

BromeliAdvisory

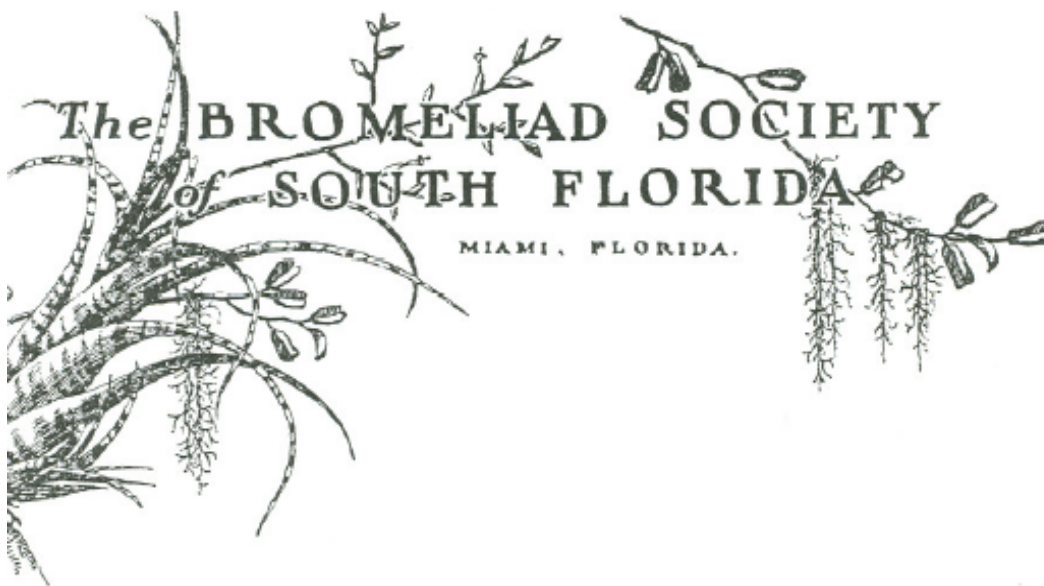


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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

May 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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What	Who
Sales Table	

MAY 15, 2018 AT 7:30 PM AT FAIRCHILD

CORBIN A

SPEAKER: Bromeliad Bingo – Special Deal: First Card Free, Second Card for \$1 or Pay \$10 for Raffle Table and 2nd Card is free.

RAFFLE TABLE: Alex Bello

FOOD: Sandy promises Blue Tango as prize for those who receive tickets when they bring in food. Only one winner, but number of ticket holders is usually single digit – odds are in your favor Betty Crockers.

NEXT MONTH IS THE WORLD CONFERENCE



In Case You Missed It

Pam Koide-Hyatt

by Leonard Goldstein

Pam Koide-Hyatt's appearances before the BSSF are rarer than hen's teeth. Her program in April was only her third in the last two decades and, in fact, was delayed after influenza caused her to postpone a scheduled January date with our membership. But it was worth the wait. In a fast-moving presentation, Pam dazzled her audience with a topic titled, "Diversity of Tillandsia Species in Mexico."

An intrepid plant explorer and collector, she has made many trips to our beautiful southern neighbor. Mexico, she explained, is not just a large country, but also one which comprises many geographic regions. A belt of volcanoes that links the Sierra Madre Occidental, Sierra Madre Oriental and Sierra Madre del Sur has contributed greatly to the botanical diversity of the country. Famed botanist Werner Rau often spoke of the great variation in bromeliad species in the multiple habitats of Mexico, and Pam has verified that observation in her expeditions over the years.

There are 11 floristic areas in Mexico. According to a 2004 checklist, bromeliads alone accounted for 18 genera and 342 species of Mexican flora, with greater diversity occurring in the southern states.

Pam's program featured (1) The tropical dry forest, which months of the year, contains the temperate forest, characterized by humid and cooler at night than the bromeliad species are more conditions of coastal California; just 1% of Mexico, but hosts 60% The annual temperature range is mist year-round.

