

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

September 2023 Newsletter

1:30 p.m.

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

September 10th Meeting

This month's meeting will be held September 10th at 1:30 p.m. at Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd, Port Orange. The program will be Bromeliad Bingo. Winners are awarded beautiful potted bromeliads!

There will be the usual bromeliad raffle, door prizes, and show and tell. Many members have birthdays this month, so there should be a good selection of refreshments!

--- Jack

Hybridizing Bromeliads with Chester Skotak

Last month's speaker, Chip Jones, gave a wonderful presentation on how Chester Skotak hybridizes bromeliads in Costa Rica. It is a complex process and takes many years to develop a beautiful stable hybrid. Several people asked to have more information on this process, so here are some YouTube videos I found. 1) La Ballona Valley Bromeliad Society Zoom Meeting (Nov. 24, 2020) "50 Years Growing and Hybridizing Bromeliads"; 2) "Chester Skotak Hybridizing & Pollinating Bromeliads"; 3) Chester George Skotak on Bromeliad Hybrids"; 4) "Barry Landau's Tropical Planet – Chester Skotak Bromeliad Hybrids"; 5) "Chester Skotak Presents Wonderful World of Pineapples – Species, Hybrids- Mutations".

I also found a great article in the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society's January 2021 Newsletter based on the above program of the La Ballona Valley Bromeliad Society Zoom meeting. There are many beautiful photos, too.

Remembering Charlotte Mueller



Charlotte Mueller, a longtime member of FECBS, passed away on August 22nd at the Terrace at Bishop's Glen in Holly Hill. Charlotte was born in Salzburg, Austria. Just last month she invited members to her condo for a 90th birthday celebration. Eve Krauth mentioned at our last meeting that she stopped by along with Virginia Dornbach.

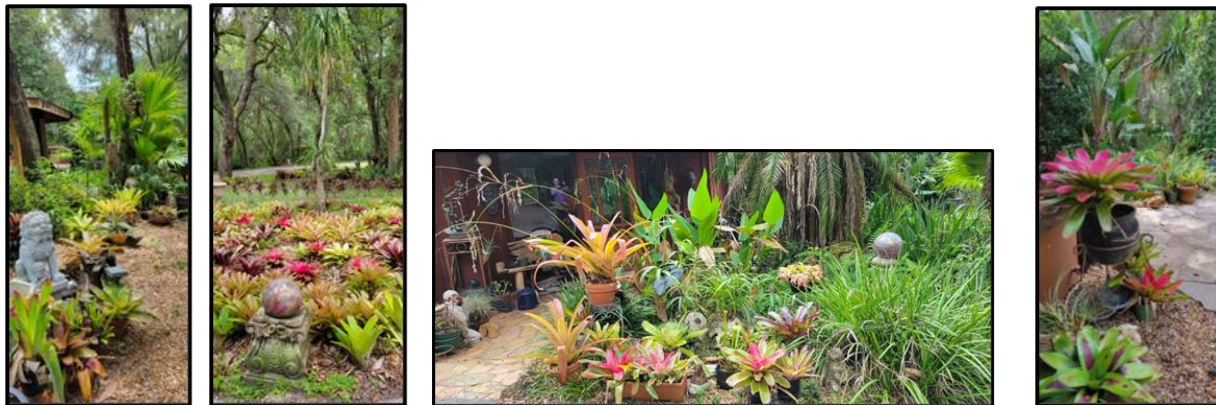
Living in a condo on A1A Charlotte regularly posted beautiful sunsets from her balcony and sights from Austria on her FaceBook page. Not having a garden, Charlotte grew bromeliads in pots on her balcony.



She loved air plants and incorporated them in her jewelry designs which she wore regularly to our club meetings. There was not a Christmas Party centerpiece competition that she did not enter!

DeLand Bromeliad Garden September 17

Members Lynn Rounseville and Cricket and Wayne Petrovich have graciously invited our club and the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society to tour their landscapes on Sunday, September 17 from 9 am to 2 pm. Lynn has 10 acres and the Petrovich's have 9.5 acres. There will be a reminder sent to members the week before with directions. Below are some photos from Cricket and Wayne of their bromeliads nestled in the natural setting of north central Florida.



Hurricane Season is Upon Us

I looked back in some past newsletters, and Jay Thurrott gave us some Hurricane Tips for Bromeliad Growers. Here are some excerpts: 1) for your plants that are mounted in pots – dig a hole and put them pot and all in the ground. Cover this with mulch and your plants should be unharmed, 2) take down those hanging plants before high winds do it for you. Either put them on the ground or bring them into the garage or under shelter. If you bring them into the garage and the storm lasts a while, be sure the garage temperature doesn't get high enough to cook them. If the storm brings torrents of prolonged rain when it is safe to go outside, check your pots and make sure they are not waterlogged as the plants' roots don't like having their feet wet for long periods. Rot and fungus organisms could develop if kept moist for too long.

If you have lost some branches or even whole trees that shaded your bromeliads, they may be exposed to full sun and will experience sunburn if they aren't moved to a shadier spot. Bill Hazard had a good tip during the hot summer temperatures which should work to acclimate these plants now that they are in the sun. He covered some of his bromeliads with shade cloth. It is worth a try!

We were lucky with the recent storm, but it is always better to be prepared.

Travels with Bill and Tree Hazard

Once again Bill and Tree Hazard ventured out of Ormond Beach to Sebring in south-central Florida. Bill sent these photos of some bromeliads they saw while they were away.



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



Aechmea fulgens

Wallisia cyanea

(Photos: Rosemary Byard)

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 September

Greetings to these members: George Aldrich, Tim Dreggors, Becky Gabbard, Rick Ryals, Michael Saunders, Ron Tucholski, Sherrie Thompson, Angela Yacuzzi.



Future Events

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

November 10-11

Growvember Fall Fest & Plant Sale

Mead Botanical Garden

1300 S. Denning Dr.

Winter Park, FL

Fri. 2- 6; Sat. 8 -4

meadgarden.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

