

# THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

## February 2024 Newsletter

**Meeting Date: February 11 at 1:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Location: Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd.  
Port Orange, FL**



### February 11th Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on February 11th at 1:30 at Colony in the Wood. The speaker will be Marty Folk, a member of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida and a bromeliad grower, who will enlighten us with his wisdom of 30 years in bromeliads.

There will be the usual bromeliad raffle, door prizes, show and tell, and refreshments. There is only one member having a birthday this month, so please bring some goodies to the meeting.

--- Jack

**Bromeliad Society International Presents**  
**World Bromeliad Conference 2024**  
May 22-25, 2024 • West Palm Beach, Florida

WBC 2024 will feature an exciting slate of events including a welcome reception, botanical tours, a banquet dinner, several world-renowned speakers & guests, the world's largest bromeliad sale and a professionally judged bromeliad show.

**Conference registration for attendees includes:**

- Welcome Reception — International poolside barbecue
- Historic WBC 2024 tote bag
- World conference banquet dinner with speaker Andrew Devonshire on 'Hybridising, The Kiwi Way'
- Mounts Botanical Garden tour by luxurious motor-coach
- Access to world renowned speakers & honored guests
- World's largest bromeliad sale
- Professionally judged bromeliad show

**Don't wait — register and reserve a hotel room online soon to save!**  
(Special reduced rates are available to all current BSI members)

**Grant's Farm Nursery Tour**

Join us for a special, behind-the-scenes tour to Florida's oldest bromeliad nursery! Reserve your space online for only \$25.

**WBC 2024 World-Renowned Speakers**

Find the latest WBC 2024 news and registration links online:  
[www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/](http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/)  
We look forward to seeing you at WBC 2024!  
Conference Chairman Tom Ramiccio (Tramiccio@aol.com) & Conference Co-Chairman Alex Belle

**Post-Conference Ecuador Field Trip with Plant Expeditions**

Complete your conference experience with a 15 day tour through Ecuador. See over 150 bromeliad species in their native habitat! Also see wildlife—butterflies, birds, insects and monkeys! For more tour information and to reserve your space visit:  
[www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2024/ecuador](http://www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2024/ecuador)

### **WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE May 22-25, 2024, in West Palm Beach**

Register Now!! Open to all BSI members  
\$295 if paid by March 31

- World-renowned speakers: Andrew Devonshire, Peter Tristam, Herb Hill, Pedro Nahoum, Dr. Hiroyuki Takizawa, Dennis Cathcart, and Dr. Terri Bert

- World's largest bromeliad sale; preview for registrants on May 23; open to the public May 24-25.

- Professionally judged bromeliad show

- Mounts Botanical Garden tour

- Optional Tour (\$25) to Grants Nursery

- Post conference field trip to Ecuador

<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>

## **Epic Flower and Garden Expo**

The Annual Epic Flower and Garden Expo will be held March 16 & 17 at Sykes Family Farm, 5995 Brough Rd., Elkton (off I-95, exit 311). There will be several bromeliad vendors: McCrory's Bromeliads, Airplant Design Studio, and Randy's Bromeliads. Hours: Sat. 9-5 and Sun. 10-3. Admission: \$5, good for both days.

While you are in the area, stop by St Johns Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve in Hastings, just 10 minutes from Sykes Farms, and enjoy the beauty of this newly opened botanical garden (see below).

## **St. Johns Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve**

### **-Jane Villa-Lobos**

Located in the agricultural setting of Hastings (west of St. Augustine) is a unique 17-acre property which has been in development for 17 years and opened to the public in October 2023. The St. Johns Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve is a non-profit organization and is a member of the American Public Gardens Association. At present it is open Friday – Monday from 9 to 5. However, tours can be booked anytime by calling (904) 540-3294. The garden's mission is the conservation of rare and endangered plants from around the world, as well as local natural resources, native plants, and animals.

Founder and resident biologist, Dr. Jon Rossi, has been collecting palms from all over the world and planting them on the property. Nearly 400 different types of palm trees are represented among the thousands on the site. It is the largest collection of its kind north of Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando. The park also contains a diversity of flowering plants which provide color throughout the year. Bromeliads have been planted under the oak and palm canopy, so if you would like to donate your extra pups, Dr. Rossi would love to care for them. There is also a gift store and a palm nursery with many types of palms for sale.

The garden is evolving daily, and volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks. If you have the time, come, and visit and see what opportunities interest you. Check out their Facebook page and website: [stjohnsbotanicalgarden.org](http://stjohnsbotanicalgarden.org).



**We love to see pictures of bromeliads in our members' gardens**



*Aechmea 'Bert'*  
(Photo: Keith McCabe)



*Billbergia nutans*  
(Photo: Bill Hazard)



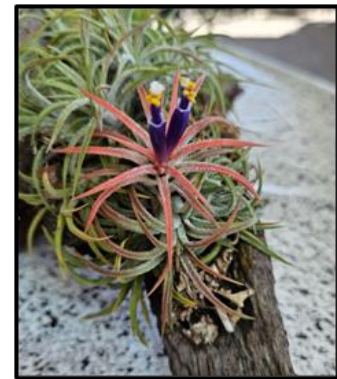
*Portea petropolitana*  
(Photo: Calandra Thurrott)



*Aechmea mexicana*  
(Photo: Bill Hazard)



*Quesnelia testudo*  
(Photos: Jane Villa-Lobos)



*Tillandsia ionantha*

*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 Jane at saravillalobos387@gmail.com.*

**Birthdays for February**



Greetings to Lynn McCarthy! The only member birthday this month!!

The next several months there will be many members who will be celebrating!

**Future Events**

**February 3-4**

**GardenFest**

Riverside Park  
3250 Riverside Park Dr.  
Vero Beach  
Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4

**February 24**

**Seminole County Gardening Expo**

Seminole County Extension Service  
250 W. County Home Rd.  
Sanford  
9-3

**February 24**

**Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Meeting**

At Jack & Kathy Dunlop's home

**March 2**

**Water-Wise Garden Fair**

200 Canal St.  
New Smyrna Beach  
10-4 (our club will sell plants)

**March 16-17**

**Epic Flower and Garden Expo**

Sykes Family Farm  
5995 Brough Rd.  
Elkton  
Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-3. Admission: \$5 for a two-day pass.  
<http://www.epicbh.org>

*Co-Presidents - Jack Dunlop 386-317-0054*

*Chuck Mamele 386-402-4830*

*Vice President - Bill Hazard 386-882-3850*

*Secretary - Ruth Gessner 386-767-3499 Treasurer - Eve Krauth 386-871-1041*

