

The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, April 10th, 1:30p.m.

Colony in the Wood – club house

4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

April, 2011

April Showers!

President – Bradley Rauch – 386/767-8937

Vice President – Rick Ryals – 386/679-8700

Secretary – Eretta Morris – 386/677-9557

Treasurer – Eve Krauth – 386/763-2084

Probably not –

Regardless of what the rhyme says, April traditionally is a dry month in this area. It's a little too late in the year for those cold fronts that are preceded by rain and it's a little too early for the afternoon thunderstorms that we become accustomed to in the Summertime. I don't usually spend a lot of time during the year watering my bromeliads. In the Summer the frequent rains pretty much take care of that and in the Winter they don't really need that much water. It's in the Springtime though that I take pity on them and turn the sprinkler system on at least once a week. The humidity is often fairly low during this time of year and it can get quite windy –combined, plants can become dessicated very quickly. Perfect conditions for another nickname for Spring in Central Florida – the Fire Season! In fact, we really have three distinct seasons: Fire Season, Hurricane Season, and the Killing Cold Season...or at least that's how the news media tend to present it.

This month's meeting –

The topic for discussion this month is the letter C. I'm pretty sure that there aren't a lot of us growing varieties of *Catopsis*, although I find this to be a very interesting little Genus. Instead we'll have a discussion and Show and Tell centered around that other Genus

beginning with "C" – that much maligned group, the *Cryptanthus*. Maybe it's their lack of a showy inflorescence?...but then you could say the same for *Neoregelias*. Or, maybe it's the name itself – it doesn't roll off the tongue nicely like the Genus *Tillandsia* or *Aechmea*. And, there's that puzzlement over the plural of the name. What should you call two or more plants from this group – are they *Cryptanthuses*, *Cryptanthie*, or simply *Crypts*? That last choice has a negative connotation in itself – as a grower of these little plants, are you now a "*Crypt Keeper*"? For whatever the reason, I hear Genus-related slurs directed toward the *Cryptanthus* family more often than any other group in the Bromeliaceae family. Sometimes you hear it at a sales table "oh, that's just a *Cryptanthus* – what other bromeliads do you have for sale?" and sometimes it's from an experienced bromeliad grower "that's just a *Cryptanthus* - that's not a *real* bromeliad". It's enough to give a *Crypt-Keeper* an inferiority complex! Despite it all, this group of bromeliads (yes, a *Cryptanthus* is a real bromeliad!) enjoys a growing following among bromeliad enthusiasts and I think we're all looking forward to the International *Cryptanthus* Show at the Plaza Hotel in Daytona Beach on November 5th of this year.

Last Call for Membership Renewals!

As much as we'd like to, we just can't meet our expenses without your contribution in the form of annual dues. We're not talking a lot of money here – the yearly dues for a single member are just \$10! So, dig down into your pocket, take out that crumpled ten dollar bill and gratefully hand it over to our Treasurer to ensure that you continue to enjoy the benefits of membership in the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society...otherwise, this may be your last newsletter!

FECBS needs you!...and your plants –

That's right, the Master Gardener's Spring Fair will be on Saturday, April 2nd at the Volusia County Fair Grounds in Deland. This is our one fund raiser each year and for it to be a success we need lots of nice bromeliads to sell and we need a few helping hands to sell those plants. This is also a great opportunity to talk with potential new club members as they select plants to purchase from our booth. It's really a fun event and it's only a half day – so even if you don't feel comfortable helping out at our booth, come on out and browse the many other booths that usually sell everything from native plants to roses, to fruit trees! As in past years, our rules for the sale remain the same: we want clean, healthy plants with two tags on each one. Be sure to check to see that there is no scale on the plants or they will be rejected for sale! One tag should have the name of the plant and the other must have the price clearly marked, in whole dollar amounts (please, no \$1.99 specials!). You, as owner of the plant, will receive 80% of proceeds if that plant is sold and the club receives 20%. Or, if you would like, you can donate 100% of the sales price to the club – what better and easier way to get rid of your excess plants and show your support for FECBS! Need help getting your plants to the fairgrounds? Ask one of your officers and I'm sure that arrangements can be made to accommodate you. So, mark your calendar now for April 2nd, tell all of your friends to be sure to be there early if they want to buy the best plants and start setting

those plants aside now for the sale. If you have any questions or need directions on how to get to the fairgrounds, be sure to ask one of the officers at this month's meeting.

Upcoming Events:

April 2nd, 2011

Spring Master Gardener's sale at the Volusia County Fairgrounds. Be sure to mark this on your calendars – it's a ½ day sale and FECBS's sole fundraiser for the year!

April 2nd and 3rd, 2011

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Show and Sale in conjunction with Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs Show
2629 Bayshore Boulevard, Tampa, Florida.

April 10th, 2011

Annual Open House - Blossom World Gardens. Sunday April 10th 9 AM to 4 PM. Blossom World Gardens will host its annual Open House on Sunday, April 10th from 9 AM to 4 PM. The event is held at 4225 Bloom Lane, Sanford, Fl. Plants for sale will include bromeliads, orchids, ferns, aroids and other tropical plants. There is no admission charge. For more information please call Bud Martin, 321.363.7351 or Email martin5693@bellsouth.net

April 16th and 17th, 2011

South Florida Bromeliad Society show and sale at Fairchild Gardens in Miami

April 16th and 17th, 2011

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Spring plant sale

April 16th and 17th, 2001

16th Annual Flower & Garden Expo at the St. Johns County Agricultural Center located conveniently near Exit # 318 off of I-95,

Teresa Andrews at St. Augustine. Contact (904) 829-2273, ext. 46 for details.

April 30th and May 1st, 2011

Sarasota Bromeliad Society show and sale at Selby Gardens in Sarasota

May 6-May 8, 2011

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida annual Mother's Day Show and sale

May 19-22, 2011

Florida Native Plant Society 31st Annual Conference and plant sale in Maitland. Call 321-271-6702 for details

May 21st, 2011

BSI annual Board of Directors meeting – the Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach

November 4th, 5th, 2011

Bromeliad Extravaganza "The Art of Bromeliads" hosted by FECBS! The Plaza hotel in Daytona Beach

**BROMELIAD SHOW & SALE
36th ANNUAL
MAY 6-8, 2011**

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Annual Show at **Orlando Fashion Square Mall**, 3201 E. Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL 407-896-1131

Hundreds of bromeliads will compete for awards. Hundreds more will be for sale. Come spend Mother's Day weekend with us:

Fri. May 6	10 am - 9 pm
Sat. May 7	10 am - 9 pm
Sun. May 8	11 am - 6 pm

SPREAD THE WORD – BRING YOUR FRIENDS! FREE!



Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society

Annual Spring Plant Sale

Saturday and Sunday April 16-17, 2011

9am to 4pm both days



Huge selection of
bromeliads in
many genera:

Orchids

Aroids

Gingers
other tropical plants

plus...

Gift Baskets

Hand Crafted Slat

Baskets in several sizes

The Garden Club of Sanford

Members will be available to answer your questions.

Free admission & Free parking- Shop in air-conditioned comfort.

The Garden Club of Sanford is located at 200 Fairmont Drive off 17-92 (Orlando Avenue), one block south of Lake Mary Boulevard, Sanford, Florida. This location is about one mile from (the SR 417 (Greenway) exit onto Lake Mary Blvd, and about 4 miles east of the I-4 exit onto Lake Mary Blvd. Signs will be posted near the Garden Club.

Event questions: 407-539-4314