

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, May 13th, 2018 1:30pm.
Volusia County Fairgrounds
3150 East New York Avenue
Deland, FL
32724

May, 2018

Mother's Day Meeting Combined with Orchid Show!

President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700
Co-Vice Presidents – Jane Vila-Lobos and Hedy Quirk
386/446-0341 and 386/427-2314
Secretary – Ruth Gessner 386/767-3499
Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041

This month's meeting –
No Meeting at Colony in the Wood!
Instead, we will be having our meeting in the Hester building at the Volusia County Fairgrounds. “Where is that?” you might ask. The fairgrounds are located just off I-4, fronting Route 44. The address is 3150 E. New York Ave., Deland 32724. You can't miss it.

If you can help with our display, meet us after 9 am on Friday where Ron and crew will be hard at work on our display for this year.

Show hours are 9 – 4 both days. Our club will be manning a bromeliad sales table as well as creating a display highlighting a wide range of beautiful bromeliads. While the display will not need any tending after it is set up on Friday, we will be in need of your assistance in staffing the sales table on both Saturday and on Sunday. If you can spare some time on either of those days, please email our president Rick at RickRyals@bellsouth.net and he will add your name and the time that you can volunteer to his list. Please shoot him an

email saying that you would be happy to help so that he won't be the only one there at our booth!

Our meeting will be on Sunday at 2pm in that same building and arrangements have been made to have all current members (did you renew your membership?) of FECBS admitted at no charge. The event's admission table will have a list of all of the names of our members. Non-members will have to pay the full price of \$5. Children under 12 admitted free!



Bromeliads around our sign at last year's display at the County Fairgrounds.

Master Gardener's Plant Faire –

We may not have had as many plants for sale as we normally have for this year's Master Gardener's Plant Faire, but the customer demand for our bromeliads was so great that by noon we were sold out! I think by any standard, that makes this a successful fund raiser for FECBS!



Anxious customers lined up well before the opening time of 8:30am. Photo by Cricket Petrovich

This event is always a lot of fun and because it only lasts a half-day, it's not as strenuous on those working our sales booth as would be expected for a longer event.



Stanley Marye and Jane Upham discuss Stanley's blooming *Androloaechmea* 'O'Rourke'-a beautiful bi-generic bromeliad.

Many thanks to Calandra Thurrott, Stanley Marye, Bill Hazard, Sudi Hipsley, and Cricket Petrovich for providing plants/set-up and take down help/sales help/or any combination of the above, as well as moral support!

Last month's meeting –

We were sorry to hear that Terrie Bert would be unable to present her program at our April meeting as planned. Instead, we had an extended session of "Show and Tell" that, I think worked out very well. Everyone had a chance to ask questions and see some of the more unusual bromeliads from club members' collections.

Congratulations by the way to Nancy Rogers on winning the door-prize plant!

Pie in the Sky!

Back in 1995, in the early days of FECBS, the club received 5 boxes of bromeliads from John Anderson of Texas to help get the club on its feet. Those plants were used for raffles at club meetings and went a long way toward getting club members' collections started. One of the plants in that shipment was labelled "*Aechmea comata variegata*" and was a small, rubbery leaved bromeliad that bloomed with a ball of orange bracts and bright yellow flowers. At the time, the only variegated *Ae. comata* that I was aware of was *Aechmea* 'Makoyana' - a much larger and different plant. Derek Butcher, of Australia began looking into the identity of a plant that looked identical to this plant and had been grown under the label of *Ae. piment-velosoi variegata*. This plant did not match descriptions of *Ae. piment-velosoi* and Derek even went so far as to joke that it should be labelled "Not *Aechmea piment-velosoi* var. *variegata*" but decided that would be too difficult to write on one label. He proposed a new name for the plant and now, if you check in the Cultivar Registry, you will find this plant registered as "*Aechmea* Pie in the Sky".

Regardless of what name you choose to use, this is a nice little, well-behaved plant that deserves a place in anyone's bromeliad garden!



Aechmea Pie in the Sky photo by Derek Butcher
As shown in the BSI Cultivar Registry.



