

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

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

September, 2012

...A Near Miss!

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

We bobbed and weaved and managed to pretty much stay out of the way of tropical storm/hurricane Isaac, but there are still a couple of months to this year's hurricane season so, if you haven't already, now is a good time to take stock of your bromeliad collection and devise a plan for their protection should we be threatened by another storm in the months ahead. These storms can be on us quite quickly, so whatever that plan is, you had better be able to implement it on short notice. First, do whatever is necessary to protect yourself. An obvious first step might be to remove all of your hanging plants and either store them under cover (in your garage or pool area) or put them in a protected area of the yard where they will be less likely to become flying missiles. A gentle breeze can set hanging plants in motion, hurricane force winds can send them sailing through yours or your neighbors' windows so make sure this is very high on your list of 'things to do in the event of an approaching storm'. Next, you should consider what should be done to protect your property – remove overhanging limbs that may fall and damage your shade house, your car or your home. If you are in a low-lying area, flooding will be a concern if a slow moving storm drops vast quantities of rain in your area. Get things up off the floor

in your home or garage in case waters begin to rise in your yard. Haven't had any flooding in many years? That doesn't necessarily mean that you will be safe. Each time a new home is constructed in your neighborhood there is an impact to the drainage pattern in that vicinity. Newer homes may have been built on top of fill material so that they are at a higher elevation than your own and the last time I checked, water still runs downhill, so that may be an issue for you. No new construction in your area? That still doesn't mean that flooding won't occur in a wet storm. Storm drains can become clogged with debris and vegetation and cease to drain surrounding areas. Fallen trees may block drainage ditches...which then back up into neighborhoods. Be prepared! Finally, protect your plants from storm damage. Plants on pedestals may look terrific as a focal point for display, but if they're blown over and fall they'll likely sustain leaf damage and never look the same – put them on the ground. Bromeliads in the wetter portions of the yard may find themselves partially or completely submerged for long periods of time, so consider moving them to higher and drier parts of the yard and falling debris from trees can quickly reduce a prize-winning bromeliad to a shredded and broken mess, so

think about moving those special plants in your collection to a more protected area. After the storm clears, survey your yard and assess the damages to your collection. Pay special attention to the potting mix around your bromeliads. If it's just a muddy mess from days of heavy rain, replot the plant before root problems manifest themselves. I've noticed in my own collection that about the only time that I need to be concerned about a plant rotting off at the base is in the peak of hurricane season after one or more storms soak the area for many days. If you're vigilant, you can head these problems off before they begin simply by repotting. Cheer up – this year's hurricane season will soon be over and we can breathe a sigh of relief...at least until we begin worrying about a sudden freeze. Start thinking about that.

This month's meeting –

Everyone is aware by now of the upcoming BSI World Conference in Orlando later this month and I hope that many of you are planning on entering plants in the judged bromeliad show associated with this event. Everybody's flower show is also coming up in October and we encourage everyone to enter plants in this judged flower show (they don't have to be flowers, enter your best bromeliad, best succulent, best man-eating plant...anything that you are proud of and think the public may be interested in seeing) as well. It's unfortunate, but every plant entered does not wind up being judged to be the "best in show" and oftentimes the owner of the plant is puzzled over why it was not awarded a higher ribbon...or any ribbon at all. This month we'll have a short presentation titled "why isn't my plant on the head table?" that may answer some questions you've had about the whole judged show business and may even help you to avoid some common mistakes that entrants make when entering their plant in a show.

Last month's meeting –

I've got to hand it to Bradley Rauch and his able-bodied assistant Kimberly for putting together an excellent program on building shade houses. Who knew that the program would involve the construction of an entire shade house right there in front of the membership?! Great effort Brad and a great program – thank you!



Bradley Rauch addressing the membership



Brad and Kimberly about to set a new world record time for assembly of a shade house.



All that remains is to wrap it in shadecloth!

Birthdays for September:

(Wow! There's a bunch of them!)

Eleanor Dimock

Rick Ryals

Mary McBride

George Aldrich

Christine Miller

Randee Laskewitz

Julius Horvath

Lynne Menard

Thank you Harriet!

Many of you have taken advantage of the plastic flats that club member Harriet Herrin has been collecting and donating to the club. These are very handy for transporting potted plants in a manner so they don't roll around or tip over in the back of your car and some people just like to use them to keep all of their potted plants in throughout the year. They are free for the taking and quite a few of these plastic trays have been brought in for the club members over the past few months.

They only look cute!

I was talking with a friend a few years ago about problems 'critters' can cause for bromeliads in the landscape and was surprised to hear that in her yard in a Southwestern state, rabbits had been eating all of her Dyckias. I couldn't imagine something with a soft little nose sticking its face into a lethal-looking Dyckia, let alone munching on those spiny leaves! Well, last month I separated several Dyckias and set them aside in the yard while I decided where to place them and the next day found the leaves sheared off as though someone went after them with a pair of scissors. The likely culprit?.....



A little marsh rabbit had recently taken up residence in our back yard...a short distance away from where I had set the Dyckias. Coincidence? I don't think so.



Maybe Dyckias aren't quite as tough as they look?

Name that plant...

Last month's photos were of (1) *Aechmea maculata* (2) *Aechmea chantinii*, (3) *Billbergia rosea*.

How many of you got those right?

This month's photos are as follows:

#1 – This plant is a Summer bloomer.



#2 -We saw these plants during our visit to the Aldrich's nursery.



#3 -This plant is named after a city in Florida



Looking ahead...

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
Details about our planned field trip to Tropiflora and Michaels Bromeliads will be provided at the Sept. meeting.

October 19-20

Orchtoberfest at E.F.G. Orchids
4265 Marsh Rd., Deland Fl. 32724
386/738-8600
A full line of orchids and growing supplies as well as other interesting plants (including some bromeliads). Free admission, authentic German food, hay rides!

October 26-27th

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

October 27th-28th

Brevard County Orchid Society's 52nd Annual Fall Orchid Fair
THE MELBOURNE AUDITORIUM
625 E. Hibiscus Blvd
Melbourne, FL
9:00am to 5:00pm each day
Admission \$4.00 (visit our website-thebcos.org -for a \$1 coupon off the price of admission - print as many as you need)
Free Parking

November 4th

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

