

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, July 8th, 1:30p.m.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

July, 2012

Happy Independence Day!

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

If your yard is anything like mine, the rains from Tropical Storm Debby have really made the vegetation put on a growth spurt like we haven't seen for quite a long time. The good part of this is that my bromeliads are looking great. In fact, I've said it before but this is that "dangerous" time of the year when all of your plants are doing so well that you think this is due to your outstandingly good care and you start trying to grow plants that you have no business growing – with sadly, predictable results. Don't try to grow bromeliads that are native to high altitudes unless you can provide similar growing conditions in your yard (you can't) and don't try to grow cold-sensitive bromeliads in your yard unless you provide a source of heat to keep them alive in the winter. Your bromeliads are looking nice right now because the growing conditions are near perfect for the vast majority of species and cultivars, but it's very difficult to provide these same conditions throughout the rest of the year, so don't let this go to your head! Instead, you might want to start thinking about what you are going to do this Winter to protect the less cold-hardy plants in your collection. You also should be taking advantage of this warm and humid weather to separate and pot up the offsets on your plants that have been forming and rapidly increasing in size. This is a great time of year to get them

established before the cooler Fall weather with its shorter periods of daylight is upon us.

Last month –

Thank you so much to David Johnston, owner of 'Exotic Landscapes' for his interesting program on 'species' bromeliads and some of the "must haves" for everyone's collections. Dave brought a great bunch of plants for sale and I think everyone now has an 'Exotic Landscapes' plant to add to their collection.

This month's meeting –

Dr. Terri Bert will be educating and entertaining us this month with her program titled "Genera O & P". Terri has visited us several times in the past and I think we have all found her programs to be lively and entertaining as well as very interesting...from a bromeliad-enthusiast's point of view. Terri also feeds our addiction to new plants by bringing outstanding plants for sale at very reasonable prices. So, bring a friend, bring your wallet, and plan on enjoying your Sunday afternoon with a visit from Dr. Terri Bert!

More on our last Garden Ramble –
In Case You Missed It

by Eretta Morris

Our second garden ramble for the year took place on April 15th in Ormond Beach. Four Ormond residents agreed to showcase their gardens. The group met at the Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Garden, followed by a brief history and tour of the gardens led by our President Rick Ryals. Nestled into the heart of the Ormond beachside and located just adjacent to the Art Museum, the gardens were established in 1946 as a tribute to those Veterans who fought in WWII. The gardens were built by Ormond veterans on what was once a sand dune where they developed the land into a beautiful 2.5 acre park that is located at the southeast corner of Granada Boulevard between Seton Trail and Halifax Drive. If you missed this part of the ramble, in my opinion it is worth making it a part of your summer activities.

After touring the memorial gardens our first stop was at the home of Virginia Dornbach. Virginia has been a member of our club for 7 years. She and her husband David have lived in Ormond for 13 years. Her collection consists of as she puts it "some of everything".

She is a Master Gardener for 12 years and loves propagating from cuttings. I had the privilege of getting to know Virginia on one of our recent trips to the Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition (TPIE) in Fort Lauderdale where we were roommates. She has the patience of Job. She is quiet and soft spoken and her love for anything that grows is evident in her landscape. Her love for bromeliads comes from the fact that they are "easy" to grow and "need little care". She is fond of Florida natives and is a member of the Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society. As you walked through her one acre plus property the canopy of trees guides your steps throughout. I particularly enjoyed how she showcased the majority of her bromeliads. Some were planted in the ground, but most of them are kept in pots and are displayed on wire racks where she has an assortment of Tillandsias. The use of decorative garden and picnic tables, along with other recyclables, are

used to house her collection. Her garden is filled and adorned with whimsical features which highlights the fun part of her personality. I thoroughly enjoyed strolling throughout her garden and sitting under the trees that provided the much needed refuge from the heat, in addition to ringing her antique liberty bell to signal the end of our tour and where she once used to call her children to head for home at the end of the day.

Our second stop was to the home of Bill and Tree Hazard. Bill is a native Floridian and has Ormond Beach ancestry dating back to the 1800's. His garden is surrounded by colorful bromeliads amidst numerous Florida perennials, scrubs and annuals. Bill and Tree are new members to our club and when I asked him to share his collection, not knowing what he was getting into he immediately stepped up to the plate. Bill is that kind of guy. His generosity in sharing his plants with others, as well as donating many toward our raffles has not gone unnoticed. He is the bromeliad enthusiast according to Tree and she considers herself his helper. If you drive up to their home and Bill is out in the yard working, you can bet that Tree is right beside him doing the "dirty" work. Bill has a good well balanced variety of plants. He is particular attracted to that "odd ball" ...the unusual. He does not follow the traditional methods, but places his plants wherever they fit. I particularly like how he artistically incorporates his bromeliads into his landscape.

He has a keen eye for structure and color. Along with his bromeliads, I thought his roses and succulents were the most appealing. Bill has a spectacular collection and this was one garden worth seeing.

Of the four gardens that were seen Jane Upham is the oldest. She and her husband Tyler have lived in Ormond for 55 years. A member of our club since 2006 and Master Gardener, Jane became interested in collecting bromeliads when her daughter Lisa brought home from her job a few "dead" specimens that were thrown out and in need of care. To Jane's surprise she was able to

nurse them back to health and with that experience she became hooked. Her collection is by far the largest I've seen. Located near deep embankments leading to and situated on the Tomoka River, her home is surrounded by a cornucopia of old oak and cedar trees. Jane's landscape consists largely of Dyckias where she grows to support her love of butterflies, many Vrieseas that are often given as gifts, Aechmeas grown for their dramatic impact and a shaded area to house her Guzmanias. Neo's are her favorite and I would venture to say that she has almost all of the well known species. Her love of bromeliads is quite obvious as you weave and bob throughout her property trying not to miss all of the "eye candy" that surrounds you. She throws in a mixture of all colors and it all works together so well. Every path through her country cottage leads to a large assortment of bromeliads sprinkled with her love for other plants as well. Without showing favoritism to any of these gardens hers was certainly a real treat.

