

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

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

March, 2019

Ready, Set, Go!

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

You've been waiting for Spring to arrive before separating and potting up all of those new *Neoregelia* pups. Well, according to the groundhog – Spring will be here early this year, so get to work! The evenings can still be a bit cool and the bromeliads are not fully awake at this point, so watch your watering practices carefully. It's easy to overwater and get a fungus or rot organism going in a continuously wet potting mix and in fact, I am more likely to have a problem with a bromeliad due to overwatering during the spring than at any other time during the year.

This is also a good time to take a look at the potting mix in each of your potted plants – it doesn't last forever you know! If the mix is dry and compacted to where the plant appears sunken farther down into the pot than it should be, it's time to take that plant out of the pot, shake off the remains of the old mix and replace it with new. How deep should the plant be set in the pot? No more than half an inch below the rim of the pot.

What type of potting mix should you use? It's not really that important for most bromeliads, since most of them are epiphytic and not that choosy about where they set

their roots. The mix should drain well though. Not many bromeliads tolerate "wet feet", so if the mix you are using holds water for too long a period, you should add something to it (like perlite or some other inert material) to improve it. Often a hobbyist develops a sort of recipe for a potting mix that he or she has found through experience to work especially well. If the mix that your use works well for you, stick with it and continue to use that formula for your bromeliads. It may not be the same as other club members' favorite mix but that's ok. They may not have the same growing conditions in their yards that you have in yours or you may water either more or less frequently than they do so it makes sense not to use the identical mix that they use.

Finally, a quick word about fertilizing bromeliads: if you are not comfortable fertilizing your plants, don't. They will grow, mature, and bloom without any help from you! If you have found that a fertilization program works well for you, bromeliads can show their appreciation for this by growing a bit quicker, becoming more robust, and maybe even a bit more colorful in their blooming. By all means continue with what has given you success in the past!

Last month's meeting –

David Johnston visited us in February and shared his very interesting Billbergia program with us. He also brought a wonderful selection of plants for sale – including some of his very own Billbergia hybrids!



Lynn Rounseville – pleased with her purchase of David's plants

Also at last month's meeting our vice-president had arranged for "Sharper Edge"'s Carey Strickland to be available to sharpen members' old dull shears so that they would be once again ready to snip off those bromeliad offsets that need to be potted.



Carey Strickland of the Sharper Edge.

Also, at last month's meeting Co-president Chuck Mamele shared a recipe for "the poor-man's 'RoundUp' weed killer". And, here it is:

2 cups of Epsom Salts
1 cup of Dawn Dishwashing liquid

1 Gallon of white vinegar

Mix these ingredients well and spray directly on the weed(s) that you wish to kill.

Of course, keep this off your bromeliads and remember - this mix does not distinguish between "good" weeds and "bad" ones so be careful in its application. Thank you Chuck!

Last Month's Show and Tell – Revisited:

Show and Tell is always an interesting feature at our meetings and last month's was no exception. Stanley had brought in a very large clump of Aechmeas in bloom, but had lost the name tag. I came up with a possible name for it, but I was wrong. The correct name should likely have been the Brazilian species Aechmea pimento-velosoi, so if you had taken notes at the time please correct them accordingly.



Aechmea pimento-velosoi at last month's show and tell



Photo of Aechmea pimento-velosoi from the Florida Council of Bromeliads website (FCBS.org).

This Month's Meeting: Tips, Tricks, and Sleight of Hand.

Most people pick up a few little tricks on how to best grow bromeliads after they've grown them for a while and it would really help if we had some way to pass these on to newer (or even *older*) members in our group. That's why our vice-president has been busy contacting a few of our members to ask them to talk to our club for a few minutes each to pass along one or more little tips, tricks, and maybe even a bit of "sleight of hand" that they've learned over the years. You won't want to miss this one!