Following this preamble, Pam descriptions and photos of as a bonus, a few other bromeliad Mexico. Here is a look at some of progression through the country:

Tillandsia elizabethiae can handle exceeding 100°. *T. exserta* is *ionantha* is a very variable and hybridizes naturally. It is mostly tall, with a long-lasting inflorescence. *T. cretacea* likes cooler nights. *T. borealis*, found outside the coastal city of Mazatlan in Sinaloa state, produces a beautiful inflorescence. *T. mooreana*, a variable species found in Sonora and Sinaloa states, features a branched inflorescence. *T. borealis* X *mooreana* is a natural hybrid.

Moving south and east, Pam encountered *T. agascalientensis*, a rock-dwelling species. *T. pamela*, another rock-dweller, can be seen on the road from Jalisco to Guadalajara. It bears a large, drooping inflorescence. It produces adventitious offsets, but is reluctant to pup after flowering. *T. werner-rauhiana*, has a large inflorescence. *T. plumosa* grows on oaks. *T. calothyrsus* is widespread through the region. *T. capitata* is also very widespread, as well as variable; the type plant was found in Cuba. Most specimens are epiphytic, but some grow on rocks. *T. capitata* 'Old Gold' has a strong golden flush. *T. bourgaei* produces a tall, branched inflorescence, but, as a species that prefers cool nights, it may not be happy in southern Florida. *Catopsis berteroniana* occurs further south in this range.

T. jalisco-monticola has a couple of forms. One, occurring all the way down in Oaxaca state, was later named *T. magnispica*. In cultivation, growing the plant in a container will help it stand upright. *T. tilii*, a moisture-lover which produces a white flower, is found at lower elevations. Along the hotter coast, *T. rothii* blooms just before the 6-month rainy season. Further down the coast is *T. guenther-nolleri*, which produces tall, pencil-like flower spikes. *T. guerreroensis*, which has the look of *T. ionantha*, is a very heat-tolerant species. *T. supermexicana* var. *saxicola* bears an unusual chartreuse-red inflorescence. It grows in hot, humid conditions.



Tillandsias in three habitats: experiences rainfall 4-8 greatest diversity; (2) The pine and oak forest, is more tropical dry forest, and its suitable for the climatic (3) The cloud forest exists in of the country's orchid species. 54-64°, and there is lots of

provided thumbnail outstanding Tillandsias—and, species—that occur natively in them in a northwest-southeast

full sun and temperatures found in two forms. *T. widespread* species, and it also epiphytic. *T. ventanensis* is

Along the Oaxaca-Guerrero border, Pam found *T. kruseana* (*xerografica*), a species with variable forms which produces a long inflorescence. *T. tomaselli* occurs further down the coast. It features long, strappy leaves and produces natural hybrids. *T. capitata* ‘Pochutla’ stays bright red all of its life, but is even redder when in bloom. Even further down the coast of Oaxaca, *Hechtia huamelulaensis*, a large and attractive species, captured Pam’s attention. *T. huamelula*, a giant version of *T. ionantha*, grows on lava rock in coastal thorn brush habitat. It may be a natural hybridizer.

In pine-oak habitat, Pam found *T. kalmbacheri*. It features large, recurving leaves with a large, branching pink inflorescence. It is quite variable. There is lots of rain in this region, but it is seasonal. *T. prodigiosa* and *T. violacea* hybridize naturally. Green- and purple-flowering individuals yielded a white-flowering hybrid. *T. mixtecorum*, which Pam named, is silvery and nicely-branched. Unfortunately, it likes cold nights and is not easy to grow in cultivation.

In lower canyons, Pam found *T. rhodocephala*, which grows on the ground. It produces mostly orange-red inflorescences, although some are yellow. *Hechtia marnier-lapostollei* is found in the same area, as is *T. atroviolacea*. *T. rubripica*, a rock-dweller, is another of those species which makes lots of adventitious offsets, but few post-flowering pups.

