

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1:30p.m.

Meet at Acosta Village - 1275 Acosta Blvd.

March, 2020

## Separate, Pot Up, Repeat...

**Co-Presidents – Jack Dunlop and Chuck Mamale**

**386/317-0054      386/402-4830**

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

**Secretary – Ruth Gessner 386/767-3499**

**Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041**

**Editor – Jay Thurrott 386/761-4804**

### **You've been waiting...**

to separate those bromeliad offsets, but worried about the chance of a sudden arctic cold front passing through east central Florida. Well, I think that the chances of such a thing happening now are pretty remote, and that means it's time to go to work in your garden! You should keep these things in mind as you begin this chore:

1. The rule of thumb that we often hear is that you should wait until the pup is 1/2 to 2/3 size of the parent plant. This is a good rule to go by – anything smaller and the plant may not have enough stored energy to thrive when separated from the parent plant.
2. Don't worry about whether the pup that you are about to remove has any roots or not. It doesn't seem to make a lot of difference. Roots will soon develop once the pup has its own pot or place in the landscape and those cooler nights that we've experienced in the winter give way to longer days and warmer temperatures as we dive into spring...or summer (sometimes it's hard to tell the difference!)

### **This Month's Meeting:**

Tom Wolfe will be educating and entertaining us with his program on the

native Florida bromeliads. They may not have those spectacular colors and patterns that we've come to expect from many of the bromeliad hybrids in the market today, but Florida's native bromeliads have their own special charm and, unfortunately are under attack from an invasive weevil. Learn more about Florida's natives, where they are found, and how to recognize and protect them from this fascinating program. You won't want to miss it!

Tom's been involved with bromeliads both as a hobby and commercially since the 1960s -joining the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay in 1965. In the years to follow he has held many positions in the Guild including serving as President six times.

Since its humble beginning, Tom has been a long-time supporter of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and has served as Chairman to that organization three times. At the national level he served on the Bromeliad Society International Board of Directors for 14 years serving as Director, Secretary, 6 years as Vice President and 6 years as President. While Vice President, Tom was General Chairman of the successful 1992 World Bromeliad Conference, "Bromeliad Safari", hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay.

Tom became an accredited BSI Bromeliad Judge in 1982. He has judged numerous bromeliad shows throughout the country and is now a Master Judge. Not content to be involved in just bromeliads, Tom has played an active role in garden clubs in the Tampa area and, most recently, in orchid societies.

Tom and his wife Carol grow tropical plants on their 2.5 acres of land and greenhouses in Lutz – in the Tampa area. Carol is the editor of Florida Council of Bromeliads newsletter and is widely known for her photography of bromeliads. Tom is in demand as a speaker throughout Florida and the United States presenting programs on bromeliads to Garden Clubs, Bromeliad Clubs, and at the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens.

We are honored to have Tom return to Daytona Beach to pass on a little bit of his vast volume of knowledge of bromeliads.

### Last Month's Meeting:



Bob Smedley with *Neoregelia Zoe* – mounted in tree fern fiber. Bob Smedley visited us last month with a program that really held everyone's attention: *Mounting Bromeliads*, but this wasn't the usual workshop on how to attach a young bromeliad to a favored piece of driftwood. Instead, Bob really "pushed the envelope" and got us all thinking about truly original ways to combine bromeliads with concrete and steel to create unique works of art.



Bob's "cement bonsai" featuring *Orthophytum Starlights*. On the right – a small *Neo*, inserted into a hanging basket of tree fern fiber.



Another of Bob's creations – *Tillandsia bulbosa* mounted on a piece of black bamboo.

Thank you Bob for a most unusual and interesting program and thank you again for your donations to our February raffle!

We had a really nice raffle last month with some very nice plants that our members were able to bring home for the price of a raffle ticket – just \$1!