School for Bromeliad Students

We've mentioned it in passing throughout the past year, but now it will definitely happen: The first school will be held in April for those who would like to become bromeliad show judges! If you think that you would like to take part in this rare opportunity, contact Jay or Calandra for more details. It will be fun, we'll all learn more about bromeliads...and we'll have lunch!



Student judges studying at a judges school in this photo from past years.

Birthdays for March:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Rosie Byard | Francisco Cardoso |
| Forrest Chaffee | Milt Cohen |
| Judith Davies | Mike Fink |
| Bill Hazard | Tree Hazard |
| Jim Irvin | Eve Krauth |
| Pat Matthews | Deborah McNair |
| Shellie Merrill | Bobbie Moore |

Vicki Teel
Jane Upham

Ron Tucholski
Margo Walker

Out and About:

February is always a busy month for us and there were too many things going on 'out and about' to be able to do them all. One event that we managed to attend however was Garden Fest in Vero Beach. With over 90 garden/plant related vendors available selling their finest wares, it's always difficult to leave this event with money still in my pocket! We ran into some familiar faces while we were there, which always makes it visit that much more fun.

Soon after we entered the riverside park where the event took place, we ran into none other than Rick Ryals – past president of our group and newly moved the Indian River County area. Sally Gawler, a longtime friend and current president of the Indian River Bromeliad Society was there also and conducted a workshop on bromeliads



The president of the Indian River Bromeliad Society conducting a bromeliad workshop

And, of course, the good folks from Tropiflora had a booth that was completely filled with beautiful bromeliads and succulents for sale. A great event and one I would encourage you to plan to attend next year!

This year we also managed to get over to the west coast of Florida to attend the State Fair.



Crowds only got larger throughout the day at the Fair! We'd never been to one before and this was mind boggling in many ways with crowds so dense it was difficult moving around, more varieties of food for sale than I even thought possible (deep fried sticks of butter anyone?...or is that even food?), and BROMELIADS. We had heard that the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay had a booth there and this was an opportunity to visit and look over their display and sales area.



Bromeliad display at the State Fair in Tampa.

February also saw the first quarter meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. The meeting was held in the Tampa Bay area, but more than a little off the beaten path. These meetings usually provide an opportunity to see some unusual bromeliad gardens or plant collections and this meeting was in a real 'old time Florida' setting.



Home of David Crouch in Land O Lakes, Florida.

At this meeting we heard the latest details from the Bromeliad Society of Central Fl. on the upcoming Extravaganza in Sept. as well as the BSI World Conference next year in Sarasota – hosted by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society.



...Neoregelia 'Passion' in bloom is a real eye-catcher!

Jane Villa-Lobos has sent in these beautiful photos of bromeliads in her garden: The first is of *Aechmea caudate* 'Blotches' with its outstanding yellow and orange bloom.





Canistropsis billbergioides – with a beautiful and long-lasting inflorescence.



...and last, but certainly not least Jane sends this photo of a clump of *Quesnelia testuda* that seems to be working its way up the side of a palm.

Thank you Jane! Once again, we certainly appreciate your wonderful photos – keep them coming!

Bromeliads are often said to be good companion plants to orchids...or is it the other way around? You decide. This next photo comes from a display by Ron Tucholski at his home in Ponce Inlet. Ron has grown beautiful orchids for many years and has recently been bitten by the bromeliad bug. He enjoys putting together displays combining the best of each family of plants and when he puts together a group of blooming orchids and one of blooming bromeliads, it's really something special.



Ron Tucholsk's latest creation Photo by Calandra Thurrott

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:

March 9-10, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Free Admission all Weekend! Shop Leu Gardens' Annual Spring Plant Sale! Over 50 growers and vendors selling a variety of plants and outdoor accessories to enhance your landscape and home. Bring a wagon or plant cart for your purchases. All vendors take cash and most take credit cards.



Leu Gardens is known for its camelia collection. This spiral flower was noted during a recent visit.

March 8-10, 2019

Searle Brothers Nursery, Inc. 21st Annual Spring Plant Extravaganza.

