

# THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

## October 2026 Newsletter

1:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd.  
Port Orange, FL

---

### October 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 at the clubhouse at Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange.

Bill has invited Stephanie LaRusso from Fort Lauderdale who has spent over the last 14 years working with tropical plants. For the past decade she worked with Tradewinds Tropicals at their wholesale bromeliad nursery in Homestead where she fell in love with bromeliads. Stephanie's lecture, "Mindful Garden Design – Less Weeding, More Wine – Bromeliad Edition", will provide steps to planning and developing a garden from start to finish. She will bring plants and her art for sale.

Don't forget to bring your bromeliads for show and tell, plants for the raffle, canned goods for Halifax Urban Ministries to help restock their pantries, and of course food for the mid-meeting break.

---Pam

### Botanicals by Stephanie LaRusso



*Edmundoa lindenii* and Squirrel

Stephanie LaRusso has a passion for plants and hopes to ignite this passion in others through her art and lectures. She teaches watercolor painting at local Fort Lauderdale coffee shops through her business, Botanicals by Stephanie LaRusso. She also enjoys working with clients, helping them to care for their plant collections and giving lectures on bromeliads and gardening. She is the owner of Can't Grow Squash which is a small garden/nursery.

### Halifax Urban Ministries in Need of Canned Goods

Please bring some canned goods to help restock the pantries at Halifax Urban Ministries. This faith-based non-profit established in 1981 provides food, housing, and emergency support for individuals facing hardship in Volusia and Flagler counties. Someone from the ministries will give a brief presentation.

### **Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society Show and Sale held September 12-13**



A few weeks ago, I was visiting family in Toledo, Ohio and was fortunate to attend the Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society's 50th Anniversary Celebration and its first inaugural BSI Standard Show at Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It was co-hosted by the Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society. There were 115 bromeliad entries which were judged by BSI judges, including our society's life member, Rick Ryals. There were also displays by both societies as well as bromeliad, cactus and succulent vendors.

Two internationally known bromeliad experts Stephen Hoppin and Jerry Raack were invited to present talks both days. Steve Hoppin was one of the BSI Accredited Judges for the show. He has also been the President of the Cryptanthus Society for 3 years and spoke on "Cryptanthus Complex: Obligatory Terrestrials" he has discovered while traveling in Brazil. Jerry Raack from Columbus, Ohio and past President of BSI, presented a slide show on his search for bromeliads throughout Ecuador. Both presentations were excellent, and it was amazing to see bromeliads in their native habitats.



Jerry Raack's *Tillandsia complanata* var. *complanata*, was honored with the Mulford B. Foster Best in Show Award in Horticulture. Standing next to Jerry is his wife, Joanne. How did he manage to get 42 amazing bloom stalks all at once!!



**Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society Show and Sale (con't)**



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

**Marie Fabozzi's Bromeliads**



**Marinus Grootenboer's Bromeliads Awarded at Palm Coast Flower Show**

The Garden Club at Palm Coast had a pop-up FFGC Flower Show in September and Marinus Grootenboer entered some of his beautiful bromeliads. All were awarded Blue Ribbons (First Place) and the *Neoregelia* 'Fireball' chandelier also won Best in Show. Congratulations, Marinus.



*Neoregelia* 'Fireball'



*Neoregelia* 'Full Moon'



*Tillandsia xerographica*



*Aechmea pectinata*

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](mailto:saravillalobos387@gmail.com).



Birthday greetings to these members: Mary Kay Hirsch, Merely Spitzer, Stanley Marye, Pamela Reisen, Lynn Rounseville, Connie Schrider, and Ray Trzeciak.

### **Future Events**

**Oct. 1-31**  
**Orchtoberfest Sale**  
E.F.G. Orchids  
4265 March Rd.  
DeLand  
Tues. – Sunday 10 – 5

**Oct. 19-20**  
**Open House & Fall Plant Sale**  
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens  
4700 SW 58<sup>th</sup> Dr.  
Gainesville  
9 – 5  
\$5.00 donation

**November 7-8**  
**Mount Dora Plant & Garden Fair**  
530 N. Donnelly St.  
Mount Dora  
Sat. 9-5; Sun. 9-4

**November 14-15**  
**GROWvember Festival**  
Mead Botanical Garden  
1500 S. Denning Dr.  
Winter Park  
9-3

***President – Pam Reisen 937- 426-4556***  
***Vice President - Bill Hazard 386-882-3850***  
***Secretary - Ruth Gessner 386-846-3246***  
***Treasurer - Eve Krauth 386-871-1041***  
***Newsletter Editor - Jane Villa-Lobos 386-446-0341***  
***Hospitality - Annette Cross 561-506-4918***  
***Beverages - Terri Malia 386-307-4331***  
***Sunshine - Judith Davies 386-864-7360***

