

BromeliAdvisory

August 2017

BROMELIAD BINGO

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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

August 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	Alex Bello

AUG 15, 2017 AT 7:30PM AT FAIRCHILD CORBIN A
SPEAKER: BROMELIAD BINGO
RAFFLE TABLE: Alex Bello
FOOD: Maureen Adleman, Barbara Sparling, and usual suspects

About the Speaker



WORLD CONFERENCE IS AT PARADISE POINT



President's Message

by Alex Bello

The dog days of summer continue to hammer south Florida. This past month was by far one of the hottest and wettest on record for many areas across the region. With the afternoon seabreeze thunderstorms and tropical disturbances passing by, the heat is enhanced. Now, we must carefully monitor our bromeliads and areas around our yard for standing water to ensure we are not creating breeding grounds for mosquitoes. We should also wash and clean our bromeliad cups to avoid

rotting from the excessive rain and the hot temperatures.

As I write this message, the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies jointly with the Tampa Bay Bromeliad Society hosted the Extravaganza in Tampa Bay this past weekend and truly a lot of effort has been placed into it and we shall soon hear from several of our Members how it went.

Alex

In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

On July 18, 2017, Paul Finlayson described his various love s for and hybrids of *billbergia*. He started by decribing to us that he found one plant which he felt was a favorite to hybridize with. For instance, *billbergia*, prior to the 1990's, were not as spotted as they are today. Spots were somewhat derived from the efforts of Don Beadle, and his seemingly limitless use of *Billbergia* 'Domingos Martins.' That spotted parent made the genus soon became a cluster of spotted hybrids.



Without the spots, *billbergia* tend to be plain. Their inflorescence too short lived. Leaf colors are not terribly vivid. The spots, it seems, may have made the *billbergia* what it is – popular in many crowds.

Hybridizer Jim Irwin made *Billbergia* 'Limestone' which caught Paul's eye. Spotted like the Domingos Martins, it also has bands which make is leaf more unique and attractive. And, now Paul hybridizes.

When hybridizing, Paul will trach any cross where the plant lacks shape, lacks color, has bad form, ha ugly spikes or other reasons which make him conclude: why waste fertilizer? With hybrids, you have to wait at least two generations, Paul advises. The second generation's bloom will last longer two, points out Paul, like for 10 or 15 minutes more.

How to was part of the discussion – as in how to hybridize the plants. Paul recommends going out in he morning when the pod is exposed. Then take the yellow pollen out of the blue flower and touch as many others as you can; what Paul refers to as pimping the plants.

Then it is waiting time. After the flower swells and a seed may appear, squirt the seed into a cup with 3 inches of water. Stir the seed in water to berid of the gelatinous goo or what Paul described as "crap." From there, put the seeds into containers. Keep the seeds container for 1 month.

After that month has expired, put the seeds into some mostly moss soils and wait 3 months when shoots will pop up. Take those pups, moss and all, and throw them on top of the potting soil. Leave them there for 12-15 months. The Darwinian survival of the fittest rule will weed out the runts, after which you transfer the fittest surviving plants in a 1-inch pot for another year of growth.

The chart below gives an idea of the patience. Times can be shorter.

Date	Time	Total Time Since Start
0	Pollinate with swab or stick	0
Swelling of the seed	1 mos	30 days
Wet Container of seed	1 mos	60
Wait for shoots	3 months	120-150
Put little shoots on soil	year	485-515
shoots into 1-inch pots	year	750 or more

Paul then showed us many that he grew or hybridized including ‘Dry Ice’, ‘Obi-WAN’, ‘Darth Vader’, ‘Incendiary Delight’, Baba [Pink Champagne x Hallelujah], and many many more.

When asked which was easiest to grow, Paul responded “Meh.” Humor combined with lovely plants and description of the work involved made the presentation a true pleasure.

Amendments to the Bylaws Proposed

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 5. Life membership may be conferred upon any person for outstanding achievement or service in the field of bromeliads and this Society. **Outstanding achievement or service service, as used in the prior sentence, means either achievement in the world of bromeliads, or service in the world of bromeliads or service to the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Inc.** The name of the candidate must be submitted in writing to the Board. If the Board approves, the nomination shall be presented to the Society at a regular meeting. Approval of two-thirds of the members present shall be necessary for such life membership to become effective. Life members shall be exempt from payment of dues and may vote and hold office. Life members shall have all the privileges of active members. **No more than 1 life member may be approved by the board in any one year. A spouse or partner may be included with his/her spouse/partner and that couple would be deemed a single life member for purposes of the limitations outlined in the prior sentence.**

