

Bromeli Advisory

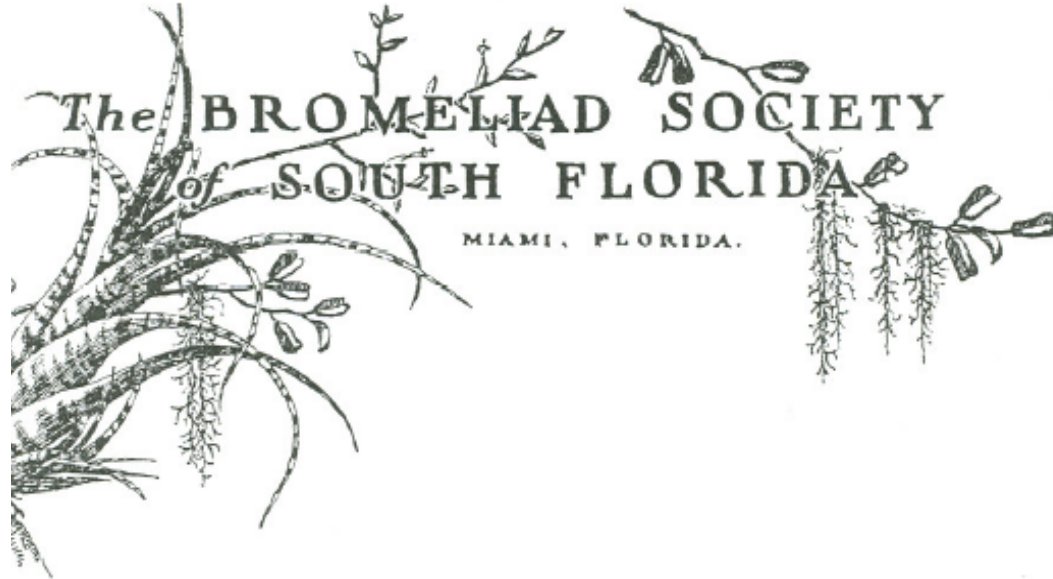
February 2016



Orthophytum roseum Photo by Robert Meyer

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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

February 2016

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>

OFFICERS

Robert Meyer, President
 Alex Bello, VP
 Fred Sussenberger, Treasurer
 Maureen Adelman, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Past Pres.: Sandy Roth
 Directors:

Rhonda Herndon '15 - '16
 Harlo Von Wald - '15 - '16
 Leonard Goldstein '16 - '17
 Barbara Sparling '16 - '17

Editor: Robert C Meyer

Advertising: Robert Meyer
Door Prize: Alan Herndon
Education: Alan Herndon
Hospitality: Elaine Mills
Library: Barbara Partagas
Membership:
 Maureen Adelman and Melody Ray
Mem. Plant Sales:
 Antonio Arbelaez/Alex Bello
Raffle: Melissa Brail
Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Alex Bello

MEETING: February 15, 2016

SPEAKER: ALAN HERNDON and MIKE MICHALSKI

RAFFLE TABLE: Alex Bello

FOOD: Barbara Sparling, Maureen Adelman, Chris Pfeiffer, Melissa Brail, Lenny Goldstein, Andy Sigl and Bonnie Rubel.

About the Speakers

ALAN HERNDON and MIKE MICHALSKI will give a joint lecture on preparing for the April Annual Show. Alan will concentrate on the entry form which we implore upon the members to fill out and deliver to Alan one week prior to the show. If you have the jillies about filling out this form, please come and listen as you will be surprised at how easily the form can be prepared. Mike will show us how to prepare the plants for the show. The focus will be upon cleaning of the plants, cleaning of the pots, and using the fine scissors of hedge clippers to prepare the same.

Volunteer for a Good Day/Cause

All are invited to join us at Lavinia Acton's home "to clean up the yard." Bring your gloves and tools to **9605 SW 120 Street** at **9:30AM** on **February 20, 2016**.

TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP

The back of this BromeliAdvisory is a form for renewal of your membership. Please sign and deliver to Maureen Adelman at the meeting. The deadline is almost here, and anyone who has not paid will not be included in the book.

President's Message

by Robert Meyer

The energies of many begin to wane as the past year has included the Annual Show, the Annual Auction, the Extravaganza, and now the Annual Show again – and on a shortened time frame.

The Society is delivering a impassioned plea for the members to be involved in this show. Many of the years past experienced too much reliance on the energies of the few to handle the matter. And, for the most part, those people enthusiastically embraced the demands placed upon them. But, with the extra energy sapping environs of the Extravaganza being only months ago, those people are tapped and cannot be presumed to be capable of doing all of the same old stuff.