6640 SW 172nd Ave., SW Ranches, FL. 33331 Call 954/658-4317 or 434-7681.

Over 500 species of rare and exotic palms, crotons, cycads, cordylines, bromeliads and other stuff!

8am to 5pm on Fri, Sat.; 9-4 on Sunday

The 20th Annual Fall Plant Extravaganza!
 Don't miss this exciting and unique PLANT SALE, only offered twice a year to the public!

FEATURING:
 Over 500 species of Rare & Exotic Palms, Crotons, Cycads, Cordylines, Bromeliads, Aroids, Heliconias, Gingers, Orchids, Flowering Trees & Shrubs, Tropical Fruit Trees, Unusual Specimens and a diverse selection of Ornamental Landscape Plants! Knowledgeable Staff and a Crew of Volunteers on hand to assist with plants, questions and design ideas.

Arrive early for the best selection, as certain plants have limited quantities. Bring your sunglasses and caps!

Location:
SEARLE BROTHERS NURSERY, INC. & The Rainforest Collection
 6640 SW 172nd Avenue
 SW Ranches, FL 33331
 Contacts: Jeff Searle: (954) 658-4317 - Larry Searle: (954) 658-4319
 Email: palm@rainforestcollection.com
 Website: www.rainforestcollection.com

Fall 2018: 3-Day Weekend
 October 5th, 6th, 8:00AM - 5:00PM
 October 7th, 9:00AM - 4:00PM
 Following 3-Day Weekend:
 October 12th, 13th, 8:00AM - 5:00PM
 October 14th, 9:00AM - 4:00PM

NO PETS PLEASE

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



March 23, 24, 2019

This is Gainesville's premier horticultural event. The Spring Garden Festival features about 150 booths offering plants, landscape displays, garden accessories, arts and crafts, educational exhibits and, of course, foods. Also featured are live entertainment and live auctions. The children's area is included with the admission price and includes potting up a plant to take home, a photo opportunity, a bean bag toss, and many arts and crafts. Parking is free and off-site parking areas are serviced by shuttle buses. Admission is \$10 for Adults and \$5 for children three to thirteen. Cash only (no credit cards) at these events. A \$2 discount is given for members of Kanapaha. No pets allowed during the festival please.

April 5-7, 2019 Tropiflora's 19th Annual Spring Festival and Open House. 8am – 3pm Tallevast, Fl.

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 4, 5, 2019 If you happen to be in the Houston Texas area...check out the Bromeliad Society of Houston's 47th annual bromeliad show and sale at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston TX 77004

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 10, 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

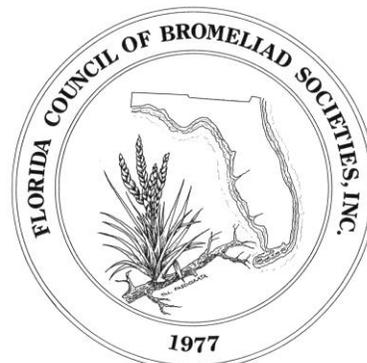
Location: The Garden Club of Sanford, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford 9:00 - 4:00
In air-conditioned building
Huge selection of bromeliads in many genera, orchids, aroids, gingers, other tropical plants, gift baskets, hand crafted slat baskets in several sizes. Members will be available to answer your questions.

September 20 – 21, 2019



2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. Registration is \$100/person which Saturday night Italian buffet, raffle and silent auction, seminars and rare plant auction.



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.** You can call and make your reservations and mention The Bromeliad Extravaganza for your special rate. You can call today. No Extravaganza registration is required. Either 407-635-8500 or 407-239-4005.

The hotels have provided a link for online registration for this event. The \$85 rate is good from Tuesday, September 17th to Tuesday, September 24th. The taxes are an additional 12.5% which comes out to \$21.25, so your confirmation should show \$191.25 for two nights. Last day to book is Saturday August 17th.

