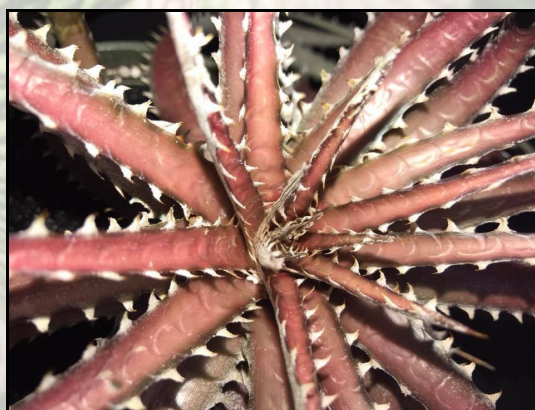


BromeliAdvisory

September 2019



Orthophytum – This month's talk

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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

September 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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Hospitality: Elaine Mills
Library: Barbara Partagas
Membership: Maureen
Adelman/Melody Ray
Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello
Refreshments: Sandy Roth
Field Trips: Lori Weyrick

What	Who
Sales Table	Anyone who wishes to bring plants

SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 AT 7:30 PM IN CORBIN B

SPEAKER: Alan Herndon will deliver to BSSF a "hands on" workshop on *Orthophytum*. The plants are unique in nature, including their propensity to have very thin thorns which nearly guarantee inoculation. We will have gloves. Bring your own if you wish. And, get your hands dirty as Alan will lead you on tips on planting pups and more. Alan wrote an article on this matter within the past few years in the BSI Journal..

Raffle Table: Antonio Arbeleaz

President's Message

At this month's Board meeting we focused on the upcoming annual auction and **60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**.

We are very excited to have the Society members all come together to celebrate this milestone.

From our lifetime members to our newest members, we appreciate your participation and your interest in BSSF.

So, we hope you will come to our party as we toast to the next 60 years.

Dinner is being provided by the Society, so come and enjoy a pre-holiday meal and the lively and entertaining auction.

Our auctioneer always keeps us entertained, so this meeting is sure to be great fun.

There are always knockout plants up for bids and a lively spirit of competition amongst the bidders.

Barbara

In Case You Missed it

by Leonard Goldman

At the August general meeting, Steve Byram conducted a class appropriately titled “Bromeliads 101.” Current president of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, as well as a Pasco County Master Gardener, Steve provided a quick-paced survey of the bromeliad family.



Steve began with a look at the parts that make up a bromeliad. He pointed

out a very practical use for very spiny genera, such as *Dyckia* or *Hechtia*: Plant them in front of your daughter’s bedroom window. When it comes to working with the more vicious species, he recommended using long work gloves. Extenders, he added, can be made from tube socks. Goatskin gloves are a good product, because they stay pliable.

He emphasized that while bromeliads are tropical plants, they are not swamp plants. Accordingly, it isn’t wise to overwhelm them with water. As an aid to drainage, he recommended using lava rocks around terrestrial specimens. His slides illustrated the versatility of bromeliads, specifically their deployment in baskets or mounted. Cedar wood provides a long-lasting medium for mounting. (Steve warned against mounting bromeliads on creosoted wood, because it contains a copper compound that will kill the plant slowly.) Plants can also be mounted on chains, poles, or high stumps.

Steve then examined the components of various mixes for successfully growing bromeliads. Wood mixes include mulch, sawdust, horticultural charcoal, cedar bark, and coir (coconut husk fiber). More specifically, he explained that mulch constituents can be cypress, pine, cedar, melaleuca, or eucalyptus. Stone mixes



include perlite, vermiculite, lava rock, azomite, and pumice. Compost mixes include leaf mold, manure, worm castings, sphagnum/Canadian peat, and humic acid. A potting mix should be replaced after two or three years; otherwise, it will begin to hold too much moisture.

For bromeliads kept indoors, Steve recommended putting pea gravel in a saucer and then placing the container on top of the gravel. That practice increases humidity around the plant without having it sit in water.



When it comes to liquid nutrition, it is good to dip a plant into a combination of Quick Start, Superthrive, and Miracle Grow, provided the mix is used at no more than one-quarter strength. For granular fertilizers, Steve recommended Dynamite or Peters, but also urged growers to be careful to avoid putting these fertilizers in bromeliad cups. Significantly, he doesn’t ordinarily use fertilizer on terrestrial bromeliads after the initial shot at planting time. Don’t overdo fertilizing or the plants may turn green.

Next Steve talked about separating pups. He recommended that a pup should be one-third to one-half the size of the mother plant. The grower can cut the pup off with pruners. He recommended using bypass pruners instead of anvil-style pruners; the latter is best used on dead wood. If bypass pruners are not available, a mini hacksaw or another tool with a serrated blade can be used.

