

# FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2021

*Celebrating over 68 Years in Bromeliads*



## January 2022 Newsletter

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### NEXT MEETING

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**Date & Time:** January 4, 2022; 7:30 pm  
**Location:** Good Samaritan Church  
6085 Park Boulevard  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

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Meeting Protocols: There will no longer be a limit on the number of people who can attend meetings, but there will still be no shared refreshments and the church where we meet still requires masks regardless of vaccination status and cleansing of tabletops at the end of the meeting.

### JANUARY PROGRAM

The speaker at our January meeting will be Kenneth Stokes. His talk titled *Diverse Growth Habitats of Bromeliads* will cover the varied shapes, sizes, textures, colors, and growing habits of bromeliads. Kenneth has had a keen interest in bromeliads for many years and is an avid collector. He joined the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay in 1994 and has been growing bromeliads for over 25 years. Kenneth grows tropical plants on the grounds of his south Tampa home, including bromeliads, of which he has specimens of most of the cultivated bromeliad genera.

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### LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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#### DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

We held our annual holiday party this year on Saturday afternoon, December 11<sup>th</sup>, in Susan and Larry Sousa's home garden. We typically hold this party at the church where we hold our evening monthly meetings but this year, we held it outside so that we could gather without any of any covid-related restrictions, and on a weekend so we could have it in daylight. It was a beautiful day, with fine weather, good food, fellowship, and bromeliads.



Several members commented that this was the best FWCBS holiday party in many years.

The party started at about 2:00 and ran until about 4:30. The weather was near perfect, with temperatures warm for December and scattered clouds. Everyone enjoyed the bountiful food

brought by members and drinks supplied by the Sousas. Attendees were seated at numerous tables scattered throughout in the spacious, shaded grounds at the back of the house.

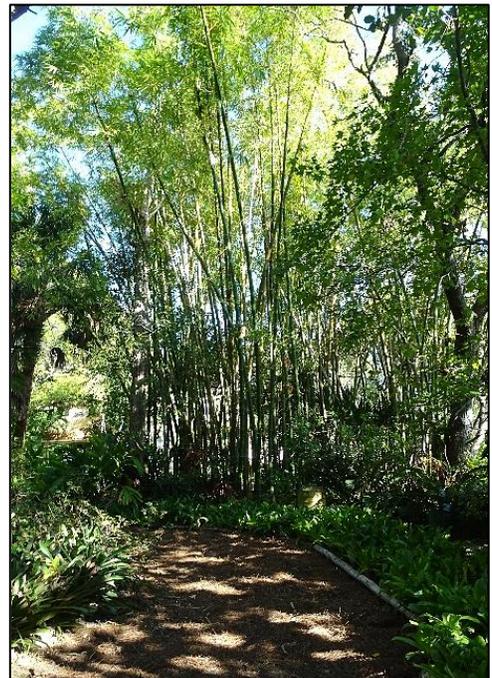
After the meal came the giveaway of gift plants, which the club had purchased from Michael's Bromeliads in Venice, Tropiflora in Sarasota, and Bromeliads Galore (Dave Johnston) in Pinellas Park. Before the party, each of the full-sized plants had been placed in a paper bag to conceal its identity. To select the plants, names of members present were pulled, one by one, from a bowl. After they had chosen a bag, they then opened it to reveal the plant, show it to the group and read the name tag out loud.

About a dozen plants were left over after the bromeliad giveaway and these were auctioned off to the eager partygoers. Incoming President Phil Monnig conducted the sale and displayed impressive auctioneering skills; he is certain to be tapped for that job at our next annual auction.

Our gratitude for the success of the party goes to our hosts Susan and Larry for allowing us to hold the party in such a lovely, picturesque setting, for their weeks-long hard work in tidying up their yard (with some help from Brian Corey) to prepare it for a large party, and for their warm hospitality. Our thanks also go to Vice President Richard Poole for organizing the event, including obtaining the giveaway plants.

Below are pictures of the garden, the party people, the plants, and the food.

