

BromeliAdvisory

June 2002



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Tillandsia Rhomboidea on Cover Photo by Facebooker Kristen Kiss



BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

June 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>

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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	NONE

JUNE 16, 2020

SPEAKER: Online via something -- in the future

RAFFLE TABLE: NONE

FOOD: NONE

President's Message

Covid-19 continues to frustrate not only our members but also our Board. We are still looking for ways to meet safely but Fairchild is just not ready for that responsibility and, in view of the fact that cases are again on the rise, that may be a wise decision. We are also unable to find a speaker who is comfortable doing a Zoom meeting and are not sure our members could participate fully. We are busily working on a plan for safe meetings which will be presented to Fairchild. In the meantime we love your posts and photos on our Facebook page. Your gardens are really looking good. And remember there are plenty of online sources if you just can't wait to buy bromeliads any longer. We are also working on a daylong mini show and sale to be held outdoors in the Redland in August. More on that later.

In the meantime, stay safe and strong.

Maureen Adelman

FUTURE MEETINGS?

There is inquiry being made into ZOOM Meetings or at FTBG. Coordinating of either is difficult. The Board is looking into both and will keep you apprised in the future.

In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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

WORLD CONFERENCE SAME PLACE NEXT YEAR

World Conference will be held on June 9, 2021 to June 12, 2021 at same place.

Informaiton can be found at:

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

Upcoming Events

This too will have to wait for the “ALL IS CLEAR” signal.

August 2020?
Mini show at Redlands

Information will be coming in the future

June 9-12, 2021
World Conference
Tentative



Signup for BSI
Membership
& Register for
WBC 2021

THERE IS AN ART to GROWING AND DISPLAYING BROMELIADS

by Robert Meyer

Interestingly, in the time of COVID-19, I see to see more of the world than before COVID-19.



(T. Schiedeneana x T. caput medusae) x. T. streptophylla by Steven Wong

Facebook, and other social media, permit me to travel vicariously and remotely to Thailand, Malaysia and other tropical wonders where the growers perform miracles with plants.

The magnificence of some of the gardens cannot be overemphasized. The results of the neoregelias are not what we see here. The size, as shown in last months Advisory, can only remind one of a travel

with Gulliver.



Jadang Thai on cut wine cork

I attach some photos to allow you to understand what amazes me or why. The size of these items are minute. But, the work is seemingly flawless. To the right is work by Tilly Hobby Journal.

Here is what one nursery in Thailand looks like.



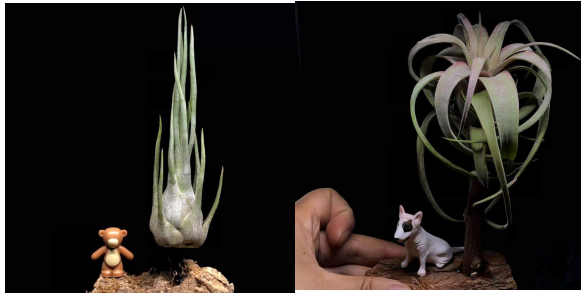
How about miniature art with wires and tillandsia. By Zhou Tung? If you can find his page on facebook, you have hit a wonder. One artist makes a basket, and then polops



Tabu Ewog makes these baskets.

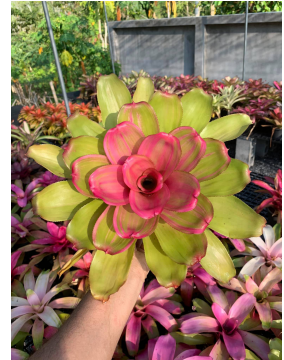
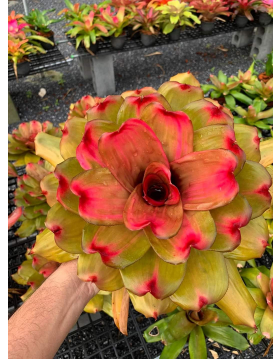
ionantha or similarly small pieces into the baskets.

Zhou Tung makes miniature art pieces with 1 inch plants.



Think of the time for a 1" display – is anything smaller?

Or more perfect in shape than these neoregelias from Phin Nat?



It amazes even the growers' kids.



Thailand's Bromeliad Pattani's kid is amazed.

SHOW CHAIRMAN IS STEPPING DOWN

Alan Herndon, who has been the Show Chairman for longer than memory can identify, has stepped down. Barbara Partagas has accepted to be a co-chair. Anyone interested in working as a co-chair need only contact Barbara Partagas. Her number is in the Directory. This is a great opportunity to be involved in one the best shows held in the nation.

Amazon Show “Homecoming” Slanders Bromeliads

by Robert Meyer

First it was Zika. Now, it is corporate America.

Bromeliads were being victimized by fictional accounts in the nonfiction world. Now, bromeliads may be victimized by fictional accounts in a fictional world.

Amazon, in a television series produced and starring Julia Roberts, creates another corporate-America-beating-up-innocent-veterans plot: like *Manchurian Candidate* but the soldiers are altered by natural chemicals as opposed to computerized implants.

What makes the fiction more entertaining is the fact that viewers often think what they are seeing is real. What they do see is brilliant. It is a large kinda-really neoregelia, looks a lot like neoregelia crossed with an aechmea: spotted like Neo. Sharlock, dark like Burgundy, and otherwise like so many of the 100's among over 3,000 varieties of neoregelias or aechmeas.

But, more important than anything



Kiwi-like fruit inside of the plant

is that these Neos do not give a flower. Instead, the parties tendin g to these

wonderful plants reach into the neck and pull out a small fruit. Interesting. A fruit coming from something other than a tree. Nevertheless, a kiwi-like fruit is taken out where the bromeliad's flower would be. That fruit, with it's greenish brown exterior pulled apart, reveals inside little red berries. A pomegranate-like interior which can be separated, the seeds removed, and the juices are distilled to make a wonderful tasting food additive. Or cosmetic active ingredient. Or .

