

BromeliAdvisory

March 2017



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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

March 2017

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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Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello
Raffle Table : Melissa Brail
Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Dave Johnston

MARCH 21, 2017

SPEAKER: Dave Johnston

RAFFLE TABLE: Barbara Partagas

FOOD: Usual Suspects

Dave Johnston

Dave's interest in Bromeliads began in 1985 when he purchased two bromeliads that Frank's nursery had for sale. A *cryptanthus* Pink Starlight and a *neoregelia carolinae* type. Soon thereafter, he learned there were bromeliad clubs that shared similar interests. He joined some. By 1990, Dave had acquired so many bromeliads that he launched Bromeliads Galore – a collector's nursery.



Over the past 32 years, Dave has acquired over 2,000 different species and hybrids. As time passes, he became more sensible and has since significantly scaled back the number of plants – now he has perhaps 1200 different species or hybrids.

Dave has served five terms as President of The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa and two terms as President of the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society. Dave has served most every office there is in these clubs in addition to the Florida Council.



President's Message

by Alex Bello

As a society we must always strive to give back to the membership and what a great way to give back to the membership than starting a new yearly tradition that the Board created. The 1st annual Spring BSSF BBQ was held this past weekend at Bullis Bromeliads. It was a sensational event and a big kudos to Patricia Bullis and the entire Bullis Bromeliads team which graciously opened their nursery in which we had a wonderful afternoon of shopping and lunch.

As I have reiterated, and will continue to do so, our show and sale are quickly approaching; and, from which many challenges arise. In my opinion, the largest focus needs to be education and

advertising and volunteers – more than ever – because of the continual assault and negative press recently bestowed upon bromeliads in relation to Zika. I am certain that this society will continue to be strong and continue to educate the public on the facts and not the gossip or false information that continues to simmer around town.

I hope to continue to see each and every one of you at the meetings, which are highlighted by the speakers – a group we have been diligently working to obtain. This year's list includes some of the best speakers this society have seen in years.

Alex

Articles Which Involve the Upcoming Show

Michalski's Suggestions for Show

[Reprinted from 2012 – if you heeded, great. If not, remember about these tricks for next year]

It is now too late to deliver plants in tip top shape for this show – but now is a good time to plan for the next year.

Tip 1: MAKE PLANTS. The gorgeous plant you buy at the show may be the envy of all next year. What to do? Cut off the inflorescence. It hurts to do it, but the cutting will emphasize new growth and pups will emerge within a short period of time. By the next year, your one-plant purchase may be a 2-5 plant experience.

Tip 2: MAINTAIN PLANTS. The pups come and make you the recipient of free new plants. Often to the tune of many to the one parent. You must acknowledge the preference of parent to child. Work to the child's best interest. That means removing intruding leaves on the parent for the benefit of the more rounded growth of the pup. Often ugly to the parent while nurturing the new growth, the ultimate result is a better and a less off-centered plant emerges from the old parent.

Tip 3: KNOW WHEN TO REMOVE PUPS. Alan Herndon says wait until the weather is warmer – hovering or averaging 80 degrees daily. That is unfortunately sooner than you may wish. Wait until the pup is about half the size of the parent is often advisable. Pepe Donayre requests that the

pup have roots of its own before extraction. If the pup is getting bigger and the weather remains cold – follow Mike's advice on trimming back the parent in Tip 2.

Tip 4: NURTURE THE BABIES. Look after them for a long period of time. Make sure there is screened covering. Make sure there is water. Make sure that the fertilizing, if delivered, is done consistently and not haphazardly – often a cause of long or irregularly shaped leaves in a plant. Clean regularly. Weekly if you can.

Tip 5: AN ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVE. Buy a great plant just outside of the jurisdictional 6-month ownership period. Make sure it is a beauty. Then baby it for the 6 months and hope that it remains as pretty to the day of the show. If successful, you did it and it only took 6 months of your time. And when the show is over, be more daring and attempt Tips 1-4.

THE NOVICE

By Barbara Partagas (reprinted and edited from The BromeliAdvisory, April, 2003)

I probably started coming to the BSSF shows about ten years ago. I remember being awed by the inflorescences (which I thought were flowers). I thought these plants were nature at its best. I acquired a few bromeliads over the years. Wonder of wonder: they didn't die on me. I was never a gardener, you see. I hadn't inherited my parents'

green thumbs. My dad grew prize-winning dahlias. My mom could make anything grow from a seed. I was only good at over-watering, under-watering, and generally neglecting every plant I was given. When I realized that I wasn't killing off the bromeliads. I thought "Aha, maybe I could grow these plants!"

