

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, June 11th, 2016 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

June 2016

Bingo!

President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850
Vice President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700
Secretary – Calandra Thurrott 386/761-4804
Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041



Photos courtesy of Rick Ryals and The Garden Web (on right – showing the “hidden flowers” that give this Genus its name.

Last month’s meeting - was “Growing Quality Cryptanthus” with Steven Hoppin of Fort Lauderdale...and what a great program it was! I’m sure everyone came away from it with a little better understanding of how to care for this fascinating group of bromeliads. Steve also brought a number of Cryptanthus for sale (including many of his own hybrids) and I was afraid that a fight would break out as members rushed to his sales table.

As a group we’ve been extremely fortunate to be able to get such world-renowned speakers like Steven – one of the many benefits of membership in FECBS!

This month’s meeting –
Back by popular demand...it’s Bingo Time!!!
If you missed it last year, you probably still have some bruises left over from kicking yourself. Bromeliad Bingo was first introduced to us two years ago when we were visited by Mike

Michalski of South Florida. Last year our own Rick Ryals was our number caller and we all had a great time and picked up some wonderful bromeliads as prizes. This year Rick has agreed to serve as bingo caller once again and once again we can count on there being some great plants involved in the games. You won’t want to miss it!



President’s message –

A year ago I was trying to kill my Bromeliads with the help of too much insecticide ...a preventative measure to keep the evil weevil away. I ended up doing a lot more damage than protection and in more cases than not, the original plants ended up leaving this world; however, they pupped in order to survive. The Alcantarea imperialis even pupped and I’m not talking grass pups. As the imperialis declined, a Vriesea-like pup grew out of the side bracts. The mother plant is long gone but her pup is doing well and is much larger than any of

the grass pups taken from the same plant. The larger pup may have grown because I drove a screwdriver into the dying Alcantarea's center. Who knows??

Speaking of pups....are your bromeliads reproducing like crazy as mine are? It's almost an invasion. Well you won't see this episode on the sci-fi channel and that's because it's a GOOD problem. As I separate the pups, I'm using different potting medium. Pine chips, pea gravel, coco coir, bagged potting mix and combinations of some or all of the above. We will see which medium works best at encouraging new root growth. Any guesses?

As I get older and "wiser" I've learned to take to heart the information given from smarter and/or more experienced individuals instead of just thinking "whatever" and then continuing to learn from trial and error. This applies to all aspects of my life from gardening to eating right (and that information changes constantly) to ways of how to work out (that's right, Jean, I have muscles.. you just have to look real close). Usually, the wise information given is simple to follow but for some reason I've liked to complicate the process and then wonder why quick, positive results are slow at best and sometimes nonexistent. Exploring new ideas is not bad, it's just the process can be a lot more work than necessary.

I hope all of you have had a chance to try the coco coir. Let me know how you like it and by the way, those of you who didn't get a coir brick last month I still have some left. If by chance you would like more, I have 3 blocks of coir (equivalent to 12 bricks) for \$20 apiece.

Lastly, this year I didn't have to kill my bromeliads with insecticide...that's because I have the help from some animal which rips up everything from small Vrieseas to large Aechmeas. I'm guessing a raccoon or possum. It happens at night but not every night. When it does, I find the centers of its victims shredded. Growing bromeliads is

supposed to be easy with few problems. Maybe I should take up growing weeds? I think growing weeds is easy, right????

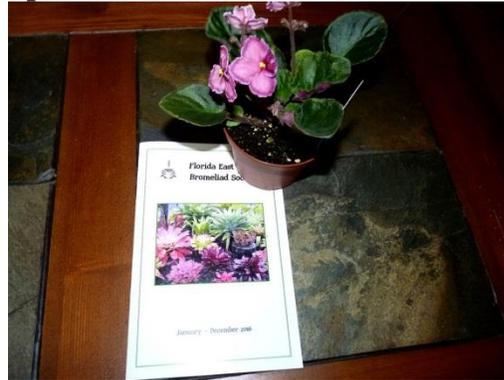
Bill

Birthdays for June:

Ann Alberti	Pat Debow
Kathy Dunlop	Harry Hughes
Pm Reddy	Calandra Thurrott
Jay Thurrott	Pam Newman

Happy Birthday Everyone!

Special Thanks –



Once again Jane Villa-Lobos has produced a wonderful yearbook for our group with everyone's contact information in it. Please take a moment to review this and check to see that your own info is correct. Call me or send me an email if it is not and I'll be sure to note the corrections in upcoming newsletters so that you can pencil in any changes in your own copy. And by the way, if you hadn't noticed – last year's edition listed 75 members. This year – 93!

Thank you Jane.

1st correction - please note in your book that the address for PM and Vijaya Reddy should read: 93 West Waterside Pkwy. Palm Coast, Fl. 32137. The word "west" was inadvertently left out.

FECBS at the Volusia Orchid Society's Mother's Day show and sale –

First of all, thank you Ron Tucholski for heading up construction of the beautiful

bromeliad display at the Volusia County fairgrounds and thank you Virginia Dornbach and Jack Dunlop for loaning plants to go into the display and for taking time from their busy schedules to work with Ron on this project. The display looked fabulous, generated many positive comments from the public and resulted in a certificate of appreciation from our hosts – the Volusia County Orchid Society!



Ron and Virginia working on the table-top display.



The finished product – a beautiful mix of colors, patterns and sizes of bromeliads from members' collections.

It's not too soon to begin thinking about our role in the Volusia County Orchid Society's show next year. Do we want to increase our participation? Perhaps sell plants next year? Maybe even consider a bromeliad show? Think about it and let's hear your thoughts on this matter.

Out and about –

It was a beautiful day and we had some free time on a Saturday, so Calandra and I decided to visit the Palm Coast Garden Club's Spring Expo and Sale. If you missed it this year or haven't been in the past, make plans to attend next year – it's just a really pleasant event. There were a number of commercial vendors (including two bromeliad nurseries), club members' sale items, and numerous other craft and gardening related vendor booths there.



The Palm Coast Garden Club's Spring Expo – April 30th, 2016.

I know it's hard to believe, but I have other interests in addition to bromeliads and, so came away from this year's Expo with a pretty little African violet with an interesting color to its flowers...and by the way, African violets are really pretty easy to grow despite what you may have heard – after all, if I can grow them, you can grow them too!



And here's a photo (above) that I was sent in hopes of putting a name to this pretty Aechmea – just coming into bloom. I cast my vote for Aechmea 'Shelldancer', but that's just a guess. What do you think?

I have grown *Ananas bracteatus* in my yard for many years (even before its name was changed to *Ananas comosus* var. *bracteatus*!), so it was quite a surprise when the pineapple that formed on my plant this year had an albino "top knot". The edges of the leaves on top of the pineapple are pure white with rose colored edges. Very attractive, but I doubt that the plant will survive once it is separated from the pineapple underneath it.



Fruit on variegated pineapple with an albino offset on top of the fruit!

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:

June 13-19, 2016

Bromeliad Society International World Conference. Hosted by the Houston Bromeliad Society in Houston, Texas
Don't miss it!

June 24, 25th, 2016

Tropiflora Summer Sale. You know them, you love their plants. Here's a chance to add to your collection!

June 25th, 2016

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies meeting – hosted by the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society.

August 20th, 21st, 2016

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Fall sale at the Garden Club of Sanford. 9-4 each day.

September 9-11, 2016

Sarasota Bromeliad Society show and sale at the Sarasota Garden Society facilities.
More details to follow when they become available.

