

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

This month's meeting is November 14th

November, 2021

Colony in the Wood

4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange

1:30 p.m.

Co-Presidents – Jack Dunlop and Chuck Mamale

386/317-0054 386/402-4830

Vice President – Bill Hazard 386/882-3850

Secretary – Ruth Gessner 386/767-3499

Treasurer – Eve Krauth 386/871-1041

Don't miss the November 14th meeting!



We are honored to have Grant Groves as our speaker this month. Grant started growing bromeliads at an early age and made his first hybrid when he was in high school. He worked for Bert Foster and managed

his tropical arts nursery for 21 years. In the 80s Grant and Bert developed some of the early Neoregelia hybrids such as 'Grace' and 'Passion'. Then Grant started his own business, Color Zone Tropicals, in Winter Haven growing mostly commercial Guzmanias for the interiorscape market. After 20 years he sold the nursery to pursue other hobbies. We are thrilled to have him speak with us this month!

Show and tell, plant raffle and door prizes will also be a part of the meeting. Drinks and

food will be provided by the members whose birthdays are this month, but others are welcome to share their treats too.

---Jack Dunlop

Programs for next year

We would like ideas from our members on what types of programs you would like to have next year. Are there any speakers from years past you would like to hear again? Any new speakers? All ideas would be greatly appreciated. Send to: Bill Hazard at bhaz876@gmail.com.

Renew your membership!

Eve will start taking renewal of your dues for 2022 starting this month. Individual: \$15, Family: \$20. Cash or make checks payable to FECBS. Bring to meeting or mail to: Eve Krauth, 148 Grebe Ct., Daytona Beach, 32119.

Holiday Luncheon

This month be sure to sign-up for what dish you plan on bringing to our holiday luncheon, Dec. 12.

Blooming Freedom

Last month Jack purchased the bromeliads for bingo at Blooming Freedom, 3993 SW Leighton Farms Ave., Palm City, FL. www.bloomingfreedom.co. For those of you who won plants check out their photo gallery for possible identification of your plants.

Monthly Feature:

Tillandsia: This is the largest genus in the bromeliad family and is indigenous to South and Central America and southern parts of the United States. The genus was first described by Carl Linnaeus in 1755 honoring Dr. E. Tillandsia, a Swedish botanist. Some of the most familiar species are Spanish moss (*T. usneoides*) and ball moss (*T. recurvata*). This genus is mostly epiphytic growing on bark, branches, rocks and even telephone wires! However, of the 650 known species, 15 grow terrestrially, such as *T. krukoffiana* (below).



(Bill Hazard)

Tillandsia leaves are covered with specialized cells (trichomes) capable of rapidly absorbing water and nutrients that gather on them. Plants with soft, green to gray-green leaves require high humidity,

frequent watering and prefer shaded areas. Plants with stiff, gray or gray-white leaves require more light and less watering. They do not have a center tank for holding water like other bromeliads. These air plants prefer temperatures in the 70s or above, and most can withstand near freezing.

They require three conditions for good growth: bright light, good air circulation and water. If you have your air plants inside it is recommended to water them 2-3 times a week and outdoor 3-4 times a week. Never use softened water as it contains too much salt content. You can soak your plants and then lay them upside down to drain, so the water does not settle in the center which will cause rotting. If the edges of the leaves curl you know they are dry. Just misting your plants occasionally is not sufficient.

If you want to promote blooming and reproduction, fertilize your plants with a water-soluble fertilizer at ¼ strength from March to October. Once your plant blooms it begins to produce offsets that become new plants in 1-2 years. Flower color ranges from white, pink, and orange to blue-purple. Some are fragrant like *T. crocata* and *T. duratii*.

Since Tillandsias do not require soil to grow and flourish, they can be displayed in many ways. You can mount them on cork, driftwood, rocks, etc. To firmly attach the plants you can use Liquid nails, fishing line, zip ties, velcro, telephone wire or floral wire. Just make sure you do NOT use copper wire as copper is toxic to bromeliads. Eventually the plant will attach roots to the substrate and you can remove the fastener if you wish.

There are 12 Tillandsia species and two natural hybrids native to Florida. Many are threatened. *T. fasciculata* and *T. utriculata* are highly endangered because of the Mexican bromeliad weevil which attacks medium and large bromeliads. The larvae mine the meristem tissue, killing the plant.

Bromeliads are important to Florida's ecosystem and crucial to the survival of other

species. Up to 15 invertebrates species depend on bromeliads for habitat, living in the water collected at the base of the leaves.

Some of Jane Villa-Lobos' air plants



T. ionantha



T. bulbosa



T. neglecta



T. ionantha var. *mexicana* (Jillian Ragia)



Charlotte Mueller's displays



(Bill Hazard)



Hedy Quirk's lanai

Next month:

Next month we will explore *Vriesea*, *Werauhia*, *Wittrockia*, and *Wittmackia*, so please send me photos of your plants **by the end of the month. Thank you!**

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

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 Jane at saravillalobos387@gmail.com or mail to Jane Villa-Lobos, 29 Clearview Ct. North, Palm Coast, FL 32137.

Videos to Watch:

The Internet is a wealth of information and in this section each month I will include some videos I find interesting. Send me yours!

There are numerous videos on caring for air plants. Here are a few.

Debra Lee Baldwin - *Tillandsia* (air plants) care and design.

Mountain Crest Gardens - Air Plants (*Tillandsia*) 101 - care tips and fun facts! Also videos on individual species.

Paul Isley -Rain Forest Flora - Tilly talks, individual species, mounting.

Summer Rayne Oakes - *Tillandsia xerographica* - houseplant care.

Birthdays for November:

Greetings to these members:

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|------------------|---------------|
| Roberta Anderson | John Hiatt |
| Jean Hochdoefer | Marilyn Rauch |
| Susan Rowley | John Walter |



Looking ahead:

November 5-6

GROWvember Plant Sale

Mead Botanical Garden
1500 S. Denning Dr.
Winter Park. Fri. 2 pm - 6 pm; Sat. 8am -4 pm
<http://www.meadgarden.org>

November 13-14

Mount Dora Plant & Garden Fair

Donnelly Park, Mount Dora
Sat. 9 am -5 pm; Sun. 9 am - 4 pm

December 4-5

**Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society
Sale at Edison/Ford Winter Estates**

2350 McGregor Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL
Sat. 9 am - 4 pm; Sun. 10 am - 3pm

2022

March 26-27

**Bromeliad Society of South Florida
Plant Sale**

Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden
10901 Old Cutler Rd.
Coral Gables, FL
9:30 am - 4:30 pm

June 8-12, 2022

24th World Bromeliad Conference

Hyatt Regency Sarasota
Sarasota, FL

www.bsi.org

Don't miss the great line-up of speakers from Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, New Zealand, The Netherlands, California, Ohio, Florida. Bus trips to Michael's Bromeliads and Tropiflora. Plant Sale and Rare Plant Auction. Register on-line now!

