

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

October 2024 Newsletter

Meeting Date: October 13th at 1:30 p.m.

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

October 13th Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on October 13th at 1:30 pm at Colony in the Wood. The speakers will be members Judy Rafter and Iris Graim who will demonstrate how to make a kokedama. They will be bringing many they have made for the raffle (see photos below).

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 is a Kokedama?

Kokedama is a centuries-old Japanese form of garden art that is closely tied to the practice of bonsai. Translating from "koke" meaning moss and "dama" meaning ball, kokedama is the practice of suspending the root ball of a plant in a mud ball that's coated in a sheet of moss. To display, this plant can be secured to a piece of driftwood, placed in a wood bowl, placed in a clear container, or suspended from twine or monofilament fishing line.

The best plants to use are those that are hardy, stay small, grow slowly and prefer low light. Some examples include: anthuriums, asparagus fern, begonia, bromeliads, creeping fig, ivy, peperomia, pothos, rosemary, mint, prayer plant, spider plant, and ferns. Most kokedama plants last 2-3 years before the roots outgrow the moss ball.



Do you know what is the largest bromeliad?

Known as the “Queen of the Andes”, *Puya paimondii* is the largest bromeliad and has one of the largest bromeliad inflorescences. *Puya raimondii* can grow over 30 feet tall and 8 feet across. Its thin leaves with sharp fishhook spines along the margin project straight out from the plant creating a “spiky ball” on the trunk. The flower stalk reaches over 25 feet long and contains thousands of creamy-white flowers about 2 inches wide with bright orange anthers. Blooming occurs over a 3-month period. Unlike most bromeliads, it does not reproduce by pups, only by seed. One article I read said there was a super bloom in 2018 with 100s of plants blooming simultaneously. That must have been a sight to see.

Puya raimondii is an endangered species and is only found in a few places outside its native Andes range in Peru and Bolivia, coming from the cool highlands at about 13,000 feet. It is slow growing and long lived, living past 100 years in its native habitat, and taking about 80 years to flower!!! Another unique characteristic of this *Puya* is its ability to live at high altitudes and face temperatures well below freezing. Scientists have determined that the plant contains a substance in the plant’s sap that acts like antifreeze which enables it to thrive in these high altitudes.

What an amazing plant!

Look in the second photo for a man standing at the base of the plant.



(FCBS Photo Index, photographer Jamie Bush)

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



Neoregelia ‘Martin’
(Jack Dunlop)



Aechmea fasciata
(Marie Fabozzi)



Hohenbergia sp.
(Marinus Grootenboer)



Billbergia pyramidalis
(Marie Fabozzi)



Aechmea sp.
(Paula Marton)



Aechmea blanchettiana 'Lemon'
(Jane Villa-Lobos)



Aechmea fulgens



Jane's new garden
(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 October

Greetings to: Frankie Breslin, Mary Kay Hirsch, Merely Spitzer, Stanley Marye, Pamela Reisen, Lynne Rounseville, Connie Schrider, Ray Trzeciak, and Donna Valerio.

A Little humor from Bill Hazard:

Me running home from a party after taking cuttings from all the plants.



Future Events

Oct. 12

**Fall Artisan Festival
Cedar Lakes Woods
& Gardens**

4990 NE 180th Ave.
Williston
9:30 - 5

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

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