

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, March 9th, 2014 1:30pm.  
Colony in the Wood – club house  
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

March 2014

## A Good Time to Start in the Garden!

**President – Jay Thurrott 386/761-4804**  
**Vice President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850**  
**Secretary – Jillian Ragia 386/801-2500**  
**Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/763-2084**

### **Last month's meeting –**

What's the point of having several accredited bromeliad judges in the club if you can't exploit them, right? February's meeting had a panel of our own judges review plants that members had brought in that were being considered for entry in the upcoming Everybody's Flower Show and I think everyone (judges included) learned a few things from the experience. The judges did a great job and a big "thank you!" to Calandra and Eve for conducting this program. Thank you also FECBS members for bringing plants in to be critiqued! Among other things, we learned that our club members are pretty darn good growers and their plants are looking really nice right now. A few improvements in grooming, potting, and leaf trimming were suggested with the expected result that those plants will be award winners in this month's show!

### **This month's meeting –**

Tools, tricks and tips – the three T's! This is your chance to ask our panel some of those questions you have been saving up over the Winter. Questions like: *Should I use a knife, a saw, or a large blunt object to separate my pups from their parent plant? How do you keep from getting stabbed by the pointy end of some of my bromeliads? Should I use a clay pot, a shiny glazed pot or a disposable cardboard (recyclable) pot for my*

*plants?...and my favorite – I have a bromeliad, you know... the one with green leaves and a bloom – what should I do with it?* This is your chance to ask all of those questions and more. We'll have some of the favorite tools that some of our more experienced growers enjoy using when working with their plants and some instruction on how can be used to their best advantage. Don't miss it – this will be a really broad range of topics, designed to help you in your culture techniques and overall enjoyment of your bromeliad collection!

### **March in the bromeliad garden –**

Spring is not just around the corner now – it's here...and now is an excellent time to start working in the garden. If your bromeliads are looking anything like mine, they're in dire need of an overall cleaning, removal of dead leaves, repotting, separating and just a general overhaul, so, have at it! Look carefully for signs of scale on the leaves of your plants. Winter, when the plants are often huddled close together and covered for cold protection is the prime time for scale to get started. Treat it now with something containing imidicloprid before it really gets out of control. This can also be a difficult time of the year for bromeliads. Light conditions are changing from the short cold days of winter to more direct sunlight and longer periods of light. The end result?

Leaves can develop sun burn spots on them, so keep a close eye on how much light your plants are receiving this month. Gradually acclimate them to the brighter light they'll be receiving for the next 6 months.

### **Plant Profile – What's in a name?**

The history of bromeliad names has always interested me. Sometimes the reason for the name is obvious as in *Aechmea orlandiana* - Mulford Foster named this species after his home town of Orlando, Florida and its Genus name of *Aechmea* is usually described as having been derived from the Greek work for 'spearpoint'. Most of the plants in this Genus are pretty spiny, so the name makes sense. At other times the reason for the name may not be quite so obvious, as in the Genus *Neoregelia*. The following is an interesting article by Lyman Smith from the Bromeliad Society Bulletin (the forerunner to the Bromeliad Society International Journal) vol. VIII, No. 5 that we are reprinting in its entirety and is a wonderful example of how not only bromeliad names, but even whole Genus names may not have been well thought out when first coined and have had to be changed through the years.



*Neoregelia* 'Small Fry'

## **WHY NEOREGELIA**

*Lyman B. Smith*

*In order to understand the reason for using the name *Neoregelia* for a genus of bromeliads with flowers nested in the center of the rosette, we must go back to the first publication of its oldest species.*

*This was *Tillandsia concentrica* of Vellozo in his "Flora Fluminensis" in 1825. He was right only in calling it a bromeliad, because *Tillandsia* and *Neoregelia* are in different subfamilies, the first with dry capsules, the second with berry-like fruits.*

*In 1857, Beer recognized this fact and in his monograph transferred the species to *Bromelia*. Now it was in the right subfamily, but *Bromelia* has the bases of the stamens forming a tube and they do not do so in *Neoregelia concentrica*.*

*Mez noted the lack of a stamen tube and in 1891 changed the species to *Nidularium*, which was almost right but not quite. In true *Nidularium* the flowers are sessile while in *Neoregelia* they are on short stalks or pedicels. However, Mez did recognize this difference by following the lead of Lemaire in dividing *Nidularium* into two subgenera.*

