

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, June 14th, 2015 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

June, 2015

Summertime in East Central Florida!

President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850
Vice President – Linda Stagnol 386/212-8138
Secretary – Ed Meiser 386/785-4830
Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041

Well, it's the beginning of June...

...and you know what that means, don't you? It's the beginning of this year's hurricane season! That's right, for the next 6 months we're going to be barraged with tracking charts, directions to nearest shelters, and recommendations to stock up on emergency supplies. Every time an afternoon thunderstorm shows up, the news media will break into our favorite TV show to give us an update on where the storm is headed and a warning that we may see heavy rain and dangerous lightning (as opposed to the *non-dangerous* lightning that we see during the rest of the year). They all mean well and I certainly can't argue with the idea of having a plan already in mind for what you should do if a truly dangerous storm threatens our area. Everyone needs to have a plan for their family that is tailored to their own needs, so when that day arrives that the weatherman says we are likely to experience tropical storm force winds or higher, you know what action should be taken.

When you think about it, as far as your bromeliad collection is concerned, this isn't a lot different from each Winter's recommendation that you need to have a plan to follow when the weatherman says it's likely that temperatures will drop to or below freezing. Which plants need the greatest amount of protections from cold weather? What do you do with your hanging plants

(since they'll be the first ones to be affected)? How do you intend to provide that protection? Which plants need to be moved indoors?

In hurricane season you should think about which plants need the most protection from heavy rains and strong winds instead of cold temperatures. In hurricane season you need to consider what to do about your hanging plants (you don't want them to become missiles and you don't want them to be blown into the neighbor's yard ...or the neighbor 3 blocks away!). How do you intend to provide that needed protection (think about it now – not when the wind increases to gale force!)? Which plants will you need to move indoors? Think about all of these things, have a firm plan in mind and do it now, because if a storm truly does threaten our area this year, you will be too busy with all of your other hurricane preparations to spend much time thinking about what you should do for your bromeliads. When June 1st arrives consider the following: 1. Develop a hurricane plan for your family - this is an absolute must for everyone. 2. Make protection of your bromeliads an element of that family plan. 3. Be prepared to follow that plan if the need arises. 4. As with so many other things, you should plan for the worst and hope for the best. 5. Start thinking about your cold weather protection plan – after all, Winter is just a few months away!

Be on the Lookout...

Bryan brought in a Mexican Bromeliad Weevil that came from one of his recently acquired plants and everyone present at last month's meeting had an opportunity to see what one of these critters looks like. In case you weren't there last month (or weren't paying attention), here's a photo of a weevil that was recovered from a fallen Tillandsia in Port Orange last year:



Note the orange or yellowish bands on the weevil's back and that long nose. If you find any of these in your bromeliads, contact your officers immediately and they'll get in touch with the University of Florida folks who are working on controlling this nasty invader.



In case you had any doubt about the seriousness of the Mexican Weevil's impact

on our native bromeliads – this picture was taken on May 16th of this year and shows the base of a cedar tree near the Port Orange elementary school littered with fallen Tillandsia utriculatas that had been killed by weevils – so, it's here and you need to be on the lookout before it gets into your collections!

As far as controlling it in your own collection – it's pretty easy. You can use anything containing imidichlorprid (Merit) or even something as mild as Seven, but you need to act quickly before it spreads its offspring into all of you bromeliads – where it will proceed to kill each plant that it visits.

Visit to Plants and Things – the Aldriches' nursery in Ocala

The visit to George and Irene Aldrich's nursery in Ocala could not have taken place on a nicer day! The weather was perfect – not too hot, not too cold, and the nursery looked great. I think everyone left the nursery with smiles on their faces, newly acquired plants in their trunks, and a desire to return to Plants and Things another day!



Beautiful landscaping around 'George's Pond'



Time out for lunch and conversation



Ron and Jack Dunlop work on the display



Neoregelia 'Yang'

Mother's Day at the Volusia County Fairgrounds

Ron Tucholski headed up a team that put together a beautiful display of bromeliads in record time at this year's Volusia County Orchid Society's Mother's Day show and what a nice display it was – as the following photos will attest! Preliminary reports indicated that well over 1000 visitors passed through the show area during the two day period that it was open.

This was a great opportunity to show off to the public a little bit of what FECBS is about and a stack of our post cards that show our meeting dates and map to the meeting place were all eager snatched up by those attending this event. Included in the display were examples of each of the native bromeliads found in Volusia County, although these were overshadowed by the beautiful species and hybrids from many bromeliad Genera that were loaned by club members for the display.

Thank you Ron and all the club members that participated in this as well as a big thank you to the Volusia County Orchid Society for inviting us to have a display at their show this year!



