

BromeliAdvisory

June 2019



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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

June 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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 Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello
 Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Mike Michalski or Alex Bello

JUNE 18, 2019 AT 7:30 PM

CORBIN B

SPEAKER: MYSTERY SPEAKER

Raffle Table: Barbara Partagas

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



Running Out of Room? Never

By Robert Meyer

Often people keep planting on the ground and reach a point where they proclaim – no more buying of plants. I am sated. The gills are filled. No more room in this yard.

Nonsense.

Ever wonder what a palm tree was good for? Not for shade, right? And, those fronds are pesky and hurt many things when they drop only to make a large brown nothing. Leave them on the grass too long, and the lawn become a yellow nothing. Their one redeeming quality is that they bend and don't litter your yard after hurricanes or wind storms. Or, is there another trait?

Yes. Palms are ideal hosts for the absurdly engrossed hobbyist who has stuffed his/her yard like a French goose. Palms to the rescue. Palms, you will learn, are especially good for hosting bromeliads. Who knew, right?

Now, for those of you who have shy ways or you other who do not want to read dirty literature, go to the next paragraph. The rest of you – you know who you are – read on. This is when we talk about strapping on plants, sometimes in their crotches, or at their openings. Okay, back to the clean stuff.

Get the necessary tools and you will find that palms can be the cure for growing clean plants. Okay, not clean. Less dirty.

What tools do you need? Here is a list: String [mason string suffices], thin wire [even soldering wire works], metal cutters or pliers, baskets, basket holders, U nails or staples, Superglue or Gorilla glue or Liquid nails, nylons or hose clamp or plastic stays, and a hammer.

Question 1.: Do I hammer a nail into a tree? Some people say never. Others say in limited fashion. I go with the latter. A royal palm can take a small nail in the gut. A thin palm cannot. The obvious answer is . . . how do you say . . . obvious?

Question 2.: If I cannot use a nail, how do I hold up a plant? Oh, let me count the ways. Panty hose does the job without any other items. Hose clamp does as well, but may rust

or not expand as easily as panty hose. Plastic stay is a little worse than hose clamp because it will NOT expand. Green garden tape – the stretchy stuff sold at nurseries or Home Depot – is a little worse, but can be used. Twine too.

Question 3.: Are you hanging on another thing? Or, just sticking the hanging item onto the tree and temporarily using panty hose, hose clap, plastic stay or U nail until the glue sets? This question must take into account the size of two things: (a) the size of the tree – see above; and (b) the weight or size of the plant. Big trees and big plants may require use of the U nail PLUS a holding item – hose, hose clamp Small plants may work on glue alone or with temporary use of hose, hose clamp Awakward or very large plants probably have to be hung. See hanging lesson in separate article herein. In short, light items can be hung on very little hardware or even no hardware or hose. Heavy things may require the U nail, hose or more in addition to the gluing agent.

Question 4.: How many plants can I hang with the devices? You will be surprised. Especially with *Tillandsia*. You can hang dozens on one tree. And, they proliferate. As the air gets into the bottom of the plant, the proclivity to propagate increases. Almost geometrically. And, amazingly, if you have a large tree encircled by one clamp, you can hook numerous *not so heavy* plants onto that clamp. This make the circumference below the clamp fuzzy with specimens.

Question5: What do I do after the plants are glued or hung? Nothing. This is all about keeping the day job. Ignoring plants and visiting them once-in-a-blue-moon fashion makes that suprise encounter wonderful. You may find yyourself talking to the plants:“Haven’y seen you in months when I hung you, my how you have blossomed, and all those pups below – you look great.”

In the end, no ground space used. The plants multiply faster – especially *tillandsia*. Which means, break off a pup and bring to the meetings. Deal? Of course it is.

Hanging the Plants

by Robert Meyer

When you own *tillandsia* one thought comes to mind: Who conceived such a plant that needs little work and delivers such beautiful inflorescence? Some god of the laborers. Union god, I would imagine. Pick it, glue it to tree (see article above) and ignore it. And, it still produces flowers. And pups! If only it could produce more pups so my \$10.00 investment would be worth that much more. But wait. It can!

The secret is – do what the experts do. Imitation is not only the best form of flattery, but a really wise thing to do when you know so little about the concept. I look at Steve Correale's plants. They seem mighty happy to me. So, I bought one, then another . . . now I have more of his plants than I know what to do with them. I took on the put-them-on-the-tree mentality (see article above) and they continued to take over. I now have trees that are hard to identify because so many of his plants are thriving in their shade.

So, one day, about two decades after I bought his plants for the first time, I asked myself: what is there something in common with his plants. And, I discovered they all hung from a relatively simple string tied onto the inflorescence. No \$1 a pop plastic pot. No \$2 a pop metal hanging quads to affix to the pot. Just a string with a handmade metallic piece at the end to hang onto a not-so-large limb of a friendly tree in your yard.

Then I looked at those older ones. String still good. Hanging item a little rusty, but still good. While some of the baskets I bought about the same time and next to these plants were decaying, his stringed plants thrived. Hmmm. And, the bottoms. Yes, I checked their bottoms. Pups. Bundles of pups coming out where the air had swept upon them. No plastic or other restrictions. Hmmm.

So one day this past month, I bought the sting (mason sting), I found some old wire and bought some solderring wire, and went to work. Making my own knots, and making different lengths of string attachments, I soon had 15 more plant hanging off the fron yard. Splitting up already busting-at-the-seams pots or other ignored-for-years *tillandsias*, I quickly had many new plants which would be presentable – maybe even show worthy when the time arrives.

