

BromeliA dvisory

August 2016



InT his Issue

President’s Message	2-3
Bromeliads Texas Style	3-4
In Case You Missed It	4
Murder in Corbin A	4-6
Upcoming Events	6



BromeliA dvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

August 2016

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



http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSSF/?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
 Carl Bauer - '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: August 16, 2016

SPEAKER: Andy Siekkinen

RAFFLE TABLE: Alex Bello and Mike Michalski

FOOD: Usual Suspects led by Mike and Alex

About the Speaker

From other sources: Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Andy Siekkinen is a shameless plant adventurer and researcher who loves exploring the natural world. Now organizing botanical and cultural adventures exploring the wonders of Mexico. Scientist, adventurer, researcher, tour guide.

Trained as a lab nanotechnology chemist, Andy has continued his earlier 'citizen scientist' biology work and applied it to the bromelads of Mexico. Focusing on the oft ignored genus *Hechtia*, a group of bromeliads that are almost entirely found within Mexico. Along with the likely discovery of some new species, he has begun the molecular phylogenetic study of the genus using the Next Generation Sequencing



methods--using the plants DNA to study the evolutionary history and relationships of these plants.

After exploring Mexico and becoming amazed at the biological and cultural richness, Andy started leading small groups to experience these wonders first hand. While Andy's primary interest is in the plants, it was clear there is much more to see and do in Mexico. Food is always of interest and the different regional styles of cooking will never get boring. There is an active fostering of the arts, both modern and traditional. The cultural depth can be seen by the numerous and wonderful ruins to even the methods of regional artisanal crafts that continue to honor traditional methods.

President's Message by Robert Meyer

EVEN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ZIKA CONTINUES TO COME Unfortunately, most of the News is Bad News

Zika virus – the contagious matter which receives Rodney Dangerfield respect among politicians and great concern by scientists. For the first time in American history, Miami can proudly assure the remainder of the states that we are the banana republic that they think we are. Why? Because for the first time in American history the CDC named little cutesy hipster Wynwood an area of quarantine for American tourists – or even locals for that matter: In an unprecedented move, the Center for Disease Control warned pregnant women to keep away from this area of north Miami

Yes. CDC, the guys who tell us not to go to Asia because of SARS or Africa for any number of diseases which we seemingly never have to be concerned about here, requests that you not visit those places while the threat remains there. After all, the CDC's job is to corral the problem *there*, find a cure, and after those have been completed, then allow us to visit *there*. Until that all occurs, their job is make sure that the disease stays there as opposed to here and there.

And, now one of those diseases is here. Although the vast majority of the people in Miami with Zika (now over 300) came *here* from *there* (wherever that be), it is now know Zika is here. So, good old political reaction has been, how do you say it, predictable. Miami, which the CDC decried to be in emergency state received \$300,000.00 from Governor Scott. That pays for how many

payloads and plane rentals to spray? Not many, I am sure.

And, the federals are equally bad. The president called for more than one billion.

Because this disease knows no political affiliation, one may expect bipartisan cooperation would be assumed to work to fight this war on Zika. No. Instead, Marco Rubio, who has shown that his political power in his own party is no greater than his abysmal loss of this state to Trump, has

called for grants being nearly as great as those called for by the Democratic executive office. He failed.

The director of the CDC came to Wynwood. Governor Scott came too. In the end, more money? No. Same old, same old.

So now what? Our research funds are being strangle held by political henchmen. Will the baby heads – microcephaly, a birth defect which leaves babies with shrunken heads – come to the hospitals soon? Probably. And, then what happens, what is the response? No one knows.

But, thankfully science laboratories have caches derived from other lucrative sources. Last week, a collaboration of scientists including those from Harvard University and the University of Sao



Paulo, reported that three tested vaccines had completely immunized rhesus monkeys. What's next. "Results from both mouse and non-human primate testing are encouraging and support a decision to advance our vaccine candidate to human trials," said Col. Stephen Thomas, an infectious disease Army physician and a vaccinologist at the WRAIR. The research was published in the journal *Science*.

Testing of the ZPIV vaccine is expected to begin later this year. In the meantime, what happens? Daddy's little girl will not be visiting, if pregnant. Many tourists will heed the CDC warning. Wynwood will see changes in the foot traffic. And, if the politicians decide to curtail spending, which allows the mosquito population to increase, the spread could be too much too soon for the end-of-this-year vaccination for Miamians to salve the Zika concerns.

If the concerns are permitted to escalate, it will affect some of us as logically as a run on a bank. Hysterical hearsay among patrons heightens unwanted concerns and more. Bromeliad plants in the yard, let alone nurseries selling the same, will be pointed at by angry people, even crowds, as being culprits which should either be eradicated from the landscapes or from the market – or both. Before the pitchfork-bearing citizens come marching down the streets seeing their way by brimming torches toward your bromeliad-laden yard, let us hope that politicians increase their awareness and simultaneously open their very large and fat wallets – and deliver the \$29 million promised by Governor Scott as opposed to the measly \$300,000 so far received.

