

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

December 2024 Newsletter

Party Date: December 8th at 3 p.m.

**Location: Myrna Moore, 3016 S. Peninsula Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32118**

December 8th Holiday Party



Myrna Moore has once again invited the club to her home for our Christmas Party on Sunday, December 8 at 3 pm. Address: 3016 S. Peninsula Dr., Daytona Beach. Her home is located about halfway between the Port Orange and Orange Ave. bridges on the East side of the Halifax River. Phone is 386-295-9280.

There will be attendants to assist with parking.

Turkey, ham and drinks will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. There will be a voluntary gift exchange (something for use in the garden or a bromeliad or other plant). Bring a gift (under \$20) to get a gift. Gifts should be wrapped so no one knows what is in the package. This year the club decided to have a “Chinese” gift exchange. Rules will be explained at the party.

On behalf of the club, I would like to thank Myrna for graciously hosting the party.

See you there. - Jack

Now is the time to acclimate bromeliads to the sun.

Mike McMahon, president of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, provides tips to all bromeliad enthusiasts. (Reprinted from the BSCF Nov.-Dec. newsletter).

Now is the best time of year [in Florida] for acclimating a sun-tolerant brom. From the end of October through late February the sun is not as intense, and temperatures are lower. Here are some useful tips:

1. Make sure the bromeliad you want to acclimate has well-developed roots. Newly separated pups that have not become established should not be moved from shade to sun. Some may make the transition, but often it is just too much stress.
2. Take it slow. The adaptation process requires exposing the plant little by little to more sun. Start with about 2 hours of direct sun in the morning. After a couple weeks, move the plant to a spot that gets about 4 hours of direct sun. If the leaves start getting yellow or color is fading, move the plant back to less sun and start over. Continue the process until the plant is in the permanent location you have chosen.

3. For some bromeliads in direct sun, it is best that they not be watered when the sun is shining on them. Little burn spots can appear where water drops magnify sun intensity. For some, this is not a problem. Until you know your plant, it is best not to water when they are in full sun. Water in the morning before the sun is shining on them or in the late afternoon when the sun is lower.

4. Remember, most bromeliads prefer filtered light. Many cannot take much direct sun no matter how slowly you try to acclimate them. Even many that will tolerate full sun prefer some filtering for best color.

5. Not all sunny locations are full sun all year. During the winter months the sun is lower in the sky and reaches under the overhang of many trees. When the sun is higher during the summer months, the ground below trees will be much shadier. Your brom may be thriving in full winter sun under some palms but might not do well if placed where it receives full sun in July.

6. Not all full sun locations are the same. Your brom may have done well in full sun surrounded by lawn, but that does not mean it will like being moved to a spot next to the reflective surface of a white stucco wall and beside a heat-retentive asphalt drive. The extra intensity and heat may be too much during a long hot Florida summer.

7. Different people mean different things when they say a bromeliad can take full sun. They may mean that a couple of hours of direct sun is OK. Or, they may say "It loves full sun" but have only ever grown the plant where it receives a half-day of direct sun. The list of bromeliads that will thrive in full, direct sun from sunrise to sunset is rather short. *Neoregelia carcharodon*, *Neoregelia cruenta*, *Aechmea blanchetiana*, *Ananas* (pineapples), *Dyckia* and *Hechtia* are the reliable ones. Most so-called 'full sun bromeliads' are like *Alcantarea imperialis*. It looks its best with lots of direct sun during the winter months, and during the hot months may look great getting some direct sun for part of the day, but full, direct sun all day during the hot months will leave it looking worn out with dull, bleached color, if not actual burn spots. When someone tells you a bromeliad will grow in full sun, ask them how many hours of direct sun their plant receives, and what time of day. Let that be your guide.

A lot of folks do not have the luxury of having a shadehouse with the shade cloth being the perfect density for the species they grow. Finding the best spot in the garden can require a bit of experimenting. If your space is all sun, just take it slow.



Neoregelia cruenta



Neoregelia carcharodon 'Rainbow'



Alcantarea imperialis 'Julieta'

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



Billbergia sp.
(Judy Rafter)



Billbergia 'Casa Blanca'
(Judy Rafter)



Billbergia 'Fiesta'
(Jane Villa-Lobos)



Janet Correia's *Dyckia* garden



Cryptanthus 'Pickle' (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 December

Greetings to: Joan Aeschbach, Christophe Cardot, Jack Dunlop, Shelly Hansen, Sudi Hipsley, Marsha Tucholski, and Sandi Wirth.

Future Events

December 1- January 7, 2025

Holiday Blooms

Leu Gardens
1920 N. Forest Ave.
Orlando

December 7-8

Bromeliad Sale by

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Edison & Ford Winter Estate

2350 McGregor Blvd.

Fort Myers

Sat.: 9-5; Sun.: 9-4

December 14

Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical

Plant Society (small bromeliad sale)

Nehrling Gardens

2267 Hempel Ave.

Gotha

9-3

Co-Presidents - Jack Dunlop 386-317-0054

Chuck Mamele 386-402-4830

Vice President - Bill Hazard 386-882-3850

Secretary - Ruth Gessner 386-767-3499

Treasurer - Eve Krauth 386-871-1041

