



Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

December 2006

This Month's Meeting

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 5, 2006, at Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater. The doors open at 7 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

It's That Time Again – Our Annual Holiday Party!

For our party, we are asking that each and every member bring a dish to share. The club will provide drinks, a meat tray, rolls, condiments and a vegetable tray.

Each member should also bring a **nice potted bromeliad**. When you bring in the bromeliad, you will receive a raffle ticket. When your number is called you will be able to pick from any of the bromeliads that were brought in. The sooner your number is called, the more bromeliads you will have to choose from. If everyone brings a nice plant, everyone will go home with a nice plant! We will also have door prizes!

There will be no show & tell, no friendship table or raffle table at this meeting.

Dues

December is the first month we start collecting dues. Membership is \$15.00 per individual and \$25.00 for two or more family members. Please make your checks payable to FWCBS and give them to Gary Lund at the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please send your checks to Gary at 904 Oakwood Drive, Largo, FL 33770.

New Officers for 2007

The following members have been elected as officers for next year: President - Dave Johnston; Vice President - Linda Sheetz; Secretary - Judy Lund; Treasurer - Gary Lund. The Directors are Bob Albanese/ Marty Baxley, Michael Palandro and Bill Schumacher.

Last Month's Meeting

Our thanks to Kathy Risley and Steve Littlefield for their excellent slide presentation of this year's World Conference in San Diego. FWCBS members who were unable to attend the conference were especially delighted to see pictures of the event, as well as photos of well-known hybridizers, growers, and aficionados, whose names we hear regularly but haven't had the pleasure of meeting in person.

Ann Kavanagh is asking members to submit the name of a FWCBS member or former member to be honored on the Memorial Plaque at the Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo. Nominations must be received by the June meeting.

Linda Sheetz talked about discussions at the last quarterly meeting of the Florida Council. The next meeting will be on January 13th to be hosted by our society. John & Janet Bankhead have graciously offered to have the meeting in their home.





Show & Tell for November 14, 2006

- Tommy Crocker: Eight bromeliads severely chewed up by an unknown creature, possibly a young raccoon.
- Chip Hill: *Cryptanthus* 'Cascade'
Neoregelia 'Robin'
Tillandsia funckiana
- Dave Johnston: *Aechmea flavorosea*
Aechmea fosteriana x *A. gurkeniana*
Aechmea racinae
Billbergia amoena (stoloniferous form)
Guzmania sanguinea
Neoregelia carolinae x *N. nivea*
- Kathy Risley: *Aechmea seidelii*
Neoregelia olens 'Vulcan'
Neoregelia olens x *cruenta* 'Sun King'
- Linda Sheetz: *Araeococcus flagellifolius*
Billbergia 'Poquito Mas'
Tillandsia 'Creation'
Vriesea 'Pink Sensation'
- Helga Tarver: *Tillandsia* 'Eric Knobloch'
Tillandsia ionantha 'Fuego'



Araeococcus flagellifolius

Originally, there were 8 species in the *Araeococcus* genus. Two (*alvimii* and *pseudocatopsis*) have been reclassified to the genus *Lymania*. All are native to Central or South America. Of the pictures located, *Araeococcus flagellifolius* seems to be the only one with very thin, long leaves, growing to a height of 3 feet or so.

Bromeliad Weevil

Ann Kavanagh alerted us to the upsetting news that the Mexican Bromeliad (Evil) Weevil has been spotted in Brooker Creek Preserve in Tarpon Springs, as well as Titusville on the east coast of Florida. This is much too close for comfort, so we all should be on the look out for this dreaded invasive pest in our landscapes and greenhouses. You can learn about the weevil on the Florida Council's website www.fcbs.org, or there is a folder full of information in our FWCBS library. Biological control (the use of natural enemies to manage pest populations) is the preferred method of eradication in natural and native habitats. However, pesticides, such as Sevin, Dursban, and Marathon, can be used successfully in our yards & greenhouses.

Welcome!

We would like to welcome the following new members to our society: Barret Bassick, Randy & Denise Garcia and Marc & Brenda Turner. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Reminders

Guests are always welcome.

Bring a plant. Plants must have names and be sure they are free of scale.

Wear your name tag.



From The Editor

It has been an honor and a pleasure working on the FWCBS newsletters for the past year. I couldn't have done it without help from many of you, like Judy & Gary Lund, Linda Sheetz, Marianne & Bill Schumacher, Ann Kavanagh, Karen & Michael Andreas, and others. Of course, Helga was the most instrumental, providing the show & tell lists, bios of our speakers, and answers to a myriad of questions this novice had about anything and everything. Many thanks to all. Sadly I need to pass the torch to another member. If you would like a fun and rewarding stint as the next FWCBS newsletter editor, please let us know.

Judy VanNess