

# BromeliAdvisory

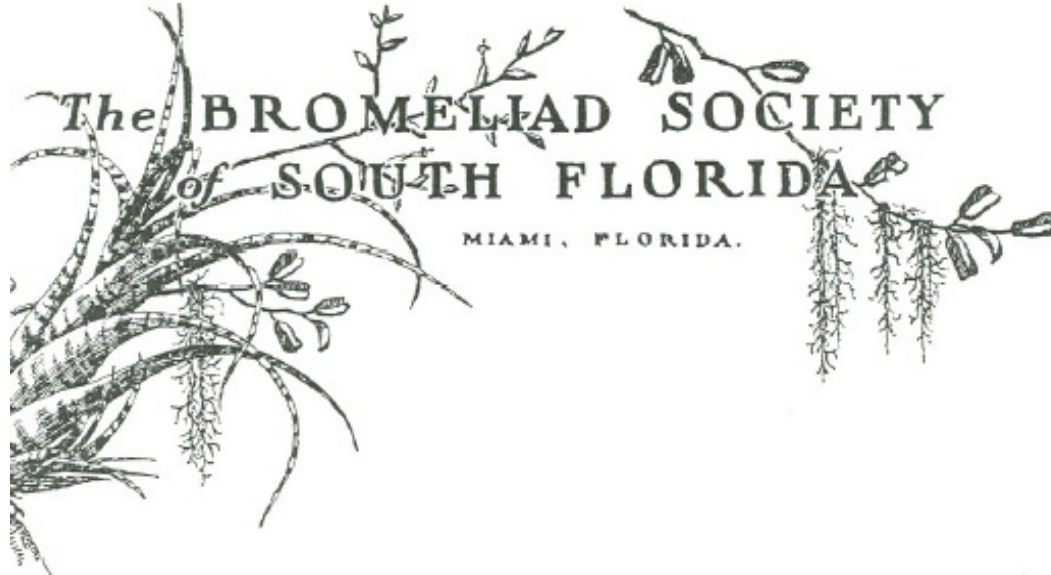
September 2020



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Just bloominng *Aechmea fendlerii* Photo by Robert Meyer



# BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

September 2020

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



 [http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSSF/?bookmark\\_t=group](http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSSF/?bookmark_t=group)

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

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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

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

**SPEAKER:** Online via Zoom – Alan Herndon –  
Variegated Bromeliads

**FOOD:** Pour yourself a pineapple drink while Alan speaks

## President's Message

September has come and I feel the slightest change in the weather. The scent of Fall in the early morning air promises a reprieve from the summer's heat somewhere in our future. I want to thank everyone who participated in our mini auction and hope you enjoy your plants. September brings another opportunity to expand your plant collection. Barbara Partagas is holding a drive by plant sale at her home. Barbara grows prize winning plants so don't miss it. Make an appointment and wear a mask. See the article on her sale elsewhere in the Advisory. Our speaker this month is our very own Alan Herndon who will speak on variegation in bromeliads. No one knows bromeliads like Alan. Finally, yes we are having our October auction. We won't let a pandemic stop us. It will be online at 32auctions and we need your plant donations by the beginning of October. Please see the article on the auction elsewhere in the Advisory. I want to publicly thank two of our younger members who have stepped up to the plate for our organization. Alex Bello and Stephanie LaRusso gave presentations at our first two zoom meetings when there were no speakers to be found and our meetings would not have been possible without them. I sincerely hope you are all doing well and staying healthy. The virus has not spared our membership but those I know of are recovering, thankfully.

See you at the meeting!

*Maureen Adelman*

# In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein

My most recent report in this space started this way: "It's getting to be that time of year . . . you know, the annual BSSF Show & Sale, on tap for March 28-29." Well, something intervened, the Show & Sale dematerialized, and In Case You Missed It took on a whole new meaning.

But now we're back on track, having improvised to remote meetings. On August 17, a couple of dozen highly photogenic members convened to watch a presentation by Stephanie LaRusso entitled "Bromeliad Whispering." About six months ago, Stephanie, the proprietor of Can't Grow Squash, partnered with Alan and Rhonda Herndon at Tradewinds Tropicals. She credits them with having introduced her to bromeliads and taught her secrets that hobbyist growers might not know.

Stephanie organized her presentation under six topics:

- (1) What is a bromeliad?
- (2) Terms
- (3) Bromeliad names
- (4) Quick whispering techniques
- (5) Anatomy
- (6) Taxonomy

Here are some highlights of the fact-filled program:

The family Bromeliaceae consists of three sub-families - Bromelioideae, Tillandsioideae, and Pitcairnioideae. And Pitcairnioideae have now themselves been split six ways. Within families there are multiple genera, species, naturally-occurring hybrids, cultivars, hybrids, and bigeneric hybrids. Species, while naturally-occurring and distinct from all others plants within a genus, sometimes produce a sport - an out-of-the-ordinary pup.

Hybrids may be created by nature or by human intervention. If you embark on hybridization, be sure to mark and document the potential parents. The late Steve Correale, Sr., was a prolific breeder: Not only do 66 of his hybrids appear in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BCR) of the Bromeliad Society International, but he accomplished all those time-consuming feats after the age of 50!

