

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

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

March, 2013

March Arrives – In Like a ...?

President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700
Vice President – Eretta Morris 386/677-9557
Secretary – Jillian Thurrott 386/801-2500
Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/763-2084

That was a pretty cold blast of air that swept through our area in mid-February, but at least we had fair warning of its approach and had the opportunity to protect our plants from frost or freeze damage...you did protect your plants didn't you? And now, can you believe it? Temperatures in the 30's in early March!! Let's hope that's the end of the cold weather for this season. March is said to "come in like a lion and go out like a lamb", but I don't know if that really applies to Florida. Around here it's sometimes "in like a lion/lamb(pick the most appropriate for this year), out like the Mojave desert". That's right – March often is not only the beginning of warmer weather, it also signals the start of our dry season (or 'fire' season as some are apt to call it) and that may extend right up until June or July when the summer rains begin. Let's hope for a gradual warm up and a nice rainy Spring!

In Memorium

I sincerely hope that this is not going to be a regular column in our newsletter, but this month we received word that Peggy Nuse of Ormond Beach had passed away. Many of you may not have the opportunity to meet Peggy and her husband Ted since they stopped attending our meetings when Ted's health began to decline quite a few years ago.

They were founding members of FECBS and Peggy had established quite an international reputation as a master flower show judge and an instructor of floral design. She was 86 years old.

Ask Jay!

Please send your bromeliad related questions to Jay at cajat@aol.com.

Q: I know it's winter, but I have three pups on my quickly declining mother – *Aechmea haltonii*. I paid a good bit for the original/mother plant and am very excited that it has three healthy pups (a good return on my investment – I believe). Should I dig it up and remove the pups or wait till spring?

A: I'm sure there is a quaint saying or cliché that applies here. Something like: *Haste makes waste...* or *Patience is a virtue* – but the *bottom line* (sorry...that's another overused cliché) is that you don't need to be in a hurry to separate bromeliad offsets from their parent plants. At this point, I would wait a little longer until the weather warms a little more and any chance of a sudden freeze is behind us. Bromeliads in our area tend to be semi-dormant during the winter months and only begin active growth once consistently warm weather returns. It's usually best to separate and pot up offsets

when the plants will be in a growth cycle. Regarding the condition of the parent plant, it makes little difference whether the parent *Ae. haltonii* is the *picture of health* or appears at *death's door* (wow! 2 cliches in one sentence!). If the pups are healthy, they will survive and mature independent of the parent's condition. In fact, if you have a bromeliad that appears to have been killed by the cold weather, don't be in a hurry to dispose of the body. It may still produce one or more perfectly healthy offsets!

Birthdays for March:

You're probably wondering where this feature was in last month's newsletter. Well, as it turned out, no one had a birthday in February! Equally surprising - More members have March birthdays than any other month in the year! Here are all of our March babies:

<i>Donna Bucci</i>	<i>Francisco Cardoso</i>
<i>Milt Cohen</i>	<i>Judith Davies</i>
<i>Louise Dianto</i>	<i>Helen Ecklund</i>
<i>William Franke</i>	<i>Bill Hazard</i>
<i>Tree Hazard</i>	<i>Eve Krauth</i>
<i>Dr. Ernesto Torres</i>	<i>Annabella Torres</i>
<i>Linda Waugh</i>	

Happy birthday all!

A CALL TO ACTION - "Come Travel With Us"

Calling all members!

We still have space available for those of you who are thinking about joining our group to Fairchild Botanical Gardens on April 13-14. Four gardens will be visited from West Palm Beach to Miami. Currently, we have 16 members signed up.

To avoid cancelling this trip we need an additional 16 people. The deadline for all final payments is March 27th. Payments will also be accepted at our March 10th meeting. If you are remotely interested, but not certain you want to participate, please call Eretta Morris

at 386-677-9557 for encouragement. I promise you this trip will prove to be a memorable one.

Eretta Morris
Vice-President

Name that plant...

These are getting a little tougher – we've run out of easy ones, but at the same time y'all are getting smarter, so maybe it will even out!

#1 This might require a little research for you to identify. It's pretty common in collections, but you might not think to put it in the correct Genus because of its soft leaves. Here's a hint – it has purple tubular flowers.



#2 This next one is of a pretty good size – as you can see from the yard stick showing that this plant is about 30" across. Great plant for the landscape, very cold hardy! The leaves are spineless and the center



flushes a nice strawberry color when it's in bloom.

