

Bromeli Advisory

February 2015



Nat DeLeon with wife Eileen in background. Watermark behind photo is *Aechmea chantinii* 'Nat DeLeon.'

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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

February 2015

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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Raffle: Melissa Brail
Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

FEBRUARY 20, 2015

SPEAKER: Bruce McAlpin – Miniature Neoregelias

RAFFLE TABLE: Christine Pfeffer

FOOD: Pat Gaetjens, Maureen Adelman, Sharon Maessen,

Speaker is Bruce McAlpin Miniature Neoregelias

A few years ago, Bruce moved to Alva into his new home and nursery. A professor at Miami-Dade College for decades, Bruce became and continue to be acquainted with many of the taxonomists, horticulturists and serious growers of bromeliads throughout Florida. His past includes work on a professional basis. Bruce has been involved with the study and propagation of plants of a variety of botanical families. Bruce was also in contact with Harry Luther of Marie Selby Botanic Gardens.



Bruce McAlpin

MEMBERSHIP TIME

The last two pages of this advisory are membership forms. Renewal forms is first and the very last is the **new** membership form – something to give to your buddies. If you want to be in the membership book, the deadline is coming (see form for deadline dates and how to deliver the form to the proper party).

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

President's Message

by Sandy Roth

On a sad note...I start out by saying Farewell to one of the most important men I have ever had the opportunity to really get to know – Nat DeLeon.



It always amazed me each month at the meeting when Nat was called up for SHOW and TELL . . . after all these years he was still excited talking about

his gorgeous plants !!

I also was honored to work in his garden for over 2 years. He didn't let too many people touch his plants. He also named one after me *Aechmea var. fasciata* 'Sandy.'

I will surely miss seeing Nat at the meetings . . . always seated in the front row.

I can almost bet that he will be there in spirit, making sure we carry on with his work – and Love of Bromeliads!!

Until we meet again

In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

The meeting was bifurcated into two presentations. The first portion was delivered by Alan Herndon who showed the Anna Thompson photos of the 2014 show put on to the large LED screens at the Corbin Building. The brilliance of the photos combined with the majestic method of showing the photos in layered effect made the presentation more impressive than in years past when utilizing slides or projectors throwing the images on a white screen. Furthermore, Alan's extensive knowledge of the plants helped describe the uniqueness or other aspects of the plants which delivered reward at the show.

Mike Michalski followed with a presentation of how to prepare your plants for the upcoming show. Some tips for those who have not gone to shows were provided.

First, clean your pot before you pot the plant for the show. One of the easiest ways of cleaning the pot, according to former president Ed Prince, was to use one of the classic car cleaning products in a spray bottle and rub with a paper towel. Amazingly, dirt-laden pots which shine with brilliant gleam after just one swift brush with a paper towel.

Secondly, have the dirt filled to the rim, and push in from the rim toward the middle. The judges have

made remarks about the potting soil not being at the appropriate height. One of our constant winners, Josefa Leon, usually goes to an orchid supply store and puts non-soil products on the top to give the plant an even greater professional look. She has used small round lava rocks or other products in the past which do give a very different and better look.

Mike also had tips for those who wanted to replant the pups prior to the show. First, do not cut the pup too short. If you cut off a pup which does not have any roots, do not throw it away. Instead, put it on top of the soil of another pot. Within a few days or weeks, roots should come from that particular plant and be prepared for the subsequent potting routine.

Secondly, when the plant has the roots ready to be potted, do not plant it too deep or too shallow. Basically, Mike uses his finger to press an indentation into the loose soil and follows by placing the thin pup into that indentation. Usually, one to two inches in depth will suffice.

Thirdly, Mike truly believes that one should fertilize the soil before putting the plant in. He said to use some slow release fertilizer into that hole before delivering the plant. You can also put some of the soil release after putting the plant in, but before covering with the soil. It should be known that Craig Morell says that putting the slow release or other fertilizer at the top is ill advised. Often, you are merely fertilizing the ground covering weeds by putting fertilizer products so high in the pot – or where their rooting area is most progressive. For the reason, another good reason for utilizing Josefa Leon's topcover (lava balls) would be advisable. Using wide items, such as wood chips or other attractive mulches, may not prohibit the growth of weeds as well as the utilizing lava balls or lava materials, but may hinder the growth before the show.

The basic purpose of Mike's presentation was to have you go to your yard now while the pups are emerging. The pups often become distorted if they are not removed early enough because the growth is extremely close to the parent plant. If the pups seem too small, you can avoid the issue of the leaf distortion by stripping the mother plant's leaves. Although this will kill the parent plant (it's going to die anyway as it has already flowered), the maintenance of the root system to the mother plant while the pups are just commencing their own root system is important. For this reason, the maintenance of the stripped parent will allow the root systems to grow and simultaneously prohibit the distortion of leave

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material to the pup because the parent's leave matter does not intrude upon nor shade nor create water spots to the emerging pup.

If all these particular matters are followed, we should have another spectacular show this year. Alan Herndon, who has now run the show for a number of years, has enthusiastically embraced anyone who wants to become involved. It truly is a great event annually presented by this organization; and, the emergence of digital photography and improved screens at the Corbin Building make the annual review of the winning plants more impressive.

Nat DeLeon Passes Away

by Moyna Prince

Nat DeLeon passed away on January 28, 2015, a month after the passing of his beloved wife Eileen.

