



March 2023

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/2023/02-2023.pdf>

#### DIRECTORS

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Field Trips: Heidi Davenport  
Community Service: Carl Bauer  
Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo

March 21, 2023 MEETING 7:30 PM

Corbin A

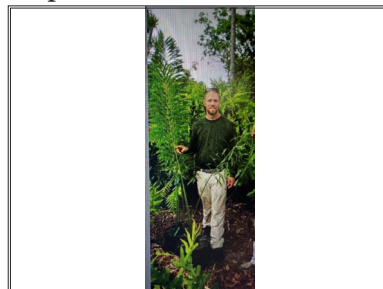
**SPEAKER: Chip Jones - Landscape Design Concepts  
Using Bromeliads**

**Food Donations Needed- Win the Prize**

**No Member Plant Sales - Unlimited Silent Auction**

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Chip Jones has been landscaping and growing plants since childhood. After 25 years in Ft. Lauderdale servicing irrigation, lighting and plants from Boca Raton to South Beach, he moved to Moore Haven. The expanded nursery and newly developed gardens have plants collected over the years with a focus on bromeliads, cycads and palms. The nursery, Jones Landscape Nursery, is open by appointment. His website is [cycadflorida.com](http://cycadflorida.com). Chip is a former member of our society who has won numerous awards at our annual shows. Several of his plants are part of the Fairchild collection.



## President's Message

Wishing everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day. "A good friend is like a four leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have." We have so many fun events happening in the next few months so please invite your family and friends to our meetings. We look forward to socializing and learning to hybridize plants at our field trip on March 25, hosted by Mike Michalski and Patty Gonzalez. There will be a bonfire and a grill cookout afterward. See details in the article. Please bring your hearty side dishes to share. Time to start preparing your plants for our upcoming Show and Sale April 27-30. This will be a judged show so bring your best. Reminder: we need your help to have all these events. May the luck of the Irish be with you.

*Tina Severson*

### OUR NEXT FIELD TRIP - LEARN TO HYBRIDIZE

Our next field trip has been scheduled for Saturday, March 25, 2pm, at the home of Mike Michalski and Patty Gonzalez. We were very intrigued by a previous speaker, Lee Magnuson, who spoke on hybridizing. Now we are going to meet at Mike's house to experience hybridizing for ourselves. We feel it is a skill we all should know. We think that once our members actually hybridize a plant, the mystery will be gone and we will be more likely to hybridize at home. After hybridizing we will decamp to the home of our president, Tina Katsaras, for a cookout and bonfire. Tina is making shish-kebobs and we are all asked to bring side dishes. Sounds like a great afternoon and evening and we hope to see you all there.

### GARAGE SALE

We are planning another garage sale to replenish our depleted funds after our show and sale. The date has not been set but it will be in June at the home of Maureen Adelman. We hope to repeat the success of our last sale. Please begin to save those things you were getting ready to give to a charity or dispose of. People will buy just about anything at a garage sale: clothing, furniture, rugs, household items, pots, games, baby items, jewelry, books, collectibles, craft supplies, art, frames, bedding, pet items, tile, books and of course plants. We will take anything you don't want or need. **START SAVING!**

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Time again for our annual membership drive.

Please take a moment to renew your membership. The \$25.00 fee is well worth it for the Holiday Party alone. The renewal form is at the back of the Advisory. Dues remain \$25.00 per person and \$35.00 per couple.

You can also renew your membership at the meeting or by mail. We will have forms ready for you and can accept your payment in cash or check.

The dues help provide funds for our speakers, refreshments, rent for Fairchild and fees for our annual show among many other things. They also help pay for the \$1000 scholarship which we are offering to a graduating senior of the Fairchild Botany Magnet High School Program.

The deadline for renewal has been extended to April 15, 2023 in order for you to be included in the FCBS roster and our own roster.

If you joined our society in October or later in 2022, your dues are paid through 2023. \_\_\_\_\_

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! THE SHOW IS COMING !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
We have received a contract from Fairchild. The show dates are April 27-30, 2023. That means you have one month to prepare your plants. Pick them out, clean them up and repot if necessary. Don't wait until the last minute! We will be calling all members for monetary donations for show crystal. We hope you will answer the call and be generous.

## FOOD FOR MEETINGS

We are asking members to supply food, especially heartier main courses, for our meetings until after the show. This will help us conserve our funds for the expenses incurred by the show. Many plant societies do this permanently but we hope to return to supplying main courses after the show. We appreciate your generosity and cooking skills.

