

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

1954-2016

Celebrating over 60 Years in Bromeliads

floridabromeliads.org



January 2016 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:

Tuesday, January 5, 2016
Doors open at 7 pm; meeting starts at 7:30

Location:

Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

Program

Charlie Birdsong, from the Bromeliad Society of Baton Rouge, will present a program titled *A Bromeliad Autumn in Australia*. He will talk about the 18th Australasian Bromeliad Conference he attended in Australia and then the month he spent visiting nurseries and growers' houses there. Charlie has been growing bromeliads for about 50 years, has many thousands of bromeliads and is a Master Judge. We hear there will be a lot of photographs of beautiful bromeliads.

Plant Sales

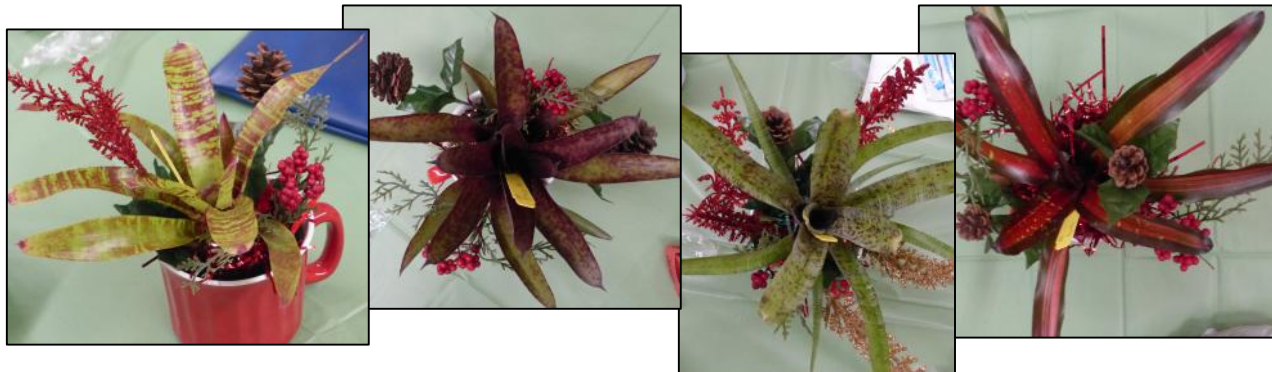
The speaker will be the sole plant vendor for this meeting and there will be no member plant sales.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Holiday Party

We enjoyed another lovely holiday party, and we give thanks to all those who contributed food, helped set up and clean up, bagged prize plants, decorated the room, handed out raffle tickets, bought raffle tickets, and/or donated plants to the event. All members present went home with one of the bagged surprise plants, a pup, or a centerpiece, and a lucky few also won one of the five spectacular raffle plants. Below are pictures of the party food, plants and people.

CENTERPIECES



FOOD



**PLANTS
Pups**



Bagged Surprise Plants



Raffle Plants

Donated by Marty Baxley (Jungle Gems), Dave Johnston (Bromeliads Galore), Grant Groves (Color Zone Tropicals), Michael Kiehl (Michaels' Bromeliads), and Dennis and Linda Cathcart (Tropiflora)



Aechmea tayoensis short petiole



Neoregelia 'Memorial'



Guzmania 'Sir Albert'



Aechmea 'Alvarez'

Neoregelia 'Acclaim'



Aechmea 'Deleon' dark form



REVELERS



Pretty in pink; Nicole with pink *Bilbergia* 'Simply Irresistible'





Golden Gloves and Tongs Award

Joe Ventimiglia, acting in his self-appointed, self-titled role as Minister of Unintended Consequences, presented Susan and Larry Sousa with a Golden Gloves Award to recognize them for all the work they do for our group. Susan also received the Golden Tongs Award for her always tasty culinary efforts for refreshments at monthly meetings and quarterly board meetings. Further proof: she provided at least six of the dishes at the evening's party.



Member Service Recognition Award 2015

At the December meeting, **Gary Lund** was recognized as this year's recipient of the FWCBS Member Service Award, and joins other members who have been honored for their contributions to our society and its goals. His name has been added to the FWCBS Member Service Award plaque that is on a boulder in the bromeliad garden at the Florida Botanical Gardens (picture on left).



Names of previous honorees on the plaque are, in chronological order from first to most recent, Faye O'Rourke, Anna 'Jinks' Watson, Morris and Helen Dexter, Alton Lee, Andy Price, Henry K. Rahmlow, Helga Tarver, Harry Luther, and Marian Snowdon.



Gary has served as our society's treasurer for over 12 years, first from 1998 through 2008 and again from 2014 to the present. He was the Financial Chair for the World Bromeliad Conference our society hosted in 2002, and recently served a term on the Bromeliad Society International Board as one of the directors from the southeastern U.S. region. He and his wife Judy chair the Raffle Committee, participate in our group sales, and contribute further by stepping in and helping with whatever other tasks are at hand.

THIS AND THAT

Bromeliad Christmas Tree



On the left is a picture of a 5- to 6-foot tall bromeliad tree on display during the holiday season at the Salvador Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg. It was assembled by member Nicole Matwijczyk who grew all the plants that make up the tree. Nicole says the 'star' at the top is *Guzmania* 'Kapoho Fire' variegated, just coming into bloom. The other plants, not all of which are visible in the picture, that make up the tree are *Guzmania* 'Denise' variegated, *Neoregelia* 'Morado', *Neo.* 'Imperfecta', *Neo.* 'Cookie', and Zygo (Christmas) cactus in several colors.

Note: Nicole also maintains the living bromeliad wall outside the museum's entrance and recently updated and refreshed it. Check it out. It does not require admission to the museum to view it.

New Members

Two new members joined in December – Nolan Marshall and Kate Wilson (picture on right). Please make them welcome to our group.



2016 Dues Payable in January

Society dues are payable in January and will be considered delinquent if not paid by the first of March. They are still a bargain at \$15 per year for an individual and \$25 per year for a household. You may pay your dues at the next meeting, or you may send a check, payable to FWCBS, to Treasurer Gary Lund, 904 Oakwood Drive, Largo, FL 33770.

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2016

March 4-6, Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Annual Show and Sale

Tampa Garden Club, 2629 Bayshore Boulevard, Tampa (bromeliadsociety@juno.com)

March 12-13, Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale

Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, FL (<http://www.leugardens.org>)

April 1-3, Tropiflora's Spring Festival

Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-351-2267 (tropiflora.com)

April 2-3, GreenFest Plant Sale

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL (friendsofplantpark.com/greenfest)

April 9-10, USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (cas.usf.edu/garden)

June 25-26, USF Botanical Gardens Summer Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (cas.usf.edu/garden)

August 20-21, Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale

The Garden Club of Sanford, Sanford, FL (*Ben Klugh at Klughka@yahoo.com*)

September 8-14, 22nd World Bromeliad Conference, Houston, Texas

(<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>)

2016 FWCBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President	Larry Sousa, lawrencesousa@yahoo.com
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Newsletter Editor	Linda Sheetz, lsheetz@tampabay.rr.com
Trustees (3)	Joe Ventimiglia (2015-2016), ventimij@gmail.com Barbara Stayer (2015-2017), bnice@tampabay.rr.com Sal Vactor (2016-2018), salbiah93hafiz@gmail.com

Website: floridabromeliads.org

Webmaster: John Edwards, JOHNRN56@aol.com

Contact: Judy Lund, 727-439-7782

Address: Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society, P.O. Box 4185, Clearwater, FL 33758