

42ND ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

MARCH 28-29, 2020

9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

MARCH 2020



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Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Plant Show and Art Show in the Garden House

Rare plant auctions at 1:00 PM Saturday and Sunday in the Garden House.

Plant sales on the lawn, west side of the Cycad Circle

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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

March 2020

WEBPAGE: <http://www.bssf-miami.org/>



 http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSSF/?bookmark_t=group

 <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida/84661684279>

MARCH 17, 2020

SPEAKER: Steve Hoppin Cryptanthus

RAFFLE TABLE: Mike Michalski

FOOD: Usual Suspects

DIRECTORS

Barbara Partagas, Past President
 Maureen Adelman, President
 Olivia Martinez, VP
 Sandy Roth, Treasurer
 Lenny Goldstein, Secretary
 Robert Meyer, Editor
 Denise Karman, Director
 Rhonda Herndon, Director
 Richard Coe, Director
 Carl Bauer, Director

Committees

Advertising: Robert Meyer
 Door Prize: Alan Herndon
 Education: Alan Herndon
 Hospitality: Elaine Mills
 Library: Barbara Partagas
 Membership: Terri Tallale/Melody Ray
 Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello
 Refreshments: Sandy Roth
 Field Trips: Lori Weyrick
 Community Service: Carl Bauer

What	Who
Sales Table	Open to All We welcome members to sell plants at the monthly meetings. However, if you are planning to sell please call Alex Bello (239-223-6155 or bellotropicals@yahoo.com) to make arrangements.
Silent Auction	Rene Izquierdo

President's Message

The Show is almost upon us – March 28 and 29, our biggest public service and educational event of the year. I hope your preparations are going well with plants being chosen and cleaned. I also hope you have chosen where to volunteer your time during the show. This shindig requires the help of all our members, not just a chosen few. Sign up for something at the meeting or just show up and we will put you to work.

We would also like to see everyone enter a plant. For anyone who has not participated in the show before, just pick a plant. One plant. Clean it up, enter it and see what happens. It is very exciting waiting to hear what the judges think. And if you are worried about a less than stellar performance, remember we have all had them – red ribbons, no ribbons, and one member even had a plant removed from the show. And we have all survived. If you need advice, bring your plant to the March meeting and we will help you.

We also have our April 11 field trip coming up to Flamingo Gardens Orchid and Bromeliad Show and a visit to Flamingo Nursery. We have half off coupons thanks to Alex Bello and Peter Kouchalakis. Plan to be at Flamingo Gardens at 10 am or caravan/carpool from my house at 9:30 am.

And yes we are aware of coronavirus. Wash your hands often, drink plenty of water and if you're sick, stay home. See you at the meeting!

Now go look for show plants and we'll see you at the meeting!

Maureen Adelman

In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein

It's getting to be that time of year . . . you know, the annual BSSF Show & Sale, on tap for March 28-29. For the February meeting, Ofelia Sorzano – with a little help from her friends – offered insights on how to prepare your plants for competition.

Although Ofelia doesn't profess to be an expert, her success at our shows points to the contrary. She can probably be described as a *laissez faire* grower. She said that because she doesn't water a lot, her plants tend to have blemishes, but that's not a deterrent to success. In her view, there's enjoyment to be had in entering plants into competition, even without winning a place on the awards table. She encouraged the reticent grower not to worry about losing. Your entry will expose the public to the variety of bromeliads that can be grown in our region, and that's part of our educational function.

The judges who evaluate the plants often write comments on the entry card. Those notes can be invaluable in guiding the grower toward improving techniques for the next year's show.

The BSSF's plant competition doesn't fit the definition of a standard show. We use only blue and red ribbons. The crystal awarded for the top plants is excellent. Our "best" plant designations fall into three types: flowering, non-flowering, and habitat. Each of those winners is eligible for Best of Show status.