Bromeliads can be induced, or forced, to bloom by using apples. Simply place the plant and the fruit in close proximity and cover them with a plastic bag for one to two weeks. A grower can also use the growth regulator Florel, but it’s very important to follow the directions carefully.

For the control of mosquitoes, Steve recommended Mosquito Bits. The product should be applied every two months, and the grower should wear gloves when making applications.

There is good source reading material for those interested in growing bromeliads. Among his favorites are books by Pamela Crawford. Titles include *Easy Gardens for South Florida*, *Best Garden Color for Florida*, and *Container Gardens for Florida*. All the photos in her books are in color. Among magazines, *Florida Gardening* stands out; it addresses plants in climate zones 9 and 10. Steve urged growers to become familiar with plant hardiness zone maps.

Plant club newsletters are also a good source of information for growers, as are IFAS publications and the Facebook pages of various plant societies.

WOOD	STONE	COMPOST
Mulch	Perlite	Leaf Mold
Sawdust	Vermiculite	Manure
Hort. Charcoal	Lava	Worm Castings
Cedar Bark	Azomite	Sphag/Can. Peat
Coir	Pumice	Humic Acid

GETTING READY FOR THE BLOOMING MARCH SHOW

by Robert Meyer

This publication earlier outlined how to buy plants from others, keep the plant alive for the requisite 6 months, and deliver that plant “grown by others” for your trophy at the Show.

Now to refine that strategy – what do you do if you want to have a “blooming plant?” Or, how does one know if a particular plant will be in bloom?

To aid in answering this question, the editor has gone over older editions of the BromeliAdvisory and listed the plants which were in bloom at or around the time of the show in previous years. Of course, weather changes, or whatever other variables may exist, may make last years’ bloomer, this years dud.

But, the list is helpful. Here it is:

Aechmea: apocalyptica, amicum, andersoniana, araneosa, azurea, blanchetiana, bromeliifolia, bruegegeri, calyculata, capixabae carvahloi, caudata, chantinii, comate, contracta, David Barry, dealbata, fasciata, fenderleri, fosteriana, fulgens, gamosepala, gurkeniana, kerteziae, linharaesiorum, Little Harv, mexicana, milsteiniana, miniata discolor, nudicaulis, , orlandiana (var. orlandiana, Ensign), Ortgiesia (caudata, guaratubensis) penduliflora, pementi-velosi glabra, pineliana (Giant form), racinae, recurvata benrathii, roberto-anselmoi seideliana tillandsioides, Victoria, victoriana, warasii, warasii discolor, weilbachii viridisipala.

Androlepis: skinneri

Billbergia: amoena, euphemiae, lymanii angustifolia, nutans, reichardti

Canistropsis: billbergioides, seidelii (yellow bracts), seidelii (red bracts)

Canistrum: fosteriana lanigerum

Cryptanthus: bahianus, caudata, , beuckeri, burle-marxii, diana, warren-loosei

Fernseea bocainensis

Fosterella micrantha

Guzmania: lingulata, sanguinea Tricolor

Hohenbergia: distans

Lymania: corallina

Neoregelia: compacta, eltoniana, macwilliamsii, marmorata, Morado, rosea, Sheba, Ultima)

Nidularium: innocentii, kris-greeniae

Orthophytum (compactum, disjunctum, duartel, fosterianum, gurkenii, harleyi, lemei, leprosum, lymaniana, magalhaesii, saxicola)

Pitcairnia: corallina, fulgens, juncea, recurvata

Portea: alatisepala, grandiflora, kermesina, petropolitana

Quesnelia: arvensis, humilis, lateralis, strobilospica)

Ronnbergia: brasiliensis

Tillandsia: bartramii, capitate, clavispica, dyeriana, ionantha, fasciculata, festuocides, neglecta, polzii, tricolor acanthocrater , tricolor melanocrater)

Vriesea: barclayana minor, botaf

MESSAGES

SAVE THE DATE

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

When: October 15, 2019

Where: Fairchild Garden House, 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

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.

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

Sign Up for Extravaganza Now

Information on next page

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.

Bring a Plant to the October Auction

Next month is our money make. We auction plants for the BSSF. Have a beauty with which you can part? Bring it to the auction.

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

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



BSSF Annual Spring Show

March 26-29, 2020
Garden House
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/>



BSSF Auction and Catered Dinner to the Membership

October 15, 2019
Garden House
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156



Judge's School II

Fort Myers, Florida
November 2, 2019



Fairchild Ramble

November 8-10, 2019
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156



Don't Forget Next Month's
Auction!!!!