

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, October 14, 2018 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

Winter is Coming – Are You Ready?

October, 2018

President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700

**Co-Vice Presidents – Jane Villa-Lobos and Hedy Quirk
386/446-0341 and 386/427-2314**

Secretary – Ruth Gessner 386/767-3499

Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041

This month's meeting –

It's often said that roughly 80% of all bromeliads are epiphytic in nature. Why is that important? It means that nearly 8 out of every 10 bromeliads out there could potentially be mounted on a favorite piece of driftwood, river rock, or simply placed in an empty pot (a well known commercial grower once told me that the only way she could keep certain Vrieseas alive was to grow them in empty clay pots!). Well, it's one thing to say that you should consider mounting some of your bromeliads on wood. It's quite another to actually select an appropriate plant, attach it to wood, display it to its best effect and care for it throughout our changes in season (yes, we do have season changes in east central Florida – they're just not what you may have been accustomed to if you are from the more northern states!). This month we will explain through demonstration several ways to easily attach bromeliads to your favorite substrate (rock, wood and other), so take notes, be ready with questions, and you may even have an opportunity to take home some of the completed demonstration mounted bromeliads – they'll be going into our raffle.

In keeping with our discussion of the various Genera, this month we'll look at a group beginning with "C".

Cryptanthus –

These plants should be called the Rodney Dangerfields of the bromeliad world – they just don't get the respect that should be due to them.



Cryptanthus Arley

Sure, they don't achieve the great size of some of the landscape Aechmeas and they don't produce the beautiful inflorescences that we've come to expect of the Billbergias. Nor do they have the long-lasting and colorful blooms of the Guzmanias and Vrieseas, but that's no reason not to show

them the same respect as the other Genera. I've even heard the comment "oh they're not *real bromeliads*"! Kidding aside, this group of plants does have quite a large group of admirers.



Cryptanthus Charisma

After all, this is the only bromeliad Genus that has such a loyal following that they have their own international society and their own journal (for more about the Cryptanthus Society check with your FECBS officers and review past Cryptanthus Society journals in our library). So, what is the story about the Cryptanthus group and what do we know about growing them in the East Central Florida area?

We know that the name Cryptanthus comes from a combination of the Latin *crypt*, meaning "hidden" and the Greek *anthos* or "flower". Flowers are generally white, very small, and often clustered in the center of the rosette, but may be so inconspicuous that "hidden" is quite an appropriate term.



Cryptanthus Very Cold Tooth

Flowers are often overlooked unless the viewer is specifically looking for them. There

are approximately 44 species in this genus (The Cryptanthus Society Journal v.12, nos.1-2) and innumerable hybrids. New bromeliad enthusiasts are often disappointed to find that so many bromeliads have no common names associated with them. Here is a whole group of plant known by the common term of "earth stars"- a reference to both their symmetrical, star shape leaf arrangement and their strictly terrestrial habit of growth. These bromeliads resemble small stars with leaves that are often wrinkled and striped or barred in a very decorative fashion. As terrestrials, members of this Genus rely on their well-developed root systems for moisture and nourishment - an unusual feature among bromeliads.



Cryptanthus Jean Nicole

Offsets generally form in the leaf axils. Little root development occurs until the offset has become large enough to spontaneously break free of the parent plant and fall to the ground. Roots then quickly form and in the wild, plants may eventually spread to form large mats that cover suitable ground. Where can you expect to find Cryptanthus in the wild? Sorry, there are no Cryptanthus varieties native to Florida. Instead, you must travel to Brazil to see them in their native environment. That's both a good thing and a bad thing. Bad, because it's not easy (nor affordable!) to travel to Brazil to see these little plants in the wild. Good, because bromeliads that originate from Brazil often do quite well in our environment. Give them a try – add a few Cryptanthus plants to your collection and you soon may become one of

those enthusiastic members of the Cryptanthus Society!

Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we had a "members' plant sale" and what a dazzling array of member plants we had on the tables for sale at low, low prices!



Jean Hochdorfer brought some cute little *Aechmea calyculata* plants for sale. This is a terrific plant to grow in this area and comes in several different forms. This is the smallest variety. The larger form is more commonly seen and now there is also a variegated form called 'Alaya' available. All have this great cluster of yellow flowers at the tip of the inflorescence.

The scene was a little chaotic as everyone wanted to view the plants and purchase them all at once, but we'll get better at this and be a little more organized for our next members' sale.



Ruth Gessner and Jane Villa-Lobos discuss *Neo. rubrovittata*.



Members who brought plants for sale were asked to contribute to our raffle table and, as a result, we had a very nice plant raffle in September.



Bill Hazard holds up a nice pot of plants for a lucky raffle winner.



“Hallelujah”...this *Billbergia* hybrid that is – on its way to the ticket holder for this raffle plant.



Stanley Marye donated this nice clump of Neo. 'Bossa Nova' that began as a single plant tossed toward the base of a tree – to be potted up sometime later!



A nice array of snacks covered the table for our September meeting.

Show and Tell:

This month's Show and Tell will specially dedicated to feature that amazing group of bromeliads, the *Neoregelias*. Do you have a Neo. that's especially colorful? Especially

small? Especially large? Bring it in and show it off to the rest of our members!



