

BromeliAdvisory

April 2014



In honor of Bob Mills – long time member of BSSF
Photo by Sandy Roth

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BromeliAdvisory

April 2014

WEBPAGE: <http://www.bssf-miami.org/>



http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSF/?bookmark_t=group



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida/84661684279>

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What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

APRIL 15 2014 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Tom Wolfe – "Unique Ways to Display and Grow your Bromeliads"

This program will demonstrate mounting, hanging baskets, cork bark, etc., and the bromeliads that like to grow on these displays.

RAFFLE TABLE: Christine Pfeffer

FOOD: Fred and Martha Sussenberger, Barbara Sparling, Mary Ann LaRusso, Ofelia Sorzano,

About the Speaker

A Lutz resident, Tom Wolfe joined the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay in 1965 and has been volunteering for bromeliad organizations in Florida and throughout the country for over 47 years. Tom has served as Tampa Guild President seven times, Chairman of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies several times, BSI Director for 14 years, BSI Vice-President for six years and two consecutive terms as President of BSI.



He is a BSI Master Accredited Judge and instructor. He has designed and installed many residential and commercial landscapes featuring bromeliads and is both a local and national speaker. One can find many photos, video clips and articles about his collection of bromeliads in local media, state and international magazines and many beautiful bromeliad photographs taken by his talented wife, Carol.



President's Message

by Barbara Partagas

Spring is upon us. The days are longer. It's time to get to the Spring cleaning and organizing. Let's do the same for BSSF.

- ▣ Renew membership
- ▣ Pay taxes (not really a plant thing)
- ▣ Get started planting before heat and showers kick in
- ▣ Start thinking about a trip to the World Conference in Hawaii in September
- ▣ Start thinking about the 2015 FCBS Extravaganza "Bromeliads in the Magic City" which we will host probably in the Fall of 2015

Give some thought to what we want the BSSF to accomplish in the next couple of years.

Make suggestions. Your input is valued. We can do exciting things with your ideas.

Barbara Partagas

In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

Ingratiating Terrie Bert delivered another informative lecture touching upon genera of the bromeliad world which included the letter "P" – part 2 of "The Outstanding & Ostentatious and Particularly Picturesque."

When the lights dimmed, the crowd's uniform silence was followed by Bert's thorough review of *Pitcairnia*, *Portea*, and *Puya* plants. Enhanced by visual graphics received from the ever-faithful Florida Bromeliad Registry photographs, as well as other sources, Bert's power point presentation danced with visuals accompanying her scientifically delivered presentation (Bert holds a Ph.D. in biology from Yale).

Interesting facts from the lecture include the following.

Pitcairnia. Eponomously delivered in honor of Dr. William Pitcairn [1711-1791]. Has a whopping 336 species – second only to *Tillandsia*. Can grow like weeds. Many bloom in red and at

Christmas, hence making them the poinsettia of the bromeliad world. Pollination is commonly handled by humming birds. Young foliage can be stiff, and then grow as maturation advances. Rare versions have white and yellow flowers, and *Pitcairnia stevensonii* wowed the audience with a 30-foot inflorescence. And, the only known non-American (New World) bromeliad is *Pitcairnia feliciani*.

Portea. Named after Marius Porte. Only has 9 species. Because of the latter fact, all nine were displayed on slides. Many are shy bloomers, thus making them less desirable. Loves inhabiting sand dunes, making them a natural lover of Florida's environment.

Puya. A high altitude bromeliad. Has 219 species. Is an elder of the bromeliodeae – what we see as *Portea*, *Aechmea*, *Canistrum*, *Nidularium*, or *Neoregelia* – many others as well. Like pine trees, many grow where other flora will not. Two subgroups: (a) "core *Puya*" of the Andes, and (b) Chilean *Puyas* of the dry desert. The plants vary from large to small, to soft to firm, from delicate to indelicate, and pretty to warlike ugly. One had a 10 meter spike which awed the audience.

Tips for these plants are recited in the box.