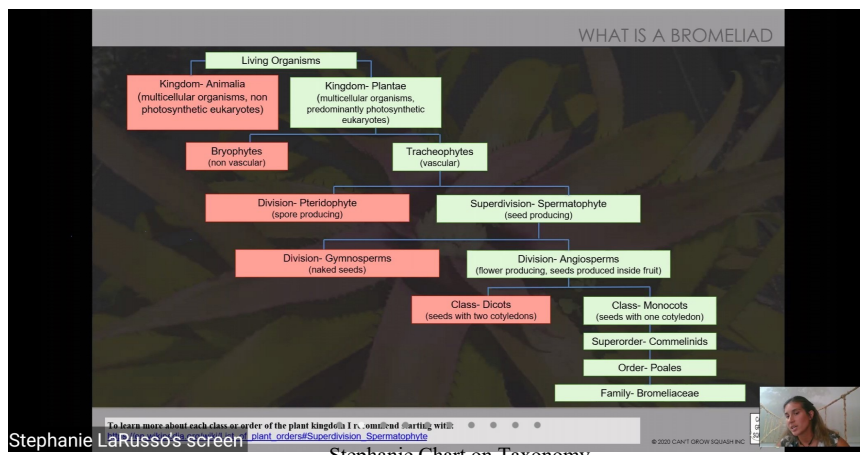
There is sometimes confusion over the term 'variegation.' Albo-marginated bromeliads possess white or lighter-colored banding on the edge, or margins, of leaves. Not all hybrids are stable, so it isn't uncommon for reversion

to occur. That is to say that the variegation in an unstable hybrid can disappear over time. The best propagation

is via pups, not seeds; it is a more reliable method. However, pups can exhibit a huge variety of features, so it is best to wait a few generations to evaluate hybrids.

The Bromeliad Glossary by Derek Burch is a great source of terms connected with that family. The naming of plants (or animals) is governed by rules - binomial nomenclature - in which the genus is always capitalized and the species always lower-cased. The actual process of naming a species is lengthy.

The best time to fertilize is in spring or summer (Mike Michalski suggests using either a 20-20-20 blend in weak solution every two weeks or a time-release formulation). Fertilizer doesn't simply affect the size or speed of development of a bromeliad. Neoregelia 'Wild Tiger,' for instance, has highly-varied looks, depending on growing



Stephanie LaRusso's screen Stephanie Chart on Taxonomy



conditions that include not only fertilizer level, but also lighting and soil quality. It can become more colorful simply by being left in its original pot to use up the fertilizer. More fertilizer, on the other hand, will increase the number of pups, but decrease the color in the parent. With respect to growing media, Stephanie recommends Miracle Gro potting mix, but adds that well-drained garden soil also works.

With respect to bromeliad anatomy, the grower should become familiar with the following terms: peduncle bract, pup, stolon, inflorescence, stigma, anther, style, filament, petal, floral bract and ovary.

Propagation by seed: Determining the ripeness of bromeliad seeds requires some discernment to detect sometimes subtle differences.

Ripe *Tillandsia* seeds pop open, as do *Pitcairnia* pods. Sometimes ripeness is signaled by a change in the color of the fruits. Some fruits may pucker or wrinkle when ready. It is important not to fight fruits; they'll detach easily if ripe. *Billbergia braziliensis* is a special case.

It has a large inflorescence, and it self-pollinates. The success rate of seed germination in self-pollinators is high. Yellow coloration on the seed pod signals ripeness. (Maureen Adelman mentions that the BSI has a seed bank for members. Robert Meyer adds that there is an article in the BromeliAdvisory on that subject.)

Propagation by pups: The normal standard for separating a pup is to wait until it is ? the size of the mother plant. However, a pup may be

separated earlier if lots of roots have developed on it. Orthophytums can produce pups on their inflorescences. They should be removed fairly quickly.

Bromeliads can be either epiphytic or terrestrial. While epiphytes can be grown on the ground if drainage is good, terrestrials should not be placed in trees.

Algae commonly grows in the cups of bromeliads. While smelly, it won't do any harm.

Likewise, if algae dries on the edge of leaves, it's benign.

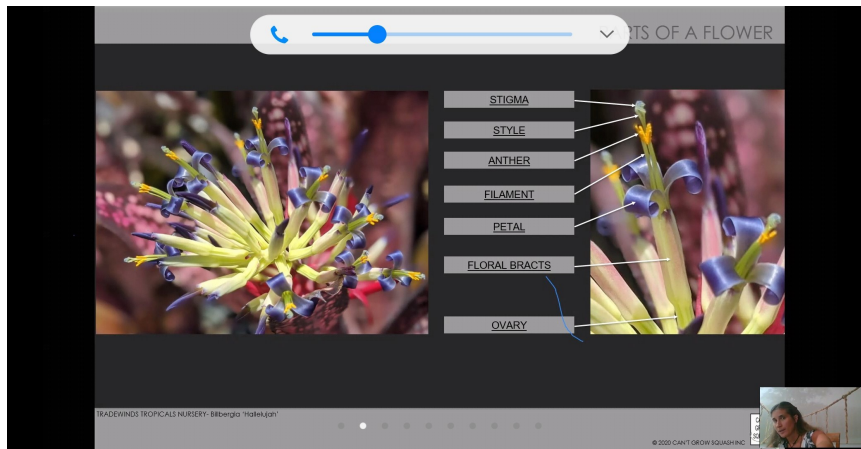
Hard water can deposit minerals on leaves. The deposit is harmless,

but can be hard to remove.

