

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, January 8th, 1:30p.m.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

January, 2012

Welcome - 2012!

President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700
Vice President – Eretta Morris 386/677-9557
Secretary – Kimberly Ridenour 386/212-2781
Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/763-2084

...and welcome to our new slate of officers!

It's really gratifying and makes me proud of our group that we not only have club members ready to step up and take on the responsibility that goes with serving as an officer, but we even have more volunteers than we have officer positions – which resulted in the need to select from two candidates for V.P. in a run-off. That's an unusual occurrence and I think that many clubs around the state would be envious to find themselves in that position. More often than not, the same officers find themselves remaining in office for multiple terms because nominating committees are unable to find volunteers to serve. Thank you outgoing officers for your guidance this past year and thank you incoming officers for your readiness to volunteer! Please note that the phone numbers for our officers are listed in the heading of each month's newsletter in case you need to get in touch with them to discuss issues that may come up... or if you just want to chat. I'm sure that they will welcome your calls as long as they don't come at 2 in the morning!

This month's meeting...

We always enjoy our club's 'Show and Tell' and usually try to remind everyone to

bring a plant for this feature. This month we're going to ask everyone to bring their favorite bromeliad to show to our group...but don't stop there. We also would like you to bring the least favorite plant in your collection and tell us why you don't like it. This could be very interesting!

Everyone complains about the weather...

What a difference a year can make – in looking at past issues of our newsletter I see that last year at this time we were remarking that December 2010 was the coldest December on record for Volusia County; and we all know that when that thermometer drops below 32 degrees Fahrenheit (0 degrees Celsius for those more metrically inclined) out bromeliads suffer. Many of my plants developed cold damage even though they were covered in frost cloth and I'm sure that many of you noticed damage to your bromeliads as well. After enough consecutive days of cold weather, there just isn't any ground heat left to trap under that cloth and some of the more sensitive plants begin to decline. 2011 was a whole new year and December this year was much more horticulturally-friendly (if that's a word?). Let's hope that January and February of 2012 follow this same pattern and we can put the frost cloth away for next year!



12/15/10 temperature in Port Orange at 7a.m. The top number was the low for the day. The bottom number was the high – a range of 41 degrees!

Farewell to a friend.

Recently it was brought to our attention that our friend and occasional speaker for our monthly meetings Al Muzzel has passed away after a brief illness. Al was a long-time supporter of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and past chairman of that group, as well as past president of the Gainesville Bromeliad Society.



He will be missed by all who knew him!

When is an *air plant* not an air plant?

Maybe when it's growing in the ground. It's not often that we have the opportunity to see bromeliads in their native habitat. Recently Calandra and I were enjoying a cruise to some of the Caribbean islands and one of the shore excursions was on "Half Moon Cay", which is

a privately owned Bahamian island, known as "Little San Salvador" before it was acquired by the cruise ship line. While most visitors were more interested in parasailing or lying on the beautiful beach, we joined a 'bike and hike' group and managed to see more of the unspoiled portion of the small island. While hiking on one of the trails that continue where the paved road ends we noticed a number of large *Tillandsia utriculatas* growing in the ground, surrounded by small, shrubby and wind-swept trees. This is a bromeliad that is usually considered to be strictly epiphytic in habit. What few of these bromeliads could be seen attached to trees in the same area were very immature seedlings, probably only a few years old. In contrast, the plants in the ground were very large and robust. A few were currently in bloom and had produced their characteristic tall inflorescence – remarkable in size, but disappointing in lack of color. I have to wonder if high winds from passing storms had torn other *Tillandsias* from tree limbs, while those that had previously fallen from the trees and rooted in the mixture of coral rock and sand were able to better survive. Whatever the reason, it's always a treat seeing a healthy population of bromeliads in the wild!



Tillandsia utriculata growing on coral rock

A few pictures from last month's Christmas Party:



Our Treasurer recovers a penny from the floor while outgoing president Brad is all smiles as he leaves office. Meanwhile, incoming president Rick has just realized what he has gotten into and incoming Vice President Eretta wonders what the New Year will bring.



How could anyone resist this little puppy? – maybe next year we should have a ‘best decorated dessert’ award!



Charlotte Mueller won the best wrapped gift contest in the plant exchange



Incoming president Rick Ryals wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Upcoming Events:

January 14th, – Our Club will host the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies for their quarterly meeting.

January 21st, 2012

Halifax Council of Garden Clubs rummage sale at the William A. Finney Memorial Garden Center, 837 N. Oleander Avenue, Daytona Beach This is the sale date (Saturday), but please remember they are also accepting household items and plants up until Friday.

January 21st, 2012

Judges school in Ft. Lauderdale – our group of student judges will soon be graduating!

January 1-31, 2012

Tillandsia Plant Celebration at Bok Tower Gardens. 1151 Tower Blvd., Lake Wales. Call 863/676-1408 for details or go to www.boktowergardens.org (Tillandsia Plant Celebration?...sounds interesting. Now you know as much about it as I do!)

February 4th and 5th 2012

GardenFest at Riverside Park in Vero Beach. Orchids, native plants, ferns, bromeliads, furniture, pottery, food, seminars, etc. 3250 Riverside Park, Vero Beach. Open at 9a.m. each day. Call 772/567-4602 for details. www.gardenclubofirc.org

April 19 – April 22, 2012

Bromeliad Society of South Florida annual show and sale. More details when they become available.

September 24th-30th

2012 Bromeliad Society International (BSI) World Bromeliad Conference hosted by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies at The Caribe Royal, 8101 World Center, Orlando, FL 32821 – Check out the BSI website (www.bsi.org) or the Florida Council Website for the latest information.