Plant	<i>Pitcairnia</i>	<i>Portea</i>	<i>Puya</i>
Soil needs	Use Large Pot – pup radically	Will grow Large	Use Big Pot
Sun requirements	Shade loving	Sun Lover	Full Sun
Water	Moisture loving	Little .5/week	1-2 times/week
Fertilizer	Slow release	Some to induce pups	Modestly
Other	Some cold tolerance	Florida lover	Florida sometimes

Photos of the lecture can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/84661684279/photos/a.10152247897254280.1073741848.84661684279/10152247897744280/?type=1&th eater>

or

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152247897254280.1073741848.84661684279&type=1¬if_t=like

Garden Notes March 2014

By Alan Herndon

Warm and unseasonably warm weather has continued through March. Nighttime low temperatures have mainly been in the low 70's and daytime highs have typically been in the mid to upper 80's. We can still expect the occasional cool front to bring overnight temperatures down into the 60's during the next several weeks, and to bring the windy days that are so characteristic of spring in southern Florida. Your bromeliads will not even notice the cool days, and you can expect to see the explosion of growth that is already underway continue unabated until the next cold season arrives.

Rains have become more sporadic, and we have had at least one rainless stretch long enough to see the return of crispy lawns. Still there were two significant rains during the last week of the month. Even put together, they just delayed the need for irrigation by a few days, but that helps. In any case, prepare for the weeks ahead when it is likely to be both hot and windy. Your plants are more prone to drying out during this part of the year than any other.

One of the oddball plants seen in flower this month was *Acanthostachys pitcairnioides*. This was not even the commonly cultivated clone of the species with leaves that are rounded in cross-section. This clone has thick leaves with a shallow U-shape in cross-section, so it looks entirely different from the more common plant, but it has the same flowers.

Once again, *Aechmea chantinii* was able to produce a few blooms during the month., and, towards the end of the month, it was joined in bloom by its near relative *Aechmea retusa*. The slightly more distant relative, *Aechmea serrata*, continued to flower. Species in *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* also continued to flower in abundance. Open flowers were seen on *Aechmea kertesziae*,

Aechmea cylindrata and *Aechmea apocalyptica*. In the first two species, there was mass bloom in different clones of each. Blooming also continued among some members of the *Aechmea orlandiana* complex. A late-flowering plant of *Aechmea orlandiana* was still in bloom during the month. Normally I would have expected this species to finish flowering by the end of February. On the other hand, this seems to be the peak time for flowering in *Aechmea gurkeniana*, and I had at least 3 separate plants in flower. *Aechmea weilbachii* has not reached the end of its season either.

This month, only *Aechmea weilbachii penduliflora* was seen flowering, and it was nearly missed. As the name suggests, this plants has a pendulous inflorescence. In this case, the flowers were hanging beneath the top of the bench the plants were sitting on. The plants were towards the middle of the bench, and I didn't see the flowers until they were almost completely past. *Aechmea farinosa conglomerata* continued to bloom from last month. A few different clones of *Aechmea*



Dyckia dawsonii

bromeliifolia also threw up their short-lived inflorescences during the month. A small clone, the smallest I have seen in cultivation, of *Aechmea victoriana* bloomed in mass during March. The inflorescence buds were just rising above the level of the water in the tanks at the end of February, and by the end of March, some of the largest plants are nearly past flowering although some smaller plants were just reaching the stage with open flowers. Finally, *Aechmea pineliana*, one of the mid-size clones, started and ended flowering during the middle of the month.

A new pistillate plant of *Androlepis skinneri* began to flower near the first of the month, just as the last of the staminate plants reported last month were producing their final flowers.

More *Billbergia* species were seen in bloom this month than any other recent month. Some of this diversity comes from reblooming of species that flowered earlier, but some new species were also seen. A small proportion of blooming-size *Billbergia distachya maculata* pots produced inflorescences. I don't know whether the remaining plants will bloom later in the year, or whether this clone is simply a shy bloomer. The last unbloomed pot of *Billbergia distachya concolor* also flowered this month.