What is being asked is not intrusive. The Show demands diminish when the volunteer numbers increase. The loyal few ask only to lighten their load by having any of you aid them in their task. And, as in years past, many enjoyed it. Most of the leaders of the show were the volunteers of the past. We all started out with the simplest duties. And, we all had fun.

The greatest incentive is a Sandy Party. Friday evening, before the Show's weekend, anyone who helped out or will help out is invited for a free food and drink celebration at Sandy Roth's home. Many a judge will tell you it is the talk of the bromeliad world.

So hop on. We look forward to seeing new faces in our crowd.

Robert

Changes in the 38th Annual Show and Sale

by Alan Herndon

Setup of our upcoming 38th Annual Show and Sale will, of necessity, be greatly modified. We will not have access to the Garden Room (our main show room) until 4pm on Thursday (14 April), so most of the setup will have to be carried out during the late afternoon and evening on that day. As many of the show entries as possible will be processed during that same period. Exhibitors will be able to bring their entries between 4pm and 8pm. We will not have anyplace to store plants or entries before 4pm. For people who cannot bring their entries during this time period, we will also have entries between 8am and 10am on Friday (15 April) morning. Setup will be completed on Friday morning. Judging will begin

after the Judge's and Volunteers lunch - probably by 1230.

Data entry can go much faster if most of you would fill out the Entry sheet a few days beforehand and email me a copy.. When you bring your entries in, give the Entry sheet to Classification for completion and the assignment of an entry number. We will no longer use the old temporary number system: Classification will assign each entry the official entry number. You will be asked to place a temporary tag with the correct number in or on each of your entries. As usual, your own tags will have to be removed or rendered invisible. If, for instance, your own tag on a potted plant is short enough, you can push it completely below the soil surface.

If you can bring your entries in on Thursday, please do so. We will have very limited time to complete setup on Friday morning and will not be able to accept large numbers of new entries.

We will have to complete work that normally takes 10 or more hours in 5 or 6 hours on Thursday, so we need extra help.

The tasks are:

PHYSICAL SETUP - moving tables, chairs, display boards, etc. into position and preparing them for the show (i.e. - covering the tables). **Art Show** - Sharon Biddex-Maessen will direct the placement of the display boards for the art show and will determine the placement of art works on the boards. If you are interested in helping, please see Sharon. **Plant show** - Moving, arranging and covering tables in the show room. This includes display tables for the entries, head tables on the stage, Information Table, work tables for classification, art, data entry and placement. A few racks also need to be set up for hanging entries. If someone could volunteer to coordinate this part of setup, please let me know.

CATERING - Sandy Roth will be in charge of this operation. Check with her for details on what help she needs on Thursday and Friday.

CLASSIFICATION - classifying show entries in accordance with the current show schedule, assigning entry numbers, assisting with plant identification when required. A good knowledge of bromeliads and understanding of the Show Schedule are required.

DATA ENTRY - The more people who send in entry forms by Tuesday before the show, the easier it will be to keep up with the data entry process on Thursday. (There is no guarantee that entry forms

emailed late Tuesday or anytime on Wednesday will be seen before setup starts.) On Thursday, additional information from the classification step will be entered. If you made any changes to the entries, those changes will be made in the data file. Once the data is entered and any necessary edits are made, the Show Entry Card will be printed.

PLACEMENT - Plants waiting on printed labels are placed on work tables in numerical order according to entry number. As label are printed, they are checked against the original entry sheet for errors, if good, a wire pick is attached so the label can be secured to the entry. Labels are then attached to the entries and, if free-standing, the entries are moved to the display tables. Display tables are rearranged as necessary to keep related entries together. In general, all plant entries in a genus are placed near each other. Artistic entries are arranged by sections. Three groups that are kept separate are Novice entries, Judges entries and Display Only entries. Novice entries are placed in a group on the normal display tables. Judges plants are rarely entered before Friday, but they are always placed in a group separate from the display tables regardless of the day entered. Display only entries are usually placed together on the row of tables closest to the Information Table.

Our goal for Thursday is to complete the setup for the Art show and have all entries brought in before 8pm completely through Classification and Data entry.

At this time we have several committee chairs filled, but more remain open. If you would like to volunteer to serve as the chair of an open committee, please contact me. If you would like to work on a committee with a listed chair, please contact the chair directly.

