

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

This month's meeting will be on Sunday, February 14, 2021 1:30p.m.
At The Trails HOA Clubhouse
201 Main Trail
Ormond Beach, FL

February, 2021

New Meeting Location!

Co-Presidents – Jack Dunlop and Chuck Mamale
386/317-0054 386/402-4830
Vice President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850
Secretary – Ruth Gessner 386/767-3499
Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041



February meeting

The FECBS February 14 meeting will be held at the HOA Clubhouse in Ormond Beach at 1:30 PM on Sunday February 14. The address is 201 Main Trail, Ormond Beach.

Directions: From the intersection of SR 40 (Granada Blvd.) and Nova Rd. in Ormond, go North on Nova Rd. to Main Trail (the first traffic light). Turn left onto Main Trail and go less than 1/4 mile. The Trails Clubhouse will be on your right. The meeting room is on the second floor.

Program: We will have a member show and tell. Bring your favorite bromeliad or bromeliads, and tell everyone how you have grown it. Or bring one that was not successful, and tell what not to do! Sometimes we learn more from failure than success.

Refreshments: Light refreshments will be provided. Do not bring food to share at this time.

Virus Prevention: Masks and social distancing are still the order of the day.

The January Program was presented by Myrna Moore who educated us on the culture of desert roses. There were 10 door prizes symbolizing the number of months without a meeting. Many members brought plants for the raffle, and I believe everyone left with at least one plant. Thank you Myrna for opening your home and yard for all to enjoy your succulents and other plants.



Monthly Feature:

Acanthostachys : The name comes from two Greek words: “thorny spike” and “cone-like fruit”. The leaves are thin, very spiny and the inflorescence is not very showy. It makes a nice hanging basket.

Two interesting species: 1) *Acanthostachys pitcairnioides* which means “resembling pitcairnia”. The black spined leaves are dark red in good light and appear lacquered. Small bright blue flowers appear at the base of the leaves.

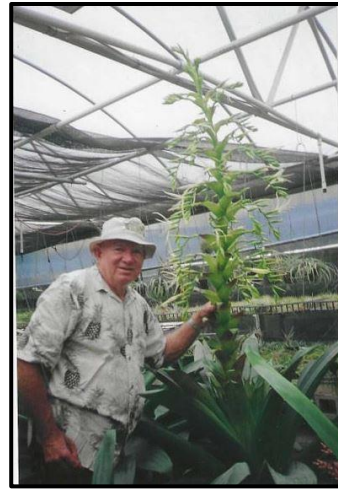
2) *A. strobilacea* which also has thin leaves which develop red in good light. It produces a long stalked inflorescence with small pinecone-like flower clusters of orange bracts and yellow flowers.



Photo by Irene Aldrich

Alcantarea: Native to Brazil they are one of the largest growing bromeliads. They develop the best color and shape in full sun or very light shade. They appear to look tropical, but most can handle light frosts.

Two common species are *A. imperialis* and *odorata*. *A. imperialis* is one of the giants as it can grow to 5 ft. over a long period of time. The leaves can measure 6” in width and 5 ft. in length with their undersides a deep red color. The flower stalk, which can last 5 months or longer, can reach 6-8 ft. producing 400-600 fragrant white flowers.



George Aldrich with his *Alcantarea imperialis*



Judith Davies is waiting for hers to bloom!

A. odorata is much smaller making it suitable for growing in pots or in a small garden. The rosette of slender green leaves are banded in silver and are covered with a white waxy powder. The flower spike has red bracts and white flowers.



Photo by Rick Ryals

Ananas: We are all familiar with the grocery store pineapple. They love full sun, but are not frost hardy.



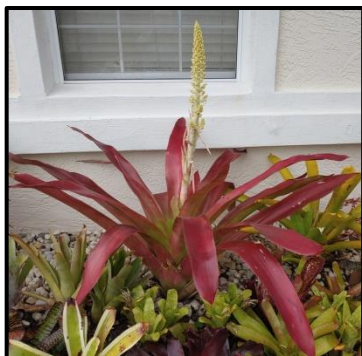
Greg Wilson has planted many pineapple tops and harvested delicious fruit.



My ornamental, *Ananas lucidus*, is in full sun and produced a small non-edible fruit. Many pups form at the base of the leaves and at the top of the fruit. Not frost hardy.

Androlepis:

Androlepis skinneri is a spectacular landscape plant. The flower structure is different from other bromeliads, and it is one of the few that have separate male and female plants. They can be grown in full sun to shade, but are not cold hardy. Flowers are white with pink tips.



Hedy Quirk gave me several pups and one is getting ready to bloom. Exciting!!!

Next month:

The featured genera will be *Billbergia* and *Bromelia*. **Please** send your photos of these by the end of the month. Thanks!!

We love to see pictures of bromeliads in our members' gardens.



Charlotte Mueller lives in a condo and creates wonderful bromeliad displays. Here is one of her Christmas *Tillandsia* centerpieces..



Eve Krauth's *Tillandsia cyanea*



Irene Aldrich has 9 of these beauties blooming. She says they are 3 feet across!! It is *xSincoregelia* 'Galactic Warrior' (a cross between *Neoregelia* and *Sincoraea*)



Tillandsia bulbosa and *Tillandsia ionantha*
(below) in my garden



Bill Hazard's *Quesnelia testudo*

This *Quesnelia* is a prolific grower with a very striking colorful inflorescence, but watch out for the sharp leaf tip!!!

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 Jane at saravillalobos387@gmail.com or mail to Jane Villa-Lobos, 29 Clearview Ct. North, Palm Coast, FL 32137.

Videos to Watch:

The Internet is a wealth of information and in this section each month I will include some videos I find interesting. Send me yours!

Barry Landau's Tropical Planet has a variety of videos on bromeliad shows and tours of nurseries, like Tropical Rain Forest in CA.

Not a video, but check out the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society FaceBook page as they post a Plant of the Day!

Birthdays for February:



Jim Moore
Cindi Pitts

Looking ahead:

March 13-14, 2021

Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale

Harry P Leu Gardens

1920 N. Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Free admission all weekend to the gardens. Over 50 plant vendors.

www.leugardens.org

March 26-28, 2021

Tropiflora 21st Annual Spring Festival and Open House. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Tallevast, FL. [.tropiflora.com](http://tropiflora.com)

June 8-12, 2021

24th World Bromeliad Conference

Sarasota. Watch future newsletters for more details! www.bsi.org

