

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, September 10th, 2017 1:30pm.

Colony in the Wood – club house

4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

September, 2017

## Peak of Storm Season!

**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**

If you are from the more northern climes, it might take some time to get used to our seasons in east central Florida. Where you may have expected to see Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, we have something a little more like: “Watch Out for a Sudden Freeze Season”, “Fire Season”, “Rainy Season” and finally “Hurricane Season”, although the last two may run together at times depending on whether this is an ‘El Nino’ or an ‘El Nina’ year. We’ll soon be entering the “Watch Out for a Sudden Freeze Season” and we’ll discuss that more in next month’s newsletter, but for now we are entering the peak of hurricane season and, if you haven’t already, you may want to review some appropriate preparations with respect to your bromeliad collections.

First of all, hurricanes that directly pass over our area of Florida are a rarity, so it’s important to keep things in perspective. There’s no need to be overly frightened by the prospect of a storm. Having said that, it’s likely that we will experience at least the fringes or edges of a hurricane at least once a season, so it is always a good idea to prepare for gusty winds and heavy rains until this season passes.

Regarding the potential for prolonged downpours, this would be a good time to examine your potting mix. If it is dense and holds moisture for long period of time, it’s

time to change it. That is not a good combination for bromeliads anyway. You really should have something that quickly drains after being watered – most bromeliads do not like having their feet wet and may develop rot and fungus organisms if kept moist for too long.

Approaching or departing hurricanes and tropical storms can also produce some surprisingly strong, gusty winds. Time to take down the hanging plants! These not only have the potential to become un-guided missiles in a storm, but they may decide to fly over to your neighbor’s yard in the process and take up residency there. Another problem associated with hurricanes is that they literally strip the trees of their leaves and, as a result, bromeliads that once were in deep shade can suddenly be in full sun – and you know what that means!



Finally, let me just caution that if it looks like a medium to strong hurricane is headed for our area – pack up your things and leave until the storm clears. Many people who have decided to “ride out” a

hurricane in their home will quickly tell you that they would never chose to do that again! Lock your doors, turn out the lights and take a short vacation. There will be plenty of time to clean up the yard debris when you return.

### This month's meeting – Bromeliad...



## Bingo!!

### Last month's meeting –

We really, really hate to miss a meeting but last month we were in San Francisco for a visit with our daughter, so we missed the meeting on Alcantareas. We hope to see everyone at this month's meeting!

### Bromeliad Extravaganza in Tampa

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society was certainly well-represented at last month's Extravaganza and I think that everyone had a great time there (despite the sauna-like atmosphere in the banquet and meeting rooms!). There was something for everyone: interesting speakers, great looking plants, wonderful yard tours...and there was cake!! This year's Extravaganza celebrated the Florida Council of Bromeliad Society's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and at Friday night's barbecue there were balloons and birthday cake – where thanks to Tampa's Tom Wolfe and his creative cake slicing there was more than enough cake to go around to the over 100 attendees. Lots of pictures were taken and we were very fortunate to have our own P.M. Reddy present to take pictures throughout the event. Following are a few of

his photos (and a very big thank you to P.M.!!):

Beautiful pool and play area around the hotel.



It is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary for FCBS this year!



Rick and Francisco picked up this beautiful cake from a local grocery in Tampa



FECBS members – waiting for their cake!



There was something for everyone in the sale area.



Friday night's barbecue – it was a little warm, but still lots of fun!



On Saturday night we all got together for the banquet.



The plant sale took place on Saturday...and what a terrific array of bromeliads for sale! If you couldn't find the plant you wanted, you just didn't look hard enough!



FECBS members at the banquet. The beautiful center pieces were given away at each table to the lucky person with a sticker under his or her chair.



Blooming Guzmanias in many different sizes and a rainbow of assorted colors.



Rick and Francisco hoisting up one of the auction items for all to see.



