

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, September 11th, 2016 1:30pm.

Colony in the Wood – club house

4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

September, 2016

Spaghetti Dinner!

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

Most non-profit organizations at some point...

...find that they simply can't continue with "business as usual" without an occasional infusion of new money. That's why we periodically have to put up with public broadcasting's fund-raisers, that's why Girl Scouts sell cookies, and that's why charities often hire professionals to focus on their fund raising activities. It's truly surprising that the BSI has been able to provide its services to the bromeliad community for so many years without some form of fund drive –relying instead on membership dues and profits from World Conferences. Unfortunately, those dues don't cover the costs of producing the BSI Journal, World Conferences are not annual events and even then, attendance and plant sales have been on a steady decline. BSI's treasurer has noted each year that the organization's income has not been able to keep pace with expenditures and so, it is only a matter of time before they find themselves in serious financial difficulties.

This is the background for the current **BSI 66** fund drive (it is BSI's 66th anniversary this year). An offer has been made to the BSI that if they can raise \$25,000 over the next 12 months, that amount will be matched to bring the total to \$50,000! While \$25,000 may seem like a lot of money to raise, if each of the more than 50 affiliates of BSI can contribute just \$500, that

goal can be met. FECBS is committed to doing its part and Rick and Francisco have generously offered to provide a complete spaghetti dinner for the members of our group and only ask that in return, you consider making a donation to the BSI. Additionally, there will be a big plant raffle with some exceptional plants from our area growers! Please feel free to bring plants for the raffle, but if you don't have any - no worries, there will be plenty of plants for you to take home. Please remember though, that this is a fundraiser! All food, beverages and plants are being donated to the event. All we need is you! At our last meeting the group voted unanimously to match whatever money is raised by those attending this dinner, so let's make this a fun event and generate a truly meaningful donation for an exceptionally worthwhile cause!



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Last month's meeting

We had a bit of a change of pace – usually we talk about the epiphytic bromeliads...and that makes sense since such a large proportion of the Bromeliaceae family is made up of plants that are epiphytic in their growth habits.



Speaker Greg Spak presented August's program on terrestrial bromeliads.

Last month however, Greg Spak presented a really excellent program on propagating and growing a number of the terrestrial bromeliads. They may look dangerous with their spiny leaves, but Greg showed us how many of those spines are really quite soft. He also demonstrated how easy it is to propagate these plants from seed and even gave away a number of his seedling plants to club members.

It's a scorcher out there!

Outside of 'where's the bathroom?', the question that I hear most often at bromeliad sales is "which of these plants will do well in full sun?" This year I've had a chance to observe 'first hand' examples of which bromeliads can tolerate a lot of sun and which ones definitely cannot.

For those of us living in east central Florida, we've not had any rain to speak of this Summer and that's really unusual. Every day clouds form, but the only rain that falls from them seems to be west of I-95, so we get nothing but a lot more hot air (it's a little like being in a front row seat at a political

rally and listening to the candidates in this year's presidential election!). Even more unusual though, I have never seen so many bromeliads developing sun burn or scorch marks on their leaves as I'm seeing this year. I don't know if it is the hot temperatures (it's Summer – it has always been hot in past years), the lack of rainfall (I've been watering my plants more than usual), the low humidity (very low for this time of year!), or a combination of all three but plants that have never before been harmed by a few hours of full sun are showing some serious sun damage in my yard. What do we mean by "sun burn" on bromeliads? A picture may be worth a thousand words, so here are a few pictures showing what I mean:



This first one is of Neoregelia 'Sherlette Shiigi', growing in the same place it always has in the past. It has always colored up to a rich, dark purple color but this Summer the leaves bleached out and "burn" spots developed toward the center.



Neoregelia 'Purple Passion'

The purple leaved varieties seem to have had an especially hard time of it. Neoregelia 'Purple Passion', also grown in the same place where it not only tolerated Summer's sun in the past, but turned an incredible dark purple color over the entire plant. Now has burn marks on leaves that also show serious bleaching.



Vriesea fosteriana showing evidence of plant-abuse!

This photo (above) shows lots of sun damage on the leaves of Vriesea fosteriana, a plant that had not only tolerated the strong light levels in this location in past years, but had developed very intense markings on the leaves...until this Summer when the burn spots began developing. Unfortunately, by the time you notice this type of leaf damage, it's too late to do much about it other than to wait for the next generation of pups to form and hope for better luck with them.

On the positive side – I've also notice some Neoregelia varieties that have not only endured this year's unusual weather; they've thrived under the Summer sun. The species Neoregelia olens and hybrids of this plant have never looked better. Quite unexpected, Neoregelia 'Norman Bates' looks just great although it bakes under the full sun all day, while 'Hannibal Lechter' in the same setting is showing sun damage.

Finally, no surprise here, Aechmea blanchettiana as well as all of the Neo. cruenta and Neo. johannis cultivars and hybrids are looking just fine this year.



Aechmea blanchettiana in bloom by entrance of Sanford Garden Center.

President's message –



November 13th is the day! It's the day we all get to see how much imagination this club has to share. While not all of us are right brained and creative, those that are left brained and logical/analytical can come up with some pretty incredible ideas. You would envision painters, musicians, actors, sculptors, etc... to be the ones who think outside the box. I disagree! Einstein, Edison, Newton, Darwin, Aristotle, DaVinci were all scientists but without them thinking beyond "what is...." the world would still be flat. William Blake once said "what is now proved was once only imagined" I know we're only concerned at this time on combining a bromeliad to something else or joining two or more plants but look down the line.... this project could get your artistic juices flowing and when that happens....watch out because the sky's the limit! Or should I say there is NO limit?