Fungus, by contrast, is of concern. It can develop in plants that are kept too close together. An affected plant should be removed from the soil, and the damaged leaf should be cut off. The plant should then be replanted in fresh soil or potting mix.

A rotting center on a bromeliad may be evidence of insect damage or over-fertilization. However, the plant may still be capable of producing pups. Sun damage resembles fungus, but doesn't show up as a pattern of rings.

A plant damaged by the sun can be moved back into shade or simply allowed to acclimate. The burn spot won't go away, but newer leaves will look good. Stephanie adds that a damaged plant can still be home to an animal.



Stephani Chart on plant's parts

**Now Don't You Miss It**

September 25, 2020 Alan Herndon Speaks on  
ZOOM

How to Zoom?

Download the app – called “Zoom”

This works for Apple and WINDOWS 10 and  
aboveJoin Zoom Meeting

[https://fiu.zoom.us/j/92025401842?pwd=ZEYra  
TRlZXhBUzBJdit3UmpyWWdmdz09](https://fiu.zoom.us/j/92025401842?pwd=ZEYraTRlZXhBUzBJdit3UmpyWWdmdz09)

Meeting ID: 920 2540 1842

Password: Plant

**Future Club Events**

October: Sale online

November: Speaker

December: Annual Holiday Party/Sale  
Online

**NEW CONCEPT FOR A SALE**

**Barbara Partagas is having a Drive-By Plant Sale!**

**Saturday, Sept. 19th, 2020**

**9:00am - 2:00pm**

**By Appointment Only**

**First come-first served**

**Call 305-546-4438 for appointment.**

**Masks Required - Check/Cash/Credit Card?**

- ✓ Plants will be raffle table quality.
- ✓ Size varies from crypts to landscape size.
- ✓ All proceeds go to BSSF.
- ✓ All plants would be \$8.00 except for a few rarer ones or highly sought ones that would be individually priced. In many cases, duplicate plants will be available to keep the tables fresh with the same quality plants for all participants. The sale will be conducted on the shady East lawn.
- ✓ Payment by cash or check or we are trying for credit card.
- ✓ By appointment only. Call/text Barbara for appointment time. The appointments will be first come-first served and set up in the order of receipt of call/text. Participants will be notified of their appointment time. Five people can shop at a time. Appointment times will be spaced out to keep the street and yard traffic down. I am suggesting 15 minutes to shop per every half hour appointment and 15 minutes to pay up and leave before the next group arrives.
- ✓ Free plants for all shoppers-seller's choice.
- ✓ If weather threatens, Barbara will notify participants by phone to reschedule.

**MESSAGES**

**TREASURER NEEDED**

Opening for Treasurer of the

**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-cor  
ner/](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.

### BECOME INTERNET SAVVY

In the next few months we will have two sale and two meetings ONLINE.

### ELECTIONS COMING

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

## 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

### September 19, 2020

(Rain date 9/20/2020 if needed)

Drive by Sale at Barbara Partagas' home

### October 20, 2020

BSSF Annual Plant Sale

This will be online

RARE plants will be on sale

### December 21, 2020

BSSF Holiday Sale

### June 9-12, 2021

World Conference

Tentative

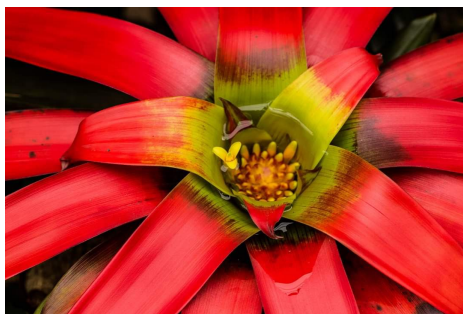


## 2021 BSSF SHOW/SALE UPDATE

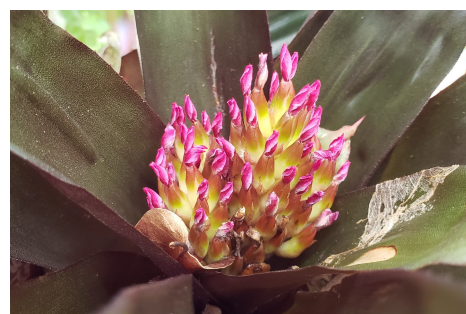
Alan Herndon has taken a step back from the position of BSSF Show Chairman while he tends to business demands. We have been fortunate for many years to have had such a dedicated individual overseeing the many aspects of the Show.

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.



Guzmania sanguinea



Unknown bigeneric