

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – 1:30p.m.

Mar. 2007

## Field Trip!

**President – Bradley Rauch** – 386/767-8937

**Vice President – Nina Leggett** - 386/673-0550

**Secretary – Joan Campbell**

**Treasurer – Jim O’Shaughnessy** - 386/253-0335

### **This month’s meeting...**

A survey of our membership a couple of years ago revealed that club members had quite an interest in visiting each other’s houses to view their bromeliad collections and see how everyone addressed those common problems that we all face - things like space considerations, potting mixes, placement of plants in the landscape, light considerations, etc. Club member Louise Dianto has graciously invited our group to tour her garden in Port Orange this month, so we are planning to meet there directly rather than at our usual meeting place.

Here are the directions to her home at **6189 Half Moon Dr.** A map can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

From the North or the West: 1. Take I-95 south from Daytona Beach to the Port Orange exit. There is a traffic light at the base of the exit. 2. Turn left (to the East) at this light onto Dunlawton Ave. Take Dunlawton East to the traffic light at Spruce Creek Rd. (this is just a few streets before you cross the railroad tracks) 3. Turn right onto Spruce Creek Rd. and head South. 4. You will cross Nova Rd. (S.R.5A - there is a traffic light at the intersection) and as you continue, you will also cross Taylor Rd. (another traffic light). 5. Continue South on Spruce Creek Rd. to Moon Rise Dr. which will be on your right and on the opposite side of the road from Riverwood. 6. Turn right on Moon Rise and Left on Half Moon Dr. You’re there!

From the South or the East: 1. Find your way to Dunlawton Ave. in Port Orange. 2. Turn onto Dunlawton and head West. 3. After you cross the railroad tracks, turn left at the traffic light onto Spruce Creek Rd. and head South. Follow directions 4 -6 above.

### **Dues for the 2007 – Last Call!**

After this month if you don’t receive the FECBS newsletter it will be because **YOU DIDN’T PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES!**

Don’t let this happen to you – send a check, money order or some other form of legal tender (livestock and garden vegetables may not be accepted) to our Treasurer as soon as possible to ensure uninterrupted membership.

### **Everybody’s Flower Show**

This event is rapidly approaching, so please, take a few moments to go through your collection and see if there aren’t a few plants there that might be of interest to the public. There are a lot of potential new club members out there and all we have to do is to picque their interest a little at a show like this to get them to come to our meetings. Many of us have been involved in the Ocean Center show before, so the following should be nothing new. For those of you who are entering plants for the first time, entries should be brought to the Daytona Beach Ocean Center on Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup>. The place is a madhouse on entry day, so please, be patient with everyone- a little courtesy goes a long way. You will need to bring your plants to the East entrance to the

Ocean Center (that is the one facing A1A – Atlantic Ave.). Each plant needs to have a green entry card filled out (in pencil, so mistakes can be easily corrected) to let the judges and the public know what plant they are looking at, what category the plant is entered in, and, at the close of the show – who the plant belongs to. It sounds difficult, but it's really not. I will be there and can help you with the entry process. If you don't see me right away, don't be alarmed. There's a lot of activity going on in the building simultaneously and I'm probably around somewhere nearby. Just ask at the registration desk.

Need help getting your plants to the show and/or back to your house after the show? Speak up at this month's meeting and we'll arrange for pick up and delivery of your entries.

Let's hit our goal of every club member entering at least one plant at this show. And remember, this is an open horticulture show – you don't have to just enter bromeliads. Do have you a favorite fern that you've nurtured and are proud of? A carefully cultivated cactus? A handsome hanging basket? This is your chance to show off what your hobby is all about!

