

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

March 2026 Newsletter

1:30 p.m.

**Meeting Location: Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd.
Port Orange, FL 32129**

Don't Forget to Spring Forward Your Clocks

March 8th

This month's meeting will be held on Sunday, March 8th at 1:30 at the clubhouse at Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange.

The speaker will be Kenneth Stokes who will give a very interesting presentation (see below). There will be a bromeliad raffle, show and tell, door prizes and delicious refreshments. There are 13 members who have birthdays in March, so hopefully there will be plenty of food.

---Pam

Kenneth Stokes - Approaches to Being a Tropical Plant Collector

Collecting is more than the gathering of a bunch of things that are available into one group or display. To be successful, it requires that you understand the category and have some knowledge of it. Expertise will come on the category as you research, study and experiment with the growing of plants in a plant family or specific genera.

As people join plant societies or have access to new varieties of plants, they often begin by buying what is pretty, attractive, available and inexpensive. This is not collecting, but rather accumulating. Regrets come later when you find out the plant cannot live outside a greenhouse, it is invasive, is a rampant grower, is seasonally dormant, will cover the ground with rotting fruit, emits a foul smell when it blooms or will rot every summer or freezes in the winter.

Kenneth will share suggestions on how to evaluate your current plant accumulation, goals in landscaping, symbiotic relationships of plants, collection categories, buying rare plants and what makes them rare. He will also present some experiences of some plant disasters coming from not understanding the true nature of the plant.

He will bring rare plants for display as teaching examples and for sale. Sale plants can be purchased before the presentation, then picked up afterwards. They will include Bromeliads, Euphorbias, Aroids, Ferns, Sansevieria and other unusual plants.

Have You Renewed Your Membership for 2026?

If you have forgotten to renew your membership, see our treasurer, Eve Krauth. We are fortunate to have reasonable dues - \$15.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a family.

In Memorium – Irene Aldrich



It is with great sadness to announce the passing of member Irene Aldrich on February 17, 2026. She and husband George (who passed away last year), owned Plants N' Things – Bromeliads in Ocala. They were married for 58 years! They have provided many door prize plants to our club and hosted the club for a BBQ and a tour of their greenhouses many years ago. Her smile will live on in the hearts of those who knew her.

Do Your Bromeliads Look Like Mine?

---Jane Villa-Lobos

I live in Palm Coast about 3 miles from the ocean. Usually, it is warmer at my location, but not during the Arctic Freeze! I have lived in Palm Coast for over 26 years and have never experienced such destruction. My bromeliads and other plants suffered tremendously even though they were covered with layers of frost cloth, beach towels, heavy sheets and even old comforters. I have noticed on many bromeliad Facebook pages that I am not alone. The wind, duration of the low temperatures (20s), the wind chills in the morning, and the successive nights of these conditions played a significant role in the demise of my plants. In addition, a few days ago we had heavy rain which caused some plants that seemed to have green in the center to rot. A person can't win!!! Fortunately, I had many bromeliads in pots which I brought into the garage, so I have some replacements. Like many others I am rethinking my selection of bromeliads.



Heads Up on the Change of Location for April's Meeting

Due to a conflict at the clubhouse at Colony in the Wood, we will be meeting at the clubhouse in The Trails, 201 Main Trail, Ormond Beach. Same time – 1:30.

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

Here are some survivors that even bloomed after the freeze.

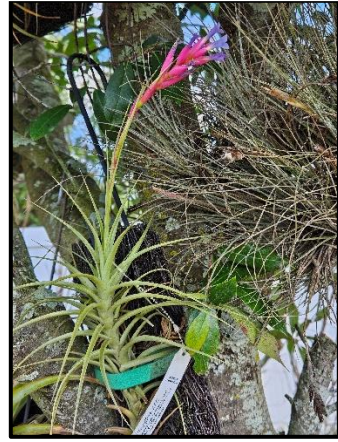


Quesnelia marmorata
'Tim Plowman'
(Calandra Thurrott)



Tillandsia

(Connie Schrider)



Tillandsia aeranthos 'Major'

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: Francisco Cardosa, Janet Correia, Judith Davies, Tina Dykes, Pat Esmont, Mike Fink, Bill Hazard, Tree Hazard, Eve Krauth, Terri Malia, Bobbi Moore, Vicki Teel, and Greg Wilson.

Future Events

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

April 4-12

E.F.G. Anniversary Sale

4265 Marsh Rd.

DeLand

10-5

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

