

# The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Next meeting Sunday, August 14th, 1:30p.m.  
Colony in the Wood – club house  
4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange 32129

August, 2011

## Summer is Really Here!

**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**

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### **Probably by the time this goes to print...**

...the weather pattern will have changed again (when Mark Twain said “if you don’t like the weather in New England, just wait a few minutes” he could just have easily substituted “Florida” for “New England” and still been correct) but so far this Summer we’ve had lots of rain, lots of humidity, and lots of sun. This may make it a bit uncomfortable to work outside with your collection, but that same combination spells near perfect conditions for growing bromeliads. This is the time of year when nearly anything stuck into the ground will sprout roots and grow (be careful you don’t stand in one place too long!) and it can be very tempting to simply sit back and observe the phenomenal growth rates that are going on right now for some plants, but these conditions will soon come to an end. Fall is on its way and those same amounts of rain that our plants are happily dealing with now can become a problem as the days shorten, temperatures drop (maybe not a *lot*, but they will decrease) and the amount of light striking their leaves drops off. Now is an excellent time to be removing and potting up offsets that have developed on your bromeliads – particularly for your Neoregelias. The rule of thumb in this area of the state is to remove

Neoregelia pups no later than the end of September. If you go past September, you will probably have better success waiting until next Spring for this chore.

### **This month’s meeting**

We’re still skipping through the alphabet in our discussion of various bromeliad Genera. Last month we discussed Hechtias and Orthophytums. This month we’re going to cover the Neoregelias and are very fortunate to have Tom Wolfe visiting us to talk about this interesting family of plants. Tom been involved with bromeliads both as a hobby and commercially since the 1960s and joined the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay in 1965. In the years to follow he has held many positions in the Guild including serving as President six times! Tom has been a long-time supporter of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, having been involved in it since its beginning and has served as Chairman to that organization multiple times (Tom is currently Chairman of the Council). At the national level he has served on the Bromeliad Society International Board of Directors for 14 years and has held the positions of Director, Secretary, 6 years as Vice President and 6 years as President. While Vice President, Tom

was General Chairman of the successful 1992 World Bromeliad Conference, “Bromeliad Safari”, hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. Tom became an accredited BSI Bromeliad Judge in 1982. He has judged numerous bromeliad shows throughout the country and is now a Master Judge. Not content to be involved in just bromeliads, Tom has played an active role in garden clubs in the Tampa area and, most recently, in orchid societies. Tom and his wife Carol grow tropical plants on their 2.5 acres of land and greenhouses in Lutz – in the Tampa area. In his years in the landscape business, he has become an expert on the best bromeliads to use in particular settings, small and large, sunny and shaded. He has designed and installed many residential and commercial landscapes featuring bromeliads. Tom is in demand as a speaker throughout Florida and the United States presenting programs on bromeliads to Garden Clubs, Bromeliad Clubs, and at the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens.

A few words about Neoregelias - Of all of the 52 or so groups of bromeliads, this is the only Genus I can think of that probably every club member has at least one representative plant from. Neoregelias are grown strictly for their interesting and colorful leaf patterns and colors. Leaves are arranged in a low rosette and colors and patterns are seemingly unlimited. When in bloom, the center leaves usually take on a very intense coloration and small flowers open in the center well or cup of the plant.

This is one of those groups of plants that has gone through numerous name changes before arriving at its current title. Originally selected in 1890 to honor the botanist Eduard von Regel, it was subsequently realized that the name had already been given to 3 species of Myrtaceae. This led to a name change from “Regelia”(Lindman) to “Aregelia”(Mez) where it was felt to be a subgenus of

Nidularium. To further confuse things, this name was not given to honor Eduard von Regel like most people believe, nor to Constantin Andreas von Regel but instead C. von Regel, a Russian official. Finally re-titled Neoregelia by Lyman Smith in 1934. Not confused yet? A common bromeliad that many of us are familiar with was originally called *Billbergia meyendorffii*, then *Regelia meyendorffii*, and finally *Neoregelia carolinae*! It’s enough to give me a headache!

