



September 2023

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



Facebook- Public
Bromeliad Society of South Florida

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/2022/5-2023pdf>

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Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo

September 12, 2023 MEETING 7:30 PM

Corbin A

SPEAKER: Dr. Terri Bert

Growing Bromeliads in South Florida

No Member Plant Sales, speaker only

Silent Auction Plants OK

Food Donations Appreciated - Win the Prize

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Bert will be bringing about 200 plants from many genera and will talk about their ecology, natural habitats and growing them in South Florida. These plants will then be for sale to members.

Dr. Terri Bert is a longstanding member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society, where she held multiple offices, and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. She has served FCBS as a representative and officer for eight years and has authored multiple articles for them. For the Bromeliad Society International, she has been the Librarian, a Florida Director, World Conference Show Chair, and Australian Conference Judges and Show Chair. She has also chaired several international committees, judged several shows, contributed articles to the BSI Journal and served as invited speaker at world conferences. Currently she is Curator of the Wally Berg Award of Excellence, a Master Judge and member of the Judges Certifica-

continued on page 2

President's Message

We are excited to see everyone this coming week! Your participation is what makes our society a success. As a reminder, anyone who would like to participate in our fundraiser sponsored by the Rare Plant Society on the weekend of October 20-22 (at the Fruit and Spice Park) please let me know. I will be submitting the final list of volunteers to them this week. Our Board of Directors always looks out for the best for our club and members. We want to have a successful non-profit that not only helps in educating our members but also helps with charitable events. We have some fun things planned so please invite anyone who would enjoy learning about bromeliads to our meetings. If they become a member they will be able to participate in our field trip and upcoming holiday party. Don't forget to bring your favorite food to our meetings and receive a raffle ticket to win a plant.

Tina Severson

OUR NEXT FIELD TRIP

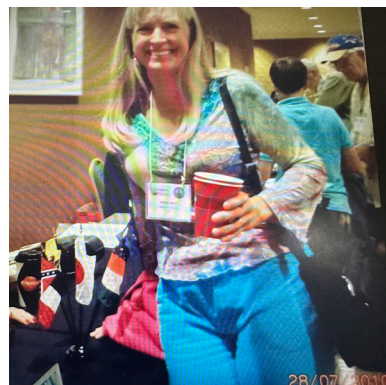
Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 4, 2023 for the next BSSF field trip. The plan is to rent a bus that holds 30 people and whatever plants we buy and head to Naples Botanical Garden. This award winning garden was completed in 2014 and contains 12 themed gardens in its 170 acres. It was designed by a dream team of professionals including Raymond Jungles. Of course we will be stopping by several nurseries on the way back. The cost has been supplemented by proceeds from our latest garage sale plus a small fee from members.

Admission is \$25.00 for adults with no reciprocity with Fairchild. However, you will get free admission if you can show you are a Bank of America customer. See Sandy Roth.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

(from page 1)

tion Committee. Terri has given over 175 presentations on bromeliads to numerous US and international bromeliad societies. She cultivates more than 2000 different bromeliads in about 35 genera. She has won multiple awards in local bromeliad shows and BSI world conferences. She also obtained her Master Naturalist Certification from the Manatee County Extension Service. Terri has a Ph.D in marine biology and recently retired from her position as a research scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.



MORE FIELD TRIP INFO

The fee for the field trip to Naples Botanical Garden will be \$20.00. This fee is to supplement the garage sale proceeds for the bus rental. The fee can be paid at the September or October meetings. Or you can send a check to:

Sandy Roth
12670 SW 102 Ave,
Miami, Fl 33176

Deadline for payment is October 17, the date of our October meeting. After that we will accept payment from those on the waiting list.

THE RARE PLANT AUCTION COMING IN OCTOBER

Our October meeting, October 17, is the date for our annual Rare Plant Auction. The incomparable Peter Kouchalakos will be our auctioneer. If you have a nice plant to donate, please bring it to the October meeting. Our vendor members are encouraged to donate multiple plants. Please join us for food, drinks and FUN at 7 pm.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THE RAFFLE TABLE, SILENT AUCTION AND MEMBER PLANT SALES

The Board has been experimenting with different pricing strategies for the raffle table, silent auction and member plant sales to help offset our operating costs. We found the changes we made were not working out as well as we thought and were confusing our members. So we have returned to our tried and true 80/20 split.

Raffle Table -	80% to member, 20% to the Society
Silent Auction -	80% to members, 20% to the Society
Member Plant Sales -	80% to members, 20% to the Society

Thanks for your understanding through all the changes. You are always welcome to donate your proceeds.

ASK DR. BROM

Dear Dr. Brom: We have been on tram tours of Fairchild Garden, we have taken a field trip to Mounts Botanical Garden, Selby Gardens and Flamingo Garden and in November we are taking a field trip to Naples Botanical Garden. Are there any gardens that we missed?