## ASK DR. BROM

Dear Dr. Brom, Part Three:

I am trying my best to learn the names of the bromeliads but the Tillandsias especially stump me. They all look alike! Any help would be appreciated.

This is the third of three installments on South Florida tillandsias. This month we will discuss the large size xerophyte tillandsias. Xerophyte tillandsias have grey, bluish or white leaves coated with trichomes. They like sun and can take full sun but need to be checked in the summer months. Generally the thicker the leaf the more sun it can take. They like hanging or attaching themselves to tree trunks. These plants don't have cups and depend on the rain. These are the tillandsias that thrive in our area. We can divide the plants into small, medium and large groups. And incidentally, all tillandsias are spineless.

Large Tillandsias:

*Tillandsia Xerographica* - Slow growing with silver gray leaves, sculptural look. Grows up to 3 ft wide by 3 ft. tall with inflorescence. Densely branched flower lasts for months. Grows in arid regions of Central America and southern Mexico.

*Tillandsia brachycaulos* - Called the pink air plant. Don't overwater. Likes light but not summer afternoon full light. Turns blush, red or purple in sun and before bloom. Can grow to 1 ft. in diameter. A good hybridizer.



*Till. xerographica*  
left - photo by  
Dorothy Berg



*Till. brachycaulos*  
right - photo by  
Bob Spivey

*Tillandsia novackii* - Reddish, purple leaves with some dark green. Becomes darker red in light. Red inflorescence with purple flowers can be over 1 foot tall.

*Tillandsia fasciculata* - A Florida native endangered by the Mexican bromeliad weevil. Also known as the cardinal plant. Stiff and leathery leaves. Grayish green color. Inflorescence is 12-24 inches high with red bracts and purple flowers.



Till. novackii - left  
Photo by Ken Marks



Till. fasciculata - right  
Photo by Frank  
Sherman

*Tillandsia duratii* - Narrow, silvery gray-green leaves hang without roots. Leaves curl at ends and are very strong; can hoist itself up a tree with new leaves. Can withstand rain or drought. Produces very fragrant lavender flowers that smell like grape soda. Can grow to 3 feet long. A hardy species.

*Tillandsia utriculata* - Also called the giant or spreading airplant. A Florida native also endangered by the bromeliad weevil and becoming rarer. Host to many aquatic invertebrates as it holds water in its leaf axils. Can grow to 6.5 feet tall. Leaves can be 31 inches long. Flowers can be 3 to 6 feet. Slow reproductive rate. Can live up to 20 years.



Till. duratii - left  
photo by W. Louis  
Davis



Till. utriculata - right  
Photo by Ken Marks

*Tillandsia intermedia* - Wiry, thin leaves with a curvy growth pattern. Very hardy. Elongates because offsets form from parents' bloom. Forms a chain that can be quite long. Grows upside down.

*Tillandsia hildae* - Grows up to 6 feet tall and wide. Banded pattern on leaves is rare in tillandsias. Plant itself is rare. Inflorescence to 6 feet tall. Silvery gray green leaves. Likes bright light to full sun.



Till. intermedia - left



Till. hildae - right

*Tillandsia scheideana* - not a super large tillandisa, *scheideana* grows up to 16 inches by 16 inches. But it forms large clumps or mounds. Leaves are thin, stiff, gray green and grass like. It has a red spike and yellow bloom. It is drought resistant, growing naturally among rocks and cacti.

*Tillandsia chiapensis* - Large form. Long, thin leaves grow in a rosette. Flowers are large, pink and lavender and last 2 months. Silver gray leaves with a touch of lavender. Plant lasts several years. Hybridized often. The large *Tillandsia* hybrids you see at our auctions that everyone bids on are *chiapensis* hybrids.



Till. sheideana - left  
Photo by Ken Marks



Till. chiapensis - right  
Photo by Bob Spivey

*Tillandsia Roland Gosselini* - Rare and striking. Yellowish, recurving leaves blush a bright red when given lots of indirect sun and when flowering. Tall, thin inflorescence to 15 inches high is long lasting. Used in numerous hybrids.



Till. Roland Gosselinii - left  
Photo by Joachim Saul



Till. mooreana - right  
Photo by Derek  
Butcher

This concludes our three part series on south Florida tillandsias. We covered a total of 38 tillandsias, only a small portion of the total tillandsia species. But these 38 should give you a much better understanding of the tillandsias you see at shows and sales and the parents used in many of the popular hybrids.

