

BromeliAdvisory

Preparing for the Show Issue I

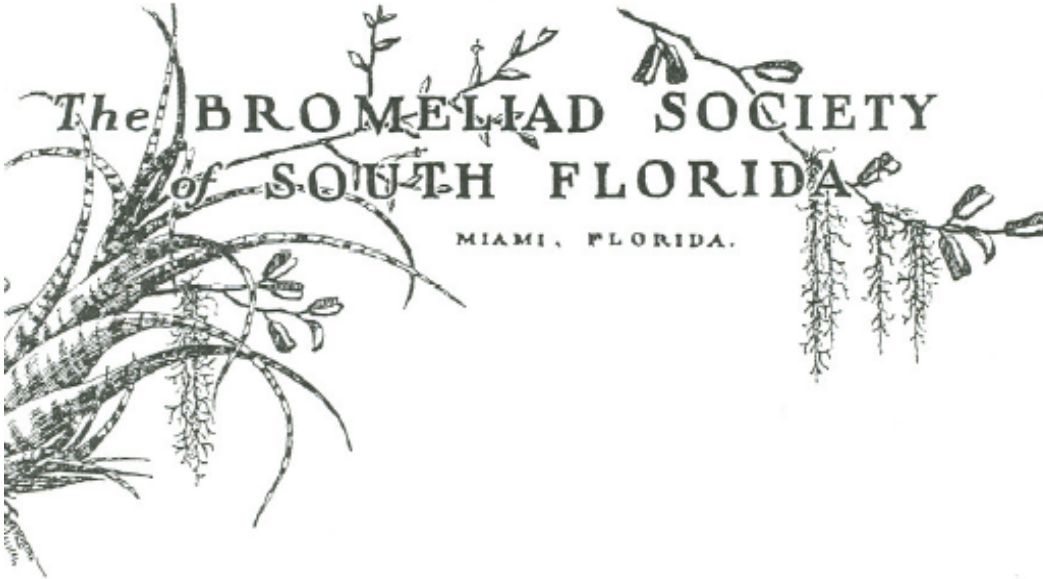
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[PHOTOS BY SKYE PALMER]



BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

February 2018

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	Tropiflora

FEBRUARY 20, 2018 AT 7:30 PM AT FAIRCHILD CORBIN A

SPEAKER: Tropiflora's Dennis Cathcart

RAFFLE TABLE: Alex Bello

FOOD: Maria & Tony Almodovar, Ofelia Sorzano, Olivia Martinez, Maureen Adelman, Anna Haris, Patty Gonzalez

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

[From Tropiflora Website]

Always the dreamer and adventurer, Dennis started Tropiflora in the early '70s as an outgrowth of a bromeliad collecting hobby. A "hobby gone bad" he says. Following years of collecting reptiles and traveling the Caribbean and Latin America, Dennis discovered bromeliads or they discovered him; and, the direction of his life was changed for evermore. Collecting and exploring were always his first interests in the plant world and over the years he and Linda have visited over 25 countries on more than 100 trips and expeditions. Together they have made travel, adventure, plant exploring, speaking, writing and the nursery business a way of life. He and Linda are now passing their passion for plants on to their children, to take Tropiflora into the second generation.



Time to Renew Your Membership

Attached is a renewal of membership form. If not received by **MARCH 1, 2018**, you will **not** be included in the membership book and receive other benefits. Thanks for your appreciation

In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein

With scheduled speaker Pam Koide Hyatt having bowed out due to flu, attention turned to the 2018 Show & Sale, scheduled for March 24-25, a month earlier than last year. Alan Herndon noted that the date is close enough at hand that members should start preparing the plants they wish to enter in the show. The chairmanships are as follows: Information and Membership, Karen Bradley; Judges' Clerks, Maureen Adelman; Hospitality and Security, Maureen Adelman; and Food, Sandy Roth.

Maureen reported that the Hospitality and Security Committee needs volunteers to fill four-hour slots on Saturday and Sunday. The duties require being on one's feet. Part of volunteers' responsibilities is to remind guests about the auction both days. The Judges' Clerks Committee needs volunteers on Friday morning, Friday afternoon, or both. Breakfast and lunch, as well as a valuable learning experience, are provided to the volunteers. Barbara Partagas added that volunteers are also invited to the Friday night party.

