

BromeliAdvisory

December 2018



In This Issue

Don Beadle Article by Herb Plever	2-3
Splitting Bromeliads by Brenda Wegner	4
Messages	5
Upcoming Events	5
Judge Irwin Futerfas Dies	6
Plant Swap Rules	7
Get Ready for Showtime	7-8
Membership Renewal	9
Membership New	10





BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

December 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	Resting

DECEMBER 18, 2018 AT 7:30 PM AT FAIRCHILD
SPEAKER: Holiday Party



Matter	What You Can Do
Holiday Party	Come on December 18, 2018
Time	7:30 PM
Place	Garden House @ Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
Food	Expect Call from Sandy Roth or Barbara Partagas to inquire about what you can do to help
What to Bring	BYOB
What to Bring 2	Plant Exchange - see page 7
Price	Free to Members \$10.00 for Guests

DON BEADLE - "MR. BILLGERGIA" - HAS DIED

by Herb Plever

[Reprinted from December 2018, Vol. 55, No. 9 Bromeliana]

We all mourn the loss of Don Beadle, widely known as "Mr. Billbergia", who died on October 31st at the age of 89 years. He was the great hybridizer of many beautiful Billbergia cultivars, the BSI's first Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar, a spectacular performer and entertainer at many World Bromeliad Conferences, a man with a droll and occasionally wicked wit, and an all around really nice guy you were glad to have as a friend.

He was a professional engineer, but he also was a skilled mechanic and an excellent photographer. He loved boats and being on the water, and he always had a boat he was rebuilding or tinkering with, and repairing engines and motors. By the time I met him in 1982 he was a confirmed bachelor.

He had a keen mind, and he was a very good researcher. After he was introduced to Bromeliads by his pal and neighbor, the late John Anderson, he became addicted and began collecting, growing and studying every brom he could get his hands on. He soon developed his encyclopedic knowledge of the species and cultivars of the *Bromeliaceae*.



Billbergia 'Fireworks' as photographed by Don Beadle

I first met Don at the 1982 World Bromeliad Conference in Corpus Christi, Texas, where Don lived. Sig Sussman and I were able to spend an afternoon with Don in his two story, 1,600 square foot wooden shade house that surfer friends had built and attached it to his smaller house. The second story bedroom had a walkway that was attached to the shade house so Don could walk directly from the bedroom to his plants.

Don was an excellent photographer, and he made slides of every plant and its flower parts that came his way. He became active in the Corpus Christie Bromeliad Society and in the BSI. With that background, Don soon became the first Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar and during that tenure he produced in 1991 the first, comprehensive Bromeliad Cultivar

Registers; it

That monumental work was updated in 1998 with the 2nd and 3rd Bromeliad Cultivar Registers; it formed the base on which the first digital Bromeliad Cultivar Register was created by then Cultivar Registrar Derek Butcher on fcbs.org with Michael Andreas as webmaster. (The three Bromeliad Cultivar Registers by Don Beadle also became the platform for BSI's updated BCR, with its advanced search engine that is simple to use, thanks to Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar Geoffrey Lawn, Derek Butcher and webmaster Eric Gouda.)

At some point Don became fixed on Billbergias which became the exclusive genus he collected, studied and hybridized. His work expanded exponentially after he was able to wheedle from Bob Whitman a pup of the cultivar known as *Billbergia* "Domingos Martins" - a heavily white spotted clone of *Billbergia vittata*. Don used that spotted *Billbergia* to make many beautiful cultivars.

With expanded acquisitions, Don soon ran out of room in his large Corpus Christi shade house, and

while visiting Harry Luther in Florida, by chance he stumbled upon a large property on First Dirt Road in Venice, Florida and he bought it. It became the site of Don's Los Milagros nursery. At that time Billbergias were not popularly grown except for the beautiful Billbergia 'Fantasia' and B. 'Muriel Waterman' made by Mulford Foster. Don took great offense at this apparent deprecation of his beloved Billbergias, and he started a campaign to popularize them.

