

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, December 11th, 1:00p.m.

Colony in the Wood – club house

4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

December, 2011

## Merry Christmas 2011!

**President – Bradley Rauch – 386/767-8937**

**Vice President – Rick Ryals – 386/679-8700**

**Secretary – Eretta Morris – 386/677-9557**

**Treasurer – Eve Krauth – 386/763-2084**

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### **Can you believe it?...**

...another year is about to come to an end. And what a year it has been for FECBS! We've had some great visiting speakers during 2011; we've got 4 club members who are progressing nicely as student judges and will soon become BSI accredited bromeliad show judges; and, of course, our group has just hosted the 2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza – with great success! It's been a great year and I look forward to another great year in 2012 – much of which can be attributed to our leadership. Thank you, FECBS officers for a job well done!

### **This month's meeting -**

#### **Christmas Party 2011**

At this month's meeting, we will once again gather to enjoy a wonderful Christmas Party at the Colony in Wood – Clubhouse. Please remember we will meet at a special time of 1:00pm. With over twenty folks already signed up to bring side dishes we are well on our way to a great feast. The club will provide the main dishes of turkey and a spiral cut ham, along with all the paper products, eating utensils and beverages. If you missed our last meeting, and were unable to sign up for a side, no problem. We ask that each member bring a side dish and a serving utensil. Please mark your dishes and serving

utensils with identifying marks. Bring your appetite, we have some delicious food and desserts coming!

### **Holiday Gift Exchange 2011**

As a part of our Christmas Party we will also once again repeat our ever popular bromeliad plant exchange. In order to participate in receiving a gift you'll have to bring one. Please conceal/wrap your plant so that no one knows if there getting a huge Aechmea or a tiny Tillandsia. What ever you bring, make certain that it's a nice, clean plant. It doesn't have to be expensive or rare, just a nice plant. This is all about sharing 'bromeliads'!

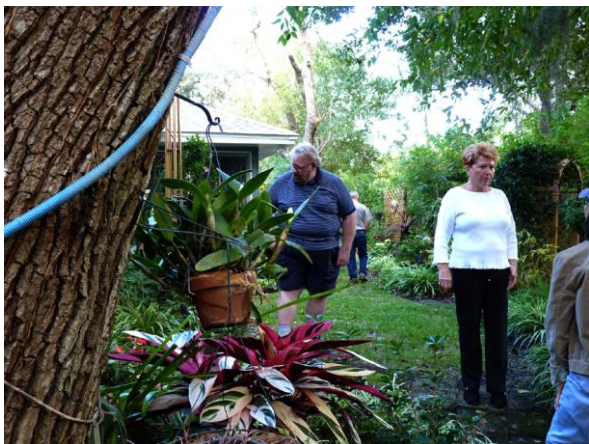
After this month we promise to stop changing the meeting time. Last month we changed the time to 12:30 since we had a lot of ground to cover with the "Ramble" – which by the way, was a lot of fun and I look forward to our next one. This month we're changing the time to 1:00p.m. (another departure from our usual 1:30p.m.). January's meeting – back to 1:30 and that's where it will stay...unless you all want to change it again...

### **Last month's meeting**



The "Littlest Rambler" shows off the "Littlest Frog" at Erna's home - hope Christoph checked her pockets when she got home!

In November we met at Sugar Mill Gardens for a brief meeting where we discussed the recent Extravaganza and from there went on a "Garden Ramble" in Port Orange to the homes and yards of Erna Jones, Brad and Marilyn Rauch, and the Thurrotts. Plans are already being discussed for the next "Ramble" - this time to the Ormond Beach area.



Thank you Erna for inviting us to your home - it was a perfect day for a visit!

*Bilbergliana* - a new Season!

by Bill McBride

So, this is the beginning of *Bilbergliana*, that magical season when all those wispy tall plants display their wonders. So far my 'Poquito Mas' has bloomed, my 'Pink Patches' are blooming in shifts, a plant I



thought was an *Aechmea* has a gorgeous red inflorescence with ink blue flowers with yellow stamens. Not to be outdone, my 'Violetta' has a bloom starting, as does my 'Las Manchas'... I also had a *Canistrum* bloom and one of those Wal-Mart *Guzmanias*



I saved has a bloom on it. My Christmas cactus will hurt itself if it doesn't lay off the caffeine and no-doze! Seriously, this plant is going to burn itself out soon. It won't be a good



*Bilbergliana* season unless my helicoids and 'Casa Blanca' bloom...not sure when either is supposed to happen, but the only helicoid I've seen blooming is a *B. rosea* in October. The newly created and soon to be patented *Bilbergliana* is a time of dressing festively,

being a bit over the top, giving outlandish gifts, and disappearing quickly so as not to overstay your welcome. Oh well- time to go put up the makeshift green house and start moving plants in... oh what fun... Is there a shot for this seasonal Bromeliad related syndrome? Take two Fa-la-las and a sip of Deck-the-Halls?

