

# BromeliAdvisory

October 2016



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# BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

**October 2016**

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



[http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSSF/?bookmark\\_t=group](http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSSF/?bookmark_t=group)



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida/84661684279>

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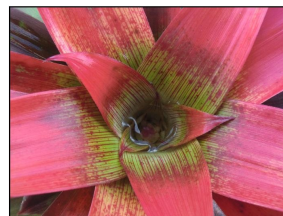
What	Who
Sales Table	Not this month

**MEETING: October 18, 2016**

**SPEAKER:** Annual Auction  
**FOOD:** Usual Suspects and you



**BSSF Auction  
October 18, 2016  
7:00PM**



**Free Food  
Rare, Rare, Rare Plants Sold**

Wondering about the World Conference – It is only 19 months away

**Information at:**

<HTTP://WWW.BSI.ORG/NEW/CONFERENCE-CORNER/>

## President's Message

by Robert Meyer

While issues of the encephalitic Zika virus spread by pesky mosquitoes subordinated to Hurricane Matthew's thankfully impotent force, our society has one week to handle one of its most important roles: The Annual Auction.

We ask that You be involved in two way: come and buy, come and deliver, and come with food and appetite.

### COME AND BUY

Years ago Jon Lazurus created the voiced term "bring a friend." Nothing could be more helpful. Friends to the auction often bring money which brings more bidding which brings funds to the society. The net-net effect is all good.

Essentially, if you come with a friend, your nuying numbers should be greater.

If any of you are like me and have few friends on this earth, you have one week to make a friend – whether it be real or imaginary.

I chose imaginary. I placed an announcement on facebook, and already over 2000 people have been noticed, of which I must assume no more than 10 show. But, the word is out, and maybe more will show. We can only hope. I like how imaginary morph into real on the internet.

## In Case You Missed it

by Leonard Goldstein

Even those of us who don't know Steve Correale personally are aware of his exceptional work hybridizing *Tillandsias*. When his creations show up at our fall auction and spring sale, they attract a rapt group of bidders. But not until Peter Kouchalakos elucidated the Correale ethos at the BSSF's September meeting did we fully understand the depth of Steve's dedication to achieve such beauty.

Peter reported that when Steve started hybridizing *Tillandsias* about 35 years ago, it was nearly impossible to give them away. In those days, *Neos* and *Vrieseas* were all the rage. But

### COME AND DELIVER

I had to bring in over 150 plants while Hurricane Matthew threatened to zip my plants off the tables in a Wizard-of-Oz cyclonic nightmarish loss. Over the weekend, I had to return those plants and discovered many of which would bring interest to an auction because of their rarity. Because I know the numbers better, returning plants is an inventory process, I hope some of you can assert the same and deliver 2 or 3 plants to the auction which would be of interest to the others.

Otherwise, walk the neighborhood and pick up what was blown down these past few weeks.

If you are really desperate, jump a fence and steal from the neighbors. But, if you do this, do not tell anyone, especially the BSSF which does not condone such activity. We only condone the inclusion of good plants in our auction.

### COME WITH FOOD and APPETITE

And, never forget to bring some food to help the cause as well.

So remember the numbers:

Date ..... 10/18, 2016  
Place ..... Fairchild  
Time ..... 7:00PM on

Robert

at some point Steve recognized in *Tillandsias* a niche in which his patience and creativity could flourish. The catalyst was a collecting trip he took with renowned orchidist Fred Fuchs to Central and South America.



Peter Kouchalakos shows the plants of Correale.

(Perhaps the major reason for the historic disinterest in hybridizing Tillandsias is that cultivars take a very long time to flower. Peter elaborated on that time burden: If the breeder is lucky, seed takes roughly two years to set. Then the seed is sown. As Steve perfected his technique, he came to

use a Pachypodium as his 'medium,' because its spines hold the seed. Daily wetting is needed to enable germination. Once a seed germinates, it



may take 12-15 years for a plant to surpass 1" in diameter and flower. If the flower turns out to be a dog, the breeder has to start over.)

Steve hardly knew where to begin when the bug bit, but his first seed parent plant was *Tillandsia chiapensis*. After realizing that pure *T. chiapensis* features a lot of variation, he picked out a specimen with a two-branched inflorescence and embarked on a practice of linebreeding—the inbreeding of related plants to perpetuate and enhance desirable traits—to develop great size and branching. The result was *T. chiapensis* ‘*giantissimo*.’ There are 35-40 of these stunning plants in Steve’s yard, and Peter says that even larger ones are expected.