Several clones of *Billbergia amoena* were in bloom this month. The red-leaved clone is notable because large numbers of reblooming pots have been conspicuous during the past two months. In contrast, a single plant of *Billbergia sanderiana* flowered in March. A few plants of *Billbergia minarum* also flowered, but there was no hint of mass bloom in this species. A single plant of *Billbergia seidelii* was seen in flower. Several flowering plants were seen in *Billbergia euphemiae*, as the pups from the plants participating in the previous mass-flowering reached sufficient size. A new mass-flowering event was seen in *Billbergia elegans*. This species has a unique orange cast to the large flag bracts of the inflorescence and a hint of orange in the leaves. Whether it will flower again later this spring is unknown. One of the *Billbergia nana* clones was also back in flower this month.

Only two species of *Canistropsis* were seen in flower: *Canistropsis seidelii* and a clone of *Canistropsis billbergioides* with orange involucral bracts.

Two particularly attractive species of *Dyckia* (attractive if you like prominent spines along the edges of your plant leaves): *Dyckia beatae* and *Dyckia dawsonii* were in bloom during March. In *Dyckia dawsonii*, the spines are slender and sharp,

but have a delicate pink color.

Plants of both red-leaved and green-leaved *Fosterella micrantha* continued to flower.

Two separate pots of *Guzmania sanguinea* came into bloom during the month

A last few flowers were produced by a plant of *Lymania corallina* just after the start of the month.

The number of *Neoregelia* species in flower rose substantially in March, but we are still far from the numbers that will appear with in the next two months.

Neoregelia compacta is still producing new blooms, along with the small species that have been producing flowers sporadically throughout the winter: *Neoregelia smithii*, *Neoregelia ampullacea*, and the red-leaved form of *Neoregelia puntatissima*. *Neoregelia eltoniana* was joined in flower by the closely related *Neoregelia olens* (the red-leaved form known in the trade as *Neoregelia fluminensis*) and *Neoregelia camorimiana*. A single plant of *Neoregelia marmorata* was spotted in flower. This plant is early, but will soon be joined by many others. A single plant of *Neoregelia wilsoniana* also flowered,

very much out of step with other members of its cohort. In subgenus *Hylaeaicum*, *Neoregelia eleutheropetala bicolor* was joined in bloom by *Neoregelia leviana*.

Not much has changed in *Orthophytum* from last month. *Orthophytum magalhaesii*, *Orthophytum alvimii*, *Orthophytum grossiorum*, *Orthophytum gurkenii*, *Orthophytum benzingii* and *Orthophytum rubiginosum* all remain in bloom. The only new species added to the list was *Orthophytum rafaelii* whose flowers opened right at the end



Vriesea glutinosa
Photo by Ken Woods

of March.

March was the month for *Quesnelia*. *Quesnelia humilis*, *Quesnelia arvensis* and *Quesnelia testudo* all flowered. All have blooms that last perhaps a week.

Among species of *Tillandsia*, *Tillandsia polzii* and *Tillandsia jucunda* began blooming and finished blooming in March. *Tillandsia rodriguesia* also began blooming in March, but seems likely to last another month or so. The other blooming species: *Tillandsia hammeri*, *Tillandsia juncea stolonifera*, *Tillandsia baileyi*, *Tillandsia tenuifolia* and *Tillandsia puertensis* are continuing to bloom from February (or even earlier).

In *Tillandsia hammeri* and *Tillandsia juncea stolonifera*, flowers are being produced from the same inflorescences as in the initial reports. *Tillandsia juncea stolonifera* is still a mystery. The inflorescences have not changed appearance in months – you don't ever see flower buds enlarging, but a fully-formed flower is occasionally (and without warning) produced. In the remaining species, flowers are still being produced, but only because new inflorescences are taking over as older inflorescences cease flowering.