Aided by his discovery that he could freeze and preserve pollen, Don soon had a large inventory of pollen from many different plants that he could use in hybridizing. With that pollen cache he was able to create an incredible number of new, beautiful Billbergia cultivars that ultimately numbered in all more than 140.

Michael Andreas did an outstanding job in digitizing Don's slides and photos and in maintaining the data of the many Beadle cultivars that were named and registered on fcbs.org. Mike was the keeper of the Beadle legacy for many years. At many World Bromeliad Conferences Don was the featured performer at the Saturday night banquet where he presented wonderful videos in very slow motion of Billbergias blooming with an accompanying musical sound track. You became transfixed by the innovative multimedia presentation and would be startled when he would interject droll comments warning naysayers they were going to be visited by the Billbergia monster. (Love them - or else....!)

At that time Don was a confirmed, middle aged bachelor, happy to be totally involved with creating more and more beautiful Billbergia cultivars. He loved his Billbergias, but they could not love him back. He didn't realize something was missing in his life until he met Joann Buell. Their reciprocal love was stronger than his unrequited love for Billbergias, so he sold his plants and the Los Milagros nursery on First Dirt Road in Venice, FL to Michael Kiehl. He rebuilt yet another big boat, and he and Joann sailed off into the sunset on the Mississippi River.



Billbergia 'Hallelujah' as photographed by Don Beadle

They spent some happy years sailing, but sometime in 2011 he began to get antsy so Joann and Don wisely went back on shore to his Billbergias at Michael Kiehl's nursery on First Dirt Road in Venice, FL. Without charge, Michael graciously provided Don with facilities at his now huge nursery where Don could study, hybridize and photograph new Billbergia cultivars - and many new ones were created by Don.

Michael Kiehl is now justly the keeper of Don's plants, slides, notes, pollen and a number of unnamed and unregistered cultivars. We hope and expect that these will soon be registered on our BCR.

Don's repeated and constant experimentation led him to develop a "nose" and deep intuition for what plants to cross. Without doubt the most popularly grown cultivar is *Billbergia 'Hallelujah'* (*B. 'Domingos Martins'* x *B. 'Ed Mcwilliams'*), Growers are cautioned that this plant requires bright light to acquire compactness and bright magenta/pink highlights. If grown in lesser light *B. 'Hallelujah'* will grow taller with a kind of dull, dark brown/magenta color.

Splitting Bromeliads

by Brenda Wegner

[Reprinted from East London Bromeliad Society Newsletter April 2018]

Splitting is one of my favourite things to do. I find it therapeutic, relaxing and so rewarding. *Bromeliads* can start forming pups, (also called shoots or offsets) at any time, some even before flowering. Most pups grow off the side of the mother plant at the base or on long woody stolons. By removing pups you speed up the process of the mother plant producing more pups. Pups are ready to be separated when they reach about a third to half the size of the parent plant. You can always see when it's time to re-pot when the pot becomes overcrowded and the pot gets out of shape and the pups start growing over the sides. In the garden the clumps get scruffy with the dead mother plants between the new growth. These need to be removed as this can also lead to scale forming between the tightly compacted leaves.

Before I start splitting to put into pots, I prepare by having the following handy: pots, potting soil, secateurs, loppers, sharp knife, scissors, labels and a permanent marker. Each pup you split from its mother needs to be labelled. This is important. For your own purposes it is good to know what you have in your collection of *Bromeliads* in case you want to swap or sell plants one day, or learn more about that particular plant.

Some pups can be easily pulled away from the mother by hand but others may need secateurs, loppers or a sharp knife to remove the pup as close to the mother plant as possible. The bigger varieties may need tree loppers or a small saw to cut through the woody stem. The long handles of the loppers keep your hands and arms away from the sharp spines on some *Bromeliad*'s leaves and gives better leverage. Try not to damage the mother plant. Stoloniferous pups can be separated by cutting the woody stolon, leaving a bit next to the base of the plant. These are handy for mounting using for example, fencing staples to hold the stolon in place on the mount. If by accident you do break off a pup that looks like it might not make it, place it in a cup of another bromeliad and chances are that it might form roots.