Robert

BROMELIADS TEXAS STYLE 22ND WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE

By Barbara Partagas, BSI Director Southern USA District

There is something for everybody at a World Conference. BSI, the Bromeliad Society International, puts on this event every two years, bringing together interesting speakers, premier growers for the plant sales, and extremely talented exhibitors who put on a stunning show. There's a little business going on, judges' school, and lots of fun activities during the unscheduled times. This year's event was certainly all of these.

Congratulations are in order for the Houston Bromeliad Society for all their efforts to put this event together.



Speaker Alan Herndon in Texas

As the week progressed, we were treated to several field trips and an open-air barbeque- all without the torrential rains that had plagued Houston for the past few weeks. It seemed hotter and more humid than Miami. The speakers were Gregory Brown (Molecular systematic studies), Thomas Givnish (evolutionary history of bromeliads, Eric Gouda (Bromeliads in Peruvian Andes), Alan Herndon (interactive session on BSI website), Bruce Holst (Broms in Belize), Pamela Koide-Hyatt (hybridizing Tillandsias), Elton Leme (shaking up Cryptanthus genera) and bromeliad conservation in Brazil), and Jose Manzanares (genus Mezobromelia and new species).

The week started off with the BSI Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting. The most impressive business conducted this year was the election of BSI's first international president, Lyn Wegner from South Africa.

To summarize the most important findings in these lectures: what we think we know as Cryptanthus and other genera are really not; genetic profiling is responsible for major changes in how we will come to know many

bromeliads. Conservation as it has developed in Brazil is a study in what the world needs to do—and soon to protect our world resources. Coming to a BSI Journal soon: transcripts of the speakers' lectures.

Of course, everyone was anticipating the opening of the show and sales area. Neither disappointed. Sales were brisk from the takeoff and most vendors did well. The show was a combined effort of BSI and the Cryptanthus Society. The Rare Plant Auction was interesting and lively. The closing banquet was a great way to end a fun week.

The food was good; the Westin Galleria hotel was comfortable; the company was the best part. Eight members of BSSF attended. The next conference will be in San Diego in 2018. Do consider planning a family vacation and tie in WBC 2018. Details will be available soon.

In Case You Missed It

Leonard Goldstein

Psst! Wanna know a secret?

Things are not always as they appear on the surface. For instance, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has for years been employing Terrie Bert as a research scientist. After all, she holds a Ph.D. in marine biology. But – please come closer so that I can whisper – that was just a cover. All that time she has been leading a dual life:

Terrie Bert is a bromeliad expert!

The BromeliAdvisory staff has unearthed documentation proving that Terrie is a card-carrying member of the Sarasota and Caloosahatchee bromeliad societies. She has also written articles and served as a judge on numerous occasions. And if that weren't enough, Terrie has delivered more than 150 presentations on bromeliads to clubs and conferences around the world. We've traced those activities as far away as Australia, a small island close to New Zealand. Finally, she has somehow found time to grow some 2,000 distinct bromeliads representing 30 genera. We have concluded that she is a notorious multi-tasker.

Terrie's breadth of knowledge of bromeliads is impressive. Here are the subjects she's presented

to the Bromeliad Society of South Florida (BSSF) just since 2008:

“Common Stuff to Buy and Grow”

“D-E-F-G: Diving Even Further Into Unusual Bromeliad Genera”

“Here's Lookin' at More Bromeliad Genera (H, I, M, N)”

“Sorting Out the Evolving Family: Bromeliad Identification Conundrums”

“O&P Genera, Pt. I”

“The Outstanding & Ostentatious and Particularly Picturesque Genera, Pt. II”

“The Quietly Riotous Q and R Bromeliads”

We've determined that as recently as last month Terrie appeared before the BSSF to deliver a program entitled “Growing Uncommon Bromeliad Genera.” There she reported that of the 55 recognized bromeliad genera, just eight are commonly cultivated! Her presentation consisted of an exhaustive, rapid-fire review of the other 47 genera. She went into detail about why those genera are not commonly grown: Some simply can't be cultivated outside their native areas, some are treacherous, and some are unattractive. Even within our own state, some species, because of cold sensitivity, are more difficult to cultivate in her home area, Sarasota County, than in Miami-Dade County.



In support of Terrie's proposition that we can and should grow many of the “Other 47,” she showed numerous photos of desirable species. Photographic proof is apparently a mainstay of her programs, and you needed to be there to appreciate her recommendations.

Now that Terrie's alternate persona has been revealed, we encourage you to attend a BSSF meeting the next time she's in town. You will be notified.

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

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

141.

Some people leave mild impressions. Some people leave strong impressions. Emily was

someone who fell in the latter category. After her diffident conversation with Sergeant Valdez, her personality was as imprinted in his memory as her haircut. When he, as one of the Tommy-Bahama clad crew tailing Irishman Eddy and the mystery woman, saw the hair – memories burst like Fourth of July fireworks. When he saw her, she had long grey hair. From Boss and others, he had heard about this case involving a bowl cut. But, this woman was not one of them. At least when he met her. He reached for his cell and told Boss who told Captain that the woman with the eccentric Irishman was the Judge's daughter. The strange one. The one that asked that they call on Candy to identify the body.

