

# BromeliAdvisory

Program Guide

**World Bromeliad Conference 2018**  
San Diego



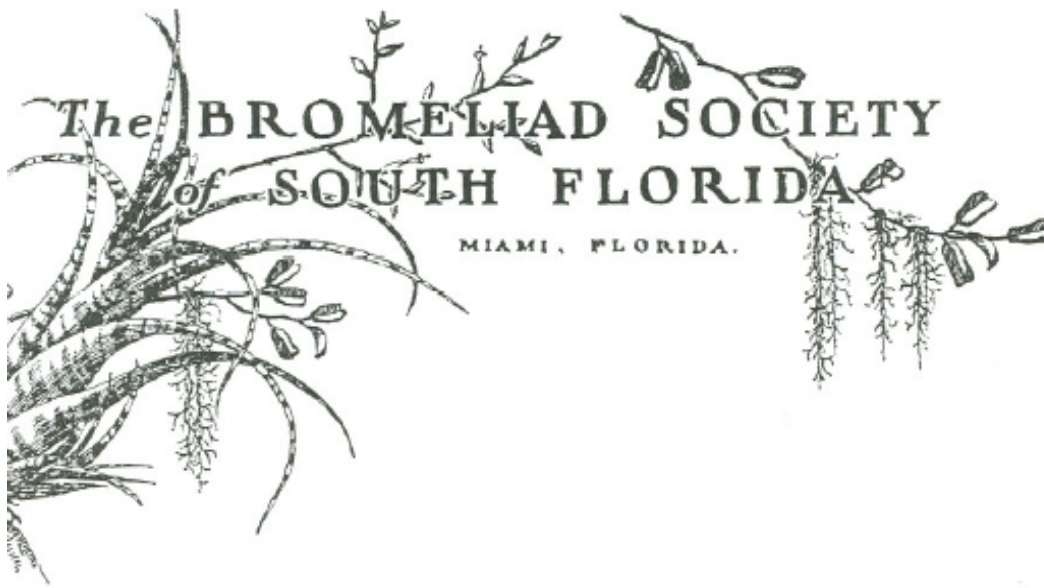
May 29 - June 3, 2018  
fiesta de las bromelias

Welcome !  Bienvenidos !

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# BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

**June 2018**

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



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



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

Alex Bello, President  
Sandy Roth, VP  
Sandy Roth, Treasurer  
Lenny Goldstein, Secretary  
Robert Meyer, Editor

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**Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello**

**Raffle Table : Melissa Brail**

**Refreshments: Sandy Roth**

What	Who
Sales Table	Guillermo Rivera

**JUNE 12, 2018 AT 7:30 PM AT FAIRCHILD**

**CORBIN A**

**SPEAKER:** Guillermo Rivera Owner of Plant Expeditions, "Bromeliads of Peru: Land of the Incas"

**RAFFLE TABLE:** Barbara Partagas (good things promised)

**FOOD:** Sandy promises Big Plant 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.

## About the Speaker

Born in Argentina Guillermo Rivera is the present owner of Plant Expeditions (former South America Nature Tours) – a company dedicated to the organization of tours for the last 15 years, throughout South America (Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador), Mexico, South Africa, Madagascar, and Namibia with emphasizing in bromeliads, cacti, and orchids as well as birding.

A former researcher at the University of Cordoba, Argentina, he received his BS degree in Biology at the University of Cordoba, his MS in Marine Biology at Northeastern University and his Ph.D. in Botany at the University of Cordoba.

The talk will cover a voyage through Peru: from the dry, deciduous forest in the North to the lower slopes of the Andes, and into the Amazon region. Photos will include the Andes' Sacred Valley of the Incas to Machu Pichu. *Tillandsias* in flower, spectacular *Vrieseas* and the incredible bromeliad *Puya raimondii* growing at 4400 meters, with its inflorescence of over 20 feet will be included.

# In Case You Missed It BSI World Conference in San Diego

by Robert Meyer

At the conference, numerous opportunities were given to participants to listen to various speeches as well as visit various gardens.

This article will allow you to have some feel of what transpired at the meeting's lectures. If you want to see some of the gardens that were open to the public, you only need to go to our Facebook page which will be described below. Note, numerous pages in Facebook were made by numerous people leaving albums of photos of the various gardens.

