

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, November 13th, 2016 1:30pm.
Colony in the Wood – club house
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

November, 2016

Hurricane Matthew

President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850
Vice President – Rick Ryals 386/679-8700
Secretary – Calandra Thurrott 386/761-4804
Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041

Now there's one visitor that I'm not sorry to see leave! I'm sure that every one of us has at least one interesting story to tell regarding the storm. When it looked as though this hurricane might be packing winds well over 100mph, we move plants around to better protect them, buttoned up our house using a quite ingenious set of storm shutters that we had purchased some years ago and never had occasion to use and headed to SW Florida until the hurricane had cleared the area. By the time we returned, power was back on and our house was intact! The two shade houses...not so much.



An enormous pine tree had fallen and taken down the back ends of both shade houses with it. Still, we were very, very fortunate that what had been forecast to make landfall in Daytona Beach as a Category 4 storm instead brushed the coast with winds up to 80mph(Category 1). That's a very big

difference and you only have to look around at the damage that was inflicted on the east central Florida area to imagine what a Category 4 storm could have done.



The Thurrott's shade house proved no match for a 16" diameter pine tree

Our area seldom is faced with hurricanes since they usually veer off to the east well before nearing our shores, but every decade or so one sneaks through our defenses and our lives are disrupted in preparations before the storm and recovery after its departure. The following are a few things that I've learned regarding such events:

1. I know that it is difficult to leave your home when the threat of a hurricane seems likely, but regardless of how well-built your home may be, you should leave if the winds are expected to exceed 100mph. Hurricane Andrew absolutely devastated South Florida when it struck and virtually every building in

its direct path was severely damaged – you don't want to be inside your home when it begins to come apart!

2. Top off your gas tank if the forecast is for a hurricane to strike within 3 days. Virtually all gas stations around Port Orange were without gas by Tuesday night (Hurricane Matthew was at its closest point on Friday!) as everyone rushed to fill up their tanks and get fuel for generators. The same advice goes for bottled water, batteries, and canned Vienna sausages (must be a lot of hunters and fishermen out there!).

3. Make your decision to flee or stay well before the storm is nearing your area. Waiting until the last minute before leaving ensures that you will be stuck in bumper to bumper traffic as you travel the evacuation routes with hundreds of thousands of your neighbors. Keep in mind that as much as you shouldn't be inside your home when the winds rise above 100mph, you really don't want to be in your car with complaining children, yowling pets and stuck in traffic in the dead of night just as the hurricane force winds reach their peak!

4. Take down all of your hanging pots and plants unless you want to share them with your neighbors. If you run out of protected places to stuff your bromeliads into as you prepare for an approaching storm, I've found that burying the plants in their pots as close to the foundation of your house as you can get results in virtually undamaged plants!



Cryptanthus 'Thriller' survived with no damage by placing the pot near the foundation of the house.

4. Your electricity will be off for an undetermined amount of time...it just will. Deal with it.

5. The most dangerous time for you and your family often occurs after the storm leaves the area. This is when the clean-up begins and most storm-related accidents occur. If you have never operated a chain saw before, what makes you think you will be an expert in its operation now? Leave the tree removal to the experts. If your power has been out for several days and suddenly comes back on, now is not the time to add mayonnaise from that jar in the back of your refrigerator to your sandwich!

6. This too will pass. Things will return to normal once again – give it time and have a little patience. It will be sorely needed during this time of recovery.

And finally, remember that bromeliads are remarkably resilient. They may look a bit beat up and not likely to win any prizes for appearance, but they'll soon form new leaves to make up for some of the damaged ones, and then will begin producing pups that with a little bit of care will mature to look even better than that one you were so concerned about!



Is it a hedgehog? A sea urchin? No, it's *Ananas lucidus* after Hurricane Matthew passed by – nothing a little bit of cleaning won't take care of!



The FECBS logo – time for an update?

Way back in 1993 (April 25, 1993 to be exact!) the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society had their very first meeting at Sugar Mill Gardens in Port Orange and soon after that a professional artist was hired to produce several possible choices for a logo for the new club. At a meeting that same year a vote was called for, the emblem that you see at the end of each of the newsletters was selected from the array of drafts that were submitted for the club to review, and the rest as they say, is history. That artwork was fine in its day, but today if you look closely you can see that the resolution of the image is not very good, particularly when it is enlarged.



Portion of the club logo – it all begins to get a bit fuzzy when blown up.

I've also received a few comments that it would be nice if our logo had something to identify it – like the initials "FECBS" and maybe the date when the club was first formed? What are your thoughts on this matter? Do we have any artistic types out there willing to try their hand at updating our logo? Or should we simply turn it over to a graphics firm and have them work their magic? Let's hear from you at our next meeting. Maybe we can unveil a new and improved logo by the first of the new year!

This Month's meeting – Mounting Competition.

Last month's meeting was wisely cancelled because Matthew was lurking off our coastline. Colony in the Wood was particularly badly hit by the storm with many downed trees and damaged homes. Power had still not been restored to this area many days after the storm had cleared and it will be many days more before the residents' nerves begin to calm. We'll try to reschedule the hummingbird program for next year and will let you know well in advance!

I hope that you haven't forgotten about the contest for most unusual mounted bromeliad. Bring your projects in to the meeting this month and we'll let the membership decide the winners! Last year we had some really unusual entries and I expect even more this year!



Barnacles provide a nice mount for these small Neos. in last year's competition.



Last year's entry: Neoregelia 'Wee Willy' set in a piece of bamboo root.

Next Month's meeting –

Christmas party! Once again we will plan on having a party with lots of terrific food...that is, if you would be willing to bring some. Just like in years past, the club will provide the venue, the meat, drinks, and tableware and we're asking you to bring a side-dish. Now, that can be anything that you like to prepare but let's not all bring the same thing!