I took Connie Johnson's bromeliad course at Fairchild Gardens. Armed with "knowledge," I began to acquire some beautiful plants. I watched them for first signs of the inflorescences. It was always a great surprise when they appeared. Thanks, Connie.

After attending the show about three years ago, I finally joined the BSSF. When it came time for the show again last May, I started looking at my bromeliads to see if I had anything I could enter just for the experience. No not in my opinion. Then some members gave me a few suggestions. Yes, there could be a few show worthy plants. I was inspired! I got to work sprucing up those plants.

When I arrived with my plants at the classification table, I saw other entries that made mine look insignificant. Why had I bothered? There were so many plants. Mine were going to get lost in the sea of beauty around them. Why had I bothered? I knew I could learn how to raise better plants from this effort.

After the judging was completed, I saw one of my plants on the awards table. It was quite a thrill. I encourage all of our new members, as well as the seasoned growers, to consider entering even one or two plants in this year's show. It really doesn't take very long to get a plant ready for show. All the help and advice you need is available from fellow BSSF members. Good luck and enjoy your participation in this very special event.

The Show is Just Around the Corner by Alan Herndon

2017 BSSF Show and Sale is just around the corner

It is time to prepare for the 39th annual edition of our show and sale. The show will again be in the Garden House at Fairchild from 20-23 April 2017. Setup is scheduled for Thursday, April 20. Unless notified otherwise, we plan on using the entire day for setup. Friday, April 21, will be taken up by judging, with ribbon judging in the morning and major awards judging in the afternoon.

After judging is completed, Sandy Roth will host a dinner/party at her house for judges and volunteers on Friday. Saturday, April 23, will start with final arrangement of the head table and

any rearrangements needed on the show tables. As soon as Fairchild opens its gates, our show will also be open to the public.

The show remains open to the public during the hours Fairchild is open. Once Fairchild closes on Sunday, April 23, we need to dismantle the show and clear out the Garden Room as quickly as possible so Fairchild staff has adequate time to prepare the space for any event planned the next morning.

A majority of the committees that run the show now have chairs (see list below). You should expect the committee chairs to be asking you where and when you can help. Please sign up for a few hours that fit your schedule. The Annual Show and Sale is our best chance to interact with members of the public who might be interested in bromeliads but don't know where to find more information on their cultural requirements in southern Florida.

Among the benefits of volunteering at the show is an invitation to the dinner/party at Sandy Roth's house on Friday evening. This party is more than worth some hours of your time helping us run the show. Another big benefit is free admission to Fairchild during the show. If you aren't a member of Fairchild yet, you can spend half a day as a show volunteer and the remainder of the day investigating the variety of features offered in the Garden.

Many of the positions where volunteers are needed do not require any prior experience working on the show or any special knowledge of bromeliads. If you have a special interest in art, for instance, you could help Sharon with set-up on Thursday or you could sign up to spend some weekend hours talking with visitors who have a



Judging at 2016 Show

particular interest in the art on display. If you enjoy working with food, Sandy Roth always needs help, particularly on Friday when she sets out a breakfast, a lunch and then rushes home to prepare for the Judge's/Volunteers dinner.

Maureen Adelman can always use plenty of people for the Hospitality/Security detail. You will need to be familiar with some details so you can guide visitors to the Show and/or Auction if you are in the sales area, or guide them to the Sales area if you are in the Show Room. It would also be useful to know where bathrooms are located and where to find food in the Garden, just in case a visitor asks. Questions about bromeliad identification or cultivation can often be referred to the Member Sales Table, or a specific vendor, in the Sales area.

There is usually a group of more experienced BSSF members who can answer questions posed by visitors in the Show Room.

If you see a committee that looks intriguing or interesting, try to contact the Chair – if one is listed – at the March meeting. I will keep a list of people volunteering to act as Judge's Clerks until we are sure who will be Chair of that committee. Chairs of the other committees that need several volunteers will keep their own lists, so be sure to see Sharon if you want to work with Art, Sandy if you want to work with food, Karen if you would enjoy spending some time at the Information Table and Maureen if you prefer to mingle with the visitors on the floor and the sales grounds.

