

# THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

## June 2024 Newsletter

**Meeting Date: June 9th at 1:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Location: Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd.**

**Port Orange, FL 32129**

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### June 9th Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on June 9th at 1:30 pm at Colony in the Wood. I will be bringing some plants from the World Bromeliad Conference for sale, in the spirit of the Conference for those members who couldn't make it. Greg Kolojeski is our speaker this month. There will be the usual bromeliad raffle, door prizes, show and tell, and refreshments.

--- Jack

### **Greg Kolojeski Bio**

***"The A List: Aechmea, Alcantarea and Ananas Bromeliads"***

Greg started growing his first bromeliads (*Aechmea fasciata*, still his favorite) about 2007 and discovered that bromeliads looked great and could be grown with little or no effort. Greg joined the Seminole Bromeliad Society (SBTPS) when he came to its Annual Spring Plant Sale in April, 2013. Greg has been president of the SBTPS since 2015 and president of the Sanford Garden Club since 2018. He has published and edited the Sanford Garden Club/SBTPS website and monthly newsletter since 2016. Greg has been posting a Plant Picture of the Day on the SBTPS Facebook page since May of 2017. Greg is also a member of Bromeliad Society of Central Florida (where he is the webmaster) and the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society. Greg became a director of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) in 2017 and was its Vice President from 2019 to 2022 and its president from 2022 to 2024. He was a co-chair of the World Bromeliad Conference (WBC 2022) held in June 2022 in Sarasota and the Conference Advisor for WBC 2024 in West Palm Beach.

*Greg will bring a small number of bromeliads to sell*

### **Members participated in the Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches and Bromeliad Society International World Conference**

At the semi-annual BSI World Bromeliad Conference, which was held May 22-25 at the Marriott in West Palm Beach, FL, there were over 12 judges, including FECBS members Rick Ryals, and Calandra Thurrott. Calandra received an Award of Merit in the Judges Challenge for her mixed media painting honoring Jay Thurrott. (Below photos by Calandra Thurrott).



Best Vriesea Award in  
Memory of Jay Thurrott,  
Rick Ryals, sponsor, winner  
John Boardman



Vriesea 'Harmony'

Some of our members turned up at the WBC. Among them were President Jack Dunlop and our speaker for June, Greg Kolojeski with Dennis Cathcart, our frequent speaker.



Jack at Betty and Joe Libertucci's  
garden tour



Photo by Ronnie Telzer

**Don't forget to start designing your bromeliad centerpiece!**

At the July meeting, we will have a centerpiece competition like we have had in the past at our Christmas party. However, don't decorate it for Christmas, but use your imagination and create a design for a special prize—maybe something for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Bromeliads should be the focus.

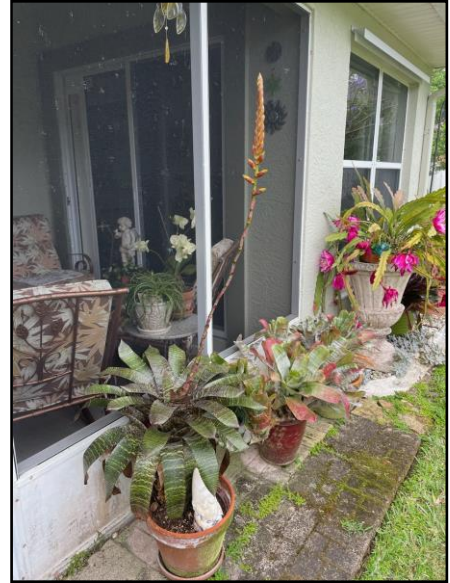
**We love to see pictures of bromeliads in our members' gardens**



*Portea petropolitana*  
Photo by Bill Hazard



*A. bracteata & Sincorea*  
Photo by Irene Aldrich



*Vriesea sp.*  
Photo by Terry Kahn

**A New Billbergia Hybrid**

I am proud to announce my first hybrid bromeliad is in bloom. It is a *Billbergia* that I grew from seed 4 years ago.

I have been hybridizing my bromeliads since 2015 with very little success. I started without a shade house, so I lost lots of babies from hurricanes, fungi, overwatering, over fertilizing, transplanting, lack of ventilation, and a raccoon eating my flowers.

I could not find much information about hybridizing bromeliads from beginning to blooming stage, so I am very pleased that I succeeded in hybridizing my first bromeliad! Sorry, I cannot tell who the dad and mom are yet.

Now that I have learned so much during this process, I hope to cross my *Alcantarea nahoumii* which is blooming for the first time, with another *Alcantarea*, hopefully with Judith Davies' *Alcantarea imperialis* 'Rubra'.

Wish me luck-- Christophe Cardot



*Billbergia hybrid*



*Alcantarea nahoumii*

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](mailto:saravillalobos387@gmail.com).

### **Birthdays for June**



Greetings to: Deb Ball, Pat DeBow, Kathy Dunlop, Marie Fabozzi, Marinus Grootenboer, Jane Howells, Pam Newman, Mimi Kanda, Keith McCabe, and Calandra Thurrott.

### **Future Events**

**August 17-18**  
**Annual Fall Plant Sale**  
Seminole Bromeliad &  
Tropical Plant Society  
Garden Club of Sanford  
200 Fairmont Dr.  
Sanford, FL 32773  
9-4 PM each day

*Co-Presidents - Jack Dunlop 386-317-0054*  
*Chuck Mamele 386-402-4830*  
*Vice President - Bill Hazard 386-882-3850*  
*Secretary - Ruth Gessner 386-767-3499*  
*Treasurer - Eve Krauth 386-871-1041*

