

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, August 9thth, 2015 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

August, 2015

Signs of Summer...

President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850

Vice President – Linda Stagnol 386/212-8138

Secretary – Ed Meiser 386/785-4830

Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041



Summer means different things to different people. To me, Summer means that it's time for *Aechmea blanchetiana* to begin coming into bloom and you can see from the photo above taken at Selby Gardens at the recent Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies what an eye-catcher this plant can be. But there's more... These plants were only beginning to develop their true colors.



The second photo, from the FCBS website, shows what their ultimate display will be: Still not impressed? How about if I tell you that these blooms will hold their color for up to 6 months without fading? Now that's an outstanding plant for anyone's yard! Of course there is a minor drawback – *Aechmea blanchetiana* has a reputation of being somewhat cold-tender, so you need to be prepared to provide some cold protection in our area if you want your plant to stay looking nice.



Aechmea blanchetiana after a 27degree F night in Port Orange.

No, that's not a rare albino form of this plant. This is what extreme cold damage looks like in a bromeliad and it's the reason why it is a good idea to have a ready supply of frost cloth handy before Winter suddenly shows up on our doorstep.



Another *Aechmea blanchettiana* after 27 degrees, but covered with a single layer of frost cloth.

This plant doesn't need an extraordinary amount of protection in our area, but in a typical Daytona Beach area winter you will need to cover *Aechmea blanchettiana* for those 2 or 3 nights when the temperature drops below freezing.

President's message –



*Hey Gang - If you remember in last month's letter, I wrote about the demise of an *Alcantarea imperialis* due to I'm not sure of the cause. Well.... another *Imperialis* has been affected along with *Aechmeas*, *Neoregelias*, *Vrieseas*, *x dykiohnia* and *Quesnelias* - including *testudo* which I thought could take anything mother nature could throw at it! Here are the symptoms: The center either completely comes out or disengages two or three inches from the base. At that point there seems to be an uneven chew all around and/or rot. The leaves also, but not always, show signs of damage from cold or copper. In the clumps not all plants are affected. I do not see any webbing or bugs of any kind. If it's not the weevil, there could be other creatures such as nematode, pod borers, mites, slugs or scale. On top of those it could be a problem with infections from bacteria or fungus. The only common denominator is the insecticide Bandit which has Imidicloprid as the active*

ingredient. The good people at Lesco vehemently deny the Bandit is the problem so what to do? I'm really at a loss, so if anyone has a thought please get in touch with me or I could have a lot fewer plants to cover and bring in next winter!

*Don't forget- Dennis Cathcart will be our August speaker and he'll be bringing plants!! *Tropiflora* has so many unusual species - go on their website and take a look! The best part is you can order in advance anything that peaks your interest - just call to preorder and Dennis can likely bring them along.*

- Bill

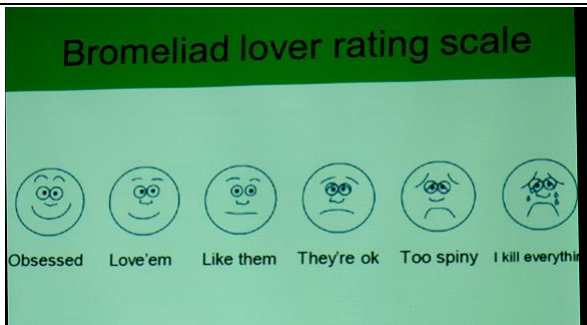
Last month's meeting –

Marty Folk presented his program "Why Bromeliads?" and I think everyone enjoyed his beautiful photos and very knowledgeable and humorous commentary.



Marty Folk with Betty Dollar discussing...what else? ...Bromeliads!

His "bromeliad lover rating scale" was something I hadn't seen before, but I think could apply to most club members as they progress from their first exposure to these plants and slowly move from right to left on this scale until they reach the "obsessed" classification. How do you know when you've reached this point? That's when you can barely care for the number of plants that you already have, yet can't pass up the opportunity to add 'just one more' to your collection!



The M. Folk scale of bromeliad obsession from his program last month.