Nat was a larger-than-life figure in the bromeliad world. In charge of landscaping at the Parrot Jungle and Gardens in Miami he was determined to make the grounds as beautiful as the colorful birds flying overhead. I remember taking my sons and later my grandsons to see the parrots. Well, they admired and fed the birds while I admired the bromeliads, palms and heliconias and took home pointers for my backyard landscaping. And this is just one of the major impacts Nat had on South Florida's landscape. Forty years ago you never saw bromeliads in public landscaping. Now massed plantings of Aechmeas, Neoregelias and other genera can be found everywhere.

Nat's influence at the Bromeliad Society of South Florida was immense. He was a founder and a frequent president and headed up one of the most unforgettable World Bromeliad Conferences, held in Miami in 1988. I doubt if the public attendance at that WBC has been equalled since. It brought together growers and speakers from Europe and Latin America as well as the USA, people who participated because of Nat's international stature.

Nat continued to be active in our society. At shows he was the classification expert and was generous with suggestions to neophyte members on how to prepare their entries. At monthly meetings he was in charge of the Show and Tell Table. "Whose plant is this?" he'd ask with a smile and if you were the owner you weren't sure whether to cringe or beam. But even

with a cringe-worthy plant his suggestions would leave you feeling encouraged. Nat wanted everyone to love and appreciate bromeliads the way he did.

The DeLeon legacy lives on in the many bromeliad species and cultivars named for him. He leaves three sons, two of whom operate DeLeon's Bromeliads with branches in South Dade and Mount Dora. All of us send condolences to the DeLeon family on this sad occasion.

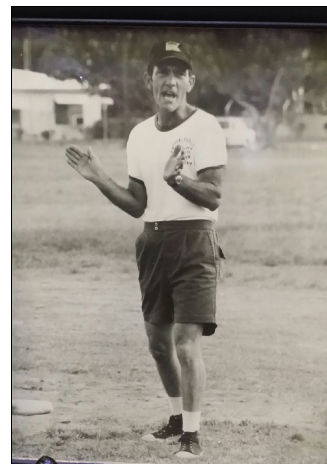
Remembering Nat DeLeon

by Herb Plover

It was sad to learn of the death of Nat DeLeon whom I knew for 54 years. It was doubly sad because it came on the heels of the passing of Eileen DeLeon, Nat's wife, life companion, assistant, computer secretary and nurse only a month before.

In 1960 when I had become interested in bromeliads I made a trip to Florida, and I visited the Parrot Jungle in Miami because I had heard it had many bromeliads planted by their horticulturalist, Nat DeLeon. I was fortunate in meeting Nat there. I asked many questions about the bromeliads, and thereafter we became occasional correspondents, discussing various aspects of bromeliad horticulture.

Nat was really an expert and was willing to share his knowledge with someone who was also



addicted to broms - just as he did over many years for the members of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida which he co-founded. Nat joined the BSI around 1956 and served as Director for 10 years beginning May, 1960. Nat invited me to visit him and to see his bromeliad collection sometime in 1979

or 1980. He proudly showed me his hybrid, *Orthophytum* 'Blaze', that was bright red and in full bloom. He made many great hybrids, some of

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which he patented. He took me around the place, showed me many plants and discussed different aspects of the horticulture for each plant. I remember having more than a tinge of jealousy as I thought of what I had to go through to grow these plants indoors. As we were walking up his driveway to leave, my wife Sylvia was busy talking to Nat when she suddenly shrieked and jumped up in fright. She had stepped on a big garden snake. Nat picked up the snake and flung it in the bushes. Then he apologized and told her with a smile: "Sylvia, you should try out for the high jump."

After the passage of new bylaws by the BSI Board in 1980, Nat was elected President of the BSI and served for 6 years. I was on the BSI Board and was directly involved with him in creating the new, democratic structure called for in the bylaws, and in resolving (finally) the heated controversy over judging and judging schools that went on for 7 years. I also think of Nat DeLeon when I recall the great 1988 World Conference show in Miami in which he was involved administratively and as an exhibitor. He mounted a display of his hybrids in bloom, including a new *Guzvriesea*, a bi-generic genus that was rarely seen at that time.

Thereafter Nat and I would meet every two years at World Conferences and I was able to congratulate him on his becoming an Honorary Trustee of BSI in about 2001; he congratulated me at the WBC in 2006 when I became Honorary Trustee, saying: "It's about time."

In 2009 Nat joined Derek Butcher and me to write as Honorary Trustees to BSI President Joyce Brehm and the Board of Directors protesting their attempted creation of a Bromeliad Cultivar Registry without consultation of the Cultivar Registrar or asking for his approval.

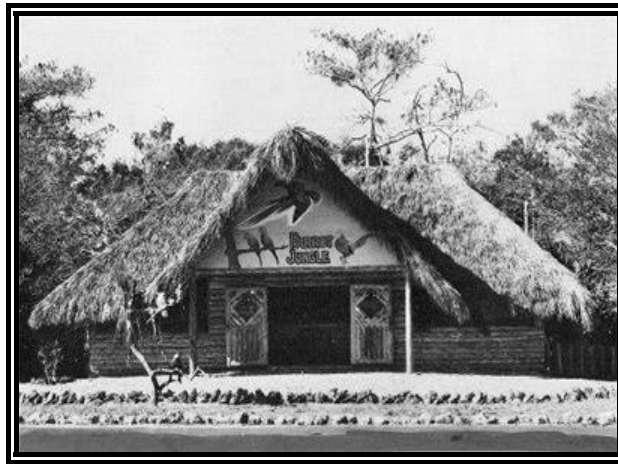
We last posed for a photo with Eileen and Sylvia at the 2012 World Conference in Orlando where we were both honored for 50+ years of service. Nat had 5 more years than I had. I took the attached photo of Nat and Eileen at that time. In passing Nat DeLeon has left a legacy as a icon and role model for members and growers to increase their bromeliad knowledge and to give of themselves to better their clubs and the BSI.

