

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

April 2026 Newsletter

1:30 p.m.

**Meeting Location: The Trails Clubhouse, 201 Main Trail Rd.
Ormond Beach**

NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION

April 12th

This month's meeting will be held on Sunday, April 12th at 1:30 at The Trails Clubhouse at 201 Main Trail Rd., Ormond Beach.

The speaker will be Dave Johnston who will talk on Billbergias and have plants for sale. There will be a bromeliad raffle, show and tell, door prizes and delicious refreshments.

---Pam

Jay Thurrott's Plants at Marie Selby Botanical Garden

by Calandra Thurrott



Marian Kennell shared photos of her *Fernseea bocainensis* at the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies February meeting. The plant was given to her by Jay Thurrott. She said, "Jay told me it was a very special plant".

She said she gave Bruce Holst a part of them for the Marie Selby collection because they had lost theirs. She brought it in for show and tell and he happened to be at the meeting at Selby and asked for some. So, some of Jay's plants are at Selby in the special collection!

The bromeliad genus *Fernseea* only has two known species, both of which are endangered endemic species to Brazil. *Fernseea bocainensis* is critically endangered and found in the Atlantic Forest Biome and in the states of Rio De Janeiro and São Paulo in southeast Brazil.

Leu Gardens Plant Sale



Our adventuresome vice president Bill Hazard was the first in line at 6:45 am at the Leu Gardens Plant Sale on March 14. Being a member of Leu Gardens, he was able to shop early before the public was admitted. He bought some special plants for this collection.

What is the Best Potting Mix for Bromeliads!

by Tom Wolfe (Reprinted from the Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter Jan./Feb. 2026)

For terrestrials, which include Dyckias, Hectias, Ananas, Cryptanthus, etc., I use a regular commercial potting mix or a mixture of builders' sand, perlite and peat. For epiphytes, I use a mixture of Canadian peat, perlite, and wood chips.

The following ingredients are some other products that you may want to try if available: Fir bark, Chicken or turkey grit, Charcoal, Tree fern (chopped fine), Manure, Coconut fiber, Sponge rock, Chopped osmunda (fern root). Find whatever works for you and stick with it. Whatever you use, it needs to be well-drained.

There are some tillandsias that can be grown in pots with lava rock, wood chips large perlite (commercial grade). If you want to grow tillandsias in pots, try *T. fasciculata*, *T. capitata*, *T. tricolor*, *T. streptophylla* and other large Tillandias.

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

From Jane Villa-Lobos' garden:



Aechmea reticulata



Aechmea covata



Tillandsia stricta



Aechmea gamosepala



Aechmea chantinii Mini



Tillandsia stricta
'Black Beauty'

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: Annette Cross, Greg Kolojeski, Alex Jones, Rick Peters, Rivka Sappington, and Vince Schrider.

Future Events

April 11
Downtown Botanical Fest
1900 S. Harbor City Blvd.
Melbourne
8-4

April 12
Garden of Eden
Jewish Heritage Festival
Rockefeller Gardens
Ormond Beach
10-4

April 11-12
Spring Fever in the Garden
Downtown Winter Garden
Plant Street
Winter Garden Sat.: 9-5; Sun.: 10-4

April 18-19
Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society Plant Sale
Sanford Garden Club
200 Fairmont Ave., Sanford
9-4

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 - Becky Gabbard 386-492-3933
Beverages - Terri Malia 386-307-4331 Sunshine - Judith Davies 386-864-7360