Steve then crossed a *T. chiapensis* possessing a branched inflorescence with *T. fasciculata* ‘Magnificent’ to produce *T.* ‘Steve,’ which features striking rose-colored bracts. (By the way, Correale did not name the cultivar for himself; Miamian Yolanda Cuesta made the suggestion.) Steve was finding that a very pink-branched *T. chiapensis* made for a great pollen parent.

Later on, Correale and Fuchs went to Honduras, where Steve was eager to go into the treacherous Valley of Angels (Valle de Angeles). Steve gave Fred a specific instruction: If he fell, Fred was to throw his collecting pole after him. Fortunately, Steve survived the descent unscathed and, on a steep incline, discovered and collected a beautiful natural hybrid between *T. fasciculata* and *T. hondurensis*. He sent the plant to Selby Gardens’ legendary Harry Luther,

who named it *T. X correalei* ... and kept it. Luther later distributed pups of the plant. A couple of years after that, BSSF member Ed Prince returned one of the descendants of Steve’s discovery to him. He began growing more *T. X correalei*, and at some point a particularly large plant developed.

Steve declined to call it a sport, preferring to regard it as a mutation. That offspring became *T.* ‘navina,’ a plant with multiple flower heads.

A recurrent and very significant theme of Peter’s program was the variation that occurs in straight species. *T. fasciculata* is particularly variable, and Steve took advantage of that quality. He decided to cross the yellow *T. fasciculata* from Honduras with *T. chiapensis*. The result was *T.* ‘Clara Kouchalakos,’ a candelabra-branched pink beauty. Peter

wondered what the next generation in that line will bring.

Peter noted that *Tillandsias* can be crossed with *Vrieseas* and *Guzmanias*, but the progeny are unstable and may not stick. Consequently, Steve has tended not to try them. Why bother when crossing just *Tillandsia* species has filled Steve’s three adjacent residential lots with beautiful hybrids hanging from a network of chains? And, at 89, he’s going strong. One of his successful crosses is a *T. flexuosa* from Panama with *T. chiapensis* to yield *T.* ‘Vickie Jane.’ It owes the strong recurvation in its leaves to the great genetic dominance of *T. chiapensis*. Breeders in Asia are big consumers of these crosses; retail prices there are in the \$400-600 range. The buyers want



instant gratification in their plant acquisitions, and are thus willing to pay the price. But Peter wanders whether the genetic instability of *Tillandsias* will keep their hybrids from being clonal successes. However, he does believe that *T. xerographica* is an exception, capable of being cloned easily. He thinks that Asian breeders may not be growing it via offsets. One notable cross, *T. streptophylla* X *xerographica*, has multiple upright, branched inflorescences.

There are other great crosses in the Correale pipeline. *T. 'King's Cobra,'* yet to be released, has large, recurring inflorescences. And Peter also knows that variations in *T. Jalisco-monticola* are being crossed.

Peter then wondered how the giant *Tillandsias* might hybridize. *T. hildae* is a huge species, bearing an inflorescence of 5 ft. or more. Although seeds of crosses being made with *T. hildae* are still a few years away, Peter foresees the possibility that the cultivars will make for good ground plantings.

Peter concluded his presentation by enlightening the crowd with several observations:

(1) *Tillandsias* tend to lean because they don't want too much moisture. Their trichomes attract enough moisture to sustain the plants. But Steve employs an interesting trick. After his plants bloom, he hangs them straight up and in full sun, encouraging uniform production of pups. If *Tillandsias* are grown otherwise, pups on the backside may rot.

(2) Peter prefers not to grow *Tillandsias* on wood, because it keeps plant bases too moist. To avoid that, he recommends plastic.

(3) On the subject of fertilizer, he recommends foliar feeding, but thinks that weekly applications are too intensive a practice. He suggests using a weak solution. Steve, on the other hand, uses slow-release pellets, which provide nutrition to his plants for 12-18 months.

(4) *Tillandsias* need light. All of Steve's plants that Peter brought for the program have been growing in full sun. Steve believes that those bromeliad hobbyists who buy into the current Zika-fueled obsession with mosquitoes will crave *Tillandsias*, because they neither need nor hold much water.

