

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, December 12th, 1:00p.m.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

December 2010

Happy Holidays 2010!

President – Jay Thurrott – 386/761-4804
Vice President – Jerry O’Keefe – 407/767-2442
Secretary – Audrey Hayes – 407/421-4026
Treasurer – Eve Krauth – 386/763-2084

Thank you everyone who participated in the Artistic Challenge last month – that was an impressive group of entries and they really looked great! Congratulations Eretta Morris on having your entry chosen as the Best-in-Show!



Dean Fairchild and Eretta Morris with the winning entry

All of the entries were beautiful, funny, intriguing, thought-proving and just plain entertaining! The range of entries was truly extraordinary – from edible art to a suggestions for safety around the more prickly bromeliads.

This was a great idea for a club project and I look forward to other suggestions for future challenges.



We've all had those bad hair days!



Jerry O’Keefe’s decorative container drew many smiles



Mary's hand-dyed silk bromeliad in bloom

This month's meeting

In keeping with tradition – this month's meeting will be our annual Christmas party and thanks to Jean Hochdorfer, it will be at **Colony in the Wood**. Jean was kind enough to volunteer the club house at her development in Port Orange for our July meeting and it was so well received that there were many requests to have our Christmas get-together there also. Thank you Jean! **The address of Colony in the Wood is 4000 South Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129.** I hope to see everyone there and Please note that the time is one half hour earlier than normal – we will begin at 1:00 p.m. instead of 1:30. We started this time change quite a few years ago since some folks (myself included) can get pretty hungry by 1:30. Our Christmas party is always a lot of fun with plenty of good food (I know you are all either excellent cooks or know where to go for good food!) and some great plants in the plant gift exchange. We're asking each person to bring food. Now this can be most anything from a box of Little Debbie's from the corner 7-11 store to Oysters Rockefeller for 30 – whatever you are comfortable with providing! Just like in past years, we will also be having a Christmas Plant Exchange. These are always fun! Bring a nice bromeliad that you think the other members will be interested

in and wrap it, put it in a box, or bag it so that prying eyes can't tell what it is. As in past years, a prize goes to the best wrapped gift! We'll line the gifts up on a table and everyone who brings a plant for the exchange will receive a ticket. Tickets will be drawn one at a time and the owner of that ticket number will get to select from the wrapped gift-plants on a table. He or she then unwraps the plant and tells the rest of the group what it is. I know, sometimes it's difficult to tell and some of us didn't bring our reading glasses, so we can't read the tag but we'll have plenty of help to try to identify each plant. Everyone who brings a gift will get to select a gift. Bring family, friends - maybe even potential new members – this is a great way to get acquainted! Plan on having a relaxing afternoon with some good food, good company and, of course, nice plants!

What's in Bloom

We've got a few things blooming at the moment. I haven't had a lot of time lately to spend with my bromeliad collections, so it was a pleasant surprise to the following plants coming into bloom:

Aechmea gamosepala. This is an old favorite. It's a reliable bloomer and very forgiving when faced with hot, cold, dry or wet conditions – just an all around nice plant to have either in a pot or in the landscape. The colorful bloom spike reminded someone of a stack of criss-crossed kitchen matches, hence the common name (one of the few bromeliads with a common name) of the "matchstick plant" or "Ohio Bluetip".

Aechmea 'Lucky Stripes'. If you like *Ae. gamosepala*, you'll love *Ae. 'Lucky Stripes'* since it's the same plant, but with a nice variegated leaf pattern.

Aechmea disticantha var. *glaziovii*. *Ae. disticantha* var. *schlumbergeri* is a big, nasty, spiky plant. Back into it and you're liable to lose some blood from the puncture wounds. It's saving grace is that it has a very nice inflorescence that adds some color to the landscape each Spring. *Ae. disticantha* var. *glaziovii* has the same beautiful bloom, but is

less likely to inflict pain upon contact since it's a much smaller plant with much smaller spines its leaves.

Aechmea 'Suenos' is a small *Ae. recurvata* hybrid (crossed with *Ae. cylindrata*) that's as tough as nails and therefore, a good landscape plant. Each year around this time it sends up a small spike with colorful blue flowers and red bracts. Put a bunch of them together in a nice clump of plants and the effect is very nice.

Aechmea weilbachii forma *leodiensis*, like the other forms of *Ae. weilbachii* is difficult to keep looking good. It seems to like to let its outer leaves die and turn papery white. I don't know if this provides protection for the inner, living leaves but it sure is annoying. Fortunately, it produces a nice thick, colorful bloom spike that encourages me to continue to try to grow this plant without losing those outer leaves...no luck so far.

Upcoming Events:

December 4th, 5th, 2011

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Plant Sale
(no show this year)
Terry Park, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Ft. Myers

January 9th, 2011

Quarterly meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies- hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

March 26th and 27th, 2010

The Bromeliad Society of Broward County and the GFWC Plantation Woman's Club – Bromeliad show and sale. 9-5 Sat., 9-4 Sun. at Volunteer Park Community Center, 12050 W. Sunrise Blvd., Plantation, Fl. 33323

April 2nd, 2011

Spring Master Gardener's sale at the Volusia County Fairgrounds

April 16th, 2011

South Florida Bromeliad Society show and sale at Fairchild Gardens in Miami

April 30th, 2011

Sarasota Bromeliad Society show and sale at Selby Gardens in Sarasota

