

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

This month's meeting would have been on Sunday, December 13, 1:30p.m.  
BUT THERE WILL BE **NO MEETING THIS MONTH!!**

Colony in the Wood – club house  
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

December, 2020

## It's Back.....

**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**

**No Meeting for December!**

### President's Message

Greetings from the President. No, not that one.

Hope this news letter finds everyone in their gardens and enjoying the cooler weather. Restrictions on meetings at our usual locations have kept us from getting together, but hopefully by January we will start having meetings again, although probably not at either of the usual places. So get your raffle table bromeliads ready to bring. I, for one, am in need of a bromeliad fix.

As most of you are aware, we lost Jay Thurrott this fall. The heart of our Society. He will be missed. Not only as a bromeliad mentor, but especially as a friend.

Starting with this newsletter, we have a new newsletter editor. Jane Villa-Lobos has offered to follow in Jay's footsteps as editor.

She "warns" us that she will do her best, and admits "Jay will be a hard act to follow."

Please help Jane by sending her photos and news about your bromeliads to share with everyone. Also, any questions you have about bromeliads. No question is too basic.

We all started knowing nothing about bromeliads.

And if anyone needs cheering up in these crazy times: When you are feeling down and small, just remember that the mighty oak was once a nut like you.

Happy Holidays and I look to seeing everyone soon.

—Jack



### **New Newsletter Editor:**

#### **Jane Villa-Lobos**

After several months without a newsletter, I decided to take over the task. However, I will never be able to fill Jay Thurrott's "shoes". Jay was a wealth of information and enjoyed sharing his love of bromeliads with all of us, and the world!

I will need every member's help by sending me ideas, photos, events, etc. to continue this valuable newsletter. I don't know about you, but I looked forward to the newsletter every month and have missed it. We are all experiencing stressful times during this pandemic, and I hope to take your mind off the virus and expand your love for bromeliads. Thank you.

### **Our beloved Jay Thurrott**



We lost our special Jay this summer, but he most definitely will not be forgotten in our club and in the BSI. Jay was a kind soul, always willing to help identify plants for our members. He brightened our meetings with his smile and the extraordinary "Show and Tell" plants from his collection-- not to mention the plants he brought for our raffles.

The November issue of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies newsletter is filled with memories of Jay by people around the world. Please take the time to read it.

As Larry Giroux, vice-president of the Cryptanthus Society said, "Jay epitomized the person most of us can only hope to emulate in our own lifetime. Thank you Jay for leaving us with the memories of your friendship, sincere concern for others, generosity, dedication and a model of diplomacy that we can apply in our own lives".

### **Next month:**

I have decided to highlight the genera of bromeliads in each issue. I know there are many new members who might benefit from this as well as others.

I will begin with *Aechmea* and would like you to send me your photos of the Aechmeas you have in your collection. Flowering ones would be appreciated. Please send them to me by the end of the month. I intend to have the newsletter distributed by the first week of each month.

### **What are you doing during the pandemic?**

I know many of you are doing the same thing I am doing...dividing my bromeliads and maybe even redesigning your beds. Or maybe you are creating interesting ways to mount bromeliads. Please send photos and let all of us know what you have been up to.

### **Did you know FECBS has a Face Book page?**

During the beginning of the pandemic I was glad to have the time to cruise the many gardening and bromeliad FB pages and was surprised that Bill Hazard had created one for our club. However, not many club members know about it. Please take the time to check it out and add pictures of your plants, ask questions, etc. and with your help it will become a great way to communicate.

Other bromeliad clubs in the area have FB pages too. Check out the Bromeliad Society of Broward County, Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. And then there are other sites to explore: Florida Bromeliads, Central Florida Bromeliads, Planet Neoregelia, The Shane Garden. I could go on and on.... ENJOY!!!



**Out and About:**

In November Greg & Annette Wilson, Rosie Byard and I went to Leu Gardens in Orlando. It was a beautiful sunny Sunday and the humidity was low. I had not been there at all this year so enjoyed the various collections.

Right as you enter the main path toward the tropical stream they have planted bromeliads along the side walk. I was impressed with the signage and was able to identify some plants I have but lost the name tags.



Not labeled either, but I think this is *Neoregelia* 'Pink Sensation' which I have just bought.



*Aechmea ramosa*



Here it is planted in the cycad/bamboo area.

**We love to see pictures of bromeliads in our members' gardens.** Here are a few I have been saving.



Nice display on this boulder. I wish this was identified.



Rosie Byard has landscaped the entrance to her condo complex with sun bromeliads.



*Aechmea gamosepala* in Sherrie Thompson's garden

*Aechmea gamosepala*, or matchstick, is a perfect landscape plant. It produces large clumps and is tolerant of sunny areas if kept well watered. The flowers can be cut and used in arrangements.



Janet Correia has a bromeliad garden in her lanai area.



Bill Hazard set up a booth at the Ormond Beach Farmers Market in October to sell his extra bromeliads and other plants.



Greg Wilson's bromeliad tower

Greg explains: I started with four interlocking orange trellis pieces (two for each side) that a friend gave me and spray painted them black. I made a tube from chicken wire for the center and made a tower,

joining the trellis pieces on each side with zip ties (see photo below). I then filled the tube with Spanish moss, sealed the ends and added the bromeliads.



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.

**Birthdays for December:**

*Happy Birthday to the following members:*

Jack Dunlop    Jamie Gill  
Sudi Hipsley    Marsha Tucholski  
Sandi Wirth



Happy Birthday All!

**Looking ahead:**

**March 13-14, 2021**

Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale  
Harry P Leu Gardens  
1920 N. Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Free admission all weekend to the gardens. Over 50 plant vendors.

**March 26-28, 2021**

Tropiflora 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Festival and Open House. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Tallevast, FL

**June 8-12, 2021**

BSI World Conference  
Sarasota. Watch future newsletters for more details!