### **Meeting Topics & Goals for 2012**

We want our 2012 Club Officers to have a good start and a successful year. Would you take a few minutes to write down or email a few thoughts/comments/challenges of our past year and what you would like to see in 2012? We've had some wonderful speakers this past year and a very successful Garden Ramble at our last meeting, not to mention hosting a incredible Bromeliad Extravaganza. Perhaps you would like to see us continue the current path or do something new? Field Trip – Where? Overnight? More Garden Rambles? More or less speakers? Speaker Topics? Hands on workshop? More plant sales (vendor or member) at our meetings? We really want to know, please give or forward your thoughts and suggestions to Rick, [rickryals@bellsouth.net](mailto:rickryals@bellsouth.net).

### **Thank you, Thank you!**

On behalf of Rick, Eretta and Eve, I want to thank everyone for all your help and support this past year. We have had a very successful year. We have grown year over year in membership, our very own Jay Thurrott, was elected President of the Bromeliad Society International, Calandra, Eve and Rick continue to study away as BSI Student Judges, we hosted a very successful Bromeliad Extravaganza, the return of the Garden Ramble and learned a lot about bromeliads all year long! All while enjoying a lot of fellowship and fun! We are one busy group!  
Special thanks to our very special members:  
Jay & Calandra Thurrott – Ever ready educational speaker, Representative to the Florida Council of Bromelaid Societies, editor

and publishers of our beautiful monthly newsletter.

Joan Campbell – Representative to the Halifax District of Garden Clubs and club

hospitality chair providing beautiful themed set ups at each of our monthly meetings.

Steve Provost – Representative to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and a great advisor.

Jean Hochdoerfer – Club house organizer and ever ready helping hand.

Colony in the Wood, Owner and Staff – Our great, sunny, spacious meeting location for which we are forever grateful.

Bromeliad Extravaganza, Volunteers – Every member who did even the smallest thing to make the event the huge success it was.

I hope each of you and your families enjoy a wonderful Christmas Season and the very best health and happiness in the New Year!

**Brad**

### **Tropiflora Free Delivery Opportunity**

The Garden Club of the Halifax Country will host an informative talk on, “Succulents and Other Garden Treasures” from our good friend, Dennis Cathcart, of Tropiflora on January 17th, 11:00am at the Anderson-Price Memorial Building, 42 North Beach Street, Ormond Beach.

If you're not receiving Tropiflora's weekly, released on Monday, VIPP sales page, you're missing some great plants and some great prices. We spoke with Dennis and he said, he would be more than glad to bring any web purchases with him to Ormond Beach for pick up on January 17th, with no delivery charges. Go to [tropiflora.com](http://tropiflora.com) to sign up for their VIPP Special Emails. This garden club event is open to the public and of course beautiful plants will be available for sale. With a topic like, “Succulents & Other Garden Treasures” I bet there will be a good amount of discussion on bromeliads. After all, we think all bromeliads are a treasure!

### **Upcoming Events:**

**January 14th,** – Our Club will host the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies for



their quarterly meeting in Daytona Beach. Location and times to be announced.

**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012**

Halifax Council of Garden Clubs rummage sale at the William A. Finney Memorial Garden Center, 837 N. Oleander Avenue, Daytona Beach This is the sale date (Saturday), but please remember they are also accepting household items and plants up until Friday.

**January 1-31, 2012**

Tillandsia Plant Celebration at Bok Tower Gardens. 1151 Tower Blvd., Lake Wales. Call 863/676-1408 for details or go to [www.boktowergardens.org](http://www.boktowergardens.org) (Tillandsia Plant Celebration?...sounds interesting. Now you know as much about it as I do!)

**February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2012**

GardenFest at Riverside Park in Vero Beach. Orchids, native plants, ferns, bromeliads, furniture, pottery, food, seminars, etc. 3250 Riverside Park, Vero Beach. Open at 9a.m. each day. Call 772/567-4602 for details. [www.gardenclubofirc.org](http://www.gardenclubofirc.org)

**April 19 – April 22, 2012**

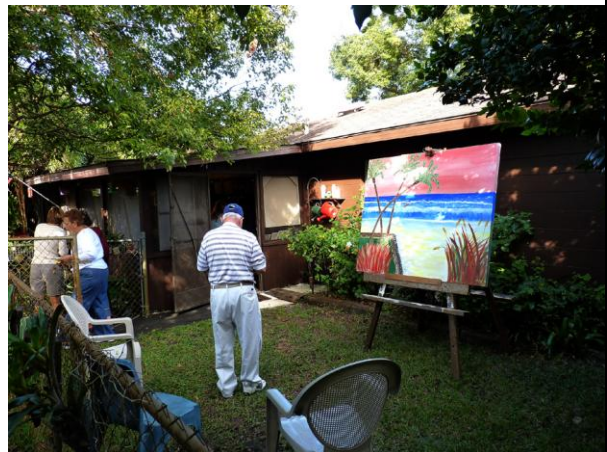
Bromeliad Society of South Florida annual show and sale. More details when they become available.

**September 24th-30th**

2012 Bromeliad Society International (BSI) World Bromeliad Conference hosted by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies at The Caribe Royal, 8101 World Center, Orlando, FL 32821 – Check out the BSI website ([www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org)) or the Florida Council website([www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org)) for registration information.



Alan Herndon from the Bromeliad Society of S. Florida (BSSF) talking with ‘The Art of Bromeliads’ winner Urszula Dudek – also a member of BSSF



One of Brad’s works of art on display during the recent Ramble.

