

BromeliAdvisory

August 2020



..... The Bromeliad Whisperer

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Photo of *Tillandsia Pruinosa* by Hang Sianbu
Photo of Stephanie LaRusso by Stephanie



BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

August 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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 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

AUGUST 18, 2020

SPEAKER: Online via Zoom – Stephanie LaRusso – on tricks which even experienced growers may not know about bromeliads – **The Bromeliad**

Whisperer

FOOD: Pour yourself a pineapple drink while Stephanie speaks

President's Message

It's August with its relentless heat and humidity. I hope that by now you have moved your plants that might get burned by the summer sun. I have a Guzmania elcope in the perfect place all year 'till July comes. By then it's too late and the brown burned spots have made themselves at home on the leaves. Every year I say I'll remember to move it early and every year I forget. This year I moved it permanently. I miss people talking about bromeliads, selling bromeliads, showing us their breathtaking bromeliads. That is why we have begun our zoom meetings if just to give us a taste of what was and what is sure to be again. Please join us at the link in this Advisory. If you have trouble please call me any time before 7:30 and I will help you. You could even call me now (305-255-3895). If you have zoom just click on the link, wait 30-60 seconds and you are on. If you don't have zoom you may have to download the zoom app from the app store before you click on the link. We had a nice meeting last month and got some constructive feedback from our members. This month our speaker is Stephanie LaRusso, a BSSF member, whose presentation is titled "The Bromeliad Whisperer." Don't miss it.

See you at the meeting.

In the meantime, stay safe and strong.

Maureen Adelman

In Case You Missed It

by Maureen Adelman and Leonard Goldstein

July 2020 marked the inauguration of our monthly Zoom meetings. We had approximately 24 members in attendance. The evolution of our zoom meetings was explained. First, Fairchild cancelled our March meeting. Nothing much happened for a few months after that as everyone thought the lockdown would be shortlived. We discussed Zoom then and decided it was not a good idea as many zoom meetings were being hacked and we didn't think our membership (including most of the Board) could handle the technology. As things started to open up we discussed how to have a safe meeting in Fairchild's Garden house. We got as far as drawing up a plan for our meetings before the COVID numbers started to climb. Realizing there would be no in-person meetings for the foreseeable future, we reluctantly embraced Zoom.

There was no Treasurer's Report as we no longer have a treasurer. Sandy

Roth has too many responsibilities to continue so we are looking for a candidate to take on the job. You do not have to be an accountant to do this job. If you pay the bills and go over the bank statement at home you can do it. This is a good time to become familiar with the records as there is very little going on financially right now. If you can help us out PLEASE call Maureen Adelman at 305 255 3895 or email mhadelman@comcast.net.

There was no food prize, silent auction, raffle or member sales but we did have door prizes. A plant, plant labels and Carl Bauer's famous mango jam were given away at the end of the meeting and delivered by members.

Next the members were informed that we are trying to plan an auction for our October meeting. Details have not been finalized as we are undecided between a live zoom auction or a silent auction on an auction website. But we are determined to have an auction as we have had no income for 5 months and our members are hungry for plants. We also need

to have our auction plants ready early as there is a lot more planning involved in these virtual auctions. So if you have plants you would like to donate for the auction please have them ready earlier than usual, possibly late September.

We next discussed our elections. This November we will need to replace 3 Directors and a Vice President all of whose terms expire then. And of course we need a Treasurer. This will leave a huge void in our leadership.

If you have ever considered participating on our Board now would be the time. We are at a critical juncture for our society, trying to keep it alive amid the pandemic. Please say yes if called upon. Or contact any Board member of your choice to discuss their duties.

Program: Past BSSF president and budding nursery owner Alex Bello gave a Zoom presentation on Chester Skotak bromeliads and

Aroids. Apparently Chester is quite the eccentric character who lives and hybridizes Neoregelias outside Palmares, Costa Rica. His wife is a native of Costa Rica. He usually releases a pair of hybrids together, one variegated and one albomarginated. His hybrids range from miniatures to carcharodon giants. Most of his plants come with thorned leaves, the bane of bromeliad collectors. We viewed multiple plants and much oohing, aahing and plant envy ensued. We also learned a new horticultural term: grex, plural greges or grexes. They are hybrids grown from the same seed pod which may have varying characteristics, like brothers and sisters. It is a term used often in orchid cultivation.

Then we ventured into new territory: Aroids. Alex discussed the four areas in South America where aroids are abundant: Peru and surrounding areas, the Guyana area in northern South America, the Atlantic coast of Brazil, and the most important area, Ecuador.



Most aroids grow here but some require cooler temperatures and cloud forest conditions. And the cost, sometimes in the thousands of dollars, can be prohibitive. And where can South Floridians find these beauties? Silver Krome Gardens in Homestead, Steve and Marie Nock in Pinecrest, and the website NSC Tropicals were all mentioned. Members were encouraged to keep in touch by posting text and photos on our Facebook

Now Don't You Miss It
August 18, 2020 Stephanie LaRusso
Speaks on ZOOM
How to Zoom?

Download the app – called “Zoom”
This works for Apple and WINDOWS 10 and above
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://fiu.zoom.us/j/92025401842?pwd=ZEYraTRlZXhBUzBJdit3UmpyWWdmdz09>
Meeting ID: 920 2540 1842
Password: Plant

MESSAGES

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/>

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.

TREASURER NEEDED

Opening for Treasurer of the organization has arrived

group page, Bromeliad Society of South Florida. Members were also asked how they would prefer to proceed with our society. Would they like to go on hiatus until the pandemic is under control or would they like to continue with Zoom meetings or with some other ideas. Those attending overwhelmingly opted to continue on Zoom and were very grateful we had the meeting.

ELECTIONS COMING

We need two people to aid the election committee for our upcoming election.

2021 BSSF SHOW/SALE UPDATE

Alan Herndon has taken a step back from the position of BSSF Show Chairman while he tends to business demands. We have been fortunate for many years to have had such a dedicated individual overseeing the many aspects of the Show.

Your Board of Directors is very hopeful that we will be able to have a show and sale like we have had in the past. If that is not possible, we are hopeful that we can have some type of event to showcase our growing skills and offer plants for sale. Stepping in for Alan will be Barbara Partagas.

We hope she can count on those of you who have been involved in putting the event together in the past. If you have never been involved in show activities, you don't know what you've missed. It's work. It's fun. It's educational. It's well worth your time.

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