Vriesea glutinosa was able to hold on long enough to produce at least one open flower at the beginning of March. Some plants of *Vriesea poenulata* also flowered, although they seem to be merely forerunners of a much larger group poised to flower in April. *Vriesea carinata* rejoined the list of flowering plants as flowers began to open on a new rosette. *Vriesea procera* also rejoined the list. In this case, the single inflorescence present seemed to halt flower production for close to two months during the coldest part of winter, but towards the end of March a few new flowers appeared. In contrast, a small clone of *Vriesea erythrodactylon* began to flower during the month, along with *Vriesea saundersii* and *Vriesea botafogensis*.

The cool weather we experienced in March of 2013 is nothing but a distant memory. This March was much warmer, and we have the fantastic spring growth on many of our bromeliads to prove it. It is only a matter of weeks before the majority of *Neoregelia* species and hybrids take on their full flowering colors. In all, a glorious time to be in the garden. Enjoy.

Sarasota Trip

by Robert Meyer

Lenny, Alan and I went for the bucket-list trip to Sarasota to see the Spring Sale at Tropiflora. We had to be there.

On the four-hour trip over, starting in the pre-dawn hours in the dewy fog delivered by Mother Nature, we learned many things – the most important being that Florida drivers in fog-affected visibility can really be a pain when the visionary handicap is amplified by wild fires in the Everglades. While moving, the drivers think that turning on their emergency lights – something done only for stopped vehicles – will improve others' visions and relieve consternation about why the allegedly immobile vehicle with emergencies continues to be hundreds of yards ahead of you after miles of driving. You had to be there.

To make time pass by, a CD of a science fiction novel was loaded which spoke about how a lack of anything can be the love of someone, even someone who is impressively educated in quantum physics. Alan, who has some background on such a subject (Physics not love of nothingness), learned a great deal about what he was never told or taught, and such event may have been enough to make this trip worthy of Alan's remembrance – for better or worse. You had to be there.

After we landed, we discovered that Sarasota was delivered one of the greatest days which money could buy – Tropiflora apparently has earned a lot of income over the years. After ducking into and out of various shade houses, we discovered something most unusual. We discovered why we had not seen Jeri Parrish for more than one year – she is in Sarasota buying plants with husband towing the load. Apparently she has a similar bucket list. She had to be there.

Alan, after walking the grounds, went to speak to Dennis, who informed Alan about the recent Brazilian trip which he and wife took. Alan, who had just been in a four-hour drive listening to bogus quantum physics concepts on the CD player, understood well Dennis's explanation about the amount of time such travel took and

felt like, in some aspects, eternity.

In the end, we munched down some Miami-Dade delivered sandwiches (we brown bagged) visited my Godmother, and Lenny drove us home – highlighted by the CD's conclusion of man becoming the vortex's void and thereby stepping across the desk/timeline/realty. What a day. You had to be there.

Photos at:

<https://www.facebook.com/84661684279/photos/a.10152286617639280.1073741850.84661684279/10152286617899280/?type=1&theater>

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 12-13, 2014

Food & Garden Festival
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Rd
Coral Gables, FL 33156
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events>

April 19-20, 2014

33rd International Orchid & Bromeliad Show
3750 S Flamingo Road
Davie, Florida 33330-1614
<http://www.flamingogardens.org/Events.html>

April 26-27, 2014

Friends of Mounts Botanical Garden Sale
Mounts Botanical Gardens
531 N Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33415 – 561.233-1757
www.mounts.org/

May 3-4, 2014

2014 Spring Sale
South Florida Palm Society
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables
<http://southfloridapalmsociety.org>

May 16-18, 2014

Redland International Orchid Show
FRUIT and SPICE PARK
24801 SW 187 Ave
Miami, FL 33031
http://www.fruitandspicepark.org/index.php?option=com_rsevents&view=calendar&layout=day&date=05/16/2014&Itemid=65

July 25-27, 2014

Caladium Festival
Stuart Park

Lake Placid, FL

<http://www.lpfla.com/caladium.htm>

September 8-14, 2014

21st World Bromeliad Conference

Honolulu, HI

<http://www.bsi.org/new/wbc-2014-registration-and-info/>

<http://www.bsi.org/new/wbc-2014-event-schedule/>

October 21, 2014 – 7:00 PM

Annual BSSF Auction

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

PREVIOUS CHAPTERS MAY BE SEEN IN

<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

91.