What followed next was a real education for those in the audience. Not only is southern Florida blessed with a climate that permits most bromeliads to be grown outdoors year-round, but BSSF members possess a vast well of experience in plant competition and a willingness to share what they've learned. Here is a sampling of the experts' advice at the January meeting:

Alan Herndon's recommendation with regard to preparing plants for the show is for the grower to put himself/herself in the judges' shoes. Fundamental musts are to present plants in clean containers and to make sure not to leave debris in leaf axils. Mike Michalski pointed out that past experience in the competition is not required; there is also a novice division. Alex Bello reinforced that no one should be afraid to enter plants. People can bring plants to the February general meeting to have them critiqued. Lynne Fieber also encouraged members to enter plants in the show, recommending that they do it for the fun, without worrying about the judges. It will be an experience that participants won't forget.



Barbara Partagas likewise urged growers to just have fun with the process. Help will be provided prior to the entry of plants. She went on to disclose a few tools and tricks for preparing plants for competition: When it comes to presentation of the plant, the plainer the material, the better. In addition to using clean containers, growers should put black aquarium gravel on top of the soil. Don't use red gravel. Long tweezers are very useful in getting rid of debris in leaf axils, and Q-Tips can be used to help rid a plant of scale. Tiny scissors can be helpful in trimming leaves. However, that should not be done until just before the show, followed by the application of aloe to the cut area. Employing another leaf as a template for trimming is also advisable. A foam paint brush also comes in handy in cleaning plants. While green is a safe pot color to use, other dark colors are okay. Barbara offered to help resolve members' questions, either by phone or in person.

Maureen emphasized the importance of making sure competition plants are free of scale, other insects, or cracked containers. She also recommended not fertilizing at the last minute. Plants should have symmetrical growth, and should be upright and centered in the pot. Bromeliads in bloom should be entered only if the flowers are in good condition. She also advised against entering a plant

that's growing in two containers. Mike also recommended that plants entered into the competition should have been grown in the right amount of light.

Lynne observed that plants from less common genera have a better chance to win an award, and Alex added that hard-to-grow entries might also get extra attention from judges. Barbara also noted that judges will not subtract points for plants which have small pups. Alan noted that the judges do have some discretion when it comes to pups, regardless of what the rules specify. Sandy Roth confided that the standards of judging decorative entries are always a mystery to her.

Bello urged growers to remove all dead leaves down to the base, but that it is also important not to remove too many leaves. Mike Michalski agreed, commenting that sometimes a nice-looking plant doesn't have enough leaves to be judged favorably. He added that he might refrain from entering a plant with uneven variegation. He also stated that judges prefer that containers be smaller rather than larger, and recommended against packing soil or gravel above the rim of the container. Carl Bauer warned that a show entry can't be installed in Spanish Moss, since that plant is also a bromeliad.

Mike gave a tip which, while not integral to show preparation, can help every grower with propagation: A bromeliad can be stimulated to produce pups by jabbing an implement into the plant's cup. Sandy dubbed the technique "Stab the Mother."

Alan reminded growers of an exception to the rule that show plants must have been owned by the person entering them for at least six months prior to the show: Bromeliads used in artistic arrangements are exempt.

An important, but often overlooked, component of the competition process is how to transport plants without damaging them. Alex recommended moving them in a cardboard box or plastic container. Maureen and Barbara agreed that applying museum putty under containers helps keep plants from falling over during transport.

Ofelia Solorzano told members of another incentive for entering bromeliads in the show: High-quality photos are taken of the winning plants, and they become part of BSSF archives.

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.

Problem	Solution
Plant is top heavy and falls over	Put museum tape or gel on bottom of pot which makes pot bottom stick to the plant tray which, in turn, prevents plant from tipping over in the car on the way to the show
Pot is little dirty/Soil cover	Use ArmorAll and apply on outside of pot, cleans and puts sheen on pot. Use black aquarium gravel to cover the soil and give it a finished appearance.
Inflorescence of large aechmea tips over	A few weeks before the show put newspaper in the well to hold the Inflorescence vertical. It may not be perfect, but this may aid in guiding to a better inflorescence. Remove before exhibiting.
Hard time keeping plant in pot centered	If large, get newspaper and roll up and put around the circumference. That paper is stronger than dirt. If smaller, compress dirt.
No time to prepare an entry	Buy a cute pot. Buy a pretty plant. Put them together
Remove scale	Clean plant with spray nozzle of hose. For any remaining scale, on wet leaf, use wooden cuticle stick with beveled edge to gently remove stubborn scale.
Trimming leaf ends	Do this the day plants are brought for entry. Trim as little as possible and put aloe on the cut surface to keep it from turning brown.
Not sure if plant is worthy	If you like it, take it. The classification committee will help you decide.
Whoops, it got damaged on the way to show!	Take it anyway. Leaf damage accidents happen.
Tillandsia	Trim leaf tips. Judges have good eyes!

