

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, September 13th, 2015 1:30pm.

Social Hall of United Brethren in Christ  
560 Flomich Avenue, Holly Hill FL

September, 2015

## Summer is Nearly Over...

**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**

...and you know what that means? Yes, we're really into the peak of hurricane season now, so pay close attention to the weather forecasts until we're in the clear. But also please note that as we move away from Summer and head into Fall we need to finish up with our separating and potting of Neoregelia pups. The time of year is approaching when you need to decide "should I remove that pup now or should I wait until Spring?" There's no "right" answer to that question. If the pup is large enough to remove from the parent plant, there's no good reason why you shouldn't remove it now and make it stand on its own – it will do just fine. On the other hand, if you are prone to procrastination like I am, there's also no good reason why you must remove that pup now. It will be perfectly happy if it remains attached to the parent plant for another 5 or 6 months until the threat of cold weather is behind us once again. It's up to you. Whichever you choose, you really should make that decision now because in our area we often see that Neo. pups removed either after the first of October or before the threat of cold weather leaves us in the Spring don't do as well as those removed in the Summer months.

**Please take note of the meeting place change!** It's just for this month, but please don't show up at Colony in the Wood –

there's another event going on and I don't think they'll be talking about bromeliads!

### President's message –



*Well, the title "dog days of summer" really has applied to August this year! Does it seem more humid, or is it just that as we get older June, July and August (especially August) make it more difficult to enjoy the outdoors? I believe that I am a year older than last year and according to my theory, it would be more difficult, (sounds like a good theory) which means I'm not just getting wimpy. If I don't start my activities in the yard during the early morning, some of the chores won't get accomplished 'til early evening after the temperature cools down a bit. This is coming from a guy who works outside five days a week. In the back of my UPS truck temperatures can reach 120-130 degrees F! Needless to say, I try not to spend much time back there. The most rewarding moment I have on my route is delivering to Publix - that's when I can walk down the dairy aisle past the employees stocking the shelves while they wear sweaters and*

*gloves! But that pleasure is short lived and it's back out to the truck I go. But I digress.....*

*My bromeliads absolutely love this weather and as a UPS driver I can admire the landscapes of the many homes I deliver to along my route. Not too long ago I came across a spotted Neo. sitting in front of one house. As time went on it threw out some pups, so I asked the owner if I could clip one and she said "take what you want". In response, I offered to give her a plant and asked what type of bromeliad would she like? Well...she said her daughter had moved to Miami and she was interested in a plant for her. Now she has an Aechmea blanchetiana coming her way. In my travels, most people tend to be generous with their plants. A pup here, a clipping there and after a while you have a yard with quite a diversity of plants. Of course, it's always proper to return the gesture with something from your garden. True gardeners are incredibly generous not only with their plants, but with their garden wisdom and experience. I can't say enough about the kind, welcoming members of FECBS. You guys are the BEST and I really enjoy being around all of you! But again I digress....as we move into September the weather will remain hot but the edge will be taken off. Fall is a wonderful time but unfortunately, I don't like what it leads into....that's right.....peak season at UPS...uh, I mean cold weather. Until then I will "enjoy" the remaining "dog days of summer".*

- Bill

### **Last Month's Meeting –**

Dennis Cathcart of Tropiflora educated and entertained us with part 2 of his program on his adventures in Brazil. For those of us who have never had the opportunity to visit that country and see bromeliads in their natural environment, it was the next best thing to being there! I think we all were amazed at Dennis's photos

of *Dyckia brevifolia* being submerged by a raging river only to emerge weeks or months later none the worse for wear and ready to repeat this cycle each year as the river crests and recedes. Amazing and just one more example of how tenaciously bromeliads can cling to life!

### **This month's meeting –**

**Bingo!**...bromeliad bingo, that is. Our own Rick Ryals will be calling numbers and the prizes for winning cards will be, what else? **Bromeliads!** Sure to be a lot of fun, you won't want to miss this meeting!

