



July 2021

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



Facebook- Public  
Bromeliad Society of South Florida

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



Facebook - Members  
Bromeliad Society of South Florida

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



FCBS Newsletter

<https://www.fcbs.org/newsletters/FCBS/2021/08-2021.pdf>

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Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo

**AUGUST 17 MEETING IS CANCELLED DUE TO COVID**

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## BSSF Covid Rules

To Insure Your Safety the Following are Covid Rules for In-Person Meetings:

- MASKS ARE AGAIN REQUIRED INSIDE
- There will be one entry and one exit at the back of the Garden House. The kitchen entry will be locked.
- If you do not feel well or have a temperature – please stay home.
- Seating will be 6 ft. apart. Family members or social bubble members may sit together.
- Plan to arrive early to purchase plants.
- Masks, disinfecting wipes, and hand sanitizer will be available at the entry.
- No food or drink will be served.

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## GARAGE SALE

The garage sale has been postponed until January 2022 due to COVID. Please save your items!

## NEW WORLD CONFERENCE DATES

June 7 2022 to June 12, 2022

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

If you booked rooms for this event, remember to cancel and rebook your reservations starting June 6, 2021

## President's Message

Our Board met on August 10 to discuss the state of our society in view of the current surge in Covid cases. It was decided unanimously to cancel our August live meeting out of concern for possible infection of our members. Having a plant society meeting is not necessary and right now puts our members at risk. We value our members' health and well being more than any plants. But we are almost all vaccinated, you may say. Vaccinated people can contract Covid, called breakthrough covid. This is supposed to be a milder form of the virus. It was rare but with the emergence of the Delta variant these cases are on the rise. I am currently in quarantine after contracting breakthrough covid and, though I have not been hospitalized, I have been sick for 8 straight days and will remain in quarantine for another 2-6 days. Once infected, vaccinated people can spread the disease to others who may be vulnerable or are unvaccinated, such as children. We do not want to be part of the problem. We have also cancelled our October Show as it is impossible to plan with any certainty due to the surge. We are very disappointed but already have show dates for March 2022. We will keep you informed on the status of our future meetings, be they live or zoom. Until then, wear your mask, keep your social distance and please get vaccinated if you have not done so already.

MAUREEN

## Silent Auction and Member Plant Sale Rules

When we have a speaker bringing plants, we will only allow 4 plants for silent auction in order to give our speakers who travel here and pack up their plants a fair chance to sell their plants. If you would like to sell a plant at the silent auction you will need to contact Rene Izquierdo (reizquierdo@bellsouth.net or 786 246-5813) and he will let you know if there is an opening for your plant(s). You will be paid 80% of the sale price and BSSF will receive 20%.

We will likewise defer to our speakers for member plant sales and will hold no member plants sales when we have a speaker bringing plants. When we do have member plant sales, all plants must be double tagged with 2 plant id tags, one for the buyer and one for us to total up the sales. You will again be paid 80% of the sale price. To participate in member plant sales, please contact Alex Bello (bellotropicals@yahoo.com or 239-223-6155) to schedule your sale so that we are not overrun with plants.

## Ask Dr. Brom

Dr. Brom is recovering from breakthrough Covid. The column will return next month. In the meantime, please email your questions to: mhadelman@comcast.net.

## Other News

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank Rene Izquierdo, who has donated new signs for our Silent Auction, Live Auction, Raffle Table, Door Prizes and Show and Tell. Thanks for keeping s organized, Rene.

## FCBS NEWSLETTER

The FCBS Newsletter is new for August. The link appears on the first page of our newsletter. There are lots of photos, a garden tour of the yard of Jane Villa-Lopez and loads of gardening advice. There is also a nice article on Marie Selby Gardens in Sarasota, the home of the Mulford Foster Bromeliad Identification Center.

BSI World Conference  
June 7-12, 2022  
Sarasota, Fl

### UPCOMING EVENTS

March 25-28, 2022  
BSSF Annual Show  
@ Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

October 1-3, 2021  
Tamiami International Orchid Festival  
<https://www.facebook.com/tamiamiorchidfestival/>

# In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein

The Fairchild Challenge is an environmental science competition involving students from elementary school through high school. Now in its twentieth year at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, the Challenge's Program Coordinator is Dr. Brian Sidoti. On July 20, Brian spoke to BSSF members on the topic "Research and Outreach Activities on Long-Lived Large-Leaf Florida Bromeliads."

Brian devoted the first part of his program to an overview of bromeliads, describing their basic structure and life history. He posed the question, "How do bromeliads get energy?" It's more than just by accumulating lots of leaves. He discussed the role of phytotelmata, small water-filled cavities in terrestrial plants. Most bromeliad tank-dwelling animals are opportunistic; they reside in other aquatic systems, too. As an indicator of how much life bromeliad tanks attract, Brian noted that 99 frog species have been associated with 69 bromeliad hosts.

