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Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

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May 2016 Newsletter

**Meeting Announcement:
May 15, 2016 at 2 PM
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford**

Our May meeting will feature a presentation by Jay Thurrott on the topic: *From Seed to Seed*.



A Tillandsia utriculata seed pod splits to release seeds

Offsets from bromeliads usually develop to look identical to the parent plant and are actually clones of that plant. Some uncertainty can be introduced to growing bromeliads by starting from seed since two parent plants are generally required for this and those parent plants may be more diverse in their appearances and growth habits.

Jay's presentation is a PowerPoint program that looks at what to look for in bromeliad seed, how to germinate that seed, and generally how to grow "from seed to seed." He will also bring bromeliad seedlings to share with the group. *If you've heard Jay speak before, you know you won't want to miss this presentation!*

Jay will bring a wide variety of bromeliads to sell. There will also be member plant sales.

Please bring your plants for Show & Tell and donate your extra ones to the raffle table to benefit our society.

Jay Thurrott's Bio

Jay is a retired environmental chemist who worked in the public service sector for over 30 years. He grows over 700 varieties of bromeliads at his home in Port Orange, FL and has been growing bromeliads since the 70's.

A lifetime member of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society (FECBS), Jay is their newsletter editor and has served as their secretary, VP and president. He has served as the club's representative to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) for many years and is a past-Chairman of that organization.

Also active in local garden club activities, Jay is a past president of the Halifax Council of Garden Clubs (a consortium of seven garden clubs in the Daytona Beach area).

Jay is currently finishing his second three-year term as president of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) after having served as its director and VP. Jay is also a BSI accredited judge and has judged bromeliad shows in and out of the USA.



Jay Thurrott at the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society's Christmas Party

Sudi Hipsley & Greg Kolojeski will provide refreshments for the May meeting.

President's Message

Plant Sale

The Spring Plant Sale was one for the record books! Sales records were smashed with many members selling 90 to 100% of the plants they brought. Checkout lines went to the back of the room (and then to the side part of the time) for over three hours on Saturday. Even Sunday proved busy with 25% of the overall sales. We could have sold more plants on Sunday if we had them.

Many members were present at the plant sale all day Saturday and Sunday and were there much of Friday as well to set up. It was an incredible effort by so many!

We owe it to our many loyal customers, many of whom waited in line for over 40 minutes, to improve their shopping experience at future plant sales. All members were recently sent an email with proposed plant sales changes. **The SBTPS Board and the Plant Sales Chairman recommend that these changes be adopted by a vote at the May meeting.**

Collector's Corner Auction

At the May meeting, we will once again have a Collector's Corner silent auction with the funds from the sale contributed to the SBTPS. So remember to bring some special plants to contribute (no more than one plant per contributing member).

Plant Raffle

Our plant raffle at the March meeting did not have as many plants as we usually have. I hope members will be able to contribute additional plants to the raffle table for this meeting.

Refreshments

We are considering changing our refreshment policy by contributing \$20 to each member who brings 3 dishes. What do you think about this idea?

--Greg Kolojeski

Grower Jim

Our member Jim Ford, also known as "Grower Jim," was quoted in the April, 2016 issue of **Orlando Signature magazine** (check it out at: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/signature-magazine/community/os-osig-april-sanford-20160322-story.html>).

Our meeting on June 19th will have longtime member George Aldrich as the featured speaker

The Spring Plant Sale was an incredible success. These pictures give some idea of how it played out:



Before



During



After