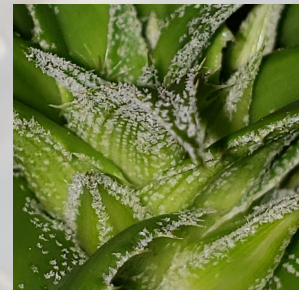


BromeliAdvisory

October 2019



Close Up of Bud of
Watermarked *orthophytum*

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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

October 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>

Alex Bello, Past President
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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

OCTOBER 15, 2019 AT 7:30 PM IN CORBIN B

SPEAKER: NONE – Party and Auction.

Raffle Table: None. Party and Auction

Food Table: None. Catered even for us!!!

President's Message

60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

We are looking forward to the last three meetings of this year. October is our 60th birthday celebration commemorating our Society and thankful for the members who support it.

October is also our biggest fundraiser of the year, our auction. We hope the dual event will bring members and friends out to celebrate.

November is our Annual Meeting, probably our most important meeting of the year. We hope you will be just as interested in coming to cast your vote for next year's officers and directors. There is still time to get on the ballot. If you are interested, contact Alex Bello. December is our holiday party for members and guests. Please join us and support your club at these important meetings.

Barbara

In Case You Missed it

by Leonard Goldman

The September general meeting offered something out of the ordinary – a workshop. Specifically, it was a workshop on the genus *Orthophytum*, conducted by Alan Herndon. Using an impressive array of plants, Alan gave a thoroughgoing survey of the interesting genus.

Historically, *Orthophytum* is not a genus that has been brought in for the BSSF show. Perhaps one reason is a function of gravity. It creates a disadvantage for the genus when it comes to the competition: Judges like upright inflorescences, but those of *Orthophytum* don't grow straight. Nevertheless, Alan's display showed a great variety of 'looks' among the species.

Orthophytum almost always flowers white, with flat-appearing petals. (Some of the species resemble *Dyckia* . . . until they flower.)

O. sucrei is one of the most interesting species: His exemplar featured three generations connected to the same rootstock. Offsets are produced at the end of the inflorescence. The only other bromeliad to do that is pineapple. *O. sucrei* also produces a new vegetative stem that stays alive a long time.

Not all *Orthophytums* produce offsets at the inflorescence, and some species do so at the base and the inflorescence. And offsets can be attached directly to the stem or to a stolon.

O. triumfense is very silver-leaved and upright, a good species to enter into competition.

Orthophytum species will take a lot of fertilizer without stretching excessively. They are fast growers. Conversely, low or no fertilization has its consequences. *O. glabrum*, for example, will stay red when deprived of fertilizer and water. Alan

added that bromeliads in general will adapt to about any fertilizer they receive, though it is better to avoid high-nitrogen blends. For best results, look for balanced formulas.

(Just separated from *Orthophytum* is the genus *Sincorea*. The inflorescences of those species look like pin cushions in the center of the leaves. *S.*

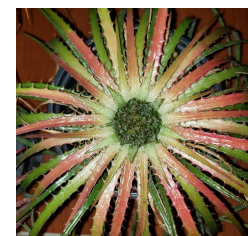
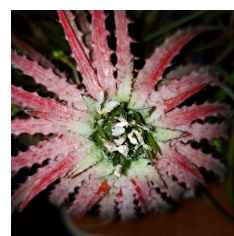
rafaelii is popular, but clones can vary with respect to the number of leaves that color up.)

Most *Orthophytums* can take full sun, but look best with some protection. Avoid deep shade.

Alan then shifted into the hands-on part of the program – potting up the offsets provided to everyone in attendance. When working with *Orthophytums*, he advised, gloves may be

the order of the day, because the species are spiny.

It's important to attach an offset tightly to the soil. That's not necessarily easy, because the stiff leaves get in the way. Fortunately, lower leaves can actually be buried, so that makes the task a bit more manageable. An aluminum tie can be deployed to hold an offset in place, and it can be removed once roots are established, a function influenced by the time of year. In late summer, for instance, rooting takes about a month.



GETTING READY FOR THE BLOOMING MARCH SHOW

Part II
by Robert Meyer

Last month, we delivered a list of plants which would likely bloom during the time of the Annual Show. This month, we are saying to the world: Okay, I have the plant – what do I do with it between now and March?

Potting: This would include two concepts. Which pot to use. And, which soil to use.

Pots which are beaten ruddy by the Florida sun should be pitched now. Review the plants and see which plants are being held by the wrong container. Has time come to move to a new model? If so, move it to the new model.

Soil changes. The wonderful chips inside of the soil last year are not decomposed and gummy and making the roots choke or rot more than the roots deserve. I mark dates on the labels to give me an idea how long that plant has been in that pot in that place where I leave it.

If it has been too long, the plant will tell you. Growth will be awkward looking.

When exercising this cleaning of the planted pots, have a composting pile nearby. Get cuttings from veggies, some newspaper, and grass or other clippings, and add the gummy decomposed dirt to the mix and you have the beginnings of very good soil in the future. To help matters, I often add perlite to the mix to ensure that it aerates the gummed up decomposed portions. In a few months, this combined cluster of “stuff” will be come more dirt which I often use *on top of the roots* or as top soil for newly repotted plants. The compost has many nutrients and can be as effective as commercially made, nonecologically appealing fertilizers.

Also note, when you take an old plant out of an old pot, the pot may tell you something that you could not see – it was time to go. Sometimes, the sun worn pots break when you remove the root glutted potted plant. Throw the pot away, divide the plant, cut the roots, and repot the remains in a roomier, better-soiled pot(s). All will be happier for it.