Leaving Oaxaca, Pam encountered *Pseudalcantarea grandis*, a large species formerly classified as a Tillandsia. It also produces a lot of adventitious offsets. *T. pueblensis* grows along with it. In a higher, inhospitable area she encountered *T. tehuacana* and *T. achyrostachys*. *T. makoyana*, which has a tall inflorescence, is now undergoing a taxonomical split. Also found in the area is *T. fasciculata*, which is its variability. Mexican botanists are perennially bedeviling because of giving the forms separate names.

Back in Oaxaca, Pam found *T. schauderiana*. *T. schauderiana* is a rock-dweller in a higher, more pleasant elevation species that benefits from strong mentioned earlier, has a spectacular, long-

Pam paused to note that in her travels she than in the past. Her hunch is that habitat have conspired to create stronger in the affected areas.

Continuing her photographic survey, she beautiful, orange-spiked inflorescence. *T. heterophylla* both like moist areas. species, is perhaps the most beautiful of on rocks and trees. *T. nizandensis* bears a growing on limestone rocks in the area Tillandsias and Billbergias. The Isthmus and moving up and down the rocks can be tricky.



schiedeana, another variable the area. *T. gymnobotrya*, which elevation, has a long accumulates at its base provides a culture. *T. imperialis* is a high-U.V. light. *T. prodigiosa*, lasting blooming period.

is seeing more mutilated plants devastation and climate change competition for food by the fauna

observed that *T. oaxacana* has a *kalmbacheri* and *Pitcairnia Hechtia lanata*, a wide-leaved the Mexican Hechtias. It grows long flower spike. Species found include some Hechtias, of Tehuantepec is very windy,

Moving into higher elevations of the southeastern state of Chiapas, Pam found *T. ehlersiana*, a rock-grower. Chiapas differs from the rest of Mexico; it is more like Central America. *T. chiapensis*, a rock-dweller, occurs in moist canyons cut by the Rio Grijalva. This area, home to numerous waterfalls, is cold at night.

At even higher elevations, in the cloud forest, Pam encountered *T. multicaulis*. Clouds move into the area reliably every day. Unfortunately, the habitat is degraded, because trees have been cut for grazing. *T. seleriana* grows on the sides of pines; it is yet another very variable species. *T. guatemalensis*, which also grows in this wet, pin-oak habitat, produces a bright red inflorescence. Due to the loss of trees, *T. carlsoniae*, a beautiful species, is hard to find now. *T. punctulata* hybridizes with *T. eizii*, which doesn’t like to pup. The hybrid, fortunately, is a prolific pupper, and it produces a long, spectacular inflorescence. *T. socialis* is a pretty, rock-dwelling species, but is hard to grow in cultivation.

The degraded condition of this cloud forest habitat prompts the question, “What happens when trees are felled?” Although most residents of the area consider bromeliads to be weeds, some local botanists have been given permission to collect the plants, so there is a glimmer of hope that not all will be lost.

Pam concluded her program by describing how her early collecting differed from more recent trips. In her initial travels, she relied on a compass and published records, particularly those of Smith and Downs. Those were, of course, the days before G.P.S. Consequently, it took her a while to recognize species in the field and distinguish the known from the unknown. After she started hybridizing in 1985, her recognition increased. Pam also disclosed that she did not travel with Mexican guides. That autonomy sometimes had unpleasant consequences; more than once, she got stuck in mud on back roads for days. The life of a plant explorer can be challenging, but on this April night members of the BSSF were the fortunate beneficiaries of Pam's collected wisdom.

New Ideas on Handling *Tillandsia*

by Robert Meyer

When growing bromeliads, I ask myself: what bromeliad is best for the I-want-nothing-more-to-do-with-that-plant attitude – otherwise known as I-have-a-day-job plant? The answer is simple – the most epiphytic plant which loves Miami's scorching summers: *tillandsia*.

The question is: after I buy this plant, what do I do with it? Nail it to a tree? Strap it on with a tie on a branch? Use liquid nails to adhere it to a tree or branch? Use string, stretch tape or nylons to hold



it on a tree? From this came an article. A few years ago, I wrote about attaching plants. There were



several methods: stretch tape, ties, nylons and string. Each was worthy. In the end, I was partial to nylons, but they are not abundant in my home.