- Advertising ???
- Art Sharon Biddex-Maessen
- Auction Peter Kouchalakos

- Award Sponsors Maureen Adelman
Robert Meyer
- Awards Barbara Sparling
- Catering Sandy Roth
- Classification Alan Herndon
Lynne Fieber
- Commercial Sales Peter Kouchalakos
- Data Entry Maria
Ofelia Sorzano
- Hospitality ???
- Information Table
- Judges Dean Fairchild
- Judges clerks Jeri Parrish??
- Photography ???

- Placement ???
- Plant Holding ???
- Publicity Robert Meyer
- Member Sales Table Alex Bello
- Show Booklet Ofelia Sorzano
- Show Schedule Dean Fairchild
- Staging of Art Sharon Biddex-Maessen
- Staging of Plants ???

We still need Chairs for the Information Table and for the Hospitality/Security committees. The immediate task for these Chairs is to fill a chart showing that all hours the show is open to the public will have a sufficient number of people in those committees on duty.

Remember that volunteers receive some substantial benefits in return for the hours spent on behalf of BSSF during the show. The most important of these is an invitation to the

Judges and Volunteers dinner party hosted by Sandy Roth on Friday evening. Don't miss out on this event. Sign up for volunteer hours today and mark Friday evening for the best party in town.

In Case You Missed It

By Leonard Goldstein

You might say that Californian Paul Isley knows his Tillandsias. After all, he has been raising them for a living since he founded Growing Tillandsias in 1974. To give you an idea how long ago that was, recall what happened that year: (1) Richard Nixon refused to hand over tapes subpoenaed by the Watergate Committee, (2) The Symbionese Liberation Army kidnapped Patty Hearst, (3) *Blazing Saddles* opened in theaters across the land, and (4) The Miami Dolphins won a lot of



Paul Isley

football games.

Paul's entrée into the business involved a voyage into uncharted waters, since Tillandsias had not yet been grown much commercially. The figurative journey quickly turned literal, as Paul embarked on multiple collecting trips.

In 1976, his business took on a partner, Jerry Robinson, as well as a new name, Rainforest Flora. Full-scale production ramped up in the early '80s, whereupon Paul discovered that it takes a long time to grow Tillandsias from seed!

Our goal for Thursday is to complete the setup for the Art show and have all entries brought in before 8pm completely through Classification and Data entry.

While Rainforest Flora is headquartered in Torrance, most of its growing is done in San Diego, some 120 miles to the southeast. As we learned in Pamela Koide Hyatt's November program, what Floridians view as an anomaly – low humidity – Californians regard as a normal condition that requires special compensation when trying to grow certain Tillandsias well. Paul's solution is to soak the needy bromeliads periodically.



Paul speaking in Corbin A.

From that point in the program, Paul moved into a rapid-fire presentation of beautiful photos and informative commentary. Fortunately, BSSF's newly-minted president, Robert Meyer, took the photos you see here to give absentees a taste of what Paul was talking about. Meanwhile, your loyal reporter, bogged down in a spirit-wrenching search for new housing, was challenged to keep up with the speaker, but managed to record some of his thumbnail observations about various species:

- T. aeranthos* – A regular bloomer in January-February in California.
- T. caerulea* – Slightly fragrant flowers.
- T. capillaris* – Miniature, has many varieties.
- T. carminea* – Less common now than formerly.
- T. cocoensis* – Grows like a weed, beautiful flower.
- T. duratii* – Very tall-growing.
- T. ehlersiana* – Named for Renate and Klaus Ehlers, the collectors who discovered it.
- T. heteromorpha* – Not just a poor man's *T. tectorum*. Many leaves, takes a long time to get big.
- T. ionantha* – Common, but beautiful.
- T. tectorum* – Used in the movie *Avatar*, where it was animated to look like a jellyfish. [This little-known fact could win you big money in a bar bet.]

Paul then surveyed the many desirable hybrids that have been developed from a vast number of species, including the following:

- T. aeranthos*, *brachypoda*, *bulbosa*, *butzii*, *caput-medusae*, *chiapensis*, *compressa*, *duratii*, *ehlersiana*, *ferreyrae*, *funckiana*, *gardneri*, *geminiflora*, *intermedia*, *jalisco monticola*, *magnusiana*, *paleacea*, *platyrhachis*, *pruinosa*, *recurvifolia*, *rothii*, *schatzlii*, *streptophylla*, and *xerographica*.

