

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 1:30pm.  
Colony in the Wood – club house  
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

July 2014

## Are You Prepared for Winter?

**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**

I know that sounds crazy, but believe it or not, the days are getting shorter now and before you realize it, Winter will be upon us. What plans have you made to protect your bromeliads when the weatherman says “bring you pets and plants in tonight because the temperatures are going to drop into the low 30s!”? When you hear that on the 11 o’clock news, it’s already too late. You should have taken action much earlier...and you should have begun thinking about what you would do back in July! What should you do? A good place to start would be to take stock of your collection of plants. Like most of us, you probably have a mix of cold-tolerant and cold-sensitive plants. If you don’t already know, find out which ones are which! A good resource for this is your own group of club members. Consider inviting them to your home to look over your collection and ask them which of your plants will be the most needy of protection when the temperatures begin to fall. Once you’ve determined which plants will be the most sensitive to the cold you can start thinking about how you will provide the protection that they’ll surely need. Your choices will be one or more of the following: 1. Bring the plant inside your home or garage – it’s warmer in there! 2. Move the plant to a more protected area of your yard. Some areas of your yard can be several degrees warmer than others and a few degrees can be the difference between a frozen plant and one

that’s happy and ready to bloom. 3. Cover the plant temporarily with some material to trap the residual ground heat around it. Our cold spells are often only a day or two in length. That’s long enough for the air temperature to drop below freezing but ground temperatures will be much higher for several days. 4. Provide a source of heat – such as a small light bulb or heater strip. Now, we’re not saying to cook the poor bromeliad (sometimes more damage can be caused by a 100w light bulb placed too close to a plant than by plummeting air temperatures). One or more low wattage lights will put out all the heat that you will need – consider using those old Christmas lights. 5. None of the above – let the plant take its chances with the cold weather and plan on replacing it if it doesn’t survive with something hardier. I don’t really encourage the selection of this one, but have to admit that replacing a few plants is not really a very expensive proposition...and it’s always fun to shop for new bromeliads!

**Last month’s meeting –** Tom Wolf’s program on “unique ways to display your bromeliads” was really terrific and left many of us thinking about how to best make use of some of his hints on display techniques. I think his comments were particularly interesting regarding finding and collecting suitable cypress in the wild often being so problematic that it is better to just

purchase this material from a vendor. What vendor handles cypress you may ask? Jane Villa-Lobos was kind enough to tell us that Cypress Things by J & S Cypress is just such a vendor. They are located on SR 46 off I-4 going towards Mount Dora. They also sell country crafts, outdoor furniture, cypress lumber. It's quite a place and well worth a visit. The address is: 28625 S.R. 46, in Sorrento, FL. and they can be reached by phone at 352-383-3864 or at their website of <http://www.cypressthings.com/>

**This month's meeting –**

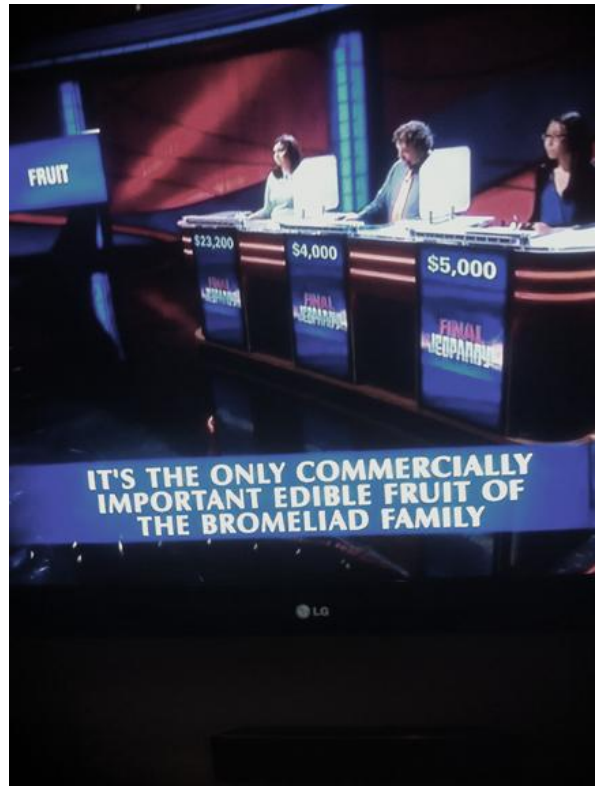
George and Irene Aldrich will be with us and George will talk about those wonderful 'air plants', the 'parasitos', the Tillandsias. They will have plants for sale, so this is a great opportunity to purchase some of these intriguing Tillandsias and try out some of those means of displaying Tillandsias that Tom Wolf showed us last month.

