

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

This month's meeting would have been on Sunday, June 14th, 1:30p.m.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

June, 2020

Stay Home/Stay Safe! Still No Meeting - June

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

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Social Distancing Versus the Love of Bromeliads.

Risk vs. benefit. I've always been a fan of the poet Robert Frost and lately I've thought about these two lines of his:

“Have I not walked without an upward look of caution under stars that very well might not have missed me when they shot and fell? It was a risk I had to take-and took.”

We may not be consciously aware of it, but each day of our lives we weigh the risks vs. benefits of our actions. How much risk are we willing to take? Some risks, of course, are more serious than others. When we are very young (or maybe even now?) we may be faced with the decision of the risk involved in getting caught while stealing a cookie from the cookie jar versus the benefit of eating that delicious cookie. When we're a little older it may be the risk of crashing while riding a bicycle with “no hands” vs. the thrill of pedaling without holding the handlebars. Unfortunately, we find that as adults, not all risk vs. benefit evaluations are

so easy to make and we sometimes find ourselves agonizing over our decisions. In Mr. Frost's scenario the risk of being struck by a falling star is infinitesimally small (when was the last time you heard of someone being struck down by a meteorite?) and the benefit of ignoring that small, but still theoretically possible risk is peace of mind in his everyday activities...an easy decision to make. Life's choices are not all that simple however.

Currently we find ourselves faced with making health-related risk vs. benefit choices regarding the Covid-19 virus pandemic. Do we risk exposure to infection by this virus or do we proceed with our daily routines as they existed prior to the outbreak? And which daily routines are riskier than others? Do we go to the grocery store for our basic food needs knowing that in all likelihood at least some of the customers or employees may have been infected with the virus and we may pick up that same virus as we pass them in the grocery aisles or at the checkout counter? We know that we can reduce the risk by taking a few precautions such as wearing protective face masks,

following social distancing guidelines between us and the other shoppers and employees, and using hand sanitizer at every opportunity. The question we are faced with then is “have we sufficiently reduced the risk to warrant pursuing the benefit?”...and that depends on each individual’s situation. If you are under 65 years old, in good health and really need to bring home some groceries, the answer for you is probably “yes”. If, on the other hand you are over 65, have some health concerns and your children or friendly neighbors are more than happy to make the trip to the grocery store for you, then the answer for you is probably “no” – stay home.

Now we get to that grey area where the risk/benefit decisions are not so easy. Do the benefits of taking part in a social activity (like attending your book club or class reunion...or FECBS meeting) sufficiently outweigh the risks involved in being in the same room with people who may be carriers of the virus and not know it? Once again, the answer would likely be different for each individual’s personal situation. The risks in this case are very similar to those faced when deciding whether to go to the grocery store or not. The health status of others in the room will be unknown to you. Do you feel comfortable putting yourself in this situation? Does the benefit to you outweigh the risk, not only to you but to your family as well if you suddenly contract this illness? These are decisions that only you can make and I’m afraid that until a vaccine for Covid-19 is widely available we’ll be frequently forced to make them until we can ‘walk without an upward glance of caution under stars that might well not have missed me when they shot and fell...”

Last Month’s Meeting:

There was no May meeting due to the Covid-19 virus and the subsequent state of emergency issued for all of Florida. That state of emergency order expired on May 1st and Florida is taking a phased approach in opening businesses that have been closed for

the past months. We’ve been in touch with the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and many of the bromeliad clubs around the state. To date their meetings have all been cancelled or postponed and FECBS is following those examples. Watch for announcements in your newsletter for when regular meetings will resume but keep in mind that for the foreseeable future appropriate protective measures such as social distancing and the use of facial masks in public will still be recommended. It’s a changed world out there folks!

Birthdays for June:

Lots of babies were born in June! Happy Birthday to the following members:

Ann Alberti	Deb Ball
Pat Debow	Kathy Dunlop
Mimi Kanda	Marie Fabozzi
Marinus Grootenboer	Jane Howells
Calandra Thurrott	Marilyn Perron
Jay Thurrott	

Don’t see your name here among the birthdays for June? That’s because you haven’t paid your dues yet and have been dropped from the current roster. See Eve for details and for renewing your membership.

Out and About:

In last month’s newsletter we showed you the photos that Jane Villa-Lobos had taken showing the amazing transformation from caterpillar to chrysalis (cocoon) – all while attached to a clump of *Tillandsia ionantha*.