Now that I am older, and have seen some of those adhesions fall prey to hurricane-force winds, I ask myself: do you want to lose a *Tillandsia* 'Samantha' to Hurricane Sandy? That's a lot of investment. What can I do?

So, I trolled. The internet that is. I found a deal selling orchid baskets at 75 cents apiece. I found another deal selling 10 hangers for the baskets for 60 cents a piece. After they arrive by mail, bend the hangers, plop in the pant, and voila – a new home for the *tillandsia*. With this, I merely need to go out, pull the lightweight hanger off the tree, place the item inside for a few days, and after the weather clears, I hang it up outside. That \$100 Bird Rock Tropical investment is saved by a \$1.35 investment. Adam Smith would be



proud of me.

But, I thought: what if I wanted the plant to grow and become show worthy? Could I do something to adorn this basket? And, then I went online again. Found carpet tape. Stuck it on the bottom of the basket. Then cut some aquarium filter and wedged in on top of the tape. Plopped the plant on top of that, and then filled the basket with attractive mulch. One year later, when we have a show, the mulch should have aged to a graceful

color. If not perfect, I'll top the nutrition-delivering mulch off with something like lava rock, gravel, charcoal or some other

fine topping which will enhance the overall appearance of the hanging beauty.

Recently, we had Tropiflora (February) and Bird Rock Tropical (April) speak at our meeting. I plunked a wad of bills at each sales table, purchased my 10 baskets and 10 hangers after each middle-aged flora-frenzied spending spree, and now have about 15 new nicely dangling-from-the-limbs-of-trees lovelies which I hope survive this summer.

With a few extra baskets in hand, I walked around the yard to see that my earlier purchases at Steve Correale were upside down, and half sideways and still alive. And, like most Steve Correale plants, they seem to know that I have a day job. And, like most Steve Correale plants, they had bundles of pups, in spite of my mistreatment, budding from them. So a tear here, a rip there and before you know it, I have three *Tillandsia ehlersiana* comfortably housed in new baskets, never to be on their side, never to be upside down, always assuredly on a branch beneath the tree's simple canopy. That plant, although modestly priced by



Steve Correale, and its progeny, deserve the \$1.35 investment and will be pupping in the future.. Those pups will only become a door prize to a future meeting.

So what does this all mean? Attaching plants by u-nail, glue, stretch tape, twine, plastic/nylon locking cable ties or even nylon stockings is great. But, those special plants. The ones which may be worth a little extra investment. Those plants that

deserve a little more pampering. Those plants with a little more . . . how do you say it . . . worthy-of-being-shown-at-the-annual-show flare, deserve the \$1.35 investment. Heck, they may be worthy of \$2.00 investment. So go on. Splurge. And we can all show *tillandsia* at the 2019 Show. But, if you are retired or out of work, please think of the others who do work. Let us be the ones to show off these merciful plants at the show. Please.

Due to Difficulties

by Alan Herndon

Due to difficulties associated with obtaining a conflict-free, four-day time slot for our Annual Show in April, our 40th Annual Bromeliad Society of South Florida Show and Sale was held earlier in the spring than usual. This, combined with the damage caused by the prolonged period of gale-force winds during Hurricane Irma, gave us little time to prepare our plants for the show. Still, BSSF rose to the challenge and put on a show that filled the Garden House and was pleasing to the eye. Given the trend for warmer temperatures earlier in spring that we have experienced over the past several years in the Miami area, this earlier date actually allowed us to enjoy cooler temperatures during the show than has been possible for a few years. Also, in contrast to the past few years, we did not have to deal with any periods of heavy rain during the show weekend. The pleasant weather was certainly appreciated. In passing, I should note that with the concentration of events scheduled for April dates at Fairchild, we will likely need to make the move to an earlier show permanent.

An earlier show has a major effect on the plants available for exhibit in the show. With the mid-April dates, we could count on having a large variety of *Neoregelia* species and cultivars in flower for the show. With earlier show dates, the number of *Neoregelia* plants in bloom decreases rapidly. Of course, there are a substantial group of bromeliads that bloom during the cooler months of the year that were rarely seen in our April shows.