During his paid leave, Joshua did not know if he was physically sick. He knew that his heart was broken a few days earlier. He knew he had a seizure and was still tired by that unfortunate event. He knew that being shackled for days after the seizure made his limbs sore. He even knew that the lab results showed some toxins in his system, but not as rampant or bad as he had imagined. But, the funk he felt the several days after recovery made him wonder if the problems were psychologically related, and caused by physical stresses placed upon him.

He felt obligated to get out during the day. And, so he walked around the neighborhood while others worked inside. He liked the fresh air and warm sun. And, during these walks his meditative state intensified with thoughts of the incident and other times in his life. Dee's introspection combined with mild exercise made him feel better. But, after holing up in his apartment for a few hours, he had to repeat the cycle so as to feel relaxed again, replenished by being devoid of the funk which now constantly haunted him.

When making his early evening stroll, after his later afternoon stroll, before his sunset stroll, and well before his night and late night strolls, Joshua felt the peace which he could garner after twenty minutes or walking. Just as he felt the inner-peace of this walk a car horn honked right when it was within inches of his back, and a voice yelled out, "Joshua."

Totally ambushed by the driver and horn, he

jumped up in response to the rude awakening and flipped around to see who it was that called out his name. It was Susan.

“You scared the heck out of me.” And, just as he uttered those words he realized goose bumps lined his skin and shivers ran through his spine.

“It’s the Prius. Electric cars have no sound. Happens all the time. Great for drive-by shootings.” When Susan saw that her joke was not welcomed by Joshua, she changed the subject.

“Want to hop in? No drugging. No aliases. Just you and me, and only truths be told.” Susan saw his face which spoke of great distrust. Trying to appease him “Listen, only truths from me. No one will require anything of you. You can quiz me for minutes, hours, or more. I owe you at least that much. Are you in?”

Joshua nodded and slowly edged into the car. The front seat was tight, and he thought the lack of space in the seat could not be the car’s selling point. But, he already knew that. And, before she stepped on the pedal, she said, “I have an idea, let’s go to South Beach.”

“I don’t know.” he said. “That is really not my scene either.”

“Not mine either.” Susie was maybe lying early in their conversation. But, she thought to herself, I used the term “really.” “Couldn’t that mean she likes it, but not really a lot?” she wondered to herself, knowing that this discussion would need to end before the deafening silence in her quiet hybrid vehicle made this date a nightmare.

“I’ll make a deal. We go there, and if not any fun, we go elsewhere. Deal?”

“Okay.” Joshua said in a very timid voice.

“Then it is off to Reynold’s Rose. But, before we go there, how about a bite. I am starved.”

“Me too.” And off they went on a dinner date to place he did not know with someone he really knew nothing about. This was more than daring to a laboratory geek like Joshua. He realized that he may be well over his head. So, he reached for his phone and texted his colleague Jose about the dinner, Reynold’s Rose and being with Susan Gort.

92.

“Captain,” Donna asked, “are you available for a call from a man named Paul Delaney?”

“Who is he and what is he calling about?” Captain asked.

“He is from Australia and calling about the bromelauds.”

Captain said thank you to Donna and scurried to the phone and immediately spoke with an enlightened smile on his face and opened, “Well, sir this is a great honor to have someone call from so far away to help us in this case. Have you received any information about our inquiry?”

“Nah. Just erd that a few old’uns died in your territory did apst weeks cuz of stabbings. Not uncommon, according to my lovely ‘Miami Vice’ show on the telly. But, I’m sure there’s more if ye want to speak to me about this .”

