

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

April 2025 Newsletter

1:30 p.m.

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

April 13th Meeting

Our scheduled speaker is unable to come, but fortunately one of our members, Judy Rafter, graciously offered to demonstrate how to make a kokedama moss ball.

Spring is a good time to divide your bromeliad clumps, so you may want to share them with others at the raffle. Also, many species are blooming now, so I encourage members to bring their plants for show and tell. It is a great learning experience on bromeliad culture. Refreshments will also be featured!

--- Jack

Kokedama – Japanese Garden Art

What is a kokedama? Kokedama is a centuries-old Japanese form of garden art that is closely tied to the practice of bonsai. Translating from "koke" meaning moss and "dama" meaning ball, kokedama is the practice of suspending the root ball of a plant in a mud ball that's coated in a sheet of moss.

To display, this plant can be secured to a piece of driftwood, placed in a wood bowl, placed in a clear container, or suspended from twine or monofilament fishing line. The best plants to use are those that are hardy, stay small, grow slowly and prefer low light. Some examples include: anthuriums, asparagus fern, begonia, bromeliads, creeping fig, ivy, peperomia, pothos, rosemary, mint, prayer plant, spider plant, and ferns. Most kokedama plants last 2-3 years before the roots outgrow the moss ball.



Award winning bromeliads

Marinus Grootenboer entered the annual St. Augustine Flower Show which was held on March 28-29. He entered several plants, all receiving blue ribbons. One winner was the Florida native *Tillandsia bartramii* which he discovered growing in his crepe myrtle. Not only did it win a blue ribbon, but it was awarded “Best in Show”! Congratulation Marinus!!!!

Greg Wilson recently gave Marinus *Aechmea* ‘Bert’ which happened to be in bloom at the time of the show, but because the rules state an entrant must have had an entry in their possession for at least 90 days, Marinus could not enter it as his, so he entered it under Greg’s name, and it won second place (red ribbon). Good thinking Marinus. Congratulations Greg!



Tillandsia bartramii



Aechmea ‘Bert’

(Marinus Grootenboer)

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



Variegated *Tillandsia*
(Jack Dunlop)



Neoregelia mcwilliamsii
(Terry Kahn)



Aechmea caudata



Guzmania



xAndroaechmea 'Cyclops'



Aechmea warasii v. discolor

(Calandra Thurrott)



Orthophytum 'Starlight'

(Jane Villa-Lobos)

Have you seen a mutation like this?

Carol Geran spotted this odd-looking leaf on one of her Neoregelias!



Blooms in Cricket and Wayne Petrovich's garden



Portea petropolitana



Aechmea ramosa



Aechmea caudata



Quesenelia testudo



Aechmea 'Loie's Pride'

(Calandra Thurrott)

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: Annette Caito, Alexander Jones, Greg Kolojeski, Mary Ann LaRusso, Roberta Sappington, Vince Schrider.

Future Events

April 5
Spring Festival & Plant Sale
Flagler Palm Coast High School
5500 E. Hwy. 100
Palm Coast
9-4

April 5-6
Spring Fever in the Garden
Plant Street
Winter Garden
Sat.: 9-5, Sun.: 10-4

April 12-13
Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society
Plant Sale
200 Fairmont Dr.
Sanford
9-4

April 17-20
Spring in the Garden Plant Sale
3016 S. Peninsula Dr.
Daytona Beach
8:30 – 4, except April 20: 8:30 – 3.

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