

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

June 2025 Newsletter

1:30 p.m.

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

June 8th Meeting

The last few weeks have been unusually hot, especially if you have been out in your garden dividing or rearranging your gardens. This weather will prepare us for the heat, humidity and rain to come in June.

This month garden expert Teresa Watkins returns to present “Lighter Than Air”. She will give us ideas on how to grow and display tillandsias. Teresa Watkins is a well-known Florida-friendly landscape designer, horticulturist, garden author, and host of a weekly syndicated radio program “Best Lawns and Gardens” on 24 Florida stations, iHeart, iTunes and Amazon.



(Jane Villa-Lobos)

Over the past few months, the raffle tables have been loaded with plants shared by our members. As a result, we need more plastic grocery bags. Please recycle your bags and bring them on June 8th.

This month, 11 members have birthdays, so if you plan on attending, please bring food for the refreshment table. Also, don't forget to bring plants for show and tell. Thanks to all who brought plants last month to share during the program.

--- Jack

New FECBS Directory

The new membership directory is scheduled to be available at the July 13th meeting, so please be sure to pay your 2025 dues. If you have any suggestions of what bromeliad information should be included in the directory, please let me know. Thanks, Jane Villa-Lobos

Have you seen a Tillandsia which has gone to seed?



I am a volunteer gardener at the St. Johns Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve in Hastings, FL and was amazed to find this native *Tillandsia fasciculata*. I have some tillandsias in my garden which have gone to seed before, but none has ever put on such a show! My fellow gardener who was with me on the trail asked if we could grow others from these seeds. I said, “Yes, but even though the seeds may germinate in a few weeks under the proper conditions, it may take 3-5 years for the plants to reach maturity”. We decided not to collect any seeds and just let Mother Nature take her course.

I looked on the Internet for articles on how to grow tillandsias from seeds and there are quite a few references, one published by Mark Dummitt in the *BSI Journal #1* in 1900. If you have the time and patience to try growing air plants from seeds, let me know your story! - Jane Villa-Lobos

Show and Tell at the May Meeting



Both Pam Reisen and Marinus Grootenboer brought the native *Tillandsia bartramii*. Marinus had entered his plant in the St. Augustine Flower Show and won a Blue Ribbon as well as the Grower’s Choice Award. Pam also brought clusters of *Neoregelia* ‘Martin’ and left them on the tables for members to take home.



Eva Krauth was proud to show everyone her *Tillandsia utriculata* in bloom since she mostly collects Cryptanthus.



Judy Rafter holding *Neoregelia* 'Alaea'



Calandra Thurrott showing off Rick Peters' *xVriecantarea* 'Seeger'



Joe Valerio and *Neoregelia* 'Sheba'



Jane Villa-Lobos' *Aechmea caudata* var. *variegata*



Jack Dunlop's *Aechmea malva*



Iris Graim loves mini Neos.

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

Jack Dunlop's bromeliads:



Tillandsia fasciculata 'Tropiflora'



Aechmea 'Pilfered'

Jack Dunlop's bromeliads (con't)



Pitcairnia



Alcantarea

An Interspecific Tillandsia Hybrid



Calandra Thurrott sent this photo of her *Tillandsia x floridana*. The parents of this interspecific hybrid are thought to be *Tillandsia bartramii* and *Tillandsia fasciculata* var. *densipica*. It is found in cypress swamps and hammocks and is endemic to Florida (i.e. found nowhere else than in Florida). It blooms from spring through fall and is threatened due to the Mexican weevil, illegal collecting and habitat destruction.

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.



Birthdays for May

Greetings to these members: Deb Ball, Pat DeBow, Kathy Dunlop, Marie Fabozzi, Paula Marton, Marinus Grootenboer, Jane Howells, Mimi Kanda, Keith McCabe, Laurie Savage, 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
9-4

September 26-27

2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Ramada Gateway
7470 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway 192
Kissimmee, FL
Book your room by August 26 for special room rate
BromeliadX.com

President - Jack Dunlop 386-317-0054

Vice President - Bill Hazard 386-882-3850

Secretary - Ruth Gessner 386-767-3499

Treasurer - Eve Krauth 386-871-1041

Newsletter Editor - Jane Villa-Lobos 386-446-0341

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Sunshine – Jane Villa-Lobos 386-446-0341

