

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

June 2026 Newsletter

1:30 p.m.

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

June 14th Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Sunday, June 14th at 1:30 at the clubhouse at Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange.

The speakers will be Pam Marion and John Boardman. The topic will be bromeliad nomenclature made simple. They will be bringing plants for sale. Both Pam and John are members of the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society and are Lifetime Members of the Central Florida Bromeliad Society. John is also a Bromeliad Society International Master Judge.

There will be a bromeliad raffle, show and tell, door prizes and delicious refreshments.
---Pam

A Beautiful Flower from a Dangerous Plant

Have any of you seen this amazing plant whose central leaves turn a fiery red before it flowers? It is *Bromelia balansae* commonly called the Hearts of Flame. Years ago, I saw it in an undeveloped lot and decided to dig up a small pup (picture 1 below). It was a challenge even though I wore long leather rose gloves to protect my arms as it is a very spiny plant. At the time I did not care as I wanted to see this gorgeous bloom in MY yard. It grew and grew and the leaves with those very sharp, barbed spines grew to about 3 feet!! Then it bloomed one day, and I was so excited to watch the central silvery green leaves transform into a vivid scarlet or reddish orange. The flower spike has spiral magenta flowers edged in white, followed by an edible orange fruit that can be eaten. Neighbors walking by my yard commented on its beauty!

To my chagrin, multiple stolons grew new spiny plants everywhere, even into the grass. Then I realized why someone had tossed this plant into the empty lot. I cut mine up and put it in my landscape trash. Later I drove by the empty lot where I discovered it and it had overtaken the vegetation under the scrub canopy. A word to the wise... enjoy someone else's plant from a distance. (Continued on next page)



Bromelia balansae flower and fruit



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



Tillandsias on rock
(Mary DeLisle)



Aechmea sp.
(Mary DeLisle)



Vriesea hieroglyphica
(Calandra Thurrott)

From Bill Hazard's garden



Aechmea 'Del Mar'



Billbergia brasiliensis



Quesnelia marmorata



Tillandsia
(Connie & Vince Schrider)



Aechmea caudata var. *variegata*
(Jane Villa-Lobos)



Tillandsia
(Connie & Vince Schrider)



Vriesea



Neoregelia

(Marinus Grootenboer)

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.



Birthday greetings to these members: Pat Debow, Kathy Dunlop, Marie Fabozzi, Marinus Grootenboer, Jane Howells, Paula Marton, Keith McCabe, Laurie Savage, and Calandra Thurrott.

Future Events

August 15-16

Annual Fall Plant Sale

Seminole Bromeliad &
Tropical Plant Society
Garden Club of Sanford
200 Fairmont Dr.
Sanford, FL
9-4

President – Pam Reisen 937- 426-4556

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

Hospitality - Annette Cross 561-506-4918

Beverages - Terri Malia 386-307-4331

Sunshine - Judith Davies 386-864-7360

