

BromeliAdvisory

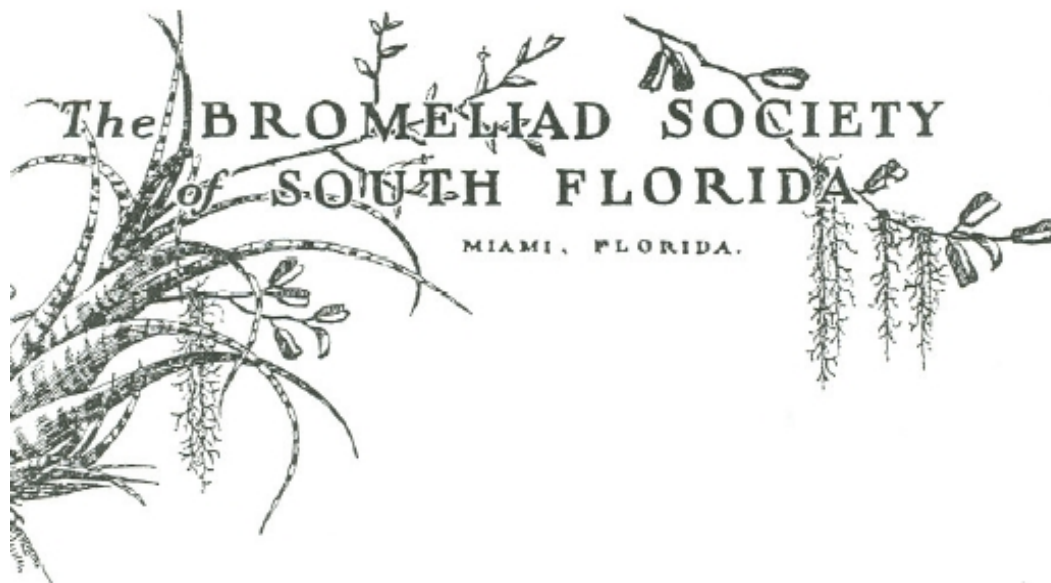
September 2014



Alcantarea hybrid being made at Hawaiian Sunshine Nursery. Photo by Robert Meyer

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September 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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Mem. Plant Sales: Antonio
Arbelaez

Raffle: Melissa Brail

Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Andy Siekkinen and Dian Johnston

SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Speaker: Robert McMillan, Jr., Ph.D.

Topic: Bromeliad Production

RAFFLE TABLE: Dian Johnston

FOOD: No Sandy – so any help from anyone will be greatly appreciated

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

by Leonard Goldstein

Bob McMillan was born and raised in Miami, Florida. He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees at the University of Miami and a Ph.D. degree at Washington State University. As a longtime employee of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), he gained recognition as a leading authority on diseases of ornamentals, tropical fruits and vegetables throughout the tropical world. He also patented two biological agents, which have shown promise for the control of numerous plant pathogens.



Dr. McMillan has remained very active in retirement. He is currently an Emeritus Professor at the University of Florida and Miami Dade College, teaching plant pathology, entomology, and horticulture, with emphasis on orchid diseases and other ornamental plant disorders. He is also the Director of Research and Development for Kerry's Bromeliad Nursery, Inc., in Homestead and Twyford International's tissue culture laboratory. His duties at the nursery are to develop disease control strategies, as well production practices for bromeliads and orchids. With the Twyford division, he deals with issues of tissue culture advancement and plant contaminants.

President's Message

by Barbara Partagas

Your Board has already started planning the annual October Auction. As you know, this is our most important fundraiser during the year. Our membership has always supported this event with gusto, even one year with an unfriendly tropical storm approaching.

Please consider bringing a neighbor or friend to share the fun with us. This is one way to share our appreciation of and to educate folks about bromeliads. Who can resist those rare plants we are given the opportunity to acquire through this event?

In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

Andy Siekkinen came from California to tell us about why he left nanotechnology to become a bromeliad botanical collector who sojourned in Mexico whenever opportunity arose.

Basically on a quest to find cacti, succulents, orchids and bromeliads, the bromeliad adventure focuses upon *Hechtia* in the Oaxaca region. His concern is about three main plant issues: (1) CAM metabolism (way plants breath and save water); (2) trichomes (nutrient absorption with that fuzzy stuff); and (3) succulence (water holding).

