

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Sunday, July 14th

Meet at LaCosta Village - 1275 LaCosta Blvd.

July, 2019

Happy 4th of July!

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

This Month's Meeting:

Our guest speaker(s) this month will be...you! That's right – we want you to bring an example of your favorite bromeliad to the meeting and then tell us a little bit about it. When did you acquire it? What about it appeals to you? We don't need to hear a detailed scientific description. Just show us the plant and tell us why it's your favorite!

Last Month's Meeting

June's speaker was John Boardman, who spoke to us about his favorite Genera – the Neoregelias.



John doesn't often do programs for clubs around the state, so it was especially nice to have him join us. He also brought some

interesting plants from his own collection, including Neoregelia Scarface – a Chester Skotak hybrid.



Neoregelia Scarface

...and that oddity among Neoregelias:
Neoregelia Sheldance:



About all we can say for certain about this plant is that the name is from a California nursery. There is some speculation that this may be a bigeneric hybrid due to the somewhat unusual form of the inflorescence, but for now we'll just have to stick with *Neoregelia Shelldance*.

Hurricane Preparedness

The 2019 Hurricane Season is upon us and although the peak of this year's storm season is still a few months away, you should be gathering your thoughts regarding what precautions you should take should a storm appear on the horizon. This year's season has barely begun and already various representatives of the news media are bombarding us daily with information to help in developing our own, personal hurricane plan. I'm not sure just how helpful some of their "tips" and "helpful hints" are – after all, do we really need the news media to tell us we should "closely monitor the news as storms approach" or to "stay off the roads when winds near hurricane strength"? I like to think that most of us have enough common sense to do these things without being told. I've also looked through some of the special "hurricane survival" packets that were included with weekend editions of the local newspapers and haven't seen any that include plane tickets out of Florida, so I'm not sure how helpful this information is either when a storm really approaches. Regardless, in the true spirit of the season, I thought that I would pass along the following *Hurricane Tips for Bromeliad Growers*:

1. For your plants that are mounted in pots – dig a hole and put them pot and all in the ground. Cover this with mulch and they will be secure long after your house blows away. After the storm passes, uncover the mulch and your plants should be unharmed. Now, about your house...
2. Take down those hanging plants before high winds do it for you! If you take the hanging plants down and put them in a safe place, you will be more likely to find them again after the storm passes – and don't forget

where you have stored those plants! This is important for several reasons: (a) after the storm passes they will probably be covered in debris - you should uncover these as soon as possible. The potting mix may be saturated with water and root-rot can be a real possibility. (b) try to avoid further damage to these plants as you clear away other debris. A well-meaning neighbor with a chainsaw can make a real mess of your bromeliads if you don't point out where they are beforehand. (c) plants that were formerly in the shade may now be exposed to full sun and will soon experience sunburn if they aren't promptly moved to a more shady spot.

3. Plan on the power being out for a few days if a storm strikes your area. If you fill your garage with plants and the power is off for a prolonged period of time, temperatures in that garage can easily exceed the tolerance levels of your plants. It may be safer for your bromeliads if you can find a protected corner of your property to store them rather than putting them in an enclosed structure.

A hurricane strike can be a devastating event for both you and your bromeliad collection. With a little pre-planning though, you and your plants will not only survive, but soon spring back to normal. Your plants may look a little battle-scarred, but they'll survive and you may be pleasantly surprised by some unexpected blooms and a new generation of offsets.

Finally, let me just say that any approaching hurricane should not be taken lightly. Plan on visiting your relatives in the northern states if it looks like a strong storm is going to be heading our way. This can be a good excuse to visit some other part of the country until the storm clears the area – just don't make the mistake of driving in the same direction that the storm is taking. The only thing worse than staying in your house when a strong hurricane strikes is trying to outrun a storm that is travelling in the same direction you are and you are stuck in traffic as it begins gaining on you!

Editor's note – this is an article that first appeared in a 2005 FECBS newsletter and has been updated, based on more recent experiences with hurricanes.

2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza

We've talked about this upcoming event at our meetings and by now everyone should be aware that the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida will be hosting this year's Extravaganza in Orlando. You also know that we all should plan to attend because it will be a great opportunity to shop for those more unusual bromeliads that you may have read about or seen pictures of, but not seen for sale anywhere.



New plant acquisitions at the 2017 Extravaganza plant sale.

Another reason for you to attend that we haven't really emphasized is that, as a member of FECBS (which in turn, is a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies) you can bring some of your plants to sell on the "members" sales table in the plant sale area. Club members of other societies from around the state often take advantage of this opportunity at Extravaganzas and have been known to sell enough bromeliads to offset the expense of the hotel and/or registration for the event! How do you do this? First of all, you must

contact the person in charge of plant sales at the Extravaganza to obtain a seller's number. There is no charge for this, but the number that you are assigned identifies you as the seller and needs to go on the price tags in each of your plants. A second tag also must be with each plant with the plant name – this stays with the plant when it is sold. Sales money is collected by the host society, and then a check for your sales (based on a split of 80/20) will be mailed to you soon after the event, but the only way to know those were your plants is through the number on your tags so be sure to contact the sales chairperson as soon as possible if you want to participate in the plant sales at the Extravaganza!