The longer you leave the pups on the mother plant the quicker they will reach maturity (taking nourishment from mom). Leave the pup on the mother till at least two thirds the size of the mother plant. Trim back the leaves of the mother plant if they start interfering with the growth of a new pup. Position the plant with the pups facing towards the light, especially if a pup is variegated and you want to encourage more variegated pups. Alternatively, removing the pups a bit smaller will encourage the mother plant to grow more pups sooner. Just remember that pups removed when they are too small struggle to develop and could result in inferior plants.

Once pups are separated you can leave them for a few days in a shady spot for the 'wound' to heal or pot them up straight away but don't water them. It's best to keep them on the drier side till roots form. Remember that *Bromeliads* take in moisture and nutrients through their leaves and most can survive as epiphytes (mounted). The roots are mainly to anchor the plant to a host. REMEMBER when mounting: Silicon, copper and treated timber will kill *Bromeliads*. Don't plant them too deep as the base can rot. Alternatively, if you have a number of pups around the mother, you may choose to just cut away the mother plant and let the pups form an attractive specimen group of that particular *Bromeliad*.

Some, like *Neoregelia*, look better separated, so that the rosette form of the plant can be appreciated. Other genera eg: *Billbergia* and *Tillandsia* look attractive when allowed to grow as a clump of specimen plants. Don't be in a hurry to throw out your mother plant either, especially if it is a special one, the most exhausted looking plants can still surprise you and send out another pup!
HAPPY SPLITTING !

Want more? Videos on how to do this are at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W43XOq24ZM>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7Q7sCxwe-E>

YOUR NEW BOARD

Position	Person
President	Barbara Partagas
Vice President	Olivia Martinez
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Director	Rhonda Herndon
Director	Richard Coe
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CRYSTAL

Donate Your Crystal to our Show which then will return it to you when you win awards.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TPIE

January 16-19, 2019
Broward County Convention Center
1950 Eisenhower Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale, FL USA 33316
954-765-5900
www.ftlauderdalecc.com



MESSAGES

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

Gardenfest

February 2-3, 2019
Riverside Park
3250 Riverside Park
Drive
Vero Beach, Florida
772-567-4602



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.

Annual Show

March 16-17, 2019
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
<https://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events-Community-Outreach>

BECOME A BSI JUDGE

Contact Betty Ann Prevatt.
\$25.00 first lesson
Application available at the Meeting

Spring Garden Festival

April 12-14, 2019
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
<https://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events-Community-Outreach/Spring-Garden-Festival-Featuring-the-Spring-Plant-Sale>

Judge Irwin Futerfas Dies

[From Miami Herald]

FUTERFAS, IRWIN S. A native Miamian, Irwin Samuel Futerfas was born on January 27, 1926 - nine months before the great hurricane of 1926. He was raised in Coconut Grove on Hibiscus Street and attended Coconut Grove Elementary School and Silver Bluff Junior High. When the family moved to Shenandoah, Irwin attended Shenandoah Junior High. Irwin's family owned a dry goods store in Coconut Grove, around the location of Commodore Plaza and Grand Avenue. The family's dry goods store welcomed many patrons, including Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

Irwin fondly remembers riding his bike throughout the area and on the rugged, unpaved Indian trail now called Old Cutler Road. Irwin and his buddies made kayaks out of wood for boating in the bay. At that time, Pan American Airways flew seaplanes that landed on the bay. As a young Boy Scout, Irwin helped in the highly publicized search for 5-year-old James "Skeegie" Cash, who was abducted on May 28, 1938, near Goulds in South Dade.