Memories of Nat

by Alan Herndon

I first met Nat DeLeon around 1976, when I first joined BSSF along with my brother, Kerry, and my mother, Julia. We were all working on starting what was to become Kerry's Nursery, and had recently shifted our attention to bromeliads. Jim Talley, a local landscaper with an interest in bromeliads, and a customer at the nursery told us about BSSF and invited us to join. Nat was, of course, the center of the group. The 'show and tell' table was a lesson on some facet of bromeliad biology every month. All of the important members of the society needed to talk to Nat throughout the meeting, still he made time to talk

to a small group of totally ignorant, but willing-to-learn, new members. Before long, he made the time to visit a tiny nursery whose entire bromeliad inventory was undoubtedly dwarfed by - and far inferior in quality to - the plants he had in his own backyard. In short, he was dedicated to encouraging any spark of interest in bromeliads, no matter how feeble and unpromising.



Iconic Parrot Jungle

Alas, I did not share his dedication to bromeliads at the time. By the early 1980's, I was working in Everglades Natinoal Park, and starting to take a serious interest in learning about the wider world of biology. With a long daily commute to the park, and, soon, academic studies, monthly meetings of BSSF fell victim to an overly crowded schedule. Over a period of nearly 20 years, I attended fewer than 10 BSSF meetings or shows. Still, when I - with Rhonda - rejoined the group in 2000, Nat greeted us enthusiastically, remembered who I was, and resumed his encouragement as if the 20 year gap never existed.

Persistence of purpose was also evident in Nat's relationship with both the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS). In both organizations, he pushed hard for support of scientific research on bromeliads. The most concrete results were the establishment of the

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Bromeliad Identification Center (BIC) at Marie Selby Botanical Garden and the codification of the principal that proceeds from the Rare Plant Auction at a BSI World Conference were dedicated to support of scientific research. In practice, the two have been closely related over time because much of the money spent on scientific research went to Selby.

Nat was also consistently pushing for use of correct names on bromeliads. For species, this meant using the names accepted in current scientific literature; for hybrids, it meant the creation of a systematic approach to assigning names to the new hybrids that were (and are still) being produced in ever increasing numbers. Much of the reason he lobbied for the establishment of the BIC was to have an accessible institutional source that could keep up with new publications on bromeliad taxonomy and render judgements on proper bromeliad nomenclature. Director of the BIC, Harry Luther, provided much of the desired support by publishing a checklist of accepted bromeliad species every few years.

Bringing order to the onslaught of new hybrids - and their names - was a task Nat applied himself to directly. He started the BSI project to register bromeliad hybrids, a project that has expanded over the years under a succession of talented leaders to become the current Bromeliad Cultivar Registry.

Of course, Nat wanted the names he and his successors gathered to be used consistently and correctly. To that end, as judged bromeliad shows started to appear in Florida, FCBS adopted the rule that any plant entered into an FCBS sponsored judged show had to be labeled with a registered cultivar name in order to compete for major awards. That provided an incentive for growers to write out an extra tag and stick it in the bottom of the pot just in case a curious, or just plain mischievous, bird should take a fancy to the idea of pulling name tags from a bench full of plants destined for the show table.

Through his life, Nat led by example. He helped countless newcomers feel welcome in the bromeliad world, setting a model for how a local society should operate. He inspired the BSSF to stage the most creative World Bromeliad Conference that has yet been seen. His steadfast leadership held BSSF together for more than 50 years.

He will be missed by all who knew him. He will be missed.

Karl Green Speech at November 2008 Meeting Honoring Nat DeLeon

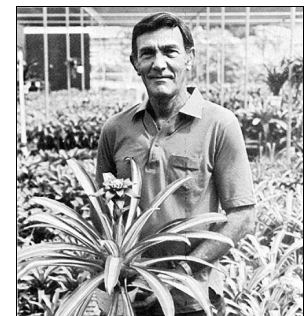
On this honorable occasion, I am proud and grateful to be allowed to present the oral presentation on behalf

of the BSSF. As the president of BSSF, I have been involved with Nat DeLeon for a period of years. And, all good years.

I do not seek to reiterate the history of this person. You already received a copy of the BromeliAdvisory which included Moyna Prince's wonderful article depicting Nat's life history as well as Alan Herndon's article about the feats of Nat DeLeon in the bromeliad world. I humbly cannot add to those impressive works and instead wish to focus on another theme.

Everyone knows Nat has received numerous awards, and so I will not hash on that point. What I wish to do is to tell you about the alphabet soup of Nat's bromeliad history which you may or may not know about. Numerous acronyms have become a part of Nat, and quite frankly, numerous acronyms are the creation of Nat DeLeon. Behind BSI, BSSF, BCBS, BSI, FCBS and many other acronyms, Nat DeLeon played an instrumental role. I shall explain.