The core group of people who do most of the work in setting up and running the show are the chairs of the

larger committees. These members spend many days preparing before the actual start of the show and spend all four days at the show. Sharon Biddex-Maessen ran, as she has done so well for many years, the student art show. The all-

important Catering committee – which is responsible for providing food to all of the volunteers who work at the show, as well as the Friday evening Dinner for the Judges and Volunteers – was in the capable hands of Sandy Roth. Maureen Adelman took on double duty – recruiting and overseeing both Judges Clerks and Hospitality and Security volunteers. Barbara Sparling, as usual, brought order to the process of distributing the crystal awards to major award winners and maintained the supply of ribbons and crystal awards. Karen Bradley kept the Information Table active throughout the open hours of the weekend.

Thursday has historically been the official setup day for our show. Much of the preparatory work is actually finished before

this day arrives. Sandy and her crew have already determined the food and supplies needed and made the arrangements to have the food delivered to the right place at the right time. Ofelia Sorzano has arranged for a Photographer to document the show properly, helped with the layout of the Program Booklet and taken the print-ready file to the printer. Barbara Partagas had sold ads to help cover the cost of the Program Booklet. Robert Meyer had been busy trying to publicize the Show through any available medium. Barbara Sparling had ordered and picked up a sufficient number of ribbons and



crystal to cover show needs. Sharon has gotten a list of participating students from the teachers and collected the completed student art so it could be delivered to the Show Room (Garden House) early on Thursday. Sharon also arranged for art judges to go through the student art on Friday and select the most outstanding entries. Peter Kouchalakos had commercial vendors lined up. Committee chairs have recruited volunteers and scheduled them to ensure all vital positions are filled throughout the open hours of the show.

On Thursday, Sharon was ready to go as soon as the Facilities staff at Fairchild had the requested Display Panels, Tables and chairs in the room. Those of us who live further away and could not realistically get onto Old Cutler Road before the early rush hour starts, arrived later. In any case, by 9 am setup was well underway. Display panels were arranged along the west wall of the Show Room as directed by Sharon, then Sharon started the process of logging in each entry, spreading the posters over a few empty tables and selecting groups of posters to go on each side of a display panel. This was a big job and would take more than the time available on Thursday without the help of several volunteers. In the 2018 show, Ordie Edgington and Fred Sussenberger helped Sharon throughout the morning. During this same time period, tables were moved into position and covered with black tablecloths for the display of plants entered in the show. The head table array was also positioned on the stage and prepared to hold the major award winners the following day. Maureen Adelman, Barbara Partagas, Barbara Sparling and Carl Bauer all played a conspicuous role in this preparation. Sandy also helped with this setup until it was time to set out the initial food for the volunteers who were working during the morning shift.

At noon, we started to accept entries for the plant show. Lynne Fieber took on the primary duties in Classification and helped most of the exhibitors put their entries into the proper categories according to our official Show Schedule. Ofelia Sorzano arrived soon after to begin entering the data from each entry into a computer database and printing the official entry card. Several of the volunteers from the morning stayed on in the afternoon to place stake wires on the cards, find a secure way to attach the card to the corresponding entry and place the entry on a display table. Entries were grouped on the display tables by Section, but, of course, we had no idea what kind or number of entries would come through the door at the start. We found it necessary, as usual, to rearrange the tables several times as new entries were added and we recognized the need to allocate more space to some sections at the expense of others. More volunteers arrived to help in the afternoon and yet another group who had regular jobs during the day came in the early evening to help finish. Sandy stayed through the day to make sure volunteers who are there in the evening had something to eat. We received a very pleasant and welcome addition to

our show from a small group of hobbyists in Broward County. Shirley Grills-Konefal and a few friends brought down 13 beautiful plants for entry. By the end of the day, we had processed and placed approximately 170 entries in the plant show. Sharon had processed a similar number of works from local art students.

Friday was the day devoted to judging in the show room. In the outdoor sales area Peter spent the day guiding vendors into the garden and to their assigned spots. I know nothing more about what went on outside because I never had a chance to get outside on Friday.

