

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Sunday, February 9th, 1:30p.m.
Meet at La Costa Village - 1275 La Costa Blvd.

February, 2020

All Eyes are on Punxsutawney Phil!

Co-Presidents – Jack Dunlop and Chuck Mamale
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Vice President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850

Secretary – Ruth Gessner 386/767-3499

Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041

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Six more weeks of winter...or an early spring?

I don't think the answer to that can be determined by a groundhog. After all, we don't even have groundhogs in Florida, so what could a rodent living in Pennsylvania possibly know about our weather conditions in Florida? Instead, I look for a more reliable forecaster – the Daytona 500. Once that race date arrives at the Daytona Speedway, past experience tells me that the chances of a sudden freeze in our area are greatly diminished. Granted, we can still see some cold weather well into the month of March (Bike Week in Daytona sometimes has weather so cold that the bikers spend all their time at the local bars rather than roaming the countryside on their steeds) but we probably will not see temperatures fall into the low 30s in either late February or early March. What does all of this mean to those of us who are anxiously awaiting spring before separating and potting up all those offsets that we've been watching grow larger and larger for the past several months? Patience. Wait a little longer, maybe until mid-March, before diving into this chore.

This Month's Meeting:

Bob Smedley will be visiting us from his home in Orlando and will talk to our group

about "mounting bromeliads". The following excerpts regarding Mr. Smedley are taken from the March 2019 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida newsletter:

Bob Smedley will be speaking on Mounting Alternatives for Bromeliads. Bob is a native of Orlando. He first was introduced to bromeliads in 1974 by his mentor, Bill Frase...Bob is a landscape bromeliad grower...Bob's presentation will demonstrate mounting options that can add dimension to your bromeliad landscape journey.

Last Month's Meeting:

Pinky Ormand of Life Palette joined us to introduce us to the potential offerings of Hypertufa. She narrated a very interesting slide presentation regarding this material and brought with her an amazing array of hypertufa pots and potted succulents for sale.



Attendance is always good at FECBS meetings!



Pinky Ormand (on left) with some of her creations.



Also at last month's meeting, we learned from our Treasurer that we finished up the year 2019 with pretty much the same amount in our treasury as when the year started last January. Thank you Eve for your excellent record-keeping and for your always interesting Treasurer's reports!

Jane Villa-Lobos won the door prize for January – A beautiful *Neoregelia Donna*. Congratulations Jane!



Photo of *Neoregelia Donna* by Pam Flesher from the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry

Birthdays for February:

This is always the month with the fewest birthdays.

Happy Birthday Jim Moore and Cindy Pitts.

Out and About:

Bill Hazard sends this pretty picture of his variegated *Aechmea mexicana* in his yard in Ormond Beach:



We've had an unusual number of *Billbergias* recently that erupted into their beautiful but

short-lived blooms. This first one is of *Billbergia reichardtii*. This is a very small species *Billbergia* (barely 5" tall) that was given to me some time ago by Al Muzzel of Gainesville and somehow or other I either blinked and missed the bloom in past years or it just hadn't bloomed until this January.



This second picture is of *Billbergia White Cloud*. This plant is also small, but a bit larger than the previous plant. It more than makes up for its small size by its beautiful foliage and inflorescence!



Billbergia White Cloud inflorescence.

Many people think of bromeliads as being exotic and foreign plants, but they forget that at least 16 different native species of bromeliads (plus two natural hybrids) live right here in Florida. During a recent visit to Reed Canal Park in South Daytona I happened to look up when an airplane flew over and noticed that many of the trees in the park had large clumps of *Tillandsia bartramii* attached to them.



Tillandsia bartramii on tree trunk in South Daytona

Tillandsia bartramii is named in honor of William Bartram, who travelled extensively through Florida in the 1700s and described the flora and fauna that he encountered in his wanderings. This plant is probably the most cold-hardy of the Florida bromeliads and is found more often in the central and northern portions of the state than in south Florida where the majority of the native broms reside. T. bartramii produces a single pink spike, ending in a slightly enlarged bulb that small tubular flowers emerge. T. bartramii may not be the most colorful of the Florida bromeliads, but it is still an eye-catcher when it forms large clumps on trees throughout central and northern Florida.

Announcements:

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:

February 1,2 2020

Gardenfest
Riverside Park
3250 Riverside Park Dr.
Vero Beach 32963

February 6-17, 2020

Florida State Fair
4800 U.S. Hwy 301 N, Tampa, FL 33610.
Look for the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay
sales booth at the fair!

February 22nd, 2020

First Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
meeting of 2020 – to be hosted by FECBS at
the Thurrotts' house – 713 Breckenridge Dr.,
Port Orange

March 14, 15, 2020

Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale
1920 North Forest Avenue | Orlando, FL
Free admission to the gardens
9am to 5pm

March 28-29, 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 3-5, 2020

Tropiflora's Spring Festival @ Tropiflora
Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-
351-2267 (tropiflora.com)

April 11,12, 2020

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

April 18, 2020

Palm Coast Garden Club's Spring
Festival at the Flagler/Palm Coast High
School

May 8 – 10, 2020

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Mother's Day Show and Sale at the Fashion
Square Mall.

May 15-17, 2020

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

June 9-13, 2020

The BSI World Bromeliad
Conference 2020 will be held in Sarasota,
Florida from Tuesday, June 9, 2020 through
Saturday, June 13, 2020 at the [Hyatt
Regency Sarasota](#).

They will celebrate the 70th Anniversary of
the Bromeliad Society International! Events
will include tours of two of the world's
leading Bromeliad nurseries (Michael's
Bromeliads and Tropiflora), a visit to the
renowned Marie Selby Botanical
Gardens (with free admission for conference
registrants), a number of notable speakers, an
opening conference reception and welcome
address, a banquet with a rare plant sale and
auction, a plant sale with numerous sellers, a
fantastic judged plant show, and more.

The BSI has arranged for a special \$149
room rate at the Hyatt Regency
Sarasota (with no resort fees, normally \$24+
daily) with free parking for hotel guests and
conference visitors. All the rooms at the
Hyatt provide water views and the hotel has a
central downtown location with easy access
to gardens, restaurants, museums, shopping,
cultural activities, and world-renowned
beaches. In order to catch all the planned
events for WBC 2020, you would check into

the hotel on Tuesday night, June 9th and stay through Saturday night, June 13th (checking out on Sunday). Of course, with all there is do in Sarasota and other nearby areas in Florida, you may want to extend your stay. BSI Members may register for the hotel and conference by going to the members section. We recommend reserving your hotel room as soon as possible since a limited number of rooms at the special rate are available.



A visit to Tropiflora will be one of the tours for the conference



Michaels Bromeliads will also be one of the tour destinations.