Brian moved on to describe work done on Florida's native bromeliads by Challenge participants, but first acknowledged the important work done by Howard Frank and Teresa Cooper on *Metamasius callizona*, better known as the Evil Weevil. We in the southern end of the state have—

so far—been spared the depredation wrought by this insect.

Here are thumbnail comments on many of the native bromeliads:

*Catopsis berteroniana* – A pseudo-carnivore. Range: Florida-Mexico-Caribbean-Central and South America.

*Guzmania monostachya* – Color variable over its range, perhaps a reflection of the available pollinators. Range: Florida-Mexico-Caribbean-Central America-northern Peru and Brazil.

*Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish Moss) – Used for cushions in the 1900s. Not endangered. Range: Virginia to Central Argentina and Chile.

*Tillandsia recurvata* (Ball Moss) – Second most-common Florida native bromeliad. Compounds used to treat a number of health conditions: kidney inflammation, rheumatism, ulcers, hemorrhoids, bleeding, menstrual discomfort. Range: Throughout the Americas.

*Tillandsia balbisiana* – Characterized by bulbous base. Seen in lowlands at FTBG. Status threatened above Miami-Dade County, mostly because of the Evil Weevil. Range: Florida-Mexico-Caribbean-Central and South America.

*Tillandsia flexuosa* – ‘Twisted Airplant.’ Status threatened. Range: Florida-Caribbean-Panama-Colombia-Venezuela.

*Tillandsia paucifolia* – ‘Potbelly Airplant.’ Favors coastal strands and hammocks. Range: Florida-Mexico-West Indies-Central and South America.

*Tillandsia pruinosa* – ‘Fuzzy Wuzzy Airplant.’ Features trichomes (hairlike coverings) to absorb water and monitor air quality. Range: Florida-Caribbean-Central and South America.

*Tillandsia fasciculata* – ‘Cardinal Airplant.’ Possessed of great morphological diversity and occurs in lots of settings. A complex of eight varieties currently. Some inflorescences branch, but others don’t. Found mostly upland at FTBG. Brian performed a lot of sampling of specimens from Florida and the Bahamas. Range: Florida-Mexico-Caribbean-Central and South America.

*Tillandsia utriculata* – ‘Giant Airplant.’ A keystone species in Florida. Found mostly lowland at FTBG. Range: Georgia-Florida-Mexico-Caribbean-Central America-Venezuela.

Interpretation of data collected on *T. fasciculata* and *T. utriculata* at FTBG and Myakka River State Park led Brian to make the following observations:

- With respect to reproductive strategies, semelparous (reproducing only once in a lifetime) *T. utriculata* is more greatly affected by the Evil Weevil than iteroparous (reproducing more than once in a lifetime) *T. fasciculata*.

- Both species can take 15-20 years to reach maturity.

- Distributions of the two species are influenced by wind speed and precipitation in the driest months. *T. utriculata* prefers windier sites.

- Temperatures are higher at FTBG, lower and more variable at Myakka.

Brian also took attendees on a walk outside to observe Tillandsias in the Garden.

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# Garden Notes

Stephanie LaRusso

## It's Raining, It's Pouring!

This month, and particularly this year, August has been a very wet month. While most Bromeliads like to be watered often, when the roots and bases of Bromeliads sit in water for extended periods of time, even the most rain hardy plants will rot. No one can change the weather, but there are a few things gardeners can do to help keep their Bromeliads healthy during the rainy season.

### Tip 1- Use a pot with drain holes

Always make sure that your Bromeliad pots have holes in the bottom to let water drain out. It can be tempting to put your plastic Bromeliad pot inside a decorative pot with no holes but while you may get away with this in drier times, when it rains everyday water can build up inside your pot and rot your plant.

Shows the amount of water that can collect in a non draining pot during just one rain storm.



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Even if you do have holes in the bottom, debris from the soil or leaves from your garden can block the holes. Placing rocks in the bottom of the pot and propping pots up on stands or rocks can help.

Use small rocks to allow pots with drainage holes on the bottom to drain properly.



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

If you insist on using a non draining pot, pull your plant out of the pot and drain the water every time you water and every time it rains. For pots with holes, whenever you water, look to see that water is draining out from the bottom holes. If you can't see any water draining then elevate your pot with a decorative stand or small rocks.

