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<sup>1</sup> Photo by John Blyth of a new hybrid




# BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

**July 2019**

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, Past President  
 Barbara Partagas, President  
 Olivia Martinez, VP  
 Sandy Roth, Treasurer  
 Lenny Goldstein, Secretary  
 Robert Meyer, Editor  
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 Rhonda Herndon, Director  
 Richard Coe, Director  
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Advertising: Robert Meyer  
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 Education: Alan Herndon  
 Hospitality: Elaine Mills  
 Library: Barbara Partagas  
 Membership: Maureen  
 Adelman/Melody Ray  
 Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello  
 Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Anyone who wants to bring plants

**JULY 16, 2019 AT 7:30 PM**

**CORBIN B**

**SPEAKER: ROBERT MEYER – REVIEW OF PHOTOS FROM THE 2019 SHOW**

**Raffle Table: Alex Bello**

**Food Table: Usual Suspects**

## BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA

### Information Sources

<https://www.facebook.com/events/orlando-florida/2019-bromeliad-extravaganza/2571514426256863/>

<https://www.bromeliadorslando.com/extravaganza>

[https://www.bsi.org/bsi\\_info/affiliates/?bylocation&id=6#6](https://www.bsi.org/bsi_info/affiliates/?bylocation&id=6#6)



# In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein

At the June meeting, Nick Bethmann, visiting from the north, treated BSSF members to a presentation on biogeneric bromeliads. North, of course, is a relative term, and in this case it means Palm Beach County. Nick, a resident of Boca Raton and a director of the Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches, has been hybridizing bromeliads since 2008, and three of his crosses are registered with the Bromeliad Society International's Cultivar Register (<http://registry.bsi.org/>). (He has even made a trigeneric, but hasn't registered it.) The BCR is open to everyone, and someone other than the breeder can register a hybrid.

Nick wryly noted that the botanical term for a genus that is a hybrid or cross is nothogenus; it is derived from the Greek word for bastard. It turns out that those little bastards are sterile, and many are of low quality, so creating desirable, successful biogeneric hybrids is no easy undertaking. But through hard work and patience, Nick has been able to obtain hybrids even among members of separate subfamilies.

Nick's biogeneric hybrids include a number of crosses between *Neoregelia* and *Aechmea*: *xNeomea* 'After All,' *xNeomea* 'Bacon,' *xNeomea* 'Pox,' *xNeomea* 'Outback,' and *xNeomea* 'Ramble.' He offered some thumbnail descriptions of other bigenerics that he likes: His *xNiduregelia* 'Cherry Quasar,' which features a dark red center, was registered in 2009. *xQuesregelia* 'Jewellery Box,' a hybrid whose seed parent is *Quesnelia marmorata*, has a beautiful purple, green and red inflorescence. *xQuesregelia* 'Pioneer,' another *Q. marmorata* cross, has an inflorescence suffused with purple. *xCanmea* 'Nani Ko'olau,' whose pollen source is *A. correia-araujoi*, features a showy orange and chartreuse inflorescence borne on a spike. An even more prominent spike develops on *xVriecantarea* 'Seeger,' and the plant pups very well. *xNeophytum* 'Galactic Warrior,' derived from a sport of *xNeophytum* 'Ralph

*Davis*,' has deep red leaves with white margins. *xNeophytum* 'Burgundy Thrill,' a tissue-cultured sport, reaches over three feet in diameter.

*Billbergia* is a difficult genus to hybridize. Bethmann's *xBilya* 'Alpha,' a cross between *B. 'hallelujah'* and *Puya mirabilis*, had to be bred in the middle of the night. It features a spectacular inflorescence.

Nick then shifted his focus from bigenerics in order to devote some time to the puzzle surrounding *Aechmea orlandiana*. This plant, endemic to Brazil, was collected by Mulford Foster in 1939 and described by Lyman Smith in 1941. But a controversy ultimately arose: Was it a true species or a hybrid? It bears similarities to both *A. fosteriana* and *A. correia-araujoi*. The horticultural 'book' on *A. orlandiana* indicates the following traits: It is amenable to pot, basket, or tree culture (particularly if the tree trunk stays moist). It is tolerant of cold, sun, and drought. It is subject to variegation, particularly the cultivar 'Ensign.' It can be grown easily from seed.

*A. orlandiana* has been hybridized for years. 'Black Marble' is a nice one. He estimates that there may now be 40 hybrids of *A. orlandiana* on the Cultivar Register, and about half of them are available. 'White Knight' and 'Haiku' are what he considers the best of those hybrids. He also singles out 'Al's Coppertone' as a good one for making crosses.

Nick concluded his program with this observation: Over time he has become much more judgmental about the quality of his biogeneric crosses. He may have had 1,000 at one time, but he is pickier now.



Nick Bethmann

BSI PHOTOS are at:  
<https://botu07.bio.uu.nl/tropical/?gal=bsi>



## Time to Go Shopping This Summer – Buy Plants

by Robert Meyer

Socrates was partially right when he wrote, “The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.” But, anyone knows more than nothing, so he was a little overzealous in that proclamation.

Einstein was more accurate, “Any fool can know. The point is to understand.” And, knowing rules is about as exciting as watching grass grow, compost rot, or reruns of “Lost in Space.”

What we must know is what is next in the agenda for the show. Are you in, or are you out? Be in. It is well worth it.

“Be in” the easy way is even more worth it.

How do you make it easier. Easy, make the other bloke do the hard work. Take what he or she has done, and coast to the show with the finished product. Here is how. Just understand the most basic rules of the show.

