

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, May 13th, 2017 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

May, 2017

Garden Ramble this month!

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

That's right – this month we will have a garden ramble with visits to gardens in the New Smyrna Beach area. Plans were not finalized as of this printing, so all I can say at this point is 1) this will take place on Saturday, May 6th and 2) this will be a lot of fun! For those of you who have internet access, we will send out more details soon and for those of you who do not (you receive your newsletter in the US mail), we'll send out a one-page announcement of the details for this event.

This month's meeting –

Not many of our members are familiar with the bromeliad Genus *Hohenbergia*, so it only seems right that Bruce McAlpin of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society should educate us on this interesting group of plants.



The bloom of *Hohenbergia stellata* is a real eye-catcher. This plant was growing in one of the few shaded areas at Coral Castle.

Last month's meeting –

Wow! Our attendance for the April meeting set a new record for FECBS at 79!! It seems pretty clear that having at least occasional programs directed toward the beginning bromeliad grower is a good thing to do. We discussed the "A, B, Cs" of bromeliads and how knowing the Genus that your plant fits into can help you decide how best to care for that plant.



A...is for *Aechmea*;

B...is for *Billbergia*



C...is for *Cryptanthus*

...and thank you PM Reddy for providing these photos from the May meeting of the FECBS!

Also last month a group of our members participated in the annual Volusia County Master Gardener Plant Faire in DeLand.



Group of *Aechmea disticantha* var. *schlumbergii* from Christoph Cardot was offered for sale and didn't last long.

The weather was perfect, the plants brought by our members looked great, and the public who attended were definitely in the mood to buy plants!



Aland Bennett and Bryan Manion set up plants for sale before the gates open.

As fund raisers go, this is my favorite since it only lasts for 3 and a half hours. Special thanks to all those who helped out: Calandra Thurrott, Alan Bennett, Joan Campbell, Christoph Cardot, Virginia Dornbach, Robert Jacks, Bill Hazard, Bryan Manion, John Hiatt, Sudi Hipsley, Rick Ryals, Stanley Marye, Steve Provost, and of course – Eve Krauth for making sense out of all those tags and sorting out who they belonged to. Sales were very good and may well have been a record for FECBS's participation in this event!



FECBS sign constructed by Bryan Manion identified our sales area.

Dean Fairchild 10/24/40 -3/27/17

We received the sad news that Dean Fairchild has passed away. Dean had visited our group in the past and, as a master bromeliad show judge, even judged one of our FECBS Christmas centerpiece competitions.



Dean Fairchild and Eretta Morris with Eretta's winning centerpiece.

Dean had been involved in bromeliads for many years and was the creator of many hybrids including, most famously Neoregelia 'Dean' in 1981 - a *Neoregelia johannis* cultivar planted extensively in Fairchild Botanic Gardens; and the bi-generic *Androlaechmea* 'Dean' in 1989.

Congratulations –

...to FECBS members PM and Vijaya Reddy on their daughter's selection as a People's Choice finalist for the 2017 Michigan Governor's Fitness Awards in the Director's

Champion for Health category. Dr. Sushma Reddy is the Director of Population Health at the Lake Huron Medical Center (formerly St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron) in Michigan.

Coral Castle –

Calandra and I recently had the opportunity to visit the *extreme* south of South Florida. It had been over 30 years since we had visited the Florida Keys and since I had occasion to travel to Plantation, we thought that we would pick up from there and head as far south as possible without needing a passport (Key West). Along the way, we stopped at an attraction known as Coral Castle and, I've got to say that if you are heading for the Keys, this makes for a most interesting rest stop along the way.



Coral Castle was constructed over a period of some 30 years - starting in the 1920s and is built entirely out of huge blocks of coral rock (oolite limestone). The builder was a single individual, a Latvian immigrant who can charitably be described as “eccentric”. No one knows exactly how he managed to cut, move, carve and assemble these stone blocks, each of which weighs many tons, but this site is now on the national registry of historic sites. This is definitely something that you don't see every day and it's well worth a visit! And did I mention that the site is extensively landscaped with bromeliads? That should get your attention. Most of the plants are growing in the full South Florida sun - there's very little shade available, so we recommend that you either visit early in the morning or late in the afternoon unless you are carrying lots of sun screen with you!



Ananas lucidus



Vriesea gigantea gets a tiny bit of shade from a Royal Palm

We frequently discuss which plants may do well (or at least survive!) in full East Central Florida sun at our meetings, but here are examples of bromeliads grown in more intense light than we are likely to ever see in our area and they seem to be thriving. Selection of appropriate species is the key to success in this kind of environment and Coral Castle's landscaper appears to have chosen well.



Aechmea 'Little Harv' and *Aechmea blanchettiana*



An assortment of bromeliads



Tillandsia fasciculata growing on coral rock



Neoregelia 'Martin' growing directly on coral rock



Alcantarea imperialis

If you happen to be travelling south and would like to visit this attraction, Coral Castle is located in Leisure City at the intersection of SW157th Ave and US1 (28655 South Dixie Highway), Miami, FL 33033. You can call at (305) 248-6345 for further information.

Out and about –

Virginia Dornbach sent us this photo of her beautiful new pergola - replacing the old structure destroyed by Hurricane Matthew last year.



This just goes to show that there's a positive side to everything – even hurricanes.

...and these are a few shots of some of the beautiful bromeliads in her yard:



Does anyone recognize this plant?



Ananas lucidus – beginning to form its miniature pineapple fruit.



Aechmea 'Red Ribbon'

Intense color in this Vriesea hybrid's leaves

Once again, the Bromeliad Society of South Florida did a great job in holding their judged bromeliad show (their 39th annual!) at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens. The gardens were beautiful and the show – simply outstanding. If you've never been to this event, make plans now to attend next year's show.



Combretum rotundifolium at Fairchild Gardens



FECBS president Rick Ryals conducting the awards judging at the BSSF 39th annual bromeliad show.

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 3212

Birthdays for May:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

Ruth Gessner
Robert Jacks
Vijaya Reddy
Mally Trzeciak

Audrey Hayes
Terry Kahn
Judy Simmons

Looking ahead:

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 \$100, 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:

June – The Genus Ananas: the pineapple



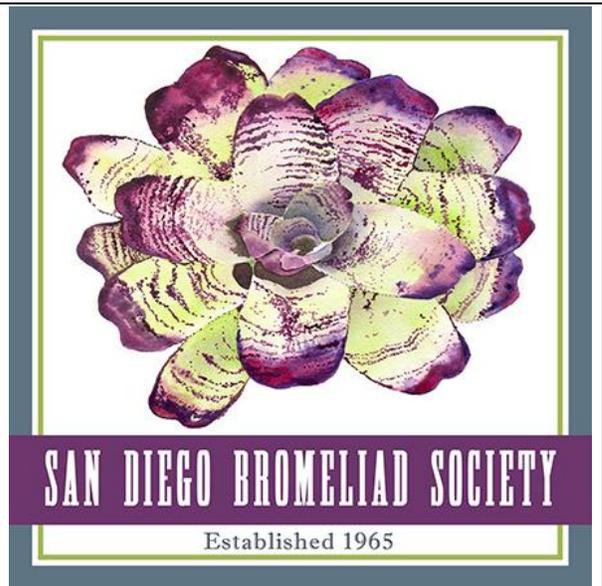
July – Hawaiian luau!!!!!!

August – The Genus Alcantarea



September – Bromeliad Bingo

October – Dr. Terrie Bert returns!



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