This month she has reported that the cocoon has hatched into a beautiful butterfly and Jane sends the following proof of this event:

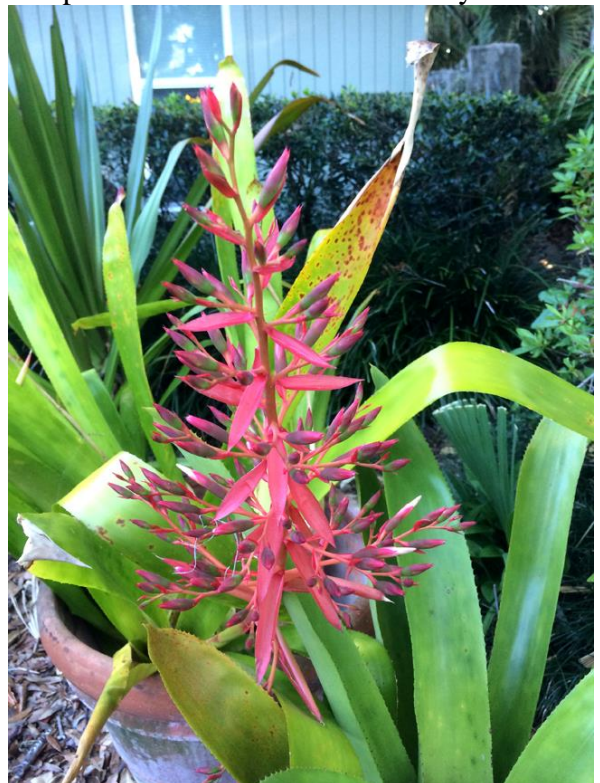


Jane also sent this photo of a *Guzmania* 'Tutti Frutti' in her collection. It's easy to see where the name comes from in this colorful bromeliad!



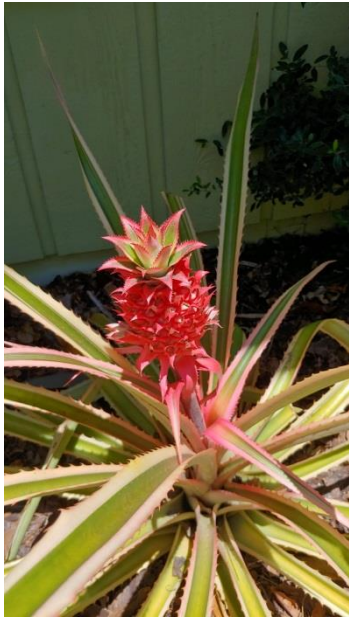
Thank you Jane!

Thanks also go out to Bill Hazard for sharing this photo of a *Portea* bloom in his yard.



This bromeliad's name is a real mouthful – *Portea petropolitana* var. *noettigii*! Try getting that all written on one plant tag!

Everyone in our area should grow at least one of the many varieties of pineapples available to us and they don't get much prettier than the one shown in this photo that Jacquie Mamale sent us from her yard:



This is an albomarginated form of *Ananas comosus bracteatus*. It may not taste great but it's a gorgeous plant and it does very well growing in the yard in east central Florida!

I'm guessing at the names on these next two photos sent in by FECBS past-president (several times over!) Rick Ryals, so don't hold me to their correctness.



This first one looks a lot like *Aechmea cucullata* in bloom. Great plant, but it's a good thing that Rick moved a little farther south from here as this plant is a bit too cold-

sensitive for growing in our area of east central Florida.



This second photo appears to be of a blooming *Aechmea marie-reginae*...and it's a male. No, you can't tell by looking under its leaves and shame on you for thinking that! This is one of those more unusual bromeliads that come in both male and female varieties. If you want to grow one of these from seed you will have to grow one of each gender in close proximity to each other and hope that they bloom at the same time. Cross pollinate and you'll probably produce viable seeds.



This picture of a blooming plant looks a lot like Bill Hazard's *Portea* and is certainly an outstanding bloom. Also for those who thought that Rick left our area and joined a religious cult, we have this photo:



No, that's not true. Rick now is nurturing bees on his property and this is the beekeeper setting up his hives!

Thank you Rick – good hearing from you!

Now here's a plant that I acquired a few years ago that was tagged as *Aechmea fasciata* 'red form', but I haven't found anything to indicate that such a form is a recognized form of *fasciata*, but instead this recent bloom looks to be that of *Aechmea dealbata* – a species closely related to *Ae. fasciata* that seems to do really well in my yard while *Aechmea fasciata*...ehhh...to say it's hard for me to keep it looking good is being generous!



Maybe it's just that I like *Ae. dealbata* and subconsciously take better care of it? At any rate, I've pretty much given up on *Ae. fasciata* and grow this plant instead.

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

John Quirk
October 24, 1935 - May 19, 2020



We were greatly saddened to hear that John Quirk recently passed away. John was a regular fixture at our FECBS meetings and he and Hedy had opened their home on several occasions to welcome club members to view Hedy's extensive collection of

bromeliads. He will be sorely missed by all who had come to know John.

Announcements:

Here's one bromeliad event that has been rescheduled and now our friends with the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society want everyone to know that this upcoming plant sale will be a great one!



BROMELIAD & OTHER TROPICAL PLANT SALE
June 20-21, 2020
Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society
Annual Spring Plant Sale
at Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Dr.
1 block south of Lake Mary Blvd.
Huge selection of bromeliads, orchids, gingers, aroids
and other tropical plants will be for sale.
Free admission & free parking, 9am - 4pm
Information: <http://bromeliads.club>

Looking ahead:

Always look ahead – never look back!!

