

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

May , 2021

Meeting in Palm Coast!

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

May meeting

The May 9th meeting will be held in Palm Coast at 1:30 PM outside at Rosie Byard's community clubhouse located at 100 Misty Harbor Trace (off Club House Dr.). Please bring a chair. Drinks will be provided.

We will have our usual meeting with door prizes, raffle and show and tell. Afterwards we will tour the condo grounds which Rosie has planted with bromeliads. Then we will tour the gardens of Jane Villa-Lobos, 29 Clearview Ct. North which is a few minutes from Rosie.

Hope to see you all there.

---Jack Dunlop

Monthly Feature:

Dyckia: This genus of terrestrial plants is made up of over 100 species found in the more arid regions of South America. The stiff leaves are heavily armed with spines and arranged in a rosette. The blooms, typically orange or yellow, are borne on tall spikes that form at the base of the leaves. Most are spring or summer bloomers.

Dyckias love full sun and are one of the most cold hardy of all the bromeliad genera.

You can grow them in pots or in the ground. They benefit from generous watering and if they don't get enough water the leaf tips will turn brown. They are fast growing and care free but if you wish to fertilize them use a slow release fertilizer.

Due to the spiny leaves you might want to place these away from areas you often frequent. Some of these plants also become quite large so plan accordingly. I recommend dividing them every three years unless you want a huge clump. Dividing is not easy and I suggest wearing long leather gloves, but still expect drawing blood. It is hard to avoid.



Dyckia brevifolia

(Jane Villa-Lobos)

Flowers of Dyckias attract hummingbirds.



Dyckia 'Red Devil'
(Calandra Thurrott)

The deep green spiny leaves are tinged with dark coppery-red that intensifies in full sun. Spring and summer flowers are burnt orange.

***Guzmania*:** This group of plants was named in honor of the Spanish naturalist Anastasio Guzman who traveled extensively throughout South America and died while on an expedition to Ecuador in 1807.

Native to tropical America *Guzmanias* are recognized for their thin, glossy, smooth-edged leaves which form a water-holding rosette. They are easily confused with *Vrieseas*. *Guzmania* leaves often have thin reddish lines running longitudinally while *Vrieseas* lack the lines and the leaf tips frequently appear pinched and turn downward.

The long-lasting inflorescence is a stacked arrangement of bracts in vivid combinations of bright colors surrounding yellow or white flowers. They have been extensively hybridized with a wide range of colorful blooms.

Guzmanias are easy to care for as they require low light and should be kept out of direct sunlight. In their native habitats they grow in consistently warm tropical to

subtropical climates and don't tolerate freezing temperatures. They thrive in temperatures between 60° to 80° and benefit from high humidity.

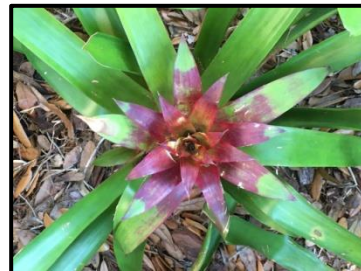
If you grow *Guzmanias* as houseplants they like fertilizer every other month during the growing season at half or one-third strength. Pups develop around the base of the plant.

You can force them to bloom by placing a ripe apple inside a plastic bag and then covering the plant with the bag. Leave covered for 2-3 days and then remove the bag. Blooms should start to develop in about 6 weeks to 3 months.



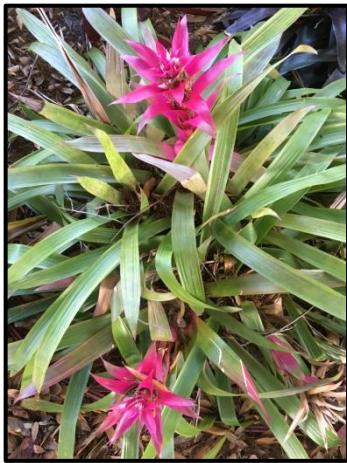
Guzmania 'Tutti Fruitti' (Judith Davies)

A collection from Sherrie Thompson





Tillandsia stricta
(Jane Villa-Lobos)



(Jane Villa-Lobos)

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



Aechmea gamosepala
Matchsticks
(Marinus Grootenboer)

Have you ever wanted to grow bromeliads from seeds? The March issue of The Bromeliad Society of South Florida Newsletter has an in-depth article you may want to read. bssf-miami.org

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 Jane at saravillalobos387@gmail.com or mail to Jane Villa-Lobos, 29 Clearview Ct. North, Palm Coast, FL 32137.

Next month:

Hechtia and *Hohenbergia* will be featured next month. **Please send your photos of these by the end of the month. Thanks!!**

Videos to Watch:

The Internet is a wealth of information and in this section each month I will include some videos I find interesting. Send me yours!

Jeff Pavlat, Central Texas Gardener - How to Divide Dyckias.

Kent's Bromeliads - How to Care for Bromeliads --- Tips on growing Guzmanias.

Kraft Gardens - Guzmania Care Instructions.

Birthdays for May:

Greetings to these members:

John Breslin Ruth Gessner
Terry Kahn Mally Trzeciak
Susan McConnell



Looking ahead:

May 7-9, 2021
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida 46th Annual Mother's Day Show and Sale
Fashion Square Mall
3201 E. Colonial Drive, Orlando
Fri. & Sat. 11AM - 7PM; Sun. noon - 6PM.

May 8 - 9
Volusia County Orchid Society Show & Sale
Townsend Pavilion, Volusia County Fairgrounds
Route 44, DeLand
9AM - 4PM. Admission: \$4.00

June 19-20.

USF Botanical Gardens Summer Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa.
(Tentative)

August 14-15

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Fall Sale

Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Dr., Lake Mary. 9AM - 4 PM.

October 9-10.

USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale

University of South Florida, Tampa.
(Tentative)

November 13-14

Mount Dora Plant & Garden Fair

Donnelly Park, Mount Dora
Sat. 9AM -5PM; Sun. 9AM - 4PM

2022

June 8-12, 2022

24th World Bromeliad Conference

Note: The 2021 conference has been re-scheduled to 2022!!!

Hyatt Regency Sarasota
Sarasota, FL Watch future newsletters for more details! www.bsi.org

