

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, February 10th, 2019 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

February, 2019

Happy Valentine's Day!

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

Last month's meeting –



It's typically a busy head table before the meeting gets underway!

BSI recently announced the date and location for the next Bromeliad World Conference and so, we thought that it would be appropriate to show photos from the 2016 World Conference that was held in San Diego, California to give our members a taste of what world conferences are all about. The PowerPoint presentation showed what to expect from one of these events – the banquet, the seminars, the judges school, the judged bromeliad show, tours of nearby gardens, not to mention the people from all over the world and, of course – the bromeliads! As the name implies, BSI World Conferences have been held in many far-

flung locations around and even outside of the continental US. – making them both difficult and expensive to visit, but the upcoming 2020 conference will be right here in Florida in Sarasota! Watch for further information as it becomes available, but begin planning now to attend what is sure to be an unforgettable bromeliad event.



Vice president Bill Hazard conferring with co-president Jack Dunlop.

Last Month's Show and Tell – Revisited:

We had some really interesting plants for our Show and Tell feature at last month's meeting. This is a bit of an update on those plants:

Bill brought in a *Guzmania monostachia* in bloom. That's not easy to do as the bloom

on this plant, unlike many *Guzmanias*, is quite short lived.



Guzmania monostachia

Here's another picture of a bloom on one of these plants – this one I took a few years ago when visiting Selby Gardens where a *G. monostachia* bloom was at its peak, but before the white flowers (shown on Bill's plant above) began to peek out from between the bracts:



Guzmania monostachia is a relatively small plant with soft, somewhat glossy green leaves. Although a Florida native plant, *Guzmania monostachia* is found as far south as Panama. Panamanian plants tend to have more brightly colored inflorescences than the Florida form and an even less colorful 'alba' form found in the Dominican Republic has green floral bracts surrounding the pale white flowers. There is also a variegated Florida form, first described before 1935 and found in Collier, Dade, and Monroe counties - noteworthy in that it reputedly grows true from seed (BSI Journal Vol. 33, No.2; Vol. 37, No.4). Very few variegated bromeliads

retain their variegation when grown from seed.

Bill had also brought in a beautiful *Aechmea Blue Tango*. The bloom on this plant is instantly recognizable by its eye-catching and long-lasting inflorescence. What many don't realize is that this 'electric blue' color is provided by the floral bracts and not by the flowers.



Inflorescence of *Aechmea Blue Tango*.

Picture below is a close-up showing the flower bud and the bracts retaining their color beneath a spent blossom.



It's difficult to find a bromeliad in anyone's collection that is at its peak in beauty at the same date as a scheduled FECBS meeting. Such was the case with the Show and Tell plant *Fernseea bocainensis*. This curious plant resembles a tuft of grass until it begins its bloom – at which time a dark pink inflorescence rises from the tuft topped with a pink clubhead...but that's not all! When the bloom nears maturity the clubhead bends downward at a 90 degree angle, making it look like a snake raising its head from a clump of grass to have a look

around. Only then do the actual flowers make their appearance.



Fernseea bocainensis bloom.

This Month's Meeting:

Dave Johnston of Bromeliads Galore in Pinellas Park will be visiting us and will present a program on that interesting group of plants known as the *Billbergias*. Dave has been a collector, grower, and hybridizer of bromeliads for over 20 years and will be sharing some of his knowledge regarding the culture of *Billbergias* with our group.



Dave Johnston – photo from his last visit to FECBS

You won't want to miss this one and, yes, Dave will be bringing a wonderful assortment of bromeliads from his greenhouses to sell to our eager members.

Also at this month's meeting...

Don't you just hate it when you go to cut something and find your knife or shears to be so dull that you end up tearing what you intended to neatly cut? It happens to everyone and unless you sharpen your knives

and garden shears on a regular basis, it will continue to happen. Help is on the way! This month we will be visited by Carey Strickland, owner of "The Sharper Edge" a mobile sharpening service out of Flagler Beach.



Bill has arranged for Carey to be here at our meeting place where he will be available to sharpen those dull shears and knives, so bring them with you to the meeting – just don't run with them...everyone knows that you shouldn't run with scissors. We've also been advised that Carey will not sharpen your sawblades, chainsaws, outboard propellers or old rusted tools that were dug up in the yard when you were plowing the back 40. Leave those at home, but bring in garden shears and they can be made to cut even better than when they were new!

Birthdays for February:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS member (there's only one this month!):

Janet Chase

...and, by the way –

If you have been trying to get hold of our co-president Jack Dunlop, please note that last month's listing of his number in the newsletter was incorrect. The correct number is 386/317-0054. Very wise move – changing your number to reduce the number of phone calls coming in!

