

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, July 9th, 2017 1:30pm.  
Colony in the Wood – club house  
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

July, 2017

## Luau!

**President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700**

**Co-Vice Presidents – Hedy Quirk and Jane Villa-Lobos  
386/847-4513 and 386/446-0341**

**Secretary – Rose Vincel 386/453-3229**

**Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041**

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### **This month's meeting – Hawaiian Luau**

Wear your best grass skirt, it's Luau time!  
Our next meeting on July 9th is going to be  
Hawaiian Luau to celebrate the club's 24th  
Anniversary and serve as our yearly  
fundraiser.

You might recall last summer when we held  
a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for the start  
of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI)  
66Fund, celebrating their 66th Anniversary.  
After all the funds were counted we raised  
\$1,600 and the club had voted previously to  
match the funds raised, so our donation to the  
BSI was a whopping \$3,200! The single  
largest amount donated by any affiliate club  
of the BSI. In fact, our total club and  
individual member contributions have totaled  
nearly \$5,000 to the BSI66Fund. An  
incredible amount of support and a true  
example of just how great our little  
bromeliad club is.

The funds raised from our Hawaiian Luau  
next Sunday will benefit our own club  
treasury and the many wonderful things we  
do throughout the year. Please plan on  
joining us for this fun filled party!

In addition to a wonderful meal prepared by  
our Club Chef, Francisco Cardoso we will  
once again have an exciting silent auction of

wonderful bromeliads and related items  
along with our regular monthly raffle. And  
someone will also enjoy the opportunity to  
win the 50/50 pot.

Wear your best Hawaiian Luau outfit and  
win a prize. If your birthday is in July please  
bring a 'dessert' to share, but please no food  
items as we're providing a meal. And  
speaking of the meal, we'll once again pass  
the hat to collect donations for it (at the  
spaghetti dinner it collected over \$500  
alone). Our Club Decorator and Hostess  
Extraordinaire Hedy Quirk will once again  
decorate in Hawaiian style for a festive  
atmosphere.

Anyone is welcome to donate bromeliads or  
related items for our silent auction  
(exceptional items) and the raffle tables.  
Perhaps; gift cards, gift baskets, botanical  
garden tickets, gardening books or tools. Any  
clean and disease free item is acceptable.  
Please bring it early enough to be included  
and properly recorded.

Looking forward to seeing everyone next  
Sunday in your best Luau outfit!

p.s. We will once again, accept both cash and  
credit cards at this event.

**Last month's meeting –**



Photo by PM Reddy

*There was a lot going on at last month's meeting!* First of all, it was a "pineapple extravaganza" and many thanks to Francisco for saving all of those pineapple tops for club members to use to start their very own pineapple plantations (let's hear some progress reports on how they're doing!)...and for that fantastic pineapple dessert! The food was fabulous – there's just no other way to describe it. I never knew there could be so many different and excellent pineapple recipes out there!

Many thanks also to Virginia for placing the winning bid on the silent auction plant. FECBS has matched her bid with the total amount donated to the Weevil Fund of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.



Pineapple owl was a real conversation piece! Photo by PM Reddy

Also at last month's meeting we saw a number of possible new logos that had been designed by a commercial firm and sent to us

for review and comment. We may have been moving a bit too fast in asking our members to pick from that group of 8 designs without a lot of time to consider them, so we're going to revisit the 4 choices that drew the greatest number of votes and here they are:



Drafts #4 and #8 are shown both in color and in black and white so we could get a feel for what they would look like both ways, but we are told that the colors shown in each of these (#1, #2, #4, and #8) can be changed if we wish to use different ones.

**Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies**

June 24<sup>th</sup> saw the second meeting of the year for the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS), hosted by the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society in the town of Seminole (just outside of Clearwater). Of particular note, Lynn Marino representing the Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society was invited to attend.



FCBS representatives met June 24<sup>th</sup>. They don't always look this stern – maybe they were contemplating who would get the last cookie on the plate!

This was her first time attending and she assured those present that her club would soon be joining FCBS! This was good news and invitations are out for the other Florida societies that are not currently members of FCBS. It's a great organization and provides the opportunity for the bromeliad societies of Florida to speak with one voice – and that voice is much louder than any of the clubs by themselves!