*In the meantime Lindman had proposed using *Regelia* as a genus instead of a subgenus, and at this point we pass from questions of flower structure to questions of nomenclature and of its international code of rules which most botanists now follow. *Regelia* as a subgenus of *Nidularium* was perfectly good, but as a genus it could not stand because the name already had been used for a genus in the Myrtle Family.*

*Another name had to be found for it and in 1896 Mez applied *Aregelia* of Otto Kuntze to the genus, but this also had a flaw. Kuntze had made *Aregelia* as a substitute for *Nidularium* on the mistaken assumption that *Nidularium* was not usable. Consequently, when *Nidularium* was divided, *Aregelia* had to remain with the part that was typical and could not be used for the part that was separated. The genus still lacked a valid name, so in 1934\* I proposed the name *Neoregelia*. To the best of my knowledge then and now this has never been used for any other genus of plants.*

*United States National Herbarium, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.*

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\* (See Contributions from the Gray Herbarium, (CIV) Studies in the Bromeliaceae, -V. p. 71-1934)

That's quite a tale! Incidentally, the term "Regelia" that was mentioned above had been used to honor the head of the botanical gardens of St. Petersburg, Russia – an Eduard von Regel, though how Lindman could have overlooked the fact that the name had already been used for the non-bromeliad family of myrtaceae can only be explained by saying "he didn't do his homework" before selecting it. In Padilla's book Bromeliads she makes brief mention of the confusion of names that had been used for this Genus and also includes "Karatas" in the list of previous labels. We are very fortunate that Dr. Smith finally put an end to this (this is the end of the name changes, right?...) with his new classification of Neoregelia or '*new regelia*' that we are all familiar with today.



Neoregelia 'Cordova'



Neoregelia 'Well Stacked'

### Birthdays for March:

February was the month with the fewest birthdays for our club members. This month is just the opposite – it has the most birthdays of any month!

### Happy Birthday to:

Donna Bucci	Francisco Cardoso
Milton Cohen	Judith Davies
Louise Dianto	William A. Franke
Bill Hazard	Tree Hazard
Richard Hills	Eve Krauth
Dr. Ernesto Torres	Annabella Torres
Jane Upham	Linda Waugh

### Thank you – Tree Hazard

for seeing that our meeting is publicized in the news media! There's a lot that goes into keeping FECBS running smoothly and help from all of our members is dearly appreciated.

### Help out in restoring our native bromeliads –

*Tillandsia utriculata* was once found in large numbers throughout east central Florida, but now, due largely to the combinations of development, killing freezes decades ago, and the Mexican Weevil, there are few areas where this plant can still be seen.

Fortunately, this is a bromeliad that is easily started from seed and after a *T. utriculata* blooms it usually produces large quantities of seed to start its next generation. We will have packets of *T. utriculata* seeds for you at this meeting and will tell you how best to get them started to replenish some of those plants that have disappeared from this area.



*Tillandsia utriculata* – one of our native bromeliads

**Looking ahead:**

**March 7-9, 2014**

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Plant Sale – Searle Brothers Nursery – 2 weekends!**

Over 500 species of plants including bromeliads, bamboo, crotons, palms, cycads aroids, gingers, heliconias, etc...  
6640 SW 172<sup>nd</sup> Ave. SW Ranches, Fl 33331  
Call 954/434-7681...and then again on the following weekend of 3/14-3/16.

**March 15-16, 2014**

Leu Gardens Spring plant sale  
Free admission!

Leu Gardens 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando



Central Florida Bromeliad Society at their sales booth at Leu Gardens Spring sale. Photo by Rick Ryals

**March 22-23, 2014**

Kanapaha Gardens Spring Garden Festival  
\$8 admission, free parking  
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 SW 58<sup>th</sup> Dr., Gainesville

**March 22-23, 2014**

Bromeliad Society of Broward County  
'Garden Fest' - Volunteer Park, located at 12050 W. Sunrise Blvd, Plantation Fl. 33323.  
Call 954/530-0076 for more details.

**March 28-30, 2014**

Everybody's Flower Show at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach.



**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Volusia County Master Gardeners Spring sale at the Volusia County fairgrounds, Deland. ½ day sale that FECBS has participated in for many years!



Past Master Gardeners sales at the Volusia County Fairgrounds have always been a lot of fun!

**April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Council of Garden Clubs of the Halifax Area garage sale fundraiser. Finney memorial garden center at the corner of Jessamine and Oleander Avenues

**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! Check the BSI website: go to [www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org) for the latest.