If you are available on Thursday, we always need help setting up the Garden Room for the show. In the morning, tables are set up for the plant show and covered with black table clothes. Display boards are set up for the art show. Usually the process of attaching student art to the display boards starts as soon as these are positioned around the room, and runs into the afternoon. Entries for the plant show start arriving at noon. These entries go through Classification, where the entry forms are completed; then Data Entry, where the entry cards are created; finally, the cards are attached to the entries and the entries are moved to appropriate spots on the show tables by Placement. It takes some time to run a group of entries through Classification, so Data Entry will

usually become active 30 to 60 minutes after noon.

After Data Entry has begun to produce the official entry cards, the cards are attached to small wire stakes, then attached to the corresponding plants/art work. Once the cards are attached, the entry is moved to an appropriate location on the sales tables. Of course, we never know what plants will be entered in the show or how large the individual entries will be, so an ongoing rearrangement of the show tables is usually necessary. We work through the afternoon and into the evening – until all entries have been placed.

For those working in the morning and the afternoon, Sandy and her Catering crew provide sandwich fixings for lunch and drinks throughout the day.

On Friday, Sandy sets up a breakfast bar early in the morning, a luncheon for the Judges and volunteers at noon and then rush back to her house to prepare for the Judges and Volunteers Dinner Party in the evening. She needs several helpers to keep things on track. If you enjoy working with food and are available, please let her know.

Members of BSSF are entitled to sell plants at the Member's Sales table. If you have had a good growing year, and now find

yourself with an extra batch of good-looking bromeliads that need new homes, this is an opportunity to match your plants with interested buyers. Plants for sale may be potted or bare-root. They need to be free of scale and fungus. Of course, the more colorful the plant, the more likely it is to attract a buyer. We anticipate that you will be able to bring your plants in early Saturday - before Fairchild opens.

If you would like to sell your plants for your own profit, you need to see Ellis Brown for a vendor number. All sales at the Member's Sales table go through a single cashier, so the only way we know whose plants sold is by the vendor number. You also need to have two tags in each plant. One tag would have the plant name and any further information – such as price - you think might help buyers. The second tag only needs to have your vendor number and the price. If you want to keep



track of the plants you sell, you might also want to put the plant name on the second tag. You will be expected to spend some time at Member's Sales

Alternatively, if you are more interested in supporting BSSF than taking home money from your plants, you are welcome to simply donate your plants for Member's Sales to the society. There is no vendor number for the Society, but the second tag should include the price and 'BSSF' to indicate that the proceeds go to the Society.

If you have one or two extra pots of truly spectacular bromeliads that you are willing to donate to BSSF, consider putting them in the Sunday Auction. There is a limit to the number of plants we can put in the Auction, so please - only consider special plants for this purpose.

As to preparing your plants for the show, you would do well to give your plants a preliminary cleaning now. Clean leaves or other debris from the cups and leaf axils, remove dead leaves and check for any infestation by scale insects. It will probably be necessary to hold the plant upside down and wash the cup and leaf axils with a stream of water if there is a significant buildup of debris.

It is also important to clean calcium deposits from the leaf sheaths or algae adhering to the leaf blades. You still have some weeks for new leaves and debris to collect in your plants, but the cleanup right before the show will be much easier if you do a thorough cleaning now.

It is also the time to make sure the plant is free of insects or fungal disease. Scale insects might not be visible on quick inspection because they are hiding under the lowermost leaf sheaths. If your plants are hosting a colony of scale in a hidden location, inspect all visible areas of the plant carefully. Any scale on a visible surface will be seen by one or more judges, and your plant will be removed from the show.

The correct method for dealing with scale depends on the kind of scale you have. The most common scale insect – light brown, soft scale - can usually be removed from the leaf surfaces by a stream of water or by wiping with a moistened cloth. The small, black scale can only be removed by scraping. If you have only a few scale insects on a plant, it could be worthwhile to scrape the live scale off now. If the number that needs to be removed is larger, it is better to treat the plant with an insecticide now and wait until the scale is dead before attempting further cleaning. Dead scale is much easier to remove than live scale, but still requires careful scraping.

Newer members are encouraged to enter plants in the show. If you think you know far too little to grow a competitive plant, remember that you are eligible to enter plants as a Novice. This gives you a chance to learn what judges like and don't like without the pressure of competing against highly skilled growers. In any case, you won't really start learning how to be a skilled grower until you start entering plants competitively, and there is no better time to take the first step than at the 2017 BSSF Show.

