

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, March 12th, 2017 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

March, 2017

It's Spring – Time's a Wasting!

President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700

**Co-Vice Presidents – Hedy Quirk and Jane Villa-Lobos
386/847-4513 and 386/446-0341**

Secretary – Rose Vincel 386/453-3229

Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041

Spring doesn't officially begin until later this month, but as far as I'm concerned once our area fills up with fans for NASCAR's Daytona 500 auto race, [Spring is here](#). Rather than fight the increased traffic congestion that accompanies this event as well as Bike Week that soon follows, I've found this to be the perfect time to get down to business with my collection of bromeliads and begin separating and potting up Neoregelia offsets. This is also a time for me to resume fertilizing my bromeliads after giving them a rest for the Winter months. And on that topic, let me just say this about fertilizing your bromeliads: If you are not comfortable with this because you don't know which varieties benefit from fertilizing (this where it is important to know the identity of your plants) and which ones to be more careful with (here you should at least know the Genus that they belong to) or you are uncertain how to best proceed, then don't. If you don't fertilize your bromeliads, they will grow, mature and bloom. If you are a little more adventurous however, quite a few varieties of these plants will benefit from a good fertilization program...and if you do this, guess what - they will grow, mature and bloom! The difference is likely to be in *how large* they grow, *how quickly* they mature,

and *how bright* the bloom will turn out to be. So, whether you are new to the wonderful world of bromeliads or you've grown them for many years and haven't used fertilizers before, this might be a good time to begin experimenting with one of the many products currently available. Try growing two identical bromeliads – one without fertilizer and the other with either a slow-release product or, for those epiphytic varieties - with a water soluble product at a low rate throughout the coming months. In the Fall, compare the two plants and you can then decide if fertilizing is worth the effort! Let us know your results.

...and don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night (3/11). Daylight savings time is returning once again!

This month's meeting –



This month we will have an opportunity to learn more about "Beautiful and Fascinating Hummingbirds" from Reinier Munguia, the

president of the Lake Region Audubon Society. Prepare to be thrilled by some beautiful photos of these tiny marvels of nature's engineering! This is sure to be a very interesting meeting so don't miss it. The following is a short bio on our speaker from a recent publication:

Reinier Munguia is a full-time naturalist and nature photographer based in Lakeland, Fla. He serves as the President of the Lake Region Audubon Society and Eagle-Watch Volunteer Coordinator. His work has appeared in various publications including books, magazines and scientific publications. He spends great amount of time documenting wildlife and their struggles in their constant changing environment.

Also at this month's meeting –

Are you up to your neck in bromeliad off-sets and don't know what to do? Bring them to this month's "member sale". That's right, this month you can bring in one or one hundred and one plants and maybe make enough pocket change to buy more potting mix, pots, and...bromeliads! The same sales rules apply that we have had in effect for years at all of our sales. That is:

1. Plants must be clean and free of any disease or pests.
2. Each plant must have two tags – one of which must have the plant name on it and the other must have your name on it and the price that you wish to sell the plant for.
3. When you sell the plant, the new owner keeps the tag with the name and you keep the tag that says the sales price with your name on it.

Simple enough, right? It's up to you to set a price for each of your plants (is \$1 enough? Is \$100 too much?) and you will be handling the money received and any change (you might want to have some small denomination bills with you for making change) that might be involved.

Last month's meeting –

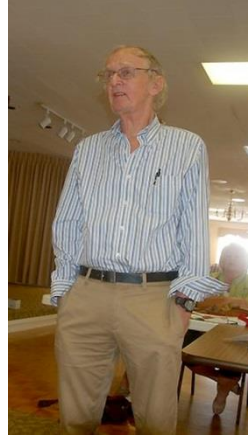


Photo by P.M. Reddy

We were fortunate enough to be able to lure Dr. Howard Frank away from Gainesville in February to talk to us about Zika and the perceived threat posed by bromeliads. For those of you who were unable to attend last month's meeting, we can sum up Dr. Frank's presentation by saying that bromeliads do not present a threat to our health with respect to the Zika virus. As it turns out, the variety of mosquito that carries this virus doesn't do well in the water found in bromeliad leaf tanks – it much prefers other less pristine water holding materials such as old tires, discarded Styrofoam cups, even bottle caps. So, why are public officials in South Florida so intent on removing bromeliads from the landscape? Sometimes politicians feel such pressure to take action that they respond in inappropriate ways so they appear to be doing something in the face of a public health scare. In these situations, facts and real science may take a back-seat to rumor and public perception. Thank you Dr. Frank for taking a stand on this issue!



WILLIAM R. MCBRIDE

OCTOBER 19, 1964 - FEBRUARY 16, 2017



We received the very sad news of FECBS member Bill McBride's passing shortly after Valentine's Day. Most of you knew Billy and appreciated his wit and overwhelming interest in everything bromeliad – related. His absence from our group will be sorely missed!

Out and about –

FECBS secretary Rose Vincel has asked us to convey her sincere thanks for the get-well wishes from our membership. She is doing fine now and we look forward to her return at our next meeting!

And this from Jane Villa-Lobos:

“Have you heard this??? Saw this hint in a book that FFGC (Florida Federation of Garden Clubs) put out on gardening tips –“*Bromeliad tip: When growing bromeliads, place a small amount of “used” coffee grounds in the center of the plant, this will make the water just acidic enough to dissuade mosquito breeding.*

Does this tip really work? If an organization as prestigious as the FFGC supports it, you may want to give it a try...and don't forget to report back to us so that we can share your experience! - Editor

The February meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies was hosted by our group at the Thurrotts' house and we would like to thank Rick and Francisco for their help and support (Francisco almost started a stampede when everyone raced to get a piece of his cheesecake before it was gone!). Thank you also Bill Hazard for making arrangements to borrow chairs from his church so that the 25 people attending the meeting didn't have to sit on the floor!

