

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Sunday, August 11th

Meet at LaCosta Village - 1275 LaCosta Blvd.

August, 2019

## The Extravaganza Will Soon be Here!

**Co-Presidents – Jack Dunlop and Chuck Mamale**

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**Vice President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850**

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**Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041**

**Editor – Jay Thurrott 386/761/4804**

If you haven't already made your reservations for the Bromeliad Extravaganza...what are you waiting for? Florida's premier bromeliad event, this promises to be a really terrific gathering of bromeliad lovers from all over the state. What's not to like? There will be good food, good fellowship, seminars, tours of gardens and the opportunity to acquire new bromeliads – either at the plant sale (which will take place all day on Saturday) or for those wanting something a little more unusual - the rare plant auction! There should be something for everyone, so don't miss this opportunity since the next extravaganza won't happen until 2021!

### **Catopsis Identification**

Some time ago we had a guest speaker who brought a very nice selection of Tillandsias for sale along with a number of soft-leaved plants that we were told were "Catatopsis's". Besides being a mouthful to say, I had some questions as to the correct identity of these plants. When I suggested that it might be a Catopsis, I was corrected that it was a *Catatopsis*. In any event, I purchased one of those plants (which was well past its blooming prime) and have been

waiting ever since for an offset to mature and bloom, so that I might be able to identify this plant. Finally, I noticed a bloom spike beginning last month which continued to extend well past the rosette of leaves and eventually into a cluster of small, yellow fragrant flowers. I feel comfortable now in saying that this plant is a nice example of *Catopsis nutans*. The arching inflorescence can be described as "nodding" – which is a nickname for *Catopsis nutans*. *Catopsis nutans* is one of *Catopsis* species that can be found in South Florida as a native bromeliad, however, in all likelihood this plant is a Central American or Mexican form. Why would I say that? The book in our club library titled Native Bromeliads of Florida by Harry E. Luther and David H. Benzing notes that besides producing far fewer flowers than what I see on my plant, the Florida form of this plant has perfect flowers – meaning that both male and female flowers form on the same bloom spike – making self-pollination and seed formation possible. The Central and South American form as well as that found in Mexico has imperfect or dioecious flowers. Dioecious means that there are both male and female plants. To produce seed after flowering, pollen from each sex must be

traded between the two plants. In the case of the non-Florida varieties of *Catopsis nutans*, the flowers on the male plant are also smaller than those on the female and in addition, are borne on short branches on the inflorescence. As these photos show, the flowers on my *C. nutans* are small and there are at least two short branches on the bloom spike – a feature not found on the female plants (also not expected to occur on the Florida variety).



*Catopsis nutans*.



Small yellow flowers in inflorescence with several short branches.

If you purchased any of these plants at our club meeting, please be advised that the correct name should have been given as *Catopsis nutans* and not “*Catatopsis*”, although, I kind of like the sound of “*Catatopsis*”, ...especially if it is mounted on a hot tin roof!



### **This Month’s Meeting: Vermiculture**

Don’t know what that means? Plan on attending our August meeting and hear from Bernie what the products of Vermiculture can do for our bromeliads.

### **Last Month’s Meeting**

Thank you everyone who not only brought their favorite bromeliad to last month’s meeting – you then talked to our group about why you liked that particular plant! I think we all enjoyed hearing about your plants and this made for a very nice program.

The following are a few photos that were taken at that meeting by Calandra:



Rosie Byard with a beautiful Skotak hybrid *Neoregelia*



Jane Villa-Lobos with her Tillandsia Tropiflora



Pamela Newman with a very nicely grown Cryptanthus



Another outstanding example of a hybrid Neoregelia by Chester Skotak



Susan brought her Neoregelia Passion – a wonderful Grant Groves hybrid



**Ron Tucholski entertained us with his beautiful Guzmania – grown under all the wrong conditions!**



**Marsha Tucholski with her pot of miniature Neoregelias – grown indoors!**



**Calandra Thurrott brought a piece of original quilted artwork featuring a potted Aechmea fasciata and a Cryptanthus.**



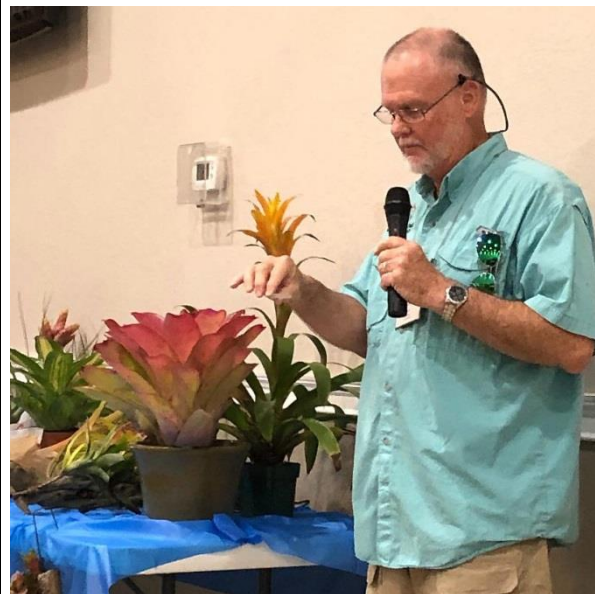
**Nancy Rogers with her Tillandsia**



Jay Thurrott with a mounted *Tillandsia roland-gosselinii*



Jack with *Neoregelia olens* mounted on wood



President Jack Dunlop with a *Neoregelia* 'French's Cruenta'



Jayne Molnar brought this nice group of *Tillandsias* that she collects, mounted on wood.