Here are some resources for identifying your tillandsias:

Wikipedia Index has a list of species. Tap on the name for a photo  
FCBS Photo Index - Just type in FCBS Photo index and you are there  
BSI Species and Cultivar registries

Or you could buy a book. Every month starting in January we will be selling a bromeliad book at our meetings.

The following page is a cheat sheet for identifying bromeliads, courtesy of Bromeliad Specialties Nursery. Print it out and hang it on your bulletin board for quick reference

Sources:

www.gardenista  
www.decoist.com  
Birdrocktropicals.com  
Bromeliad Society of Queensland, 'Starting with Bromeliads'  
Jack Kramer, 'Bromeliads for Home and Garden'  
Victoria Padilla, 'Bromeliads'  
Ronald Parkhurst, 'The Book of Bromeliads'  
FCBS Photo Index  
Jose Manzanares, 'Bromeliaceae of Ecuador'  
University of Florida  
Wikipedia



## THE EXTRAVAGANZA IS COMING!

A vibrant poster for the FCBS & Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches Extravaganza. The background is a close-up of a pink and white striped bromeliad flower. On the left, under the word "Featuring", are three small portrait photos of speakers: Chester Skotak (Costa Rica), Eloise Beach (Apopka, FL), and David Shiigi (Hawaii). The main text in large, bold, yellow letters reads "FCBS & Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches presents Bromeliad Extravaganza July 28-29, 2023". Below this, a dark green box contains the text "Don't Delay, Register Today!" followed by hotel and conference registration details. At the bottom, in bold white letters, is the contact information: "For more information: 561-386-7812 • tramiccio@aol.com".

**Featuring**

**FCBS  
& Bromeliad Society  
of the Palm Beaches**  
presents  
**Bromeliad Extravaganza  
July 28-29, 2023**

**Don't Delay, Register Today!**

Hotel Registration: West Palm Beach Marriott  
1001 Okeechobee Blvd. • West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
[www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)

Conference Registration: [www.fcbsextravaganza.org](http://www.fcbsextravaganza.org)

**For more information: 561-386-7812 • tramiccio@aol.com**

Undoubtedly, many of you have received this save the date card from FCBS. The weekend promises to be a fun one. There is a Friday night BBQ followed by a registrant plant sale from 7:30 to 9:30pm. On Saturday there are afternoon lectures including what is billed as Chester Skotak's final lecture. The Saturday night banquet includes a live auction and a silent auction. On Sunday there is an optional \$25 Garden Tour and Brunch. Registration is \$150 by April 30, \$175 after May 1. Rooms at the Marriott are \$139 until June 30. Parking is \$8/day. You can register online. This Extravaganza is also close to home. Mark your calendars and plan ahead.

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### FEB 2023 FCBS NEWSLETTER

Don't miss the February FCBS Newsletter which includes info on the next World Conference (May 22-25, 2024 in West Palm Beach) and the Extravaganza above as well as advice from Teri Bert on correct nomenclature. Web address is on page 1. FCBS also has a Facebook page which we encourage you to follow.

## THE SHOW - WHAT WE HAVE AND WHAT WE NEED FROM OUR MEMBERS

We have received our contract from Fairchild and the show is on for April 27-30. 2023 Show Chairman Alex Bello says our number one need is volunteers. This is your chance to give back to the community by sharing your knowledge and love of bromeliads. Committee chairs are listed below so that you may contact them to volunteer. Your choices are as varied as your interests.

We will also be calling all our members seeking donations for crystal, our traditional prizes at the show. We are the only society to give such prestigious prizes. When you get the call, please answer it and be as generous as you can.

Judges and Awards:	Barbara Partagas
Clerks:	Patty Gonzalez
Vendors:	Peter Kouchalakos
Student Art and Co-Chair:	Samantha Jones
Member Sales:	Tina Severson
Classification:	Alan Herndon
Data Entry:	Ofelia Sorzano
Awards and Plant Placement:	Open
Hospitality & Information:	Karen Bradley
Food:	Sandy Roth
Advertising & Social Media:	Samantha Jones
Photography:	Open
Security:	Open
Please contact the committee chair or Alex Bello (bellotropicals@yahoo.com) to volunteer.	

## ABOUT LAST MONTH

Turns out Dennis Cathcart, our February speaker, is a lot more than a nurseryman. He has been interested in snakes his whole life. He has travelled the world looking for and capturing snakes and other amphibians along with the exotic plants he is known for. He started his nursery, Tropiflora, after a run in with a venomous snake. He became interested in them again while writing his book, *Koulev - Adventures of an American Snake Hunter*. Dennis' lecture, *A Naturalist Visits Cuba*, took us on a tour of the beautiful island and its animal inhabitants. It was a first look at Cuba for a lot of us, a nostalgic journey home for others.