### FECBS Hosts Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies quarterly meeting was hosted by FECBS at the Thurrotts' house on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was a little scary planning to have 20+ bromeliad enthusiasts and to keep them fed and watered for this meeting, but we had a lot of help and that made all the difference in

the world! Thank you Sherrie Thompson and Bobbie Moore for helping with setting up the luncheon and a great big thank you to our president Jack for delivering and setting up the food and for making that delicious pineapple upside down cake!



Dustin's Barbecue provide everything we needed – including the barbecued meats, beans, rolls, sauces, silverware, napkins...even the drinks!

The meeting went well, although after all that food, I think some began settling in for a nap.



Representatives Tom Ramiccio, Mike Michalski, and Nick Bethman – Tom and Nick representing the Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches and Mike, the Bromeliad Society of South Florida.

Following the Florida Council meeting, a meeting of the planning committees for the upcoming World Conference in Sarasota lasted well into the dinner hour.



Greg Kolojeski from the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida and Marian Kennell of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society (co-chairs of the Bromeliad World Conference) and Susan Sousa of the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society.

### **Birthdays for March:**

In March we move forward from February with the least number of birthdays to March with the most!!

Rosie Byard	Francisco Cardoso
Judith Davies	Mike Fink
Bill Hazard	Tree Hazard
Jim Irvin	Eve Krauth
Pat Matthews	Shellie Merrill
Bobbie Moore	Vicki Teel
Jane Upham	Greg Wilson

Happy Birthday all!

### **DON'T FORGET – ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE NOW!!**

If you haven't renewed yet, see our Treasurer Eve Krauth. Don't let your membership expire!

### **Out and About:**

Jane Villa-Lobos often sends in photos of bromeliads in her yard as they come into bloom. This month she is sharing this picture of *Aechmea recurvata* 'Artichoke'. What a great plant! It may have been *Tropiflora* that first attached this name to a cultivar of *Ae. recurvata* that's so large and spiny – it almost looks like an artichoke!



*Aechmea* 'Artichoke' photo by Jane Villa-Lobos.

*Aechmea recurvata* in its various cultivars is a sturdy, reliable plant that produces a very attractive bloom in Florida but it's in the drier and higher elevation area like much of California where they really come into their own. Here's a photo taken recently in Berkley, Ca. of an *Ae. recurvata* in bloom – it looks like a totally different plant!



It seems like this has been an especially good year for my Billbergias, with many of them blooming over the last month or two. Here's one that you don't often see called Billbergia Violet Queen – an old hybrid of *B. amoena* x *B. euphemiae* that was registered nearly 50

years ago. Not the most spectacular in foliage color, but I like the deep, dark red of the large bracts on the inflorescence.



Billbergia Violet Queen

...and here's another Billbergia that recently bloomed in our yard. In this case, it's a seedling that grew from seeds collected from a *Billbergia amoena rubra* (spineless). I was given this plant some years ago and we speculated as to whether it was a species or cultivar. Seeing as the seedling plants don't look like the parent and they are far from being spineless, I would have to say that the original plant is some sort of hybrid that was developed to produce a spineless Billbergia.



Billbergia amoena rubra seedling (F2)-it has spines!

