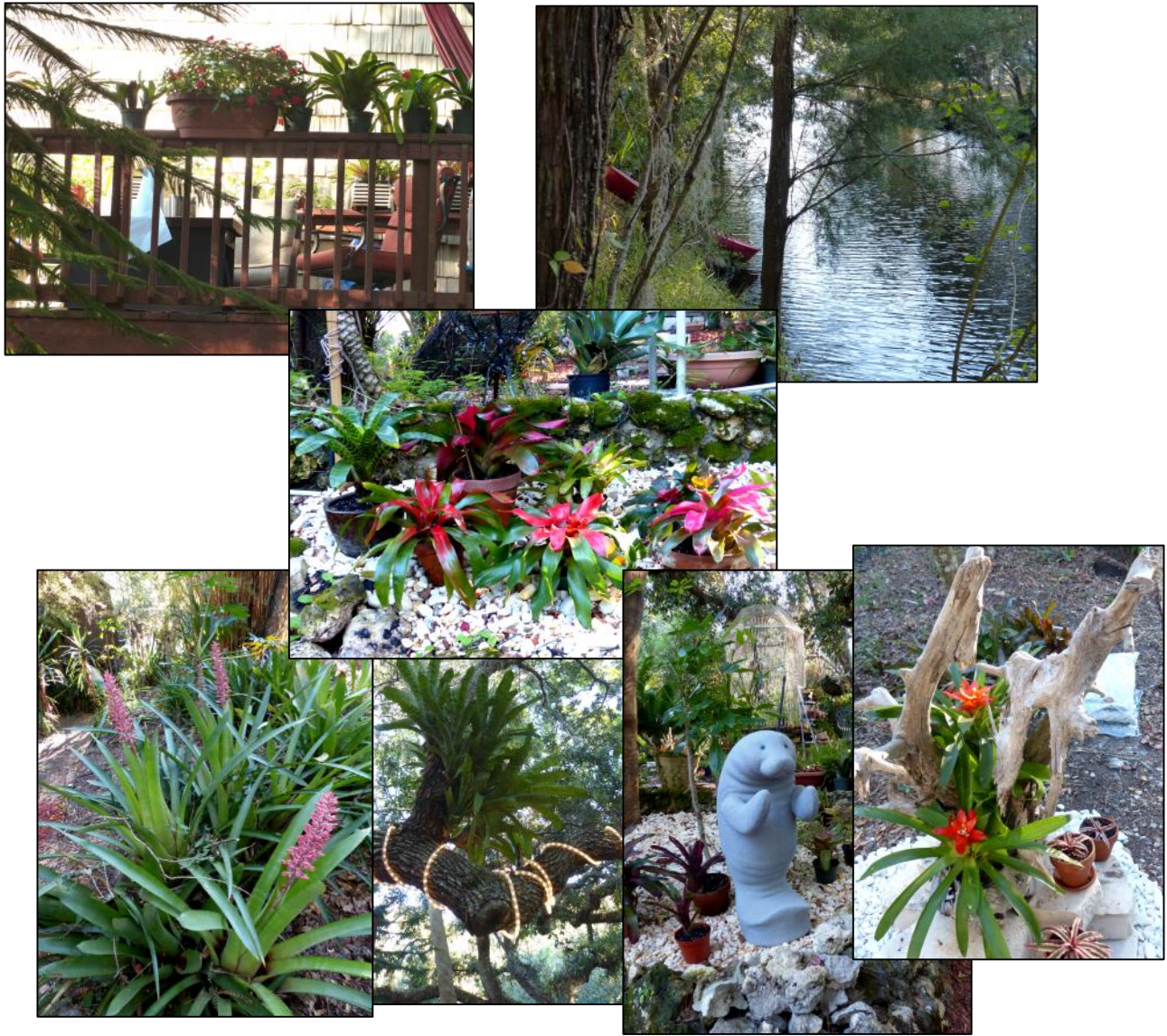
On Saturday, November 19, Dick and Nancy Dailey hosted a Florida West Coast Bromeliad Social at their weekend home in Homosassa, a lovely event, indeed. Their property is located on a canal that leads to the estuary of the Chassahowitzka River and Springs in the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge. They call the homestead '44 Oaks' because that is the number of oaks on the property.



Dick and Nancy Dailey and 44 Oaks

Dick and Nancy have been members of our club for the last seven years and over that time they have acquired numerous bromeliads, all of which they have put in the yard at

their Homosassa property. Dick is still in the throes of putting them into the landscaping and, as we all know, that is a project for which there is no end. Dick gave several tours around the site; below are some images of the property.



The food was a Cuban theme, with pulled pork, yellow rice, black beans, and a mountain of Cuban sandwiches, all bought from a local Homosassa restaurant. Some of the attendees are pictured below.



George and Marcia Pagnotta



Joe Ventimiglia



Chip Hill



Kay and Mike Petryszak



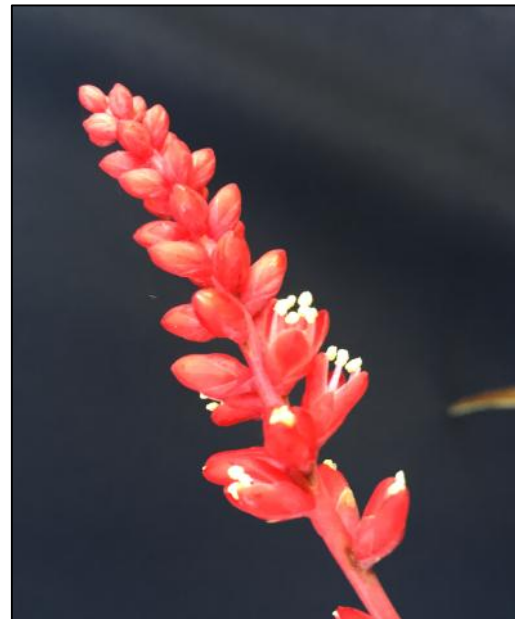
Susan Sousa

2017 Dues Payable in January

Society dues are payable in January at \$15 per year for an individual and \$25 per year for a household. You may pay your dues at the next meeting, or send a check, payable to FWCBS, to Treasurer Gary Lund, 904 Oakwood Drive, Largo, FL 33770.

BLOOMING THIS MONTH

Submitted by Gary Lund--*Hechtia rosea*:



Submitted by Barb Gardner:



Tillandsia ionantha



Billbergia



Tillandsia bulbosa

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2017

March 11-12, Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale

Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, FL (<http://www.leugardens.org>)

March 25-26, GreenFest Plant Sale

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL (friendsofplantpark.com/greenfest)

March 31, April 1-2, Tropiflora's Spring Festival

Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 (tropiflora.com)

April 8-9, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (cas.usf.edu/garden)

April 22 and 23, Green Thumb Festival

Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, FL (stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb)

August 4-6, 2017, Bromeliad Extravaganza[®]

Sheraton Tampa East Hotel, Tampa, FL; Hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Tampa, FL (bromeliadsociety@juno.com or www.fcbs.org/2017-Extrava-Flyer-Clarion.pdf or pamslagg@hotmail.com)

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