

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2021

Celebrating over 67 Years in Bromeliads



DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING—HOLIDAY PARTY

Holiday Party

The good news is that we will be having a December holiday party this year, unlike last year when it was cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The better news is there will be no limit on the number of people who can attend, no masks will be required, and there will be a lot of food and refreshments to share, unlike the church's requirements where we use their meeting room for our monthly meetings. The best news is that we will be able to gather to share our love of bromeliads, and each member attending will receive a mature bromeliad.

This means there will be no meeting the first Tuesday of the month in December, when we typically hold the holiday party. In order to have a holiday gathering without the meeting room restrictions, the party will be held outside on a weekend, and in a member's garden. These are the details.

Date & Time: Saturday, December 11, 2021; 2 to 4 pm
Location: Susan and Larry Sousa's Garden
5400 Bates Street
Seminole, Florida 33722

Members are asked to provide a dish to share for a potluck dinner. Our members are noted for their food! Please bring utensils to serve whatever food you bring, if applicable, and chairs.

2022 Officers and Trustees Election

At the November meeting, members elected officers and trustees to serve on our 2022 Board of Directors, as follows.

President: Phil Monnig
Vice President: Richard Poole
Secretary: Brian Corey
Treasurer: Gary Lund
Trustee: Monika Hale, three-year term, through 2024
Trustee: Sandy Holloway, two-year term, through 2023, to replace Phil Monnig who was elected president

These people will compose the board along with four other board members: trustee Karen Mills (whose three-year term ends in 2022), Immediate Past President Kathy Risley, and newsletter editor Linda Sheetz.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

FWCBS History

At the November meeting Richard Poole discussed plans to gather material on the history of our society for a future article in the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) Journal. BSI has asked affiliated societies to prepare and submit such articles about their societies to help celebrate the upcoming June 2022 World Bromeliad Conference (WBC) in Sarasota, Florida. Member Alton Lee, who joined in 1974, wrote an article about our early history titled *Florida West Coast: A Trailblazing BSI Affiliate* that was published in the January-February 2002 issue of the *BSI Journal*. We will call on him and other long-time members to help fill in information gaps as we write our story.

Founded in 1954, our society has a long and interesting history and is among the first bromeliad societies (some say the oldest) to be recognized. The first meetings were held in private homes. When the raffle table concept was first initiated, bromeliads were still relatively novel, and a winning raffle ticket meant made the ticket holder was eligible to *buy* one of the raffle plants. In 1964, our society put on the first bromeliad show in the State of Florida. Steve Littlefield showed his original copy of an article in the then-*Clearwater Sun* newspaper, dated April 10, 1964, with a full-page article about the show and some of the people involved. Below is a picture from the article showing some of them, names some of our members will know.



Left to right, Jinx Watkins (Show Chairman), Dr. Morris Dexter and his wife, Dr. Helen Dexter
Source: *Clearwater Sun*, April 10, 1964

Kathy Risley showed us a poster with a collage (shown below) of some of the FWCBS members' in pictures taken March and April 2000. She had put the collage together to display at the 2000 World WBC that was held in San Francisco. Her goal was to make conference attendees aware of our group and to advertise the 2002 WBC that we were going to host in St. Petersburg in 2002. In the almost 22 years since then, a few of the people pictured have passed away (such as Helga and Tom Tarver, Helen Dexter, Andy Price, Fay O'Rourke, John Bankhead, Jinx Watkins, Jim Boynton) and a good number are no longer members, but there

are at least seven people pictured who are still members (such as Judy and Gary Lund, Kathy Risley and Steve Littlefield, Bob Albanese, Michael Kiehl, and Linda Sheetz). Can you spot them and others?



Collage of some FWCBS members, March, April 2000

WBC 2022 Display

It is a tradition for BSI-affiliated societies to make a bromeliad display for a world conference based on the theme of the conference. The theme for the upcoming Sarasota 2022 WBC is *The Big Show*, a salute to the Ringling Art Museum, Ringling Circus Museum, and Ringling Estate, all located in Sarasota. At the November meeting, Dick Dailey volunteered to help head up a group to put a display together for our society. Dick is famously creative and passed around a drawing he made of a display idea for consideration. It will take more than a village to put a display together, and members will be needed to join in the project with whatever skills they have, however humble they might be. Information will be available on how people can participate once a design for the display has been finalized.

