

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Sunday, December 8th 1:00p.m.

Note the meeting time – it's earlier than usual!

Meet at LaCosta Village - 1275 LaCosta Blvd.

December, 2019

Christmas Party 2019!

Co-Presidents – Jack Dunlop and Chuck Mamale
386/317-0054 386/402-4830

Vice President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850

Secretary – Ruth Gessner 386/767-3499

Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041

Editor—Jay Thurrott 386-761-4804

This Month's Meeting:

No business meeting this month – just good will, great food, a 50/50 raffle and a chance to compete in our annual holiday centerpiece competition!



Christmas centerpieces from last year.

Regarding the dinner – first of all, note the time. We will start at 1:00 rather than 1:30 like usual. The club will provide the main course for the luncheon, the plates and cutlery, and the beverages. You, our membership, are asked to bring the side dishes and desert. We circulated a sign-up sheet at the November meeting and all present were asked to note what to bring. This will hopefully avoid finding out at the last minute that everyone has decided to bring their liver surprise family recipe. If you were not at last month's meeting, please contact your officers (their number is at the top of the newsletter) to let them know what you are planning to bring.



This was the scene last year – waiting to begin the holiday dinner.

Now, if you are unfamiliar with a 50/50 raffle, here's how it works: you buy (*that means you may need to bring some money with you. Tickets will be \$5 each*) a ticket or tickets for this raffle. You keep half of each ticket and the other half goes into a bowl. Meanwhile, the money from the sale of all tickets goes into a separate container. The winning ticket is drawn and if it is your ticket, you win half of the total amount that was taken in from ticket sales. The other half of the money goes to the club.

Also, as in past years we will be having a centerpiece competition at this meeting – so, let your imagination run wild and let's see what you can create (using

bromeliads of course!) around a Christmas theme. The membership will pick the winner and there will be a prize for the winner. The winner from three years ago was featured in the Bromeliad Society International Journal, so this is your ticket to fame and fortune!...well, maybe fame...probably not so much fortune.

Last Month's Meeting:

We were visited last month by Dennis and Linda Cathcart – owners of Tropiflora. Dennis shared a wonderful program with us from his early days of chasing snakes, to the beginnings of Tropiflora, to the fantastic Gardens by the Bay in Singapore – featuring astounding amounts of bromeliads provided by Tropiflora. Dennis brought some fabulous plants for sale and I think everyone came away from the meeting with a new “favorite bromeliad”. If you missed it, you really missed something special.



There was good attendance at the November FECBS meeting.

Also at last month's meeting we heard the recommendations from the nominating committee for our officers for 2020. This year the committee's job was pretty easy – all of the officers have agreed to stay on in their positions for another year. Thank you Jack, Chuck, Bill, Ruth and Eve for a great job last year and thank you very much for agreeing to continue as officers for the year 2020!!

Wish you were there to have a chance to purchase some of those outstanding Tropiflora plants that Dennis and Linda brought for sale at the meeting? You will get another chance in June 2020. Mark your calendars for the upcoming World Conference in Sarasota next summer. Register now before the December 31st deadline to take advantage of the current registration rate. Wait until after Dec. 31st and the rate goes up by \$30 – I'm sure that you can all use that extra \$30 by registering now - after all, \$30 can buy you a pretty nice plant at the conference plant sale! Visit the BSI website for details.



Dennis Cathcart – look for his soon to be completed book! One of the tours will be to Tropiflora, so you will get another opportunity to acquire some of those beautiful Tropiflora bromeliads that you missed out on last month!

Birthdays for December:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

Jack Dunlop	Sudi Hipsley
Marsha Tucholski	Sandi Wirth

Out and About:

Calandra and I were in Ft. Myers last month to help with school #2 in the current series of judges schools. Ft. Myers is a great place to visit. It's much farther south than Port Orange and they are able to grow lots of varieties of bromeliads in the landscape that

we find suffer in our cool winters. Here's an example that we saw growing in the landscape at the Edison House in Ft. Myers:



This is quite a large plant and, like many bromeliads doesn't have a common name. Instead you must refer to the totally forgettable name of *Aechmea cephaloides*. Great plant – good luck trying to grow one in the landscape in our area!

Announcements:

We began this last month to provide space to members who wish to announce an activity that they either are participating in or *supporting in some way*. These are not FECBS activities, but members may wish to participate on their own.

BSI Announcement:

Are you a member of BSI? That's the Bromeliad Society International, in case you were wondering. They are a wonderful organization and if you are not currently a member, they have just announced a terrific deal that you should seriously consider taking advantage of. Now, for a limited time during their current membership drive you can join BSI for just \$15!!! This is a one-time only special rate and it applies only if you are not currently a BSI member or have been a member in the recent past (in other words, it doesn't apply to renewals). Give it a try, after all, there's not much that you can buy for \$15 and this will give you a full one-year membership and allows you to register for the upcoming BSI World Conference in

Sarasota. To take advantage of this opportunity visit the BSI website at www.bsi.org for your membership application and further details.



**BROMELIAD SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

Sunday, March 29, 2019

SELL PLANTS AND KEEP ALL YOUR TAKE!

If you want to set up a table and tent on, you can bring any plants and related items to sell in the GARDEN OF EDEN!!!

One of our members, Roberta Sappington, is on the board of the Jewish Heritage Festival. They want pretty plants to grace a large area beside the Halifax River.

This large gathering which is held every 2 years in Ormond Beach will be at Rockefeller Gardens. It is similar in size and scope to Port Orange's Family Days. Though vendors must pay \$300-\$500 per space, they are not charging Garden of Eden sellers anything at all. Roberta needs to tell the board by February 1st how many tables and/or tents our folks want to bring so they can give an arrival and set up time that morning. Roberta has a banner that says GARDEN OF EDEN and can answer your questions

at rivkasap@aol.com.

Looking ahead:

December 14,15 2019

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale, Araba Shrine Temple in Fort Myers.
2010 Hanson Street
Fort Myers. FL
(Just south and across Cleveland Ave

from Lee Hospital)
Saturday - 9AM - 4PM
Sunday - 10AM - 3PM

January 18, 2020

Water-Wise Garden Fair
9am-12noon
200 Canal St., New Smyrna Beach

February 1,2 2020

Gardenfest
Riverside Park
3250 Riverside Park Dr.
Vero Beach 32963

February 22nd, 2020

First Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
meeting of 2020 – to be hosted by FECBS
(that's us! We'll talk about this at the January
meeting)

March 26-29, 2020

Bromeliad Society of South Florida
Annual Spring Show
March 26-29, 2020 Garden House 10901 Old
Cutler Road Coral Gables, FL 33156
(always a great show that also includes a
large section of student art.)

April 11,12, 2020

39th International Orchid and Bromeliad
Show
Flamingo Gardens
3750 S. Flamingo Rd.
Davie, FL

May 1, 2020

Redland International Orchid Show
Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187th Ave.
Homestead, Fl

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) in Sarasota, Fl.
It's not often that a World Conference is
held right here in our own backyard
(well, across the state from us anyway),
so this will be an excellent opportunity
for our members to see what these
events are all about! Watch future
newsletters for details!

