

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, October 12th, 2014 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

October 2014

Rain, and More Rain

President – Jay Thurrott 386/761-4804
Vice President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850
Secretary – Jillian Ragia 386/801-2500
Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/763-2084

That's been pretty much the weather forecast these past few weeks and I don't know how your garden is looking, but my bromeliads are just loving it! All of a sudden, pups seem to be appearing overnight on these plants. I know they haven't grown that quickly, but where before this month they were tiny things, now they're pushing so tightly against the mother plants that if I don't cut some of the old leaves to make room, these are going to be some very odd looking pups indeed.

So, what should you be doing around the bromeliad garden in October? One thing you should check on is how well your potting mixes are holding up. Are your plants sitting in a soggy mix day after day? If so, you could be heading for trouble – most bromeliads don't appreciate having their feet wet for any length of time. Think about changing out the mix if it no longer drains well or maybe even adding to it if these downpours have washed away the top few inches and exposed the roots of your plants. If you have many epiphytic varieties mounted on wood, check to see if that wood is beginning to get spongy and show signs of rotting away – you may have to remount some of those plants of fresh wood. Now is also a good time to evaluate how much sun your plants are receiving. One of the reasons that bromeliads do so well in Hawaii is that the intensity of light that the plants receive is quite consistent throughout the year. Not so

around here – plants that may have been receiving an optimum amount of light may now be in the shade and their color beginning to fade. At the same time, plants that may have been growing in low light may now be getting to much direct sun as the sun's angle begins to change with passing season. This is also a good time to begin noting which of your bromeliads will require some protection from cold weather as winter approaches. If you group those plants together that are cold sensitive, it will be much easier to cover them or bring them indoors when that first arctic blast sweeps through the state!

This month's meeting –



Dr. Terrie Bert is back from last month's conference in Hawaii and ready to educate and entertain us with her series of alphabetically arranged discussions on bromeliad Genera. Her program this year is titled: "The Quietly Riotous Q and R Bromeliads". Don't know what those

bromeliads could be? Well, you will need to attend this month's meeting now, won't you?

Last month's meeting –

Calandra and I weren't here for the meeting, but from what I've heard, it was a good one! Dennis Cathcart of Tropiflora entertained with his tales and photos of hunting for Dyckias in the wilds of Brazil. Great program and Dennis always brings some wonderful plants for sale for those looking to acquire "just a few more plants".

Plant Profile – Meet the Johannis Family

Many bromeliad lovers like to collect the small Neoregelias, the group that resemble small ampules...like Neo. ampullaceae (guess where that name came from?), Neo. lilliputiana (smallest of the Neo. species) and all of those wonderful and colorful hybrids that have been introduced in recent years. The attraction is obvious - they're attractive, take up little space, and can form very interesting hanging baskets as they quickly multiply.



Neoregelia lilliputiana mounted on tree fern fiber.

For those who favor the large specimen plants however, it's tough to beat the Neo. johannis group. These are big plants with wide leaves that can fill a large planter as a single plant or take up a considerable amount of space in the yard when planted as a group. First found in Southern Brazil by Carriere the French horticulturist, chief editor of the Horticultural Revue (Revue Horticole by Andre and, Carriere) and named for one of his collaborators Johann Salier, there is a

great deal of variability in plants labelled as 'Neoregelia johannis'. Although the Bromeliad Binomial lists no varieties of this species, forms commonly seen include Neo. 'Fairchild' (described by Florida's own Dean Fairchild), and Neo. 'DeRolf' (a variegated cultivar resembling 'Fairchild').



Neoregelia johannis 'Fairchild'

Much confusion had existed in the past and continues today regarding these plants since they were incorrectly thought to be a form of Neo. cruenta and seed that had been distributed was often either of hybrid rather than species parentage or the result of accidental crosses.



Neoregelia johannis 'DeRolf'

As with most Neoregelias, the brightest color in the leaves develops as the plant comes into bloom. The rosette of leaves flattens and the compound flower head in the cup becomes very noticeable, producing white flowers, a few at a time. If the flowers in your plant are any color other than white, you have a hybrid and not the true species! Beautiful examples of Neo. johannis can be

seen at Fairchild gardens in Miami and at Selby Gardens in Sarasota.



Bed of *Neo. johannis* at Selby Botanical Gardens.

Another species plant, *Neo. corria-araujoi* resembles *Neo. johannis* in shape and size however it has an attractive mottled pattern in its leaves. There is some question as to whether this may be a hybrid since seedlings produced from this plant often do not run true to the parent. This has led to some labelling the plant as “*Neo. xcorreia araujoi*”



Neoregelia correia-araujoi

We’ll leave this for the taxonomists to sort this one out!

Out and about...

“Now what would Francisco be doing with that chicken?” you might ask. Bromeliad artist Ursula Dudek of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida prepares to take his photo at a scenic overlook in Hawaii called the “Pali Lookout” during the BSI World Conference. This was the site of a monumental battle in 1795 resulting in a great victory for King Kamehameha. For some obscure reason, chickens run loose in

that area while feral cats provide a measure of population control.



FECBS was well represented with 6 club members attending “Bromeliads in Paradise” – the theme for this Conference, which is held in a different location every 2 years. In 2016 – Houston, Texas! Mark your calendars now.



All that’s missing is the theme music from Hawaii 5-0 in this picture taken a short walk from the conference hotel!

Birthdays for October:

Happy Birthday this month to:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Bill McBride | John Quirk |
| Brad Rauch | Carolyn Schoenau |
| Ron Schoenau | Jane Sedelmyer |
| Ray Trzeciak | |

Looking ahead:

October 11, 2014

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies quarterly meeting – hosted by the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society at the home of Susan and Larry Sousa.

October 18, 19, 2014

Plantation's Historical Society's Heritage Park Plant Affair at the corner of Fig Tree Ln and Peters Rd in Plantation. Bromeliad Society of Broward County will be having their annual sale at this event!

October 21, 2014 – 7:00 PM

Annual BSSF Auction
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables (Miami). For more information go to:
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

October 20, 2014

Bromeliad Society of Broward County annual bromeliad auction. 6:30pm at the Deicke Auditorium. 5701 Cypress Rd., Plantation Fl. 33317.

October 25,26, 2014

36th Annual Southwest Bromeliad Guild show and sale in Houston Tx. To be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Houston Intercontinental Airport, 15747 JFK Blvd.. Houston, Texas 77032
For more information, contact Gene Powers (713)-907-7049, powersgw@aol.com, or Allyn Pearlman, (713)-858-3047, deliboy@comcast.net.

November 1-2, 2014

Fall Plant Sale at the Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach. 9-5 Saturday 9-4 Sunday 531 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach

November 7-9, 2014

74th Ramble at Fairchild Gardens in Miami. Plant sale, art, antiques, rare books, food, music. 9:30-4:30 each day.
10901 Old Cutler Rd.

December 6-7, 2014

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society sale at Terry Park
3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Ft. Myers

March 27-29, 2015

Everybody's Flower Show at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach

September 26, 2015

Bromeliad Extravaganza hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. "Bromeliads in the Magic City". More details to follow as they become available, but mark that date on your calendar!

June 13-19, 2016

Start making plans now for the 22nd BSI World Conference hosted by the Houston Bromeliad Society in Houston, Tx. Experience some real Texas hospitality!

