

BromeliAdvisory

February 2019



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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

February 2019

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	Mike Michalski

FEBRUARY 19, 2019 AT 7:30 PM AT FAIRCHILD

SPEAKER: Mike Michalski

Now is the time to check your yard and your patio for special plants. You all have them. We will be treated to Mike Michalski's refresher course on "How to prepare your plant entries for the 2019 Annual Show".

If you have a plant that you think is pretty nice, it probably is. Bring it to the meeting on the 19th and Mike will give you award winning tips! If you have a plant that you are not sure about, bring it; he'll fix it!

Show Has A New Date

The Annual Show and Sale is now to be held on March 28-31. March 28, 2019 you bring in plants for the show. March 29, 2019, the plants are judged. March 30 and March 31, 2019, the Show is held at Fairchild.

WORLD CONFERENCE

Itinerary growing for SARASOTA event.

<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>

BSSF February President's Message

by Barbara Partaga

It's prep time for the show. It's also a great time with comfortable temperatures to go scouting through your garden and patio for show worthy plants. See the accompanying article by Alan Herndon, our show chairman for his advice. BSSF is encouraging members to sell their plants at the Member Sales Table on Saturday or Sunday. It's a win-win for everybody.

Members split the proceeds with BSSF.

Bring labeled, cleaned bare root or potted plants. Members spend a couple of hours at the sales table. This is a way to participate in the show if you cannot work on a committee.

All volunteers get free admission to Fairchild for the day.

Volunteers get to attend Sandy's party on Friday night. This is a highlight of our show.

Any monies you earn from selling at the members' table can be used to offset the

money you spend at one of the other vendors' tables!

Complete information about member sales will be provided within the next few weeks. Any questions can be emailed to Robert Meyer, Chairman of Member Sales.

Last year BSSF had about 75% member participation in at least one show/sale activity. What can you do? Every little bit helps.

The other area where we need help is for cleanup on Sunday afternoon. About an hour of your time if you have not been able to participate in other committees would be very much appreciated by those of us who are very tired from four days of work.

It's quick and allows admission to the Garden on Sunday

Barbara

In Case You Missed It

By Leonard Goldstein

Following the January 15 meeting, one BSSF member observed that she had learned more useful tips from the evening's program than she had in the last 25 years of pursuing her hobby. She was referring to Chip Jones's fast-paced presentation that touched on multiple aspects of growing and showing bromeliads.

Right off the bat, Chip emphasized four variables significant to the successful cultivation of bromeliads: light, soil, water, and fertilizer. Managing each of them appropriately, he urged, is the key to success.

Chip encouraged listeners to think of bromeliads as trees. Cutting them energizes dormant buds. More specifically, he explained that the bud found at the base of a variegated leaf which is exposed to light will produce a variegated pup. For example, one can cut a variegated leaf on the unstable *Neoregelia*

'Aquarius' in order to stimulate the development of a variegated pup from the associated bud. (He added an informative aside about the interplay between genetics and propagation: Variegation is not stable; consequently, it cannot be tissue-cultured. That's why variegated bromeliads are so pricey.)

With respect to the use of fertilizer, there is no one practice that benefits all bromeliads. Thoughtful manipulation of quantities is important. An unfertilized pup may stay squatty and more colorful, and some plants need to be grown hard—i.e., minimally fertilized—in order to look their best. Soft growing—i.e., fertilizer-aided—will increase pupping, but also produce a duller plant. Chip prefers Nutricote (=Dynamite) over Osmocote. The latter attracts water, so the difference between the two products is

accentuated in the summer, when rainfall is heavy.

On the topic of dividing bromeliads, Chip advised cutting as close to the mother plant as possible, because the greater the amount of stem that stays with the pup, the better it performs. Remove the less-than-full-size imbricate (overlapping) scale leaves and fertilize the pup well when it is young. Then concentrate on light exposure. Later on a liquid fertilizer applied at half strength may be beneficial.

For containerized terrestrial bromeliads, Chip prefers the same soil mix he uses for palms.