President's message –



Star date 30th October 2016. Hurricane Matthew passed three weeks ago. Power is on, cell reception restored, firewood of all kinds available...still...at least in my neighborhood. Yes, it's piled high and wide but we have been given the "it will be gone by December" sign. December?!? Well, I know the "Mad Max" trucks are working 12 hours a day and yes, there was a lot of debris and really I can't complain because we dodged the proverbial bullet. It could have been devastating and was forecast to be so much worse. And by that, I mean the presidential election could be another six months from now. Iiiiiieeeee....stop the madness - I can't take it anymore. It's become sooo ridiculous that I came up with a few promises that any candidate could waltz right into the White House with 100% of the vote....at least from Bromeliad club members.

- *Pass comprehensive immigration law that allows bromeliads from all corners of the world a "path to citizenship".*
- *Build on Obamacare by advancing toward the goal of Universal Bromeliad ownership. It's a proven fact that owning a bromeliad helps reduce one's stress level much more than a pet rock.*
- *Campaign finance reform - specifically limiting the amount of money super PAC (Puya Aechmea,*

Catopsis) can spend. This lobby has just become too large and powerful. It's time for the little guys like Araeococcus, Encholirum and Cryptanthus to have a say!

- *Fight for equal pay. Why should you pay more for an Alcantarea imperialis than a Neoregelia 'Willy Nilly'? After all, they're equal in God's eyes.*
- *Expand background checks to make sure Tillandsia's, Neoregelias, Cryptanthus and other Genera have come from a reputable source so that no "evil weevil" can slip in.*
- *Increase Federal infrastructure funding so that proper greenhouses are in place. No more having to use frost cloths or shuttling plants into the garage or onto the porch for damaging frosts and freezes.*
- *Build a wall of Puya along the southern border. Enough said....ain't no one or nothing getting through that!*
- *Get rid of Common Core. Why would you want to core your Ananas anyway? Sure, it's a little tougher to chew but more roughage never hurt anyone, right?*
- *Pick Supreme Court Justices who are competent, seasoned growers of many cultivars and won't be biased when judging bromeliad shows whether local or international.*
- *Be unpredictable....Oh Look! A chicken!!*

There you have it! A positive platform that all can live with even those who don't know what a bromeliad is. Seriously, I hope the storm damage that you experienced was minimal and yes, we truly were spared. But December???

- Bill

Birthdays for November:

Happy Birthday to the following FECBS members:

Roberta Anderson	Harriet Herrin
John Hiatt	Jean Hochdoerfer
Bryan Manion	Theresa Pavel
Marilyn Rauch	Susan Rowley

Out and about –



Neoregelia 'Imperfecta' entry at recent bromeliad show in Sarasota.

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the Sarasota Bromeliad Society's bromeliad show. I always enjoy having the opportunity as a show judge to closely observe the entries in bromeliad shows. Often these include new hybrids that I haven't seen before as well as some of the old favorites that, for whatever reason, seem to have fallen out of favor. A case in point is the plant shown above – Neoregelia 'Imperfecta'. This is a Chester Skotak hybrid that was first registered over 25 years ago. Many of Skotak's creations have names that you could refer to as "tongue-in-cheek" – this one being no exception! It seems that many more years ago a variegated offset of Neoregelia carolinae 'Marechalii' was discovered and eventually not only registered as Neoregelia 'Perfecta Tricolor' (a reference to the very stable and attractive variegation), but patented as well! What does that mean? Technically, it is not legal to remove and sell offsets from 'Perfecta Tricolor' without authorization from the patent holder. Of course having patent restrictions and

enforcing them are two different things – the result being that you can often find Neoregelia 'Perfecta Tricolor' on sales tables and it is doubtful that authorization had been obtained from the patent holder. Still, it's an interesting situation and one that no doubt prompted Skotak to come up with the name for his own variegated carolinae hybrid.



Photo of Neoregelia 'Perfecta Tricolor' courtesy of BSI Cultivar Registry

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 to cajat@aol.com or mail to Jay Thurrott, 713 Breckenridge Dr., Port Orange Fl. 32127

Looking ahead:

October 29th, 2016

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies meeting hosted by the Central Florida Bromeliad Society. Our club is scheduled to provide a chairman for this organization next year.

November 4-5, 2016

Mead Botanical Garden "GrowVember" Sale Multiple vendors (including Brom. Society of Central Florida). 1500 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park 32789

December 3-4, 2016

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society sale
W. Fla Florida Masonic Temple
10868 Metro Parkway
Ft. Myers, Fl
For more information contact by email: Dr.
Larry@comcast.net

February 4th, 5th, 2017

GardenFest! Riverside Park in Vero Beach
15th Annual GardenFest hosted by the Indian
River Garden Club. 90 vendors and attended
by over 20,000 visitors last year – you should
probably be one of them this year!

May 19-21, 2017(tentative date)

Bromeliad Society of South Florida annual
show and sale

**Note these changes from last month's
newsletter (the dates and the venue for the
Extravaganza have changed)!!!**

August 4, 5, 6 2017

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies'
Extravaganza – hosted by the Bromeliad
Guild of Tampa Bay at the Clarion Hotel
located at 2701 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa FL
33612. Room rate \$75 with free parking
Registration fee is \$125, includes a barbecue
on Friday night and banquet on Saturday
night. You won't want to miss this one!

May 29 – June 3, 2018

BSI World Bromeliad Conference in San
Diego, California
Plan now for what is sure to be an exciting
event!
More information to follow as it becomes
available....

