

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 1:30pm.  
Colony in the Wood – club house  
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

January, 2015

## Happy New Year 2015!

**President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850**

**Vice President – Linda Stagnol 386/760-6842**

**Secretary – Ed Meiser 386/785-4830**

**Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041**

### Last month's meeting –

Once again, a great FECBS Christmas party! Thank you Rick and Francisco for all your hard work in pulling this together - the food was fabulous (as expected), but Francisco's home-made pumpkin soup was really out of this world! How does he do it?

The centerpiece competition gets tougher to judge each year and this year, rather than place the burden on one judge to decide the winner, we made it a "people's choice" award with everyone present voting for their favorite arrangement. The winner could have been any one of the entries, since they all looked terrific...and Brad – each year your decorative arrangement of bromeliads looks better than the previous year (I don't know how many of you were aware of it, but this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that past-president Bradley Rauch has brought in his display – the plants are doing really well and have gotten bigger and brighter colored each year!), but the votes were counted and congratulations to this year's winners Tree and Bill Hazard! The other entries ranged from the whimsical to the classically beautiful and all the entrants deserve to have photos of their masterpieces in the newsletter...and we'll do that as soon as I can round up photos of each one. It will probably be next month's newsletter before I can pull them all together.



The winning entry in the centerpiece competition

Calandra and I wish to thank everyone for that beautiful Rick Ryals original arrangement and for that generous gift card for Aunt Catfish's.



It has truly been a pleasure to serve as your president this past year and as your newsletter editors. We look forward to another great year for FECBS and, with apologies to the New York Times and their motto “all the news that’s fit to print”, we will continue with our own: “*all the news that fits, we’ll print*”. Send your photos and articles for the newsletter and we’ll fit them into each issue.

### **President’s Message –**

As we enter this New Year of new thoughts, ideas, commitments and resolutions I hope, as the FECBS President, to help our club grow in knowledge, size and enthusiasm!

We have been blessed (the last three years that I have been a member) to have two wonderful Presidents – Jay Thurrott and Rick Ryals. These men are professional, knowledgeable and experienced in every way. Now there’s me....I’m bad with names....I’m unorganized (but I have a wife who is)...I know little about most bromeliads....and I’ve never been the head of any organization in my life! Hmmm....That’s why I ran on the “Be Careful What You Vote for Ticket”.

The bright side is that with Linda Stagnol, Ed Meiser and Eve Krauth as our club officers, I have very good people surrounding me! Together, with your help of course, FECBS will thrive, spike and pup throughout 2015! We plan on staying the course that has worked with a few “tweaks” here and there. Maybe some trips to gardens and nurseries. Some “how to’s” and competitions thrown in to make our club exciting and inspiring to all. If any of you have thoughts (pro or con) please do not hesitate in contacting me as nothing is “set in stone”. So raise a glass to the New Year and let’s dive in together! I can’t wait.....

**Bill Hazard**

### **Out and about...**

Calandra and I were in Gainesville recently and had the opportunity to walk through a greenhouse that is used for therapy for patients at Shands hospital. It’s constructed specifically not only for handicapped access, but also with adjustable height benches for wheelchair access to the potting and growing benches.



Therapeutic greenhouse – note the pineapple on the bench in the far right of the picture.

Lighting and watering were programmable and automatically controlled – all in all a unique and very interesting greenhouse. After leaving the greenhouse, we followed one of the many paved walkways through a wooded area and soon came upon a bromeliad garden that was planted and tended by the Gainesville Bromeliad Society. Gainesville of course is quite a bit farther north than Port Orange and a whole lot colder in the winter than what we are used to, so if you wonder about the cold-hardiness of some bromeliad varieties, this is a good place to see how they fare. A little farther on the same walkway, we came across a memorial to Al Muzzell who passed away several years ago. A longtime member of that club and frequent guest speaker at our own society meetings, Al had made a study of which bromeliads appeared to be the most cold-

hardy. He had developed a list that is frequently referred to when selecting plants for the landscape.



Tribute to Gainesville's Al Muzzell.

### Plant Profile – What's light got to do with it? Part 2.

We often talk about plant selection for “full sun” or “shade” with regard to how well a bromeliad can be expected to survive given those light conditions, but there's another consideration we haven't talked about yet – overall appearance of the plant based on its exposure to light. It's not enough to just be able to keep a plant alive in your collection. You want that plant to look good – and by that we mean we would like to have optimum shape (conformation), color and markings on our bromeliads. Many bromeliad varieties will develop long and strappy leaves when grown under low light conditions while the same varieties will become much more compact with shorter, stouter leaves when grown in brighter light. Judges look for this when evaluating plants for awards in bromeliad shows. Another variable in the appearance of bromeliads that

is dependent on proper lighting is that of color and markings. As an example of this, I've included photos of a *Vriesea* that I've grown in my yard for many years. *Vriesea phillipo-coburgii* is usually recognized by its yellowish-green leaves with dark red marking on the leaf tips, but these markings only become noticeable when the plant is grown in bright light. The first photo shows an example of an offset from this plant grown under a heavy canopy of oak trees and the second is an offset of the same original plant, but grown under nearly full sun.



*Vriesea phillipo-coburgii* grown in shade – note the plain green leaves.

In addition to having lost its distinctive leaf tip markings, the shade-grown plant is nearly twice the diameter of its sister plant grown in full sun.

Which plant was grown under the right light conditions? That depends on your objective, but it may be difficult to define ‘right’ for light conditions.



*Vriesea phillipo-coburgii* grown in full sun



Distinctive leaf tip markings on *Vriesea phillipo-coburgii*

The shade grown plant was not only much larger than the sun grown *Vriesea* – the patch of shade grown plants has bloomed every year with a spectacular, colorful, branched inflorescence, while the clump of sun-grown plants has yet to produce a single bloom spike – probably the reason that this plant is known by some as “the bromeliad that never blooms”!

### **This month’s meeting**

In all of the holiday confusion, I forgot to touch base with our Vice President to find out what the program will be this month, but I’m sure that Linda not only has something in mind – it will be fun and educational. So, you won’t want to miss this, the first meeting of the new year!...and don’t forget Show and Tell! This is always a great opportunity to see what our club members are growing and what their experiences have been with their bromeliads.

### **Birthdays for January:**

Happy Birthday this month to:

Virginia Dornbach

Erna Jones

Chuck and Jacquie Mamele (*now that’s convenient – husband and wife have birthdays in the same month!*)

### **Looking ahead:**

#### **January 10, 2015**

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies quarterly meeting. Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida

#### **March 8-11, 2015**

1<sup>st</sup> World Congress on Bromeliad Evolution Pernambuco, Brazil  
[www.bromevo.net](http://www.bromevo.net)

#### **March 27-29, 2015**

Everybody’s Flower Show at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach

#### **April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Volusia County Master Gardener’s Plant Fair (or is it ‘Plante Faire’?) at the county fairgrounds in Deland. This is a half day sale and once again we have been invited to have a booth.

#### **September 26, 2015**

Bromeliad Extravaganza hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. “Bromeliads in the Magic City”. More details to follow as they become available, but mark that date on your calendar!

#### **June 13-19, 2016**

Start making plans now for the 22<sup>nd</sup> BSI World Conference hosted by the Houston Bromeliad Society in Houston, TX. Experience some real Texas hospitality!