During WWII, Irwin enlisted in the Army during high school and, upon graduation from Miami High, was assigned to the Air Force and sent to Keesler Field in Biloxi, Mississippi, for basic training. After training at Truax and Chanute fields in Wisconsin and Illinois, Irwin was assigned to assist in the development of classified radar and bomb-sight equipment at Eglin Field in North Florida. He helped to test and develop this equipment on B-17 bombers.

After the war, Irwin earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Miami and graduated from the law school in 1952. Irwin married his fabulous wife, Charlotte, in 1956. They have loving children, grandchildren, and many extended family and friends. In his early career, Irwin worked as a prosecutor in the state attorney's office under Richard E.

Gerstein. Later, Irwin was the assistant director of administration for the Legal Services War on Poverty at the federal Office of Economic Opportunity. This office helped poor people with significant legal problems secure representation. Irwin went on to hold positions as a staff attorney with the Juvenile Court of Dade County and later, as a General Master of the 11th Judicial Circuit.



Irwin was the second General Master in Dade County. He retired after 16 years with the county. Irwin was very active in the former Temple Zion on Miller Road, President of the Greater Miami Youth Symphony, and a

member of the Elks, the American Legion, and the Miami Old Timers Club. Irwin was recently pre-deceased by his wonderful son, Neal Daniel Futerfas, and is survived by his wife, Charlotte, daughter Judith N. Futerfas, son Alan S. Futerfas, daughters in law Bettina Schein and Christine Argentina, and grandchildren Arianna Schein Futerfas, Zoe Schein Futerfas, Jack Aaron Futerfas and Harry Nathan Futerfas. Services were held at 2 pm on Thursday, November 15, 2018, at Mount Nebo Kendall, Memorial Chapel, 5900 SW 77th Avenue, Miami, FL 33143.

Plant Swap

The simple how to do it

What do I need to get?	A Clean Plant
What do I do with the Plant?	Clean Plant Well
What do I do Next?	Wrap Plant Well
Where do I take this clean plant?	Holiday Party on December 18, 2018
What do I get for this gift?	Feeling of Generosity
Do I get anything else?	Yes – You get to choose a plant that is wrapped as delivered by another
How many plants should I bring?	One is enough
Anything else I should know?	Make sure plant is good plant, clean plant, and worthy of gift

Planning Ahead

Presently there is no location for the either the Extravaganza of 2019 or the World Conference for 2020. If anyone finds either, please tell members of the bromeliad societies.

Save the Date – SHOWTIME

Your Annual Spring Sale is only months away. Be involved.

Alan Herndon welcomes anyone's help.

Here is a primer on how to prepare plants as previously written by Alan Herndon.

Take care of the basics first. Assume that judges are always looking for easy ways to avoid spending much time on individual plants. You can make it much harder for

judges to summarily dismiss your entries by taking the time to clean your plants and pots (or replanting into clean pots). You might also need to replant some of your entries to center the rosette or clump in the container. Checking for and removing insect infestations is mandatory. With bromeliads, this almost always means infestation by scale insects. Several different scale insects will attack bromeliads, but the general method of identifying and removing them is the same for all types. These insects are named for the characteristic protective shell that covers a feeding female. These shells range widely in color and size, but all can be felt as a small bump on the surface of a leaf. Most of the time, they are found on the sheaths of the older (lower) leaves and are far more frequent in plants that have been growing in crowded conditions for considerable lengths of time.

The commonly seen Coconut Scale has a relatively large, light brown shell that is often easily wiped away with a wet cloth. This scale is almost always found on plants that are growing in conditions where free air movement is greatly restricted and is unable to persist when the plants are moved into conditions where air has free access to the plants. In other words, this is an easy problem to solve.

