

# THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

**February 2025 Newsletter**

**1:30 p.m.**

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

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## **February 9th Meeting**

This month's speaker will be Dave Johnston whose talk is entitled "Foliage Vrieseas Take 2." He will also bring plants to sell.

I would like to thank everyone for continuing to bring plants for the raffle. Everyone enjoys getting another plant for their collection. I know the past month has been cold, but maybe some of your bromeliads are blooming, so I encourage you to bring them for show and tell, or maybe you have a nice specimen you would like to share your tips on how to grow it. Our refreshments (really lunch) continue to have a wide selection of delicious food, and I thank everyone who shares their delectables.

--- Jack

## **Vriesea and its culture**

Vrieseas usually have long, broad, flat, smooth leaves and range in color from green to intricate patterns and splotches or spots of color. They are native to Central and South America and are grown as indoor plants as well as in the landscape. Vrieseas are popular for their spectacular and long-lasting flower spikes, like the bright red flaming sword of *Vriesea splendens*.

In general, Vrieseas are adaptable to a wide range of light, thriving in shady areas as well as areas with bright indirect sunlight. However, they will only bloom if they have bright indirect light. They grow well in moderate temperatures and are cold hardy but will not survive a hard freeze.

Be careful watering your plants as they are susceptible to crown rot. Make sure the tank is wet, but not the potting medium. It is suggested to flush the tank with fresh water weekly with rainwater or distilled water to prevent a saline buildup on the leaves. Vrieseas grown outdoors do not need to be fertilized but those grown indoors will benefit from a feeding in the spring and summer.



*Vriesea hieroglyphica*



*Vriesea fosteriana* (Photos from FCBS Photo Index)

**Memorial to Stephen Grant of Grant's Farm Nursery**

Stephen Joseph Grant of Grant's Farm Nursery passed away recently. There will be a memorial service on February 22 at 11:00 am at the nursery in Davie, FL. Grant's Farm Nursery is one of Florida's oldest continuous nurseries having been started in 1948. An article on Mr. Grant was published in the BSI Journal in 2023. A tour of his home and nursery were open to participants of the 2024 World Botanical Conference.

**Baby it's been cold outside!**

By Bill Hazard

(Editor's note: This was written in early January before warmer temperatures arrived).

I was thinking how consistently cold the weather has been since Christmas. Sure, we've had a few comfortable days in the 60's and one in the 70's, but I don't remember so many 30° and 40° mornings – the average is normally lows of 50° and highs of 68°.

Because I grow tropical plants outside, I constantly watch the forecast to see if I have to move or cover any of them. My concern is usually frost and that can happen at 40° or lower. So far, I haven't seen frost in Ormond. That is because either there was a breeze or the dew point was below the temperature. I've only seen cold damage so far on an *Aechmea blanchettiana*, but that's it. I'm grateful that even though it's been chilly, it hasn't dipped to 32°.

Growing tropical plants in an area that wasn't meant to grow tropical plants, you could say I'm a fan of "global warming". How many years do you remember that "winter" was mostly very mild but there were those one or two freezing nights. Well, I was looking back on cold temperatures in Daytona and saw the 1980's had a lot of very cold nights...record cold nights! Let me run some of those figures by you –

RANK	TEMP	DATE
1	15	1/21/85
2	18	1/22/85
4	19	12/26/83
4	19	1/14/81
6	20	12/25/83
11	22	1/28/86
11	22	12/26/85
11	22	1/12/82
14	23	12/25/89
14	23	12/23/85
14	23	12/27/85
14	23	1/13/81

How's that for an arctic-like decade? Luckily, those temperatures haven't happened since 2010 (24°). If the 80's were the norm, then I would have a much colder tolerant garden. I say, let's leave those crazy temperatures on the tundra at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, WI. Go Packers!!

**We love to see pictures of bromeliads in our members' gardens or from their travels**

More photos from Bill and Tree Hazard's trip to New Zealand



The photos below are from a few members. I encourage you to send me yours to share with others



Design by Iris Graim



*Tillandsia bulbosa* (Calandra Thurrott)

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 these members: Lynn McCarthy, Kathy Major, Jane Mann, and Cindy Pitts.

**Future Events**

**March 1**

**Spring Fest 2025**

200 Canal St.  
New Smyrna Beach  
9 – 12

**March 8-9**

**Leu Gardens Plant Sale**

1920 N. Forest Ave.  
Orlando  
9-5

**April 5**

**Spring Festival and Plant Sale**

Hosted by the Garden Club at Palm Coast  
Flagler Palm Coast High School  
5500 E. Hwy. 100  
Palm Coast  
9-4

**April 12-13**

**Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society  
Plant Sale**

200 Fairmont Dr.  
Sanford  
9-4

**April 12-13**

**Bromeliad Society of South Florida  
Show and Sale**

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden  
10901 Old Cutler Road  
Miami  
10-5

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*Vice President - Bill Hazard 386-882-3850*  
*Secretary - Ruth Gessner 386-767-3499*  
*Treasurer - Eve Krauth 386-871-1041*