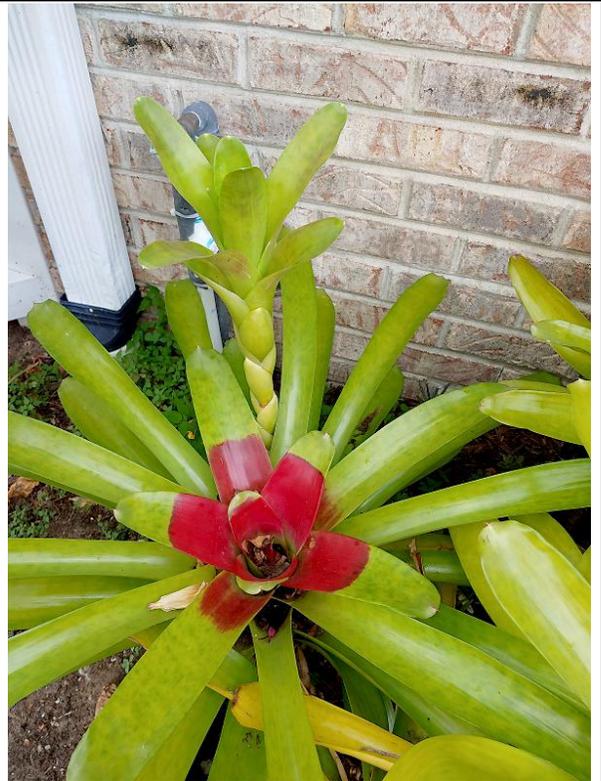


*Billbergia amoena rubra* (spineless)



Flowers on the original *Billbergia amoena rubra* (spineless)

Jane Villa-Lobos is a frequent contributor of photos of plants in her collection (where are the rest of you?) and this month she sent these pictures. The first is of one of my favorites: *Neoregelia McWilliamsii*. I just can't say enough about this plant – it's big, it's beautiful, and it's spineless!



*Neoregelia McWilliamsii* in bloom in Jane's yard

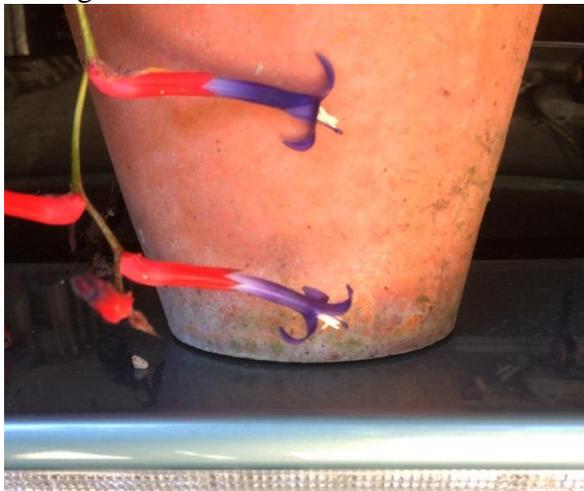
This second photo is a "twofer" or a two in one shot. This is a nice *Tillandsia ionantha* ball (that's the way this plant tends to grow – the offsets continue to grow around the parent plant until it forms a nice, round ball) and right alongside of it is a clump of *Tillandsia bulbosa* – also forming a ball with its offsets at right angles to the parent. Great color in this photo – thank you Jane!

We all lose plant tags. I know because it happens to me all the time – squirrels steal them, sometimes they just break into tiny pieces due to continuous sun exposure to the plastic, and sometimes the wind knocks over your plant with a resulting broken pot and lost tag (who knows where the tag eventually ends up!).



All the king's horses and all the king's men won't put this pot back together again! Photo by Bill Hazard

This was the case recently for Bill Hazard. The weather man said that gusts of wind were up to 40mph recently and this is what Bill found when the wind finally died down. When he sent me this picture and the following one of the inflorescence, I recognized the plant as *Quesnelia augustocoburgii*.



Quesnelia flowers Photo by Bill Hazard

It's always difficult to identify a bromeliad from a single photo and fortunately in this case there were two photos to work from.

This plant is distinctive first of all from its tubular shape composed of just a few plain green toothed leaves (is it a *Billbergia*?), but secondly by its pendant inflorescence with little to no scape bracts (those are the big boat shape colorful bracts found on *Billbergia* blooms) and staggered flowers with pink to red floral bracts (these are the ones covering the base of each flower). Either of these two photos might encourage you to misidentify this plant, but the two photos taken together helped come up with a reasonably certain I.D.



*Tillandsia ionantha* and *Tillandsia bulbosa* photo by Jane Villalobos.

