

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

July 2026 Newsletter

1:30 p.m.

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

June 12th Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Sunday, June 12th at 1:30 at the clubhouse at Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange.

It's time for BROMELIAD BINGO!! As many of you may have seen on FaceBook recently plant bingo is the rage. Many botanical groups and nurseries have monthly bingo events. Many places charge \$20 a ticket, so we are fortunate to participate for free! Once again Bill will be buying plants at McCrory's Bromeliads so the prizes will be fantastic!

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

Hope to see everyone this month.

---Pam

Tropiflora Nursery Closing

Florida's oldest bromeliad nursery and the largest variety of air plants in the world is closing by the end of this year. Formed in 1976 and located in Sarasota, Tropiflora owners Linda and Dennis Cathcart have traveled around the world collecting bromeliads to cultivate and offer them for sale.



They say the realities of aging, devastating storms, and an ever-changing world have led them to this difficult decision to step away after fifty-one years.

They are currently in discussions with parties who share their passion for their plants, and are hopeful that Tropiflora may one day continue under new ownership at a new location in Manatee County.

We wish them well and thank them for all the wonderful talks they have given to our bromeliad society and for the fabulous plants they have offered through their website.



DANGEROUS RAIN??

(From: Mike McMahon's article on The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Facebook page)

Central Florida has been in a daily cycle of heavy rainstorms and intermittent showers. The sidewalks barely start drying before another shower leaves everything drippy. Many broms love all the rain, especially mounted ones and those hanging from tree limbs or porch overhangs. True terrestrials, like *Dyckia* and *Cryptanthus* do not mind the wet at all, as long as they are not drowning. The rainwater is so much better for them, and most of the broms folks keep come from habitats where rainy seasons last for months. They have evolved to thrive with daily rain. However, all the wet can cause serious problems for potted broms if they are in a potting mix that gets waterlogged.

Broms did not evolve to live in pots. People put them in pots for convenience. Mixes with peat and similar organics can become sludge-like as the organics decay over time. What was a fast-draining media a year ago may have become 'black mud' that stays soppy wet. This leads to roots being smothered and rot setting in. This is a good time of year to check out your potted broms and re-pot those in media that have broken down. If the mix you are using is not holding up well, consider adding bark nuggets, horticultural charcoal, tree fern or other chunky material like you see in an orchid mix. (I use a lot of the cheap red lava rock found at big box garden centers for about \$6 per bag) and pine bark mini nuggets. If your mix remains free-draining and airy during the daily downpours, you've got it right.

There are some broms from desert regions that may need to be protected from so much rain. The fuzzy silver Tillandsias, like *T. tectorum* decline quickly if they do not dry out fully between waterings. I have experienced issues with others from dry environments, like *T. latifolia*, *purpurea* and *cacticola*. If you have desert broms, it might be a good idea to move them out of the rain if they are not getting a chance to dry out between showers.

If you have mounted broms, after a couple of weeks of daily rain go check the roots. Chances are pretty good that you'll find fresh healthy roots stretching out to grab onto any solid surface that could add support for living in the air. Those long, stretching roots are a sign of a happy brom.

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

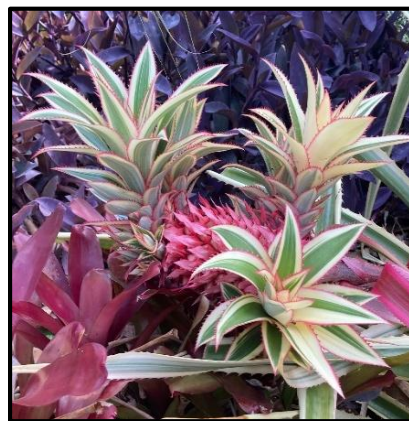
From Iris Graim's lanai collection



More Bromeliads



(Marie Fabozi)



Ananas (Bill Hazard))

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: Mary DeLisle, Dianna Fahrenkrug, Linda Sheets, Jane Villa-Lobos, Annette Wilson.

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

