

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, March 11th , 1:30p.m.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

March, 2012

In like a lion or in like a lamb?

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

It may be Winter out there, but it sure doesn't feel like it! When the official Punxatawnee groundhog predicted 6 more weeks of Winter, I thought "6 more weeks of mild weather – I can live with that!" and except for those occasional cool nights and days, it certainly feels like Spring is upon us.

And with Spring, comes that biannual event of changing the clocks. This year the change to Daylight Savings Time (where does all of that saved time go?) takes place on March 11th, our club meeting date. So if you arrive at the Colony in the Wood club house and notice that everyone is getting ready to leave – it's not something that you said and it's not because your deodorant failed. You forgot to set your clocks ahead!

Last month's meeting

Wow! What a turn-out for last month's meeting on how to mount bromeliads – Bill and Eretta really packed the house with their hands-on demonstration of techniques for attaching your favorite bromeliad to your favorite driftwood, cork, terra cotta figure or what-have-you! We have a bunch of new members as a result of last month's meeting. Great job guys!



Bill McBride shows a previously mounted display



Eretta Morris helps a visitor attach a bromeliad to a wood piece.



It was standing room only last month – we must be doing something right!

This month's meeting

We're extremely fortunate to have scheduled Dr. Howard Frank as our speaker this month. As a bit of background: an invasive weevil has been marching through Florida and killing the native bromeliads in its path since 1989. Dr. Frank with the University of Florida has been a key player in identifying the weevil and in searching for a means to control it. He has made numerous collecting trips to Honduras to determine what biological controls might exist there that control the spread of weevils that don't exist here. As a result, a tiny predatory fly was found, described and eventually named in Dr. Frank's honor.



Doctors Theresa Cooper and Howard Frank at a news conference where a release of *Lixadmontia franki* took place

Dr. Frank will be presenting our group with a program titled "Hunting Bromeliad Eating Weevils". Few of us have opportunities to explore the wilds of South America, but this will be the next best thing, so put on your pith helmet, arm yourself with industrial strength

bug spray and join us as Dr. Frank takes us on his expeditions!

Don't forget our Show and Tell feature – bring in your blooming bromeliads that you're especially proud of. They're not in bloom? Bring them in anyway and let us know why you like them, how you grow them. Lost the name tag? Bring the plant in and let's see if we can get you an I.D.

Volusia County Master Gardener's Faire

April 21st is fast approaching. This is the date for the Master Gardener's Faire at the Volusia County Fair (won't somebody please note that there is no 'e' in Fair!) Grounds in Deland. If you haven't been there before, the address is **3100 E. New York Ave. in Deland (on State Road 44)**. If you are travelling from the East – take I-4 to the State Road 44 exit in Deland. Head East on SR44 and you will see the fairgrounds on your right. If you are travelling from the West – well...you'll figure it out.

This is a half-day sale, from 8:30am to Noon only so don't be late! We'll be looking for everyone to pitch in and help out – we need your spare plants to sell and we need help staffing the sales booth. This is our one fund-raiser for the year, so let's make it success. Plants need to be priced to the nearest whole dollar (for example: no \$4.49 plants – they're either \$4 or \$5) clean, free of scale, clearly labeled and, if you wish to sell your plants – include your name on the price tag. As in past years, if you would like to make a little money to offset the cost of buying plants, mix, and pots (and this is an easy way to do it), 80% of the proceeds go to the owner of the plant and 20% to the club...or, if you are feeling charitable – donate the total amount of the proceeds to the club. It will be gratefully accepted! For those of you helping in the sales area, here's how you do it – take the price tag only from each plant that a customer wishes to buy. Add the total amount from the tags for each customer – this is the total that they need to pay. Give the customer a receipt indicating the total number of bromeliads purchased – they will need this to take the plants out the exit gate. It's all pretty simple, but things have a way of getting

very hectic when the booth is full of customers buying plants, so don't be afraid to ask for help from the more seasoned (they're not old, they're well-seasoned) sales people in our club!

