

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, May 13th , 1:30p.m.  
Colony in the Wood – club house  
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

April, 2012

## \*No Meeting This Month\*

**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**

### **Our usual monthly meeting...**

would fall on Easter Sunday this month, so we will not have a meeting in April but, instead will have a "**Garden Ramble**" on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. You may recall that we had our first ramble in November and visited several club members' yards and bromeliad collections in the Port Orange area. This time we will be in the Ormond Beach area and will visit 4 members' yards. Like last time, directions to each location will be distributed so that you will receive a map to the second stop at the first location. Directions to the third location will be distributed at the second stop...and so on. Please plan on meeting at the Ormond Beach Memorial Museum and Gardens (78 E. Granada Blvd.) at 1pm, ready to go to the first destination.

### **Last month's meeting –**

Once again, we had a huge turn-out for our monthly meeting...and that was probably because of the publicity that announced our speaker and program. For those of you who weren't there, you missed a great presentation by Dr. Howard Frank who entertained us with stories and slides of his adventures in Belize as he and his companions searched for bromeliad-eating weevils. Why would he be

looking for these critters, you might ask? Dr. Frank has been a key researcher with the University of Florida in the quest for a biological control for the Mexican weevil (*metamasius calizone*) that is threatening the very existence of Florida's native bromeliads. The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies has been providing financial assistance for quite a few years now in this extremely important research – just one of the many reasons for joining and supporting your local bromeliad society!

For those of us who ventured out to Orlando for Leu Gardens' plant sale – the weather was picture perfect and here's the pictures to prove it!



Taking a rest under the oaks at Leu Gardens

Bromeliads could be found at a number of sales booths, but most notable were those of Russell's Bromeliads, Tropiflora, and the Central Florida Bromeliad Society. For those interested in plants other than bromeliads everything from herbs to trees and from vegetables to bamboos could be found there.



Our friends from the Central Fl. Bromeliad Society at their sales booth. This and previous photo by R. Ryals

### **Club House - House Keeping**

by Rick Ryals

We are so fortunate to have a beautiful facility to hold our monthly meetings at Colony in the Wood. Our little club has grown so much since the beginning of the year that we fit just perfectly into the club house with a seating area, plant display area and a large kitchen.

The facility is so perfect that we want to make certain that we do not lose it by not being a good housekeeper after our meetings. I would certainly like to thank the folks that have remained after the meetings to assist us in cleaning the club house especially the floors, both carpeted and tile. I would ask that we please DO NOT bring items into the club house that are bare root plants and still have dirt on them, bromeliads filled with water in their tanks or leaf debris (please empty them outside or at home). Please do not place bromeliads or other items on the brand new pool table. And please clean up any debris from plants that you may have brought to the meeting for show and tell, received as a gift or won in the raffle. We love our meeting location and want to keep it!

### **Back to Basics – Part 2**

This is the time of year that you should be closely inspecting your bromeliad collection and planning on separating those pups that formed through the Winter months (I know- “what Winter?” this was indeed, a mild one!) but until now were just too small to take a chance on removing from the parent plant. Well, now they’re half to two-thirds the size of the parent (one of those ‘rules of thumb’ for determining when to remove pups) and you’ve got your clippers in one hand, the unpotted parent with the pup(s) attached in the other and you are looking around for just the right pot for that new pup...aaaannd ...what pot should that be?

Let’s start with your choice of materials. Most gardeners tend to be one or the other of two types:

1. Those that over-water their plants  
or
2. Those that under-water their plants.

Notice that I didn’t include a third category:

3. Those that water *just right*. If you think you belong in this category – read no further. It will only confuse you!

If you think you may be one that over-waters, either because the sprinklers hit that part of your yard a little too frequently or your plants are in a very damp part of your yard - this can be a problem for your bromeliads. Remember that many of these plants are epiphytic, have very rudimentary root systems, and just can’t handle being wet all of the time. In this situation you may want to consider using terra cotta or clay pots. On the down-side, these may cost a little more than plastic pots, but these pots are somewhat porous and allow water to “wick” through them and away from the potting media. In the hot Summer weather this wicking action can actually serve to provide a cooling effect on the pot and plant in it and, as a bonus, the extra weight that terra cotta provides may help keep your plants upright in a wind storm.



