

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

April 2022 Newsletter

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

Next meeting April 10th

This month's speaker will be Ken Stokes from Tampa who will educate us on the various growth habit of bromeliads. Ken has been a bromeliad collector for over 20 years and has an extensive collection of species and hybrids. He will be bringing plants for sale.

There will be a bromeliad raffle, show and tell and door prizes. I would like to thank Wayne and Cricket Petrovich and others who are helping Bill Hazard with the raffle and Becky Gabbard who is chairing the refreshment committee. Drinks and food will be provided by the members whose birthdays are this month, but others are welcome to bring goodies too.

---Jack Dunlop

Bromeliads are Safe

Remember all the discussions about bromeliads being blamed for being a breeding ground for mosquitoes that cause the Zika virus? As a precaution many places in South Florida where the Zika virus was found required the removal of bromeliads as a means to eradicate the spread of the virus. Unfortunately this measure was not backed by science.

Greg Kolojeski, president of the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society and a member of our club, wrote an article on this topic, which is included in your new membership directory. Be sure and read it so you will be educated to respond to someone's comments that bromeliads breed harmful mosquitoes.

The conclusion is that the mosquitoes that typically breed in bromeliads are harmless, meaning they do not transmit any diseases to humans. Of the nearly 80 species of mosquitoes found in Florida, only two species are capable of bearing the Zika virus and they do not breed in bromeliads but in polluted water.

Greg points out that there are two approaches to ensure that the potentially Zika-bearing mosquitoes are not present in bromeliads. One is ecologically based and the other is the "kill all mosquitoes" method. The ecologically-based approach is to keep the water in bromeliads clean by flushing the water so no debris accumulates. The "kill all mosquitoes" method would include using Mosquito Bits or other products with BTI. This would kill even the harmless mosquitoes. However, mosquitoes are valuable in pollination and are a major food source for those cute frogs that you occasionally see in the bromeliad cups.

Some ideas for mounting air plants

Janet Correia has been making air plant designs from wood she obtained from Iris Graim, a fellow club member. Janet's husband (Dave) makes custom bowls from the branches/logs and gives Janet the scraps. Janet took the scraps of wood (cedar, birch or oak) and started sanding and cutting holes in the scrap pieces to accept air plants and a staghorn fern. Some are made vertically and others horizontally, all with a hook so they can hang on a wall. Nothing goes to waste in the workshop! All pieces to date have gone to The Garden Club at Palm Coast for their 9th Annual Festival and Plant Sale which is April 9. Janet ran out of air plants and has now started putting small bromeliads into the scraps of wood. She likes to use the cedar the best due to the reddish color of the wood. It is a team effort combining Iris's donation of the logs, Dave's scraps and Janet's desire to change out her garden. Janet says, "I haven't kept one for myself so I don't know how fast or slow they are growing". She is just happy that the pieces are going for a good cause and other gardeners are enjoying the creations."



Bromeliad Society International News

Have you consulted with the wonderful information on the Bromeliad Society International website (www.bsi.org)? There is a wealth of information including a bromeliad cultivar register, a bromeliad species database and much more. The Bromeliad Species Database is a central location to share photos, literature and interactive discussion on all the taxa within the bromeliad family. BSI also has a public FaceBook page!

Logo Embroidery

Jane Villa-Lobos has arranged with Lidia's Embroidery in Palm Coast to embroider the club's logo and your name (if you wish) on any shirt that you supply. The cost of the logo is \$7.50 and your name is \$5.50. Bring your shirt to any meeting and Jane will bring it back the next meeting. If you can please bring correct cash when you place your order.

If you live in the Palm Coat area you can go directly to Lidia's Embroidery, 29 Old Kings Rd. North, Suite 1A in the Aqua Complex. 386-447-2293.

Videos To Watch

Island Breeze Tropicals: Located on an island in the southwest corner of Florida, Rusty has many informative videos and a FaceBook page about bromeliads, palms, and other tropicals.

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



Terry Kahn's garden and *Alcantarea imperialis*



Charlotte Mueller's still life



Aechmea distachantha
(Photo: Calandra Thurrott)



xSincoregelia 'Galactic Warrior'
(Photo: Irene Aldrich)



Jack Dunlop, Bill Hazard and Stan Marye sold bromeliads at the Jewish Heritage Festival which was held on March 27 at The Casements in Ormond Beach. There was a great turnout.

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 April:

Greetings to these members:

Irene Aldrich, Doreen DeBiasio, Kathy Grabow, Greg Kolojeski, Jayne Molnar, Roberta Sappington, Vince Schrider, Rose Vincel

Future Events

April 1-2

Anniversary Sale

E. F. G. Orchids/Power Plant
4265 Marsh Rd.
DeLand, FL
10 am - 5 pm

April 9

**The Garden Club at Palm Coast
Annual Spring Festival and Plant Sale**

Flagler Palm Coast High School
5500 E. Highway 100
Palm Coast, FL
9 am - 4 pm

April 13-16

Plant Sale

Myrna Moore
3016 S. Peninsula Dr.
Daytona Beach Shores, FL
8 am -

April 23-24

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

Sanford Garden Club
200 Fairmont Dr.
Sanford, FL
9 am - 4 pm

May 13-15

Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show & Sale

Doubletree New Orleans Airport
Kenner, LA

June 8-12, 2022

World Bromeliad Conference

Hyatt Regency Sarasota
Sarasota, FL
www.bsi.org

Co-Presidents - Jack Dunlop 386-317-0054

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Secretary - Ruth Gessner 386-767-3499

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