You all know of the **BSI** – Bromeliad Society International. When it started, it was primarily an Australian/California organization, managed, handled and led by people of Australia and the American west coast. Then Nat became involved. And the organization's perspective grew. Florida became another venue in which bromeliad cultivation blossomed. Species in Florida would differ – as they still do – from California cultivars or hybrids because of different interests, weather differences or both. Nat gave the **BSI** a new perspective reflective of the bromeliad world you and I see today. And in 2000, Nat was named an honorary trustee – a lifetime appointment.



Emanating from the **BSI** is the **WBC** – world bromeliad conference. In 2008, the 18th annual show was held. In 1980, the WBC was in Miami to which Nat was instrumental. Amazingly, Florida hosted this event when few Floridians were **BSI** members.

You all know the **BSSF** – Bromeliad Society of South Florida. What you may or may not know is that Nat was a founder– maybe **the** founder. He was the first president of the **BSSF**. He has been a president on three occasions. And when the

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BSSF grew, he helped arrange the organization of **BSBC** – Bromeliad Society of Broward County. Hence, the overload of the Broward and Dade affiliations could be better served with the two organizations which lead many of the causes for the **FCBS**.

You have heard of **FCBS** – Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. And you may remember that the **FCBS** is instrumental in delivering research in fighting the evil weevil. When the evil weevil was first becoming a concern, Nat DeLeon obtained a vast amount of *tillandsia utriculata*, and shipped the same to the laboratories of the **FCBS** to perform their scientific studies.

You have heard of **BIC** – bromeliad identification center. This Marie Selby Botanical Gardens organization is increasingly important and better establishes florida as being an instrumental agent for bromeliad growers worldwide. In 1983, funding for **BIC** was originated mainly from an auction to which Nat DeLeon held a major role. Nat was at the forefront of this organization's history.

These accomplishments are more pronounced when contrasted to the time of the respective events. Nat has been at the doorstep of many bromeliad accomplishments – the evil weevil study, the World Bromeliad Conference, the creation of the BSSF and the BSBC, the inception of the Bromeliad Identification Center and more.

Nat DeLeon is much more than the man we monthly see delivering stupendously colored plants for show and tell – where he explains a n d describes the leaf structure, reveals how the lolly-pop colors of t h e infloresce n c e evolved, a n d divulges the rarely k n o w n history of t h e innumera ble hybrids to which h e h a s



Nat DeLeon July 2014 holding the eponymously adored *Aechmea chantinii* 'Nat DeLeon'

been involved during his decades of bromeliad research. Nat is – in many respects – the Johnny Appleseed of the bromeliad world, especially for South Florida.

Nat DeLeon's Parrot Jungle was the Quintessential South Florida paradise for decades. Tourists and locals would visit for the birds, but more often left with lasting impressions of the undercover plants he adorned on the large lot. A zone 10 phenomenon, parrot jungle was the place where Tarzan's jungle blended delicately with brilliant tropical grace.

Parrot "Jungle" was perhaps a misnomer for this attraction – "Parrot Paradise" would have better described the environment of 57th and 110th street.

Legend has been told that bromeliads were rare until Nat DeLeon and Parrot Jungle introduced this area to the same. I believe that the average landscape of Miami would have a fraction of the bromeliads we see today had Nat DeLeon not resided here. Nat DeLeon – the pioneer in the bromeliad world who excavated the roads for BIC, BSI, FCBS and more – is as much the father to South Florida bromeliad landscaping as he is the father to this organization.

The unselfish energies he has expended to this organization cannot be measured. Annually, he delivered tables of plants to the annual show. His appearances, according to Robert Meyer, culminated with no less than 80 plants in any given year. To give you a perspective of the volume of this entry – that number represents about 25% of the entire show at the World Bromeliad Conference!

This event is indeed a rare event in this organization. But it is an event to which the organization would be remiss if it did not feast and celebrate this icon to the organization and bromeliad world.

At this time, I raise my glass and ask that all join me in making a solemn and heart felt toast to the father of the BSSF – Nat DeLeon.

A Brief History of Nat DeLeon in the Bromeliad World.

By Alan Herndon

[Reprinted from November 2008 BromeliAdvisory]

Nat's interest in bromeliads began after he became Director of Horticulture at Parrot Jungle. In the early years, bromeliads were not easy to find in cultivation, so Nat traveled to different parts of the state and sent off for every nursery

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catalog containing exotic plants that he heard of. He also developed an extensive correspondence with collectors and growers from Europe and Latin America in his quest for new plants. Finding the commercially available supply inadequate to meet his needs for mass plantings at Parrot Jungle, he turned to hybridization and raising plants from seed early on.

In 1959, several bromeliad growers in Dade County decided to form a local society devoted to the study of bromeliads and to seek affiliation with the still young Bromeliad Society, Inc. (now Bromeliad Society International or BSI). Nat served as President of the Temporary Board and the first President of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida (BSSF) for the period May 1960- May 1961. Once BSSF was awarded affiliate status with BSI, Nat was made, as was customary at the time, an Honorary Vice President and Director of BSI.

In 1962, *Nidularium deleonii* was described by Lyman B. Smith (Bromeliad Society Bulletin 12(6): 104-105.) based on specimens collected by Nat in Colombia. In an accompanying article, Nat (pages 105-107) provided more information on the conditions encountered while collecting the plants. The plant was transferred to the genus *Ronnbergia* shortly thereafter. Twenty years later, a second plant from the same collecting trip was recognized as a distinct species and formally described by Harry Luther as *Ronnbergia neoregelioides* (Journal of the Bromeliad Society 33(1): .)