...And for the Cryptanthus growers in our group:



Some of Carol Richtmyer's extensive collection. This was one of the tours provided at the BSI Houston World Conference

Carol Richtmyer, a renowned hybridizer from Texas will be visiting Florida and presenting a program on Cryptanthus on June 18th for the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, on June 19th for the Sarasota Bromeliad Society, and on June 20th for the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. For more details, check the FCBS website for locations and times for their monthly meetings. This is made possible by financial support from the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.



Cryptanthus 'Carol Richtmyer' -courtesy of BCR



Many of our group made the trip to Vero Beach last month to attend “Gardenfest” and I have to say, this is really a great event. Put on by the Indian River Garden Club, this annual sale of virtually everything you can imagine that is garden-related is certainly worth the drive! The setting in a riverside park is beautiful, parking is free with lots of area available to park your vehicle, and even the food vendor’s offerings are just great!



Vendor selling succulents also offered Cryptanthus at a bargain price!



The sign says it all!



At first, we thought that Dennis Cathcart was getting into a new line of work, but learned that he was tending a booth for a friend and we soon ran into him again at the Tropiflora booth.



Tropiflora had a large booth, but was only one of several bromeliad vendors at the event.

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 or mail to Jay Thurrott, 713 Breckenridge Dr., Port Orange Fl. 32127

Birthdays for March:

We've moved forward from February, which had the fewest member birthdays of any month of the year to March – which has the most!

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

Mimi Borosky	Rosie Byard
Francisco Cardoso	Milt Cohen
Judith Davies	Louise Dianto
Patricia Esmont	Mike Fink
Bill Hazard	Tree Hazard
Jim Irvin	Eve Krauth
Bobbie Moore	Anita Peale
Vicki Teel	Ron Tucholski
Jane Upham	

Looking ahead:

March 11, 12, 2017

Leu Gardens Spring Sale
Leu Gardens - 1920 North Forest Avenue
Orlando, FL

March 10, 11, 12, 2017

19th Annual Spring Plant Sale at Searle Brothers Nursery
6640 SW 172nd Avenue, SW Ranches, FL
33331 Free Barbecue lunch Sat., Sun.!
Over 500 species of rare and exotic plants.
Crotons, Cycads, Cordylines, Bromeliads, Aroids...others too numerous to list!
Contact Jeff Searle at 954/658-4317 for more details.

March 18, 19, 2017

Kanapaha Gardens Spring Garden Festival – this year's theme is “bamboo gardens”
Admission: \$8, free parking and shuttle.
The Kanapaha Botanical Gardens entrance is on SW Archer Road (State Road 24) 1 mile west of Interstate 75 (exit #384).

March 31st-April 2nd, 2017

Tropiflora's 17th annual Spring Festival
Free parking, admission
3530 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota 34243

April 8th, 2017

Volusia County Master Gardeners Plant Fair
Volusia County Fairgrounds. ½ day only!
8:30-noon

April 15, 16, 2017

Orchid and Bromeliad show at Flamingo Gardens – Flamingo Park
3750 S. Flamingo Rd., Davie Fl. 33330-1614

April 22-23, 2017 Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Spring Sale
Garden Club of Sanford, on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd.

April 22-23, 2017(confirmed date)

Bromeliad Society of South Florida annual show and sale.

Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden
10901 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables 33156

August 4, 5, 6 2017

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Extravaganza – hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay
Clarion Hotel
2701 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL 33612
www.clarionhoteltampa.com
813-971-4710

Make your Reservation

Ask for Bromeliad Extravaganza Rate
\$75.00 for single or double.

\$85.00 for triple/quad.

Complimentary hot breakfast included.

Rate guaranteed by hotel until July 13, 2017

Registration Form

Room rate \$75 with free parking Registration fee is \$125, includes a barbecue on Friday night and banquet on Saturday night.

You won't want to miss this one!

May 29 – June 3, 2018

BSI World Bromeliad Conference in San Diego, California
Plan now for what is sure to be an exciting event!

Looking ahead at the next few months and our upcoming FECBS programs:

April – Bromeliads for beginners, the a,b,c's of bromeliads



May – The Genus of Hohenberia with Bruce McAlpin

June – The Genus Ananas: the pineapple

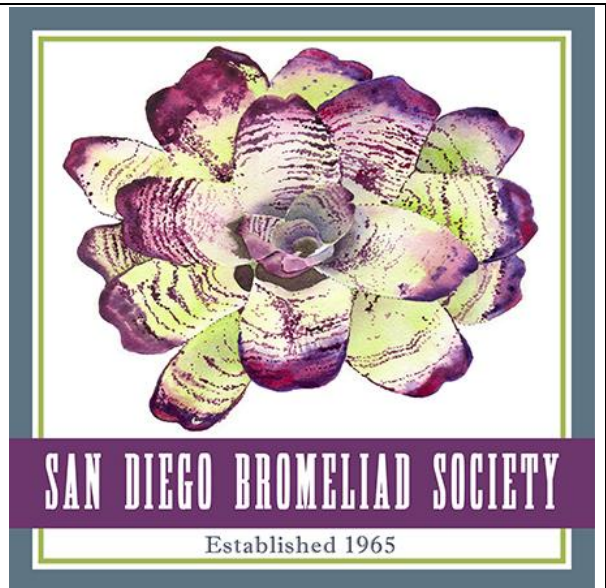


July – Hawaiian luau!!!!!!

August – The Genus Alcantarea



September – Bromeliad Bingo



Register early : download the registration form and flyer from the website:
www.bsi/new.org.

