

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, April 8th, 2018 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

April, 2018

Master Gardener Plant Faire 2018

President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700
Co-Vice Presidents – Jane Vila-Lobos
386/446-0341 and Hedy Quirk 386/847-4513
Secretary – Ruth Gessner 386/767-3499
Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041

Master Gardener's Plant Faire –

It's time once again for the Volusia County Master Gardener's Plant Faire. Our group has been participating in this event for quite a few years now and I always look forward to this brief (it's only a half day sale!) opportunity to meet the public and acquaint them with the wonderful world of bromeliads. If you have more bromeliads than you know what to do with, this is your chance to bring your surplus plants to the Volusia County fairgrounds (3100 E. New York Avenue, Deland – or, just a stone's throw away from I-4), get some fresh air tending our sales booth, and make a few dollars – that you can spend on the same day purchasing more plants from the many plant vendors who will be selling their wares from 8:30 until noon on Saturday, April 7th.

If you plan on bringing plants for sale, we would enjoy your company if you decide to stay, but you are also welcome to simply drop your plants off at our sales booth and we'll take it from there.

The same sales rules apply that we have had in effect for years at all of our sales. These are:

- 1. Plants must be clean and free of any disease or pests. This is important! Any dirty or scale-**

ridden plants will be rejected and returned to their owners-who will then bear the shame of schlepping them home again.

- 2. Each plant must have two tags – one of which will have the plant name on it and the other must have your name or initials on it and the price that you wish to sell the plant for.**
- 3. When the plant is sold, the new owner keeps the tag with the name and we keep the tag that says the sales price with your name on it.**

Simple enough, right? It's up to you to set a price (whole dollar amounts only please – no 99¢ specials!) for each of your plants, get the plants to the fair grounds, and pick up any that went unsold at the end of the sale. Those of us who are tending the booth will take care of the rest.

This month's meeting –

We are in for a treat this month as Terrie Bert presents her "Sun, Sand, and Sea" program. Dr. Terrie Bert is a longstanding member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society (SBS) and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and

has held multiple offices in the SBS. She also served the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) as a representative and officer for eight years and has authored articles for the FCBS Newsletter. For the Bromeliad Society International, she has been a Florida Director, chaired several international committees, judged several shows, and contributed articles to the BSI Journal. Currently she is Curator of the Wally Berg Award of Excellence and a Master Judge. Terrie has given over 150 presentations on bromeliads to numerous U.S. and international bromeliad societies and other groups and to participants at international bromeliad conferences. She cultivates more than 2,500 different bromeliads in about 35 genera. She's won multiple top awards in local bromeliad shows and BSI world conferences. Terrie has a Ph.D. in marine biology and recently retired from her positions as a research scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.



Dr. Terrie Bert during her last visit with us.

The title of her presentation is "Sun, Sand, and Sea: Bromeliads that Rise to the Occasion." We who live in Florida near the

coast always look for plants that can withstand the salt air and bright sun that bathe our homes. Even people who live some distance from the coast can experience these conditions. In this talk, we'll learn about a number of bromeliad species that can withstand high levels of sunlight, salty air, and dry conditions. A surprising number of bromeliad species can tolerate at least two of these three challenging conditions. Want to learn more? Then, plan on attending our April meeting and you can ask all of those bromeliad questions that you have been saving up since Terrie's last visit to FECBS.

Last month's meeting –

We weren't there for last month's meeting and were sad to have missed the opportunity to have a good Irish dinner (cooked in his usual spectacular fashion by our own Francisco Cardoso) in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Instead, we were visiting in northern California and while there, saw enough snow to last us for quite some time!



There was enough snow falling here that we were a little concerned that we could get snowed in and miss our return flight!

There is nothing quite like visiting other parts of the country to make you really appreciate your own backyard!

Out and about –

The fascinating world of bromeliads seems to offer something to just about everyone and they all seem to gravitate to a group of their favorites. Some people love the big spiky ones and can't wait to get their hands on another terrestrial bromeliad while others favor the equally big (or even larger) but spineless Alcantareas and their incredibly tall inflorescences. Spiny or non-spiny, not everyone has room for big plants in their home, but that doesn't mean that they can't still enjoy building a collection of their favorite bromeliads. Space in her condominium is understandably limited, but in spite of that FECBS member Charlotte Mueller has made it a point to focus on some of the smaller varieties of bromeliads that are available and sent in this photo of what can

be done with a tiny *Tillandsia ionantha* and a large artistic imagination!



Just beautiful!

And here is a photo that I had meant to include in last month's newsletter, but several unanticipated problems happened around the time that I was planning on taking the newsletter to the printer and I couldn't retrieve several photos that I had intended to use (and then found that the printer had merged with another company and would no longer be printing our newsletter!. Whew! Some days are just more difficult than others.). I have often been told that members of the Cryptanthus Genus are very cold tender and must be protected whenever temperatures drop much below 40 degrees F. This photo shows that Cryptanthus 'Wild Cherry' had no problem with temperatures at least 10 degrees cooler than that and for several days in a row – protected only by a single layer of frost cloth! Like so many other rules concerning bromeliad culture, there are exceptions to the rule.



Cryptanthus 'Wild Cherry' photo by Calandra Thurrott

Several of our group managed to find our way to Coral Gables to see the Bromeliad Society of South Florida (BSSF) 40th show at Fairchild Tropical Gardens.



This year's show was a month earlier than in the past but as always, the BSSF put on a great show! If you've never been to one, you should mark your calendar for next year and plan on a visit to the Miami area.



In addition to the judged bromeliad show, this event always includes a sales area under

the trees in beautiful Fairchild Gardens. Even if your interest is not in bromeliads (how can this be?), the gardens truly have something for everyone!



One of the many orchids in bloom at Fairchild Gardens.

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 cajat@aol.com or mail to Jay Thurrott, 713 Breckenridge Dr., Port Orange Fl. 32127

Birthdays for April:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

Irene Aldrich	Vanessa Brooks
Bill Denny	Michelle Kelley
Jayne Molnar	Eretta Morris
Steve Provost	Hedy Quirk
Roberta Sappington	Rose Vincel
Virginia Whiting	

Looking ahead:

April 6-8, 2018

18th Annual Tropiflora Spring Festival
Free parking, free admission, vendors from all over Florida – come one, come all!

April 7, 2018 Master Gardener's Plant Fair at the Volusia County Fairgrounds

April 14, 15, 2018

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society spring sale at the Garden Club of Sanford (200 Fairmont Dr.) off 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd.

9am to 4 pm each day

April 14, 15, 2018

University of South Florida Botanical Garden Spring Plant Festival. The Garden is located on the southwest corner of the Tampa campus, at Pine and Alumni drives, off of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, just one block north of Fowler Avenue

May 18, 19, 2018

Redland International Orchid Show
Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave.
Homestead Fl.

May 29 – June 3, 2018 World Conference, San Diego, Ca.

September 14-16, 2018

SW Bromeliad Guild annual show/sale. Baton Rouge, La.



Florida East Coast
BROMELIAD SOCIETY
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