By 1964, BSSF had grown considerably, bolstered in part by a strong contingent from Broward County. When the size of the society threatened to overwhelm the meeting facilities, Nat encouraged the Broward folks to start their own society. He became a charter member and aided the young society through yearly programs and donations of plants to their sales.



At this early date, Nat's plants at Parrot Jungle and in his private collection were also drawing wide attention. Visits with Nat formed the basis of articles in the BSI journal in 1966, 1973 and 1978.

In 1968, Nat's hybrid *Aechmea* 'David Barry' was featured on the cover of the journal (volume 18, number 6). The plant had not yet been named and was identified only by its hybrid formula. Two more Nat hybrids were featured on the back cover of the journal in 1970 (volume 20, number

6). Again, these were identified strictly by hybrid formulas.

In 1977, Nat was instrumental in forming the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS). The immediate purpose of the council was to provide a support group for the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida with the World Bromeliad Conference/30th Anniversary of BSI scheduled for Orlando in 1980. This also provided the impetus for BSSF to begin a series of annual shows that continues to this day (the BSSF staged shows before this, but I don't know that they were annual shows). In any case, the numbering system for shows in use today began in 1978. During this period, Nat also assumed the presidency of the BSSF for the second time (1979-1979) and was a consultant helping guide the development of the new Bromeliad Identification Center at Selby Botanical Gardens

One of the ventures of the FCBS was Grande magazine (4 issues published in 1978-79). In the first issue of Grande, a visit to Nat's private collection formed the basis for a feature article, and in the third issue, Nat, as president of FCBS, authored a major article on the need for 'responsible hybridizing'. This article (representing official FCBS policy), called for scrupulous record-keeping in hybridization programs and for discouraging the propagation of hybrids that do not represent some improvement on the parents. In furtherance of this policy, the FCBS adopted a rule not allowing unregistered hybrids to compete for major awards in shows by member societies. The article also called on growers (and particularly) sellers to make every effort to ensure that they use correct names on plants.

Nat was soon taking on a more prominent national role. He was elected president of the BSI at the 1982 board meeting and took office in 1983. The board meeting took place in conjunction with the World Bromeliad Conference at Corpus Christi. At that Conference, Nat also played a major role in organizing an auction to support the Bromeliad Identification Center at Selby. As the newly installed president, he was profiled in the first issue of the Journal of the Bromeliad Society for 1983.



Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

In 1985, Nat became the Hybrid Registrar for the BSI. From this position, he attempted to standardize the naming of bromeliad cultivars and hybrids. This was a long-standing project of Nat's. He brought up the issue in the Grande article mentioned above, as well as in an article introducing *Guzmania lingulata* 'Superb' (JBS 33(1): 21-22,29). Coincident with this appointment as Hybrid Registrar, he published an article on the treatment of variegated plant names (JBS 35(1): 34-36.), pointing out how misleading it was to use 'latinized' names that gave an aura of taxonomic respectability to plants that arose in cultivation

With the responsibility for hosting a World Bromeliad Conference coming up in 1988, Nat again took the helm of the BSSF om 1986 and 1987. During that period he focused the society on producing a wildly successful show. His presidential messages in the Advisory were full of encouragement and practical suggestions for the society members involved in the show. This show, aside from being financially successful beyond expectation, raised over \$10,000 for the still young Bromeliad Identification Center.

In more recent years, Nat has strongly supported the 'Evil Weevil' project, a project aimed at eradicating or controlling the population of a recently introduced beetle with an appetite for our native Florida *Tillandsia* species. He helped organize a project to collect seeds from native populations and grow the seedlings for eventual replanting in native environments.

With this history, it is not surprising that Nat has been repeatedly honored for his contributions. In 1996, he was inducted in the Florida Foliage Hall of Fame. In 2000, he was elected and Honorary Trustee of BSI and also Honorary Trustee of FCBS. FCBS honored Nat again in 2006, at the Bromeliad Extravaganza (hosted by BSSF) with a special award.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7-8, 2015
Mounts Botanical Garden Pretty & Spice Orchid Extravaganza and Herbal Sensation
Mounts Botanical Garden
559 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL
More Info: 561-233-1757 or <http://www.mounts.org/>

March 13-15, 2015
Fairchild 13th Annual International Orchid Festival
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, Florida
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/events-community-outreach>



March 14 - Sunday March 15
Spring Plant Sale at Leu Gardens
<http://www.leugardens.org/plant-sale-weekend-march-14th-15th/>

March 21-22
Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society
Pinecrest Gardens
11100 Red Rd., Pinecrest



March 27 - Sunday March 29
Tropiflora's Spring Festival
www.tropiflora.com



March 28-29, 2015
Garden Expo
Volunteer Park
12050 W. Sunrise Blvd.
Plantation, FL 33232
More Info: 954-530-0076 or
<http://www.gfwcplantationwomansclub.com/>

March 28-29
South Florida Palm Society
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/events-community-outreach>



April 4-5, 2015
Flamingo Gardens Orchid & Bromeliad Expo & Sale
3750 South Flamingo Road
Davie, FL 33330
For more information call: 954-473-2955 or
<http://www.flamingogardens.org/>



May 2-3, 2015
Broward County Plant Affair
Plantation Heritage Park
1100 South Fig Tree Lane
Plantation, FL
More Info: 954-797-2722 or
http://www.plantation.org/ai/lec_event/plant-affair/