Our last garden was at the home of Eretta and Clifton Morris. Clifton and I moved from Annapolis, Maryland and have lived in Florida for 13 years. We moved to the Broadwater community in 2007. I have been a member of our club for 2 years. I am absolutely one hundred percent in love with bromeliads. I find them to be an amazing plant. I am awe stricken at anything that can reproduce itself without the help of mother nature. Almost every bromeliad I see I have got to have. Watching it grow and producing that incredible and inevitable bloom is such a wonderment and the experience is like a long awaited Christmas gift. I was inspired to join the club after growing tired of killing so many bromeliads not to mention the expense. Joining our club was the best investment I could ever make. Our property has evolved over the last 5 years. Cutting down and lifting up trees, discarding undesirables and transplanting has been hard work. Configuring bromeliads into the landscape has been challenging but enjoyable. I have been busy trying to put my personal signature

on the property. Because the garden represents 95 percent shade it is perfect for growing bromeliads. However, it is all trial and error trying to find that perfect spot. The only drawback is that we all have to contend with the cold weather here in Central Florida. Covering plants occupies most of my time during the cold months. My collection is small and I am always excited with the harvesting of new pups. The landscape is somewhat eclectic and filled with many plants dominated by the colors of pink, orange, purple and yellow. I try to incorporate the larger bromeliads to achieve that bold look, since I have a large space to cover. I have dedicated my garden and efforts to my mom who taught me the love of gardening. The garden fairies and St. Francis statue reminds me of her ever presence and my protection against my fear of snakes. I have a love for art and I try to include it whenever I can. My ultimate goal for my garden is to create that "botanical garden" look and to create a place for all to enjoy.

I would like to thank all of those who came out to enjoy in this gardening experience as well as the individuals who worked so hard to make ready their gardens. In case you missed it, our next ramble will take place in South Daytona Beach and Port Orange during the month of September where we will feature the collections of Rick Ryals, Louise Dianto, Eve Krauth and any other member willing to showcase their garden during this month.

Eretta Morris - Vice President



A huge thank you to our host and hostesses, Virginia Dornbach, Jane Upham, Eretta Morris, Bill & Tree Hazard and Joan Campbell. Thank you all so very much!

Thank you Eretta for that excellent summary of the “up North” ramble and we’re all looking forward to the “down South” ramble in September. Maybe it’s time also for “out West” ramble for our club members from Deland and points west!

Incidentally, this is *your newsletter*. I’m always looking for club news and articles are always welcome to be included. Just send them to me (*wrapped in a \$20 bill...just kidding!*) and I’ll see that they are included in the next issue. I’m sure that we have a number of budding writers out there and this is a great opportunity for you to hone your writing skills. The newsletter is usually printed on Wednesday, a week and a half before the next scheduled meeting, so try to get your article to me before then and I’ll do my best to insert it into that issue. Anything past that deadline and it will have to go into the next month’s newsletter.

Billbergias by Bill McBride

You know all those small Bilbergias that bloom in wintertime? Well, here's the other side of that coin: helicoids.

Inside the Billbergia family there are the basic forms and the helicoids, Rosea is the most available and mine is now 4' high, I have Stenpetela and Khulmanii both under two feet tall and some hybrid of Stenopetela under a foot tall. The blooms ignore the standard convention, in fact, Rosea seems to defy conventional wisdom- it likes fertilizer and I feed it regularly.

The bloom is already a week old and still growing. Remember that where these plants come from is a rainforest canopy, the blooms hang down about a foot below the rootline, so they need to be elevated. Whereas (the blooms of) most of the helicoids come in white or a subtle shade of pink, green, or yellow- the Khulmanii comes in a deep navy blue colour. The Helicoids all prefer warmer weather and don't like the cold- I bring mine in anytime it reaches the low 50s. Rosea isn't

the only Billbergia in town right now, Sudi said her Bilbergia eloiseae is in bloom too.



Several members asked about the lemon cookies that Jillian Thurrott (part of the Thurrott dynasty!) brought to the last meeting, so here is the recipe:

Jill’s Easy Lemon Cookies

Original Recipe Yield 3 dozen cookies

Ingredients

- 1 (18.25 ounce) package lemon cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon lemon extract
- 1/3 cup confectioners' sugar for decoration

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).
2. Pour cake mix into a large bowl. Stir in eggs, oil, and lemon extract until well blended. Drop teaspoonfuls of dough into a bowl of confectioners' sugar. Roll them around until they're lightly covered. Once sugared, put them on an ungreased cookie sheet.
3. Bake for 6 to 9 minutes in the preheated oven. The bottoms will be light brown, and the insides chewy.

Amount Per Serving Calories: 87 | Total Fat: 4g | Cholesterol: 15mg

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Birthdays for July:

Kathleen Dimock
Charlotte Mueller
Jane Villa-Lobos
Kimberly Ridenour
Eleanor Van Tassel
Barbara Kincade
Big John

Looking ahead...

July 14, 2012

Quarterly meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida

August 18-19, 2012

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

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) or the Florida Council Website for registration forms and the latest information.

October 26-27th

Everybody's Flower Show
Peabody Auditorium in Daytona Beach
600 Auditorium Blvd.
Free admission, 10am to 5pm