

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

June , 2021

## Back at Colony in the Wood!

**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**

### **June meeting**

The June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the clubhouse in Colony in the Wood (4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange) where we have met for years before COVID. Thank you Ruth Gessner for the good news.

Bring your favorite containers or tools to talk about. There will also be a show & tell, door prize and raffle. There will be a speaker in July.

We can also have food and beverages, so it will be like old times! Sandwiches and beverages will be provided, so please bring a salad or dessert.

---Jack Dunlop

### **Monthly Feature:**

***Hechtia*:** Hechtia is a small genus of terrestrial bromeliads which only has 50 species. Hechtias are native to Mexico and range from south Texas, Mexico to Central America. They form a rosette like *Dyckia* and have stiff leaves armed with marginal spines. They thrive in arid, sunny deserts and have adapted to this dry environment by slowing their growth when water is not

available. They also have special scales on their leaves that reflect sunlight to prevent burning. They can survive in shade, but their bright colors will not be as vivid and flowering may not occur. They make a nice landscape plant. If you grow them in a pot, select a large one as they do not like to be cramped.

They will grow best in a gritty potting mix that is well draining. You can add some coarse sand, perlite or small stones to regular potting mix. They can tolerate hot temperatures and cold temperatures, even down to 20 ° for short periods of time. They actually like a strong temperature shift between night and day. They do not require humidity. Water regularly in the spring and summer and allow the soil to dry between waterings. In the winter hold back on the water.

Most bromeliads only flower once and then die, but Hechtias can flower multiple times and continue to grow and produce pups. The flowers are usually white, small and are borne on a branched inflorescence which grows out of the side or center on the plant. Another unique feature of this genus is they have separate male or female forms.



*Hechtia lyman-smithii* (Kosit Kaewkangwal)

***Hohenbergia***: Native to tropical islands like Jamaica as well as parts of South America, particularly Brazil and Venezuela, they are closely related to *Aechmea*. However, if they are in flower you can tell them apart. *Aechmeas* produce a tall flower spike that is not branched while the spike of *Hohenbergias* is often branched with small clusters of flowers. It can take some species as long as 5 years to reach maturity and produce a flower.

*Hohenbergias* are frequently found in nature as epiphytes, but they can be planted in the ground or in containers. They thrive best in indirect light or dappled shade and need well draining soil.

They can grow large and typically have broad strap-like leaves that are stiff and leathery. Sometimes the leaves form a tight rosette shape, like *Hohenbergia stellata*.



(Photo: Frank Sherman)

Others have a very tight tube-shaped rosette like *Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii* whose leaf tips taper to a point.



Photo: Michael Andreas

Another good landscape plant for full sun is *Hohenbergia castellanosii*. The leaves begin as bright green and blush bright red from the tips inward when flowering. It can grow up to 29" tall and 18" wide. The flower stalk is green and inconspicuous.



(Photo: Dorothy Berg)

Still another for the shade is *Hohenbergia correia-araujoi* with its vase-shaped leaves with silver bands.



(Photo: Shirley Grills-Konefal)

**send me your photos by the end of the month. Thanks!!**

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

Look at this unusual *Aechmea proutii* that Cricket Petrovich bought at a sale.! It looks like *Aechmea fasciata* but the inflorescence stays close to the center.



No name (C. Thurrott)

*Hohenbergia penna*



(C. Thurrott)



(B.Hazard)

The thin leaves are dark green & purple. Its shape is likened to a Chianti wine bottle. It has green berries.

**Next month:**

*Neoregelia* will be featured next month. **I know most of you have these so, please**



*Quesenelia marmorata* (M. Grootenboer)



*Portea* (B. Hazard)



*Ananas* (B. 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 to Jane at saravillalobos387@gmail.com or mail to Jane Villa-Lobos, 29 Clearview Ct. North, Palm Coast, FL 32137.

#### **Videos to Watch:**

The Internet is a wealth of information and in this section each month I will include some videos I find interesting. Send me yours!

**Seabreeze Nurseries - *Hohenbergia* bromeliads explained.**

#### **Birthdays for June:**

*Greetings to these members:*

Ann Alberti    Deb Ball  
Peg Cowan    Pat Debow  
Kathy Dunlop    Marie Fabozzi

Marinus Grootenboer  
Jane Howells    Mimi Kanda  
Marilyn Perron Calandra Thurrott

#### **Looking ahead:**

**August 14-15**

#### **Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Fall Sale**

Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Dr.,  
Lake Mary. 9AM - 4 PM.

**October 9-10.**

#### **USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale**

University of South Florida, Tampa.  
(Tentative)

**November 13-14**

#### **Mount Dora Plant & Garden Fair**

Donnelly Park, Mount Dora  
Sat. 9AM -5PM; Sun. 9AM - 4PM

**2022**

#### **June 8-12, 2022**

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

**Note: The 2021 conference has been re-scheduled to 2022!!!**

Hyatt Regency Sarasota  
Sarasota, FL Watch future newsletters for  
more details! [www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org)

