

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, August 12th , 1:30p.m.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

August, 2012

Summer is upon us!

President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700
Vice President – Eretta Morris 386/677-9557
Secretary – Kimberly Ridenour 386/212-2781
Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/763-2084

Yes, Summer is certainly here now. Every day finds temperatures in 90s and after each session of thunderstorms the mosquitos return with a vengeance! However, as our Northern friends might say, “tings could be wise!” Calandra and I were recently in New York state where the temperatures were every bit as hot as they are here in East Central Florida and in many homes there - air conditioning is an after-thought...and not particularly well thought out at that. From Corning, I went on to Niagara Falls where temperatures were 100 degrees and people and plants were wilting in the heat! People weren't jumping into the Falls, but I heard many remark that they were thinking about it.

This month's meeting –

Who hasn't dreamed of having a beautiful, climate-controlled green house where perfect growing conditions can be maintained to cultivate even the most difficult-to-grow bromeliad? Well... dream on, because that's not likely to happen unless the car from Publishers Clearing House is pulling into your driveway right now. In fact, what most people think of as greenhouses are a bit of a rarity in our area since our warm season is so long and the last thing that we want to do is focus the sunlight through glass walls in a greenhouse in the Summer. Instead, we're looking for a

structure to filter out some of that punishing sunlight and provide a bit of shelter to keep insects and falling leaves and branches out of our bromeliads. Such a structure is usually referred to as a shade house and this month our own Brad Rauch is going to tell us how to make that dream a reality (the shade house, not Publishers Clearing House).



Photo of Sudi Hipsley's shade house - Courtesy of R. Ryals

Last month's meeting –

Dr. Terrie Bert's programs are always educational and entertaining. And that's really what most of us are looking for in our organization – we want to learn more about this interesting plant family and we want to learn about it in a friendly, informal atmosphere. We want to be entertained and Terrie did an excellent job with her program titled “Genera O & P”. She brought a great selection of “O” and “P” plants for sale and I

think it's safe to say that now there are now more Pitcairnias and Orthophytums in our members' collections than there were before Terrie visited us. Great program and we look forward to her next installation in this series!



Terrie presenting her "O and P" program last month

President's Message

by Rick Ryals

Our little bromeliad club has been growing by leaps and bounds, with over 50 folks attending our last several meetings. We continue to enjoy informative speakers and July was no exception with a return visit from Dr. Terrie Bert from the Sarasota Bromeliad Society. Her presentation on the 'Genera O & P' introduced us to more spectacular bromeliad varieties. She had an educational Power Point presentation filled with lots of beautiful photographs from her many explorations in South America and brought lots of beautiful bromeliads to sell.



Erna Jones and Eretta Morris at Dr. Terrie's sales table. Photo by R. Ryals

Several months ago we ran a small article in this newsletter discussing an opportunity for our members to assist and participate in the Bromeliad Society International - World

Bromeliad Conference in Orlando, September 24th – 30th, 2012. I'm extremely happy to report that we passed the sign up sheet at two of our last meetings and collected the names of sixteen courageous volunteers to clerk the World Bromeliad Conference - Show on Thursday, September 27th. This show is going to be awesome, a wonderful opportunity for our members and will give us an inside view as to how a show operates. We are one of just a few clubs in Florida that do not have their own Bromeliad Show, so besides a great opportunity to assist in this international event, we may just be planting a seed to have our own bromeliad show in the future.

One quickly approaching, upcoming event- 'Everybody's Flower & Garden Show', October 26th & 27th, will provide an opportunity for our members to enter bromeliads (and other plants/blooms) for judging at a Garden Federation District level. I hope everyone will consider entering some of your best looking bromeliads. Not only will you have the chance to get a ribbon for your hard work, it will also be great advertising for our club and the cold hard truth, that these beautiful bromeliads can be grown right here in the Halifax area!

For whatever reasons my bromeliads are as happy as a clam this summer! I've often wondered just how happy a clam is? But that's another article, some other time, for some different club newsletter (Florida East Coast Clam Diggers Society?). It may have been the good rains we received in the spring followed by heat, 'sometimes stifling'. But with so many happy bromeliads, I find that I have plenty to share. And I ask everyone to take a look around your patio and yard and find a bromeliad or two that you can place on our monthly raffle table. In just seven months (only 6 meetings) we have collected over \$600 in proceeds. With chances to win some beautiful bromeliads donated by non-members and members alike. Since we've been running frequent newspaper articles inviting folks to our meetings, I've been

contacted by readers who have some bromeliads they no longer want in their landscapes. I'd like to thank the following folks (all non-members) who have made our raffles a huge success:

Mr. & Mrs.

Mrs.

Mrs.

Our good friends at Blossom World Bromeliads
And, as long as I'm thanking folks; I would like to thank the enormous contributions from three of our members that I commonly refer to as the 'Palm Coast Beauties'. They are Jane Villa-Lobos, Judith Davies and Doreen Hodge. They have created our very first FECBS Membership Directory. It was distributed at our July meeting and it's beautiful! Packed with lots of useful information, it's a keeper! If you were not at the July meeting, no worries, will have them at our August 12th meeting. Keep growing, keep planting!
-Rick-

Birthdays for August:

Alan Bennett

Mary Borkosky

Terry Albrecht

Sharon Gum

Name that plant...

Or, "*what the heck is that thing?*"

From time to time people send me photos of beautiful plants. Some are in bloom and some aren't but I thought it might be fun to include a few of these photos each month to challenge our members to identify the plants. We'll have the answers in next month's newsletter. Do you recognize these plants?...



? number 1



? Number 2



? number 3

Looking ahead...

August 11, 2012

Bromeliad Bonanza

USF Botanical Gardens

12210 USF Pine Dr.

Tampa
Sale, free lectures
813/974-2329

August 18-19, 2012

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant
Society sale at the Sanford Garden Club.
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford
Call 407/539-4314 for details

September 24th-30th

2012 Bromeliad Society International (BSI)
World Bromeliad Conference hosted by
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies at
The Caribe Royal, 8101 World Center,
Orlando, FL 32821 – Check out the BSI
website (www.bsi.org) or the Florida Council
Website for registration forms and the latest
information.

October 5-7, 2012

Tropiflora Fall Festival – Open House
(Possible field trip???)

October 26-27th

Everybody's Flower Show
Peabody Auditorium in Daytona Beach
600 Auditorium Blvd.
Free admission, 10am to 5pm

November 4th 2012

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society Garden
Ramble (homes of R. Ryals, E. Krauth, and
L. Dianto)