May 15-16, 2015
Redland International Orchid Festival
Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187th Ave
Miami, FL
<http://www.redlandorchidfestival.org/>



July 24-26, 2015
Caladium Festival
DeVane Park
Lake Placid, FL 33852
<http://www.lpfla.com/caladium.htm>



Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

September 26, 2015

**Bromeliad Extravaganza
"Bromeliads in the Magic City"
711 N.W. 72nd Avenue
Miami, Florida, 33126**

Room reservation:

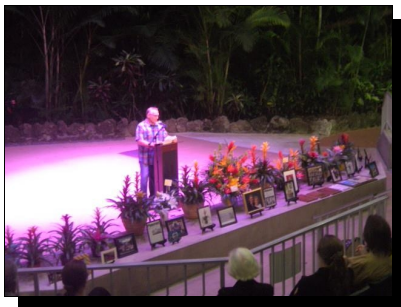
<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/M/MIAMADT-BRO-20150923/index.jhtml>

Celebration of Nat's Life Held February 3, 2015 at the Parrot Jungle n/k/a Pinecrest Gardens

by Robert Meyer

Some people go out with a bang. Nat went out with fireworks where so many memories created by the "Godfather of the BSSF" were made – the Pinecrest Gardens f/k/a Parrot Jungle.

Amazingly, and maybe not coincidentally, Sandy Roth pointed out that the event occurred on the First Tuesday of the month – the evenings of the BSSF



Son Rob speaking

m o n t h l y
m e e t i n g s
f o r
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f o u r
d e c a d e s .
C o m m e n c i n g
t h e
c e r e m o n y
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R o b
D e L e o n
w h o
i n t r o d u c e d
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c r o w d
–
a n d
e v e n
h i s
b r o t h e r
D o n
–
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p r e v i o u s l y
u n k n o w n
f a c t s
a b o u t
N a t
D e L e o n .

Nat grew up as an orphan. Twelve people started the South Florida Bromeliad Society in 1959 – among which was Nat. Nat started the BSI. Nat loved the identification of bromeliads. Nat hung around Mulford Foster who traded plants with Nat or sold the same. In 1979, Nat jump-started DeLeon's Bromeliad World with his sons. In 1988, Nat was instrumental in bringing the World Conference to Miami which opened the American market to European heavyweights – Bak, De Meyer and Deroose. In 1964, Nat was president of



Son Don speaking to the crowd.

the palm society. Nat ventured into hybridizing aglaonema. Nat's talents for hybrids was less an artistic gift, but more of a gift of curiosity.

Don added how DeLeon's Bromeliad World started out slowly. It took years to get the profit margins high enough that the boys could give up their respective "other jobs." Around 1990, DeLeon's Nursery was bought at the tract near Monkey Jungle. Subsequently, Mount Dora. And, the rest is history.

Nat's fathering was honored with mentions about baseball coaching, UM fanaticism, and more.

After the passing of Eileen, his wife of over 62 years on December 26, 2014, his death made the past few months very emotional for the numerous family members who showed up to the event.

Pinecrest representatives and caterers finished off the ceremony to the BSSF leader's life. The presence of Deroose, the Bullis family, and many other bromeliad plant aficionados verified this man's impact upon and affect within the bromeliad community.

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

PREVIOUS CHAPTERS MAY BE SEEN IN
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

109.

Federal agents enjoy being unpleasant to criminals and attorneys, and not necessarily in that order. But, on occasion, other police can also deliver similar pleasure – especially when the police person has been part of an embarrassment or is seen as a disaster to the force.

Marlene knew this, and so she was subtle. She mentioned little things, like hands which may have been shaking. Or dilated pupils. Or speech slurring. And, in the end, when she had finished her debriefing with the federal agents, enough information was conveyed to the person with enough authority to institute an inquiry into the sobriety of Shirley that fateful night when one innocent person was shot by one embarrassing moment tarnishing forever the life of an officer.

Decades of good PR in Miami for the bureau were quashed within a moment's moment – the time to shoot his pistol at a bouncer.

Several telephone calls and prosecutorial threats later, Captain was instructed to have Shirley come down to the office immediately. He phoned her at her home, and discovered that she was extremely tired after having only fallen asleep a few minutes prior to his call. But, understanding the rank differential between she and her caller, she immediately showered and dressed to make it to the precinct within the prescribed 30 minutes allotted.

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

"Glad you could come." Captain said very dryly and like someone who was her superior as opposed to her commanding officer with whom she had shared beers on occasion. "You will be escorted here to a ladies room with Officer Pascual who will instruct you on the necessity of filling that jar with your bodily fluids within the next fifteen minutes. Upon completing your assignment, you will hand the jar to Officer Pascual, who will never be out of your sight, and she will relay that jar to our labs, where we will process information. Do you understand what you are to do?"

"Pee in the cup – like I'm Jose Canseco, or something like that? Right?"

"Very well. The two of you know where to go and you, Shirley, know how to go – correct?" And without verbal response, the two women walked down the corridor.

110.

When the girls were off to the can for the diuretic samplings, a call arrived. It was from Fairchild Gardens. Because of the relationship in the recent past, the Captain wanted Boss to cover this call. Boss then got Rodriguez to bounce up from his chair and the two sped off to their car.

"Our third visit in a few weeks, eh Boss?" Rodriguez interjected while driving to start up some small talk.