This month's meeting –

You won't want to miss this one! Dennis Cathcart has agreed to share his program on his visit to Brazil (Part 2) with us. Part 1 of his program was wonderful, so I'm sure that we'll all enjoy Part 2. Dennis will also be bringing plants for sale and you know how fabulous those Tropiflora plants can be, so plan on bringing your wallets and purses with you and enjoying this month's program!



Dennis Cathcart of Tropiflora

Birthdays for August:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

Alan Bennett	Margaret Gillen
Sharon Gum	Susan Parry
Katie Tripp	

Out and about -

It seems like there's always something of interest going on either in our area or out of town and often our members are "on the road" attending events and taking pictures. This month we thank Rick Ryals for sending in the following photos and short articles:

On a recent trip to Sarasota, club members Rick Ryals and Francisco Cardoso

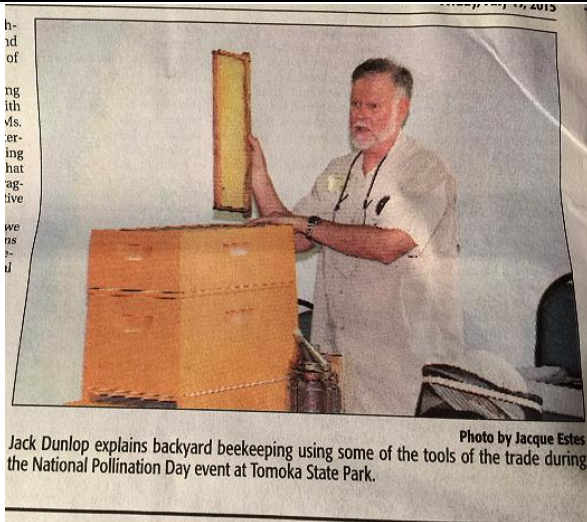
found this beautiful Aechmea leptantha at Tropiflora. A species formally apart of the portea subfamily, it stands at almost 4' tall with colorful green yellow leaves. Unfortunately it's a little on the sharp side, with healthy (and hungry) spines. A beauty of a bloomer!



Aechmea leptantha – photo by Rick Ryals

Editor's note: Formerly known as Portea leptantha, this plant has not only had its name changed by Elton Leme and Jose Filho in 2007, they re-assigned it to a whole different Genus! Padilla in her book Bromeliads notes that the name 'leptantha' refers to the many slender flowers that make up this spectacular inflorescence. Native to Brazil, this plant can be found growing in full sun and makes a great addition to the landscape – although some protection from the cold may be necessary if the temperature drops too low in the winter. – JT

Apparently club member Jack Dunlop is not only a bromeliad enthusiast but also a beekeeper, as shown in this Hometown newspaper clipping from July 17th. Jack and his wife Kathy are also members of the Volusia County Orchid Society. They must have some yard!



Jack Dunlop explains backyard beekeeping using some of the tools of the trade during the National Pollination Day event at Tomoka State Park. Photo by Jacquie Estes

Submitted by Rick Ryals. Photo from the Hometown News 7/16/15

Terry Kahn sent us this picture of a plant she acquired and is now blooming for the first time. The plant is spineless and appears to be *Aechmea 'fascini'*, a cross of *Ae. fasciata* with *Ae. chantinii*. A beautiful bloom – well done Terry!



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

New FECBS Roster

The new FECBS roster is now available and if you haven't yet picked up your copy, see one of the club officers at this month's meeting. Many, many thanks to Jane Vila-Lobos for producing the booklet! Once again she has done a terrific job in pulling this information together into a very attractive and useful publication.

Looking ahead:

August 15-16, 2005

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society sale

9am to 4pm at the Garden Club of Sanford. 200 Fairmont Dr. Free admission, free parking.

August 28-30, 2015

Volusia County Fall Home and Garden Show at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach.

September 26, 2015

Bromeliad Extravaganza hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. "Bromeliads in the Magic City".

711 NW 72nd Ave.

Miami, Fl. 33126

Double Tree Hilton Miami Airport and Convention Center

Room rate of \$107/night plus parking

For more information about reservations, go to

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/M/MIAMADT-BRO-20150923/index.jhtml>