

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2019

Celebrating over 65 Years in Bromeliads

fwcbs.org



December 2019 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: Tuesday, December 3, 2019; 7:30 pm
Location: Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

PROGRAM

Holiday Party

The regularly scheduled December meeting night will be dedicated to our annual Holiday Party. The refreshment table is always loaded with great food and for that, we count on members and guests bringing a favorite dish (or dishes; don't be shy) to share to complete the evening's delights. Every member present will receive a bromeliad so be sure to wear your nametag to be eligible for these. For both members and guests alike there will be a Bromeliad Plant Swap and a Special Raffle. To participate in the Plant Swap, bring a clean, labeled, disease-free plant to swap for a plant someone else has brought to exchange.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

Marty Baxley presented a travelogue about his trip with his daughters this fall to Peru. One goal of the trip was to visit Machu Picchu, the famed 15th century Incan city that served as a royal estate for Incan rulers. It is located on a mountain ridge in the Andes at an elevation of about 8,000 feet above sea level. Marty entertained us with tales of the Peruvian culture he encountered, the people, the food, their towns and villages, and showed photographs of the people, places and plants, especially bromeliads, that he saw. One food delicacy they were served was cooked guinea pig, which one of his daughters, who is a veterinarian's assistant, could not (understandably) bear to eat. Marty said it tasted similar to chicken. (It turns out, people in a number of South American countries eat guinea pig.)

As the tour traveled to Lima and around Peru and up the mountain to reach Machu Picchu, they encountered a lot of bromeliads in their native habitats. They saw Aechmea, Alcantarea, Guzmania, Hechtia and Dyckia in habitats that included dry desert-like conditions, tree canopies, cliff faces (almost entirely covered with bromeliads), road sides and high mountain altitudes.

[Marty is a long-time FWCBS member and owner of Jungle Gems nursery,]

2020 OFFICERS and TRUSTEE ELECTION

At the November meeting members voted to approve the slate of nominees for our 2020 officers and trustee, as follows:

President	Barbara Gardner
Vice President	Richard Poole
Secretary	Brian Corey
Treasurer	Gary Lund
Trustee	Phil Monnig (three-year term, 2020 through 2022)

These people will serve on our 2020 Board of Directors along with four others: trustees Joe Ventimiglia and Karen Mills, Immediate Past President Dick Dailey, and newsletter editor Linda Sheetz.

SHOW AND TELL

Marty Baxley	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Secret Agent' (picture below) <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Zanzibar' (picture below), a Chester Skotak cross of (<i>carolinae</i> variegated x 'Hannibal Lecter') x 'Fairchild' x 'Bobbie Hull'
Dick Dailey	<i>Cryptanthus</i> "Strawberries Flambé', a Jim Irvin hybrid of <i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Diverse Pink' X 'Cascade' that grows hot pink with good light.
Barb Gardner	An example of an Aechmea that was planted too deeply in a pot and thus stymied vigorous pup growth
Dave Johnston	<i>Billbergia</i> 'Esplendido' x 'Casa Blanca' <i>Neoregelia</i> 'Hoopla' (picture below); a Ray Coleman hybrid that blushes a lavender color in the cup when the plant blooms <i>Tillandsia subteres</i> , sadly, with broken inflorescence (picture below). This bromeliad is native to only a couple of isolated canyons in central Honduras, where it is found growing at the base of cliffs, supporting itself against rocks and other plants. In cultivation it can be kept bare root, mounted or may be potted in a well-drained medium.
Franne Matwiczzyk	<i>Neoregelia</i> hybrid with <i>chlorosticta</i> parentage <i>Neoregelia</i> species or hybrid <i>Billbergia</i> 'Hallelujah'
Leo Saunders	<i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Cascade' (picture below), cv. of <i>sinuosus</i>
Brunilda Wicker	<i>Billbergia pyramidalis</i> with abnormal bloom stalk (picture below). (This bromeliad is also commonly known as Flaming Torch, Foolproof Plant, Summer Torch <i>Billbergia</i> , Red Torch, Red Flame, Queen Tears, <i>Billbergia</i> , Bubble Gum Blossom, Candy Blossom, or Hurricane Bromeliad.)

SHOW AND TELL PLANTS



Neoregelia 'Secret Agent'



Neoregelia 'Zanzibar'



Cryptanthus 'Cascade'



Neoreglia 'Hoopla'



Tillandsia subteres



Billbergia pyramidalis with abnormal inflorescence

The *Billbergia pyramidalis* pictured above with an abnormal inflorescence appears to be an example of 'fasciation', also known as 'creting' or cristate. This is a relatively rare condition of abnormal growth in plants in which the meristem (the growing tip) does not grow around a

a single point but instead becomes elongated or contorted. (At the September 2018 meeting Gary Lund showed us his *Aechmea* 'Star of Linda' as an example of this condition. You can see a picture and description of this plant in the FWCBS October 2018 newsletter.) The malformation has several possible causes, such as damage to the meristem, or hormonal, bacterial, fungal, viral or environmental conditions.

NEW MEMBERS and NAME CORRECTION

Alice Davis (picture on right) joined our society at the last meeting. Welcome, Alice. And the last newsletter welcomed new member David Steiner but with an incorrect name. Welcome again, David.



THIS AND THAT

Bus Trip to the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale and Show

As you are aware, our society is sponsoring a bus trip on Saturday, December 14 to the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society sale and show in Fort Myers. There are still a number of seats available on the bus, and the trip is now open to members and non-members alike. If you want to take advantage of this opportunity to acquire some great bromeliads at good prices, contact trip organizer Ashley Graham (email adglaw@gmail.com; phone 727-501-2872) to reserve a seat. After spending time at the CBS sale/show, the bus will make a lunch stop and on the way home stop at Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota.

Home Garden Tour and Social

The FWCBS Home Garden Tour and Social at Larry and Susan Sousa's home on Sunday, November 3rd was well attended and enjoyed by all. The hosts (pictured on the right) welcomed about 30 people to their large rambling garden on their approximately ½-acre property. The weather was perfect and the food, provided by Susan and others, was delicious. Below are pictures of people, food and plants there. (Note: About half of the pictures which were provided by Karen Mills.)



Hosts Larry and Susan Sousa







UPCOMING EVENTS, 2019

December 14-15, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale and Show

Araba Shrine Temple, 2010 Hanson Street, Fort Myers (bprevattppcc@aol.com; Larry Giroux, 239-850-4048)

2019 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Barb Gardner, oolayz06@gmail.com
Vice President	Richard Poole, rapoole4469@yahoo.com
Secretary	Brian Corey, bcorey2@tampabay.rr.com
Treasurer	Gary Lund, garybrom@yahoo.com
Immediate-Past President	Dick Dailey, richard@daileyadv.com
Newsletter Editor	Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com
Trustees (3)	Judy Lund (2017-2019), glund@tampabay.rr.com Joe Ventimiglia (2018-2020), ventimij@gmail.com Karen Mills (2019-2021), karen4photo@aol.com

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