I never thought you could grow Cryptanthus on a grape vine wreath. Rose proved me wrong. Remember the Christmas tree and packages that Bryan made with only bromeliad leaves? Wow! Look at everyday items in a new light. Albert Einstein said "the true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination". Remember Jay's paintbrushes which had Tillandsias as the bristles? It's fun to explore. Remember

to not be afraid of silly ideas. What do you think was going through the minds of Jules Verne's readers as he wrote of putting men on the moon or under the sea? Crazy, huh! I want you to go exploring, to go outside your comfort zone and think of something crazy. Then you figure out how to put it together. You still have time. Don't be anxious because that's the worst use of imagination. The world is your canvas.... Create Something!

- Bill

Birthdays for September:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

George Aldrich	Butch Force
Walter Hearin	Mary McBride
Lynne Menard	Rick Ryals
Sherrie Thompson	Ron Tucholski

Folks who are celebrating their birthdays in September are encouraged to bring desserts just as they would at any other monthly meeting, perhaps something Italian inspired! But please, no main course food entrees or snacks. Any questions please feel free to contact Rick Ryals. We'll need some help serving the spaghetti dinner and of course clean up assistance is always appreciated.

Out and about –



Rick provided this picture and says it's Aechmea 'Little Harv' looking good in his yard, standing over 3' tall. A great landscaping plant with a chantinii-type

inflorescence! This particular plant was grown in bright light, but could be grown in full sun. One of many beautiful landscape bromeliads created by Harvey Bullis, Miami.

Editor's note: This was an early creation of Bullis' from 1982. The seed parent was apparently Aechmea chantinii, but when the pollination took place the resulting plant somehow wound up with an extra set of chromosomes - possibly leading to the plant's appearance as a "giant" Ae. chantinii.

"Little Harv" is a large plant and one that we wouldn't expect to see hauled in for our Show and Tell. Often I hear of members' plants that are in bloom and looking spectacular, but it just isn't easy to carry them to our monthly meetings. Not a problem – just send me a photo of your pride(s) and joy(s) and we'll see that it appears in this section of the newsletter.

Jane Villa-Lobos sent me these photos:



Tillandsia brachycaulos

This first one is a favorite of mine and is called Tillandsia brachycaulos. It's a species from Central America and parts of Mexico. Like with most bromeliads, you might wonder where it got such a strange

name. In this case, the name actually means 'short-stemmed', an apt description for this plant.

Jane's second photo is of *Vriesea* 'Nora', a hybrid attributed to Deroose (based on its photo appearing on their webpage in 2004 and, like many of their hybrids the parentage has not been made public).



Vriesea 'Nora'

This next photo is of a plant that was given to me by one of our club members who has since passed away – Richard Temple. Richard had a tendency to bring enormous plants in to our meetings for Show and Tell and then they would tip over, spilling water, potting mix and various insects and reptiles on the floor of our meeting room. It was great fun and we dearly miss Richard and his antics. This plant is called *Aechmea* 'Tropica' and has survived for over 10 years now in my landscape, so I guess you could say that it is well suited for this area. Although the plant looks identical to *Aechmea blanchettiana* in both size and coloration when not in bloom, the bloom is quite different – resembling both *Aechmea aquilega* and *Aechmea rubens*, the parents of this nice hybrid. The Cultivar Registry at the website www.bsi.org attributes this plant to Chester Skotak. Skotak plants are usually highly recognizable for their variegated leaf patterns, but this non-variegated one is noticeable in its tall (well over 1 meter), bright and long lasting inflorescence.



Aechmea 'Tropica' in bloom.

Rick also sent this photo of a *Tillandsia* that followed him home from the Houston World Conference



He writes the following:

Look at this happy little tillandsia. Recently purchased at the BSI World Bromeliad Conference 2016 in Houston, I brought it home, mounted it on a slat tray and it's off and running and blooming too! It's Tillandsia 'Sweet Isabel' (tectorum x paleacea).

Did you get a chance to visit the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society's recent sale in Sanford? If not, you missed quite an event. I noticed quite a few FECBS members there bright and early on Saturday morning. If you look closely at this photo, you may be able to pick a few of them out:



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:

September 9-11, 2016

“Bewitched Bromeliads”

Sarasota Bromeliad Society - show and

sale at the Sarasota Garden Club

1131 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota

Hours: Friday - Plant sale only

Saturday Show and Sales 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday, Show and Sales 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

More information is available at

www.sarasotabromeliadsociety.org or by

calling 941-567-4176.

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October 8th and 9th 2016

University of South Florida Fall Sale

USF Botanical Gardens 4202 E. Fowler

Avenue NES107, Tampa, FL 33620

9 am to 4 pm

\$5 general admission

October 22, 2016

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Meeting hosted by Central Florida Bromeliad Society.

July 22nd, 2017

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Extravaganza – hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Tampa. More information on this will soon be available and we'll pass it along to you, but for now – circle that date on your calendar for next Summer!

May 29 – June 3, 2018

BSI World Bromeliad Conference in San Diego, California

Plan now for what is sure to be an exciting event!

More information to follow as it becomes available....