## Peter Waters

The first speaker to arrive was New Zealand's Peter Waters. Waters, a retired pharmacist, has been involved in bromeliads for more than 50 years. His lecture was punctuated with tremendous photography, including some video filmed by a drone of the masterful gardens in New Zealand.

The highlight of Waters' talk involved photographs of the *vriesea* plants which adorn New Zealand. They are very common in that neck of the woods. But, Peter warned us that the foliage in that particular location may not grow in the future. Recent laws imposed by the government have made importation of plants into that state an onerous task. It appears that Mr. Waters made reference as a identify what plants they already had in came in at approximately 1,200. After Waters and everyone else involved in been played by the government. The stated that any other plants would be And, to assure the restrictions were by the New Zealand government.

Thereafter, amazingly approximately an roster. That roster is increasing, but not request. Waters essentially stated that it New Zealand – unless one had real licenses would be approximately total \$1,000.00 or more dollars for entry of approximately 20 plants. That marginal cost would be reduced as certain licenses were affixed costs by time period as opposed to plants imported. However, the licenses' costs were nevertheless prohibitive enough for the common nursery. In short, Waters expects future importation to be scarce and that today's generation would see more or less the identical foliage that the children will see.



government outwitted the growers. government request to growers to their various collections. That number that particular report was made, Mr. the business, realized that they had government, upon receipt of that list, prohibited from entering their shores. obeyed, various hurdles were created

additional 500 plants got listed in that to the full extent of the nurserymen's was prohibited to bring the plants in money. The costs of the various

## Li Ping

In contrast, Li Ping of China spoke the following day about what had been transpiring in her native China. Prior to the Cultural Revolution's demise, the billion-person country had approximately four to seven bromeliad varieties in the entire country. Slowly, after 1979, that number grew. Now, a tumultuous in almost breakspeed fashion, thousands upon thousands of new bromeliad species have been delivered to China. The various gardens greenhouses are replete. China's growth in horticulture is apposite to the stagnation of New Zealand's status quo. China's almost exclusively 21st century project of expanding bromeliad growth is astoundingly impressive. Once a virtual desert of genus collections, China now rivals the southern states of the United States in warehousing of plants.

At one of the botanic gardens, China seems to have Kew Gardens in its mind. A vast expanse, the garden includes a lake and numerous canals. The quadrants of theme-designed plots mimic what I would describe to be a Kew-type design. The Shanghai garden is brimming in its short history; and, China seems to wish to have its Shanghai Chenshan Botanical Garden appear like its peers – centuries old gardens located in France and England. The new grounds are slowly filling with foliage and the place will quickly become sated. Shanghai, once devoid of any such garden, may become a future in botanical resources. And, numerous other gardens are popping up across China's vast expanse.

## Jose Manzanares

To believe DNA or to believe old school taxonomy: that is the question. And, so two speakers came to discuss this issue. The first to speak was Jose Manzaneres of Ecuador. He focused mainly on *tillandsioideae*. As a professor, his speech greatly helped the non-scientist understand the complexities of DNA. Cute photos of a large family receiving new names gave a nice metaphorical answer to Marvin Gaye's question: "What's Going On?"

Distilled into almost too simple description, taxonomy is becoming beholden to the Xerox-machine-sized DNA analysis providers created by Silicone Valley manufacturers. Just a few decades ago, these machines not only did not exist, but the cost was so abhorrent. Not too long ago, the blood or saliva readers were sent to labor-cheap India for a two-week analysis for results. Now, the time for an answer is minutes. The once \$200,000.00 cost in less than \$100.00. The old DNA machines rapidly became obsolete by the faster, smaller and more productive new machines. As the old machines became obsolete in the medically demanding world of human genomics, various educational institutions grabbed the lesser-prioritized old DNA-analyzers for botany.

Manzaneres, one of the leaders in this new field, showed how numerous plants do have differences from those which had previously been identified under more commonly known or more recognized names. However, Manzaneres did show some reservations about the machine-versus-man issues. The need to better refine the divisions between the old school and new school include debates about issues presently only seen in the human genomics world. For instance, no DNA is absolute. Human genomic researchers are discovering that stress will alter DNA. Why can't the same happen to plants? Will intense sun as opposed to an Amazon canopy alter the same plant's genes? How about heat? Or water? Or animal effects?



