

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

February 2026 Newsletter Change of Meeting Date and Location

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15th

There is a change of date for our February meeting since the Colony in the Wood community center is booked for an event.

Our club has been invited to join the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society on a field trip to McCrory's Bromeliads in Eustis. If you've ever gone to any of the many art or crafts festivals in Central Florida and have seen a booth with some of the most spectacular bromeliads in bloom, you've almost certainly seen McCrory's booth. Their plants are real showstoppers with lots of Guzmanias, Vrieseas and Aechmeas in bloom and very colorful Neoregelias!

For this field trip, we can use our own cars since there is lots of parking available at the nursery. It is located 32 miles northwest of the Sanford Garden Club just north of Sorrento and not too far from Mt. Dora. Use [Google Maps](#) to find it. The address is 35152 La Place Ct, Eustis, FL 32736.

---Pam

Arctic Freeze this month



This has been a very unusual winter with low temperatures for a few nights and then back into the 70s or higher during the day. The Arctic freeze that hit January 31 was a record cold in over a decade. The worst part was the duration of the freeze in Central Florida – 11-12 hours!!

I am sure many of our members used every piece of frost cloth they had plus sheets, blankets, and towels to cover their precious bromeliads. I even used some bedspreads to cover the frost cloth to keep it in place during the high winds Saturday night.

I think many of us are looking to change the composition of our collection to more of those plants that are cold-tolerant.

On the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' website (fcbs.org) there is a list - "Cold Sensitivity of Some Bromeliads" by Tom Wolfe and Eileen Kahl. They discuss variable factors like duration of the cold, location of the plants, and cold following unseasonable warmth. They recommend that you water your bromeliads prior to a hard freeze. The water in the cups may insulate the caudex so that the caudex will survive and the plant can pup. While the mother plant may die, pups will survive.

Some Bromeliads Which Can Withstand 17-20 degree Temperatures



Aechmea 'Covata' is a cross between *Aechmea comata* and *Aechmea recurvata*. It is a fast growing, cold hardy plant to 10°. Its compact rosette of spine-toothed leaves turns reddish- orange when in flower. The flowers are reddish yellow and bloom throughout the year. I have planted this in many parts of my garden, and it has survived the freeze and is blooming



Billbergia nutans, commonly called Queen Tears, can withstand the cold. It forms clumps readily and produces large arching stems covered in big showy bracts. It is also known as the Friendship plant, so if you have a large clump to divide, pass along to friends and tell them it is very prolific and cold hardy.

Some other species on the list include many Aechmeas, Billbergias, Dyckias, Hechtias, Quesnelias, some Tillandsias, mostly native species, and many Vrieseas.

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



This Cryptanthus was given to me by one of my gardening friends. If anyone knows its name, please let me know.

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.



Greetings to these members: Lynn McCarthy, Kathy Major, Jane Mann, and Cricket Petrovich.

Future Events

February 21
Seminole County Garden Expo & Plant Sale
250 W. County Home Rd.

Sanford
9-3

March 14-15
Annual Plant Sale
Leu Gardens
1920 N. Forest Ave.
Orlando
9-5 Free admission.

March 21
27th Annual Plant Faire
Volusia County Extension
3100 E. New York Ave.
Deland
8:30-12 Cash or check only

March 28-29
Flower and Garden Expo
Sykes Family Farm
5995 Brough Rd.
Elkton
Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-3.

President – Pam Reisen 937- 426-4556
Vice President - Bill Hazard 386-882-3850
Secretary - Ruth Gessner 386-767-3499
Treasurer - Eve Krauth 386-871-1041
Newsletter Editor - Jane Villa-Lobos 386-446-0341
Hospitality – Annette Cross 561-506-4918
Beverages - Terri Malia 386-307-4331
Sunshine - Judith Davies 386-864-7360