### Tip 2- Use well draining soil

The best way to avoid Bromeliad rot is to use well draining soil. There are many soil mixes out there and many different materials you can mix together to make your own soil at home. Materials like peat tend to hold a lot of water and when they dry out can be hard to rehydrate. Perlite has great drainage but no nutritional value. For additional drainage there are other substances like coconut chunks, expanded clay and small rocks or gravel. Most commercial soils are a mixture of multiple materials. While no mixture of these materials is right or wrong it is important that whatever combination you use drains well and does not hold water.

Find the blend that works best for your plants and rain conditions. Left- peat, Center- Peat and Perlite Mix, Right- Perlite.



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

The best way to know if your soil drains well enough is to fill a pot with the soil mix and saturate the mixture completely. Water the mix again and hold the pot up and see how much water drains out. There should be a steady flow of water draining from the bottom and when the water flow stops the pot should feel only a little heavier than it did before you watered.

**Tip 3- Keep bromeliads clean by removing dead leaves from the base.**

Another danger when you have a lot of rain is the explosion of fungal growth that comes with it! Fungi thrives in wet dead, rotting plant material. The dead leaves surrounding your Bromeliad are perfect breeding zones for fungus. Many fungi can only harm plants if they make it inside the plant tissue. By removing the dead leaves from around the plant base you can keep the fungus from getting established and make it less likely that they can penetrate the live tissue.

Remove dead leaves from around the Bromeliad Base.



**Tip 4- Make sure to not to plant Bromeliads in low portions of your yard.**

We all have that part of the yard that we KNOW floods during the rainy parts of the year. Try to avoid planting Bromeliads in these areas so you can avoid panicking when the inevitable flood finally comes. If your whole yard floods then I recommend planting your bromeliads in tall planters or on the tops of cut logs to keep them above the flood line.

Use old logs as planters or put in raised beds in areas of the yard which might flood seasonally.



**Tip 5- Clean off fungus or rot from damaged plants and dry them out before your throw them out**

Bromeliads can come back from a lot of abuse so don't give up on your over watered plants. There are some tell tale sign that your plant has gotten too much water and is rotting. When you remove dead leaves you may see white fungus. You may also get odd spotting across multiple leaves. In bad cases your plant may even break right off at the base. This can be accompanied by a very bad odor. The oddest thing you may see is the formation of a jelly like substance at the base around the roots. This is a sure sign that your plant has become infected and that it is trying to fight back.

Fungus rings showing on dead leaves



Leaf spots from infection



Shows gel like substance that develops when a plant starts to rot or gets a fungal infection.



In all these cases do not give up! Clean off any fungus or jelly you may see on your plant. Remove any lower bad leaves. Let the rotten base dry out by setting the plant upright with no soil in a pot that drains very well. Be sure to isolate your plant from the other plants in your collection. Many plants will recover or at least make a pup before they go. So don't give up without a fight!



# What's Blooming

By Stephanie LaRusso

This month in the Herndon Collection the Aechmeas and Tillandsias are showing off their first flowers! Hohenbergia and Neoregelias continue to bloom strong and Othrophytums and Dyckias are finishing their bloom season.





Herndon Collection- *Dyckia* species



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Hohenbergia penna*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Nidularium atalaiaense*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Aechmea azurea*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Aechmea chantinii* 'Samauri'



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Aechmea Chantinii*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection-



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Aechmea tillandsioides*  
(pale bracts)



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Aechmea miniata*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Aechmea caesia*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Aechmea pseudonudicaulis*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Canmea 'Galaxy'*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Orthophytum Rubiginosum*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Vriesea triligulata*



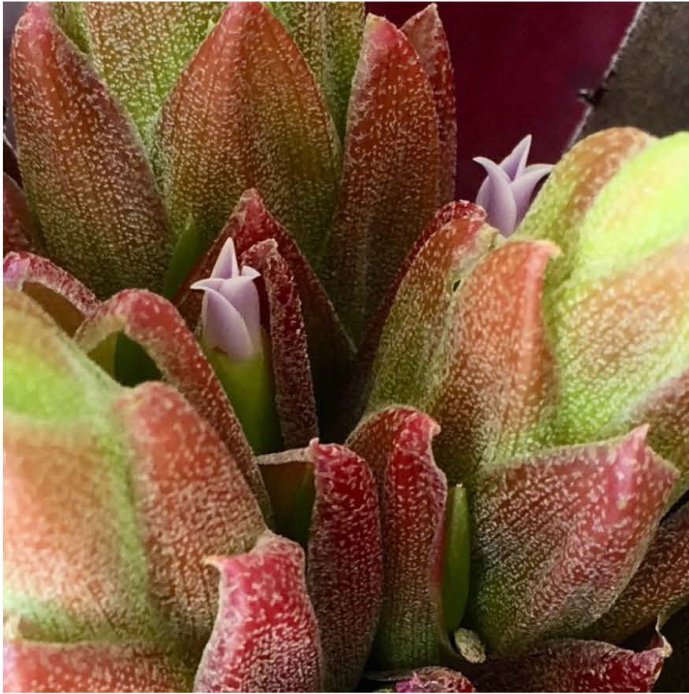
Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Fernseea bocainensis*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso





## **World Bromeliad Conference June 8-11, 2022 Hyatt Regency Sarasota**

### **World Bromeliad Conference 2022**

Join Bromeliad lovers from around the world at the Bromeliad Society International's 24<sup>th</sup> World Bromeliad Conference which will be held in Sarasota for the first time!