#### **Announcements:**

Are you a member of BSI? That's the Bromeliad Society International, in case you were wondering. They are a wonderful organization and if you are not currently a member, they have just announced a terrific deal that you should seriously consider taking advantage of. Now, for a limited time during their current membership drive you can join BSI for just \$15!!! This is a one-time only special rate and it applies only if you are not currently a BSI member or have

been a member in the recent past (in other words, it doesn't apply to renewals). Give it a try, after all, there's not much that you can buy for \$15 and this will give you a full one-year membership and allows you to register for the upcoming BSI World Conference in Sarasota. To take advantage of this opportunity visit the BSI website at [www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org) for your membership application and further details.



**BROMELIAD SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**

**Sunday, March 29, 2019**

***SELL PLANTS AND KEEP ALL YOUR TAKE!***

*If you want to set up a table and tent on, you can bring any plants and related items to sell in the GARDEN OF EDEN!!!*

*One of our members, Roberta Sappington, is on the board of the Jewish Heritage Festival. They want pretty plants to grace a large area beside the Halifax River.*

*This large gathering which is held every 2 years in Ormond Beach will be at Rockefeller Gardens. It is similar in size and scope to Port Orange's Family Days. Though vendors must pay \$300-\$500 per space, they are not charging Garden of Eden sellers anything at all. Roberta needs to tell the board by February 1st how many tables and/or tents our folks want to bring so they can give an arrival and set up time that morning. Roberta has a banner that says GARDEN OF EDEN and can answer your questions at [rivkasap@aol.com](mailto:rivkasap@aol.com).*

**Looking ahead:**

**March 6-8 and March 13-15m 2020**

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Plant Extravaganza  
Palms, orchids fruit trees, gingers, heliconias, ...and Bromeliads! 8-5pm except Sundays-9-4pm.

Searle Brothers Nursery  
6640 SW Ranches, FL 33331  
[www.rainforestcollection.com](http://www.rainforestcollection.com)  
954/658-4317 or 954/658-4319

**March 14, 15, 2020**

Leu Gardens Spring Plant Sale  
1920 North Forest Avenue | Orlando, FL  
Free admission to the gardens  
9am to 5pm

**March 28-29, 2020**

Bromeliad Society of South Florida  
Annual Spring Show  
March 26-29, 2020 Garden House 10901 Old  
Cutler Road Coral Gables, FL 33156  
(always a great show that also includes a large section of student art.)

**April 3-5, 2020**

Tropiflora's Spring Festival @ Tropiflora  
Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, 941-  
351-2267 ([tropiflora.com](http://tropiflora.com))

**April 11,12, 2020**

39<sup>th</sup> International Orchid and Bromeliad  
Show  
Flamingo Gardens  
3750 S. Flamingo Rd.  
Davie, FL

**April 11,12, 2020**

University of South Florida Botanical  
Spring Plant Sale  
Saturday 10:00-4:00 Sunday 11:00-3:00  
\$5 admission; children under 12 & USF  
Botanical Garden members are admitted free.  
Free Parking  
Tampa, Fl.  
12210 USF Pine Drive Tampa, FL 33612  
Website: <http://gardens.usf.edu>  
(813) 974-2329

**April 18, 2020**

Palm Coast Garden Club's Spring Festival at the Flagler/Palm Coast High School

**April 18, 19, 2020**

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Annual Spring Sale at the Sanford Garden Club – 200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford, FL 32773

**May 9,10, 2020**

24th annual show is being held May 9-10 , 2020 at the Hester Building, Volusia County Fair Grounds, Route 44, DeLand, Florida. Show hours are from 9am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$5.00. Children under 12 are free. Print out the discount coupon for a \$1.00 discount. ONE OF THE LARGEST ORCHID SHOWS AND PLANT EXPOS IN FLORIDA



**May 8 – 10, 2020**

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Mother's Day Show and Sale at the Fashion Square Mall.

**May 15-17, 2020**

Redland International Orchid Show  
Fruit and Spice Park  
24801 SW 187<sup>th</sup> Ave., Homestead, FL.

**June 9-13, 2020**

The BSI World Bromeliad Conference 2020 will be held in Sarasota, Florida from Tuesday, June 9, 2020 through Saturday, June 13, 2020 at the [Hyatt Regency Sarasota](#).