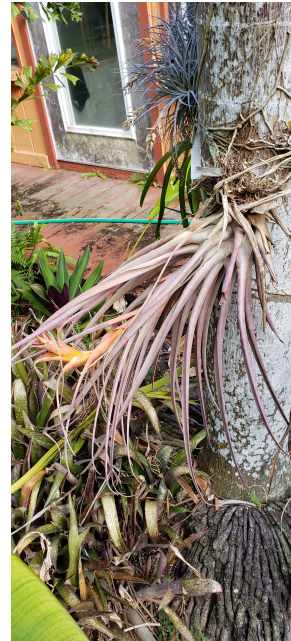
Think about that. Show worthy plants with no costs, a simple creation made with scissors, string and wire. Pennies contrasted to the dollars for baskets and associated metal hangers. Having so many plants is cheapened. And, growing off the string makes them grow more prodigiously than the already impressively pupping basket plants.

Think about this for yourself.

Think about the show.

HERE IS AN OUTLINE OF HOW TO HANG YOUR PLANTS:

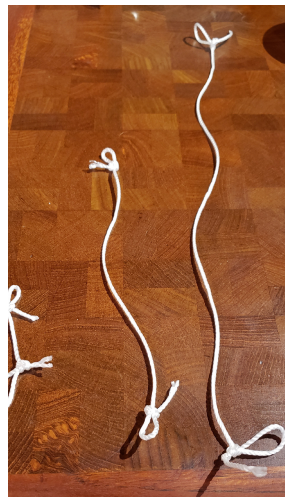
Find a plant which needs rescue. Like a plant leaning off after being bashed by storm debris.



Go get your string and wire.



Make string into various looped on both side and various lengths as plant sizes differ. Same for hooks. Make different lengths. Heavier plants need more wire because probably on larger sized branches.

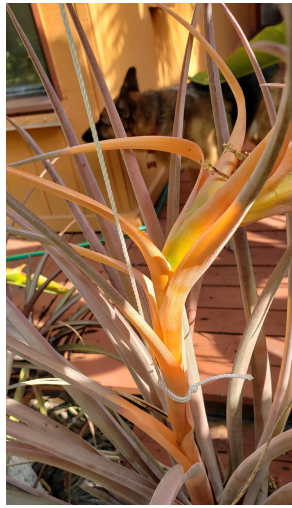


Then bend the wire to make the hooks.



If you use wire, get cutters.

Put the hooks on one end, and attach plant to other (slip knot through to make it last).



That cinch of the knotting system holds very well for plants with some weight. The little bitty plants need more, so give a tug to assure the knot will remain there. As time passes, rains and other events will naturally make the cotton or other fibers maintain their place, and the knot is

everlasting.

Now you can hang the plant.



Here, I used a plastic tie once sold by the now-defunct Radio Shack. These ties were great as they could be adjusted. And, with the large holes, they provide great space for putting in the home-made hanging end.

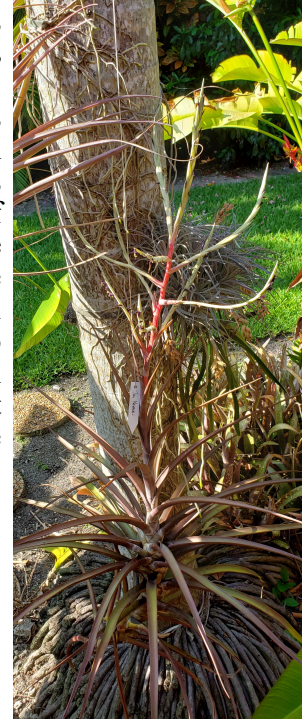
The result is a beautiful hanging plant. Hopefully this *Tillandsia capitata* straightens out.

The inflorescence bent when it fell from the erect position it once held on the tree. Now hung, even if hit by debris, the plant should continue to be vertical and not encounter the problems previously affecting the curvature of the flower.



Even bigger plants can be hung.

On the left, this *Tillandsia Novackii* is no shrinking biolet. The inflorescence is over two feet in length. The plant is easily 3 pounds of dead weight. But, the string, the simple home-made hook, all attached to the Radio Shack tie remain happy. Now, I wait for the pups to come out from the bottom.



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 60th anniversary of the BSSF

What else 2: Plants will be auctioned.
FREE FOOD FREE FOOD FREE FOOD

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

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 Alex Bello

CRYSTAL

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza

September 20th - 21st, 2019
SpringHill Suites & TownePlace Suites,
8040 Palm Parkway,
Orlando Lake Buena Vista (near Disney Springs).

www.BromeliadX.com

R o o m b o o k i n g :
<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservation/s/reservation-link.mi?id=1547843838096&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

BSSF Auction and Catered Dinner to the Membership

October 15, 2019
Corbin A
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156



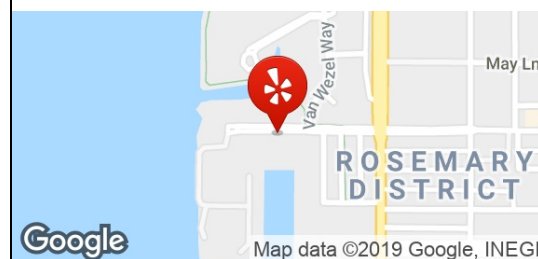
Fairchild Ramble

November 8-10, 2019
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



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

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