#### **Ivon M. Ramirez Morillo**

The other DNA speaker was a Mexican professor who looked at the various changes discussed by Professor Manzaneres. She focused mainly on *hechtioidae*. Like Manzaneres, Morillo tried to "dumb down" the science. In a simplistic approach, she communicated how the DNA sequencing was valuable to her research. But, the presentation's charts could be daunting. If not intimidating. On two occasions, she showed the new genetic code sequencing charts and told the entire audience, "Don't be intimidated by this." But, any words coming from anyone could not diminish the intimidation factor based upon these large diagrams which, when placed on one page, were illegible to the average attendee. Even those with 20/10 vision could read what was on the large screen because of the vast volume of information by these "simplistic charts."

Nevertheless, Morillo also challenged the issues regarding the 21st Century machines affecting the centuries of taxonomical evaluation/study.

#### **Dennis Cathcart**

Three large nurserymen came with their respective slideshows. Incredible scenes of habitat living plants glowed on the screen. The first to speak was familiar Dennis Cathcart who showed his classics derived from years of travel. At the BSSF, we have seen similar, if not identical, presentations to our group. But, seeing them again was not a problem. The photographic quality and the great experiences by Mr. Cathcart can never be forgotten and only revival of shallow memories of his great journeys are always fun.

#### **Paul Isley**

On a sadder note, Paul Isley showed his pictures of fire devastation. California fires destroyed one of his nurseries – the largest. This financial disaster seemed to affect the audience more than the good nature Isley displayed. For a person who has worked over four decades in the business, he had a great amount to lose.

Isley continue by showing some of the classic photos of the many hybrids he has made over the decades of work. They adorn much of California and were sold extensively at the sale.

#### **Pam Koide Hyatt**

The other west coast speaker was Pam Koide Hyatt who initially spoke about "how to hybridize." With large and explicit pictures buttressing her comments, how to hybridize seemed easy.

The remainder of her discussion was a flurry of golden photos of numerous *tillandsia* hybrids made by Pam or numerous other well known hybridizers in Texas and New Orleans. Her speech incorporated much of what she presented to BSSF in our meetings. But, her description of how to hybridize was new. That portion of her talk gave a very detailed description of how to hybridize and make seeds. After being mesmerized by

watching this portion, I discovered the seven-year turn-around period – for *tillandsia* to go from seed to plant – told many of the attendees that is truly a labor for the young.

### Jeffrey Kent

The other California speaker was Jeffrey Kent whose bromeliad nursery is one of the largest in America, if not the world. As stated on his web page, “Established in 1975 by brothers Jeffrey, Larry, and Michael Kent, Kent’s Bromeliad Nursery, Inc. is devoted exclusively to bromeliads. We provide more than 100 commercial varieties year-round from our 840,000 square-foot nursery.”

Presently, he people and has acres, mostly facility, and the hybridization, viewer proud of DeLeon. The *Guzmania* plants, premises of the Kent’s combined with Kent’s Bromeliad to be one of the not only the old of new and year, I happened



employs nearly 40 approximately 19.28 under shade. The results from his make any BSSF our beloved Nat lollipop colored adorning the entire hotel (thanks to Mr. contribution), the slides, show that Nursery will continue largest distributors of and known plants, but inspiring plants. This to be sitting a few

seats away from our very own Patricia Bullis who continuously raised her iPhone’s camera to take shots of numerous plants shown by Mr. Kent. This made me conclude that Miami-Dade may be seeing some of those plants, or hybridized varieties of the same, in the not-too-distant future. Something to hope for and think about.

Over 400 photos of the gardens we visited are on facebook. Go to these sites;

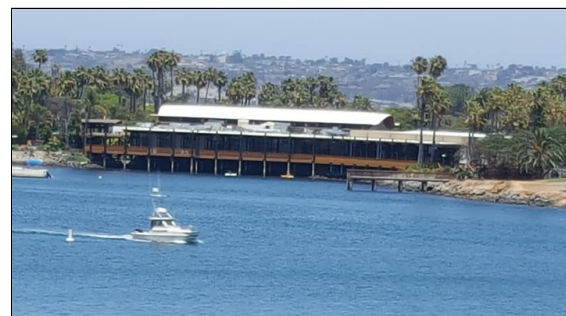
<https://www.facebook.com/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida-84661684279/?ref=bookmarks>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSSF/?ref=bookmarks>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/planetbigenericbrom/about/>