“Well there is, sir.” Captain said this smiling and standing. “We have reason to believe they were killed because of the conference in your parts. Two judged plants together, and the third judge is someone who is MIA. We were hoping to speak to a clerk or another who might have witnessed some irregular discussions, activity or whatever among the three people?”

“Ooo’s the third, if ya don’t mind me askin matey?”

“A Nat Strong.”

“Ol’ Nat. He’s as harmless as me grannie. Can’t be the murdering grote. But, ya wanna know who I out there, and what these membars may aff been up to before their demise, correct?”

Captain nodded and affirmed “Correct.”

“I’d put me finger on Strong’s daughter. Susan’s her name. A connivin one, she is. Smart as a village leader, cute as a grade schooler. Very overlooked. She’s the one I’d be pointin to.”

“Does she have a criminal past or anything?” Captain expected a negative reply, but asked out of common protocol.

“Nots to my knowin. She’s dumb as a fox. Wicked as a dingo. Catch her, muzzle her, and then check her out thoroughly. Got a love for the American dollar, she does. I bet banks which she frequents have proof that she’s dirty.”

“Follow the money, you’d say?”

“Yea. Just like they say in the movies.”

“Thank you sir. But, before we end this conversation, can you give me the name of the clerk who worked with the judges?”

“Surely. It was Maureen Walker. A great asset to our community. I got your number. I’ll ask her to call you like I did. Fine with you, mate?”

“Yes. That would be wonderful.”

When they hung up, Donna turned to Captain and asked, “What is a bromelaud?” And Captain looked at her, with her *Aechmea fasciata* sitting on her reception table, and tag still thrust into the soil with large bold letters spelling “bromeliad” and thought, she only answers the phones and is the best eye candy the precinct has seen in years, and we can tolerate these questions. “Plants. Like that on the table in front of you.”

“Wow.” she said with earnest enthusiasm. “That plant came all the way from Austria.”

Captain smiled, as did others in the office, and no one dreaded to correct or make any remarks about Donna.

TRAVEL PLANS TO HAWAII

by Robert Meyer

On BSI website, the following was included, “We have cancelled the group reservation with Hawaiian Airlines for the round-trip fare from LAX to Honolulu. The reservation deadline was April 1, 2014 and we did not have enough reservations to fulfill the contractual obligation.” In short, travel is your responsibility.

Here is an outline of some of the fares quoted April 8, 2014 on Kayak or other competitors.

Premise: Leaving September 6, 2014 and returning September 13, 2014.

Airline	Fare
Delta (LA over, SEA, ATL return)	\$860.00
Delta (LA stop)	\$1,087.97
United (Dallas and LA stop)	\$1,092.94
AA (LA stop)	\$1,061.43

Expedia

Airline	Fare
Delta (LA over, LA return)	\$878.19

Airtime for certain legs:

MIA-LA	5hr 53min
LA-HNL	5hr 35min
SEA-HNL	5hr 42min
SEA-ATL	4hr 39min
ATL -LA	4hr 53min
ATL-MIA	1hr 54min
FLL-SEA	6hr 30min

HNL = Honolulu

ATL = Atlanta

SEA = Seattle

LA = Los Angeles

FLL = Ft. Lauderdale

Fort Lauderdale did not bring reduced rates.

When I went directly to Delta.com, I was able to find one-stop (through LA) for \$869.19.

When I went directly to aa.com, I was able to find one-stop (through DFW) for \$1,177.00 but found US Airways for more than \$1,500.00; but the same was only \$808.00 on google’s travel page (reducing on return) – go figure.

Hotel Rooms – Ala Moana Hotel – Honolulu, Hawaii

Premise 7 nights commencing September 6, 2014

Through their website:	\$179.00/night
Through their website:	\$209.00 w/breakfast

BSI has a special website for this matter: <https://aws.passkey.com/event/10786798/owner/11602/home>

Rooms \$145.00 to \$185.00

I chose room with two double beds: \$145.00/night – then I saw another room with Ocean view for more money and splurged. The rate was equal to the discounts recited above.

Make reservations NOW – All are fully refundable!