Rack of clay pots in potting area in Selby Gardens

you are a chronic *under-waterer*, plants potted in terra cotta pots will dry out quicker than those in plastic pots with the result that in our dry Spring season your potting mix and bromeliads may become severely desiccated. Bromeliads are very forgiving in the care or lack of care that you give them, but they all will show their displeasure with being allowed to get too dry. Plastic pots are a good choice for you since the plastic will retain moisture in the potting mix far longer than the same mix in a clay pot. Plastic pots are relatively inexpensive, far less likely to break when they fall or are pushed off a bench by the family pet and don't discolor like terra cotta when salts leach through the clay and colorful varieties of algae colonize the moist clay surface. Plastic pots come in a variety of colors, but please, let's avoid the purples and yellows - you'll be doing everyone a favor! Regarding colors however, something to keep in mind is that black plastic pots can absorb heat and become quite hot when they are in Florida's noon-day sun so you may want to consider either the standard green or even a white color for your pots if they are in the full sun.

So, now that you've decided on which pot to use, let's take a look at the size of that pot. I once saw a very large *Aechmea bracteata*, in full bloom potted in a 2" pot and the plant and bloom were both outstanding! Granted, the pot was placed in a series of progressively larger pots to keep it upright, but the point is, it doesn't make a lot of

difference what size pot you put an epiphytic bromeliad in, as long as it's large enough so that the plant isn't constantly tipping over. It's a different story for the terrestrials! These plants often have large, complex root systems that need some space to properly develop. This is why you often see wonderful examples from the Genus *Cryptanthus* grown in pots that seem proportionally much larger than you would expect and for those of you who grow bromeliads from the pineapple (*Ananas*) family, it's best to put these plants in fairly large pots. If you are a chronic under-waterer, plants potted in terra cotta should be treated as such.

OK, now you've got your pot selected, you're ready to separate the pup from the parent plant and it's time to put some potting mix in the pot...oh wait, what kind of mix should you use? You'll have to wait for next month's installment, when we'll take a look at what characteristics a good potting mix should have if it's to be used for bromeliads. That's ok - just put the plant in your empty pot. It will be just fine until next month when we'll also talk about separating bromeliads.

### **Opt-Out Notice for Our Membership Directory**

by Rick Ryals

Just like on the bottom of a commercial notice we are offering you the opportunity to 'opt out' of our upcoming 'Membership Directory' which will be published in May 2012. It's going to be a little directory of all our members; their names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. The directory will also contain some great information about bromeliads, a map to our meeting location, calendar of events, listing of vendors in our area, and a few ads for upcoming events in 2012. The directory is intended for distribution among our Society membership only and not for distribution outside of our Society. The directory will not be sold to any company, group or mailing list. If you would like for your name, address, phone number or email address not to be placed in the directory please contact me no

later than April 30th, by phone or email so that it will be omitted.

Rickryals@bellsouth.net or 386.679.8700.

### **Bi-generic**

I thought you might be interested in seeing a photo of the Bi-generic hybrid:

xAndrolaechmea 'Cyclops'



The plant came from our friend Mike Michaelski a few years ago and now has come into bloom – showing the best features of the Androlepis skineri (big and red) and Aechmea luddemanniana (the inflorescence closely resembles this) parents. I don't have many bi-generics, but this one is pretty nice. This plant may seem to closely resemble xAndrolaechmea 'Dean' but has a different pollen parent and that's enough to warrant a unique name.

### **Volusia County Master Gardener's Faire**

April 21<sup>st</sup> is the date for the Master Gardener's Faire at the Volusia County 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. As we've noted before, 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 a success. Plants need to be priced to the nearest whole

dollar (for example: no \$4.49 plants – they're either \$4 or they're \$5, you decide!) 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! Bring your own chair – there won't be one provided.