Virginia and Ron organizing materials



Chuck Mamele - putting some of the finishing touches on the display



The FECBS display

President's message -

Well, it's here.....those lazy, hazy days of summer! Officially summer doesn't arrive until June 21st but as we all know, the high temps, high humidity and afternoon thunderstorms will have been here for weeks by then. What does that mean for us? Our Bromeliads are LOVING IT! More growth, more pups, more plants for you to sell. That brings me to my point....August 28-30 at the Ocean Center, the Volusia County Home and Garden Show will be held. This will probably be the last time in 2015 we will be able to sell some of our "babies". People generally prefer to buy potted plants, so today (NOT tomorrow) would be a good day to separate some of those clumps and pot them up so they'll be rooted by show

time. Don't forget to fertilize all but the Neoregelias and Billbergias.

I want to thank Rick Ryals and Francisco Cardoso for their TMDB sale! What an experience.... and I thought I had a lot of plants? The size and quality of specimens was equal to that of a professional grower. Francisco again didn't disappoint with two monster pans of Paella(...and the flan...to die for!). This was a first class event and everyone attending had an incredible time. The food, the drink, the plants,.....WOW! If you went and didn't walk away with a happy stomach and a car load of plants.....the club will take care of seeking the necessary counseling for you. Thanks again and can't wait for your next sale!

- Bill

A thank you to all who attended the sale –

On behalf of Francisco and myself, we would like to thank everyone who came out on Sunday for our little open house and bromeliad sale. Special thanks to friends, Jay and Calandra Thurrott and Lynn Mizner whose help made it all possible. During the afternoon over 30 folks stopped by and we certainly hope everyone enjoyed the gathering.



Just some of the 200+ plants available at the sale.

By every account it was a huge success. I sold (and gave away) tons of plants and Francisco made a great seafood paella. It was only the second time ever, Francisco prepared paella at the house and the first time using an outdoor paella dish burner. Which turned out to be very successful.

The event has enabled me to clean up my yard and I look forward to landscaping the backyard just as nice as the front. I'm also considering growing just specie bromeliads'. The hybrids are nice but there is something about species that I'm attracted to. Of course that would result in me trying to find and attain just specie bromeliads, which would be exciting and perhaps impossible.

- Rick



Delicious Paella 'Valenciana' being prepared on an outdoor burner. Lobster, shrimp, scallops, clams and codfish. Our club chef made another incredible dish!

This month's meeting –

Bill has been reminding everyone each month about the "mounting bromeliads" Challenge and we're looking forward to seeing what each of you has come up with in November. This month we'll be demonstrating exactly how to go about mounting bromeliads on several different types of media. We'll have handouts for everyone and each completed mount will then go into our monthly raffle where you

can take a chance on obtaining a mounted bromeliad, ready to grow roots and become an attractive display.



Tillandsia 'Eric Knoblock' mounted on driftwood

So, don't miss this opportunity to learn more and maybe even go home with a plant ready for the October contest!

At last month's meeting...

... our members unanimously voted to participate in this Fall's Home and Garden show at the Ocean Center. We have been offered a free 10 x 10 booth space to sell bromeliads, so this is a great opportunity for those of you who have been wondering: "What am I going to do with all of these extra bromeliads?"



Robert Jacks and Bryan Manion manning the FECBS booth at last year's Home and Garden show

Clean them up (this is more work than you might think, but it's important - any plants with scale on them will not be sold and will be returned to the owner), put one tag in the pot to identify the plant and a

second tag with your name on it along with the price that you would like it to be sold for and you will not only be getting rid of some of your unwanted duplicates from your collection but will be making a few dollars that you can use to buy potting supplies and...you guessed it...more bromeliads! The show runs from August 28th through the 30th so now is an excellent time to begin getting ready for it. Look for more details at upcoming meetings!

Birthdays for June:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

Ann Alberti
Pat Debow
Phil Dollar
Jay Thurrott

Kathy Dunlop
Linda Stagnol
Calandra Thurrott

Out and about -



Club member Francisco Cardoso has this beautiful pot of *Portea petropolitana* var. *extensa* on his back patio at his Orlando home. Standing in full sun (year round) and

at over 6 feet tall, it blooms each year at this time with multiple inflorescences that last months. There are several varieties of *petropolitana* but we do believe this is the most common, *extensa*. These blooms are commonly cut and used in fresh flower arrangements for their height and dramatic statement.

Looking ahead:

July 11, 2015

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies quarterly meeting – hosted by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society

August 28-30, 2015

Volusia County Fall Home and Garden Show at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach

September 26, 2015

Bromeliad Extravaganza hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. “Bromeliads in the Magic City”.

711 NW 72nd Ave.

Miami, Fl. 33126

Double Tree Hilton Miami Airport and Convention Center

Room rate of \$107/night plus parking

For more information about reservations, go to

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/M/MIAMADT-BRO-20150923/index.jhtml>