Among hybrids that Paul pointed out in particular are:

- T.* 'Charles Wiley' – *T. seleriana* X *bulbosa*, a very stout plant.
- T.* 'Houston' – *T. stricta* X *recurvifolia*, a vigorous cross much larger than either parent, produces 200-300 leaves!
- T.* 'Showtime' – *T. bulbosa* X *streptophylla*, reminiscent of *T. bulbosa*, but much larger.

T. 'Winner's Circle' – *T.* 'Houston' X *aeranthos*, a newer hybrid, many leaves, reminiscent of *T. aeranthos*, but much larger.

Paul then went on to discuss cultivars. Among his observations were these:

T. aeranthos 'Miniata Mini Me' and smaller cultivars – Dense growers, so they should be opened up on the inside to prevent rotting.

T. crocata 'Copper Penny' – Perhaps the most fragrant of all Tillandsias. Ironically for a large plant, its flowers are small.

Paul concluded the evening's program with some interesting comments about the work that led to his publication of *Tillandsia II: The World's Most Unusual Airplants*. For the pronunciation guide, he made changes based on Latin rules, but recognized that a species named for an individual should be pronounced as its namesake said it. Thus *T. bergeri*, named for German botanist Alwin Berger, should be pronounced BEAR-gehr-ee instead of BUR-ger-eye.

Another challenge was the naming of colors. For that tricky task, Paul relied upon the chart devised

by Alfred Byrd Graf in his tropical plant bible, *Exotica*. That process involved obtaining permission from one of Graf's descendants. The chapter on evolution and



One of the photos by Paul Isley showing off brilliant plants.

biology of Tillandsias took a year to complete. Paul relied on a number of experts for advice in this matter. However, while they would point out errors, but did not provide answers, so the author's work was made more arduous.

By contrast, Paul's experience with Lyman Smith was one of the highlights along the road in his development of *Tillandsia II*. [For newer BSSF members: Dr. Smith has been referred to as the father of bromeliad of studies. Mulford Foster, another revered figure, once wrote of him, "Before and after hours, week days and holidays, Lyman Smith works with bromeliads. When he takes a vacation from his work at the Smithsonian he visits the Gray Herbarium at Harvard to work on bromeliads! We doubt if there has ever been a person who has devoted as much time and thought to the Bromeliaceae as has Dr. Smith."] Well into his 80s when Paul consulted with him, Smith continued to live and breathe bromeliads, and Paul found him possessed of a wry sense of humor.

For more information about Rainforest Flora, please explore its website, <http://www.rainforestflora.com/>.

Photos of the Show can be found at: https://www.facebook.com/84661684279/photos/ms.c.eJxlzMENACA MQtGNDfCbtvsvZrx4wOsLfIIZXWihZ9RYfELkNqF8s~_mS4a~;6yuNlwTiXdk3~_yBL.bps.a.10153870820859280.1073741878.84661684279/10153870820899280/?type=3&theater

TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP

At the back of this issue are membership forms for renewal and new members. Note, there is an allowance to pay for up to 5 years.

Annual Show is Coming Soon

Alan Herndon is informing you of the Annual Show in this month's Advisory. Keep an eye out. There are some changes.

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

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

129.

While striding down the hospital corridor to Marin's room, Boss heard his phone ring. He looked at the number and saw that the caller was Joshua.

"Yea, Joshua, what is it?"

"Susan wants to meet with you at 6:00 AM tomorrow at Versailles." Joshua bluntly answered.

"You heard from her?" Boss asked surprisingly.

"Met with her." Joshua smugly responded.

"We need to meet before this." Boss asserted and then instructed his science nerd to meet at headquarters immediately with the others who would be summoned to be there as well within the next 30 minutes.

Getting anywhere in Miami in 30 minutes is almost impossible. The Miami-Dade County's grand size can make some rides last for hours. Being larger than the state of Rhodes Island, Miami-Dade County's expanse, coupled with a metropolitan surge unaccompanied by competent city or traffic planning, makes travel increasingly frustrating.

But, all were able to be at the headquarters within the 30 allotted minutes because of the sirens and light given to Miami-Dade employees. Although some margin of danger may have been thrust upon the innocent citizenry, the need for the meeting outweighed public safety – or so Boss would argue to himself or others.

When they met, Joshua told them about the meeting, about how Stitch is really Sissy, about how the Bromeliad Extravaganza was a great opportunity to smoke out the culprit, and how Susan was hoping to help.

They were all enthused. Things were moving along. And, just when the elation of a possible solution was mutually felt by Boss, Rodriguez, Marlene and Joshua, the phone rang for the Captain.