DEFINITIONS EXTRACTED FROM BSI SHOW SCHEDULE 2006

Horticulture: Divisions I – IV

All entries in Divisions I-IV must be potted in an unadorned container that will hold potting medium and which neither adds to nor detracts from the entry (*an unadorned or standard container is a non-decorative container such as clay, plastic terra cotta, unadorned bonsai or styrofoam pot*).

Horticultural Displays Divisions V and VI

All growing bromeliads mounted on or in a non-standard container with non-decorative materials (that have no artistic or decorative embellishment). The entries must be established and growing in or on their container or mount. (These entries must show permanence or evidence of actually growing in its container or on its mount, ie. attachment of roots or generations of growth.) A Horticultural Display will include a bromeliad(s) of the same or different genera that may not be naturally interconnected, in or on decorative mounts, baskets, dish gardens and terrariums. (Examples of non-standard, non-decorative containers are plain tree fern pots, pea gravel pots and all the baskets such as tree fern, lath, plastic, and wire.)

Single specimen or multiples may be started from one or more than one bromeliad and allowed to grow and multiply in a natural fashion with emphasis on horticultural excellence. Entries started from more than one plant may be made up of either the same or different genera, species, varieties, forms, hybrids, or cultivars. Some judicious pruning out of old mature plants and inflorescences is expected. Bromeliads may be blooming or non-blooming. Containers or mounts that are decorative (**add to the esthetics of the entry**) will cause the entry to be placed in the Decorative Container Division IX.

Non-Standard BSI Sections: Division VII

1. **Bromeliad Collections** – These entries differ from multiple Horticulture entries (Div. III-IV) by being **multiples of one or more type(s) of species or hybrids not naturally interconnected**. They differ from Horticultural Displays entries (Div. V-VI) by being recently attached or planted and showing no permanence in or on their container or mount.
2. **Fruited Bromeliads** – These specimens can be exhibited in a past bloom state but will exhibit prominent fruit or berry development. Exhibits can be entered in containers as for Div. I-IV.
3. **Cut Bromeliad Inflorescence** – These entries will consist of the cut inflorescence only, displayed in a plain glass bud vase.



Artistic Arrangements – Division VIII

A floral design of bromeliads and/or bromeliad foliage, inflorescences, roots, stolons, or weathered wood, etc; used singly or in combination with other natural plant materials and/or man-made materials artistically displayed with emphasis on dramatic presentation. The Arrangement is to be judged as an artistic entity. Accessories permitted. Plant material used may be fresh and/or dried. Dried material may be painted, treated – i.e. glycerined, sprayed or dyed. Fresh plant material may never be painted. Leaves and inflorescences may be severed and used as needed within the arrangement for artistic distinction. Plants may be placed in this arrangement just prior to entry in the show. Bromeliads and bromeliad parts do not have to be grown by you and may have recently been acquired. Plants may be blooming or non-blooming. No artificial plant material may be used. Bromeliads must be emphasized in the design. A 3” x 5” card with the arrangement’s theme title and the list of plant materials of the design will be placed in front of the design at the point from which you wish the exhibit to be viewed. The information for each Artistic Arrangement must include a title in the “Genus/Title” block. Cards should also contain a list of the materials used. List name(s) of the bromeliads used and if applicable, whether fresh or dried. If bromeliad parts were used, list the part and name of the bromeliad. List other plant material (fresh, dried).

Decorative Containers – Division IX

Individual specimen or two or more mature bromeliads and/or pups of the same or different genera, species, varieties, etc. in a decorative non-standard container. In this section, much thought should be given to the selection of the container, so that there is harmony pleasing proportion and color balance between the plant(s) and container. Originality and uniqueness are very important. Bromeliad(s) may be blooming or non-blooming. This section also includes all decorative baskets, decorative dish gardens and decorative terrariums. All entries in/on a wooden container or mount, which has been stained, waxed, varnished or painted must be entered in this Division. Bases will be allowed with decorative containers. Containers may be placed on the table or hung. Bromeliads may be arranged or placed in the container just prior to entry into the show. As an artistic entry, the positioning of the Decorative container may influence its judging; therefore, the exhibitor may place their entry on the table in the Show room or designate a Placement committee member to place it for them.

