

BromeliAdvisory

March 2015



2014 Show Entries Photo by Desiree Meyer

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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

March 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

MARCH 17, 2015

SPEAKER: Dennis Cathcart – Part II on trip to Brazil

RAFFLE TABLE: Mike Michalski

FOOD: Patty Gonzalez, Barbara Sparling, Chien Manlee, Mary Ann de LaRusso, Laura Coe, Anna Harris

Speaker is Dennis Cathcart

Dennis Cathcart describes his Sarasota-based Tropiflora business as something which arose, "... after a bromeliad collecting hobby got out of hand." A wanderlust adventurer seeking venues where bromeliad species grow, Dennis has accumulated countless adventures of the roughneck areas where tourism requires more love of bivouac than of boulevard shopping. Now a serious blogger recounting his recent trips to south of the border, Dennis will discuss with us his Brazilian adventure – or Part 2. Photographs are always awing at a Cathcart presentation, so this is something to see and hear for all.



TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIPS

The last page of this edition contains the form to renew the membership form. Reasons to do so BEFORE April 1, 2015 are : (1) you get into the book of members; and (2) you can ride and see the Chihuly exhibit April 21, 2015 with Carl Green as your guide. Only paid members can ride the chariot on April 17. So, gather your resources and renew your membership.

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

President's Message

by Sandy Roth

Attention fellow BSSF members!

We have our Bromeliad Show and Sale next month. YOU really need to start thinking about which committees you want to sign up for. There will be sign up sheets at our March meeting.



If you volunteer . . . YOU will be invited to our special dinner that is held Friday, April 17th at my home and garden to thank you for all your hard work.

For all the new members...it will be an opportunity to get to know each other in a relaxing environment and have fun !!

I will be at the Show from Thursday thru Sunday. So, I hope to see each and every one of you . . . at some time during the Show.

Be there or Be square

Sandy Roth

FELLOW MEMBER GIVES INSIGHTFUL HINTS ON PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

by Jeri Parrish

I have spent the last few years clerking for the judges of our show. I have learned more about what the Judges look for and how they rate the plants than I ever could have known on my own. I highly recommend this experience. It has been a great learning lesson for me.



The first year that I was a clerk, I was with a panel of judges that came to one of my plants. I stood with a smile on my face as they picked apart my perfectly grown and beautifully colored Neo for the dirty, water stained leaves and the messy way it was put in the pot. They even wrote me a love note on the back of my tag.

I. PICK THE PLANTS

One of my favorite things to do is to stroll through my garden and my yard and play with my plants.

I can go out for just a quick look in the early afternoon and the next thing I know my Husband is out looking for me with a flashlight. Another lost day playing in the garden...

We all have our own way of getting ready to display our plants. Sandy had a fantastic article about this in our February Advisory. I'd like to share with you a little bit of how I prepare my plants for the show.

At this point you should have picked out the plants that you want to enter in the show. I look for shape, color and condition of the plant before deciding which ones to use.

II. WASH THE PLANTS

Once I have picked my plants, (6-8 weeks before the show), I start the cleaning process.

I put a drop of dish soap in a bowl with warm water and I have a sponge brush handy. You will also need a bowl of plain warm water. Do not use a degreasing soap.

Turn your plant upside down and thoroughly rinse it out with your garden hose. Rinse between the leaves and down in the cone of the plant. Flush EVERYTHING out. Take a pair of tweezers and pick out what the water missed.

Next take your sponge brush and dip it into the soap/water mixture and wipe both sides of each leaf gently from the base to the tip. This will help you to remove any water spots or other debris that might have stained your plant.

The next step in this process is to wipe the plant down one more time with just the warm water.

III. VISUALIZE THE PLANTS

Now that your plant is clean you need to visualize how you are going to present this plant. Will it be in a clean pot, is it on a piece of wood, hanging or will you use the plant in an arrangement or artistic display? How you present the plant is just as important as the cleaning is. (The only exception to this is the habitat category).

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After deciding how to display your plant, put it back in the location that made it so beautiful to begin with. Make sure that it is protected from the environment and check it every day.

My personal advice is to remember that you are entering your plants to be judged. It doesn't matter if your plant is not perfectly shaped or magnificently colored as long as it is very clean and presented well. The judges do take into consideration the time and effort that was put into showing the plant.

IV. WHAT JUDGES LOOK FOR

So let me tell you a little bit about how our plants are judged;

There are three judges to a panel and they banter back and forth with each one giving their opinion of the plant. If they are in agreement a ribbon is granted and they move on to the next plant. If they are not in agreement, they begin a rating process that only NASA and other judges can understand. During that time they are looking over the plant with a sharp eye.

Although they are not allowed to touch the plant, they can ask a clerk to pick up the plant so that they can see it from all sides.

After all of the plants have been judged, the Award of Merit plants are gathered by the clerks and placed together for another round of judging. The judges will each pick a certain amount of favorites and vote on them until a winner is declared in each of the categories.

This year I am in charge of the clerking duties which include:

SCHEDULE FOR JUDGING

8:30am – 11:45am: Shadowing a panel of Judges while judging the plants. (Instructions will be given to each panel clerk on Friday morning).

Noon: A wonderful lunch imagined in the mind of our very own Sandy Roth and her committee.

12:30pm – 3 or 4pm: Arrange the plants that received an Award of Merit on the tables for the final round of judging.

Keep track of the votes for each plant during the final judging round.

Carefully carry the plants back and forth during the final judging round.

Carefully transport the plants to their designated location after the final judging.

Relaying the votes to the show chair for final processing.