After the call ended, Captain walked into the room occupied by the happy crowd and said, "Do any of you know a lawyer named Dubocq?"

"No." they all said in unison.

"Well, he is the attorney for Susan and says that he needs full immunity for his clients before the 6:00 AM meeting is held tomorrow at a place which you all know about." Captain responded in a droll voice. "Does this make sense?"

"Yes." Boss said alone. And the two men walked to Captain's office for another briefing about the case involving the tree huggers.

130.

After the briefing, Boss and Captain knew two things. They were very sure that the Gorts were no fools and that hiring Dubocq was something which proved that theory to be true.

Criminal attorneys are paid to handle two things. Keeping a client out of jail before an arrest, and keeping a client out of jail after an arrest. Dubocq had already been hired for the latter, and now he was handling the former. Any criminal attorney of Dubocq's stature and price knew that the request for immunity was not only a good insurance policy for his client, but would be a charge gladly paid for by his client who would leave the contract time with knowledge of reduced criminal issues in the future because of the great criminal attorney they hired.

The circular and never-ending confusion associated with the unsolved murders of numerous innocent people in the bromeliad world needed to end. To offer immunity to victimless crime offenders for the capture of the murderer was not a difficult sale. Dubocq delivered this issue to the naive Gorts who

thought they were incapable of avoiding criminal conviction. The easiness of the task was not revealed. And, when the deal was sealed, Dubocq would receive full credit for the same without any modest response.

Subcontracting preparation of the immunity contract to peers, Dubocq had an ironclad immunity contract emailed and faxed to the Captain within minutes of Captain's meeting with Boss concluding. Captain was impressed with the speed. The County attorneys were impressed with the document. The Gorts were impressed with the call they received a few hours later from Dubocq confirming that the immunity contract was in his hands, signed and sealed.

Meeting at Versailles at 6:00 AM was not an issue for Captain. He liked early mornings. So did Boss. Marlene was less receptive, and Rodriguez had to act celibate the night before to prohibit any dulling of his senses. He knew he was the guard, and could not be asked to be a wallflower like he thought Marlene would be.

What most did not know was that Versailles opened so early. Actually, it did not. But, after Susan paid a few wads of bills to the owner, arrangements were made for the early risers, and breakfast fare was on the table to show the management's true appreciation. When the police walked in, management knew that it also scoring points with important people. Although decades of functions for the PBA, free meals and reduced meals for the men and women of Miami-Dade's finest were never a concern to Versailles since it inception, and numerous public meetings for the police were held there monthly, management knew that another freebie would be further appreciated; and, heck increased police presence always keep the derelicts away. In return, Versailles, a filled-to-the-gills-with-cash establishment had never been robbed in five decades of service. The price was right.

As coffee was delivered by the waiters and waitresses, Boss and Joshua sat at the table with Susan and Marlene.

"What do you propose we do?" Boss said to start the conversation.

"I propose that we bait the trap, send the trap to next week's Extravaganza, and put an end to all of the nonsense." Susan responded. "Can we do this?" she asked sincerely.

Boss nodded his head, sucked down his cafe cubano, reached into his shirt for a cigar, put the cigar into his mouth, struck a match and lit the cigar, handed another cigar to Joshua or Marlene (each shaking their heads side to side) and said, "Oh, we can do this alright. Now tell me what an Extravaganza is."

World Conference

Who Sponsors: BSI and Bromeliad Society of Houston, Inc.

Where: The Westin Galleria Houston

R o o m :
<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1508179660&key=30585FE2>

\$139/night



When: June 10-22, 2016 for rooms

Conference is June 13-19, 2016

If You Got'em, Donate'em Crystal

Anyone who has previously well deserved and won crystal from the Bromeliad Show is urged to recycle and give the same to Barbara Sparling who handles the awards for the show.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 11-13, 2016

FTBG ORCHID FESTIVAL

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

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/events-community-outreach>



APRIL 16-17, 2016

ANNUAL RARE PLANT AND SALE FOR BSSF

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

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



June 13-19 2016

Bromeliad Society International

World Bromeliad Conference
Houston, Texas USA

<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-come/>

Registration:

http://www.bsi.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Registration_Form.pdf

Online Registration:
http://www.bsi.org/bsi_info/wbc/

Westin Galleria Houston
5060 West Alabama Street
Houston, TX 77056



**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
BSSF, Inc.
2016 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, 2016 to February 28, 2017.

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, 2016, IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2016 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:

You can pay up to 5 years at the rates described above. All
payments are NONREFUNDABLE
mhadelman@comcast.net