Show Committees for 2017 BSSF Show and Sale

AD SALE	Barbara Partagas
ART	Sharon Biddex-Maessen
AUCTION	Peter Kouchalakos
AWARD SPONSORS	Barbara Sparling
AWARDS	Barbara Sparling
CATERING	Sandy Roth
CLASSIFICATION	Lynne Fieber, Karl Green, Alan Herndon
COMMERCIAL SALES	Peter Kouchalakos
DATA ENTRY	Ofelia Sorzano, Maria Almodovar
HOSPITALITY/SECURITY	Maureen Adelman
INFORMATION TABLE	Karen Bradley
JUDGES	Alan Herndon
JUDGES CLERKS	
MEMBER SALES TABLE	Ellis Brown
PHOTOGRAPHY	
PLANT HOLDING	
PUBLICITY	Robert Meyer
SHOW BOOK	Ofelia Sorzano
SHOW SCHEDULE	Dean Fairchild
STAGING	Sharon Biddex-Maessen, Alan Herndon

Annual Show Entry Sheet

Your plants need to have a sheet filled out before submitting to the Show. At the end of the Advisory is that sheet. Help Alan out and fill the sheet out EARLY April so entries can be inputted prior to the Show's commencement.

In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein

Jon Hanson was raised in Southern California and has been a bromeliad aficionado for more than 40 years. Following a career on the West Coast in sales and marketing of computer software, he and his wife Terie moved to Naples in 2011 and inaugurated Bromeliad Paradise



in 2012. In "Bromeliads in the Landscape," his presentation at the February BSSF meeting, Jon spoke about his new profession and showed lots of beautiful photos of a hobby gone wild.

Jon bought his first bromeliad at age 15 at a nursery next to the legendary Knotts' Berry Farm. By the time he departed California years later, he left behind 1,500 bromeliads, but quickly began to assemble a new collection on his property in Collier County. He had no plans to grow bromeliads commercially, but soon became aware of a tremendous appetite for the plants in Southwest Florida. The boom in bromeliads coincides with a large infusion of new residents into Collier and Lee Counties. Acting on those cues, Jon devoted the back third of his home property to Bromeliad Paradise.

As might be expected in these Zika-wary times, the subject of mosquitoes came up early in the presentation. Jon explained that he doesn't have mosquito problems in his bromeliads, because he uses Mosquito Bits, a product containing *Bacillus thuringiensis*. He just drops a bit in the cup of each bromeliad. He doesn't hear much in the way of concern from his customers, and attributes that to the spread of education among consumers.

Jon sells both online and from appointments at his nursery and relies heavily on a profusion of photos to market his plants. For instance, *X Androlaechmea* 'Lynyrd Skynyrd', a spineless cross, is a favorite of online buyers. He also offers plants on sale every week, plus a category known as Grower's Choice. His nursery stock runs heavy on Neos. *Neoregelia* carcharodon "Skotak's Tiger" is one of his favorites. *N. 'Bravo Allison'*

colors up well in the sun, and *N. 'Southern Girl'* has explosive pink color. Jon's site also includes lots of articles.

In establishing his Florida nursery from scratch, Jon came to recognize that air movement was critical, so now all his plants are off the ground, either on benches or on trees. He further cautions against overwatering during the rainy season. In building nursery stock, he has purchased a number of collections that became available in southwest Florida. His philosophy is simple: He buys what he likes. That way, if they don't sell, he still enjoys them. His is particularly fond of banded species. In addition to selling individual plants, he creates bromeliad 'trees,' plants mounted on wood, which he sells through the gift shop of the Naples Botanical Garden. (He adds that NBG uses a lot of bromeliads in its landscaping. What visitors see gives them ideas for using bromeliads in their home landscapes.)

Jon submits that there are several good ways to landscape with bromeliads. One method is the 'Single Plant Effect,' in which one special bromeliad is placed in a prominent place. *Androlaechmea* 'Paradise' is a new favorite of his for that strategy. It becomes a sizable plant, with translucent pink-orange highlights. *A. 'Samson'* is another good choice. The main goal is to isolate each specimen.

Another approach is what he terms 'Multiples Hodge-Podge,' in which lots of different Neos are put together to make a significant color splash.

Jon is well aware of the versatility of bromeliads. He says that both informal and formal groupings work. A nice effect can also be created by grouping multiple plants of the same species. And, of course, when homeowners run out of horizontal space, epiphytic bromeliads allow them to go vertical.