Hechtia are lithophytic plants and the genus has more than 65 species. Primarily found in Mexico, Siekkinen believes that many more species need to be found.

Blooming with the *Hechtia* family are primarily central or term blooming (will give offsets) and the minority are lateral blooming (lie *Dyckia*). The ratio is believed to be about 2 to 1.

Hechtia are often ignored. Hard to market, and many oversized, the species often remain in their habitat untouched. And, unlike comparable *Dyckia*, the *Hechtia* flowers are small and thinner – making them less attractive for the consumer.

Hechtia grows in tough places. And, it often is better presented in large clumps – a thankful discovery to

the owner as separating these plants is about as difficult to do as anything. Sometimes, chainsaws are required with protective gear to the saw's holder.

Cultivators use rock walls and rock gardens to foster these plants which are encouraged by heat and apparent masochism.

A recent discovery of a Pacific limestone group make people wonder if the 4 species discovered are a species complex or a complex of species. *Hechtia*'s relatively new introduction to the curiosity of bromeliad growers will patiently await this and many new discoveries about it. These Pacific plants are unique in that they resemble spiders growing over rocks. And, Siekkinen asserts that many seen on the highway remain unnamed.

Numerous slides of the plants were given to foster appreciation for this bromeliad of the dry atmosphere – making it often almost (if not) impossible to grow in humid southern Florida.

If this all tickles your interest, Siekkinen offers trips to search these and other plants in their native wilderness. Go to www.eagle-eye-adventures.com.

In Case You Missed It

WORLD CONFERENCE HAWAII

by Robert Meyer

Bonnie Boutwell chaired a Hawaiian bromeliad adventure which included trips and extensive; educational lectures.



Neoregelia hybrid at Sharon's Plant.

Over 6 lectures were given, including some from people you know – Andy Siekkinen (see previous article) and Alan Herndon (our very own).

Tours included a trip around the Oahu island to Fells' Hawaiian Sunshine Nursery and Sharon Petersen's Sharon's Plant. Hawaiian Sunshine *Vriesea* hybrids are stunning, and many are

shown on our facebook page which is identified below. Same for the great *Neoregelia* hybrids of Sharon's Plant. The sale was predominately *Vriesea*, *Neoregelia*, and *Tillandsia*.

California plants shared some of the seller's booths.

Auction plants were ginormous and many were one-of-a-kind hybrid seen never by local nurseries.

At the nurseries, I found two kinds of planting material – palm bark for younger plants, and lava rock for others. With rainfall of over 150 inches a year, lava rock is employed to avoid rot for the often tender *Vriesea*.

The trip further included a visit to the Lyon Arboretum where there was an array of native plants, palms and a bromeliad garden.

For photos about the fun had by those attending, you can go on facebook at our page and look for :

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10204762880898221&set=pcb.10204762889778443&type=1&theater>

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Nursery Visits

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Nat DeLeon Wins Prestigious Wally Berg Award

At the World Conference, a biannual award is given – the Wally Berg Award. The Wally Berg Award of Excellence was formulated in 1999 to honor the late Wally Berg (1927-2000). The criteria is: (1) The individual should be a bromeliad grower who is nationally or internationally recognized for diversity of species cultivated and excellence of cultivation; (2) The individual should actively pursue one of the following activities [collecting and identifying bromeliads in natural environments, including collecting new species/varieties/cultivars; the members of the various bromeliad societies and organizations, including the BSI and the BIC, should

benefit from this activity; promoting the appreciation and cultivation of bromeliads at the international level, including such activities as organizing and participating in collecting trips with international representation, giving presentations and seminars to national and international audiences, and writing manuscripts for publication in national or international books, journals, or other media (e.g. Internet, CD ROMS); (3) The individual should actively support efforts to further

the scientific, taxonomic, or cultural understanding of bromeliads through donation of time, effort, or money to recognized organizations (e.g., the BSI), institutions (e.g., the BIC, or Selby Gardens), or groups of individuals (e.g., bromeliad clubs, statewide or regional bromeliad councils); (4) The individual should be active in a local, regional, or national bromeliad society and be recognized by other members of that society for his/her contributions to the functioning of that society