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

SECTION 6: **All Board meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of every month, unless a vote is made by the majority of the Board to have the meeting at another date. Any vote to change the date of the Board's meeting may be handled by email transmittal. Such email must be delivered to all Board members with 48 or more hours notice.**

Dr. Giroux Secrets to Growing *Cryptanthus*

by Robert Meyer

At the Extravaganza, Dr. Larry Giroux gave a speech entitled, “*Cryptanthus* . . . Why the Name?” in which he spoke a little about the plants, a lot about how to handle the plants and even more about the name of the plants. This article will focus on the horticultural portion of the lecture and hopefully better inform members about his years-of-experience secrets which enhance the growing of the *cryptanthus*.

His simple one sentence handling of the *cryptanthus* is “grow them like you would grow African Violets.” One internet source described African Violet care as follows: “Keep the soil lightly moist every day and avoid getting the leaves wet. Use room temperature water. Fertilize every 2 weeks with a high phosphorous plant food, but only during the summer growing season. Only start to fertilize when the plant appears to need an extra boost. Over-fertilizing is a more common problem than under-fertilizing. Many varieties prefer warm conditions (65 degrees F or warmer) though some varieties can grow in cooler conditions. Thin, dark green leaves tell you that the plant is getting too little light. Plants should be shifted to larger pots as they grow. The optimal time for repotting is after some leaves have wilted a bit. See www.avsa.org.

Well, his lecture did not perfectly follow that template. First of all – that advice is for *indoor* plants, while most southern Florida growers can

easily grow their bromeliads outdoors the entire year. Secondly, Dr. Giroux has many tricks of the trade which enhance the above-recited care.

SOIL: Dr. Giroux prefers loose soil. ProMix or Lambert’s are very welcome. If you prefer to be involve in the making of the soil, he recommends additives – such as perlite, pine bark, river rock , clay pellets, charcoal with any peat.

LIGHT: The plants seem to adapt under most any light. But, it is best to avoid *too much* direct light. *Cryptanthus* enjoy growing under other plants in the yard, under the shelter they avoid the direct light. If there is too much light, the plants become bleachy, blotchy or show other signs of burning.

WATER: This is very important. These are drinking plants. If you use a well draining soil, more water will be needed. Dr. Giroux likes to get trays from fast food places, apply pea gravel in those trays, place the pots on top of the pea gravel and water the trays on a consistent basis. This way, the plants get water, but not too much so that root rot or other problems arise. Other people use a wick system, connecting the water through a cotton wick which is placed into the pot.

FERTILIZER: First, mix nutricote in the soil, *do not put the nutricote on top of the soil*. When the plant is firmly established in the soil, Dr. Giroux will use quarter strength liquid fertilizer – e.g. Peters. The fertilizer through the weakened strength delivers more watering. And, the constant watering will decrease the intensity of the fertilizer as well – something partially

welcomed as fertilizer can be a bane upon growing plants with symmetrical leaves and more.

The Other Day to a Sad Day

A work of fiction

by Robert Meyer

The other day, I saw someone with a new plant. It awed me. Approaching the holder, I asked, "Is that a new plant you are holding there?" The person sternly stared at me and replied, "Yes." He was the president of a local bromeliad society. Everyone respected him, or so I was told. "I am the greatest, most revered, president in the history of the bromeliad society." John told anyone willing to listen.

I thought the plant looked familiar, and asked if the plant had something to do with a south of the border hybridizer. "Why would I need a South of the Border hybridizer. That's ridiculous." he retorted.

Later that week, someone came to someone standing next to me and said, "Did you here about the stolen hybrid John is selling which . . . I do not want to mention names, but . . . is really a rip off of a South of the Border hybrid. You know what I mean?"

I knew nothing. But, the person next to me appeared to know all. So I asked her, "What plant? What hybrid?"

She laughed very timidly and said, "There are some emails that were spread about recently in which John told someone that he'd gotten one of the hybrids from someone and now he is propagating them and selling them at a large margin for a pretty penny. But, he denies it all."

I thought about this, and shrugged it off as being something not important.

When we had a raffle table, John included one of the hybrids and someone asked, "Isn't that a plant already made by someone else and under their patent? Are we allowed to sell that plant?"

"Why would anyone mistake that plant with my hybrid?" John squarely responded. Hoping the entire discussion would end there.

A few days later, a person arrived from the South of the Border nursery and discussed how John had visited and when John left there were some plants which were missing. No one saw John take any plants, but there were plants missing. No one thought twice about it until they saw John's web page selling one of those plants.

