

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Sunday, April 12th, 1:30p.m.
Meet at Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

April, 2020

No Meeting For April!

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

April's Meeting has been cancelled.

What a difference a month can make. Just a short time ago we were attending meetings to help with planning for the BSI World Conference in Sarasota and looking forward to Orlando's Leu Gardens Spring Sale, the Bromeliad Society of South Florida's annual show and sale at Fairchild Gardens, and the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society's Spring Plant Sale. Now, not only have these events been postponed or cancelled but our daily lives have been turned upside down by the sudden appearance of the corona virus.

What do we do now with all of this "free time" on our hands? I don't know about you, but I'm going to spend more time on my plants. This is the ideal time to repot those bromeliads that have gotten too large or have too many offsets for their current abode and if you have been putting off removing those Neoregelia offsets all winter, what better time than now to begin this chore...or pleasure, depending on how you view it.

Last Month's Meeting:

Calandra and I were in California while the March meeting was taking place, so I'm

afraid that I can't report on what took place. We had a very nice time visiting in the San Francisco Bay area and had the opportunity to view some bromeliads in home gardens,



Portea petropolitana var. extensa in bloom on a patio in home in San Francisco.

We even got this surprise as we were leaving through the San Francisco airport:



Alcantarea imperialis in Terminal 2 of the San Francisco airport.

Will visitors to the airport ever see this plant bloom in its current location? That's doubtful, however it's notable that the plant was in an area with no air conditioning, low light conditions, the temperature was in the 40's and had hovered in that area for many days at a time, yet the plant looked quite healthy!

Bromeliad Seeds:

All bromeliads produce flowers at maturity and often bromeliads will produce viable seeds - depending on the time of year and the presence or absence of insects and other creatures willing to pollinate the flowers. Some hobbyists find a great deal of satisfaction in growing bromeliads "from seed to seed" or from seedling to mature, flowering plant and many clubs have workshops addressing this topic where their members learn different ways that these seeds can be germinated and nurtured into mature plants.

One of the lesser known services provided by the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) is a member-accessible seed bank. BSI members can request seeds at

the incredibly low price of \$3 per packet for any seeds that may be in stock...and this is where you come in. Whether you are a member of BSI or not (and you really should think about becoming a member if you are not currently one) you can help your fellow bromeliad enthusiast by sending seeds to the Seed Bank whenever your species plants set seed. What may be a common plant to you may be rare and highly prized by growers in other parts of the world. But perhaps more importantly, at a time when many plants are facing extinction, whether by climate change or by man-induced habitat reduction, the distribution of bromeliads species through programs such as the Seed Bank ensures the continued presence of these plants and keeps the door open for possible future reintroduction to native habitat.

A few simple guidelines:

1. The Seed Bank is looking for seeds of species plants. Seeds collected from hybrids are not likely to run true to the seed parent, so please refrain from sending these. Also, if impure (crossed) seeds are suspected, please mark as such.
2. Seeds should be removed from the seed pods or berries and, in the case of those from the Bromelioidea group, the seeds should be thoroughly washed to remove any pulp that will promote fungus growth. These seeds should then be thoroughly dried.
3. Place the seeds in a small envelope with the correct identification of the plant.
4. Send seeds to

Bryan Windham

2401 43rd St.

Kenner, La. 70065

brykool69@yahoo.com

Need further incentives to participate in this worthwhile program? For each large packet of seed that you send in you will receive credit for two Seed Bank packets to be sent to you (a list of currently available seeds is maintained on the BSI website). But don't be a taker, be a giver. Let's build up that stock of seeds available for distribution. Your donations of seed will be greatly appreciated

and you can rest assured that you are doing something positive for horticultural species conservation.



Aechmea berry and seeds.



Dyckia seeds

Birthdays for April:

Irene Aldrich	Doreen DeBiasio
Jayne Molnar	Eretta Morris
Hedy Quirk	Roberta Sappington
Vince Schrider	Mike Tennyson
Rose Vincel	

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:

We were very happy to receive the following photos from members showing a few of those special bromeliads in their yards. We start with this shot from new member Janet Corriea. She picked up this beautiful Neoregelia from Tropiflora and is enjoying the bright color that it gives to her yard.



Next, we have a picture taken by Bill Hazard of one of my favorite large Neoregelias –DeRolf.



You might think that this is a recently introduced hybrid, but you would be wrong! This is actually a species, a cultivar of *Neoregelia johannis* and can be found in the wild (if you know where to look) looking much like Bill's beautiful plant.

Judith Davies of Palm Coast sent us these pictures of bromeliads in her yard:



Have you ever seen such a magnificent display of Neoregelias before? This group is made up of *Neoregelia McWilliamsii* and you can see the beautiful strawberry color developing in the center of several of these plants.



This photo shows another mass display by the front door of her house.



Here's another shot of some colorful Neos.

that Judith has in her yard, followed by this nice St. Patrick's day greeting:



Calandra and I were recently visiting in Orlando and stopped in at Leu Gardens, where many bromeliads were on display along their walkways. This one in particular caught my eye:



You might remember this plant from last month's program by Tom Wolfe (Native Florida Bromeliads). It appears to be *Tillandsia bartramii* with numerous bloom spikes. Not a spectacular plant (most of the Florida natives aren't), but a nice display when seen hanging from a tree.

...And, speaking of Tillandsias, what do you do when you have a number of different mounted Tillandsias that you would like to hang from branches in your yard but you have no convenient branches to hand them on? Bill Hazard was faced with this dilemma. He wanted to set up a clothesline in his front yard, but feared that the neighbors

might not appreciate seeing that, so he came up with this solution:



This is made up from two PVC pipes, painted black, connected by a wire and then camouflaged by attaching clumps of Spanish moss to either end. Bill's mounted Tillandsias are hung on the wire between the two pipes. Great idea Bill!

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

Announcements:

No announcements from club members this month – just stay healthy as we weather this virus outbreak!

Looking ahead:

Most, if not all of the events that were listed in last month's newsletter have either been postponed or cancelled. I've checked on their current status and listed them here again, but be sure to check on the appropriate websites or call in advance before travelling to see if the event that you are interested in will still be held.

Tropiflora's 20th Annual Spring Festival has been POSTPONED. Date is to be determined and will be announced as soon as it decided.

April 11,12, 2020

39th International Orchid and Bromeliad Show

Flamingo Gardens
3750 S. Flamingo Rd.
Davie, FL

(In keeping with the executive order from Governor DeSantis to close all non-essential businesses, FLAMINGO GARDENS IS CLOSED until further notice.)

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

(Cancelled as of 03/21/20)

April 18, 2020

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

(Cancelled as of 03/21/20)

April 18,19, 2020

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Annual Spring Sale at the Sanford Garden Club – 200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford, FL. 32773
Postponed - Rescheduled to June 20, 21

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

(Status – unknown at this time, but FECBS will not be having a sales booth at this event)

May 8 – 10, 2020

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

(Status – unknown at this time)

May 15-17, 2020

Redland International Orchid Show
Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187th Ave., Homestead, Fl

(Cancelled as of 03/21/20)

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](#).

Due to the Coronavirus (now known as COVID-19) outbreak in the USA, including Florida and the fact that the Florida Governor has declared a state of emergency, the World Bromeliad Conference from June 9-13, 2020 in Sarasota, Florida has been rescheduled to June 8-12, 2021. The host hotel will still be the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sarasota. You will have to change your reservation dates with the hotel. The registration that you paid for the conference will apply to the rescheduled conference with no changes in the rate. The bus tours will not change. They are in the process of verifying all the speakers and hope that you still plan to attend the rescheduled conference.