and its activities. The individual should also be a member in good standing of the BSI; (5) If the individual is a bromeliad hybridizer, he/she should be internationally recognized for excellence in one or more of the following categories [innovation in creating bromeliad hybrids, success in cultivation of bromeliad hybrids, promotion and distribution of bromeliad hybrids.]; (6) The individual should be generally recognized as an expert in one or more of the following aspects of bromeliads [ecology, evolution, or taxonomy, cultivation or hybridization, display or exhibition; and (7) The individual should be generally recognized for his/her generous nature in sharing his/her knowledge of bromeliads and for giving of himself/herself for the benefit of other people interested in bromeliads and for bromeliad organizations at all levels.

Looking at those criteria – is there anyone you know who fits the criteria any better? Congratulations to Nat DeLeon for another award well earned.

Epiphyte Paul Calls for Plants
Bring to Meeting and
Paul Finlayson will relieve you



Barbara Partagas accepting Wally Berg Award on Nat DeLeon's behalf

Paul Finlayson's neighbourhood is going through a Beautification which includes putting 100s of Orchids in the Trees. Paul has been asked if he could supply some Bromeliads. So, Paul asks the BSSF membership if anyone can bring epiphytic plants such as *Aechmea blanchetiana*, *Aechmea bracteata* or anything that is good to grow a tree and pups. Medium size plants are the best. Paul I will be at the next meeting to pick any donations.

Rules on Table

BSSF encourages all of you to consider selling your extra plants at a meeting. Here are the rules: Sell at any meeting when the guest speaker is not selling plants; Plants must be clean (potted or bare root), tagged with name, price, and seller's name; You may bring up to six plants per meeting – 80% goes to the seller and 20% to the Society.

Any questions should go to Mike Michalski or Antonio Arbelaez

UPCOMING EVENTS

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/>

101.

Speeding on highway 836 from Jackson Memorial Hospital toward Miami Beach, Marlene thought about what had just happened and what was to happen. The thoughts, intertwined and extremely distinct, somehow became muddled within her consciousness, and she felt a whirling departure through her psyche which was transferring her rational thoughts into whirring random thoughts. She was lost.

But, the road was straight, without intersection, and a laser shot to her destination. With siren and flashing light, her vehicle moved remarkably quickly across the intracoastal connections. After making such great time, she turned off the siren and light when crossing Alton Road and edging toward Ocean Drive. Upon arrival, she handed her keys to the valet, and walked with a bit of a bounce into the bar and noticed immediately that no less than 10 police officers were inside wearing their respective concepts of ordinary clothing. All stood out, either as gregarious, irrational or obscure – Boss and the Captain being the latter as they or their attire made her extremely uncomfortable. When she walked

toward the bar the bartender looked at her, looked at Shirley who was nodding, and then he grabbed a goblet and made another Virgin Shirley for his customer.

After receiving her drink, she slowly turned around at the bar to see if there was a potential conversation in her midst. None appeared to fit the request. Then she turned back to the bar and noticed that someone was next to her, very close to her, and she held out a hand and introduced herself, "Hi. I am Shirley and I have heard a lot about you."

"Hi. Guess I am at a loss, as I do not know much about you. Hope the words about me were kind." Not knowing if they were, but being concerned, she then looked coyly to Shirley and finished, "Were they kind words?"

Smirking at the coquette looking Marlene, Shirley slowly exhaled, "The kindest." And, then she led Marlene back to her booth of Miami's best.

As Marlene was walking to the booth, Marin and Gort were entering. Marin, always concerned about being ambushed for something he had done recently or even in his distant past, knew the room was full of illogical patrons. He first saw Boss and the Captain. Then he saw the gang of women in the booth which included Marlene, a face he knew but could not quite put a name on or associate what part of his past it was to be associated. He continued to look around, and saw the remainder as eclectic and different. But, he also knew he was old and did not know the terms or rules of these establishments any more, and the uniqueness of the patrons may be the norm for Miami Beach drinking establishments for the 21st century.