For Decorative Container entries place the name of each type of bromeliad used in the exhibit in the “Genus/Title” block. List the genus, name, and if applicable, the variety, cultivar form or parentage and descriptive that might not be obvious. More than one line of entry sheet may be used to describe an entry as long as it is clear which lines go with which entry; like a line drawn across the page to divide the entries.

TEN TIPS FOR ENTERING A BROMELIAD SHOW

1. Remove unsightly lower leaves by splitting them down the middle and pulling the two halves away at the base.
2. Dusty leaves can be cleaned with a 1" sponge paint applicator or an old, damp wash cloth. Each leaf should be cleaned, but artificial leaf-shine is a no-no.
3. An emerging inflorescence can be supported with balled up newspaper so it won't lean. It can also be staked. Supports must be removed before taking the plant to the show.
4. If the entry is blooming, remove old, spent flowers.
5. If one plant in a clump is the one you want to enter in the show, but it's rootless as a result of removal from the clump, try this neat trick: tie a string tightly around the base, then either run the end of the string out of the center hole in the pot and attach it to the pot bottom with a piece of masking tape, or tie the string to a rock of the appropriate size and shape. Once the potting medium is added and packed tightly around the plant, the anchor, whether string alone or string plus rock, will hold the plant in place. Make sure the string is completely hidden.
6. Fresh top dressing will probably be necessary if you're not repotting the plant. Although you're not allowed to use anything decorative, you may use plain black gravel, the smallest pine bark nuggets you can find, or any clean, fresh potting mix.
7. Trimming brown leaf tips on tillandsias is a challenge since the leaves on many types are brittle and fleshy. If cutting is necessary, try to cut only one edge of the leaf, preferably the edge toward the back of the plant, so the trimmed edge is as inconspicuous as possible. When cleaning and trimming tillandsias (and other genera with scaly leaves) take care not to damage the scurf (trichomes) on the leaves.
8. The cut edges of trimmed leaves can be rubbed with aloe jelly. This retards drying the shriveling. This aide works best when done the day the plant is entered for competition.
9. If you have a plant that has become distorted, consider using a decorative container. You may have a container with an opening on the side in which to insert the plant. In the Decorative Container class, you (the exhibitor) may place the entry yourself on the table to insure the best view of the plant. Immature plants may be used, and any number of blooming or non-blooming plants
10. Cut inflorescence. This is a non-standard class (entries won't be judged against standard entries) but is a good way to show off a beautiful inflorescence. Just place it in a plain glass container of water. It should, of course, be as clean as possible.

(Thanks to the contributors for this information: Nat DeLeon, Lynne Fieber, Connie Johnson, and Ed Prince.)

Don't Forget to renew Your Membership at the Meeting

Try to wear your name badge at the Meeting

Great Plants will be for sale at the Meeting

Members Health

As the flu infiltrates America, our crew has been hospitalized for other ailments this past month. Good members Irwin Futerfas, Elaine Mills (who just celebrated a birthday), and Rhonda Herndon been there and done that. Futerfas is now freed. So is Herndon. Mills is letting a bone repair while still in custody. Wish all well.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Edison Estate Annual Garden Show

March 10-11, 2018
2350 MacGregor Blvd.
Ft. Myers, FL

March 24-25 Annual Show and Sale

10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
Phone: 305-667-1651



Redland International Orchid Show

May 18-19, 2018
Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187th Ave, Homestead, FL 33031
<http://www.redlandorchidfest.org/>

World Conference

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



May is only months away. The World Conference is always-too-good-to-be-true-sunny San Diego. Other than the usual show, you have the following:
(a) xciting Optional

Bus Excursion up to see two fantastic member

gardens; (b) a visit to the San Diego Botanic Gardens where they'll have an Alfresco dinner together; (3) a stop in Balboa Park to see the world-famous Botanical Building; (4) included in your registration fee is a half-day afternoon tour in central San Diego; and (5) more. Want to register online for \$290.00 – go to <http://www.bsi.org/new/wbc-registration/> Or use the registration form at the end of this Advisory. Still need to know more, go to <http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org/world-conference.html> or <https://www.facebook.com/Bromeliad-Society-International-BSI-468938213148940/>

Caladium Festival

July 27-29, 2018
Stuart Park
Lake Placid, FL
<http://www.lpfla.com/caladium.htm>

MESSAGES

NEW MEMBERS PLEASE COLLECT 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.

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.

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, 2018 to February 28, 2019.

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 NONREFUNDABLE