

THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

May 2024 Newsletter

Meeting Date: May 12 at 1:30 p.m.

**Meeting Location: Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd.
Port Orange, FL**

May 12th Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on May 12th at 1:30 pm at Colony in the Wood. Anthony Warfield from Tropiflora will share his knowledge of his cultural tips for growing plants in the genus *Tillandsia*.

There will be the usual bromeliad raffle, door prizes, show and tell, and refreshments.

--- Jack

Tillandsia simulata

-Jane Villa-Lobos



The native *Tillandsia simulata* is Florida's only endemic bromeliad. It is an epiphyte known to grow on branches of various trees and shrubs in many counties in central Florida, mostly in swamps and other moist locations, and is easily recognized by its narrow elliptic leaf sheath. In the spring it produces inflorescences up to 6 inches long with rose-colored bracts and conspicuous violet flowers. You can't tell from the photo but after blooming, capsules form that are filled with hundreds of feathery plumes like dandelion seeds. I read a trick to save the seeds before they blow away. You should attach a paper bag around the inflorescence before it explodes so you can share the seeds with your friends.

The photo is a plant that I won in the bromeliad raffle in 2017. I have grown it in a wooden slatted basket which hangs from my Savannah holly in the south garden.

Don't forget to start designing your bromeliad centerpiece!

At the July meeting we will have a center piece competition like we have had in the past at our Christmas party. However, don't decorate it for Christmas, but use your imagination and create a design for a special prize.

Members participated in the South Florida Bromeliad Show

At the semi-annual South Florida Bromeliad Society Show and Sale which was held April 21-22 at Fairchild Gardens, there were nine judges, including FECBS members Rick Ryals, Judges Chair, and Calandra Thurrott. Calandra received an Award of Merit in the Judges Challenge for her oil painting. Debbie Hughes of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society (her first time as a Judge) took the first place in the Judges Challenge with her Dyckia. (Below photos by Calandra Thurrott).



Dyckia choristaminea



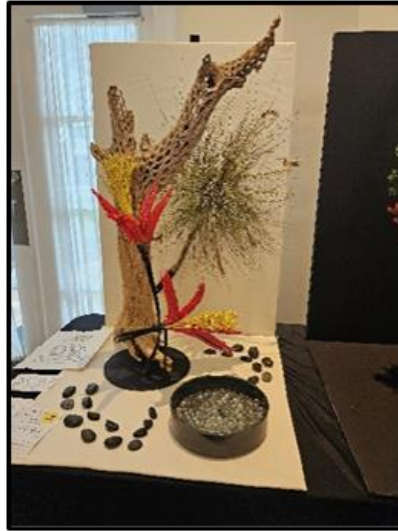
Grant Groves' *Neoregelia* 'Grace'

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' Convention Flower Show

Member Marinus Grootenboer entered 22 plants in the Horticulture Division in this flower show which was held at the Jacksonville Garden Club April 26-28. Nine were single potted bromeliads (photo below) which all received ribbons, and one was a dish garden of four different bromeliads which received a top award--- Growers Choice Award. Last month Marinus brought the dish garden to the meeting for Show and Tell.



Bromeliads were also featured in the Design Division at the NGC Flower Show.



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



Tillandsia stricta



Aechmea sp.

(Photos: Jane Villa- Lobos)



Neoregelia johannis

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 April



Greetings to: Kathleen Bolanos, Ruth Gessner, Margaret Grootenboer, Terry Kahn, Cheryl Maranda, Glenn Spitzer, Mally Trzeciak, and Joe Valerio.

Future Events

May 4-5

Annual Garden Show & Spring Festival

Cedar Lakes Woods and Gardens

4990 NE 180th Ave.

Williston, FL

Sat. 9:30 - 5

Sun. 9:30 – 4

May 22-25, 2024

BSI World Conference

West Palm Beach Marriott

May 10-11

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Bromeliad Show & Sale

Fashion Square Mall

3201 E. Colonial Dr.

Orlando

11-8

May 11-12

Mother's Day Orchid Show & Sale

Volusia County Fairgrounds

3150 E. New York Ave.

DeLand

9-4

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Chuck Mamele 386-402-4830

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Secretary - Ruth Gessner 386-767-3499

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