

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, July 10th , 1:30p.m.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

July, 2011

Summer is Here!

President – Bradley Rauch – 386/767-8937
Vice President – Rick Ryals – 386/679-8700
Secretary – Eretta Morris – 386/677-9557
Treasurer – Eve Krauth – 386/763-2084

I know, it feels like we've already had at least 2 months of Summer ...

but officially, it arrived on June 21st and it's been hot out there! It's tempting at this time of year to relax in the air conditioned comfort of your home and wait for Winter to arrive, but there's a lot to be done in the bromeliad garden during the Summer. If you haven't already notice, most bromeliads are entering their most active period of growth right now and it's up to you to provide optimal growing conditions to take advantage of this.

Squirrel Wars

-Article submitted by Bill McBride

Well, this month seems to be Neoregelia month as many of them are blooming. Here are photos of Neo olens , Neo 'Mary Elmore', Neo 'Lilliput Tigrina', Neo 'Night Spot' , and Neo 'Gespacho' all in bloom. My Aechmea 'Mend', Aech. 'Exudens',



'Fosters Favorite' and Nudicaulis 'Aequalis' remain in bloom while my Orthophytum gurkenii is in full bloom with many pups on the head. I have several yet-to-be identified Neos also in bloom.



My Bilbergia 'Halleluiah' surprised me by blooming in mid-May. All my other Bilbergia's bloomed in winter so I wasn't paying attention - oh well! I'd tell you about all the Tillandsia's I have in bloom, but the scourge of tree rats ate and destroyed my entire stock in a matter of days! I have declared war on the scraggly-tailed tree rodents.



I haven't killed one yet but remain hopeful. The sound of the back door opening sends them scurrying for the upper branches so guns and sling shots are out. Chocolate, despite all the warnings, doesn't kill them; peanut butter with serious amounts of hydroxazine in it gets nibbled on but largely ignored. Voodoo dolls have no effect.



My best friend in Orlando has been catching them and using Halloween hair spray to color them pink, blue and metallic but shame doesn't work either. Reporting them to homeland security as a terrorist threat... well, feds don't seem to have a sense of humor, and you'll land up being questioned a long time.



CATS? That's a brilliant idea, unless you have 5 that have been trained by the pacifist mother to "not harm" the horrid little tree rats. If I could find a couple of splat squirrels, I could put their rotten little heads on bamboo spikes as a warning of what's in store for the remaining mini terrorists. In the end, I saved one Duratii and one Sweet Isabell- not sure how happy they are but they are safe behind wire. The pacifist claims it's looks like a cage for bromeliads gone bad.



Thanks Bill for reminding us all that squirrels may look cute and fuzzy, but they surely can

make a mess of our prized plants and they're very difficult to control!

This month's meeting

We're still skipping through the alphabet in our discussion of various bromeliad Genera. Last month we covered the Guzmania group and we have to thank Alan Bennett for providing those beautiful blooming Guzmanias for sale. And thank you Amy Crane for your donation of pots and hangers to the club! This month we've been asked to skip past the Neoregelias so that we can address them in August and, as Brad pointed out at last month's meeting - we've ignore the Hechtias, so this month we'll talk a bit about this prickly group as well as another, not *quite* so prickly bunch known as the Orthophytums. This should be a lot of fun, so plan on attending the July FECBS meeting.

Upcoming Events:

July 10th

Quarterly meeting of the Florida Council – hosted by the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

August 20th and 21st

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Sale
The Garden Club of Sanford (on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd)
9:00 – 4:00 Call 407-539-4314

September 30 – Oct. 2nd Southwest Bromeliad Guild show in Austin Texas

November 4th, 5th, 2011

Bromeliad Extravaganza "The Art of Bromeliads" hosted by FECBS! The Plaza hotel in Daytona Beach

December 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 2011

Caloosahatchee Show and Sale
Terry Park, Fort Myers
For information, contact Dr. Larry Giroux at DrLarry@comcast.net

...and, looking even farther ahead – make plans now for the 2012 Bromeliad Society International World Bromeliad Conference September 24th-30th

hosted by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

The Caribe Royal, 8101 World Center,
Orlando, FL 32821

Betsy McCrory

FCBS World Conference Chairman

betsymccrory@aol.com

(407) 348-2139



Watch for details in the future!



Editor's note – I came across this single page (below) from an old FECBS newsletter recently and thought you might find it interesting. This newsletter may have followed the first or second meeting of our society. I wasn't a "charter member" but attended the second meeting – held at Sugar Mill Gardens in Port Orange. Shortly after, the meeting place was moved to the Wm. Finney Memorial Garden Center at Oleander and Jessamine in Daytona Beach. - JCT

FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

HAPPENINGS AT SUGAR MILL GARDENS

Our June meeting was held at the Sugar Mill Gardens, Botanical Gardens of Volusia, after several of us had a work period cleaning up the garden's Bromeliad plantings. We made a start and worked one species which was severely overgrown. We have many plants left over to replant and will do so in new locations this month. Special thanks to Barbara Willey, Peggy and Ted Nuse for the help. In July our meeting date is Sunday the 25th. I hope that a large group of us can get there at 11:00 A.M. on that date so that we can do some more replanting and clean-up. Those of you who can come, bring small pruners if you have them. Work days are fun!

WHATS GOING ON IN OUR ORGANIZATION

Peggy also investigated the possible use of the Garden Center as our meeting place and finds it to be rather attractive. It is located on beachside in Daytona Beach which is still fairly central and we could have its use one day per month. The cost is an annual dues of \$3.00 per member. This is low rent. Further, we are able to participate in the Everybody's Flower Show in March. The members present approved the use of this location. Peggy will be able to tell us more this fall.

THE JULY PROGRAM

The July program will be presented by Bud Martin of Blossom World Bromeliads. His subject will be "DISH GARDEN PREPARATION AND GROWTH".

JULY MEETING.....WHEN: 1:00 P.M. ON JULY 25TH, 1993

WHERE: SUGAR MILL GARDENS, PORT ORANGE

WORK DAY:.....11:00 A.M. SAME DAY

SEE YOU THERE !!

"SHOW AND TELL" "RAFFLE" "AUCTION" "IDENTIFY PLANTS" , ETC.

Everybody bring plants for "Show and Tell". We will have a raffle, maybe even an auction. Do you have plants needing identification, bring them with you. If you have extra plants to share or for the raffle they would certainly be appreciated. See you!

BY LAWS COMPLETED, READY FOR YOUR REVIEW AND COMMENTS....

Peggy and Aida completed reviewing and editing by-laws and they did an excellent job. Copies were given to those present to be read over and constructively criticized prior to the next meeting.

FULL SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 1ST YEAR

PRESIDENT: BARBARA WILLEY

VICE PRESIDENT: ART HYLAND

SECRETARY: KAREN BERKOWITZ

TREASURER: TED NUSE

TREASURERS REPORT JUNE WAS A PLUS

Ted Nuse gave the Treasurers Report and we are presently in a happy position. We now have, if I am not mistaken 23 paid up members. The enthusiasm is very pleasant. We are growing and need some additional members.

JUNE PROGRAM: Jeff Johnson gave us a very informative program on the hows, whats and whys of hybridizing.