#3 This final mystery plant does have spines...oooh boy, does it have spines! Just coming into bloom in our area, this is a very cold hardy addition to the landscape - and if this wording seems familiar, it is. We used it for the description of *Quesnelia testudo* last month. This is a different plant, but blooms at the same time of year.



Last month's "Name that plant" photos were:

1. *Tillandsia neglecta* – I have found this to be really a terrific little plant..once I got over the temptation to treat it as the name suggests! Still, with just a *minimum* of care *T. neglecta* rapidly develops into a very attractive group of plants that produce a cluster of purple flowers each December.
2. *Guzmania 'Puna Gold'* – This photo was taken by Calandra in a Bahamian garden while the owner's mischevious pet prowled the area in search of lizards. A Hawaiian hybrid, Puna Gold was the first yellow *G. lingulata* hybrid and was created and patented by David Shiigi.
3. *Quesnelia testuda* is one of those seemingly indestructible bromeliads that, once they get established, tend to form impenetrable thickets of spiny leaves. Their one redeeming feature, however, is a beautiful and delicate looking inflorescence

of pink floral bracts and blue flowers that brightens many a cold Winter day.

Looking ahead...what do you mean 'there's nothing to do'? Look at all of these activities to mark on your calendar!

March 2 New Smyrna Beach Water-Wise Gardening. FECBS will man a sales booth starting at 10a.m.
200 Canal St., N.S.B.

March 3 'Symphony of Flowers' at the Tavern and Chapel in the Gardens. 5123 S. Ridgewood Ave. , Port Orange. FECBS will man a sales booth from 10am to 5pm

March 8-10 15th Annual Spring Fling at Searle Brothers Nursery – 6640 SW 172nd Ave. SW Ranches, Fl. 3331 For more information go to

Searlebrothersnursery@yahoo.com

March 16, 17 Spring plant sale at Leu Gardens in Orlando. Free admission to the gardens!

March 23-24 Spring Garden Festival at Kanapaha Gardens in Gainesville.

Gainesville's premier botanical event.

Admission \$8 for adults

March 22-24

Everybody's Flower Show (sneak preview) an abbreviated horticulture show will be part of the Spring Home Show at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach

March 23-24

Garden Fest 2013 - Bromeliad Society of Broward County annual show and sale. "Gone Wild with Bromeliads!" Volunteer Park, Plantation, FL.

March 30, 31

32nd International Orchid and Bromeliad Show and sale at Flamingo Gardens in Davie
3750 South Flamingo Road
Davie, FL 33330-1614

April 5-7

Tropiflora's Spring Festival

3 day sale featuring Tropiflora's outstanding variety of plants as well as many outside

vendors, food. 3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota, Florida 34243.

April 6

Master Gardeners ½ day sale at Volusia County Fairgrounds. 135 E. New York Ave, Deland, FL 32724 (just off I-4)

April 13-14

Palm Coast Community Flower Show and Plant Sale – presented by The Garden Club at Palm Coast with Dolphin Printing and the News Journal. African American Cultural Society, 4422 US Highway 1 North, Palm Coast

Saturday noon-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm Plant sale only on Saturday 10am-5pm

April 13-14

Bromeliad Society of South Florida show and sale at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables (Miami)

April 13-14

Spring Plant Festival
USF Botanical Gardens
12210 USF Pine Drive
Tampa, Florida

April 20, 21 – Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society sale

April 20, 21

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay bromeliad show and sale. Tampa Garden Club building at 2629 Bayshore Blvd Tampa, FL 33629-7317

April 27-28

Mounts Spring sale at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach

May 11-12, Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Mother's Day Sale

Fashion Square Mall, Orlando, FL
(mybscf.org)

August 17-18

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society sale

September 7, 8 2013 – SW Bromeliad Guild show and sale in Dallas, Tx

September 21st, 2013

Bromeliad Extravaganza – Hosted by the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

Indian Rocks Beach, Clearwater at the Holiday Inn Harborside. Free parking!
For more information, contact Judy Lund at 727/439-7782 glund@Tampabay.rr.com

December 6-8, 2013

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society show and sale (date is tentative – more news when it's available)

September 8-14, 2014 – BSI World Conference. Ala Moana Hotel. 410 Atkinson Drive. Honolulu, Hawaii 96814. Register now for what is sure to be an unforgettable event!