Where would we be without rules? Anarchy, that's where we'd be! So, in the interests of maintaining peace, here are the rules for plant sales:

Rules for vendors/sales

1. *The sales chair(s) must be contacted in advance of the event to indicate that you wish to sell at the event.*
2. *All plants intended for sale must be disease, insect, and fungus free. Potting materials should be clean and free of weeds. Wooden mounting pieces should be clean of wood shavings and foreign materials. Any materials not meeting these requirements may be removed from the sales area and returned to the vendor. All water should be removed before placing plants on the sales table.*
3. *Only bromeliads and bromeliad-related items can be sold.*
4. *All plants, including bare root specimens MUST have two tags attached in some fashion. One tag will have the full name of the plant and will remain with the plant. The second tag will have the price clearly marked in whole dollar amounts AND the vendor's identification. This will be removed by the cashier at time of sale.*
5. *Patrons can pay by cash or check unless prior arrangements have been made by FECBS for credit card purchases.*
6. *Bromeliad related items such as t-shirts, bromeliad crafts and applicable art may either have one tag with the vendor's number*

and price which will be removed by the cashier or two tags, with one showing the vendor's number and price - easily removed by the cashier. Please do not staple or otherwise permanently attach a single tag that can not be removed.

7. *FECBS shall not be responsible for loss of plants or craft items. Reasonable efforts will be taken to ensure security. Any items not removed at the end of the sale shall become the property of FECBS.*
8. *All moneys from sales along with tags identifying the owner of materials sold are to be promptly turned over to the Treasurer. Sales receipts will be split with 80% to the vendor and 20% to FECBS.*

Upcoming Events:

March 2nd-4th and 9th-2012

Spring Plant Sale at Searle Brothers Wholesale Nursery and Rainforest Collection.
6640 SW 172 Ave.

March 17th, 18th, 2012

Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale
Free admission to the gardens. Bring a wagon for wide variety of sale plants. Look for bromeliad sales booth of Central Florida Bromeliad Society! 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando

March 24th-25th, 2012

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens Spring Garden Festival. 4700 SW 58th Dr. Gainesville
Admission - \$8 for adults. Take note - No credit cards will be accepted. (there's still a place for cash in this world!)

March 24th-5th Garden Fest 2012

Bromeliad Society of South Florida and Plantation Woman's Club sale. Free parking and admission. - Volunteer Park in Plantation 12050 W. Sunrise Blvd.

March 30th – April 1st, 2012

Tropiflora Spring Festival. Free parking and admission. 3530 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota.

April 8th – the regular FECBS meeting date falls on Easter, so there will be no meeting this month. Instead, we will have a “garden ramble” on April 15th.

April 14 – 15, 2012

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society plant sale at the Sanford Garden Club, Sanford

April 14, 2012

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies quarterly meeting. Hosted by Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society.

April 15th, 2012

FECBS Garden Ramble – details will follow (stay tuned!). This will be a group of visits to the homes and yards of Virginia Dornbach, Eretta Morris and Jane Upham in the Ormond Beach area.

April 21, 2012

Master Gardener's sale at the Volusia County fairgrounds, Deland

April 21-22, 2012

The Sarasota Bromeliad Society will hold their 30th Annual Show on April 21, 22, 2012. This show will be held in the Manatee Convention and Civic Center, 1 Haben Blvd, Palmetto, Fl 34221.

April 21st-April 22nd 2012

Bromeliad Society of South Florida show and sale at Fairchild Gardens, Coral Gables

April 21st-April 22nd 2012

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay show and sale, Tampa

May 6th, 2012

FECBS field trip to Plants and Things – the Aldrich's nursery in Ocala. Look for more details in next month's newsletter.

May 12th-13th, 2012

Central Florida Bromeliad Society annual Mother's Day show and sale at the Fashion Square Mall, Orlando

May 13th, 2012

FECBS monthly meeting (yes, it occurs on Mother's Day – you have a problem with that?)

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.