Attendees will have the opportunity to go behind the scenes at **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens** (with its collection of over 1300 Bromeliad species) and **Michael's Bromeliads** and **Tropiflora** with their collector-grade Bromeliads.

Mix and mingle with attendees from all over the world at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota with its beautiful waterfront setting and nearby fine dining, beaches, shopping, museums, and other sightseeing opportunities.

Join us for **THE BIG SHOW** at **World Bromeliad Conference 2022** with this amazing opportunity to learn, grow and explore!

### **Invited Speakers:**

**Elton Leme – Brazil**  
**Eric Gouda – Netherlands**  
**Ivon Ramirez – Mexico**  
**Julián Aguirre-Santoro – Colombia**  
**Graeme Barclay – New Zealand**  
**Bruce Holst – Florida**  
**Cristy Brenner – California**  
**Jerry Raack – Ohio**

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### **Events:**

**Conference Opening/Reception**  
**Judged Plant Show**  
**A Huge Plant Sale**  
**Optional Bus Tours**  
**Behind-the-Scenes visits to:**  
**Michael's Bromeliads**  
**Tropiflora**  
**Home Garden Visits**  
**Guided Behind-the-Scenes Tour**  
**Marie Selby Botanical Gardens**  
**Banquet with Keynote Speaker**  
**Rare Plant Auction**

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**www.BSI.org**

## WBC 2022 Schedule

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022 (pre-conference)*  
BSI Board Meeting, Judges School, and  
Plant Show Entries

### Wednesday, June 8, 2022

*Morning:*

Optional Bus Tour to **Michael's Bromeliads**  
plus a Light Lunch & Home Garden Visit  
Plant Show Entries

*Afternoon:*

Plant Show Judging  
Plant Sale Setup

*Evening:*

Official Conference Opening, Reception and  
Welcome Address

### Thursday, June 9, 2022

*Morning:*

Optional Bus Tour to **Tropiflora**  
plus a Light Lunch & Home Garden Visit

*Afternoon:*

Plant Sale Setup  
Plant Show Open for registrants only

*Evening:*

Cocktail Reception  
Plant Sale Open for registrants only

### Friday, June 10, 2022

*Morning:*

Behind-the-Scenes Bus Tour (registrants only)  
to **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens**

*Afternoon:*

Four Speakers

*Morning and Afternoon:*

Plant Sale Open  
Plant Show Open

*Evening:*

Rare Plant Auction

### Saturday, June 11, 2022

*Morning and early afternoon:*

Four Speakers

*Morning and early afternoon:*

Plant Sale Open  
Plant Show Open

*Evening:*

Banquet with Keynote Speaker

## More Information

For more information on WBC 2022,  
just go to the BSI website at  
<https://www.bsi.org> and click on the  
**WBC** menu choice near the top.

After you register for the conference,  
you can also make hotel reservations at  
a special price with free parking and no  
resort fees.

### Conference Registration:

\$315 if paid by December 31, 2021

\$335 from Jan. 1, 2022 to May 25, 2022

\$395 at the conference

## BSI Membership

To register for the conference, you need  
to become a BSI member if you aren't  
one already. Membership rates start at  
only \$15 for first-time members.

Join the BSI at <https://www.bsi.org>. Start  
by clicking on the **WBC** menu and then  
select **WBC REGISTRATION**.

BSI MEMBERSHIP RATES			
Journal	First-Time Member*	Indiv. Renewal	Dual Renewal
ONE-YEAR RATES			
Electronic Only	\$15	\$25	\$35
Printed Journal			
US Bulk	\$35	\$50	\$60
US First-Class	\$40	\$55	\$65
Int'l Air Mail	\$45	\$60	\$70
THREE-YEAR RATES			
Electronic Only	N/A	\$70	\$100
Printed Journal			
US Bulk	N/A	\$140	\$170
US First-Class	N/A	\$155	\$185
Int'l Air Mail	N/A	\$170	\$200

(\*For First-Time Member **Dual** rate, add \$10)

**See you at WBC 2022 in June!**

<http://BSI.Org>