

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

March, 2021

## No March Meeting!

**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**

### March meeting

Unfortunately the March meeting has been cancelled due to a conflict at The Trails clubhouse. Our past locations are still not opening their meeting rooms due to COVID. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Spring Plant Sale at Leu Gardens on March 13 & 14. Great selection of bromeliads as well as all kinds of plants, trees, orchids, and herbs. Free admission to the gardens. Be prepared to walk; it is recommended that you bring a wagon or cart to carry your purchases. [www.leugardens.org](http://www.leugardens.org). A great outdoors event! Hope to see y'all there.  
---Jack Dunlop

### Monthly Feature:

***Billbergia*:** This genus is comprised of tank-like epiphytes which can also grow in soil. They originated mostly from Brazil growing on trees, rocks and on the ground. They are distinctive for having relatively few leaves arranged in tall cylinders or slender vases, often barred with silver or maroon or spotted with cream or pink. The flower spikes are very colorful and most often are pendulous. The flowers are short-lived.

These plants are prolific and can naturalize an area in a few years.

Billbergias need high light levels to develop good color and form and can tolerate extreme temperatures. It is best not to fertilize them as they may lose their colorful leaves and become lanky.

### **Billbergias from Jack Dunlop's garden:**



*Billbergia 'Casa Blanca'*

This cultivar has 2" wide tubular broad leaves to about 17 inches tall. When mature, the ivory base has green marbling throughout with an overall pink wash.



*Billbergia 'Collevii'*

Interesting small bromeliad cultivar (*B. amoena* x *B. vittata*)



*Billbergia nutans*

Commonly called, Queens tears, this epiphytic bromeliad is native to South America. Easy to grow in the shade. In spring the arching flower stalks carry pink bracts and pendant flowers that have chartreuse green petals edged with royal blue.

***Billbergia 'Sacabamba'* from Eve Krauth**



*Billbergia 'Sacabamba'*

**Bromelia:** This is a very spiny genus which is not common in people's collections unless you want to keep people and animals out of your yard. The most common species is *Bromelia balansae* which is a large rosette (up to 5 ft.) whose green leaves are edged in vicious curved spines and tipped with a

dagger. However, it is stunning when in flower as the central leaves turn fiery-red topped with a white flower spike with dark red and white flower petals. It is a very hardy plant capable of withstanding droughts and temperatures in the teens. I was given one and it was truly spectacular when in bloom, but due to its size and brutal spines, I replaced it.



**Next month:**

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

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

Bill Hazard shares his blooms.



*Aechmea distachantha* is a very spiny plant with a beautiful bloom.



*Neophytum* 'Galactic Warrior' is now x *Sincoregelia* 'Galactic Warrior'



*Aechmea gamosepala* var. *nivea*

This variety is taller and stouter than the species and bears a pink & white flower spike. Tolerant of moderate cold.



x*Androlaechmea* 'O'Rourke'  
Bigeneric: *Androlepsis skinneri* x? *Aechmea distichantha*

This is a stunning landscape plant that can tolerate sun.

Bromeliads blooming around George & Irene Aldrich's pond



*Billbergia* 'Hallelujah' in my garden



An attention grabber with its showy red, white and blue blooms and its red, pink, purple and white on its leaves. It develops its best color in bright light conditions. A must in every garden!!

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!



Sea Breeze Nurseries, Inc. Fort Meyers:  
Short videos on cultural information,  
growing conditions of many genera.

Planet Billbergia: A private FB group for  
people who study, grow and collect  
Billbergias. Request to join.

**Birthdays for March:**

Rosie Byard Francisco Cardosa  
Janet Correia Judith Davies  
Mike Fink Bill Hazard  
Tree Hazard Jim Irvin  
Eve Krauth Pat Matthews  
Shelly Merrill Bobbie Moore  
Vicki Teel Greg Wilson



**Looking ahead:**

**March 5-7, 2021**

**Searle Brothers Nursery & Rainforest  
Collection**

6640 172<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
SW Ranches, FL 33331  
Fri. - Sat. 8:00a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sun. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Also March 12-14**

Fri. - Sat. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Sun. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[www.rainforestcollection.com](http://www.rainforestcollection.com)

**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](http://www.leugardens.org)

**March 26-28, 2021**

**Tropiflora 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Festival and  
Open House**

3530 Tallevast Rd.

Sarasota, FL 34243 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

[www.tropiflora.com](http://www.tropiflora.com)

**March 27-28**

**Epic Flower & Garden Expo**

Sykes Family Farms

5885 Brough Rd.

Elkton, FL 32033

<http://www.epicbh.org/flower-garden-expo/>

Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-3

Admission: \$5 per person

**NOTE: NEW LOCATION**

**March 31, April 1-3**

**Spring In the Garden Plant Sale (at  
Myrna Moore's)**

3016 S. Peninsula Dr.

Daytona Beach Shores, FL

8:00 a.m.- ?

Herbs, vegetables, natives, exotics,  
perennials, succulent dish gardens.

Sophie's Choice Dog Rescue/Food Pantry  
will be on site with adoption questions and  
sale items. Donations welcome.

**June 8-12, 2021**

**24<sup>th</sup> World Bromeliad Conference**

Hyatt Regency Sarasota

Sarasota, FL Watch future newsletters for  
more details! [www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org)