Reinforcing the theme that not all bromeliads can be treated identically, Chip noted that some don't like to be inundated with leaf litter, because lesions may develop when mud has built up in an axil. Symptoms may also mimic sunburn. In contrast, *N. 'Martin'* and *N. 'Bossa Nova'* are oblivious to leaf litter. He also urges growers to apply tough love in rehabilitating ratty-looking plants. For example, *Aechmea nudicaulis* and *A. orlandiana* can withstand a major cleanup. Be sure to remove plants that have bloomed.

Chip's guidelines on propagation continued with a warning that divisions performed in summer carry some risk: Newly-potted pups that get excessively wet may rot. When dividing bromeliads, cut stolons on an angle in order to make it easier to reinsert plants in the ground. Removing elevated pups from a stoloniferous clump exposes dead leaves for cleanup. Don't be afraid to remove lower live leaves from pups. The process of cleaning up plants in the landscape can be done every 2-3 years. The idea behind it is to interrupt elevation of the clump.

Chip then addressed the subject of choosing plants for display in beds. On the one hand, bromeliads that flower every year may require more work in that culture. On the other hand, a plant that doesn't flower or pup prolifically

may lead to the loss of a clone.

Don't use pea rock in bedding mixes. Instead, use an exploded, i.e., porous, rock, because it will hold nutrition. 45% of the mix should be shredded pine bark, which lasts 2-3 years. Pro-Mix is good for about a year. It is especially important to develop a good root system in bromeliads to be planted in the landscape.



Next Chip turned to the subject of preparing bromeliads for show. Start by dropping the subject plant into a clean pot. The rootball of the bromeliad can be shaved in order to facilitate centering it. Then make sure the pot is full, but *not* with anything decorative, and avoid using a ceramic container. The size of the plant should be in good proportion to the size of the pot.

An important question for the grower entering competition plants to consider is whether the specimen is the representative size for its clone. Judges will certainly take note of bromeliads that are of

substandard size. Other tips include trimming brown tips and making sure that stems aren't seated too high in the container.

Algae that dries up leaves a white film on bromeliad leaves. That film should be removed prior to showtime. Use seltzer water or hydrogen peroxide to achieve good results. Wash every day for about a week before a show. You may scrub a leaf with a toothbrush, but it's important to support the underside of the leaf during the process so that it doesn't break.

Near the conclusion of his presentation, Chip disclosed a pleasant discovery early in his career—that 'Moyna Prince,' a *Neoregelia* hybridized by Gary Hendrix, referred to a real person, not a fictional character!

Preparations for the Show

by Alan Herndon

Our Annual Show and Sale is only six weeks away, so it is time to get serious about preparations.

Right now, the most useful thing you can do to prepare plants for the show is to look through your collection, pull out candidates for entry, and give these plants a good cleaning. That means removing dead leaves, repotting into a clean pot – taking care to have the plant centered in the pot and erect – if necessary, and cleaning out any detritus that may have accumulated in the leaf axils as well as any deposits of algae or calcium on the leaf surfaces. **Cleaning a single plant per day will give you a respectable number of entries by the end of a week**, and greatly reduce the amount of cleaning you will have to carry out under pressure to finish in time for the show.

In the case where calcium deposits on leaves are substantial, you may have to clean a single plant a few times before the calcium is fully removed and the leaves look completely clean. Starting now gives you the time to finish well before the show is here.

Another reason for cleaning plants at this stage is that algal deposits on the leaf surface often block enough sunlight to create light patches of irregular shape on the upper surface of a leaf. Such variations in leaf color are counted as cultural faults by the judges. If you clean off the algal accumulation now, the plant will have a chance to regenerate the chlorophyll in the light areas, resulting in a more uniform leaf color by the time of the show and a higher score during ribbon judging.

While cleaning, you also need to inspect your plants for scale, an infestation by minute sucking insects that are usually hidden beneath small, often inconspicuous, shells. Just remember that as inconspicuous as they may be, judges will spot them – and judges treat any plant with visible scale harshly. If a few scale insects are found on a plant, they can be scraped gently off the leaf surface or killed chemically. If an otherwise superior plant has a lot of scale, all you can do is treat

the plant to kill the scale, plant the scale-free offset that comes up and wait for next year to enter. Once killed, the dead scale insects remain firmly attached to the leaf surface and still need to be removed because judges are unable to see the difference between live and dead scale. Fortunately, 2-3 weeks after being killed, the remains of scale insects become much easier to remove.