To see Jon's cache of photos and read advice on bromeliad care, see <https://bromeliadparadise.com/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 18-19

Bromeliad Society of Broward County Garden Fest

Volunteer Park
12050 W Sunrise Blvd
Plantation, FL 33323
9-5 Saturday
9-4 Sunday
<http://thingstodo.palmbeachpost.com/>



event/garden-fest-arbor-day582b95ba91936?s=1

April 15-16, 2017

Orchid & Bromeliad Show
Flamingo Park
3750 S. Flamingo Rd,
Davie, FL 33330-1614
954- 473-2955



April 22-23, 2017

39th Annual Show and Sale

10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
9:30-4:30 PM each day



**Bromeliads by the Bay Extravaganza
August 4-5, 2017**

Clarion Hotel
2701 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL 33612
813-971-4710



<http://www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org/news>
Rate guaranteed by hotel until July 13, 2017

New From Florida Council

Some bullet points:

- ▶ You can donate on the website now with Paypal
- ▶ Last year, the web site had over 8,000,000 hits
- ▶ T Cooper is growing plants in the wild to combat evil weevil
- ▶ Speaker reimbursement now is up to \$5000.00 – receipts have to be in within 20 days of the meeting
- ▶ Extravaganza speaker reimbursed \$1,000.00
- ▶ World Conference is at San Diego on May 29 to June 3, 2018
- ▶ If you sign up for World Conference rates are \$350 before Feb 28 and \$390 after
- ▶ FCBS donated \$500 to BSI Scholarship
- ▶ FCBS donated \$500 to BSI 66 Fund
- ▶ Any news to add, deadline is May 1, 2017 to be in the FCBS Newsletter
- ▶ Roster has to be in by March 15

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

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

153.

Working delivers endless visions of future life without work. The daily grind morphing to boredom matures. The ennui tightens itself onto the working sap. Slowly,

at first at least, little things become undeniably different. Then uncomfortable. Then wrong. Little things, like breathing or laughing, change when coupled with the nauseating work environment. Then the problems at work come home, like the weathered briefcase which the worker grips tighter each year. Angst or invisible tensions seemingly follow. Work's grip becomes a vice. The vice becomes a sledgehammer. The future, if accompanied by the work, becomes less appealing.

Release from this drudgery can only be handled by a few methods. The worst is loss of job and from that a loss of the capital needed to continue a comfortable life. Ensuing loss of home or housing can be worse than the retention of a dreadful job. If things become too constrained, the loss of revenue may mean loss of meal money. That is the ultimate worst.

Another worst is continued life with reduced everything. Reduction in assets. Reduction in savings. Reduction in most everything. That may be tolerable. But, reduction of job often delivers the working stiff to another loop of conceiving of work as the source delivering visions about life without work. Alternative or replacement work which reduces the income will make the future appear more dismal because life without work will be without retirement cushion funds. And, that means life will be forever at work – all the way to death. The maze includes never being able to live a leisurely retirement. Avoiding these conclusions is the aim of work.

The easiest thing is to get money. Lots of money. So much money that anything which involves the future is accounted for. That makes life without work easy. That is how the working stiff seeks to solve the strangling effect of the drudgery, the slow nightmare created by the despised work. Money is the key to the gospel of life without work.

But, boredom is the alternative fear. Life without work means no more schedule. No more regimen. No more, no more. Which, to the unknowing, means life without work is life without essence. The life of leisure may become a life of monotony. Monotony appears worse than work with drudge. And, is monotony worse than drudge? Maybe. Escape to the worse is one of the greatest disappointments.

Retirement without accomplishment seems too inevitable. Identity is accomplishment. Retirement to the worker is life without identity. Without accomplishment, a decision to transfer to the other spectrum becomes a decision of ignorance. Incompetence. The conversion of work to leisure for the duldrum of inactivity is stillborn.

With such depressing thoughts traveling through his head, and each gasp filling his surroundings with the stale breath from his unbrushed mouth, Joshua thought extensively about the events of the past few hours, days, week. Every changing occurrence so quickly whacked his conscience that he, with his education and mental

agility, failed to see what was happening. He misunderstood what the mysterious clan of the bizarre hybrid had done and what they would do. A flurry of questions buzzed within his otherwise fully sound mind. What did he do and what did he fail to do? Those were the ultimate questions he had to ask himself hour after hour whenever he thought about the latest events. Or, was there anything that he could do. Anything. Anything at all.