In the Show Room, Sandy and her helpers got off to an early start setting up a breakfast buffet for the judges and judges clerks. Around 9 am the Judges gathered for a quick organizational meeting and Maureen gathered the Judge's Clerks for a last-minute review of the procedures. Judges were placed in 3 separate panels and clerks were assigned to each panel – then the judges began to work up and down the rows of tables for Ribbon Judging. Judge's Clerks followed their assigned panels, recorded the results of the judging for each entry and attached the appropriate ribbon to the entry card. Periodically, a runner would collect and bring the recorded results to Data Entry. Judge's Clerks would also bring entry cards that needed quick correction back to Data Entry. Once a corrected version of an entry card was printed, a Judge's Clerk attached the wire pick to the new card, then returned the card to the correct plant. Since there was often a delay of several minutes between the receipt of the incorrect card and the printing of the correct card, the Judge's Clerk had to keep track of what plant was awaiting the new card.

At the same time, Sandy and her crew were preparing for the Judge's Luncheon (also open to the volunteers working on Friday) that was scheduled for approximately noon. Sandy had to keep track of the progress in ribbon judging since the Judges could not break for lunch until all entries had received ribbons, so any delay in judging would require a corresponding break in the start of the luncheon. In 2018, the Judges finished their morning's work before noon, so no modification of the lunch schedule was needed.

After the lunch break, Judges reassembled in the Show Room to start judging for Major Awards. A little before the Judges returned, Maureen and some of her Clerks started to move all plants that received an Award of Merit ribbon in the morning towards the front of the room. Every plant receiving an Award of Merit ribbon was considered during this afternoon judging. Of course, there were some sections that had a large number of entries and a considerable number of AM winners. Several sections had only a single AM winner. In a few sections, none of the entries were given an

AM ribbon.

Major award judging followed a hierarchy. First, Best of Section winners were chosen. All AM recipients from a Section were placed on tables near the front of the room where Judges could compare them. The winner was selected by a vote of the judges. If several entries within the Section had earned AM ribbons, a series of votes would be taken – with the lower-scoring plants eliminated at each vote until a single favorite was left. In a Section where a single entry awarded an AM was present, the single AM winner was displayed for the judges. Judges were then asked whether that entry met the standard to be named Best of Section. After determination of all Section winners, the Section Winners within a Division were compared to each other and the Best of Division Award was given to the plant receiving the most votes from the judges. In the Blooming Bromeliad Division and the Nonblooming Bromeliad Division, a series of votes typically had to be taken to settle on the favored entry. Finally, the Special Awards came up for votes. Eligibility rules for the Special Awards varied from award to award, so the Clerks had to make sure every eligible plant is in front of the Judges before voting could begin. It is common for the Special Award winners chosen by the Judges to also be entries selected as Best of Section or Best of Division – although there have been exceptions in the past few years. However, in 2018 we had an even rarer event – the same plant entry won both the Ralph Davis Award for Cultural Excellence and the Harvey Bullis, Jr. Memorial Award for the Best Variegation. This plant entry was a beautiful specimen of *x Sincoregelia* ‘Galactic Warrior’ from Shirley Grills-Konefal. In case something about this name appears ‘wrong’, it is because the plant was known for many years under the name *x Neophytum* ‘Galactic Warrior’. The recent name change was made because the species of *Orthophytum* closely allied to *O. navioides*, were recently placed in their own genus *Sincoraea*.

After cleaning up from the Judge’s Luncheon, Sandy and her helpers had quickly moved to Sandy’s home to prepare for the Judge’s and Volunteer’s Party that evening.

After the Judge’s finished their work and left the Show Room, Barbara Sparling was finally able to start setting up the head table. Several of the volunteers from the afternoon judging stayed behind – foregoing the early stages of Sandy’s party - to help move the major winners up onto the head table and fashion a reasonable arrangement of the plants and awards. Only after this was finished were those who still had some energy left able to move onto Sandy’s home and the party.

The show and sale would open to the public at 9:30 am on Saturday. That half will have to be covered later.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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) exciting 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 – g o t o

<http://www.bsi.org/new/wb-c-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

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.