

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, October 14th, 1:30p.m.

Colony in the Wood – club house

4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

October, 2012

Cooler Weather is on its Way!

President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700

Vice President – Eretta Morris 386/677-9557

Secretary – Kimberly Ridenour 386/212-2781

Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/763-2084

Do I dare say it? It looks like we have made it through this year's hurricane season without being struck by a named storm! Not only that, but this year's month of September has to go down in the record books as one of the nicest, bromeliad-friendly Septembers in recent memory. Nighttime temperatures were much more comfortable than in July or August and the frequent rains and resulting high humidity have made my plants practically jump out of their pots with growth. Mounted plants have produced massive growths of roots almost overnight to firmly anchor them on pieces of weathered wood and driftwood. What a great start to Autumn! Unfortunately, the days are getting noticeably shorter, we'll soon return to Eastern Standard Time, and that burst of active growth in our bromeliads will be coming to an end. So...what should you be doing with your bromeliad collection this month? There's always something that you should be doing and that activity should be different with each month. In October you should be finishing with your work of separating *Neoregelia* pups and potting them up. I've found that if I wait much longer in the season for this chore, the Neo. pups don't seem to get as good a start in life as those that are either potted up sooner or left to

remain attached to their mothers until the Spring.

October is also the month when you should begin cutting back on your fertilization schedule. Uptake of nutrients dramatically reduces as the hours of daylight decrease and you will not only be wasting your fertilizer, but you will be encouraging new growth at the very time of year when your plants should be consolidating that growth and "hardening" before that first cold-snap descends on us.

Also, for the same reasons noted above, pay a little closer attention to your watering practices during this time of year. The same plant that happily sat in a soggy potting mix during the month of September, may develop fungus and rot problems in October. You might even have to repot some of your plants in a fresh potting mix if the current cycle of rainy afternoons continues much longer.

Finally, the angle of the sun changes quite dramatically as we move from Summer into Winter. Those same bromeliads that were receiving optimal levels of sunlight a few months ago may now find themselves in the shade for a good portion of each day. Likewise, those shade-lovers that were placed in the yard to be well protected from the punishing mid-day sun during the Summer may now be receiving enough full

sun that sun burning of the leaves may become a problem. The best advice that I have been given regarding growing bromeliads: Observe and Correct. Observe to see what conditions your plants are currently being exposed to and Correct wherever you see unfavorable growing conditions beginning to take place. Do this on a regular basis and you can avoid most problems before they have a negative effect on your plants.

This month's meeting –

It often seems that after someone has been growing bromeliads for a while, they develop a special fondness for one Genus or another. Such has been the case with our speaker this month - Dr. Jose "Pepe" Donayre. Dr. Donayre is a BSI accredited judge and has been growing bromeliads for over 20 years. He and his wife Sara live in Hollywood (no, not that Hollywood - *Hollywood, Florida*) and are very active in the Bromeliad Society of Broward County, the South Florida Bromeliad Society, the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (of which he has served as Chairman) and the Bromeliad Society International – where Sara currently serves as Secretary.

Our speaker's favorite group in the bromeliad family is the Genus *Billbergia*. As many of you know, *Billbergias* are often quite beautiful, colorful, relatively easy to maintain and they reward us with outstanding, if somewhat short-lived blooms. If you've ever had an interest in this fascinating group of plants and want to know more about how to grow them to their optimum beauty, this is the program for you – don't miss Dr. Donayre's presentation on *Billbergias* at this month's meeting!

Also, this month we will be having a "Chinese Auction". I have no idea what that is, so I am looking forward to learning what this entails and why so many friends have told me how much fun it can be!

Last month's meeting –

We went over a few simple steps that anyone entering their plants in a bromeliad show can follow to improve their chances of receiving a blue ribbon, an award of merit, or even winding up on the head table! I hope that some of you took advantage of the opportunity to enter a plant in *Orlandiana 2012*. Let us know what you thought of the show and how your plant or plants were judged.