### **The Garden**





## Party People



## People and Plants



Bagged Giveaway Plants



Alvaro Maranhao with  
*Goudea* 'Smudge  
Pattern'



*Neoregelia* 'Bailadora'



Ashley Graham with  
*Aechmea tayoensis*



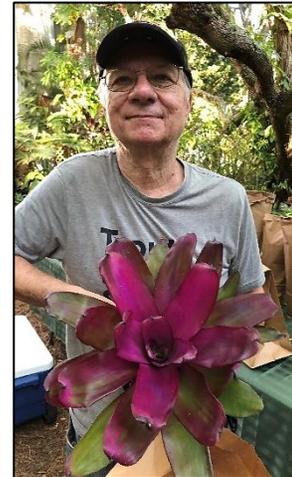
*Neoregelia* 'Comet' x 'Grace'



Eva Collins with  
*Neoregelia*  
'Raspberry Ripple'



*Neoregelia* 'Pop Tart'



Chris Robinson with  
*Neoregelia* 'Purple  
Star'



*Aechmea* 'Snow Flake'



Pauline Ditchkus  
with *Cryptanthus*  
'Burgundy Blast'



*Orthophytum* 'Heavy Metal'

## The Food



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## THIS AND THAT

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### Odd *Hohenbergia*--An Update

The February 2021 newsletter showed pictures of a *Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii* x *burle-marxii* that exhibited an odd growth behavior for a *Hohenbergia*. Over the course of about a year it had developed three additional centers and now, a year later, the additional centers have grown into three large pups (pictures below). Bromeliads that produce pups on the stem among the leaves, and not at the base of the plant, are referred to as 'upper puppers', and are more commonly seen in some *Vriesia* and *Guzmania*.



12/2019-one center cup



12/2020-three more center cups



12/2021—three large pups

*Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii* x *burle-marxii*

It appears this *Hohenbergia* hybrid can also display another unusual habit for its kind, and that is growing a pup on the end of its bloom stalk. Below on the left is a picture of the same *Hohenbergia* hybrid at Michael Kiehl's nursery that has a pup growing on the end of a bloom stalk. The picture next to it shows this hybrid with the normal bloom stalk. Below on the right is a picture from the BSI Bromeliad Cultivar Registry of a *Hohenbergia* hybrid registered as *Hoh.* 'Chalice' that is reported to be the same cross, *leopoldo-horstii* x *burle-marxii*. The plant originated in Hawai'i and was possibly created by Dennis Heckart.



*Hohenbergia* hybrid with pup on end of bloom stalk (left) and normal bloom stalk (right)

*Hohenbergia* 'Chalice'

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**IN THE GARDEN**

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Submitted by Barb Gardner



*Tillandsia* 'Tropiflora', cv of *fasciculata*



*Pitcairnia.* 'Bud Curtis' (*Pit. smithiorum* x *corallina*)

## BROMELIAD AND OTHER PLANT EVENTS, 2022

### February 12-13, Edison/Ford Winter Estates Winter Plant Festival

2350 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL, 9am-4pm each day  
(<https://www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/events/garden-festival-2/>)

### March 12-13, Leu Gardens Sale

Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 North Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL, 9am-5pm each day  
(<https://www.leugardens.org/plant-sale-march-12-13-900-a-m-500-p-m/>)

### March 26-27, Tampa GreenFest

Tampa Garden Club, 2629 Bayshore Drive, Tampa, FL, 9am-4pm each day  
(<https://www.tampagardenclub.com/event/tampa-greenfest/>)

### April 23-24, Green Thumb Festival,

Walter Fuller Park, 7891 26 Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL, 9am-4pm each day  
(<http://www.stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb/>)

### April 23-24, Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Annual Spring Plant Sale

Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford, FL, 9am-4pm each day  
(<https://www.sanfordgardenclub.com/sbtps>)

June 7-11, 24<sup>th</sup> World Bromeliad Conference, *The Big Show*, BSI's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sarasota, FL (<https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>)

## 2022 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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