A really tall bloom on a Vriesea at the first stop on the garden tours



Not a bromeliad, but an outstanding bloom on this ginger plant



Stop #2 on the garden tours bordered the Hillsborough River



Peaceful scene from the backyard



Neoregelia 'Passion' always draws attention to itself



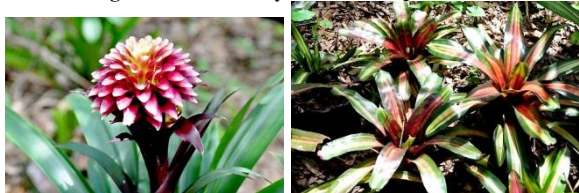
Extensive use of bromeliads in the landscape in the front yard



Steve Goode (from Chicago) talks with our host Tom Wolfe



Welcome sign at Verna Dickey's home – stop #3



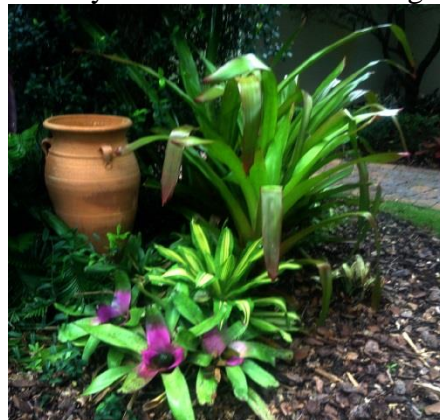
'Swan Lake'

### Out and About –

We had lots of beautiful pictures submitted this month by club members and I wish that we could print them all, but there is only so much room in this newsletter!

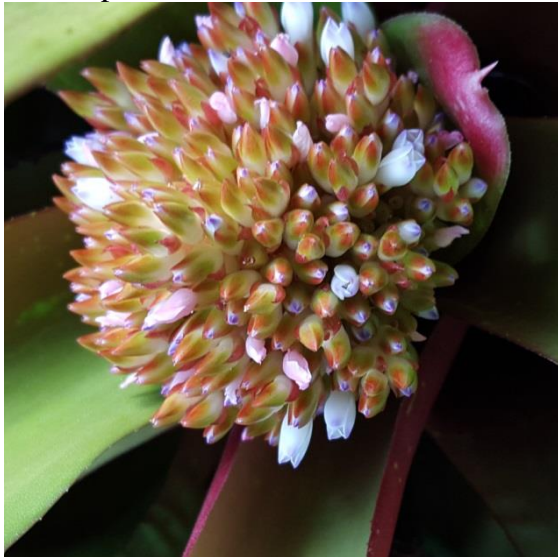


Eretta sent in this great shot of three Vriesias in her yard with blooms framing an alcove.

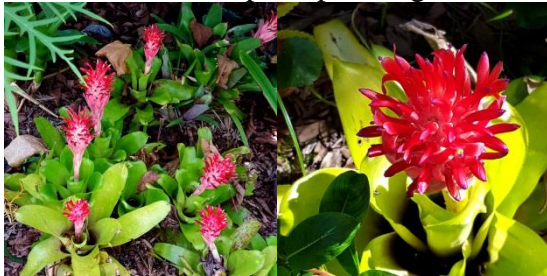


And this is another photo showing her use of varying heights in her plants and containers

to add interesting perspective to the landscape.



Virginia took this interesting shot (above) of an inflorescence – perhaps a bi-generic?



For many of us, this pretty plant in Virginia's yard is the first bromeliad that we became aware of...and *Billbergia pyramidallis* is still a favorite with its eye-catching bloom. Such a shame that the bloom doesn't last longer... If you don't already have this plant in your yard, you should definitely try to beg, borrow or steal one for yourself!

Send in your photos and articles about bromeliad events, blooms in your garden, or newspaper and magazine articles that may interest 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 September:**

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

George Aldrich	Mary McBride
Lynne Menard	Rick Ryals
Sherrie Thompson	

**Looking ahead:**

October 8<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Terrie Bert returns to FECBS! Regular meeting

October 21, 22 – SW Guild meeting and judged show in Dallas, Tx.

October 28<sup>th</sup> – Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies meeting, hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida

December 2, 3 – Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society show and sale. 9 – 4 on Saturday; 10 – 4 on Sunday.

Location: ARABA SHRINE TEMPLE 2010 Hanson Street Fort Myers, FL 33901



**Florida East Coast**  
BROMELIAD SOCIETY  
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