Much more difficult to deal with is the Flyspeck Scale. This insect has a very dark, small scale that feels thick because it is as tall as wide. It is also difficult to scrape off under the best of conditions. In addition, once established, this scale is perfectly able to grow and reproduce in exposed conditions with free air movement. Uncontrolled infestations can kill bromeliads, so we are talking about controlling early infestations. If only a few scale are present, they can be scraped off using your fingernail or the edge of a plastic plant tag. You have to be careful to scrape gently or you will damage the leaf. You can kill the visible scale using a cotton swab dipped in isopropyl alcohol. Of course, you still need to scrape individual scales off the leaf a week or so later, but this is much easier once the insect is dead.

Cleaning plants involves removing any debris accumulated in the leaf axils as well as getting rid of white splotches caused by calcium buildup or dried algae. Most of the debris can be removed by holding the rosette upside

down while squirting water into the leaf axils. You may have to wash out the leaf axils 2-3 times to get rid of most debris. In some cases, there may be a leaf or small stem or other foreign object tightly wedged in a leaf axil. These will have to be pulled out using long tweezers or long needle-nose pliers. Any dead or dying leaves at the base of the rosette should also be removed.

During the rainy periods in summer, it is common for algae to grow prolifically in the water held in a bromeliad rosette. If not washed out on a frequent basis, you will have thin layers of the algae stick to the upper surface of the leaves during days when the water level in the plant drops. This layer of algae will dry to a white film. It is usually no problem to remove any dried algae. If rewet, it can be easily removed with a soft cloth but, if it has been on the leaf for more than a few days, it will have blocked enough sunlight to interfere with the production of chlorophyll in the body of the leaf. The areas of lighter green will remain obvious until the chlorophyll has had a chance to recover to normal levels, so you need to remove the algae now to give the chlorophyll a chance to recover before the show.

Calcium, of course, is plentiful in our local groundwater. Calcium buildup is generally seen on the lowermost leaf sheaths of the rosettes. Much of this buildup can usually be removed using a soft cloth and water, but stubborn patches will have to be removed using a weak acid. For instance, the weak acid in carbonated drinks (carbonic acid) has been used by many people to loosen hard patches of calcium sufficiently to aid in removal.

Judges expect to see plants that are centered in the container, and strictly erect. Most of the bromeliads in cultivation tend to gravitate towards the edge of their pot when grown for several months, so it is often necessary to

remove the plant from its pot and repot it for the show. You need to pay particular attention to two potential – often related – problems. First, judges do not like to see plants potted so deeply that any part of any leaf sheath is covered by any potting medium. Second, if you need to repot a plant with a small root system, it may be impossible to pack the potting medium around the small underground base tightly enough to hold the plant firmly in place during judging. Fortunately, judges do not ever see what is beneath the surface of the potting mix. You can cut pieces of bamboo to a length where they press against the inner sides of the pot at the proper level and use a pair to hold the plant base steady under the surface. You could also tie some string around the base of the plant and then tie the string to something that can be buried in the pot to provide extra stability.



Leaf damage is virtually impossible to avoid when growing bromeliads – especially the forms with spiny leaf margins - in the garden. You can minimize the damage by spacing plants far enough apart that their leaves do not touch. However, you do not have to grow a plant completely free of leaf damage to have success on the show table. Large dark spots caused by bacterial or fungal infection, or large holes in leaves are never acceptable in show plants, but a few small spots caused by mechanical damage on a few leaves will not always disqualify a plant from the head table. In any case, given the unusually severe growing conditions experienced in southern Florida during the 3rd quarter of 2017, we will ask the judges to be generous in their appraisal of leaf damage for this show.

If you prepare your plants for entry as described above a few weeks before the show, final cleanup just before the show will be easy and allow you to enjoy the show more fully. So, look around your collections for a plant or two or three that look good.

**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
BSSF, Inc.
2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

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E-mail BromeliAdvisory? (Y/N) Yes No (You will not receive a hard copy)

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IF ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR,
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Please renew my(our) membership in the BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
for the period of March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2020.

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, 2019, IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE
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Please mail completed form and check

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Miami, FL 33176

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mhadelman@comcast.net

You can pay up to 5 years at the rates
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BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
BSSF, Inc.
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