Item one to know– when is the Show? March of 2020. March 21-22. Plants are entered March 19, 2020. Got that? Mark the calendar.

So now apply that date to the rules. What is the rule? Your plant must have been purchased 6 months in advance. Six months prior to March 21, 2020 is September 21, 2019. More or less.

So between now and September 21, 2019, you can go out and buy incredible plants and pray you keep them alive for 180 measly days. No more, no less. And, hopefully Mother Nature will behave and not devastate your place with a hurricane during your short reprieve.

Aspire. Aim. Go for it. Listen to Roy Bennett. “Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led by the dreams in your heart.” Don't fear the show. Get a plant someone else grew for umteen months/years, hold onto it for 6 months and then present it to the judges before you do too much damage to it. Getting the idea of where I am going with this? You only have to be involved at the end of the story. Mark Twain was right, “Never put off till tomorrow what may be done day after tomorrow just as well.”

Okay, Colin Powell said, “There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.” But, he was not specific about whose preparation. Whose hard work. Whose learning from failure. Are you now getting the idea of where I am going with this?

Timothy Weah may have said, “With hard work and dedication, anything is possible.” Whose hard work? Unsaid. Whose dedication? Unsaid. You have to be getting the idea of where I am going with this, no?

Heather Chandler knew Rousseau, and Rousseau's philosophy applies to this 6-month rule: “I shop, therefore I am.” Or said in BSSF jargon, I shop by September 21, 2019, therefore I can enter a really neat plant in the Show.

Worried you may pick a wrong plant. I have one word: exchange. Adrienne Gusoff said it best “Shopping is better than sex. If you're not satisfied after shopping, you can make an exchange for something you really like.” Cha Ching!!!

So go out there. Cha Ching. Cha Ching. And a mere SIX months later, you will have a show winning plant on the winners' table. For those of you who love the crystal given to winning plants, I say who says money can't buy you love?

## MESSAGES

### SAVE THE DATE

**What:** The Auction – but wait, there is more.

**When:** October 15, 2019

**Where:** Fairchild Corbin A, unless announced at another room

**What else:** Free Dinner – fully catered by the BSSF for you as this is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BSSF



**What else 2:** Plants will be auctioned.

FREE FOOD FREE  
FOOD FREE FOOD

### 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.



### 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.

### Hurricane Preparedness

Check our Facebook page if the meeting and impending storm seem to be a little too close in time to one another. The page is

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



We will try to make an announcement on the page indicating whether or not the meeting is on or off.

No matter what, follow the Miami-Dade County guidelines on how to prepare and engage yourselves during and after the storm.

### BECOME A BSI JUDGE

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



### CRYSTAL

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

Thanks To:

Pepe Donayre  
Ofelia Sorzano  
Urszula Rossiter  
Shirley Grills-Konefal  
Rhonda and Alan Herndon



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Caladium Festival & Plant Extravaganza

July 26-28, 2019

18 N. Oak Ave.

Lake Placid, FL 33852

<https://lpfla.com/caladium-festival-2/>



### Broward Society Fall Plant Auction

November 18, 2019

7:00 PM

Deicke Auditorium

5701 Cypress Road

Plantation, FL 33317

<http://www.bromeliadsocietybc.com>



Bromeliad Society of Broward County

### 2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza

September 20th - 21st, 2019

SpringHill Suites & TownePlace Suites,

8040 Palm Parkway,

Orlando Lake Buena Vista (near Disney Springs).

[www.BromeliadX.com](http://www.BromeliadX.com)

Room booking:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservation/s/reservation-link.mi?id=1547843838096&key=GRP&app=resvlink>



### Annual BSSF Show

March 21-22, 2020 [Tentative]

10901 Old Cutler Road

Coral Gables, FL 33156

### BSSF Auction and Catered Dinner to the Membership

October 15, 2019

Corbin A

10901 Old Cutler Road

Coral Gables, FL 33156



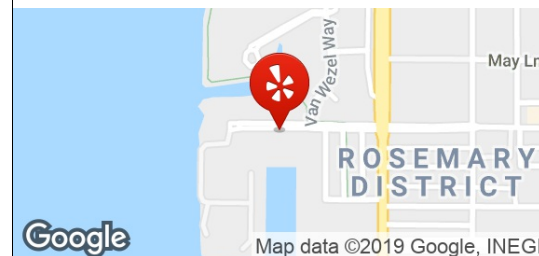
### BSI World Conference

June 9-13, 2020

Sarasota Hyatt Regency

1000 Boulevard of the Arts

Sarasota, FL 34236



### Speakers 2020 World Conference

Elton Leme – Brazil

Eric Gouda – Netherlands

Ivon Ramirez – Mexico

Julian Aguirre-Santoro – Colombia

Bruce Holst – Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Florida, USA

Cristy Brenner – California, USA

Jerry Raack – Ohio, USA

Graeme Barclay – New Zealand

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/Bromeliad-Society-International-BSI-468938213148940/events/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Bromeliad-Society-International-BSI-468938213148940/events/?ref=page_internal)

<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>  
<https://www.bsi.org/new/wbc-rate-hotel-reservations/> **[\$149, no resort fees]**  
<https://www.bsi.org/new/world-bromeliad-c>

### Golden Brooms Conference

October 17-20, 2019

Sea World Resort

Seaworld Drive

Main Beach, Queensland

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Phone: 0438 154 561

[www.goldenbrooms.com](http://www.goldenbrooms.com)



### Fairchild Ramble

November 8-10, 2019

10901 Old Cutler Road

Coral Gables, FL 33156