There are four major categories in the show: Horticultural, Decorative Containers, Cut Inflorescences, and Artistic Arrangements. A key requirement for a plant in the horticultural category is that the entrant must have owned it for at least six months. If a basket is part of the entry, it should be proportional to the size of the plant. No Spanish Moss can be incorporated in the basket, because it is a

bromeliad itself. With respect to artistic arrangements, there is no six-month rule, and that category also lends itself to the greatest creativity, because it is less governed by restrictive rules.

Ofelia emphasized that even a plant that looks like a lost cause can be cleaned up. The important consideration is to rid the plant of blemishes. Simply cutting away damaged leaves can resolve that problem. She offered a very practical piece of advice: Don't clean your plants too early. Leaves keep falling off trees and into your competition plants, so wait until just before the show to get rid of them. No insects, animals or cobwebs should be left in or around the plant.

Aside from blemishes, other reasons for judges to deduct points include dirty plants, dirty containers, leaves which aren't intact on the edges, and lack of symmetry. Judges are particularly prone to deduct points for dirty pots. Containers may be clay or plastic, but flimsy nursery pots and pots with a different color lip are verboten. Acceptable colors for the containers are green, terra cotta, black, and white, but Ofelia herself shies away from white. The container should be proportional in size to the that of the plant.

A competition plant must be centered in its container. That means that a curving stem may have to be shortened to place the plant in the right spot, but that may affect the balance of the plant, making it more likely to fall over. The balance issue can sometimes be resolved by placing rocks inside the soil mix to stabilize the plant.

Ofelia emphasized that the soil at the top of the container must be clean. Barbara Partagas added that the soil mix can be topped off with black aquarium gravel, but it's imperative to avoid using sparkly gravel, which is acceptable only for decorative arrangements. Do not use white gravel or anything else that



detracts from the plant.

With respect to artistic arrangements, Ofelia encouraged entrants to be playful in their creations. In this category, it is permissible to mix bromeliads with non-bromeliads, so long as bromeliads dominate. She also pointed out that there are two awards in the category: The judges' and the people's choice. Voting on the latter will take place this year on Friday and Saturday, and only BSSF members are eligible to vote.

In preparing cut inflorescences, use the plainest clear vase possible. In order to keep an inflorescence straight in the vase, an entrant may place clear marbles or water

inside. Spent flowers should be removed from the inflorescence. Partagas added that the height of the inflorescence should be proportional to that of the vase.

Alan Herndon suggested that for the habitat category, it is easiest to have the entry plant growing on wood.

With respect to a decorative container, its color should complement that of the plant.

As a coda to Ofelia's information program, Maureen Adelman told potential entrants that they could seek additional advice by bringing their plants to the next meeting or asking questions on Facebook.

GETTING READY FOR THE BLOOMING MARCH SHOW

Part VI
by Robert Meyer

Four months ago, we delivered a list of plants which would likely bloom during the time of the Annual Show. Three months ago, we reviewed that age-old question: Okay, I have the plant – what do I do with it between now and March? Two months ago, we will started to disclose what the judges look for and how to prepare in accordance with their rules.

Last month, we essentially give a timeline of what to do, and when, in relation to the plants you wish to bring to the Show.

Time is moving at a rapid pace. The time to think about the Spring Show is now.

Below is a sample idea of what to do with the remaining weeks before the Spring Show.

Weeks to Show	What To Do	Comment
2	Shopping for artistic. This is the time to see what wood or pot or plant you may want to use for these types of nontraditional entries.	Stay away from plants at this time, let them rest in the shaded area of your residence.
1	Cleaning plant [Part III] If last two did the job, this may be a nonevent. Clean pots with car wax or other cleaner. Topsoil should be finished.	This is busy work week.
<1	Nothing for Show Plants, unless cleaning procrastination occurred. This should be artistic arrangement time.	You can actually buy plants this late in the game for artistic. Not a bad idea as the later, the better.

