

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

October 2022 Newsletter

**Meeting Location: Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange, FL
1:30 p.m.**

October 9th Meeting

Fall is here! The program for the October meeting will be "Bromeliad Bingo". Let's hope we don't have to change it to "How To Find Your Bromeliads That The Hurricane Scattered Throughout The Neighborhood".

There will also be refreshments, show & tell, door prizes, and the plant raffle.

The member plant sale at the September meeting was a great success. Thanks to all who brought and bought plants.

Hope to see everyone on Oct. 9.

— Jack

Hurricane Ian

Hurricane Ian will be a storm for the record books! Our hearts go out to all our friends on the West Coast and those here in Central Florida suffering from the wrath of this slow-moving storm. We all spent days preparing our homes and landscapes for the onslaught of high winds, heavy rains and loss of electricity. I am sure many of us were busy like Marinus Grootenboer bringing in our precious potted bromeliads (Photo 1). The winds and rains in Palm Coast lasted for 36 hours and were no match for my bromeliad tree (Photo 2). Bill Hazard was in touch with Grant Groves who sent a photo of the view of the Gulf from his backyard (Photo 3). This is called "reverse storm surge". As I scanned Facebook and saw the postings of some of the bromeliad nurseries like Tropiflora (Photo 4-6) and Michael's Bromeliads (Photo 7-8)), I was saddened to see the extensive damage. It will take months to rebuild these structures. - Jane Villa-Lobos



(Photo 1)



(Photo 2)



(Photo 3)



(Photo 4)



(Photo 5)



(Photo 6)



(Photo 7)



(Photo 8)

Billbergia pyramidalis – The Flaming Torch

Billbergia pyramidalis is native to Brazil, Cuba, French Guyana, Venezuela and the Leeward and Windward Islands. The genus is in honor of Swedish botanist Gustav Johann Billberg, and the species for its pyramidal shape.

The flaming torch is nearly indestructible and takes little care making it a great landscape plant. If you grow it in a container in the center when it blooms, it is quite the stunning “thriller”. It grows well and blossoms in both shade and semi-shade and colonizes by its stolons. It can be grown as a terrestrial or an epiphyte. Its strap-like leaves are held in a whorl and overlap at the base tightly so that water is held in the center.

The showy, club-shaped flower spike rises above the leaves and is colorful - bright pink to nearly red - with blue flowers which last for about seven to ten days. They all bloom at the same time throughout mid-spring and early fall. They are very cold tolerant and are usually only damaged if heavy frost settles on the leaves.

The second photo is *Billbergia pyramidalis* ‘Striata’. There is some controversy that this is not *Billbergia pyramidalis* as it has an open rosette of leaves, and the flower is pendulous. No matter, the inflorescence is still striking.



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



(Photo: Iris Graim)



(Photos: Janet Correia)



Sherrie Thompson with her
Aechmea blanchettiana



Jane Villa-Lobos' creations (1st one for her neighbor)
(Photos: Jane Villa-Lobos)

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 Jane at saravillalobos387@gmail.com.



Birthdays for October:

Greetings to these members: Frankie Breslin, Loretta Byrum, Stanley Marye, Brad Rausch, Pamela Reisen, Lynne Rounseville, Ron Schoenau, Connie Schrider, Ray Trzeciak, Donna Valerio.

Future Events

October 1-31

EFG Orchids - Orchtobefest

4265 Marsh Rd.

DeLand, FL

Tues. – Sun. 10-5

Check their website for special sales during the month

www.efgorchids.com

October 8-9

USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale

4202 E. Fowler Ave.

Tampa, FL

10 am - 3 pm

November 4-5

Growvember Fall Fest and Plant Sale

Mead Botanical Garden Plant Sale

1300 S. Denning Dr.

Winter Park, FL

Fri.: 2 pm - 6 pm; Sat.: 8 am - 4 pm

Co-Presidents - Jack Dunlop 386-317-0054

Chuck Mamele 386-402-4830

Vice President - Bill Hazard 386-882-3850

Secretary - Ruth Gessner 386-767-3499

Treasurer - Eve Krauth 386-871-1041