Birthdays for July:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

Linda Collins	Charlotte Mueller
Nancy Rogers	Jane Villa-Lobos
Annette Wilson	

Out and About:

Past president and lifetime member Rick Ryals sent us this photo – something that you don't really want to see in your bromeliad collection!



We forwarded the picture to Dr. Howard Frank in Gainesville, who quickly confirmed it as *metamasius calizone*, more commonly known as the Mexican Weevil. This of course is that invasive species that is

threatening Florida's native bromeliads with extinction.

Rick also sent a photo of a group of weevils in a plant that was not a bromeliad and it turns out that there are many, many types of weevils out there. Those bugs were not the Mexican weevil but instead, a totally unrelated weevil species that does not care for bromeliads. Good news for Rick's bromeliads, not so good for his other plants!



On a more pleasant note, Rick also sent this photo with the statement that the bloom on this *Aechmea blanchetiana* is taller than he is! What a great plant and they seem to be coming into bloom now all over central Florida. Named for the discoverer of this species, *Ae. blanchetiana* is native to coastal areas of Brazil and seems to do very well in our area, although it is a bit cold sensitive and needs to be protected if the temperature approaches freezing. If you don't already have one of these plants, you should pick one up at your first opportunity. The bloom is simply outstanding and lasts for months and months!

In case you were wondering just what the bloom looks like, here's a photo that we took during a visit to Bok Tower of an *Aechmea blanchetiana* in bloom there.



Bromeliads often don't cooperate when it comes to blooming in time for a show, or in this case for Show and Tell at last month's meeting.



Sincorea navioides

Here's the same *Sincorea navioides* (formerly known as *Orthophytum navioides*) that was shown at the meeting, but two weeks before the meeting – when the color was optimum and several flowers were open. This plant puts on quite a show when it flushes this deep red color and the white

flowers that emerge from the center...they smell a bit like Ivory Soap!

And finally, this smiling frog greeted me the other day when I looked out my back door to see how this pot of Billbergia 'White Cloud' was doing.



Hopefully, he's been feasting on some of the mosquitos that this month's wet weather has brought out!

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

Looking ahead:

August 3,4, 2019

South Bay Bromeliad Associates show and sale at Rainforest Flora Nursery, 19121 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503.

August 17 – 18, 2019

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale

Location: The Garden Club of Sanford, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford 9:00 - 4:00

In air-conditioned building

Huge selection of bromeliads in many genera, orchids, aroids, ginger, other tropical plants, gift baskets, hand crafted slat baskets in several sizes. Members will be available to answer your questions.

September 20 – 21, 2019

2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. Registration is \$100/person which Saturday night Italian buffet, raffle and silent auction, seminars and rare plant auction. Location: [SpringHill Suites](#) & [TownePlace Suites](#), 8040 Palm Parkway, Orlando Lake Buena Vista (near Disney Springs). This is a Marriott property with the two hotels being connected. The rate will be \$85 per night (taxes are additional). When you make your reservations you must mention The Bromeliad Extravaganza for this special rate. You can call today. The hotels will also have a limited number of rooms 5 days before and 5 days after at the same rate for those that might wish to make a vacation at Walt Disney World or the other area attractions. This rate also includes a complimentary hot breakfast. The rooms at Towneplace Suites include a kitchenette. The rooms at SpringHill Suites include a mini fridge and microwave and a pull out (trundle) sofa bed. **Make sure that you indicate which hotel you prefer when you call to make your reservations - either SpringHill or**

Towneplace. You can call and make your reservations and mention The Bromeliad Extravaganza for your special rate. You can call today. No Extravaganza registration is required. Either 407-635-8500 or 407-239-4005. The hotels have provided a link for online registration for this event. The \$85 rate is good from Tuesday, September 17th to Tuesday, September 24th. The taxes are an additional 12.5% which comes out to \$21.25, so your confirmation should show \$191.25 for two nights. Last day to book is Saturday August 17th.



Florida East Coast
BROMELIAD SOCIETY
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Oct. 11, 12, 2019

Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show -- International Cryptanthus Society Show. Emerald Beach Hotel directly on the Bay 1102 South Shoreline Blvd. Corpus Christi, Texas.

October 25-27, 2019

Tropiflora Fall Festival

Dec.13-15, 2019 Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale, Araba Shrine Temple in Fort Myers.

June 9 -13, 2020 I know – that’s a long way ahead, but it will be here before you realize, so you should start your plans today for the BSI World Conference (WBC2020) in Sarasota, Fl. It’s not often that a World Conference is held right here in our own backyard (well, across the state from us anyway), so this will be an excellent opportunity for our members to see what these events are all about! Watch future newsletters for details!