## 2018 World Bromeliad Conference

by Alan Herndon

The 23<sup>rd</sup> World Bromeliad Conference was held in San Diego during the last few days in May and the first few days of June 2018. Alex Bello, Carl Bauer, Patricia Bullis, Steve Correale Jr., Alan Herndon, Maryann & Steve LaRusso, Robert Meyer, Mike Michalski & Patty Gonzales, Barbara Partagas, Urszula & Ronald Rossiter and Sandy Roth all attended – giving BSSF a large presence at the Conference. As a Florida boy, with deeply ingrained ideas of what summer should be like, the weather during the Conference was really a shock. Temperatures were in the range that we experience in Miami during the winter months until a slight warming trend started during the last 2 days. San Diego also has very little rain compared to Miami, so the vegetation was of a decidedly more desert-like character.

With tours taking up one full day and another full afternoon, and two half days of lectures, participants found themselves squeezing in time to visit the Show Room and Sales Room. It was enlightening to see how different some of the species we grow around Miami looked when grown in California. I was not sure whether this difference was due to different clones of the species being available in California than Florida or whether it was just the difference in growing conditions.



Paradise Point Hotel

Steve Correale and the LaRusso’s were attending a World Bromeliad Conference for the first time. Steve spent

much of his time in the Sales Room, selling his father's tillandsias (along with a few orchids) as a vendor. The LaRusso's opted to take advantage of the tours.

Alex and Mike & Patty also kept busy selling plants once the Sales Room opened.

The two final evenings were taken up by the Rare Plant Auction on Friday and the Banquet on Saturday. The Auction was successful. The total amount of money collected to support BSI research programs increased from the relatively low auction results at the 2016 Conference to a level that reached the average income of the past 5-6 auctions.

Most of us left Sunday for the flight back to Miami – where true summer weather awaited us. Some found the enticements of the Sales Room and/or Auction irresistible and carried plants back. It will be interesting to follow the plants that were brought back and see whether they take on a difference after a few years of Miami growth.

## Becoming a BSI Judge

by Alan Herndon

Our annual bromeliad show is a judged show: horticultural and artistic offerings entered in the competition compete for ribbons and – in the case of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida show – pieces of crystal engraved with line drawings of bromeliads. Each year, we invite BSI certified judges to assess the plants and artistic entries.

To become a BSI certified judge, you must go through either a regional BSI Judging School or the BSI Judging School held in conjunction with the biennial World Bromeliad Conference. A regional school is comprised of 6 courses spread over 3 years. There are 2 courses each year offered within a region (for example - Florida, Texas or California) – where there is a high density of bromeliad growers and, accordingly, a high demand for the services of judges. Each course is offered on a Saturday and lasts the entire day.

These regional schools are not offered on a regular schedule, but a new school is organized when a sufficient number of potential students express interest within a region. At this time, an effort is being made to identify people who would be interested in signing up for a school in the Florida region. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Betty Ann Prevatt at 239-334-0242 or email: [bprevattpcc@aol.com](mailto:bprevattpcc@aol.com). If you have already decided to sign up, you can find a form to sign up for the first two classes in the Feb 2018 issue of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Newsletter. As a member of BSSF, you are also a member of FCBS and should have received the Newsletter in your email inbox.

After passing the 2 courses offered during the first year of a school, Student Judges are allowed to participate in judging at shows. A student judge will be assigned to a panel with 2 fully accredited judges. The panel will be assigned a batch of plants to judge and the student will be expected to actively participate in the judging. These assignments are an important part of the training process.

Here the students see how the principles presented in the school classes are put into practice in an unpredictable real-life environment.



