

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

September, 2021

## Colony in the Wood

4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange  
1:30 p.m.

**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**

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### September meeting

The speaker for the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting will be Dave Johnston, owner of Bromeliads Galore in Pinellas Park and a member of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. He will speak on taking, growing bromeliads to the next level and will have plants for sale. There will be a bromeliad raffle, door prize and show and tell.

Drinks and food will be provided by the members whose birthdays are this month, but others are welcome to share their treats too.

---Jack Dunlop

### Officers for next year

Don't forget we will be electing new officers in December for 2022. Anyone who is interested in guiding our club should contact Calandra Thurrott, chair of the nominating committee. We are grateful for our officers leading us through these unusual circumstances.

### Monthly Feature:

**Pitcairnia:** This genus has the second largest number of species in the Bromeliaceae after *Tillandsia*. The genus was named after Dr. William Pitcairn, an English physician and gardener (1711-1791).

They are most abundant in Colombia, Peru, and Brazil but are also found from Cuba to Mexico south to Argentina. In addition, it is the only member of the bromeliad family with a species not found in the New World. *Pitcairnia feliciana* is found in tropical Africa on sandstone outcrops.

Pitcairnia are primarily terrestrial and saxicolous (growing on rocks), but some are epiphytes in trees. They stand apart from other bromeliad genera as their leaves are soft and drooping similar to grasses. Some are spineless. The tall flower stalks have tube shaped flowers that project at right angles from the stalks. The flowers are brightly colored usually red, pink, orange and sometimes yellow and white, or even black! Another unique characteristic is their long lasting inflorescence which usually appears

in early summer and continues for several months.

Many can grow in full sun to dappled shade. They prefer moderate temperatures in the 80s and can be grown in the landscape, in pots, or even indoors. Since they do not capture water in the center of their leaves, like most bromeliads, they like a moist, well-drained soil.

One species you might be familiar with is *Pitcairnia tabuliformis* which has a broad flat rosette and a cluster of bright red or orange flowers.



Photo: Michael Andres



*Portea* 'Candy' (Calandra Thurrott)



Porteas from Bill Hazard's gardens

**Portea:** If you want a large plant with a spectacular inflorescence, then you should get a *Portea*. This is a small genus with only eight species and a few hybrids. The most common species is *Portea petropolitana* which is very spiny with a colorful bloom spike (pink, rose, purple, blue, teal) in late spring. In early summer colorful purple fruits appear. It can be grown in shade or sun and can get to 42" tall with the flower spike. It is a great landscape plant.



George Aldrich with his *Portea petropolitana*

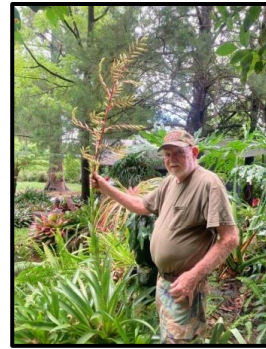


Jack Dunlop's *Portea*

**Puya:** This genus is found in the high elevations of the Andes Mountains throughout South America making them very hardy. They like plenty of sun and water during the summer growing season and dry during winter surviving temperatures in the teens. They are terrestrial with stiff leaves and sharp spines and are slow growing. The largest species is *Puya raimondii* found in Peru and Bolivia which can grow up to 30 feet tall and 9 feet across (See videos to watch).



*Puya raimondii* in Rodales Nat. Park, Peru  
Photo: Jamie Bush



George Aldrich likes big plants! Here is a *xGuzvriesea* cross



George Aldrich with *Aechmea bracteata*

**Next month:**

*Quesnelia* and *Sincoraea* will be featured next month. **Please send me your photos by the end of the month. Thanks!!**

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



*Aechmea blanchettiana* (Rosie Byard)



*Vriesea* (Calandra Thurrott)



Proud Jacquie Mamele with her *Ananas bracteatus*





*Quesnelia marmorata* 'Tim Plowman'  
(Christophe Cardot)

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 - *Portea* bromeliads explained.**

**Also check out videos on *Puya raimondii* and Dance of the Puya (*Puya berteroniana*).**

#### **Birthdays for September:**

*Greetings to these members:*

George Aldrich	Becky Gabbard
Donald Irvin	Rick Ryals
Merrill Stass-Isern	Ron Tucholski
Sherrie Thompson	

#### **Looking ahead:**

**October 9-10.**  
**USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale**  
University of South Florida, Tampa.

(Rescheduled)

**March 26-27, 2022**

**Bromeliad Society of South Florida  
Show & Plant Sale**

Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden  
10901 Old Cutler Rd.  
Coral Gables, FL  
9:30 am - 4:30 pm

**November 13-14**

**Mount Dora Plant & Garden Fair**

Donnelly Park, Mount Dora  
Sat. 9 am -5 pm; Sun. 9 am - 4 pm

**December 4-5**

**Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society  
Sale at Edison/Ford Winter Estates**

2350 McGregor Blvd.  
Fort Myers, FL  
Sat. 9 am - 4 pm; Sun. 10 am - 3pm

**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)

