

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 1:30pm.  
Colony in the Wood – club house  
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

August, 2016

## The Heat is on!

**President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850**  
**Vice President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700**  
**Secretary – Calandra Thurrott 386/761-4804**  
**Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041**

### **If there was ever any question about it...**

...let me just tell you, SUMMER IS HERE! July has certainly been unseasonably hot, and what happened to our afternoon thunderstorms? It's been far too long since we've seen any rain and my yard is definitely suffering for it. Which brings something to mind – we often discuss which bromeliads are cold-hardy and which ones are not, but have you given much thought to which of these plants tend to suffer in the hottest part of the year and which ones seem to tolerate these conditions just fine? If you are wondering which varieties tolerate hot and dry weather, I think we all may learn a few tricks from this month's speaker Greg Spak. He will be educating us on those bromeliad varieties that truly excel at surviving in extreme environmental surroundings.

### **This month's meeting –**

Bromeliads certainly come in a bewildering variety of shapes, colors, and even textures. There's something for everyone. Some like the ones that have colorful leaves like the Neoregelias, while others (myself included) prefer those with soft, spineless leaves. Then there are those who like the prickly ones – the terrestrials like Dyckias, Hechtias, and others Encholiriums (yes, you might even be one of those who simply must have a Bromelia or

two in their collection!). If you count yourself among these, you are not alone and this month's program is definitely for you! We are indeed fortunate in that Greg Spak, an excellent grower of terrestrials, member of the Central Florida Bromeliad Society and 'all-around good guy' has agreed to talk to us about:

### ***“The Care and Propagation of Dyckia and other Terrestrial Sharpies”.***



An assortment of “prickly pretty ones” from Rick Richtmyer’s collection in Houston

Greg will be bringing some of his plants for sale, so plan on bringing some high quality plants home with you from what's sure to be an interesting meeting!

### **Pineapple Time**

It's been a wonderful growing season for club member Francisco Cardoso and this colorful pineapple. Not as large as those purchased from your local fruit stand or grocery store, it

was incredibly juicy and sweet.

Next year we'll spend an entire monthly meeting to discuss, 'The incredible - edible - pineapple!' Including lots of pineapple tops for members to bring home and grow on their own. Stay tuned for what may just become our 'Hawaiian Luau' with everything pineapple (food, deserts, costumes/dress, decorations and of course lots of Ananas).

- Rick



**President's message –**



*Greetings my fellow Bromeliacs!*

*Looking at current events, is there something we as bromeliad enthusiasts need to be concerned with? Is it the Presidential race? No. Is it the Olympics? No. ISIS, gun violence, Syrian refugees, Pokeman Go? No, no, no and no!! Zika? Well, yes. We can't climb under a rock and hope the disease will just goes away. It's in Miami but probably won't stay there. Mosquitoes breed in water and many of our little beauties have exactly what they are looking for. So what can we do to protect ourselves and others from this possible threat? Can we burn all our plants*

*and the landscape around our homes? That way there would be no breeding and no hiding for those blood suckers. Sorry, that's unrealistic. We could spray poison everywhere but that will impact far more critters that inhabit nature's little swimming pools. We could limit our collections to species that have no tanks. Here are the ones that I believe fit that bill (no pun intended). Ananas, Bromelia, Cryptanthus, Deuterocohnia, Dyckia, Hechtia, Orthophytum, Pitcairnia, Puyan and of course the Tillandsias.*

*I went looking for a list of species and their bigeneric cousins but I forgot the name of the international body that governs the bromeliad world. I knew the words "international", "bromeliad" and "society" were in its name so I typed in IBS. It came up with Irritable Bowel Syndrome. Nope....not what I was looking for. After hours of rearranging those letters I finally arrived at the BSI website. (See, I can learn - bring on the Rubik's cube!) As I perused its cultivar registry looking for non-tank plants, I was amazed at all the different types. 59 generic; most of which I was unfamiliar with (I knew 23) and 58 bi-generic; some which have unusual names like Neomea, Orthoglaziovia, Billmea and my favorite, Ananananas! Do these 94 (and probably more) plants I don't know have tanks? You tell me...better yet, let's quiz Jay!*

*Enough of that rabbit trail... we could have Congress legislate against Zika. That way it would be illegal for these skeeters to carry it and the disease would stop, right? We could put on mosquito repellent with deet, picaridin or oil of lemon. How about horticultural oil or soap spray which could possibly keep the little wrigglers from breathing and break the surface tension so the mother mosquito drowns before laying her eggs. You have to be proactive with this because it only takes five days after new water is introduced for the egg to grow into a*

*larva, then pupa, then an adult. Everyone get the hose end sprayers out!*

*Another fun fact for you to chew on...females are the culprits. They need blood...your blood. The males? They're cute and cuddly vegans. I just heard the name of the Zika skeeter was "Little Ninja" and it could breed in as little as a bottle cap of water. So if we limit our collection to mini-tank *Neoregelia lilliputianas* we're good. Looks like other small tank *Neos* could be large enough to breed these buggars too. Even *Neo miniskirt*, *fireball*, *wee willy* and *ampullacea*. Bummer.*

- *Bill*

**Editor's note: Be sure to watch for the latest BSI Journal (65)4. In it there is an article titled "Bromeliads, Aedes, and Zika" by Alan Herndon with an essay by Dr. Howard Frank regarding the mosquitoes that carry Zika and some methods to consider for controlling them.**

#### **Birthdays for August:**

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Alan Bennett   | Margaret Gillen |
| Lloyd Murphy   | Debbie William  |
| Marty Borkosky | Sharon Gum      |
| Susan Parry    |                 |