Orlandiana 2012...

...is over now and what a resounding success!!! Attendees from around the world were unanimous in their praise for an outstanding conference and their admiration for the host for this event: the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. Great job!



Orlandiana 2012 conference chair – Betsy McCrory. Photo by Calandra Thurrott

I saw quite a few of our club members from time to time, so I think it's safe to say that FECBS was well represented at the World conference. Great bromeliad show, great seminars, great tours, great poster sessions...what more can I say? It was a really terrific event and I think it presented the Florida bromeliad societies in a very positive way to the world. Although it's a lot of work to put one of these events on, it's also a very rewarding experience for everyone. At the close of the show on Sunday we were all sorry to see our new and renewed bromeliad friends heading home.

Next up...2014 World conference in Hawaii!
Start planning now!

Our club's display turned out to be quite a "photo-op" and people were lined up to sit in the lawn chair and have their pictures taken. Thank you Eretta, Eve, and Francisco for your efforts in putting this together and a huge thank you to our president Rick Ryals not only for spearheading the display, but for his untiring (or maybe he was tired and didn't show it...) efforts throughout the conference! JCT



Birthdays for October:

(Once again – there's a bunch of them!)

- Ray Trzeciak
- Brad Rauch
- Bill McBride
- Arlene Conklin
- Carolyn Schoenau
- Hedy Quirk
- Jane Sedelmyer

Name that plant...

This month's photos are as follows:

#1 –



This remarkable clump of plants in photo #1 is interconnected and goes on and on...

#2-



Could this have been named after a seaport in Connecticut?

3.



This plant gets its name from the many sharp spines along the edges of each leaf.

Last month's "Name that plant" photos were:

1. Billbergia pyramidalis
2. x Neophytum 'Galactic warrior'
3. Aechmea orlandiana (named for the hometown (Orlando, Fl.) of its discoverer – Mulford Foster)

Looking ahead...

October 5-7, 2012

Tropiflora Fall Festival – Open House
We'll talk about the fun we had on our field trip to Tropiflora and Michaels Bromeliads at this month's meeting.

October 13-14

Fall Plant Sale at Kanapaha Gardens in Gainesville. 4700 SW 58th Dr. 9 am-5pm
Call 352/372-4981 for more information

October 13th

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies quarterly meeting – hosted by the Gainesville Bromeliad Society

October 13-14

Fall Plant Festival at the USF botanical gardens. 12210 USF Pine Dr., Tampa
Call 813/974-2329 for details

October 19-20

Orchtoberfest at E.F.G. Orchids
4265 Marsh Rd., Deland Fl. 32724
386/738-8600

www.efaorchids.com

A full line of orchids and growing supplies as well as other interesting plants (including some bromeliads). Free admission, authentic German food, hay rides!

October 20th

Garden Tour 2012 – presented by the Garden Club of Palm Coast, Hammock Gardens Nursery and Stone Plus
9am to 4pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at Aimee's Hallmark in Palm Coast, Gospel Gardens in Bunnell, Hammock

Gardens in Palm Coast and NatureScape's Garden Center in Bunnell. For information call 386/446-0341

October 26-27th

Everybody's Flower Show
Peabody Auditorium in Daytona Beach
600 Auditorium Blvd.
Free admission, 10am to 5pm

October 27th-28th

Brevard County Orchid Society's 52nd Annual Fall Orchid Fair
THE MELBOURNE AUDITORIUM
625 E. Hibiscus Blvd
Melbourne, FL
9:00am to 5:00pm each day
Admission \$4.00 (visit our website-
thebcos.org -for a \$1 coupon off the price of admission - print as many as you need)
Free Parking

November 4th

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society Garden Ramble (homes of R. Ryals, E. Krauth, and L. Dianto)

December 1-2

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society sale
Terry Park, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Ft. Myers. Call 239/694-4738 for details.