SILENT AUCTION

We have added a new segment to our meetings – the silent auction. Every month we will auction 1 to 3 plants for our members to bid on silently. Who supplies the plants? You, our members, do. Who profits from the sales? Both you and the society. As you divide your plants, you may find you have some extras. Why not auction them and make some extra money? Just email RENE IZQUIERDO at RCIzquierdo@bellsouth.net before the meeting. Have your plants at the meeting by 7:00 pm. All plants must be in good condition. You can make some money as well – members get 80% of the sale and BSSF gets 20%.

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

CRYSTAL

Thanks to all who have donated crystal in the past. Donate Your Crystal to our Show which we will return to you when you win awards. Contact Skye Palmer.

SILENT AUCTION

There will be a Silent Auction at the Next Meeting

BSSF SHOW SCHEDULE COMING TO YOU – KEEP EYE OPEN FOR THE EMAIL COMING TO YOU

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Form is attached, get filled out form to Terri Tallale, and deliver payment to Terri before the deadline which is coming sooner than later.



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 21-22, 2020
Garden Fest Plant Extravaganza
9AM to 4PM
Volunteer Park,
12050 W Sunrise Blvd
Plantation, Florida 33323



April 11, 2020
Orchid & Bromeliad Show
Flamingo Park
3750 S. Flamingo Rd,
Davie, FL 33330-1614
954- 473-2955



March 28-29, 2020
Annual Show and Sale
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156



April 11, 2020
BSSF Road Trip to Broward
Includes above-referenced Flamingo Gardens

May 15-17, 2020
Redland International Orchid Show
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187th Ave, Homestead, FL

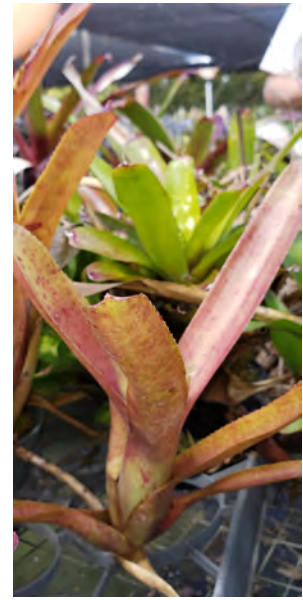
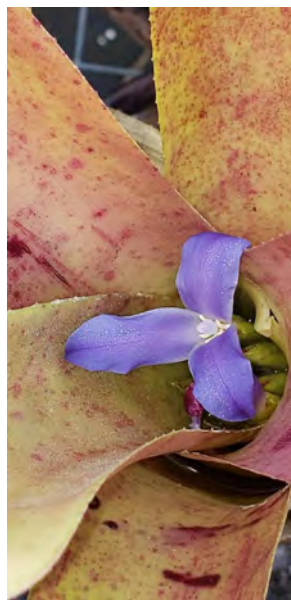
June 9-13, 2020
Hyatt Regency Sarasota BSI World Conference
<https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>



Orthophytum zanonii



Neoregelia mucagensis



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
BSSF, Inc.
2020 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, 2020 to February 28, 2021.

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, 2020, IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE
INCLUDED IN THE 2020 ROSTER**

Please mail completed form and check

(Payable to BSSF, Inc.) to:

Terri Tallale
17201 SW 86 Avenue
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

Or E-Mail this form to:

elwood172@aol.com

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

Owner ID #	Group:							Name of Exhibitor:	
	Business:		PG:	of PGs:			Address: Phone:		
Entry #	Div	Sec	Clas	Jdg	Elg	Temp	Ty	Plant name (Genus, species, variety, forma, 'Cultivar', hybrid formula) and Description (if appropriate) OR Title (if required) and Description of Artistic entry	
C								D	Get as much done as you can -- if it is a Neo but you do not know any more, put down Neoregelia and leave the rest blank. Alan or Rhonda or Karl get paid the big bucks to help on this.

This one you know

A ←

This one you know

B ←

The BSSF fills this

←

D ←

Get as much done as you can -- if it is a Neo but you do not know any more, put down Neoregelia and leave the rest blank. Alan or Rhonda or Karl get paid the big bucks to help on this.

Ignore this

