

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, January 13th, 2019 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

January, 2019

Happy New Year 2019!

Co-Presidents – Jack Dunlop and Chuck Mamale
386/236-8282 386/402-4830

Vice President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850

Secretary – Ruth Gessner 386/767-3499

Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041

Out with the old and...

...in with the new. As we begin another year with FECBS we are so sorry to see our past president Rick Ryals leave office and his beautiful home in South Daytona, but wish him all the best in his new home in Valkaria. At the same time, let's welcome our new co-presidents Jack Dunlop and Chuck Mamale as they take over the gavel for this, our first meeting of the New Year! Thanks also to Jane and Hedy for a terrific job as co-vice presidents during 2018! We now welcome Bill Hazard as he takes on those duties of vice president. I know that Bill has already been hard at work lining up some exciting programs for the upcoming year and we look forward to working with him.

Last month's meeting –

What can I say to describe it? Once again Francisco did a wonderful job of cooking the turkey, ham and beef (a tur-ham-be?). The side dishes and desserts that you all brought...just outstanding! A big thank you to everyone who pitched-in and helped set up the room for this event and to all of you who helped with the cleanup after.

Congratulations to Bradley and Jack and Kathy who were tied for the most votes

in the "members' choice "centerpiece contest – I don't think we've ever had a tie before in this competition and, in fact – all of the centerpieces looked great. It was difficult for our members to pick a winner!



The dessert table – shortly before the "stampede"!



Bradley's Christmas Neo. tree



Kathy and Jack's display – ready for the candles to be lit.

Here are just a few of the other beautiful centerpieces that our club members brought:



More photos from this year's Christmas party:



Calandra and Frankie – admiring the beautiful plants to be given away.



Gifts were presented to the outgoing officers





Left to right – Ruth Gessner, Jean Hochdoerfer, Hedy Quirk, Joe Hochdoerfer, and John Quirk



Winner of the 50/50 raffle – Lloyd Murphy

The Gorgeous Guzmanias

For many people, their first contact with the world of bromeliads is when they notice those colorful and exotic looking plants in hotel lobbies or airport entryways. The plants are always spineless (a good feature when an endless stream of visitors brush against them) come in a wide variety of colors and always seem to look beautiful. This group of plants is named in honor of the Spanish naturalist Anastasio Guzman, and although older publications have listed this Genus as *Caraguata*, *Devillea*, *Massangea*, *Schlumbergeria*, *Sodihoa*, *Theocophyllum*, what we know them by today is *Guzmania*. Guzmanias often are quite beautiful and exotic in appearance and are found in shaded, humid environments from Southern Florida through Central America, as far south as Panama. Leaves on this group of plants are

soft, smooth-edged and often have thin reddish lines or other markings on them. The long-lasting inflorescence is an extremely vivid combination of brightly colored bracts surrounding bright yellow or white flowers.



This Genus has been hybridized extensively through the years and in many cases, names have been lost or forgotten.



Guzmania Puna Gold used in a display.

Instead, they may be identified in stores as simply “white bromeliad”, “purple bromeliad”, or even just “colorful bromeliad”. That’s a shame too, since many *Guzmania* species are quite beautiful in their own right.



Guzmania donnel-smithii at Selby Gardens



Variegated *Guzmania sanguinea*

Like most bromeliads, Guzmanias can be very forgiving when grown in less than ideal conditions as long as they are not exposed to too much bright light. If you have a shady place in your landscape, this would be the spot for your Guzmanias. Recognize also that most Guzmanias will not tolerate very cold temperatures, so when the weather forecast is for temperatures to plummet – it's time to bring those Guzmanias inside until danger of frost or freezing temperatures is past!

Birthdays for January:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

Virginia Dornbach Erna Jones
Chuck Mamele Jacquie Mamele
Cricket Petrovich

Have you renewed your membership?

Aaah...so maybe that's why you're not receiving your newsletter? Don't put it off a minute more – send your annual membership dues to Eve Krauth. \$15 for a single membership, \$20 for your whole family. Now that's a real bargain!

Out and About:

Every year around the holidays we see those bright, cheery blooms from the *Aechmea Ortgiesia* group popping up in unexpected places. What is the *Ortgiesia* group? Australia's Derek Butcher and Peter Franklin put together a very nice article regarding this

group of small to medium sized bromeliads in the *Aechmea* Genus. You can read more about them by going to the FCBS website and looking up "*Aechmea gamosepala*" under the photo index – check it out! For now, let's just say that a feature shared by plants in this group is that they are native to SE Brazil – and we have heard it mentioned many times that bromeliads from this area tend to adapt quite well to growing conditions in east central Florida! This also means that this group of plants tends to tolerate those brief drops in temperature into the 30s quite well that we often see at this time of year. One of the *Ortgiesia* group most commonly seen in our area is *Aechmea gamosepala* – sometimes referred to as the "Ohio matchstick plant" due to its characteristic crossed light to dark purple flowers on a short inflorescence – resembling a "kitchen" match.



Aechmea gamosepala blooms provide height in addition to long-lasting color in this beautiful holiday arrangement created by Jane Villa-lobos.



Aechmea gamosepala in the landscape in Port Orange.



Another member of the *Ortgiesia* group in bloom in the Thurrott's yard. The tag that came with the plant in 2004 says "*Aechmea kerteziae* 'White Flowers'. The FCBS website says "*Aechmea gamosepala* var. *nivea*". One of the names is probably correct...or maybe neither one?



Another in the *Ortgiesia* group – *Aechmea gracilis*



...and still another form – *Aechmea winkleri*

Send in your photos and articles about bromeliad events, blooms in your garden, or newspaper and magazine articles that may be of interest to our members. Email to cajat@aol.com or mail to Jay Thurrott, 713 Breckenridge Dr., Port Orange Fl. 32127

Looking ahead:

January 16-19, 2019

TPIE (Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition)
Broward County Convention Center
1950 Eisenhower Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale, Fl. 33316

February 2-3, 2019

18th annual **Gardenfest** at Riverside Park
9am to 5pm each day. Free admission, plenty
of free parking. Over 85 vendors!
3250 Riverside Dr.
Vero Beach 32963

in Sarasota, Fl. Watch future newsletters for details!

February 23, 2019

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies first meeting of the year. Hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

March 9-10, 2019

Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale
Harry P Leu Gardens
1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Free Admission all Weekend to the gardens. Over 50 plant vendors.

March 30-31, 2019

Bromeliad Society of South FL. annual show and sale at Fairchild Botanic Gardens
10901 Old Cutler Rd.
Coral Gables, Fl. 33156

March 23, 24, 2019

Kanapaha Gardens Spring Garden Festival
Gainesville, FL
Remote Parking with shuttle service available at:

Celebration Pointe & Bass Pro Area:
4526 SW Archer Rd. Gainesville, FL 32608
9am – 5pm each day \$8 admission adults \$5 admission children under 13. 150 booths offering plants, landscape displays, garden accessories, arts and crafts, educational exhibits and foods.

April 6, 2019

Master Gardener's sale at Volusia County Fairgrounds. Half Day sale only!

May 10, 2019

Mother's Day Volusia County Orchid Society Show and Sale at Volusia County Fairgrounds

June 9 -13, 2020 I know – that's a long way ahead, but it will be here before you realize, so you should start your plans today for the BSI World Conference (WBC2020)

