

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, March 14th 1:30p.m.
Wm. A. Finney Memorial Garden Center
837 N. Oleander Ave., Daytona Beach 32118

March, 2010

Spring is Just Around the Corner

(...isn't it???)

President – Jay Thurrott – 386/761-4804

Vice President – Jerry O’Keefe – 407/767-2442

Secretary – Audrey Hayes – 407/421-4026

Treasurer – Eve Krauth – 386/763-2084

There’s no doubt about it - it’s been a long, cold Winter and every time we see a hint of warmer weather, Winter returns with a vengeance. But, according to my calendar Spring will be here soon and with it – warmer, drier weather. It’s time to start working with your bromeliad collection again. Take stock of the damage from the Winter, clean up the dead leaves and start getting ready for new growth!

Last month’s meeting...

Al Muzzell shared photos of some bromeliads that he found to be of interest and good candidates for use in the landscape in our area. He also brought a nice selection of plants for sale to begin replenishing our collections that have been damaged by this Winter’s prolonged cold weather. We didn’t have a raffle at that meeting, but Al donated a plant for our next meeting’s plant raffle, so be sure to purchase raffle tickets this month to increase your chances of taking this plant home with you.

This month’s meeting...

Our Vice President has arranged for Dr. Terrie Bert to be our featured speaker for the March meeting. Terrie has visited our group several times over the past few years and it has always been a treat to see photos of her

travels and to hear her discussions on bromeliads and the growing conditions found in their native habitat



Dr. Terrie Bert entering plants at a recent BSI standard show

Last time that she visited us our group was introduced to some of the more unusual, seldom seen bromeliad Genera. Her program this year continues on this theme and is titled “Here’s Looking at More Novel Bromeliad

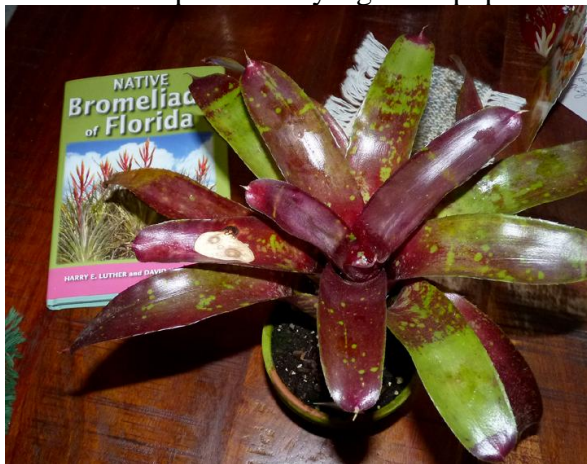
Genera". In past years Terrie has brought a great selection of plants for sale at terrific prices, but after this year's freezing weather...well, let's just hope that she has some available! Prepare to be entertained and educated at this month's meeting!

Last Call - Time to Pay the Piper...

I think most of us have renewed our memberships for the new year by now. If you haven't, be sure to see our Treasurer so that your membership doesn't lapse. If you suddenly realize that you haven't seen a newsletter for a few months – it will be due to you not renewing your membership. Don't make me drop you from the roster!

Recovery, Part2...

Last month you will recall, we advised you to not be too hasty in discarding bromeliads that have been so severely damaged by this Winter's cold weather that they appear to be dead. Some of those plants still have a bit of life left in them. Others...not so much! For those plants - it's time for a close examination of the bodies. Remove each plant that you think has expired from its pot and wash the remaining potting mix from the roots. Now, look closely - you should be looking for any hint of new growth in the center of the plant or any sign of a pup.



Neo. 'Gespacho' showing some leaf damage forming. Depending on the Genus and the particular plant, this can be anything from a small bump on a stolon to a tiny nub in a leaf

axil that resembles a bit of dirt lodged in the base of the leaf. We all know how to split and strip leaves away on bromeliads, but now be especially careful in doing this – it's very easy to damage that tiny offset in the process and in fact, it is probably safer to use scissors or sharp shears to trim away portions of the dead leaves.



Offset forming at base of Neo. 'Gespacho'

You will be less likely to damage or knock loose the offsets. Now that you have that bromeliad in hand, you've spotted the first hint of a pup developing and you've trimmed away some of the browned-off leaves, put the plant in a clean pot, add new potting mix to stabilize it in the pot, give it a little water and set it somewhere where it won't be disturbed for a while. If you want to give a little boost in getting it established, add a small amount of slow-release fertilizer to the surface of the mix.

