

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

This month's meeting would have been on Sunday, May 10th, 1:30p.m.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

May, 2020

Stay Home! Still No Meeting - May

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

Editor—Jay Thurrott 386/761/4804

May's Meeting has been cancelled.

Last Month's Meeting:

There was no April meeting due to unexpected arrival of Covid-19 and the subsequent state of emergency issued for all of Florida.

Birthdays for May:

John Breslin Ruth Gessner
Terry Kahn Mally Trzeciak
Susan McConnell

Happy Birthday all!

DON'T FORGET – ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE NOW!!

If you haven't renewed yet, see our Treasurer Eve Krauth. Don't let your membership expire!

Out and About:

There is nothing quite as welcome right now as photos of bromeliads from our members. Our regular FECBS meetings have been cancelled, we can't travel to shows

and sales around the state, but we **can** “ooh and aww!” over photos that have been sent of some very special plants – so keep sending us those pictures of your gardens and the plants in them and we'll post them in the next newsletter. This month we'll start with this cheery Spring scene created by Charlotte Mueller that combines bright yellow newly hatched chicks with everyone's favorite Tillandsias – Tillandsia ionantha!



Thank you Charlotte. Your seasonal creations always brighten my day and, I hope our readers' too!

And, while admiring her Tillandsia ionanthas, Jane Villa-Lobos noticed this monarch butterfly chrysalis attached to the little air plants – quite literally hanging by a thread, so she began taking daily photos showing to document it.



As of the printing of this newsletter, it hadn't hatched yet. But when it does, we hope Jane will document that as well.

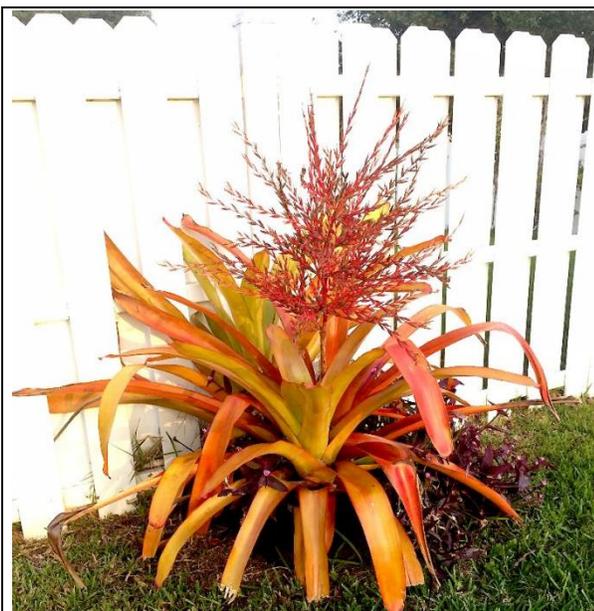
Terry Kahn was kind enough to send these photos of bromeliads in her yard. The first is of a very colorful Neoregelia. I'm sorry, I don't know the name of this one. Maybe Terry can help?



Next, she has this clump of beautiful blooming bromeliads – perhaps xVriecantarea Seeger?



Her next photo is much easier to identify and it's probably my favorite Aechmea. The bloom is simply outstanding as well as very long lasting. What's not to like about Aechmea blanchetiana? This plant does remarkably well under both full sun and shady conditions in our area – as long as we continue to have mild winters. If a freeze is predicted, you'll have to protect this one.



Terry's last photo is also easy to identify...at least with regard to its Genus. This is clearly an *Alcantarea* that is just beginning to raise its incredibly tall and beautiful inflorescence.



Thank you Terry for sharing these with us!

Club member Jean Hochdoerfer sent in these photos. The first is of a beautiful red *Neoregelia* that, if entered into a judged show would be sure to reach the head table and receive an award!



Next, a photo of the bromeliads in her garden:



...and lastly, I know it's not a bromeliad but Jean's clivia bloom is just too pretty not to include here.



Calandra and I recently visited the Doris Leeper Preserve in New Smyrna. This is a really nice “passive” park that is used by hikers, horseback riders, trail bikers and Frisbee golfers – quite a mix of people, but there’s a lot of wide open space there to share, so it’s very easy to maintain social distancing and still enjoy the great outdoors – just be sure to look out for the trail bikers if you visit here. Although most of them are very courteous and give folks a wide berth, others appear to enjoy startling hikers as they pedal around the twisting trails. We often visit this place and hike the many pathways that run through areas overlooking Spruce Creek (designated an “outstanding Florida waterway” by the state). While there we’re on the lookout for Florida’s native Tillandsias, which include *T. utriculata*, *T. floridana*, *T. bartramii* and of course Spanish moss (*T. usneoides*).

Unfortunately, we recently noted that the Mexican weevil is also present here and has been attacking and killing the native bromeliads in the trees of the preserve as you can see in the following photo:



This is a fallen *Tillandsia utriculata* and the white arrow is pointing to the cocoon that is housing a weevil larva that would soon produce an adult weevil – which would then fly off to attack the next *Tillandsia* that it encountered!

On a cheerier note, here is a shot of one of my favorite Tillandsias - *Tillandsia botteri*.



This year four blooms emerged from the clump of plants that I mounted on a piece of pine tree root some years ago.

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 cajat@aol.com or mail to Jay Thurrott, 713 Breckenridge Dr., Port Orange Fl. 32127

Announcements:

Jack has holly ferns and black taro plants that need to leave his yard. They’re free, but you need to pick them up! Contact Jack (his number is at the top of the first page of each newsletter)

Looking ahead:

THINGS WILL GET BETTER! HANG IN THERE.