When approached by that woman, John said, "I am surprised that you make this accusation. I took

no plants and am astonished that months after I visited, that you or anyone in that nursery would think that I had anything to do with the plants which went missing."

A few days later, gossip in the bromeliad world spoke about how John's son spoke to another nurseryman about a large deal involving the plants in question. He admitted that they were from South of the Border. He admitted to everything.

"I never took plants from South of the Border, and anyone that knows me and my integrity knows that gossip is nonsense." John told the society at the next meeting.

A private investigator was hired by the South of the Border nurseryman who found proof that the admissions by the son were true.

The police came to the home of John after receiving the investigator's report. "I have no idea what this is all about." John told the police when they arrived at his door.

A civil lawsuit was filed by the patent-owning nurseryman which requested a preliminary injunction – a legal act which prohibited sales of the plants. The South of the Border plaintiff prevailed even though John swore that, "My plants are not the same plants."

The local newspaper wrote a story about this problem and it was printed on the first page of the local section. After that publication, even the orchid societies were talking about the bromeliad community's dirty laundry.

Each successive meeting at the bromeliad society commenced with discussions about that lawsuit. John would stand before the group and say, almost on cue, that the lawsuit was "meritless and filed by a greedy guy who is nasty and not to be trusted."

In the lawsuit, motions by the plaintiff seemed to be virtually unanswered as their success continued without one loss. John, not able to sell the plants and losing credibility, had to resort to retirement savings to keep the employ of his attorney. Eventually, that cache dried up. And, the litigation became an unfair bout between desolate John against the sophisticated attorney for the monied plaintiff.

After the trial, John's protestations could no longer be accepted. The judge ruled that John had, in fact, stolen the plants without authorization, and imposed a fine which compelled John to file bankruptcy.

Even before the bankruptcy, John had lost all of his self esteem. No one wanted to hear his “side of thee story.” The plants were not that important; but, the refusal to acknowledge the inappropriate use of the same was important.

The South of the Border nurseryman, after this situation, was invited to talk about his plants, and edged in his “side of the story” about the lawsuit when speaking to the bromeliad group. John did not show to that meeting, and was rarely seen thereafter.

“I was the greatest, most revered, president in the history of the bromeliad society.” John told anyone willing to listen. No one in the bromeliad world listened.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 17, 2017
Annual Bromeliad Auction
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
Phone: 305-667-1651



December 19, 2017
Bromeliad Holiday Party
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
Phone: 305-667-1651



November 10-12, 2017
FTBG Ramble
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
Phone: 305-667-1651
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/events-community-outreach/fall-garden-festival>



January 19-21, 2018
Chocolate Festival
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
Phone: 305-667-1651
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/events-community-outreach/events-details/artmid/486/articleid/1164/12th-annual-international-chocolate-festival>



April??? 2018
Bromeliad Annual Show and Sale
10901 Old Cutler Road Coral Gables, FL 33156
Phone: 305-667-1651

World Conference



May 29, 2018-June 3, 2018
San Diego, CA

Registration Fee:

- \$390.00 if postmarked June 1, 2017 – May 1, 2018.
- All registrations after May 1st, 2018 will be at the door at the rate of \$425.00.

Register Online at:

<http://www.bsi.org/new/wbc-registration/>

Want to mail a form instead of registering online?
Go to:

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

NEW MEMBERS PLEASE COLLECT YOUR BADGES

We have 16 new members. Your membership entitles you to Membership Badges. We have them. Come to our meeting and pick them up. Ask for Maureen. She holds the badges.

Special Thanks to Donors of Crystal

Barbara Sparling and the BSSF thank the following people for donating crystal: BARBARA PARTAGAS, ROBERT MEYER, MIKE MICHALSKI, KARL GREEN AND MAUREEN ADELMAN.

If You Got'em, Donate'em Crystal or Give Donations for Awards

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.

Anyone wanting to donate for awards needs to merely give Barbara an email or call.

Time to Renew Your Membership

Attached is a renewal of membership form. If not received by early next year, you will **not** be included in the membership book and receive other benefits. Thanks for your appreciation.

Badges Wear Them

We make some pretty neat badges. They help our fogged aged memories for names. Starting next month, anyone who wants a door prize **must** be wearing a name badge. This way we will better address one another by name. FYI – do not put the badge onto anything which may be affected by an external magnet.

**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
BSSF, Inc.
2018 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, 2018, IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE
INCLUDED IN THE 2018 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