### **2 Cheers for Neoregelia 'Cheers'!**

Quite a few years ago I acquired a small, pea-green Neoreglia at a bromeliad show that had the interesting label of "Cheers". I put it in a hanging basket when I got home, set it aside and really didn't pay much attention to it for several years until I "rediscovered" the hanging pot. By now the original plant had so many offsets that it completely filled the pot and, surprisingly, the mature plants developed variegation in the leaves. Since it was looking very nice as a multiple in its pot, I entered 'Cheers' in a show in 2013 and was rewarded with an award of merit...but that's not the end of the story. One of the judges at that show approached me and asked "are you sure of that plant's name?" It didn't look like the 'Cheers' that he was familiar with, but all I could say was that the tag on the plant said 'Cheers' and I took it to be correct since I wasn't familiar with it.



Neoregelia - old 'Cheers' with variegation in the leaves and a few spots or speckles.

This past spring I acquired a second ‘Cheers’ – this time from Tropiflora at the Leu Gardens Spring plant sale. This plant didn’t have quite the same appearance as my older plant and showed no indication of any variegation. Now I was really curious and went to the Internet to see what photos I could find of Neoregelia ‘Cheers’ and was further confused when half of the photos I found looked like my old plant and the other half looked like my newly purchased ‘Cheers’.



Neoregelia - new ‘Cheers’ with no variegation, but lots of spots! It was also noticeable that the pictures resembling my old plant were often taken from growers overseas while the photos that looked like my ‘new’ Cheers were mostly from the U.S. What was going on? I contacted Geoff Lawn, BSI Cultivar Registrar to see if he could shed some light on this mystery. He, in turn contacted the original hybridizer Gary Hendrix who created the hybrid in 1981. Apparently, when this hybrid was first made, seedlings were distributed to two commercial bromeliad nurseries. They, in turn, grew them to maturity and presumably culled out plants that didn’t look like they should. Gary suggested that slightly different cultivars from the same parents may have been released by one of those nurseries as ‘Cheers’ or the hybrid may have even been remade and tagged with that same name. Which of the two plants do I prefer? Each one has a certain appeal to it. I’m just

hoping that a third version doesn’t show up on the sales tables – then it would be “Three Cheers for the Little Neoregelia!”

### **Birthdays for September:**

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

George Aldrich	Lynne Menard
Rick Ryals	Doreen Hodge
Mary McBride	Ron Tucholski

### **Out and about -**

Have you ever noticed one of your prized plants suddenly exhibiting shredded leaves or the center torn out? That’s usually a sign of raccoons foraging for lizards, frogs, or just water retained in the plant. Is your potted bromeliad on its side...along with several other pots in the same area in your yard? Probably an armadillo was searching for tasty insects under the pot. Most or all of the leaves gone on one of your bromeliads? Start looking for a lubber grasshopper. These are all pests we put up with here in Florida, but who would have expected an aerial attack? This Tufted Titmouse was still jumping up and down on my Tillandsia funckiana when I happened to look out the window and was able to quickly snap these pictures.







Tillandsia funcckiana is one of those maddening bromeliads that other people seem to be able to grow to perfection, but I've never been able to keep alive for more than a short time...until recently. Now, just when I thought I had solved my problem by getting this Tillandsia to root on a rock that I brought home from the beach, along comes a bird that tries his best to stomp the poor plant to death. Maybe this same bird has been responsible for the loss of my Tillandsia funcckianas in the past? Maybe the name of the plant simply infuriates him? We'll probably never know.



Tillandsia funcckiana in bloom at a nursery.

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. 32127

### **Looking ahead:**

#### **September 26, 2015**

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

711 NW 72<sup>nd</sup> 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>

#### **September 30 – October 1, 2015**

Sarasota Bromeliad Society sale at Southgate Community Center 3145 Southgate Circle, Sarasota. (No show this year).

#### **October 20, 2015**

The Bromeliad Society of South Florida annual auction at Fairchild Botanical Garden Bromeliad auction begins at 7pm. Free admission

#### **October 09 - October 11, 2015**

37th Annual Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show, hosted by the River Ridge Bromeliad Society. Crown Plaza New Orleans Airport Hotel, 2829 Williams Blvd, Kenner, Louisiana from October 9 - 11, 2015.

#### **April 16-17, 2016**

Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual show and sale at Fairchild Botanical Garden 9:30a.m. – 4:00p.m.

#### **June 13-19, 2016**

Bromeliad Society International World Conference. Hosted by the Houston Bromeliad Society in Houston, Texas Don't miss it!!!