

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

September 2024 Newsletter

Meeting Date: September 8th at 1:30 p.m.

**Meeting Location: Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd.
Port Orange, FL 32129**

September 8th Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on September 8th at 1:30 pm at Colony in the Wood. The speaker will be Pinky Ormond, horticulturist at Harry Leu Gardens in Orlando. She will demonstrate how to make hypertufa pots.

Don't forget to bring some of your extra bromeliads/pups for the raffle, beautiful plants for show and tell and most importantly some delicious food if it is your birthday month, or if you just love to bring something to share. In the past few months there have been quite a few door prizes, so be sure to sign in when you come. – Jack



What are hypertufa pots?

Hypertufa pots originated in the 1930s as a way for gardeners to create an artificial substitute for expensive and scarce antique tufa troughs that were popular in gardens at the time. The term "hypertufa" is a combination of the words "tufa", a natural volcanic rock, and "hyper", which means excessively or extreme".

Before hypertufa, gardeners would recycle stone water troughs, coffins, and bathtubs for planters. When these became scarce, gardeners would chip holes into tufa rock to plant flowers and herbs usually for use in alpine gardens.

Hypertufa is a lightweight, strong material that can be molded into many different shapes. The traditional recipe uses Portland cement, peat and perlite. The cement is strong and moldable. Perlite adds lightness, and peat adds body and distributes moisture evenly. Some people are using coconut fiber instead of peat as coco husks are plentiful and its strong fibers add strength to the mix. When combined with the right amount of water, the ingredients form a clay-like substance that's easily molded.

Aechmea blanchettiana variegated hybrids

Aechmea 'Pink Panties' is a variegated form of *Aechmea blanchettiana* which grows smaller than *A. blanchettiana* (30" x 30") and in strong light or sun it turns pinky-orange.

Aechmea 'Gold Mine' is a Chester Skotak hybrid that forms a funnellform rosette and can be grown in sun or shade. If grown in the sun it keeps its variegation. The inflorescence is orange with yellow flowers. It gets large: 3' x 2'.



Aechmea 'Pink Panties'
(Jack Dunlop)



Aechmea 'Gold Mine'
(Jane Villa-Lobos)

Orlando Landscape Show

Bill Hazard attended the FNGLA (Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association) show which was held August 21-23 at Orlando's Convention Center. It is the premier trade show for the landscape industry. Below are Bill's photos from the Grants Farm Nursery exhibit.



Upcoming weather predictions

Hurricane season continues through November and the upcoming months are Florida's busiest. Even though our area has not been affected yet, be prepared as 70% of all Atlantic hurricanes have formed after September 6! Be sure your pots have good drainage!

The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts that Florida will be cool and wet this winter. To be prepared you might want to inventory your frost cloth.

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

Judy Rafter loves her miniatures!



Neoregelia 'Palmeries'



Neoregelia 'Tiger'



Neoregelia 'Toy Tiger'



Aechmea mexicana
(Judy Rafter)



Aechmea 'Pinot Noir'
(Jack Dunlop)



Billbergia 'Raspberry Spritzer'
(Jane Villa-Lobos)

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: Becky Gabbard, Carol Geran, Rick Ryals, Michael Saunders, Ron Tucholski, Sherrie Thompson, Angela Yacuzzi.

Future Events

Oct. 15

**Bromeliad Society of
South Florida**

Annual Auction

Fairchild Tropical Garden
10901 Old Cutler Rd.
Miami 7:30 pm.

Oct. 19-20

Fall Plant Sale & Orchid Show

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
4700 SW 58th Dr.
Gainesville
9 - 5

November 2-3

Mount Dora Plant & Garden Fair

530 N. Donnelly St.
Mount Dora
Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4

November 8-9

GROWvember Festival

Mead Botanical Garden
1500 S. Denning Dr.
Winter Park
Fri. 2 - 6; Sat. 8 - 4

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

