

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, December 11th, 2016 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

December, 2016

Last Meeting of the Year!

President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850
Vice President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700
Secretary – Calandra Thurrott 386/761-4804
Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041

With the year 2016 drawing to a close, it's a good time to reflect on the past 12 months – and I've got to say, they've certainly been memorable! Let's hope that the upcoming year will be equally memorable, but perhaps in a less dramatic way with fewer national elections and no hurricanes or tropical storms. Merry Christmas everyone and a healthy and happy New Year!

This month's meeting – Christmas Party!!

Nobody has a nicer Christmas party than FECBS...thanks to our world-class chef Francisco and world-class party organizer Rick. The club will provide the main course for this year's dinner along with the tableware and drinks. The club members bring the side-dishes. Now, that can be anything that you like to prepare but let's not all bring the same thing!...and, as in past years we will be having a centerpiece competition – so, let your imagination run wild and let's see what you can create (using bromeliads of course!) around a Christmas theme. Last year's winner was featured in the Bromeliad Society International Journal!

Doozer Doo!!

It's that time once again to pay up – annual membership dues for FECBS are now due, so

either see Eve in person to renew your membership or send her a check to be certain that you can continue to be a part of FECBS for the year 2017. Still one of the great bargains of our time - \$15/single or \$20/family.

President's message –



In this season of giving, I ask the question "Why?" Why not all year? We have opportunities to "give" and make someone's day every day. To hold the door for another, to pay for the person behind us in a drive through, to compliment any aspect of what someone looks like, to bring homemade cookies to a new neighbor, volunteer at the VA or an animal shelter, encourage someone who is struggling, give a gift out of the blue, thank someone for what they have done in the past, say please and thank you.

As I headed home after the November meeting, I noticed the open garage door of an art teacher neighbor of mine. She had given me hints on how to make the mobile that I entered into our contest. I knocked and she came outside, visibly distraught and in tears. I asked what was wrong and she just said that she was having a really bad day. I came to find out that she is struggling with cancer. What could I do? After talking a little with her, I showed her the mobile and she just stared at it saying how beautiful it was. She couldn't take her eyes off it. I told her that it was hers and at that moment

the tears of anxiety turned to tears of joy. I made her day but in reality it really made my day.

The next day I brought a pair of high heel pumps to work to give to a woman on my route. Months before she had given me the shoes so I could root some small Neoregelias on them. Well, they rooted and I surprised her with the shoes/plants as a gift. She didn't expect to see those shoes again and the look on her face that I received was priceless. Again, I got more out of the kind act than she did. So you see, little acts of kindness (random or intentional) will bless you more when you give than the person who received them.

I want to thank you all for letting me be your president these last two years. I hope you have laughed and learned as I have. I want to thank Rick, Calandra, Eve, Jay and especially Bryan for the help and encouragement along the way. FECBS is a special group of gardeners who make leadership a lot of fun. I saw a tee shirt on a Pinterest site that might be applicable to many of you - it said, "I'm a gardener from my head tomatoes" (get it!?!?). So, as I head into the glue factory I wanted to take a light hearted look at a popular Christmas song all of you know.... "The Twelve Days of Christmas" - I tweaked the list just a bit...

- 12 Dickia "Dragon's Teeth"
 - 11 Pitcairnia "Pinot Noirs"
 - 10 Ananas "Jet Streams"
 - 9 x Neophytum "Blushing Brides"
 - 8 Neoregelia "Whatever's"
 - 7 Cryptanthus "Surfriders"
 - 6 Aechmea "Lemons"
 - 5 Guzmania "Rubys"
 - 4 Billbergia "Call of the wild"
 - 3 Hechtia "Fire Chief"
 - 2 Tillandsia "Dream Boys"
-And a Portea in a palm tree!!!!

I know, "don't quit my day job!", but hey, who wants to spend the \$34,130.99 it would cost to get all those birds and people (from the original version)? And besides, ladies dancing and lords a leapin' is not gonna happen in MY garden!!! Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and a wonderful, healthy New Year to All!!!

- Bill

Birthdays for December:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

Joan Campbell	Christophe Cardot
Jack Dunlop	Sudi Hipsley
Crystal Hughes	Marsha Tucholski

Last month's meeting –

Once again the members of FECBS outdid themselves; this time with the annual "mount your bromeliads on something unusual" contest. What a great bunch of entries, but congratulations in particular to our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners: Virginia Dorbach, Bill Hazard, and Brad Rauch! In fact, there were so many interesting ideas expressed in this contest that I thought it would be nice to give everyone one more look at these mounted displays. Here are some of the highlights of last month's meeting:



There was very good attendance at the November meeting



Thank you Bryan for providing these beautiful plants for the "sign-up" raffle!



Meditation is called for with this display of a native Tillandsia.



A mix of Tillandsias in coral rock



This entry has Francisco smiling.



Neoregelia 'Cheers' shows good root attachment



Neoregelia 'fireball' on a decorative piece of wood



On the leg of the bird...Tillandsia recurvata has been firmly rooted!



Tillandsia utriculata goes into the grinder and out comes Tillandsia usneoides!



The smallest entry? *Tillandsia ionantha*



A close-up shows that these Neoregelias are firmly attached to the ceramic beer bottle.



One of the biggest entries – also *Tillandsia ionantha*s and what a terrific clump of healthy looking plants!



Multiple plants are attached to this piece of driftwood



Bradley explains about his entry – "First you drink the beer..."



Who would have thought to attach a bromeliad to a pinecone?



A beautiful seascape – treasures from the sea combined with small Tillandsias



Nice arrangement on shell and rock



“There was an old woman who live in a shoe...”



Perhaps the smallest of the small entries?



New use for an old shower caddy



Rick with one of the more unusual plants donated for the raffle: *Aechmea milsteiniana* in bloom.

I’m sorry if your entry isn’t included here, but I’m not much of a photographer – not all of my photos came out looking good.

Looking ahead:

February 4th, 5th, 2017

GardenFest! Riverside Park in Vero Beach
15th Annual GardenFest hosted by the Indian River Garden Club. 90 vendors and attended by over 20,000 visitors last year – you should probably be one of them this year!

May 19-21, 2017(tentative date)

Bromeliad Society of South Florida annual show and sale

August 4, 5, 6 2017

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Extravaganza – hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay
Clarion Hotel
2701 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL 33612
www.clariontampa.com 813-971-4710

Make your Reservation

Ask for Bromeliad Extravaganza Rate
\$75.00 for single or double.

\$85.00 for triple/quad.

Complimentary hot breakfast included.
Rate guaranteed by hotel until July 13, 2017

Registration Form

Room rate \$75 with free parking Registration fee is \$125, includes a barbecue on Friday night and banquet on Saturday night. You won't want to miss this one!

May 29 – June 3, 2018

BSI World Bromeliad Conference in San Diego, California

Plan now for what is sure to be an exciting event!



[Register early \(click here\)](#): download the [registration form](#) and [flyer](#).