(5) Steve possesses slides of his collecting trips. His plan is to create an archive, because that kind of collecting will never be allowed again.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 18, 2016**

Annual Plant Auction  
10901 Old Cutler Road  
Coral Gables, FL 33156



**November 11-13, 2016**

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/event/s-community-outreach/fall-garden-festival>



**November 19-20, 2016**

**Key West Garden Club Show**

West Martello Tower by Higgs Beach

[www.keywestgardenclub.com/index.html](http://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/>



**December 3-4, 2016**

**Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Sale**

W Florida Masonic Center

10868 Metro Parkway

Ft. Myers, FL

[bprevattppcc@aol.com](mailto:bprevattppcc@aol.com)



**December 20, 2016**

**Annual Holiday Party**

10901 Old Cutler Road

Coral Gables, FL 33156



**May 19-21, 2017**

**Tentative Date Annual Show and Sale**

10901 Old Cutler Road

Coral Gables, FL 33156



## MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

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

### 145.

Crews of local newscasters and their associated cameramen and other crew members followed the governmental bureaucratic brigade of inspectors who came upon the show with rigid authority and simple orders: do not let any bromeliad be either sold or removed from the facility.

“But, who is going to feed and water my plants while they stay here?” one vendor asked.

“Are the plants going to stay only here?” another asked.

“How long is this quarantine? Is this a quarantine? Who asked for the quarantine?”

No one answered any question, no matter how legitimate or impertinent it would be.

Said, quiet, expressionless faces marched from end to end in the room. Some of the people had clipboards and took down notes. Others, with apparent authority, spoke curtly to other government workers, occasionally pointing to plants or places – each time avoiding eye contact with anyone in the Extravaganza.

Plastic sheets thereafter came from their vehicles. In large saran-wrap like methods, the plants were wrapped exhaustively. The vendors gasped. Each worried about the plants thereafter being subjected to the elements – like the sun – which would bake the plants brown in less than one hour if not released from the wrapping.

Vendors tabulated numbers, accounting for their hypothetical losses, while helplessly watching government authorities convert panic-laden propaganda into government overreaction.

“Will someone answer any of my questions?” a vendor asked, knowing the answer before he even uttered the question.

“Is there a supervisor that I can speak to?” another asked.

“Who is in charge here?” one vendor asked, and such question was then repeated by another and then another.

Still the plants kept getting wrapped, no answers were given to the questions, and eye contact remained minimal.

“Is there any further value in the great hybrid which caused all of these murders?” Boss thought to himself. “Would this event end the murders?”

### 146.

When they returned to the offices, Boss wanted to speak to the Captain about some concepts which occurred to him between the time of the governmental confiscation and his arrival at the station.

“Come on in?” Captain announced after seeing the diminutive shadow of his best officer behind the closed Venetian blinds.

“Captain,” Boss said with utmost respect, “I think this event should be reviewed as having an effect on our BSSF murder investigation.”

“How?” Captain asked.

“The key to the murders, as I understand, is that there is value to the plants.” Boss prefaced. “If the plants become worthless, which may have occurred with one penstroke by the governor, would there be any further need to fight in the society. Or. More importantly, is there any further need to murder?”

“Was there ever a reason to murder for a tree hugging enterprise?” Captain interjected.

“No, of course not.” Boss replied. “But, to them, there was a reason, a moneyed reason, to kill. And, that reason literally had the economic rug pulled out from underneath it when the governor basically proclaimed that



the cause of evil Zia is the bromeliad. Notwithstanding that plastic containers and other manmade items are the vast majority of providers for the breeding grounds, the bromeliad is the scape goat. As a scape goat, the bromeliad will be persona non grata Hobbyists will find other hobbies. Nurserymen will find other uses for their soil and pots. Landscapes will eradicate the plant. And, before you know it, you'll have to pay people to take the bromeliads off you lot, instead of asking money for the same. They are a liability. And, no one murders to obtain a liability."

"Hmmm" Captain responded. "And, the culprit just disappears?"

"My best hunch is that the culprit is here, and now. But, the culprit's ambitions will atrophy and the result will be great difficulty in

discovering who it is or what."

"Hmmm" Captain responded. "And, the culprit just disappears?"

"Maybe." Boss responded.

And, as that statement was made by Boss, Captain's phone rang. Slowly the Captain picked up the phone. "Hello" he started.