For those of you wishing to sell plants at the Member's Sales Table (or to donate plants to the BSSF for sale at the table), cleaning is also necessary. For more details, you should talk to the Chair of the Member's Sales Table – Robert Meyer – if you are planning on either selling or donating plants.



You also need to take advantage of the February meeting to sign up for the committees that carry out the actual work of running the show. We need help on all four of the show days from setup on Thursday morning through teardown on Sunday afternoon. Chairs from the committees needing the most people will be happy to sign up volunteers. Even if you don't sign up for specific hours with any

committee, you are always welcome to drop in and help when you have free time. The only disadvantage with this approach is that we won't know to put your name on the list of volunteers for the show if you aren't signed up with a committee. If you are already a member of Fairchild, you would not have to pay to get in, but if you aren't a member of Fairchild, being on the list of volunteers means you don't have pay to enter the garden during the days the show is on.

For those of you who have a few superior plants in excessive numbers, we are looking for donations of special plants to the auctions held on Saturday and Sunday. The Sunday auction, in particular, will be plants donated by the membership.

One final thing to remember, all volunteers are invited to the Judge's and Volunteers Dinner/Party at Sandy's house on Friday evening after the judging.

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

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.

BECOME A BSI JUDGE

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

CRYSTAL

Thanks to the following for donating crystal to the Show: Robert Meyer, Barbara Partagas, Maureen Adelman, Sandy Roth, Patty Gonzalez, Elaine Mills and Barbara Sparling.

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

Get Involved With the Show

There will be numerous requests and sign up sheets at the meeting asking for a few hours of your time. Great times. And, in exchange for your services, you get to come to FTBG for FREE. That is a great deal. Other benefits: Sandy's famous Friday dinner, food at the Show, and laughs.

Upcoming Events

Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale

March 9, 2019

9:00 to 5:00

1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando, FL 32803

Annual Show

March 30-31, 2019

10901 Old Cutler Road

Coral Gables, FL 33156

<https://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events-Community-Outreach>

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>

The South Florida Cactus and Succulent Society Cactus Show and Sale

May 25-26, 2019

Pinecrest Gardens

11000 Red Road

<https://www.pinecrestgardens.org/entertainment/events-festivals/cactus-show> Pinecrest, Florida 33156

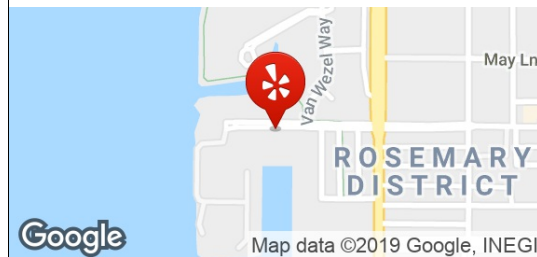
BSI World Conference

June 9-13, 2020

Sarasota Hyatt Regency

1000 Boulevard of the Arts

Sarasota, FL 34236



https://www.facebook.com/pg/Bromeliad-Society-International-BSI-468938213148940/events/?ref=page_internal

<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>

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

(PLEASE PRINT) NAME(S) _____

(Couples - please include BOTH first names)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

ADD'L. TEL. _____

Year Joined BSSF: _____

Referred by: _____

Include e-mail address in the roster? (Y/N) Yes No

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

EMAIL _____

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR,
PLEASE **HIGHLIGHT** OR UNDERLINE

Please renew my(our) membership in the BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
for the period of March 1, 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
INCLUDED IN THE 2019 ROSTER**

Please mail completed form and check

(Payable to BSSF, Inc.) to:

Maureen Adelman
9421 SW 134 Street
Miami, FL 33176

Or E-Mail this form to:

mhadelman@comcast.net

You can pay up to 5 years at the rates
described above. All payments are
NONREFUNDABLE