Neoregelia 'Inkwell'

Birthdays for October:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

Susan Amon

Frankie Breslin

Wini Irvin

Stanley Marye

John Quirk

Brad Rauch

Pamela Reisen

Lyn Rounseville

Ray Trzeciak

Out and about –



Once again, Charlotte Mueller has managed to dazzle us with one of her seascape scenes using *Tillandsias*, select pottery pieces and a nice accent piece (shore bird in foreground). The plant blooming in the center is *Tillandsia xerographica* – always a center of attention when in bloom and here it is no exception! Thank you Charlotte!

In September Calandra and I were fortunate enough to be able to attend the SW Bromeliad Guild show and sale in Baton Rouge, La. The SW Guild is somewhat similar to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies in that it is a confederation of several bromeliad societies in the southwest portion of the country. Each year their show and sale is hosted by one of the member societies and this year the Baton Rouge society took a turn at hosting the event...and what a great show it was!



...a small sample of the beautiful bromeliads entered in this year's SW Bromeliad Guild show.

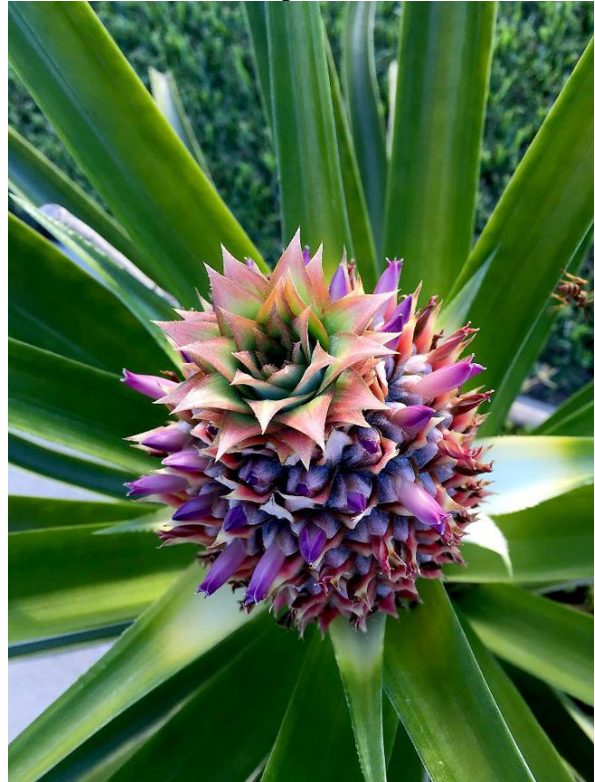
In the years since I have been a bromeliad show judge, this may have been the highest quality show that I have had the privilege to help judge. It also was one of the most difficult to judge since all of the plants entered were in such wonderful condition!



Panel of judges deliberates over entries in the show.

...and for those of you who think that a pineapple is just another fruit – FECBS

member Terry Kahn sent in this photo of the beautiful flowers that all you pineapple growers can expect to enjoy while waiting for the fruit to develop!



Thank you 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

Looking ahead:

October 5-7 and October 12-14, 2018

Searle Brothers Nursery annual fall plant extravaganza. Featuring hundreds of species of tropical, including orchids, gingers, heliconias, and bromeliads.

6640 SW 172nd Ave.,
SW Ranches, Fl 33331

Contact 954/658-4317 or 954/658-4319

October 13-14, 2018

USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
(cas.usf.edu/garden)

October 19-21, 2018

EFG Orchids
10am to 5pm
4265 Marsh Rd, DeLand, FL 32724

October 26-28, 2018

Tropiflora Nursery Fall Festival
3530 Tallavast Road
Sarasota, FL

October 27, 2018

Last meeting of 2018 for the Florida Council
of Bromeliad Societies. Hosted by the
Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant
Society.

November 2-3, 2018

Mead Botanical Garden GROWvember
Fall Plant Sale 1300 S. Denning Avenue,
Winter Park, FL 32789

November 9-11, 2018

Fairchild Botanic Garden -10901 Old Cutler
Road Coral Gables, FL 33156
Fall Garden Festival, featuring the 77th
Annual Ramble. Plants, food, music,
cooking, antiques, arts, crafts, books

November 12, 2018

Sarasota Bromeliad Society sale and auction.
Selby Gardens, 811 S. Palm, Sarasota
6-9pm in the Great Room

March 16-17, 2019

Bromeliad Society of South Fl. annual show
and sale at Fairchild Botanic Gardens
10901 Old Cutler Rd.
Coral Gables, Fl. 33156

March 23, 24, 2019

Kanapaha Gardens Spring Garden Festival
Gainesville, FL
Remote Parking with shuttle service
available at:

Celebration Pointe & Bass Pro Area:
4526 SW Archer Rd. Gainesville, FL 32608
9am – 5pm each day \$8 admission adults \$5
admission children under 13. 150 booths
offering plants, landscape displays, garden
accessories, arts and crafts, educational
exhibits and foods



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BROMELIAD SOCIETY
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