**Do you have what it takes to be a Jeopardy show contestant?**

If you're not familiar with the television game show "Jeopardy", the format of the show is that an answer to a question is provided and three contestants have to provide the correct question to match that answer.



Recently we were watching this show and when the final round came up and the question was shown on the screen, I had to jump up, grab a camera, and take a quick snapshot of the TV screen! I've never done this before and I apologize for the quality of these two photos, but I had to hurry. Anyway, here's the question:



Answers by the contestants showed that they could use a little education regarding bromeliads. Answers that they gave included: "what is a pear?" and "what is a quince?"

Do we really need to tell you what the correct answer is?... if you answered "what is a potato?", you just haven't been paying attention at our meetings!

**Plant Profile – Neoregelia rubrovittata**

I've often heard it said that many of the "non-hybrid" Neoregelias (the species plants) are not particularly attractive and I guess that's part of the attraction for the hybridizers – the challenge to create a new plant that's prettier than either of the parent plants used to make it. And I'll be the first to admit that some of the Neoregelia hybrids are simply beautiful in their variegations, multicolored patterns, and eye-popping leaf colors although the flowers usually leave something to be desired. That said, there are also some species that have been found in the Neoregelia group that are every bit as attractive as many of the newest hybrids. A case in point is *Neoregelia rubrovittata*.



This one has it all: beautiful colors, attractive pattern in the leaves, beautiful flowers (really?...in a Neoregelia? Yes, this one is an exception to the norm) and to top it all off – a beautiful fragrance to the large flowers. What more can you ask for?



*Neo. rubrovittata* belongs to a sub-group within the Neoregelia Genus called *longipetalopsis* – a reference to the incredibly large flowers produced in plants within this group and was first described in the BSI Journal by Elton Leme in 1996. That plant (the 'type' plant) had been collected four years earlier by Leme near Rio de Janeiro at an elevation of 300 meters and was noted as being epiphytic. We have to drive pretty far from Daytona Beach to find that kind of elevation, but this is by no means a "high altitude" plant and I've found that it does very well in my yard. I've also found it to be quite a slow grower and reluctant pup producer, although that may be due to my not taking good enough care of it when cold weather rolls through this area. We have had a couple of mild winters lately and, as a result my *Neo. rubrovittatas* really look great! I should also note that my plant has a tag that says "*Neoregelia rubrovittata rubra*", although I can't find that this is a recognized cultivar and have to wonder why a plant that already has pronounced red markings on it would have a separate cultivar called 'rubra'? In any event, if you are looking for something a little unusual in the Genus Neoregelia, consider adding this interesting species to you collection. You won't be disappointed.

**Volusia County 2014 Fall Home and Garden Show**

I was contacted recently by a representative of Show Technology Productions asking if FECBS would like to participate in their upcoming Volusia County Fall Home and Garden Show and before I had a chance to ask how much booth space would cost, was told that we were being offered a free sales booth! The price was certainly right and a quick pole of our officers showed unanimous interest in participating. I'll pass along more information as I receive it (we'll make final plans at the August meeting but, for now all we need to know is that it will be August 22-24 (that's a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) at

the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach. This will be a great opportunity to become more visible in the community, have a little fun,... and maybe sell a few of our excess offsets in the process.

**Birthdays for July:**

Happy Birthday this month to:

Barbara Kincaid	Kimberly Ridenour
Charlotte Mueller	Nancy Rogers
David Partington	Betty Shearon
Jane Villa-Lobos	

**Looking ahead:**

There are not a lot of bromeliad-related events that take place in the Summer. Your time is probably best utilized by working with your own plants in the mornings, taking advantage of air-conditioning in the afternoons, and daydreaming of the approaching cooler Fall temperatures and that grand event in September, the BSI World Conference! However, between now and then you should pay a visit to our neighbors in Sanford – the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society for their Fall plant sale in August.

**July 13, 2014**

FECBS to host the quarterly meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

**August 16-17, 2014**

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale at the Garden Club of Sanford on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd. Lots of great plants at great prices – in air conditioned comfort!  
9:00am -4:00pm

**September 8-14, 2014** – BSI World Conference, Ala Moana Hotel. 410 Atkinson Drive. Honolulu, Hawaii 96814. Go to [www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org) for the latest information.

**September 26, 2015**

Bromeliad Extravaganza hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida  
“Bromeliads in the Magic City”

More details to follow as they become available, but mark that date on your calendar!