Boss relayed this information to Captain, who relayed the information to Susan. When Susan heard that Candy's sister, someone she knew very little about, was at the bromeliad show and hugging the elbow of meek Joshua who had boasted scientific knowledge which would have put most everyone to sleep, she quietly asked for a little time to part from Eddie and called Candy.

"Does your sister have any interest in bromeliads?" Susan inquired, but already knowing the answer.

"Of course not."

"In science?" Susan asked.

"No, she's a lawyer like dad."

"In nerd who are scientists?" Susan asked.

"Not that I know of."

"Then, do you have any idea why she is here and why she is listening to a nerd discuss the mutations and hybridizations of bromeliads?" Susan finished.

Silence was on the other side of the line. Susan asked on two occasions – are you there? Candy was, but her thoughts were zipping around her mind about Emily. Emily, the loner who had nothing to do with plants, attending a bromeliad show that even some avid bromeliad people find too detailed for their interest. Using here mind, going over every detail, she began to connect the dots.

"I have to meet you there. And, for God's sake, watch the boy. He may be in serious trouble."

And, before Susan could respond, Candy had disconnected the phone.

When Susan returned to Eddie, he had his eye on another woman, and she looked at his ogling eyes and slipped out without any adieus, knowing that the old Irish codger would somehow manage to survive without her company this evening.

142.

As Joshua continued to endlessly talk in the one-way conversation, he could never step outside of his self to realize that he was ranting about very important items to a perfect stranger. He knew the woman's first name, and nothing more. And, he could not even be sure that it was her real name.

When fresh oxygen began to creep into his self-infatuated mind, Joshua realized that he needed to slow down. Not necessarily muzzle himself, as the woman – although sporting a Guinness Book bad record hairdo – was gentle to the eye and perhaps taken in by his scientific prowess. And, with that hairdo, she obviously was someone who may fall for an eccentric nerd like himself.

"Hey, what's your last name?" He suddenly blurted out right after a sentence pertaining to the genetic ability to match different species and defeat what many would believe could not be done because of natural selection prohibitions.

"Oh, sorry, we are not properly introduced – are we. My full name is Emily Frank."

Joshua knew Candy. But, unlike Candy, Emily never married. No lucky man, or woman, could ever be so unfortunate. And, when the name flew into his ears, he remembered only one thing – the old man in a lab with a hidden toxin in his system that was speared by a plant. "Any relation to a Judge Frank?"

"Guilty" she responded coyly. She then smirked and glazed her head down in a bashful manner.

"Wow," Joshua said "I think he was murdered, wasn't he?" This question was

proof that Joshua was suddenly aware of his surroundings and had gained investigative talents through spectator action or osmosis at the squad room. He knew the answer, but was measuring Emily for her answer.

“Yes,” she solemnly responded. “And, it has yet to be solved.” In her conclusions, Emily showed no remorse. Instead, she coolly looked into Joshua’s eyes. Her mixture of phrased expressions of remorse with visual expressions of staid indifference confused Joshua.

“Do the police have a clue?” Joshua asked, hoping she would show different emotions.

“I guess, but I haven’t spoken to them since the day he died. They will tell me, I guess, when the murder is solved.” Again, her answer surprised

Joshua and confused him further. Indifference for a parent’s death is not something that he had seen or even read about. Although Joshua and his father may not have had great quality time, he remembered his father well for the endless hours of the two being glued in front

of the television for quantity time. And, from that experience, a bond was built. At least enough of a bond to make the loss of his father something which would thrust grieving into his daily life.

“It’s none of my business, but it sounds as though you and your father were not that close.” Joshua added.

“Your right, it is none of your business.” Emily responded curtly with a strong glare from her eyes. And, when she finished that phrase, she told Joshua to show her the plants that he had been discussing. Joshua was beginning to fear her. But, she finished with a comment about the plants being in his hotel room, “where there was a bed, on which they could enjoy themselves, correct?” That comment alleviated his concerns, and verified that his bowl-coiffured friend was the type to be attracted to someone like himself. And, the two then strode quickly to the elevator for his room on the seventh floor, without noticing that Sergeant Valdez and Susan each had their sights on the odd couple

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 20th - 21st
Seminole Bromeliad and
Tropical Plant Society Sale
The Garden Club of Sanford
(on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary
Blvd)
9:00 - 4:00

September 9-11
Sarasota Bromeliad Society
Show and Sale

1131 Boulevard of the Arts
Sarasota, FL 34236
10:00-5:00

<http://sarasotabromeliadsociety.org/pages/shows.php>



September 10-11, 2016
Mounts Botanical Garden
Orchid Sale and Shady
Affair

559 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL
More Info: 561-233-1757
<https://www.mounts.org/>



November 11-13
FTBG Ramble
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/events-community-outreach/fal-l-garden-festival>



November 19-20, 2016
Key West Garden Club Show
West Martello Tower by Higgs Beach
www.keywestgardenclub.com/index.html

December 3-4, 2016
Orchid Festival
Bonnet House
900 N. Birch Rd
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
33304
<http://www.bonnethouse.org/news/orchid-festival/>