"Yeah. But, at least we enter for free. The lame visitors are charged \$25 a visit, and after three visits, that amounts to one day at Disney. Which would you prefer – three Fairchild visits or one day at Disney?" Boss remarked.

"Gee, hombre that is a hard one to answer. After all, who would prefer rides, character, colors, and diverse concepts over a hot outdoor facility with plants and a few butterflies?" And, then the two comrades laughed heartily before entering the grounds.

"Well, well, well – if it isn't my good friend, Paul." Boss exclaimed.

Paul, after being subjected to verbal inquisition by Boss on two prior occasions, stood tall and pointed to the eaves above him.

"Well, you are standing, and pointing, to an eave of Corbin A and the auditorium. Is there something which you may want to say about you position, or posture, or purpose for pointing?" Boss asked.

"Yes. They stole it?" Paul answered.

"Stole what?" Rodriguez asked.

"Stole the piping." Paul remarked.

"What piping are we talking about?" Rodriguez asked, really not knowing what this conversation was about nor where it was going.

"What the boss man here calls the gutter." Paul explained.

"Okay. I see we are getting somewhere. They stole a crummy seamless gutter from your roofing. Correct?" Boss asked.

"Yes. But, gutter very valuable." Paul explained.

Boss and Rodriguez looked at one another. First, when are gutters valuable. Secondly, how valuable? And, lastly, when do people rob gutters. What has their job become?

"Made of copper." Paul explained without being asked a question.

"Boss – they cost more than \$25 a linear foot. Aluminum is only \$5 to \$7 a foot. And there are labor issues – takes longer to put up. Soldering expenses. And components have to be made of copper, or problems arise. A very expensive decision." Rodriguez explained to Boss after a minute's silence.

"How do you know that?" Boss asked of this irregular article of knowledge by his otherwise not knowledgeable agent.

"Smart phone." Rodriguez said with a smile and showed Boss the front panel of his phone.

Looking at the area, the two figured the area was about 80 feet – a shocking \$5,000 theft. Somehow, the market to drop this would make the effort worth less than \$2,000.00. But, was it related to the other items which made the two come to premises before? No one knew – but they were sure the answer would be in the negative.

The Extravaganza

When: September 26, 2015

Where: Miami Airport Convention Center
711 Northwest 72nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33126

Rooms: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Miami Airport & Convention Center
TEL: +1-305-261-3800

Use the Group code: "BRO" whether calling, faxing, or emailing reservations.

Book online:

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/M/MIAMADT-BRO-20150923/index.jhtml>
doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/M/MIAMADT-BRO-20150923/index.jhtml or go to
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

NOTES on ATTACHMENTS

Attached are three things. Two are membership forms. They are either for your renewal or for you to deliver to people who wish to become new members. We also attach the New By Laws of BSSF, Inc. There will be vote to confirm the same at a future meeting.

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
BSSF, Inc.
2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

(PLEASE PRINT) NAME(S) _____

(Couples - please include BOTH first names)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

ADD'L. TEL. _____

Year Joined BSSF: _____

Referred by: _____

Include e-mail address in the roster? (Y/N) ☐ Yes ☐ No

E-mail BromeliAdvisory? (Y/N) ☐ Yes ☐ No (You will not receive a hard copy)

EMAIL _____

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR,
PLEASE **HIGHLIGHT** OR UNDERLINE

Please renew my(our) membership in the BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
for the period of March 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016.

Check the category: ☐ Single membership. \$25.00
☐ Dual membership..... \$35.00

Dual members enjoy all the privileges of active membership, but receive only one
copy of the BromeliAdvisory.

**DUES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2015, IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE
INCLUDED IN THE 2015 ROSTER**

Please mail completed form and check

(Payable to BSSF, Inc.) to:

Maureen Adelman
9421 SW 134 Street
Miami, FL 33176

Or E-Mail this form to:

mhadelman@comcast.net

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
BSSF, Inc.
2015 MEMBERSHIP for NEW MEMBERS

(PLEASE PRINT) NAME(S) _____

(Couples - please include BOTH first names)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

ADD'L. TEL. _____

Year Joined BSSF: _____

Referred by: _____

Include e-mail address in the roster? (Y/N) ☐ Yes ☐ No

E-mail BromeliAdvisory? (Y/N) ☐ Yes ☐ No (You will not receive a hard copy)

EMAIL _____

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR,
PLEASE **HIGHLIGHT** OR UNDERLINE

Please create my(our) membership in the BSSF, Inc. for the period of March 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016.

Check the category: ☐ Single membership. \$25.00
 ☐ Dual membership..... \$35.00

Dual members enjoy all the privileges of active membership, but receive only one copy of the BromeliAdvisory.

DUES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2015, IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BSSF 2015 ROSTER

Please mail completed form and check

(Payable to BSSF, Inc.) to:

Maureen Adelman
9421 SW 134 Street
Miami, FL 33176

Or E-Mail this form to:

mhadelman@comcast.net

BSSF, INC BY LAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this corporation shall be BSSF, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Society.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of this Society shall be:

1. To serve the interests of its members by a consistent endeavor to increase their knowledge of all aspects of the Bromeliaceae family.
2. To promote wider public appreciation of bromeliads by participating in, or sponsoring, public displays or other means of promotion and public education.
3. To sponsor, to engage in, and to encourage scientific and educational research that will broaden knowledge in the field of bromeliads including identification, culture, and uses.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

SECTION 1. The business of the society shall be conducted by a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, subject to the directives and restrictions contained in these bylaws. The Board shall be composed of the officers and four directors elected by the active members of the Society.