An easy reflexive way to sate the tensions and anxiety would be to merely conclude with: nothing. Standing back, asserting that you have no ability to affect the script of the drama unfolding before you, soothingly alleviates the necessity of being adult. Adulthood is being responsible. Being someone who has to accept any alteration to the consequences which surround himself. Fate is grand. Living under the guise that all is fate is easier. Accepting what happened as inevitable is like being a boulder in a sea – unchanging and beyond man's contribution.

Joshua was not one to allow the life around him to be easy. Many of the mysteries of life, that most of us take for granted and know nothing of for lack of curiosity or knowledge, he knows. Curiosity fuels his educational fire. And, the events of the past few days or week fueled his curiosity more than any other event in his short life. This family, these events, the results of the whole spectacle made him only thrive to obtain the answers to the questions which no one else would want to know or know how to start to know. Joshua, unlike most anyone, was not about to leave this alone. He had lost much. Most everything that counted to him. And, that made the hunger greater. He was not about to let this be the end of another simple chapter.

Joshua was not returning to the old job with the old rhythms with the old acquaintances.

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Witnessing a bullying is gut wrenching. And, when the BSSF membership saw flanks of government workers arrive at homes and large gardens to effectively kill the totally unaware culprit, such actions were bullying at its worst.

The killer is the mosquito. Not the host plant. But, the government workers focus on the plant with assiduously proclaimed conclusions that the annihilation of the plant would deliver the end of the mosquito. Hah.

Plastics sitting outside gather wells of water. So do ruts in the roads. Or cans or other manmade items commonly held in the yard. Man, not plants, is more to blame for the host sites of the evil critter. But, man cannot wage war on himself. Too many political explanations would be required. Instead, was waged on the alleged host to the speechless critter. Mosquitoes, bugs smaller than a fingernail, will never be an easily defeatable enemy of the state. After centuries of pesticides and other manmade demolitions

of the bug, little has happened. Mosquitoes continue to be largest killer of man on the earth. By vast numbers. Their causes of death are tenfold greater than the muscled, gun wielding human. A tiny critter which dips into and out of the blood system, consistently delivers unbelievable numbers of horrible deaths.

Logic simply defies the argument of eradicating bromeliads. Mosquitoes breed most everywhere. Many of the Zika breeding kind need to be in deep wells and in shaded areas. The deep welled plants in Miami are predominantly in the sun – *Aechmeas* and other sun loving large plants. Because these plants seek sun refuge, their habitats are not the preferred confines of the Zika-carrying mosquito – which seeks shade as an ultimate breeding habitat. Plastic bins or other manmade items tend to be most common provider for the shade-induced deep well.

Instead of a field of Zika-breeding landscapes, BSSF members see the sun loving plants as being a kaleidoscope of flora daintily adorning yards with clusters of reds, pinks, oranges and yellows – each complimenting the other so as to make the thick clusters appear as a color scheme flow chart. Occasional greens, blues, purples and pinks burst out of the orange-red and pink backdrop, making the fields of plants more majestic than anything found in the northern climates. While the north clamors onto for the spring flowering trees, the south is adorned by an annual brigade of lollipop colors provided by bromeliads, which are often accompanied by heliconias, orchids and magnificent flowering trees of the tropical environment.

The eye-catching colors are more predominant because of the warm and humid environment of Miami. With daily rain accompanied by daily 80 degree temperatures, the air swathes the gardens with a humidity blanket, with such accelerating growth of the plants in the ground as well as the plants attached to the trees – including the epiphytic bromeliads.

The rapid fire growth becomes obvious to a gardener who plunks down a few bromeliads one year and a few years later discovers that each single plant is now a cluster of 12 or more, with the leaders creeping up the trunk toward the trees highest branches. All of this is done as though planned by a master gardener's skilled eye. The result can be breathtaking with the clusters catching the sunlight in the most appropriate way, or the clusters making the flowering time most impressive with thirty or more vibrant flowers coming to life in one small sight at the same time. Nature is magnificent. Nature's handling of bromeliads is awe inspiring – or, at least the memberships of the BSSF find the natural clustering of their beloved plants to be awe inspiring.

And, the members seek to have the others appreciate what they already appreciate – the simplistic bromeliad's sophisticated beauty. Zika tainted this. The affiliation of bromeliads disheartened the membership. A call to action was demanded. Educate the public. Or so said the fervent few.

**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
BSSF, Inc.
2017 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, 2017 to February 28, 2018.

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:

mhadelman@comcast.net

You can pay up to 5 years at the rates
described above. All payments are

Entry Worksheet - Bromeliad Society of South Florida

[illegible]