

# THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

## March 2022 Newsletter

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**Meeting Location: Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange, FL  
1:30 p.m.**

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### Next meeting March 13<sup>th</sup>

This month's speaker will be Teresa Watkins, garden author, radio host, landscape designer, and horticulturist. Teresa has a radio program, "Better Lawns & Gardens", Saturdays 7 am- 9 am on WFLF-93.1 FM & WFLA- 540 AM.

There will be a bromeliad raffle, show and tell and door prizes. Drinks and food will be provided by the members whose birthdays are this month, but others are welcome to bring goodies too.

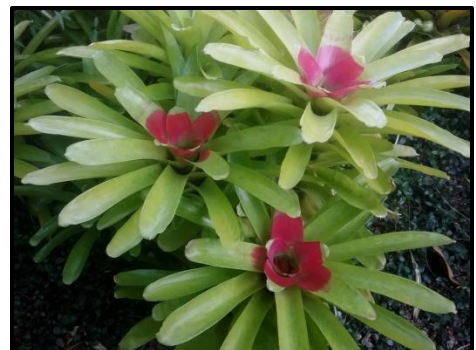
---Jack Dunlop

### What is your favorite bromeliad?



**Meet *Neoregelia* 'Shamrock'** - *Neoregelia* 'Shamrock' is a Gary Hendrix hybrid ('Bob Read' × 'Granada') x *pauciflora*. An absolutely beautiful small (5") green plant with dark red to purple markings throughout the leaves ending in deep black to purple tips. It propagates by short stolons and is a prolific grower. I have had this plant for years and given several to friends and to the club's raffle. The original plant came from Tropiflora, and I bought it solely for its name because I'm Irish !

**Another favorite, *Neoregelia mcwilliamsii***, is blooming this time of year. It is a very large species plant twice to three times the size of *Neoregelia compacta*, another species bromeliad which propagates by stolons. At time of inflorescence it is red to cherry red in color and at maturity it is approximately 30" across. It is an absolutely beautiful plant filling several areas of my garden...*Neoregelia compacta* on steroids ! -Judith Davies



### **Is it finally time to remove your bromeliad pups?**

Now that the cold temperatures are behind us, it is time to tend to your bromeliads. Several years ago Jay Thurrott wrote an article for this newsletter which I will paraphrase. You might want to start by removing and potting those pups that have been growing on your bromeliads, especially Neoregelias, since last fall. The ones that are on stolons are probably the easiest to remove, so start there. Just take your shears and snip the stolon near the base of the pup. Put your new pup in a pot with some potting mix or plant in the ground. The pups that are not stoloniferous plants are probably held closely to the base of the mother plants and may be a little more difficult to get to. Try removing the parent plant from the pot or ground and washing off the potting mix and removing old, dead leaves so you can better see where the point of attachment to the pup might be. Now you can either grab the pup firmly and rock it back and forth until it breaks away from the parent plant or you can reach in close to the point of attachment with your shears and clip the pup off. Don't worry about whether roots have formed on the pup or not as the pup will produce roots once it is potted in new soil.

Remember the rule of thumb: wait until the pup is ½ the size of the parent as it will have sufficient energy built up in the plant to exist on its own. If it is smaller it may or may not survive on its own. If you wait too long, the pup may actually begin to get deformed as it is crushed up against the parent plant.

### **Trip to McCrory's Bromeliads**

Some of our members joined other local bromeliad clubs for a very interesting tour of McCrory's Bromeliad Nursery in Eustis on Sunday, February 20. McCrory's is a family-owned operation started in 1977 as a 5-acre herb and bromeliad nursery. Now it encompasses 32 acres and is solely bromeliads, mostly Guzmanias, Vrieseas and Neoregelias. They are one of the largest growers of just bromeliads in the country supplying the interiorscape market.

We started with a tour of the potting area where they ground the peat moss used for their growing medium. The peat moss is shipped from Lithuania in tall bales. They use this peat moss versus Canadian peat moss as it does not break down as quickly. Then we went through many greenhouses of flowering bromeliads ready to be shipped in the next few weeks and learned about the shade screening, fertilizer, and irrigation.

On the loading dock was a selection of Guzmanias and Neoregelias for purchase. This area was a buzz of activity with people selecting their reasonably priced beauties.





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



*Billbergia collevii*



*Neoregelia* 'Petra'

(Photos: Jack Dunlop)



*Aechmea* 'Blue Tango'



*Aechmea orlandiana*

(Photos: Keith McCabe)



*Androlepis skinneri*



*Tillandsia bulbosa*

(Photos: Jane Villa-Lobos)



*Aechmea* sp.

(Photo: Bill Hazard)

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 Jane at saravillalobos387@gmail.com.

**Birthdays for March:**

*Greetings to these members:*

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

**Future Events**

**March 12-13**

**Leu Gardens Plant Sale**

1920 N. Forest Ave.

Orlando, FL

9 am - 5 pm

**March 19**

**Master Gardener Annual Plant Faire**

3150 E. New York Ave.

DeLand, FL

8:00 am - 11:30 am (Cash or checks)

**March 26**

**Florida Wildflower and Garden Festival**

West Indiana Ave.

Downtown DeLand, FL

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**March 26-27**

**26<sup>th</sup> Annual Flower and Garden Expo**

5995 Brough Rd.

Elkton, FL

Sat. 9 am - 5:00 pm; Sun.: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**April 23-24**

**Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant  
Society Annual Spring Plant Sale**

Sanford Garden Club

200 Fairmont Dr.

Sanford, FL

9 am - 4 pm

**June 8-12, 2022**

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

Hyatt Regency Sarasota

Sarasota, FL

[www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org)

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