Once again, 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:**

Wow, there's a lot of upcoming events! I always feel bad at this time of year because I can't possibly go to all of these great events and have to settle for picking and choosing just a few from the many. If you have the opportunity to attend some of these, take some pictures and forward them to me. I'll see that they get in the next newsletter for

all to see and 'ooh' and 'aaah' over. Don't have transportation to get there? Ask around – many of our club members travel around the state to these events and it's always nice to have someone along to share with the expenses.

#### **April 7<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Orchid and bromeliad show and sale at Flamingo Gardens in Davie. Call 954/473-2955 for details.

**April 8<sup>th</sup>** – 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 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **April 14 – 15, 2012**

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society plant sale at the Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford. Call 407/539-4314 for details....

#### **April 14, 2012**

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

#### **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

FECBS Garden Ramble – meet at 1pm at the Ormond Art Museum and Gardens, 78 E. Granada Blvd. This will be a group of visits to the homes and yards of Virginia Dornbach, Eretta Morris, Jane Upham, and Bill Hazard in the Ormond Beach area.

#### **April 21, 2012**

Master Gardener's sale at the Volusia County fairgrounds, Deland. 8:30am to noon only!

#### **April 21, 2012**

Palm Coast Garden Expo. Hosted by the Garden Club of Palm Coast. Plants, pottery, crafts, food at the Nature Scapes Garden Nursery, 313 Old Brick Rd., Bunnell 386/206-3375

#### **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. Call 941/538-2174

**April 21<sup>st</sup>-April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012**

Bromeliad Society of South Florida show and sale at Fairchild Tropical Gardens, 10901 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables. 305/667-1651

**April 21<sup>st</sup>-April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012**

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay show and sale in conjunction with the Tampa Garden Club. 2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa 813/251-5059

**April 29<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Spring Fling at Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens in Port Orange. Noon to 4:30pm. We will be selling bromeliads! 950 Old Sugar Mill Rd. 386/767-1735

**May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012**

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society's annual bromeliad auction at Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 Belcher Rd., Clearwater. 727/439-77852

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**

Council of Garden Clubs annual luncheon hosted by FECBS. 11am at the Anderson Price Memorial Building in Ormond Beach

**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

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

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

New Smyrna Beach Water Wise Garden Fair. 200 Canal St. in N.S.B. We will be selling bromeliads from 8am to 3pm

**May 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

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

**May 13<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.bsi.org)) or the Florida Council Website for registration forms and the latest information.



**New commemorative quarters showing bromeliads in habitat!**

One of our club members, who is also a numismatist (that's not a weird religious cult-it's a coin collector) recently brought to my attention the fact that a new commemorative quarter series honoring state parks includes a coin showing a bromeliad on a tree limb! As far as I can tell, this is the first time that a bromeliad has been shown on a U.S. coin...or any coin for that matter. Harriet tells me that this coin series is not available through banks, like you might expect, and it may be quite some time before these turn up in your change from the Jiffy Store, so if you want to

be a proud owner of one of these quarters, you'll have to purchase it from the U.S. mint. If you are interested, I'm sure that Ms. Herrin will share information with us on how to obtain some of these beauties!

**Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society**

## **Annual Spring Plant Sale**

**Saturday and Sunday, April 14-15, 2012**



**9am to 4pm both days**

Huge selection of bromeliads in many genera:

Orchids

Aroids

Gingers  
other tropical plants

plus...

Gift Baskets

Hand Crafted Slat

Baskets in several sizes

### **The Garden Club of Sanford**

Members will be available to answer your questions.

*Free admission & Free parking- Shop in air-conditioned comfort.*

The Garden Club of Sanford is located at 200 Fairmont Drive off I-7-92 (Orlando Avenue), one block south of Lake Mary Boulevard, Sanford, Florida. This location is about one mile from the SR 417 (Greeneway) exit onto Lake Mary Blvd., and about 4 miles east of the I-4 exit onto Lake Mary Blvd. Signs will be posted near the Garden Club.

**Event questions: 407-539-4314**