During the entire period of the Judges School, students are expected to take advantage of every opportunity to learn about bromeliads. You will be expected to obtain a copy of the most recent Handbook for Judges, etc. and need to be sure you fully understand the chapters for each class you take. You will have to be a BSI member to get credit for classes taken and become a BSI judge, so you will also have access to the complete library of the Journal of the Bromeliad Society on the BSI website. Reading through these is a good start to gaining the background you will need. However, you need to remember that the Journal has been published

for several decades, and what you read in the earlier Journals may no longer be valid. There are other sources of information on bromeliads you could also explore to your benefit. Visit any bromeliad show within a reasonable distance. As you progress through the courses, study the plants receiving various awards and see how they conform to the concepts you have learned in the school. If you have trouble understanding the difference in the outcome of judging for two plants, you can write your question down – perhaps take some photos to illustrate the reason for your concerns – and bring it up at the next judging course to get an explanation.

As mentioned above, a judging school is also associated with the series of World Bromeliad Conferences. This school is primarily designed for prospective judges who do not live near the areas where regional schools are organized. It contains of the same series of six courses as in the regional schools, but only one course is available every two years. This means it will take 10 years to go through the complete series of courses - as opposed to the 3 years in the regional schools.

How can you benefit by training to be a judge? First, the constant practice of looking at cultivated bromeliads with a critical eye will carry over to your own bromeliads. This will help you correct cultural problems in your plants before they become too serious. Second, you will have the opportunity to see many plants grown under various conditions so you can select the form and color you would prefer for various plants in your own collection. Third, you will have the opportunity to be around knowledgeable companions who enjoy talking about bromeliads.

If you are interested in learning more details, please contact Betty Ann Prevatt.

## **2018 BSSF Show A Weekend with the Public**

by Alan Herndon

All shows are, by their very nature, dependent upon the smooth interaction of many small parts. As such, they are always on the edge of disaster. The resilience of the 2018 BSSF show was tested when I – as Show Chair – inconsiderately and inexcusably got sick at the end of the judging on Friday. I was completely unable to be on site Saturday.

Fortunately for the visitors, our outstanding team of committee chairs filled in the gap and assured the continued smooth operation. Maureen Adelman ran the Hospitality/Security operation throughout the weekend. Karen Bradley kept the Information Table in operation throughout the open hours of the show. Sharon Biddix-Maessen stayed on hand to discuss the art show with any interested visitors. Barbara Partagas took up slack wherever and whenever needed. Sandy Roth, as usual, kept the volunteers fed and happy. Barbara Sparling attended to the final arrangement of the Major Award winners on the Head Table and Above all, Carl Bauer deserves special thanks. After many, many years of service at the Membership sales table, he was looking forward to a well deserved respite from those duties in 2018. Despite this, in my absence, he took over the operation of the table in my absence on Saturday and oversaw a day of brisk sales on Saturday with assistance from Rhonda most of the day. On Sunday, Rhonda was joined by Robert Meyer and those two handled Membership Sales

that day.

The Membership Sales Table was a bright spot in our show. We changed the format rather drastically from recent past. This year, no plants grown by members who engaged in commercial sales of bromeliads, at any level, could be sold unless the plants were donated to BSSF. Most of the bromeliads sold at the table were grown in the collections of members who do not sell plants. Although our rules allow payment to members who sell plants at the Membership Sales Table, all plant providing members, in the 2018 show, donated the plants to BSSF. This made a huge difference in the Member Sales Table's revenues.

Another notable bright spot in the 2018 show was the significant increase in the number of new members who joined during the weekend the show was open. The primary purpose of our show is to introduce bromeliads to new people, and the number of new members provides the best indicator we have of how successful our efforts are.

Two auctions were held – the auction on Saturday featured plants from the collections of the commercial vendors. A Sunday Auction featured plants grown by BSSF members. The Saturday Auction was conducted by Peter Kouchalakos and the auctioneer for Sunday was Alex Bello. Total proceeds from the Auction were less than last year, but still within a respectable range.

Major Award winners were listed in the April issue of the BromeliAdvisory. You can find the list on the BSSF website and/or BSSF Facebook page along with the official photos of the winning entries. You can also expect to see even more unofficial photos of the same plants and an array of other photos capturing the show.

No Novice entries were recorded in the Show this year, although I am sure some entries qualified for that status. Please remember that you are allowed to place your entries in the Novice category as long as you have not won an Award of Merit or a Blue ribbon at a past BSI show.