Aechmea 'Pie in the sky' in the Thurrotts' collection.

By the way, my plant usually sets seed after blooming. The flowers fade and berries form at the base of the flowers, eventually fattening up and turning a dark purple color. If anyone would like to try to grow this plant from seed, let me know and I'll save some

seed for you. I suspect that any seedling will not retain the variegation, but who knows??

Birthdays for May:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| John Breslin | Ruth Bessner |
| Audrey Hayes | Terry Kahn |
| Marty Menkin | Vijay Reddy |
| Judy Simmons | Mally Trzeciak |

Out and about –

Virginia has a real knack for growing pineapples and sends us these photos of two varieties in her collections:



Ananas bloom that will eventually turn into a delicious pineapple!

This first one is of Ananas comosus 'Smooth Cayenne' – the mostly spineless commercial variety of pineapple that you may find in your local grocery store. Many people are not aware of it, but before the fruit forms, the plant produces this attractive flower head. Many are also unaware and sometimes unprepared by how large this plant can get when grown under optimum conditions.



This second photo is of *Ananas comosus bracteatus* – a very spiny (and also quite large variety of pineapple that is so well suited to our growing conditions in east central Florida that many people use this as an accent point in their landscape. Many years ago I even had some otherwise very knowledgeable people try to convince me that the non-variegated form of this plant was native to Florida! Sorry – folks may have grown the plant around here for over a hundred years, but it is not a native plant.

And, since we have these nice photos sent in by Virginia, I thought that I would include these “nightmare” photos that I took recently when I walked past a similar variegated pineapple plant in our front yard. When lubber grasshoppers first emerge, they are these cute little black rascals with yellow “racing stripe” down their backs. In this stage, they are relatively easy to control if

you catch them soon enough. But, if you don’t, they quickly grow to be monsters that can devour an entire plant in one sitting! Once they reach that size, they are impervious to insecticides and apparently taste so bad that birds, raccoons and even possums won’t eat them.



Variegated pineapple plant with unwelcome visitors.



New lubber hatchlings – controllable at this size either by hand-picking or through careful application of insecticides. Always read the label before applying!



Adult lubber grasshopper in addition to its great size, looks very different from immature form and is impervious to pesticides.

Since it seems that pineapples are in the news this month, I thought that the following photo might be of some interest. Ananas 'Mini Me' was first released by DeRoose Plants in 2012 after having been shown at the Tropical Plant Industry Expo the previous year. This is a very nice, compact little plant for anyone pressed for space. Fully grown this plant is usually well less than 12 inches across and, best of all...it's spineless! For some reason, each generation of my plant seems to be a bit larger than the previous one. Usually, the leaves are solid green, but this year the plant has taken on a nice blush to its leaves as it comes into bloom.



Ananas 'Mini Me'. Where this bud is first forming, the inflorescence will extend upward and a perfect miniature pineapple will form on its tip.

And finally, thank you to Charlotte Mueller for once again sharing with us a photo of one of her seaside themed creations. Charlotte doesn't have the luxury of a yard around her condo where she can grow the larger varieties of plants, but her photos are proof that you don't need a lot of space to grow a few bromeliads for your enjoyment.



A very nice grouping of Tillandsias for a long-lasting display!

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

Looking ahead:

May 1st, 2018

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Annual Bromeliad Auction
Good Samaritan Church
6085 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park 33781
Time: 7:30

May 11-13, 2018

43rd Annual Mother's Day show and sale
Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central
Florida at Fashion Square Mall in Orlando.
3201 E. Colonial Dr.

May 12, 13, 2018

Volusia County Orchid Society Mother's
Day Show and Sale.
Volusia County Fairgrounds

May 18, 19, 2018

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

May 29 – June 3, 2018 World Conference,
San Diego, Ca.

June 23rd, 2018

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
meeting. Hosted by Sarasota Bromeliad
Society

July 27-29, 2018

Caladium Festival at Stuart Park, Lake Placid
Plant sale, bus tours of growing fields, food,
arts and crafts.

September 14-16, 2018

SW Bromeliad Guild annual show/sale.
Baton Rouge, La.



Florida East Coast

BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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