Pamela Newman, Rose Vincel and Lynn Rounseville pose with the largest plant of the day – Aechmea Tropicca. Photo by Cricket Petrovich



Bloom spike on Jay's Aechmea Tropicca. Photo by Cricket Petrovich



Thank you also everyone who brought food for the meeting. That was a terrific food table and the great selection and amount of food was probably responsible for a little bit of nodding-off after the break!

#### **Home Show at Ocean Center**

The Society (FECBS) is going to do something new in August. Along with several garden clubs, we are going to participate in the Volusia County Fall Home and Garden Show at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach.

The purpose is to let the community know about our Society and to provide information about bromeliads.

We will set up a display similar to the one we do at the Orchid Show and Sale in May.

Society members will also be able to sell their own bromeliads if they so choose. The only condition is that if you sell you must be there to sell and collect your own money. On the honor system, we ask that you donate 20% of your sales to the Society.

The Show dates and times are: Aug 9 / 2PM to 6PM, Aug 10 / 10AM to 6PM, and Aug 11 / 11AM to 5PM.

Admission is free, but parking is \$5 per day. We will be setting up on Thursday (Aug 8), starting in the morning.

We could use member help to man the booth on Saturday and Sunday.

If you would like to participate, call Jack at 386-317-0054 or email at [jgdkoi@gmail.com](mailto:jgdkoi@gmail.com) to coordinate.

Even if you can't participate, we hope you will come by our Society's booth.

Note: That Sunday is our regular meeting date, and we WILL have our meeting as usual. – Jack D.

### **Out and About:**

Recently we had the opportunity to visit the wonderful folks of Phoenix Foliage in Winter Garden and what a treat that was! I took a photo to give you an idea of what over 600,000 bromeliads looks like. That's right – over 600,000 bromeliads in their greenhouses, but that's not all they grow there. Many different types of tropical foliage plants...lots and lots and lots of them!!



These are all seedling bromeliads!

Jane Villa-Lobos sent us this Palm Coast news –

Greg and Annette Wilson, new members from Palm Coast, just posted this on Facebook:

We finally harvested our first pineapple this week. I have to say, it is far sweeter than anything from the grocery store. After the mother plant produces the fruit she produces pups to continue her legacy. We separated the pups and planted them. So you are witnessing the beginning of the Wilson Pineapple Plantation!!



There is nothing quite like a fresh pineapple, picked from your own pineapple plant! Best of luck to Greg and Annette on that pineapple plantation!

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](mailto:cajat@aol.com) or mail to Jay Thurrott, 713 Breckenridge Dr., Port Orange Fl. 32127

### **Looking ahead:**

#### **August 3,4, 2019**

South Bay Bromeliad Associates show and sale at Rainforest Flora Nursery, 19121 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503.

#### **August 17 – 18, 2019**

### **Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale**

Location: The Garden Club of Sanford, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford 9:00 - 4:00

In air-conditioned building  
Huge selection of bromeliads in many genera, orchids, aroids, gingers, other tropical plants, gift baskets, hand crafted slat baskets in several sizes. Members will be available to answer your questions.

### **September 20 – 21, 2019**

#### **2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza**

Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. Registration is \$100/person which Saturday night Italian buffet, raffle and silent auction, seminars and rare plant auction. Location: [SpringHill Suites](#) & [TownePlace Suites](#), 8040 Palm Parkway, Orlando Lake Buena Vista (near Disney Springs). This is a Marriott property with the two hotels being connected. The rate will be \$85 per night (taxes are additional). When you make your reservations you must mention The Bromeliad Extravaganza for this special rate. You can call today. The hotels will also have a limited number of rooms 5 days before and 5 days after at the same rate for those that might wish to make a vacation at Walt Disney World or the other area attractions. This rate also includes a complimentary hot breakfast. The rooms at Towneplace Suites include a kitchenette. The rooms at SpringHill Suites include a mini fridge and microwave and a pull out (trundle) sofa bed. **Make sure that you indicate which hotel you prefer when you call to make your reservations - either SpringHill or Towneplace.** You can call and make your reservations and mention The Bromeliad Extravaganza for your special rate. You can call today. No Extravaganza registration is required.

Either 407-635-8500 or 407-239-4005. The hotels have provided a link for online registration for this event. The \$85 rate is good from Tuesday, September 17th to Tuesday, September 24th. The taxes are an additional 12.5% which comes out to \$21.25, so your confirmation should show \$191.25 for two nights. Last day to book is Saturday August 17th.

### **Oct. 11, 12, 2019**

Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show -- International Cryptanthus Society Show. Emerald Beach Hotel directly on the Bay 1102 South Shoreline Blvd. Corpus Christi, Texas.

### **October 25-27, 2019**

Tropiflora Fall Festival  
3530 Tallevast Rd, Sarasota  
941/351-2267

### **Dec.13-15, 2019**

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale, Araba Shrine Temple in Fort Myers.

### **March 2020**

Bromeliad Society of South Florida annual show and sale. Date to be determined.

**June 9 -13, 2020** I know – that’s a long way ahead, but it will be here before you realize, so you should start your plans today for the BSI World Conference (WBC2020) in Sarasota, Fl. It’s not often that a World Conference is held right here in our own backyard (well, across the state from us anyway), so this will be an excellent opportunity for our members to see what these events are all about! Watch future newsletters for details!