And then silence was held by the Captain for 10 seconds. And, as his eyes widened, Captain looked to Boss and said, "Joshua, do not move. Keep her there with you. I am sending 4 men this instant." As he hung up, Boss said, "Martinez and the others?"

"Yes, and he's in Room 403 at the Extravaganza's hotel."

## Latest News About Zika from CDC

### Pregnant Women with Any Lab Evidence of Zika Virus Infection\*

US States and DC: **837**

US Territories: **1,638**

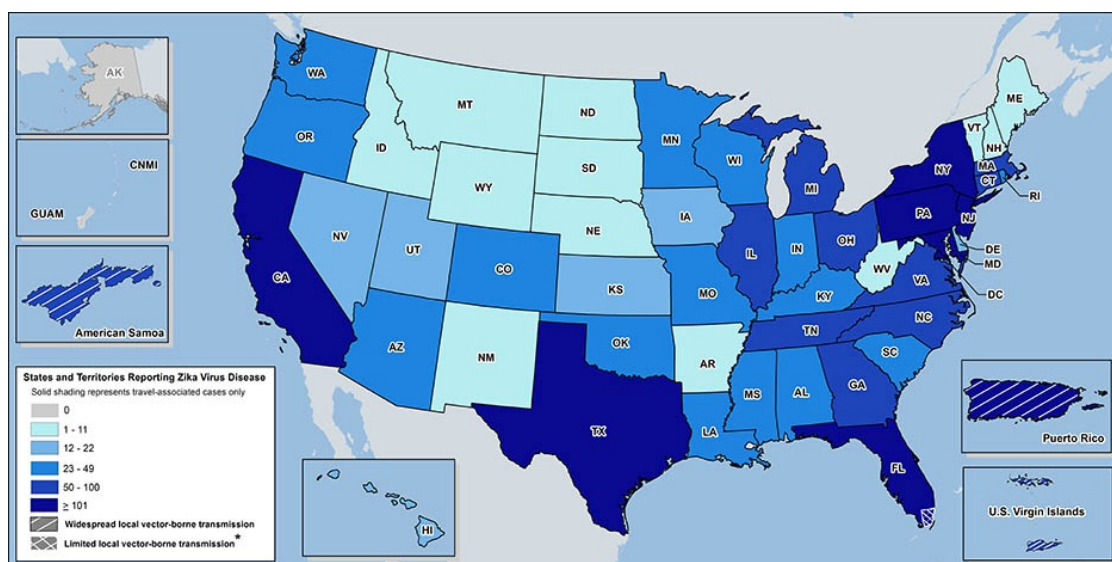
\*Source: Pregnancy Registries as of September 29, 2016

### Zika Virus Disease Cases Reported to ArboNET\*

US States and DC: **3,818**

US Territories: **24,201**

\*Source: ArboNET as of October 5, 2016



## Bahama Trip

If you wish to come to the Bahamas Trip, please show interest by signing the sheet being passed about.

Facts on trip:  
for January/February except the weekends of 1/13 and 2/10 which are already fully booked.  
Jan: inside/outside/balcony \$290/\$330/\$355  
Feb: inside/outside/balcony \$340/\$380/\$455  
All prices are per person, all taxes included.  
**BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**  
Gratuities would be an additional \$38.85 per person.

## Annual Show Meeting

Want ot become involved?

Want to meet the people who work the show?

Want some good food, and forget the other two items?

Then you should contact Alan Herndon and join us in reviewing last year's show and working out what to do for this year's show.

Meeting will be held within the next month.

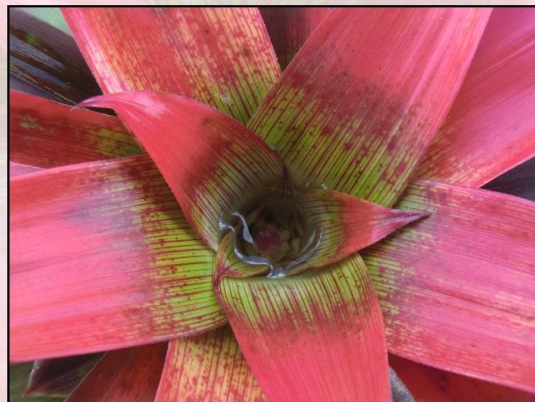
All are invited.



## BSSF Auction

**October 18, 2016**

**7:00PM @ Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**



**Free Food**

**Rare, Rare, Rare Plants Sold**