

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

August 2023 Newsletter

FYI -- NO BROMELIAD BINGO (see below)

1:30 p.m.

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

August 13th Meeting

This month's meeting will be held August 13th at 1:30 p.m. at Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd, Port Orange. There will not be Bromeliad Bingo due to a great program that just became available. Chip Jones from South Florida will be presenting, "Works of a Bromeliad Magician", featuring variegated neoregelia breeding by Chester Skotak. His slides will show the background of what makes Chester's plants look so distinct and how the parent plants express their features in what we see today. In addition, we will get an insight into Chester's other bromeliad work in pineapples, in European hot houses, and a 10-cent tour of his Palmares, Costa Rica nursery. Chip will be bringing new and old Skotak hybrids to sell. It all sounds incredible! Don't miss it!!

There will be the usual bromeliad raffle, door prizes, show and tell, and refreshments. Don't give up... Bromeliad Bingo will be featured in the future. --- Jack

Just a glimpse of some Skotak hybrids.



Neoregelia 'Hot Embers'
(Foreground)



Aechmea recurvata
'Artichoke'



Neoregelia 'Hannibal Lector'
(Photos: Jane Villa-Lobos)

What is wrong with this plant?



Maybe you have had the same problem as I have had over the years with some of my *Aechmea fasciata* (silver vase) plants which don't seem to open fully (plant on the left). Luckily thanks to looking at various bromeliad Facebook groups I now have the reason!

According to Chester Skotak this condition is due to lack of fertilizer. To remedy this, he recommends applying a granular time release fertilizer to the base of the plant plus a liquid fertilizer (20-20-20 or 20-10-20) at half strength once a month. *Aechmea fasciata* also likes 60-70% shade and water in its cup. Mine are looking better after fertilizing.



Judy Rafter is excited she has 5 pups on her silver vase!

How are your bromeliads doing with all this rain?

Boy, it has been a very rainy and hot summer! I just installed a rain barrel, so I have an endless supply of rainwater to water my potted plants on my lanai. However, I am carefully watching my outside potted bromeliads to make sure they are not floating in water. That is a sign that the potting mix is not fast draining. This could be due to several reasons: 1) there are no drainage holes in the bottom of the pot, 2) the soil is old and has broken down and is compacted, or 3) the soil is not fast draining. Bromeliads grow in almost any medium that drains well, does not pack down, provides stability while the root system develops, and has a slightly acid to neutral pH. You can use a potting mix, but you may want to add bark nuggets, horticultural charcoal, vermiculite, tree fern or other chunky material like orchid mix, or even lava rock so the soil drains rapidly.

Now for those bromeliads planted in the ground. Terrestrials, like *Dyckia* and *Cryptanthus*, do not mind being wet as long as they are not drowning. Air plants to watch are those from dry desert regions, like *Tillandsia latifolia*, *purpurea*, *cacticola* and the fuzzy *T. tectorum*. In fact, you need to make sure air plants don't collect water at their base or they will rot. If you have mounted bromeliads, the rain is beneficial for healthy root growth. Long, stretching roots are a sign of a happy bromeliad.

Travels with Bill and Tree Hazard

I think Bill and Tree have the travel bug as they are always going somewhere. Last month Bill sent photos of bromeliads they saw at the Chelsea Flower Show in the U.K., and recently he sent photos from their trip to south Florida. Of course, he had to stop at several nurseries in Palm City and Sunshine Bromeliads and Perfect Choice Nursery in Southwest Ranches. The latter nursery sells unusual succulents and aroids. As you may know he is not just a bromeliad collector!



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



Aechmea fasciata
(Photo: Kathleen Bolanos)



Neoregelia punctatissima 'Yellow'
(Photo: Jane Villa-Lobos)



Vriesea ospinae var. *gruberii*
'Ice' (Photo: Keith McCabe)

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 August

Greetings to these members: Kathleen Fuss, Iris Graim, Celeste Marien, Maggie Marshall, Argil Matthews, Myrna Moore, Judy Rafter, Judy Rodriguez, Debbie Williams.

Future Events

August 13

***Pollinator Floral Design Class
Fundraiser for Sophie's Circle
Dog Rescue (Plant Sale too)***

Myrna Moore

3016 S. Peninsula Dr.

Daytona Beach Shores, FL

\$25. Class is limited to 20 people. Purchase tickets on FB Sophie's Circle Dog Rescue or pay \$10 at the door for the plant sale, silent auction.

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

October 14-15

***Southwest Bromeliad Guild &
International Cryptanthus Society
Shows & Sales***

Holiday Inn & Suites

Houston, TX

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