Sunning: How much, when and how bright. Each plant you buy at a nursery has been pampered. Nurseries usually have shade screen which limits the exposure by 50% or even less. They are also watered regularly in their premises, which makes

afternoon heat waves more tolerable. If you are like this author and do not have shade screen, then you have to consider what to do with the sun-sensitive plants.

If sensitive, use tree shade. If more sensitive than others, try to put near the trunk of the tree’s northern or eastern side – the southern and western suns can be the harshest. Try to use the house for a half day of shade. Put some plants under other

plants – layering the sun. While unsure of the plant’s ability to handle the sun, keep it in a pot. If you see the plant sweltering, you can easily move it in the pot to a more shaded area. Alternatively, if the plant is getting leafy from too much shade, you can easily move plant and pot to a sunnier spot.

Sun is not the only variable. Moving may be also needed for watering. No yard’s irrigation system is perfect. Many are not even ideal. But, greater watering at one spot with more

sun may be better for a plant than a shadier spot with less water. This is another reason to keep the plant in the pot until you are sure.

Ed and Moyna Prince had the pot-in-pot trick. They put pots in their yard beneath the surface. They then stuck a potted plant into the spot where the dug-in pot was located. If they needed to move the plant, they picked it up and swapped it with another pot in another dug-in potted spot. And, when it was showtime, they merely picked up the pot from the dug-in pot, made a quick and easy cleaning of the pot which was only touching plastic all the months in the yard’s dug-in pot. Too easy, no?

Too lazy to dig pots and hate snails, nibbling peacocks or racoons – try baskets. I tie plants onto trees. Anything which does not need dirt gets tree. But, show plants usually deserve a minimum of a pot. Or a basket. And, even some of my large



Placing pots in the soil and then putting your potted plants into the buried pots is a trick I learned from Ed and Moyna Prince.

plants recently are living high off the ground. I found large baskets at Amazon, and have put future large *aechmea* into the basket, hung the basket on a tree, and left. Making sure the watering system reaches these plants, I can do what I unfortunately too often do with my plants – ignore them. This no-pot, just-hang solution to plants made me love *tillandsia*. Now, that I can do it with so many others, *tillandsia* is less beloved and more an equal to the others. Who knew that *aechmea* baskets would be a thing of the 2020's?

Too cheap to buy baskets, or too cheap to buy pots, go for the string. “Economy of scale” in bromeliadese is one word – *tillandsia*. Pile them on a screen, and water only once in a while., they survive Put them in the sun, they survive. Ignore them and they will survive. And, when they bloom, attach a string to the bloom, make loops for hanging the item by the inflorescence and another loop on the other side for hanging object – wire of some kind – and you have a hanging

plant which will love the breeze and water and sun. This is a Steve Correale trick. And, after the beautiful inflorescence hangs for months on a simple string, magic happens. Pups come. More than if the plant was in a basket. Take the pups, put them in a basket or on a screen or in a pot, and when the pups bloom, take out the string, cut pieces and make hangers again. Within years the exponentially growing population of these plants at this low scale cost will amaze you. Then when the Auction arrives, you show up with a beauty with numerous pups or or below the base. The bidders should pay large dollars for this plant. Why? Because it is not a plant. It is a miniature nursery of that plant’s genus. You’ll see what I mean when the auction comes. You’ll see more when the Show comes. [Detailed article on how to do this is in pages 2-3 in the June 2019 BromeliAdvisory.]

So, there you have it. Do an inventory. Look at the pots and soil this coming month. More issues will be reviewed these coming months.

MESSAGES

SAVE THE DATE

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

When: **October 15, 2019**

Where: *Fairchild Garden House* – the BIG 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

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.

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

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>

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

**Sign Up
for Extravaganza Now**
Information on last page

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

BSSF Auction and Catered Dinner to the Membership

October 15, 2019

Garden House

10901 Old Cutler Road

Coral Gables, FL 33156



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

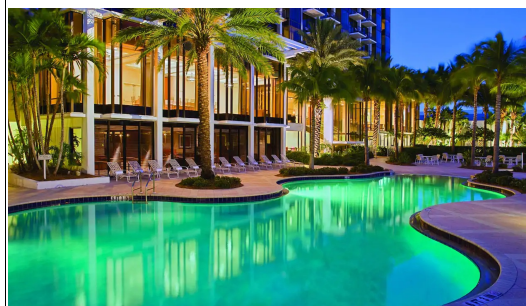
1000 Boulevard of the Arts

Sarasota, FL 34236



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

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



Judge's School II

Fort Myers, Florida

November 2, 2019

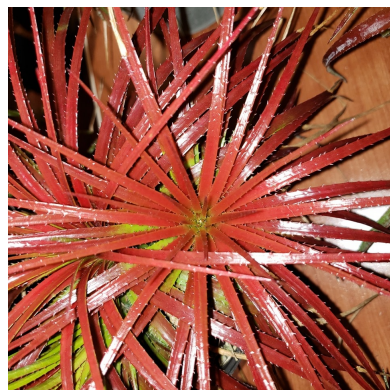


Fairchild Ramble

November 8-10, 2019

10901 Old Cutler Road

Coral Gables, FL 33156



O. Nidularioides



O. Albazithanise



O. Rafaelii

In Honor of the 60th Anniversary of BSSF

BSSF AUCTION and FEAST -- October 15, 2019

All food provided by BSSF to celebrate BSSF's 60th anniversary

Corbin A @ 7:30 PM, Plant review at 7:00 PM

Bring Your Appetite, Bring a Friend, Bring Your Good Spirits



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