Dennis was invited to Cuba to survey its reptiles though he didn't forget about bromeliads. There are 63 bromeliads native to Cuba. Florida native bromeliads along with many other plants probably came from Cuba. The trip started in Havana, the oldest city in the New World, but quickly segued into western Cuba, a mountainous, rural region including Soroa, the Guanahacibibes peninsula, and Vinales, a World Heritage site. Here he found *Catopsis floribunda* and *Catopsis nutans*, both rare in Florida.

Throughout the trip, starting in Seroa, he found many varieties of tropidophis snakes and many varieties of frogs, lizards and birds which we all got to see through his presentation. The smallest frog in the world is from Cuba. And there are no venomous snakes in the entire country. He also found many orchids native to Cuba which are rare here, including the Silver Dollar orchid.

Most of the native Florida bromeliads are plentiful in Cuba but many are larger: *Tillandsia variabilis*, *Tillandsia fasciculata clavispica*, *T. setacea* and *T. balbisiana*. *Bromellia karates* grows 6 to 8 feet across and of course is very spiny.

Different animals arrive at night. Tarantulas, some birds and anoles could be seen by shining a flashlight in the trees, including the western bearded anole with spines on its chin. Each animal was returned exactly where it was found.

Cuban boas were plentiful and can grow to 17 feet. They are the second largest snake behind the anaconda.

The Vinales valley, a Unesco World Heritage site has many mountains and virgin

forests. Here they grow the best tobacco in Cuba. Small farmers use primitive methods: oxcarts instead of tractors, thatched roof barns, wood stoves instead of electricity, and no veterinary care for the animals who appeared in rough shape. One farm had been in the same family for 8 generations. Rationing is prevalent, both food and drugs. And the black market is thriving. An example of rationing is 4 eggs per person per month. The town of Vinales was destroyed by Hurricane Irma.

The area also included caves with stalactites and lots of moisture. Plants grow on rocks here, including *Catopsis montana* and *Guzmania monostachia*. Cathcart spotted a rare bromeliad, *Tillandsia didistichieoides*. There are many snails in the area also, including one that hangs by a mucous thread for protection, the only one of its kind. Also seen: multitudes of vanilla orchids, *Wittmackii penduliflora* (formerly a *hohenbergia*), *Till. utriculata* and *Aechmea nudicaulis*, the only *aechmea* found in Cuba.

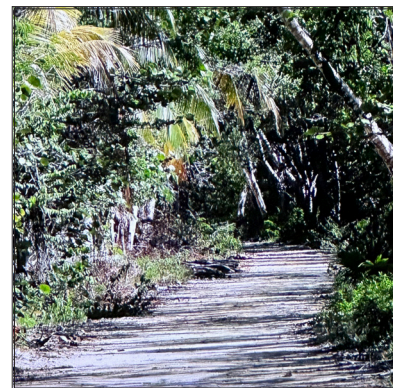
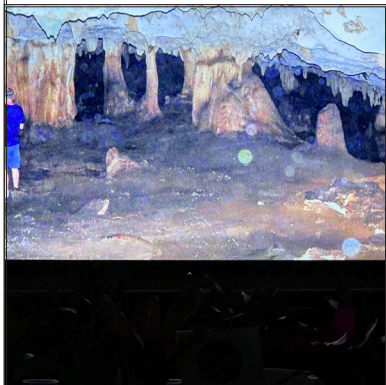
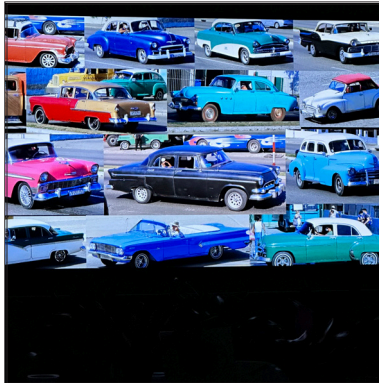
The group moved on to Giron, near the Bay of Pigs. The Bay of Pigs is forest on one side and mangroves on the other and is replete with a big sign about the Yankee defeat. It is full of fish and lobsters, parrots and flamingos.