#### Out and About –

I got sidetracked at last month's meeting and didn't get a chance to ask if anyone had ever come across damage like this to their bromeliads:



The owner of this poor Neoregelia 'Raphael' suspects that not your usual suspects (squirrels, raccoons, possums), but land-crabs (*Cardisoma guanhumii*) may have been responsible for this damage. That's a new one on me, but after hearing how crab burrows are nearby and looking at the type of damage, I've got to say she's probably **right**

**about the source of the damage.** Now the hard question is: What can be done to protect the rest of her plants from these critters? If any of you have run across this problem and/or have some thoughts on what to do about it (and please, no wisecracks about crab boils!), let us Know and we'll pass that information along.

Jane Villa-Lobos sent the following articles about her recent travels along with some great photos:

*On June 8 Rosie Byard, PM and VJ Reddy and I toured the 1880's historic home and gardens of Dr. Henry Nehrling in Gotha, FL 20 miles west of Orlando. Dr. Nehrling was one of Florida's pioneer horticulturists and naturalists who settled in the German community of Gotha. He purchased 25 acres to develop one of Florida's first tropical gardens which he named "Palm Cottage Gardens".*



The Nehrling house in Gotha

*In the early 1900s, this property became one of Florida's first USDA horticultural experiment stations where Dr. Nehrling tested more than 3000 plants. Of these over 300 became essential to the state's ornamental horticulture, including caladiums, palms, bamboos, magnolias, amaryllis, Indian hawthorn and crinum lilies. There are many bromeliads planted at Palm Cottage Gardens, and as the docent told us volunteers help re-establish the collection by bringing plants from their own collections. She then said, "Out there is one of our bromeliad volunteers now". We looked out the window and there was member Sudi Hipsley dragging a sheet full of bromeliads,*

*many of them Nidulariums, to plant under the mature oak forest!*

*Talking to Sudi afterwards, we found out she volunteers at the gardens once a month.*



*After a freeze in 1917 that killed many of his plants at Gotha, Dr. Nehrling established a tropical garden in Naples in 1919 where he grew orchids, bromeliads and other tropical plants. If you are ever in Naples be sure and visit what was part of Nehrling's property at Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens.*

**Editor's note:** In the late '90s the property had fallen into disrepair and it looked like the house was in danger of being demolished. The Henry Nehrling Society was formed to save Palm Cottage Gardens and through their efforts the property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and in 2009 after sometimes heroic fund-raising activities, the group purchased the property – eventually opening it to the public as “Nehrling Gardens”.

*I (Jane) also visited McKee Botanical Garden in Vero Beach several weeks before its annual water lily festival. The garden contains the largest water lily collection in Florida with over 350 individual plants and 100 varieties. Its 18 acres is a combination of over 10,000 native and exotic plants, including many bromeliads.*



**Tillandsia grouping in metal dome**

*Opened in 1932 as McKee Jungle Gardens it was designed by a landscape architect from the esteemed firm of Frederick Law Olmsted which designed many outstanding landscapes in America, including Central Park and the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, to name a few. It's well worth the day to visit this garden any time of year.*



**Aechmea blanchettianas with Alcantareas around palm tree**



**Hedy Quirk posing with some tall Aechmeas**

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](mailto:cajat@aol.com) or mail to Jay  
Thurrott, 713 Breckenridge Dr., Port Orange  
Fl. 3212

**Birthdays for July:**

We don't have a lot of July babies. Happy  
Birthday to the following FECBS members:  
Charlotte Mueller                      Pat Mulhall  
Jane Villa-Lobos                        Nancy Rogers

**Looking ahead:**

**August 4, 5, 6 2017**

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies'  
Extravaganza – hosted by the Bromeliad  
Guild of Tampa Bay  
Clarion Hotel  
2701 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL 33612  
[www.clarionhoteltampa.com](http://www.clarionhoteltampa.com)  
813-971-4710

Make your reservation and ask for the  
“Bromeliad Extravaganza Rate” of  
\$75.00 for single or double.  
\$85.00 for triple/quad.  
Complimentary hot breakfast included.  
Rate guaranteed by hotel until July 13, 2017  
Room rate includes free parking.  
Registration fee is \$100 - includes a barbecue  
on Friday night and banquet on Saturday  
night. You can register through the link on  
the Florida Council Website: [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org)  
*You won't want to miss this one!*

Looking ahead at the next few months and  
our upcoming FECBS programs:

August – The Genus Alcantarea

Rick has some great ones in his yard and has  
a real flair for growing them. How does he  
do it? Find out at this meeting!



September – Bromeliad Bingo  
This will be “round 3” and the last 2 times  
we've Bingoed, everyone had a great time!

October – Dr. Terrie Bert returns!