Digital Membership Directory

Several months ago, members were asked to bring a favorite bromeliad to a future meeting so that we could take a picture of them with their plant. The pictures would then become part of a 'digital membership directory' the club is creating. On the right is a picture from last October of Monika Hale with one of her favorite plants. At the November meeting, other members brought in a favorite plant and had their picture taken for the directory. These are displayed in the Show and Tell section below. All members are encouraged to participate in creating the directory by bringing in a bromeliad at a future meeting.



Monika Hale with *Guzmania sanguinea*

SHOW AND TELL

MariaElena Marcet	<i>Tillandsia bulbosa</i> (picture below)
Sandy Holloway	<i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Strawberry Flambe' (picture below)
Franne Matwiczzyk	<i>Aechmea</i> 'Blue Tango'
Phil Monnig	<i>Aechmea nudicaulis</i> 'Frosty the Snowman'
Leo Sandman	<i>Dyckia</i> 'Southbay' (picture below)
Linda Sheetz	<i>Neoregelia</i> 'Chrissy' (picture below)

SHOW AND TELL PLANTS



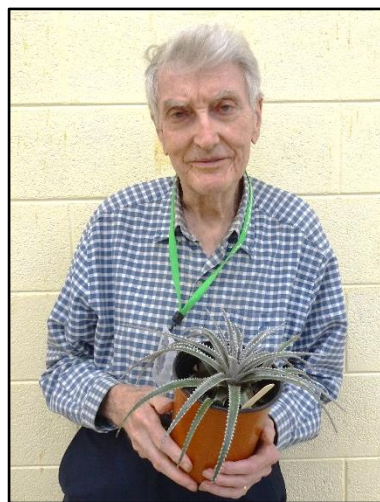
MariaElena Marcet with
Tillandsia bulbosa



Sandy Holloway with
Cryptanthus 'Strawberry
Flambe'



Phil Monnig with *Aechmea*
nudicaulis 'Frosty the
Snowman'



Leo Sandmann with *Dyckia*
'Southbay'



Neoregelia 'Chrissy'

THIS AND THAT

Dick Dailey, New Cryptanthus Society President

FWC member and past president Dick Dailey was recently elected to the position of president for the Cryptanthus Society. Since joining the FWC in 2009, Dick has discovered a love and enthusiasm for the genus *Cryptanthus* and has accumulated a nice collection of them, some of which he has eagerly shared with us. The Cryptanthus Society is a BSI affiliate and, in conjunction with the BSI world conferences, they have a separate Cryptanthus Auction. In the odd-numbered years between the world conferences, they host an International Cryptanthus Show.



The society is a national society with no local presence, so there are no monthly meetings, but it does publish a quarterly journal, *The Cryptanthus Society Journal*, available to their members. If you would like to join their society, download their membership information and application at this link--<https://www.fcbs.org/cryptanthussociety/membership.html>. For information about growing and cultivation of *Cryptanthus*, download their Cultural Brochure at this link--<https://www.fcbs.org/cryptanthussociety/culturalinfo.html>.

IN THE GARDEN

Barb Gardner



Werauhia sanguinolenta



Pitcairnia smithiorum



BROMELIAD AND OTHER PLANT EVENTS, 2021-2022

2021

December 4-5, 2021, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale

Edison/Ford Winter Estates, 2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL

Sat. 9 am - 4 pm; Sun. 10 am - 3pm

(<https://downtownfortmyers.com/event/bromeliad-plant-sale/all/>)

2022

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

2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL

(<https://www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/events/garden-festival-2/>)

April 23-24, 2022, Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Annual Spring Plant Sale

Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford, FL 32773, 9-4 each day

(<https://www.sanfordgardenclub.com/sbtps>)

June 7-11, 2022, 24th World Bromeliad Conference, *The Big Show*, Sarasota, FL

Celebrate BSI's 70th anniversary, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sarasota

(<https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>)

2021 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Kathy Risley, karisley@gmail.com ; linocut1@tamabay.rr.com
Vice President	Richard Poole, rapoole4469@yahoo.com
Secretary	Brian Corey, bcorey2@tampabay.rr.com
Treasurer	Gary Lund, garybrom@yahoo.com
Immediate Past President	Barb Gardner, oolayz06@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com
Trustees (3)	Joe Ventimiglia (2018-2021), ventimij@gmail.com Karen Mills (2019-2022), karen4photo@aol.com Phil Monnig (2020-2023), pjmonnig@gmail.com