### Florida’s native bromeliads



We’re extremely fortunate living in Florida since we have an opportunity to see bromeliads in the wild that few other areas in the country can claim. Recently we were passing through the small town of Labelle in SW Florida and just had to stop and take a few pictures of some of the Tillandsias that covered the limbs on their magnificent live oak trees. There are thousands upon thousands of Tillandsias in the trees along Labelle’s roadways and they all looked very healthy – or at least, the ones that we observed did. Here’s hoping that these scenes can continue to be appreciated in the future and that the Mexican weevil won’t take notice of this bounty!



Photos by Calandra Thurrott

There may well have been other varieties in this tree, but we only noticed the *T. utriculatas*, *T. fasciculatas*, *T. setaceas*, *T. bartramiis* and, of course *T. recurvata* and *T. usneoides* – all sharing the same tree.

#### **Save your boxes! –**

With the Extravaganza just around the corner, it's not too soon to ask everyone to begin saving boxes to donate that can be used by those purchasing plants in the sales area. There's probably no *best* size, but anything around 12" by 24" that can hold several purchases should work well...and by the way, if you haven't already – check out the webpage that Mary McBride has put together with information on the Extravaganza. The address is:

<http://theartofbromeliads.wordpress.com/>

This is everything you wanted to know about the Extravaganza, but were afraid to ask! Thanks Mary!

#### **A few words from our Vice President -**

##### *Neo's, Neo's and More Neo's -*

Folks, we're gonna have a lot of fun at our next meeting talking about and seeing lots of Neoregelias. We have a great speaker, Tom Wolfe coming from Tampa, but more importantly we have our show and tell. This has been extremely successful over the last

several months, some because we have a much larger area to display. But more, because our members have beautiful plants at home and are willing to share them with us, if even for just a couple of hours on one Sunday each month. So, let's have some fun, with a little friendly competition. Some Neo competition! Bring in those beautiful Neo's you have:

- One or multiple Neoregelia(s)
  - Nice clean plant(s), no leaves or bugs
  - Nice and clean pot (nursery, standard or decorative)
  - With the plants' name on it (don't worry if your not sure – we have Dr. J to identify)
- Awards will be given for:
- Best Well Grown (Most Likely to Succeed)
  - Best Multiples (Most Likely to Marry and have a Family)
  - Best Neo in a Decorative Container/Display (Best Dressed)

Some other categories may be added but these three will be the BIGGY's!

Please don't forget the raffle table, after all it's really, Share, Show and Tell!

Rick Ryals

#### **Upcoming Events:**

##### **August 13<sup>th</sup>**

Bromeliad show and sale at USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Dr., Tampa  
10-4, \$5 admission

##### **August 20<sup>th</sup>**

Native Plant Exchange at Virginia Dornbach's home 9am-12noon

##### **August 20th and 21st**

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Sale  
The Garden Club of Sanford (on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd)  
9:00 – 4:00 Call 407-539-4314

**September 10-11**

'Everything Orchids' at Mounts Botanical Garden, 559 Military Trail, West Palm Beach  
Don't let the title fool you – there will be begonias, bromeliads, ferns, hoyas and aroids for sale too! 10am to 4pm

**September 30 – Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

35<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show and Sale at the Crown Plaza hotel in Austin, Texas. For information, contact Annette Dominguez at 512/619-2750

**November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

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

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Caloosahatchee Show and Sale  
Terry Park, Fort Myers  
For information, contact Dr. Larry Giroux at DrLarry@comcast.net

**...and, looking even farther ahead – make plans now for the 2012 Bromeliad Society International World Bromeliad Conference September 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>**

hosted by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

The Caribe Royal, 8101 World Center,  
Orlando, FL 32821

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Watch for details in the future!