Gort, not as capable of observation, saw his daughter only and immediately walked toward her and was a bit surprised to see her accompanied by a man. But, he understood she was both intelligent and savvy, and the inclusion of the person had a purpose, which she obviously knew and he would have to learn within the next several minutes. As he walked toward his daughter, he did not need to commence discussion as she leaped out of her chair and ran to hug her father, and looked back to Joshua and said, "Joshua, this is my father. Dad, this is Joshua – someone who will be very important to you and me."

While everyone was hugging and embracing, Boss, Captain, as well as Shirley's table and a few more of Miami's undercover finest were incapable of hearing the specifics of the discussion. But, Ocean Drive had a van parked out front of the bar which was fully loaded with surveillance equipment, and every word was decipherable and taped. Joshua

knew this would be forthcoming since his divulgence of the location of the rendezvous. But, the other officers in the bar were less aware. Only Boss and Captain knew the details.

Observing every detail was the bartender. Aware of the sting and the large numbers of officers in the facility, he was extremely conscience of the partisans, and wondered what the immense need was for so many officers to cover the table of two elderly men, one young woman and a dweeb – all unarmed and none capable of standing a fight with or outrunning Shirley or her pack. This lack of logical conclusion for providing so much muscle for this escapade made him extremely nervous, and he reached below the bar to assure himself that his 45 and his glock were both within reach, and relieve his anxiety of any concepts of his being in danger from the people flooding his establishment.

As he exhaled in relief of his safety, Shirley motioned to him for another round, and he immediately went to his job. “Tips were going to be bountiful,” he thought, “And I hope that no one does anything foolish to ruin my economic gain.”

102.

“Joshua. Before we being to speak here, I need to ask a few questions of you. Okay?” Gort sternly asked of the young man seated next to his adoring and only daughter.

Joshua nodded.

“First, do you know what happened to bring about this meeting?”

Joshua nodded and shirked his shoulders at the same time.

Susan interrupted, “I told him about the chimp and the *phalaenopsis-fosteriana* cross.” Anyone but a few eccentric people overhearing that sentence would have no clue what that meant and would have shaken their heads. Everyone at the table smiled when those words were spoken as they effectively opened the dialogue’s door.

At this juncture, Gort motioned to the bartender who shrugged at the waitress to handle the table. She darted to their service and returned with their order in no time. The waitress had previously been instructed to give that table undivided attention. She always adhered to the bartender’s request as many nights tabulations ended with his decision of how to divide the credit card tips. Something she knew could be more equitable if he was treated properly and without question.

“So you have heard about our ability to advance Mother Nature. To take her where even she has not been before. To perhaps accelerate what Darwin would be deem inevitable or even perhaps to make the unfit survive and evolve. Whatever the conclusion may be, we can create beauty which nature had not. And, as you may know, people who adore plants and nature’s bountiful production of the natural production, they also want the obscure. Do you understand?”

Joshua nodded.

“Let me put it to you more simply. Have you seen those bright blue orchids being sold in stores and on the streets?”

Joshua nodded.

“Gort continued, “They sell for \$20 a plant. They are punks. Simple white *phalaenopsis* which is worth \$6 on the street. But, some bozo injects them with dye. And, the plant grows blue. On game days, he injects them with green and orange for UM fans. Blue and orange for the Gator fans. All adapted with a simple nickle of dye. And, he gets \$14 more a plant because of that gimmick. Do you see what people do when they have something that is a little unique? They spend.”

Joshua nodded.

“Our plans are not a gimmick. They are not a simple game plan which any second grader can manipulate. We are making headway on a creation which will befuddle the experts for years. All the while holding complex patents over the process and plants. Being a monopoly of the supply. Prohibiting others from sharing the wealth for 7 or more years, using cloning and other accelerate manners of multiplying the supply of these amazing plants, we could sell millions each year. At prices of \$100 per plant minimum. Get the point? Then another plant, with another patent with another 7-year exclusivity. And, so forth. At the end of the day, we sit back and go to the basement and count the money while others sate their need to own the exclusive item by spending what would amount to a fine dinner at a 3-star restaurant. Do you see this?”

Joshua nodded.

Gort looked deeply into Joshua’s eyes until he was convinced the silent but nodding person seated across from him did understand. Then he raised his hand looked at Marin and Susan and said, “Let us pray to live another day so that we can see the success of the cross.”