As you can see, it is a busy day but so incredibly rewarding. So far my committed volunteers are:

1. Maureen Adelman
2. Antonio Arbelaez
3. Barbara Sparling
4. Pat Tarknahish (check spelling)
5. Dian Johnson
6. Jackie Thomas
7. Carl Baur
8. Joy Parrish

I look forward to seeing everyone at our awesome annual show. You can reach me at: jlparish@bellsouth.net to volunteer or for any questions you may have.

MEMBER OFFERS HOME FOR WORKSHOP IN PREPARING PLANTS by Barbara Partagas

Members are encouraged to check their garden for a plant they think but are not sure might be worthy to enter in the show. Bring it to the March meeting and someone will provide tips on making the prospective entry show worthy. It is easy to enter a plant in the show and takes only a few minutes to go through the registration process on Thursday, April 16th.

We encourage everyone to make this effort. It is a great way to learn one more facet of growing bromeliads, besides it's fun to have a chip in the game.

For anyone who has the time, BARBARA PARTAGAS will conduct a show plant workshop at 9:30am on Saturday, March 28th, at her home if there is enough interest. Bring your plants and clean pots. Please call by March 27th if interested: 305-256-7669.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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-14h-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/>



April 18-19, 2015

BSSF Annual Show

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, Florida

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events-Community-Outreach/Events-Details/ArtMID/486/ArticleID/1171/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida-Show-and-Sale>

April 21, 2015

BSSF Meeting

Carl Green drives tram around Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden at night and members can see lit Chihuly exhibit.

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>



September 26, 2015

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

For Any Info:

<http://www.bssf-miami.org/state-convention.htm>

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

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

111.

Joshua was not the ordinary nerd who did well in school. He watched television as well as clung to every news story that clamored onto his computer's screen. Television pictures, unlike computer screens, taught him one thing: Always have a lawyer with you when meeting the cops at a police station. So, he called an old friend, quickly explained the story, the friend then relayed him to another friend who specialized in federal criminal matters. Joshua and his new attorney immediately went to the federal facilities where they could meet – one as Susie's attorney and other as the attorney's aid.

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As they entered, the attorney made Joshua sign a contract and paid him 5 dollars as the attorney's special expert for forensic computer analysis. Knowing that this would become a conflict with his employment, Joshua demurred, and said that he could not sign the document. Understanding this, the attorney then advised Joshua that the meeting with Susie could only be with the attorney. And, with that mutual comprehension, the attorney walked to meet his client – alone.

“Who are you?” Susie asked.

“Your attorney brought here by Joshua who unfortunately, under legal realms, could not be here as well – but is outside waiting for you. Now, let me introduce myself. I am Eric Dubocq. I am a criminal attorney in Miami who specializes in federal matters. I know your circumstances. I know the players. I know that there may be serious concerns. And, I know that your father will need counsel as well – but it cannot be me as there is an issue of conflict of interest. Do you understand what I have said up to this point?” All said so quickly that most would have just said yes to get to the hopefully more understandable question like: would you like to leave here immediately?

Susie only nodded and Dubocq continued.

“There are no charges against you, yet. I have asked for the charges. And, they gave none. That is how I know there are no charges. Your father has had charges against him. Insurance fraud. I am not going into that here or now. He will be in jail for the time being. But, with counsel, he may ask for a bond hearing. Do you understand me?”

Susie nodded and was waiting for the question: would you like to leave here immediately?

“I am not cheap. I charge \$500.00 an hour and will require a retainer of \$50,000.00 to take on this case and coordinate your father's counsel – who will charge another retainer. Can you or your father afford such?” Dubocq always knew such questions were the key to any criminal attorney's interest in a case.

Susie nodded affirmatively and still was waiting for the question: would you like to leave here immediately?

“Great. Would you like to leave here immediately.” Dubocq next asked.

Susie nodded and was waiting for the next question: when?

“Let's pick up our things then.” And the two of them then walked out the door as though the previous hours of sequestration had never occurred.

112.

Before Shirley reached the women's room, she saw Marlene out of the corner of her eye. She called out, “Hey, Marlene, come here before I go into the ladies' room. I am sure that you want to hear what Shirley has to tell ya.”

Thinking that Shirley had been neutralized the evening of the federal fumbling of the case, Marlene knew that Shirley was anything but credible in the squad room, unless a miracle occurred. Shirley thought or knew the same.

As Marlene walked over, Shirley told her assistant Pascual to move aside for a minute while she and Marlene could have some “girl talk.” Pascual acquiesced by staying within visual range, but far enough not to hear.

When Marlene arrived, and Pascual already distanced, Marlene quietly said, “Okay, this has to be fast. You put me here, and if I go down, so will you. I'll out you to the boys and let your days of fake flirting to these dogs become a thing of your past. I know who and what you are. And, your call to that supposed fiancé was a flop. My gaydar picked him up as quickly as my eyes identified you. So, you have one chance on a fair deal. Pee for my cup and I'll never bother you or unveil your little secret – ever.”

“Great idea – but just how do you get my pee in your cup with Pascual's eyes lasared on your privates?” Marlene countered.

“Easy. Pascual is one of my players. Go into the room with me, sit in the stall next to mine. We play pass under the stall, and return under the stall, what is yours will be named as mine. Understood?” Shirley spoke rather assuredly.

“I want it in writing. I want you to assert that you shut up for life about me. And, if you open your trap, you owe me one million dollar in damages.” And, with that comment, Marlene left for a desk, took a piece of paper and pen and went into the ladies' room where she handwrote a million-dollar contract.

As the two girls left the parlor with cup in Shirley's hand, and paper sin Marlene's hand, they were told that Marlene needed to go to Fairchild to check out a theft. Copper theft.



**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