

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, July 10th, 2016 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

July 2016

Tropiflora Returns!

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

This month's meeting –



Dennis Cathcart of Tropiflora

Calandra and I have been extremely fortunate in being able to travel around a bit and attend bromeliad-related events in other areas. We especially enjoy tours of others' gardens and their bromeliad collections. Although the plants may be different from what we grow around here (or simply look different because of different growing conditions in other parts of the country), one common factor that we see is beautiful bromeliads with Tropiflora tags in the pots! I often find that although I have travelled quite far to attend an event like the recent BSI World Conference or the Southwest Bromeliad Guild show, I end up returning home with new bromeliads sporting Tropiflora tags!

Dennis and Linda Cathcart are renowned world-wide for the extraordinary variety of bromeliads that are offered for sale through their nursery and the Tropiflora name is synonymous for quality in bromeliads. Whether you

purchase them on-line, through a visit to their location in Tallevast, Florida or, like I often find myself doing, at a bromeliad-related event, it's hard to resist some of those really out-of-the-ordinary bromeliads (and succulents, I might add) that the Cathcarts make available. Dennis and Linda have visited us before and shared some fascinating photos of explorations in South America where new species and varieties of bromeliads continue to be found. They have agreed to share some of their experiences with us once again this year and, yes, they will be bringing plants for sale – so be sure to bring your wallets and purses with you. You won't want to miss this month's meeting!


Congratulations to Rick Ryals...

on his nomination and unanimous election to the position of Vice President of BSI at the annual board of directors meeting in Houston!



Rick has been a strong supporter of FECBS and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies for many years but he also has been a staunch advocate for the BSI and I'm sure he'll play a key role in safely piloting the organization through the next few years. Also at that meeting a new president was elected and I passed the gavel on to Lyn Wegner from East London, South Africa - the first president of BSI to reside outside of the United States! This clearly reflects the international scope of the organization, and represents bromeliad enthusiasts world-wide. If you are not already a member of BSI, see any of your club officers and they will help you with your application.

And, by the way – this is the FECBS ad that appeared in the program for the Houston world conference. I know that the club voted to take out an ad, but surely didn't expect my picture and name in it. I am touched and greatly honored by this. Thank you FECBS for this wonderful tribute!




**Special Thanks to
our very own club
member
Jay Thurrott**

*He has advanced the
knowledge and appreciation
of bromeliads on a local,
state & international platform:*

- 2 Term BSI President '10-'13 & '13-'16
- Former BSI Director, Secretary & Vice President
- BSI Accredited Master Judge
- Former Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Chair
- Former Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Secretary & Vice Chair
- Former FCBS Chair and Current Member of the Evil Weevil Committee
- Former Council of Garden Clubs of the Halifax District Chair
- Former Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society President (5 Terms), Secretary & Vice President, Lifetime Member Awarded to both Jay & Calandra

*And did we mention just
an all-round great guy!*



Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Last month's meeting -

I think we all had a really good time playing Bromeliad Bingo and we owe Rick a huge "Thank You" for making it all so enjoyable! It may not always get said, but thank you Rick for all you do to make our meetings fun and educational. And, wasn't that some great food during the break! Thank you all you June babies!



A few of the many beautiful bromeliads offered as prizes in Bingo!

President's message –

On June 18th I flew out to L.A. (Hollywood baby!) for a family reunion. Little did I know I was flying into a blow torch (weather wise). While you'uns back here in the south were enjoying your usual mid 80's to low 90's and 1,000% humidity I, on the left coast endured 25% humidity and 123degrees F furnace. Fortunately it remained that way only for a few days and only if you were in the San Fernando Valley (which I was). There are so many microclimates in a relatively small area (if you call Los Angeles small). The beaches, deserts and mountains can have a 15-20 degree difference in temperatures. Like I said, I just had to ...well....stay inside for those few days but how 'bout the folks in Phoenix? We're talking 3+ months of oven-like temps. For this Florida boy...NO WAY!

After the climate got more reasonable some of my family got to visit the Huntington Library and Gardens. Over 200 incredible acres of gardens, art, history and literature. The desert section has 12 acres and is loaded with cactus, euphorbias, aloes, agaves and many other kinds

of succulents and xeric plants from around the world (some specimens I saw were over 100 years old!) there were a few Dyckias and an island of Puya berteronianas. The tropical and subtropical areas had Billbergias, Aechmeas, Tillandsias and Neoregelias, but not many. My advice is if you want to see a vast array of bromeliads, go to Fairchild or Selby Gardens. The art at Huntington included American and European sculptures and paintings- one of which was Thomas Gainesborough's "The Blue Boy". The literature collection had a Gutenberg Bible, handwritten letters from Lincoln and Louis Pasteur, maps dating back to the 13th century, 420,000 rare books and 7 million manuscripts. It was an incredible day! Everybody enjoyed it and we got exercise to boot! If you go to LA I would highly recommend visiting the Huntington. Check out Google images for a taste of what's there.



Huntington Gardens – succulent collection

- Bill

Birthdays for July:

Margaret Martin
Charlotte Mueller

Nancy Rogers
Jane Villa-Lobos

Happy Birthday Everyone!

Sorry we won't see you this month...

Calandra and I will be visiting the Emerald Isle searching for Irish bromeliads while this month's meeting takes place. We'll report back next month if we find any!

1st correction - please note in your yearbook 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.

Any other changes that need to be made? Let me know.

Out and about –

FECBS was well represented at the BSI World Conference – hosted by the Houston Bromeliad Society. Present from our club were Francisco Cardoso, Christophe Cardot, Rick Ryals, and myself (Calandra couldn't make it this time but was able to welcome our new granddaughter Lily while I was gone). In fact, many of our friends from Florida who have visited our club from time to time were there so we weren't lacking for friendly faces at any time during our visit.



What goes on at a World Conference? Well, of course there's the plants – and this was just one of the over 300 entries in the judged bromeliad show! There's the seminars by world-renowned authors.



Jose Manzanara from Ecuador –author of several bromeliad books

There are tours of the area:



Jimbo's bromeliad nursery outside of Houston

And, there is always a fabulous plant sale – worth the trip just by itself!



That's a lot of bromeliads!!!

If you missed this year's conference, then you should plan on attending the next one...in San Diego in 2018! It's not too early to begin planning for this.

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:

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.

The Sarasota Bromeliad Society is hosting a
BROMELIAD SHOW AND SALE
"Bewitched Bromeliads"

Hours: Saturday, September 10th Show and Sales 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday, September 11th Show and Sales 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Friday, September 9th Plant sale only

New Venue: Sarasota Garden Club,
1131 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL
(941) 955-0875

The show and sale features plants such as pineapples and garden style bromeliads which are generally easy to grow, require little care, and reward the grower with brilliant, long-lasting blooms and ornamental foliage. Society members will be on hand for questions and information on growing bromeliads is provided. Various bromeliads will be for sale. People shouldn't miss this opportunity to come and see the beauty of these plants even if they never plan to grow bromeliads

Banquet is a Pot Luck! Bring a dish or desert to share. More information is available at www.sarasotabromeliadsociety.org or by calling 941-567-4176.

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