Hopefully, you also have a number of bromeliads that survived the Winter just fine. Now is a good time to change out the mix in these pots. Replace it with some fresh media and add some of that same slow-release fertilizer that you gave to your freshly repotted offsets. By the way, we're just



This thermometer says it all – too cold for unprotected plants!

about to enter our 'dry season' so pay close attention to your plants' watering needs during this period.



Neo. caroliniae with freeze-damaged leaves

Unfortunately, you are also going to find some plants that after a close examination show absolutely no sign of life. In some cases you will find that the plant has rotted off cleanly at the base and has tumbled out of its pot – leaving behind a pot full of good looking mix and a nice looking name tag, but no plant. These plants are dead. Discard them and add their names to your list of plants that can't handle cold weather well in this area. Of course there will be some of you (myself included) who just can't bear to discard anything and instead set these plants aside in a corner of the yard where they will be out of the way and largely ignored. These plants may still surprise you with a pup or two that you can remove and pot up by this Summer and they'll be looking just fine by the Fall. Keep in mind however, that no matter how well these 'bonus' pups look, they are going to need a little extra protection before next year's cold weather arrives or you will be right back where you started this month – examining a lifeless looking bromeliad and wondering if you should keep it or throw it away!

Upcoming Events:

This is the season for bromeliad shows and sales. Unfortunately, many of these events are

happening on the same day this year. Looking for something to do on March 20th? There are a number of events going on at the same time. Which one will you choose? For those with a competitive flair – I dare you to visit all of the events on the same weekend! Let us know which shows you visited!

March 20, 2010

Judges school #2 in Ft. Lauderdale. After this school is completed, students will be qualified to be "student judges" and may be asked to participate in judging bromeliad shows.

March 20th and 21st, 2010

14th Annual Spring Garden Event
Flamingo Gardens, Davie. Admission:
\$17/adult

March 20th and 21st, 2010

Leu Gardens' Annual Plant Sale. 1920
N.Forest Ave., Orlando. Bamboo,
bromeliads, butterfly plants,
bougainvilleas...and that's just the "B"s!
9am to 5pm. No admission fee for this one!

March 20th and 21st, 2010

Spring Garden Festival at Kanapaha
Botanical Gardens, Gainesville. Wonderful
variety of plants, landscape displays, arts and
crafts, etc. (yes, there are bromeliads for sale
too). 9am-6pm on Sat., 10-5 on Sun. \$7
admission for adults each day.

<http://www.kanapaha.org/>

March 20th and 21st, 2010

Spring Plant Fair at Selby Gardens, Sarasota.
811 S. Palm Ave. Half-price admission to
the gardens each day.

March 27 – 28, 2010

University of Tampa Green Fest Plant Sale at
at (of all places...) Tampa

April 2nd - 3rd, 2010

Tropiflora Spring Festival
3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota
941-351-2267
<http://www.tropiflora.com/>

April 3rd and 4th, 2010

Orchid/Bromeliad Show and Sale at
Flamingo Gardens, Davie
Not only can you purchase orchids and
bromeliads...you can meet the Easter Bunny
too!

April 10th, 2010

Quarterly meeting of the Florida Council of
Bromeliad Societies. Hosted by the
Gainesville Bromeliad Society

April 10-11, 2010

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society sale.
USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale at
the University of South Florida in Tampa
<http://www.cas.usf.edu/garden/>

April 17th, 2010 8:30am to 12:00noon only!
The Volusia County Master Gardeners
Eleventh Annual Plant Faire (someday
someone will learn how to spell *Fair*
correctly). Very wide assortment of plants for
sale

April 17-18, 2010

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Show and
Sale. Tampa Garden Center
2628 Bayshore Blvd Tampa
Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475

April 17-18, 2010

Bromeliad Society of South Florida annual
Show and Sale Annual Show and Sale
[Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden](#)
10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami

April 17th - 18th, 2010

[Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant
Society](#)
Spring Plant Sale

Garden Club of Sanford
9:00am - 4:00pm
200 Fairmont Drive (on 17-92, one block
south of Lake Mary Blvd., Sanford).

May 7th - 9th, 2010

[Bromeliad Society of Central Florida](#)
Mothers Day Show and Sale
Orlando Fashion Square Mall, Orlando

May 17th, 2010

Annual Halifax Council of Garden Clubs
luncheon/business meeting. This year we
will be hosting this event at Knicker's
restaurant at the LPGA golf course.

July 28th – Aug. 10th, 2010

“Bromeliads in the Big Easy”
BSI World Conference in New Orleans.
Not registered yet? What are you waiting
for? This promises to be a party like no
other! For more information, check the
following web site:

http://www.gnobromeliads.com/GNOBS_WBC2010.htm