SECTION 2. The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Except for the Treasurer, they shall be elected for one-year terms and shall serve until their successors take office. The position of Treasurer can be renewed on a yearly basis upon approval of the Board. The President, Vice President and Secretary shall not serve in the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

SECTION 3. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and Board and shall be a member ex officio of all committees except the nominating committee. With the concurrence of the Board, the President shall also appoint such committees as are deemed necessary except for the nominating committee, the composition of which is designated in Article VII, Section 1.

SECTION 4. The Vice President shall perform all duties of the President in the absence of the President and shall be responsible for programs.

SECTION 5. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Society and the Board and shall undertake such correspondence as the President or Board shall authorize. The Secretary shall serve as clerk at all elections.

SECTION 6. The Treasurer shall be custodian of all financial records and monies of the Society. The Treasurer shall disburse funds as directed by the Board and shall receive all dues.

SECTION 7. The Directors shall be elected for terms of two years and may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

SECTION 8. The Board is empowered to fill all vacancies in its composition between annual elections.

SECTION 9. The Board is empowered to authorize expenditures of not more than \$250.00. Expenditures over this amount must be authorized by a majority vote of members present at any regular or special meeting of the membership. The \$250.00 limitation does not apply to expenditures, which will be reimbursed, or to reasonable amounts necessary to provide programs.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. The membership of the Society shall be of three kinds: active, honorary, and life.

SECTION 2. The active members of this Society shall be persons whose interest in bromeliads is such that they demonstrate their willingness to support the Society by their attendance and participation in its activities.

SECTION 3. Active membership shall be by application and payment of the appropriate dues.

SECTION 4. Honorary membership may be conferred upon any such person for outstanding achievement or service in the field of bromeliads or to further the objectives of the Society. The names of such persons must be submitted in writing to the Board. If the Board approves, the qualifications of the nominee shall be presented to the Society at a regular meeting. Approval of two-thirds of the members present shall be necessary for such honorary membership to become effective. Honorary members shall be exempt from payment of dues and may neither vote nor hold office. Upon payment of dues, however, an honorary member shall become an active member and be entitled to all the privileges of such membership. Honorary membership shall be for a period of two years and may be continued for like periods by a majority of the Board.

SECTION 5. Life membership may be conferred upon any person for outstanding achievement or service in the field of bromeliads and this Society. The name of the candidate must be submitted in writing to the Board. If the Board approves, the nomination shall be presented to the Society at a regular meeting. Approval of two-thirds of the members present shall be necessary for such life membership to become effective. Life members shall be exempt from payment of dues and may vote and hold office. Life members shall have all the privileges of active members.

ARTICLE V. DUES

The annual dues for all active members shall be determined by the Board. Dual membership is offered to two members residing at the same address. Dual members are entitled to all privileges of membership in the Society but receive only one bulletin. Dues are payable on or before March 1st of each year.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Regular meetings of the Society shall be held on the third Tuesday of each month – or any other date determined appropriate by the membership – at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, Florida, or at any other place determined appropriate by the membership – upon vote and approval – after one month's notice in substantial conformity with the procedures outlined in ARTICLE VIII. Such meeting times and locations may be changed by a majority vote of the membership present at the previous meeting or by the Board in case of emergency. In such cases the members will be notified as soon as possible.

SECTION 2. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the President, the Board, or by vote of the members at a regular meeting.

SECTION 3. The regular meeting in November shall be designated as the Annual Meeting of members at which the officers and directors for the coming year will be elected. They shall take office at the January meeting and shall serve through December 31st.

SECTION 4. Ten members shall constitute a quorum for regular and special meetings.

A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum at the Board meetings.

SECTION 5. All general meetings except the December members /guests only holiday meeting are open to the public.

ARTICLE VII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. The nominating committee shall consist of three members of the Society. The Chairman shall be elected from the Board at the August Board meeting and the other members shall be elected by the Society at its regular meeting in September.

The nominating committee shall report at the October meeting at which time nominations may be made from the floor providing the consent of the nominee has been obtained. Nominations from the floor may also be made at the November meeting with the same stipulation regarding consent of the nominee.

SECTION 2. A majority vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting shall constitute a valid election. When more than one nominee is presented for an office, the voting shall be by secret ballot and tallied by the Election Clerk.

SECTION 3. No member shall serve in the same office for more than two consecutive terms. Members who have held office for more than one-half the normal term shall be deemed to have held that office for a full term.

SECTION 4. Notwithstanding the provision of this Article VII, section 3, the Treasurer's position may be renewed on a yearly basis upon approval by the Board.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments or additions to these bylaws may be voted on at any meeting of the Society provided such amendment or addition has been published on the newsletter thirty (30) days prior to voting on changes. A quorum must be present and a two-thirds majority of the members present shall be required to amend or add to the bylaws.

ARTICLE IX. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Roberts Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern all procedures not covered in the bylaws.

ARTICLE X. THE SOCIETY'S STATUS AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

In all cases the Society will operate in compliance with Federal and State laws pertaining to regulation of not for profit organizations, i.e. Federal 501(c) 3 and State 508(e) and any other regulations which pertain.

ARTICLE XI. DISPOSITION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of the Society, all the net assets shall be disbursed to any such non-profit organizations that are devoted to the furtherance of those purposes most closely related to the objective of this Society as would qualify under Section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code.