But, unlike high-priced pomegranate, these fruits will not and cannot be found on the health food stores' shelves.

Toxic with a capital “T”, these fruits bear nothing but bad news to those ingesting or even inhaling their berries.

The berries deliver what could be described as an accelerated Alzheimer's. For reasons not fully explained in the television plot, the bad memories are extracted, but other simple or good memories remain. For instance, memories of childhood pleasantries don't lose out. Most importantly, the memory loss focuses on what transpired during a military exercise, often PTSD incidents, which lead somebody or someone or everybody or everyone to conclude that these berries are the answer to a military-industrial migraine.

And, so we follow for numerous episodes the kept-in-the-dark veterans used like guinea pigs. Attracted to the tropical lands of Florida, their meals are laced with the “bromeliad fruit.” And, slowly, the evaluators

discover that the men, and women, are losing it – their memory.

Interestingly, season 2 has a rogue good guy who accidentally created this morass. Chris Cooper, a seasoned character actor, once again takes the screen for a plot concerning Florida horticulture. In 2002, award-winning author Susan Orlean's "Orchid Thief" novel was ransacked and emasculated with the screenplay adaptation by Charlie and Donald Kaufman which movie is called, I kid you not, "Adaptation." In Adaptation, Chris Cooper, the thief named John Laroche, who is based upon a real person who BSSF members may have known: Lee Moore, was the only redeeming part of the film. A real man of the dirt. You could almost smell his sweat and bad breath coming from the screen. In this series, Cooper is nearly as unkempt. But, he is the genius behind the fruit – not a sticky fingered plant fanatic. Cooper is a good guy. He wanted his plant to be used for beneficial means. Not to create big profits from the military.

And, so the plot thickens as we near the end. Government, when it cannot buy off corporate American greed (corporate benevolence apparently exists – Hooray for Hollywood), does the next best thing – takes over the corporation to satiate its own greed.

In the end, good triumphs over evil. Which is not good news for the garden.

If you just want to look at plants, this show does not offer much. It is more about the fictional intoxicating quality of the fictitious fruit coming from a fictitious plant, which is essentially an epiphytic plant which has fictitious long hard-to-cut roots, encasing fictitious kiwi fruits and fictitiously not flowering.



But, looking at the plants and chuckling at the mislabeling of our beloved bromeliads, the show provides some fun. If you want some more fun, read online the inquisitive minds which want to know where to buy those plants – and which in law's potable are they aiming to lace?

SO WHAT IS THE PLANT?

The plant as depicted:

Can't put a finger on it, but similar to so many.

The fruit, others claim, is Hippomane mancinella – A present-day Spanish name is manzanilla de la muerte, "little apple of death". This refers to the fact that manchineel is one of the most toxic trees in the world: the tree has milky-white sap which contains numerous toxins and can cause blistering. The sap is present in every part of the tree: the bark, the leaves, and the fruit. The tree is recorded as the world's most dangerous tree by the Guinness World Records [Wikipedia]

Bored at Home – Go Facebooking

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSSF/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Bromeliad-Extravaganza-2015-680427458747123/>

DESTRUCTION AT SANDY ROTH'S HOME

Sandy Roth recently had a fire at her home. It was a great loss to one of the Society's most beloved members. If anyone want to aid Sandy in her recovery, feel free to open your time, resources, or money to her rehabilitation, I am sure she would welcome the kind gesture.

"When she awoke, the world was on fire."
— Scott Westerfeld, *Uglies*

"We all live in a house on fire, no fire department to call; no way out, just the upstairs window to look out of while the fire burns the house down with us trapped, locked in it."
— Tennessee Williams, *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore*

"Prometheus gave us fire and we use it to light cigarettes."
— Marty Rubin



"While I was looking the other way your fire went out
Left me with cinders to kick into dust



What a waste of the wonder you were
In my living fire I will keep your scorn and mine
In my living fire I will keep your heartache and mine
At the disgrace of a waste of a life"
— Kristin Cashore, *Fire*

"Everyone has the fire, but the champions know when to ignite the spark."
— Amit Ray, *Enlightenment Step by Step*

"Fire is bright and fire is clean."
— Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*

"Burn, baby, burn," she muttered in a hard, satisfied voice. I cleared my throat. "As much as I hate to interrupt the supreme
s a t i s f a c t i o n y o u ' r e

taking in watching the mansion blaze to the ground, I'd really like to get out of here before the whole house collapses on top of us."

— Jennifer Estep, *By a Thread*

"Who says we're smart?' she asked, in a tone of playful contempt. 'We never even mastered fire. We thought we did, but you see now, it has mastered us.'"

— Joe Hill, *The Fireman*

"everblaze: the unstoppable flame"

— Shannon Messenger, *Keeper of the Lost Cities*



"Fire is loud, full of rage and chaos and destruction."

— Kami Garcia & Margaret Stohl

"We get along like a house on fire these days."

— Rebecca McNutt, *Shadowed Skies: The Third Smog City Novel*



"Despite his care, Reid was still playing with fire, the kind that could without warning sheathe one's whole life in irreversible conflagration."

— Paul Russell, *The Coming Storm*

"Fire is always ready to burn the hand it warms."

— Rachel Caine, *Ill Wind*

"And just as the Phoenix rose from the ashes, she too will rise. Returning from the flames, clothed in nothing but her strength, more beautiful than ever before."

— Shannen Heartz

"Just like moons and like suns, With the certainty of tides, Just like hopes springing high, Still I'll rise." — Maya Angelou