

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

September 2025 Newsletter

**Meeting Location: Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd.
Port Orange, FL
Time: 1:30 p.m.**

September 14th Meeting

Our monthly meeting will be held on September 14 at 1:30. President Jack Dunlop and Calandra Thurrott will enlighten us on their recent trip to Cuba with Dennis Cathcart.

The raffle tables have been full of beautiful plants, so if you have been dividing your bromeliads and want to share with other members, please bring them. Don't forget to clean the dirt off the roots, so there isn't a lot of cleaning up after the meeting.

We haven't had many people bringing their plants to show and tell, so please consider bringing some to share your growing methods. Of course, door prizes and refreshments are a large segment of the meeting. Thank you.

--- Jack

Aechmea pectinata



Aechmea pectinata is a clumping bromeliad endemic to southeastern Brazil where it grows in sub-mountainous forests and along the coasts of mangroves and on rocks. The funnel-shaped rosette of leaves forms a cavity usually full of water. The pale green leaves are tipped with a dangerous black spike that can poke you in the eye if you are not careful. The rosette can grow up to 2 feet tall and 3 feet wide.

During flowering the leaves blush with an intense red or sometimes reddish orange as an attractant to pollinators like hummingbirds. The inflorescence at the center of the rosette is a floral scape

covered by pale green bracts. The flowers are inconspicuous. It grows best in morning sun or indirect light. It can take temperatures into the high 30's.

Aechmea recurvata

Aechmea recurvata, also known as the false air plant or artichoke bromeliad, is an epiphytic or sometime terrestrial bromeliad from South America. It only grows 12-15 inches high and has stiff recurved leaves which form a compact, upright vase shape. The leaves are light green in shade and bright gold/orange in bright light or full sun. As the plant is about to flower, the leaves flush a brilliant, ruby red. The inflorescence is a compact head of red bracts with lavender-pink blossoms. The colorful blooms attract hummingbirds.



It is easy to grow, is drought tolerant, but grows faster with occasional water, and is hardy to 20-25°. It is perfect for growing in containers, rock gardens and mixed beds. This tough plant can withstand salt spray, strong winds, and considerable dryness. Photo above is *Aechmea recurvata* grown by Jane Villa-Lobos.



There are several varieties including the one to the left which is *Aechmea recurvata* var. *cardinalis* which is from Calandra Thurrott's bromeliad collection.

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

Colorful blooms in Jane Villa-Lobos' garden



Aechmea 'Cotton Candy'



Aechmea fulgens



Aechmea blanchettiana

Bromeliads in Calandra Thurrott's collection



Portea petropolitana



Aechmea nudicaulis

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.



Greetings to these members: Becky Gabbard, Carol Geran, Carol Grau, Rick Ryals, Michael Saunders, Ron Tucholski, Sherrie Thompson, and Angela Yacuzzi.

Future Events

September 26-27

2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Ramada Gateway

7470 W. Iro Bronson Memorial Highway 192

Kissimmee, FL

BromeliadX.com

October 11-12

USF Botanical Gardens Fall

Plant Sale

12210 USF Pine Dr.

Tampa, FL

9-3

October 25

Open House & Plant Sale

Kanapaha Botanical Garden
4700 SW 58th Dr.
Gainesville, FL
9-5

November 1-2

Mount Dora Plant & Garden Fair

Downtown Mount Dora
Mount Dora, FL
9-5

November 7-8

GROWvember Fall Fest & Plant Sale

Mead Botanical Garden

1300 S. Denning Dr.
Winter Park, FL
Nov. 7: 2-6; Nov. 8: 8-4

President - Jack Dunlop 386-317-0054

Vice President - Bill Hazard 386-882-3850

Secretary - Ruth Gessner 386-767-3499

Treasurer - Eve Krauth 386-871-1041

Newsletter Editor - Jane Villa-Lobos 386-446-0341

Hospitality - Becky Gabbard 386-492-3933

Beverages - Terri Malia 386-307-4331

Sunshine - Judith Davies 386-864-7360