If you are just starting to enter our competitive shows, this Novice category gives you an opportunity to compete against other beginners while learning the basic skills of growing competitive plants. You will have an opportunity to win a major Award (The Best Novice Award: with an accompanying piece of crystal ad place on the Head Table) in this category. However, that is the only Major Award your entries will be considered for if entered in the Novice category. Also, note that - by definition - the winner of the Best Novice Award will not be eligible for entry in the Novice category in future shows.

Remember, the person in charge of classifying your plants will not necessarily know whether you are eligible for the Novice category. If you qualify for, and would like to place your entries in, the Novice category, please let the people at Classification know. Of course, you are welcome to bypass the Novice category if you are confident in your ability as a grower and think the appearance of your plants matches that of other show entries. By doing so, you would be eligible to compete for all Major Awards (except the Best Novice Award).

Commercial vendors enjoyed good sales on Saturday, but sales slowed on Sunday. Unfortunately, I don't know how they compared to past years sales.

You might have noticed that we had two Sweepstakes winners in this year's show. This change from previous shows was designed to provide a transition period for growers who are past the Novice stage, but not yet ready to compete with the most experienced growers. It is a Major Award based on the overall quality seen in a set of plants entered by an exhibitor (please note that artistic entries are not counted). Quality is calculated from the ribbons and major awards earned by each exhibitor. Each Blue ribbon is worth 1 point; each Award of Merit is worth 2 points. In an initial calculation, points earned on the basis of ribbons are totaled for each exhibitor.

If a single exhibitor has the highest total, he/she is awarded the Sweepstakes award. If two (or more) exhibitors are in a tie for the highest total, another calculation is carried out that includes points for Major Awards and for Special Awards as set out in the Show Schedule. It is very rare to have exhibitors tie in the calculation based on ribbons, so the winner is almost always the exhibitor with the largest number of AM ribbons. This means it is good strategy to enter the maximum number of entries in the divisions that count towards the Sweepstakes. Currently, you are allowed to enter a maximum of 20 plants in the Sweepstakes competition, but that number may be changed in future shows.

You will be allowed to stay in this transitional category until you start winning major awards with regularity. At that point, you will be able to compete against the most experienced local growers and will be promoted to the highest experience category.

Special thanks are due to the people who stayed around to help clean up after the show closed Sunday afternoon. This is always a point where the people who have been working throughout the show are dead tired, but we still have a deadline to finish cleaning up. The help from fresher volunteers is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted the committee chairs in running the show. I do not have the records needed to acknowledge each of you separately. However, well over half of our membership assisted with the show, and it is this level of support that makes the show successful year after year.

### **Old Friend Dies [From Miami Herald]**

McGregor Smith, Jr., age 92, passed away peacefully at home on May 16, 2018. He was a great strength to his family and a creative inspiration to the community. His respect for nature and his fellow man was invincible.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Tropiflora Summer Sale**

June 22-23, 2018

Tropiflora, 3530 Tallevast Rd

Sarasota, FL 34243

8:00 am, 22 June, 2018

<https://www.tropiflora.com/events/>



### Caladium Festival

July 27-29, 2018

Stuart Park  
Lake Placid, FL

<http://www.lpfla.com/caladium.htm>



### 77<sup>th</sup> Ramble

November 10-12, 2018

10901 Old Cutler Road  
Coral Gables, FL 33156



### International Mango Festival

July 14 - 15, 2018

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

10901 Old Cutler Road  
Coral Gables, FL 33156



## 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.

### Members' Day Plant Sale at Fairchild

October 6, 2018

10901 Old Cutler Road  
Coral Gables, FL 33156

<https://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events-Community-Outreach/Events-Details/members-day-plant-sale-at-fairchild>



### 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.









**REGISTRATION FORM  
BSI JUDGES SCHOOL  
EASTERN JUDGING DISTRICT**

I am interested in taking the BSI Judges Schools I through VI and I agree to pay for Schools I and II in advance.

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Name

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Address

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City

State

Phone

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

I am a member of the Bromeliad Society International: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of the BSI affiliate society: \_\_\_\_\_

I own (or can borrow) a BSI Judges, Exhibitors & Affiliates Handbook: \_\_\_\_\_

I grow at least 50 bromeliads in at least 10 different genera: \_\_\_\_\_  
**(If you don't now, you will soon!)**

Per Class fee: \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

*Cash or check payable to Betty Ann Prevatt*  
2962 Second Street, Fort Myers, Florida 33916