#### **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for BSI 66 Fund -**

Our cancelled speaker for the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting has created a wonderful opportunity for us to hold a fundraiser to benefit the **BSI 66** Fund. The Bromeliad Society International opened the fund at the recent World Bromeliad Conference in Houston, TX to celebrate their 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and to meet the demands for an ever increasing budget. The BSI has long been known for holding educational, informative and fun world conferences, a quarterly Journal, bromeliad shows and sales around the world, the Harry Luther Scholarship Fund, the one and only Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar and a

wonderful website. All these great endeavors require consistent funding and they have received a very gracious offer from an anonymous donor to match the first \$25,000 raised within the 365 days of the fundraising effort. Over \$6,000 has already been raised in just a few months but they have a long way to go towards meeting the \$66k goal. As our way of assisting in raising these funds we'll have a 'Spaghetti Dinner for the BSI66Fund'. Please invite friends and family to join you on September 11th (our regular meeting day and time) for a wonderful meal created by our very own club chef - Francisco Cardoso (yes he's Brazilian - but cooking Italian). It's going to be the entire works and the suggested donation is \$5 per person.

Additionally, we'll have a big plant raffle and some exceptional plants from our area growers! Please feel free to bring plants for the raffle, but if you don't have any - no worries, we'll have plenty of plants for you to take home. Please remember it's a fundraiser! All food, beverages and plants are being donated to the event. All we need is you!

More information in our next newsletter, but please put this wonderful event on your calendar now!

**How is your entry looking for the Mounted Bromeliad Challenge that Bill announced some months ago? Haven't started yet – that's ok, you have plenty of time to work up and entry. Don't forget - we'll be judging them at our November meeting.**

#### **Out and about –**

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies rotates their meeting places so that each of the member societies has an opportunity to host...or show off to ... the rest of the council representatives. The most recent meeting was hosted by the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and they were able to talk Michael Kiehl into having the meeting at his nursery *Michaels*

*Bromeliads*. Of course all of our time wasn't taken up with the council meeting and we had an opportunity to wander around his spectacularly landscaped grounds as well as his green houses.



Here's something you don't see every day: No, I don't mean the photo of Sarasota's David Johnson – he's just in the picture to give you an idea of how high that inflorescence is on Michael Kiehl's *Alcantarea brasiliana*! What a beautiful ... and enormous plant!



This is a photo taken inside one of Michael's many fabulous greenhouses and that's not a tiny person – it's a full grown Michael Michalski of Miami and the far end of a very long greenhouse. Lots of great looking plants in each of many greenhouses...hmmm....field trip anyone?

I'm probably the only person who has difficulty growing *Tillandsia funkiana*, but I



couldn't resist taking this photo of a beautiful clump of this species showing multiple bright red flowers. Maybe someday mine will look like this too...if it's not pecked apart by birds again.

On a recent trip to Ireland in May, club members Rick Ryals and Francisco Cardoso were so excited to find a 'tropical garden' at Blarney Castle, Blarney (about 5 miles from Cork) but no bromeliads. Palm trees, bananas, even this colorful dracaena but no bromeliads. Several sold in grocery stores and even a couple seen in the hotel.



Coincidentally, Calandra and I headed to Ireland a few weeks after Rick and Francisco returned from visiting there.



Photo of shamrocks by Calandra Thurrott

Ok, so that's not a bromeliad picture. It's a clump of shamrocks that we saw on vacation while in Sligo, Ireland where we expected to see shamrocks, after all that's what you think of when you think of Ireland (that and leprechauns, of course). What we didn't think that we'd see is bromeliads. Yet here they were right in Dublin at the National Botanic Garden! Quite a nice display of many varieties of bromeliads. Here's a photo taken there of a species from a Genus that we don't often see around East Central Florida:



**Puya laxa** on display in the National Botanic Garden, Dublin  
Just one of the many surprising sights that we were fortunate to see during our all-too-brief visit. Incidentally, I learned that it's very wise to pack a rain coat when visiting the Emerald Isles. Not that it was a problem for us, but rain is such a frequent occurrence that areas we visited resembled rain forests of more tropical lands!

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Club member Francisco Cardoso in the backyard of Rick Ryals' home, standing under the impressive inflorescence of an *Alcantarea odorata* 'Silver'. He's had the plant for at least four years now and it's been blooming for weeks. And perhaps some of its slow growth (and leaning inflorescence) may have come from the Buddha's Belly Bamboo planted next to it, providing too much shade. Both *Alcantarea* and bamboo are looking great, even with the considerable lack of rain this summer.



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](mailto:cajat@aol.com) or mail to Jay Thurrott, 713 Breckenridge Dr., Port Orange Fl. 32127



Here's another photo of an entry in the Houston World Conference show and one that you don't often see. This is *Neoregelia eleutheropetala*, variegated.

**Don't forget 'Show and Tell' at this month's meeting – Everyone has at least one favorite bromeliad that they are proud of. Bring it with you and tell us something about it! Do you have a plant that's not looking so good? We may be able to diagnose the problem.**

**Looking ahead:**

**August 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Fall sale at the Garden Club of Sanford. 9-4 each day.

**September 9-11, 2016**

“Bewitched Bromeliads”

Sarasota Bromeliad Society show and sale at the Sarasota Garden Club  
1131 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota  
FL

Hours: Friday Plant sale only

Saturday Show and Sales 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday, Show and Sales 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

More information is available at

[www.sarasotabromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sarasotabromeliadsociety.org) or by calling 941-567-4176.

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**October 7, 8, 2016**

University of South Florida Fall Sale USF  
Botanical Gardens Tampa, Florida

**October 22, 2016**

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies  
Meeting hosted by Central Florida Bromeliad  
Society

**May 29 – June 3, 2018**

BSI World Bromeliad Conference in San  
Diego, California

Plan now for what is sure to be an exciting  
event!

More information to follow as it becomes  
available....