Out and About:



I always look forward to seeing what Charlotte Mueller has been up to lately. Her imaginative displays frequently combine the use of bromeliads in a seashore theme. Here she has placed two *Tillandsia xerographicas* in a Christmas scene - all on a starfish table runner. Just beautiful!

I've been asked a few times lately "what's the difference between *Quesnelia marmorata* and *Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman', so I thought these photos might clear up any confusion. *Quesnelia marmorata* resembles a typical *Billbergia* with its tubular shape and *slightly* flaring leaf tips.



Quesnelia marmorata in California collection.

Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman' is a cultivar of *Q. marmorata* that takes things to the extremes with its very curly leaf tips. Even the bloom is more flamboyant than that of its cousin.

The inflorescence is larger, more colorful and longer lasting than *Q. marmorata*.



The unmistakable curl to the leaves identifies this as *Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman'

According to the BSI Cultivar Registry, *Quesnelia* 'Tim Plowman' was registered as a cultivar in 1983 following collection of this plant in the wild by D. Sucre in Rio de Janeiro. The plant was given an identification number of "Plowman 12968".



What is it? *Aechmea gamosepala*, with its distinctive "crossed matchstick head" is usually in bloom in our area from December until February.

Send in your photos and articles about bromeliad events, blooms in your garden, or newspaper and magazine articles that may be of interest to our members. Email to cajat@aol.com or mail to Jay Thurrott, 713 Breckenridge Dr., Port Orange Fl. 32127

Looking ahead:

February 2-3, 2019

18th annual **Gardenfest** at Riverside Park 9am to 5pm each day. Free admission, plenty of free parking. Over 85 vendors! 3250 Riverside Dr. Vero Beach 32963 (Tropiflora will be there as a vendor!)

February 7-18, 2019

Florida State Fair in Tampa
Look for the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay sales booth!
4800 US Highway 301 North, Tampa 33610

February 23, 2019

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies first meeting of the year. Hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. Our representatives are Jack and Calandra – see them if you have any concerns to be brought before the council. That is the purpose of our reps!

March 9-10, 2019

Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale
Harry P Leu Gardens
1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Free Admission all weekend to the gardens. Over 50 plant vendors.

March 30-31, 2019

Bromeliad Society of South Fl. annual show and sale at Fairchild Botanic Gardens
10901 Old Cutler Rd.
Coral Gables, Fl. 33156

Please note that this is the correct date for this event. Previous listings have been incorrect.

March 23, 24, 2019

Kanapaha Gardens Spring Garden Festival
Gainesville, Fl

Remote Parking with shuttle service available at:

Celebration Pointe & Bass Pro Area:
4526 SW Archer Rd. Gainesville, FL 32608
9am – 5pm each day \$8 admission adults \$5 admission children under 13. 150 booths offering plants, landscape displays, garden accessories, arts and crafts, educational exhibits and foods.

April 6, 2019

Master Gardener's sale at Volusia County Fairgrounds. Half Day sale only!

April 13 – 14, 2019

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale

Location: The Garden Club of Sanford, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford 9:00 - 4:00

In air-conditioned building

Huge selection of bromeliads in many genera, orchids, aroids, gingers, other tropical plants, gift baskets, hand crafted slat baskets in several sizes. Members will be available to answer your questions.

May 10-12, 2019

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Annual Mother's Day Show and Sale Fashion Square Mall, 3201 E. Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32803 Friday and Saturday: 10 am – 9 pm Sunday: 11 am – 6 pm

May 11--12, 2019

Mother's Day Volusia County Orchid Society Show and Sale at Volusia County Fairgrounds

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. Watch future newsletters for details!

August 17 – 18, 2019

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale

Location: The Garden Club of Sanford, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford 9:00 - 4:00

In air-conditioned building

Huge selection of bromeliads in many genera, orchids, aroids, gingers, other tropical plants, gift baskets, hand crafted slat baskets in several sizes. Members will be available to answer your questions.

Information on registration for this event will be passed along as it becomes available, so watch for future announcements!

September 20 – 2, 2019

2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida.

Location: [SpringHill](#)

[Suites](#) & [TownePlace Suites](#), 8040 Palm Parkway, Orlando Lake Buena Vista (near Disney Springs). This is a Marriott property with the two hotels being connected. The rate will be \$85 per night (taxes are additional). When you make your reservations you must mention The Bromeliad Extravaganza for this special rate. You can call today. The hotels will also have a limited number of rooms 5 days before and 5 days after at the same rate for those that might wish to make a vacation at Walt Disney World or the other area attractions. This rate also includes a complimentary hot breakfast. The rooms at Towneplace Suites include a kitchenette. The rooms at SpringHill Suites include a mini fridge and microwave and a pull out (trundle) sofa bed. So make sure which hotel you prefer when you call to make your reservations, either SpringHill or Towneplace.