**The Volusia County Master Gardener's Spring Sale** is on March 31<sup>st</sup> this year and if you haven't taken part in this in the past, let me just say that this is really a fun event and one that brings money into our treasury with very little effort on anyone's part! Once again, we have been invited to have a sales area for bromeliads. There are quite a lot of vendors at this event, but only one vendor is invited per family of plant offered for sale. In other words, there will be one orchid vendor, one rose vendor, one herb vendor and one bromeliad vendor (that's us!). What a great way to get rid of all of those extra plants that you hate to throw away, but are taking up too much room in your collection! Those of us who have been baby-sitting Richard Temples plants are looking forward to bringing a wide selection of his plants for sale to benefit the club. Just like at a judged show, the plants that you bring for sale must be clean, in a clean pot, clearly labelled with the plant's name and a second tag in the pot

with the price you wish to charge and your name (or other identification, so we know who to give 75% of the proceeds to). This is only a half day event, so don't arrive late! The gates open to the public at 9am, so you should get there no later than 8 to help with the set up. If you haven't been to this event before, you'll be amazed at the variety of plants for sale at very, very reasonable prices. Don't forget your wallet and leave plenty of room in your car – there's something here for every plant hobbyist, no matter what your favorites may be!

**The New Australian Book** order has been placed and it looks like the final purchase price will be a little more than \$16.50 per copy and a little less than \$17.00 per copy. Our club has ordered a total of 20 copies and I will make arrangements to pick them up as soon as I hear that they have been received. One copy will be for the club library, leaving the other 19 for individual purchase. Don't hold your breath though – it might be a couple of months or more before they come in. We'll let you know when they're here and will have them available for purchase at a club meeting. Here's the catch: there are more club members interested in purchasing books than available books, so it will be "first come, first served". That probably means that whoever is present at the first club meeting after the books are received will get a book... and that means that you will need to be sure you are present at all future club meetings to be sure that you don't miss out on this opportunity. What a great way to increase attendance at our meetings!

#### **Culture Tip for the Month**

If I had to chose a single favorite among all bromeliads, I would probably have to think about it for a long time before coming up with an answer. Usually, whatever is blooming at the moment is my favorite and then that favorite falls into disfavor as the bloom fades and I survey the collection for my next favorite. I think I would have to say though, that the Aechmea orlandiana group – and this would include all of the Ae. orlandiana cultivars as well as Aechmea fosteriana, and the hugely successful result of their cross: Aechmea "Bert" would be up near the

top of my “short list”. This group has always interested me and I’ve always had pretty good luck in keeping them alive and healthy, but I’ve often been told of problems that hobbyists run into when they try to grow these bromeliads. Whenever I hear of this, my first question is “are you growing this plant in a pot?” I lost my share of *Ae. orlandianas* too until I began mounting them on wood. If you examine these plants closely, you will note that they have very thick woody stolons that frequently emerge from pots in strange places as though they are trying to escape the potting mix. They may be telling you something!

The Bromeliad Society of Australia’s book Growing Bromeliads says it best by noting that this group of *Aechmeas* not only grow well as mounted subjects, but that “they seem to have a preference for this form of culture.” Need further proof that this is the way to display these *Aechmeas*? During a recent visit to the late John Anderson’s nursery in Corpus Christi I noted a large number of *Aechmea orlandiana* ‘Ensign’s...all nailed through their stolons to wooden green house supports and all doing just fine!

**Stolon of *Aechmea Orlandiana* ‘Ensign’ nailed to greenhouse support**



**Looking Ahead – club activities**

Our Vice-President Nina Leggett has been very busy lining up programs for this year. I know that all of you like to plan your entire lives around the FECBS club meeting schedule, so here is a tentative list of programs for the rest of this year:

**March 11** - Clubmember Garden Tour-Louise Dianto

**April 22** – Basics of bromeliads workshop (note the date of April 22<sup>nd</sup> due to Easter falling on 8<sup>th</sup>.)

**May 13** – to be announced

**June 10** – Clubmember Garden Tour – Phil & Betty Dollar

**July 8** – Growing bromeliads from seed workshop

**August 12** – Fun with mounting workshop

**September 9** – Fieldtrip to bromeliad nursery

**October 14** – Guest speaker Terrie Bert

**November 11** – Clubmember Garden Tour – Jay & Calandra Thurrott

**December 9** – Christmas party and Plant exchange