

# THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY



## July 2023 Newsletter

**1:30 p.m.**

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

---

### **July 9th Meeting**

This month's meeting will be held July 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd, Port Orange. The speaker will be Dennis Cathcart. We know Dennis as a bromeliad nut like us, and founder of Tropiflora near Sarasota, FL which is a world-class bromeliad nursery. But this month Dennis will not be speaking specifically about bromeliads, but about his trip to Cuba as a naturalist. Cuban reptiles, plants, people, and current culture that most of us have never seen before will be the subject of his program. I have heard his presentation before, and it is fascinating. I encourage everyone to be at this month's meeting. You do not want to miss it. It might just be better than a talk on honeybees. 😊

And Dennis will be bringing Tropiflora bromeliads for sale. There will be the usual bromeliad raffle, door prizes, show and tell, and refreshments.

--- Jack



Don't forget the Bromeliad Extravaganza will be held July 28-29 at the West Palm Beach Marriott ([fcbsextravaganza.org](http://fcbsextravaganza.org)). The registration (\$150) includes lectures by Chester Skotak, Eloise Beach and David Shiigi. There will also be a welcome reception and BBQ, a tropical dinner under the stars, a 50/50 raffle, and a FCBS rare plant and silent auction. For an additional fee (\$25) there is a brunch and a garden tour of the

gorgeous Libertucci garden.

**And don't forget the plant sale is open to the public on Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm., BUT if you are registered you get first pick on Friday from 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm.**

### **King of the Air Plants**

- Jane Villa-Lobos



*Tillandsia xerographica* is native to semi-arid regions of southern Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras and found suspended in subtropical tree canopies. It is easily recognized by its silvery leaves which curl around and under themselves as it grows. This plant loves humidity and temperatures from 60 – 80°. Be sure to protect this plant room temperatures below 65°. Give it indirect light with no more than 20 minutes of direct sunlight. If kept indoors it will need to be misted 2-3 times a week. When it needs water, its leaves will curl slightly and may appear slightly wrinkled. If it is overwatered, the leaves become straight.

Known as the ‘King of Air Plants”, it is one of the largest of all air plants and can reach three (3) feet across and just as tall. The flower stalk can reach more than a foot with orange, red, and yellow flowers.

Fertilizing is not necessary, but it is recommended to enhance growth, stronger blooms, and produce pups. It is best to use a low-nitrogen fertilizer which will encourage blooms. A bromeliad fertilizer 17-8-22 is recommended. Since I never fertilized my plant and it took many years to bloom, I would recommend giving it some fertilizer no more than once a month. Some people have told me their smaller plants have bloomed, and that may be due to the grower using fertilizer.

### **England’s Chelsea Flower Show**

Bill and Tree Hazard were on vacation in Europe in May and attended the RHS Chelsea Flower Show which was held at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London. The Royal Horticultural Society is the UK’s leading gardening charity. Chelsea’s gardens represent the pinnacle of horticultural excellence with show-stopping designs, innovative materials, and glorious blooms. This year’s themes were inclusivity and promoting gardening for all, minimum effort for maximum reward, how to garden in an ever-changing climate, and uncovering the value of gardening for our health and wellbeing.

If you would like to view the show from the comfort of home, there are many videos posted on YouTube. Below are Bill’s photos of some of the bromeliad displays.



### **Mini Neoregelias**



As I was composing this newsletter, I looked at the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida’s FaceBook page and Mike McMahon had just posted photos of a fabulous collection of over 65 mini Neoregelia each with their identification. The lighting in the photos is perfect to showcase the speckling and vivid color of these small plants.

There are also several YouTube videos to watch like Island Breeze Tropicals, “What are the Smallest Bromeliads” which I posted on our club’s FB page. Take a look, and you may get hooked like I am (photo above).

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



*Tillandsia brachycaulos*  
(Photos: Jane Villa-Lobos)



*Tillandsia caput-medusae*



*Tillandsia stricta*  
(Photo: Calandra Thurrott)



*Catopsis nutans*



*Neoregelia johannis* ‘DeRolf’  
(Photos: Keith McCabe)



*Nidularium*

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 July**



Greetings to these members: Mary DeLisle, Margaret LeMay, Charlotte Mueller, Nancy Rogers, Linda Sheets, Jane Villa-Lobos, Annette Wilson and Jennifer A. Witherspoon.

**Future Events**

**August 19-20**

***Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society***

***Plant Sale***

200 Fairmont Dr.

Sanford, FL

9 – 4

**October 14-15**

***USF Botanical Gardens' Fall Sale***

12210 USF Pine Dr.

Tampa, FL 33612

Sat. 9 - 3, Sunday 10 – 2

[usf.edu](http://usf.edu)

**October 14-15**

***Southwest Bromeliad Guild &***

***International Cryptanthus Society***

***Shows & Sales***

Holiday Inn & Suites

Houston, TX

[bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

***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***