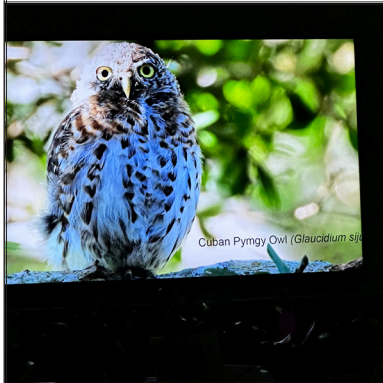
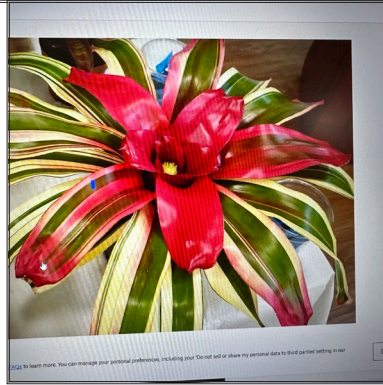
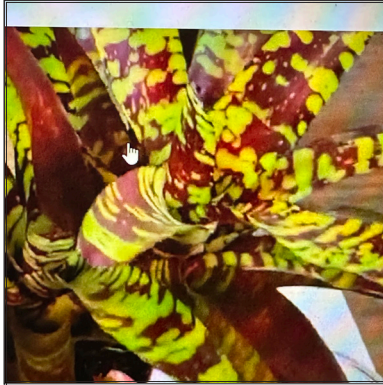
Here they encountered the endangered Cuban crocodile which is now interbreeding with the American croc. The Cuban crocodile is considered the most dangerous crocodile in the world, able to jump a 6 ft. fence.

Cathcart's guide was a Ph.D and museum director who makes \$15/month. His wife is a nurse making \$12/month.

The nearby Zapota Swamp contained many species of birds, including the world's smallest hummingbird, and 40 species of scorpions. It also is home to the poisonous black land crab.

The talk was mesmerizing. The animals were a bonus. The land itself was a treasure. Most of us won't be visiting anytime soon until the political situation changes. But Dennis plans to return, this time to eastern Cuba, in March.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO  
ELAINE MILLS!



## NEW RULES FOR SILENT AUCTION AND MEMBER PLANT SALE RULES

We now have unlimited silent auction plant sales. You will be paid 50% of the sale price and BSSF will receive 50%.

We will defer to our speakers for member plant sales when we have a speaker bringing plants. We will have no member plant sales on these occasions. This will give our speakers who travel here and pack up their plants a fair chance to sell their plants. When we do have member plant sales you will be paid 50% 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.

We appreciate your cooperation so that there will be no hard feelings if members bring plants and are turned away because we have a speaker who brought plants to sell.

SILENT AUCTION: Rene Izquierdo  
(rcizquierdo@bellsouth.net)  
305 282 9333

MEMBER PLANT SALES:  
Alex Bello (bellotropicals @  
yahoo.com)  
239 223 6155

## UPCOMING EVENTS

BSSF Spring Judged Show and Sale -  
April 27-30, 2023 - Fairchild  
FCBS Extravaganza - W. Palm Beach  
July 28-29

Flamingo Gardens -  
April 8 & 9 - 41st Annual Orchid  
& Bromeliad Show, 9:30-4

Redland Fruit & Spice Park -  
May 19 10-5

Redland Orchid Festival  
Bromeliad Society of Houston 49th  
Show and Sale  
May 6 and 7, in Houston

## NEW RAFFLE TABLE RULES

Like everything else in this world, the raffle table ticket prices are going up. Tickets are now 3 for \$5.00 with a \$5.00 minimum. Still a bargain and equal in price to the raffle tables of other plant societies.

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

BSSF. INC.

2023 MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW MEMBERS\_\_\_\_ AND RENEWAL\_\_\_\_

Please print names: (Couples include both names)

ADDRESS:\_\_\_\_\_

CITY\_\_\_\_\_STATE\_\_\_\_\_ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE\_\_\_\_\_ADD'L PHONE\_\_\_\_\_

Year Joined BSSF:\_\_\_\_\_

Referred by:\_\_\_\_\_

E MAIL (you will not receive a newsletter without an email)\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE HIGHLIGHT ANY INFORMATION ABOVE THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR

Please create my membership in BSSF, Inc. for the period of March 1, 2023 to February 28, 2024.

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, 2023 in order for you to be included in the BSSF 2023 Roster. All fees are non refundable.

Please mail completed form and check payable to BSSF, Inc. to:

Patti Gonzalez

10565 SW 109 St., Miami, FL 33176

Or email this form to:

[pgonza7782@aol.com](mailto:pgonza7782@aol.com)

You can pay up to 5 years at the rates above.