Are you kidding? This is Florida, home to 9 national parks, over 180 state parks and 46 botanical gardens and arboretums. I am going to name and briefly describe the best 21 of the 46 and I will only do half of them in this newsletter. The other half will have to wait until October. You can find the complete list on Wikipedia.

1. Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando comprised of 50 acres on Lake Rowena. The plants have QR codes so you can scan them on your phone for more information. It was donated in 1951 by Harry and Mary Jane Leu. The home is open for tours and gives a good idea of Florida living at the turn of the century. There are 40 different collections including Florida's largest rose garden. There are multiple lakes and abundant camellias and a bromeliad collection.
2. Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden, opened in 2010, has several categorized gardens including the hibiscus garden, the bamboo garden and the cactus and succulent garden. There is a boardwalk along the river. The garden hosts a winter art show and it also sells plants. Admission is free.
3. Sarasota Garden Club on Sarasota Bay. Comprised of 9 smaller gardens including the quiet garden, the falling waters garden and a bromeliad garden. The public is invited to join the volunteers every Friday morning to work on the plants. The garden is on one acre completely maintained by the Sarasota Garden Club.
4. Key West Garden Club on Smathers Beach is small and easy to miss. It is also a historic site. It is located in the West Martell Tower. The tower was built in the mid 1800s and was used during the Spanish American War. After WWII it fell into ruin but is coming back to life now. There are different rooms within the tower including the orchid room and the butterfly garden. It is right on the ocean with a great view.
5. The Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Garden in Punta Gorda is a newer garden on 30 acres. It was designed with Florida's natural ecosystem in mind such as

wetlands and marshlands. There is a boardwalk and plans for an addition. Founded by the Roger and Linda Tetrault Foundation. The late Roger Tetrault was an MBA and Vietnam vet who was CEO of an oil exploration company and also a shipbuilder among other things. The garden opened in 2017. Animals are welcome on Tuesdays.

6. Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg is right in the middle of the city. It was founded over 100 years ago making it older than Fairchild. The original owner was a plumber who drained a lake to create a sunken garden. Enjoy flamingos and a koi pond.

7. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota is the only botanic garden in the world “dedicated to the display and study of epiphytic orchids, bromeliads, gesneriads and ferns.” There are koi ponds and over 50 garden displays. They have the best herbarium in the world representing over 3,650 bromeliad species including historic broms from the 19th century. It also contains the Mulford Foster Bromeliad Research Center which will ID species. This was the home base of the late Harry Luther. The garden has two locations. The downtown campus, comprising 15 acres, has 8 greenhouses. One is a tropical conservatory mimicking a rainforest. The historic Spanish Point campus covers 30 acres with a footbridge around the property. There is an archaic shell ridge and a shell ridge midden which are thousands of years old. Selby also works on the conservation of the endangered *Tillandsia utriculata*. This garden is a don't miss for bromeliad lovers. You will need separate tickets for each location.

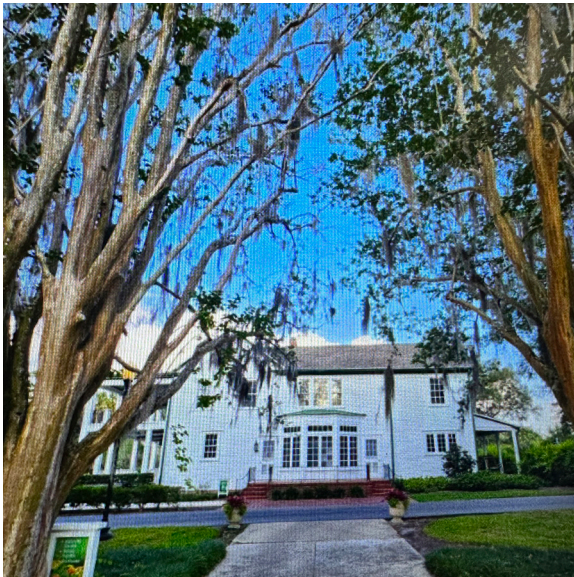
8. Cedar Lakes Woods and Gardens is in Williston, a 45 minute drive from Gainesville. It was a 110 year old abandoned rock quarry purchased by Dr. Raymond Webber for use as a fishing pond. The garden was opened in 2014. It consists of bridges connecting little islands surrounded by water. There are koi ponds and over 50 garden displays. It is pet friendly. The garden is surrounded by 64 acres of woodland that can also be explored.

9. Naples Botanic Garden is one of the largest in the state at 170 acres. It consists of a number of different gardens named after different places around the world such as the caribbean garden, the asian garden, and the water garden. Self guided tours are available. The garden is discussed on page 2 of the Advisory and we will visit it November 4.

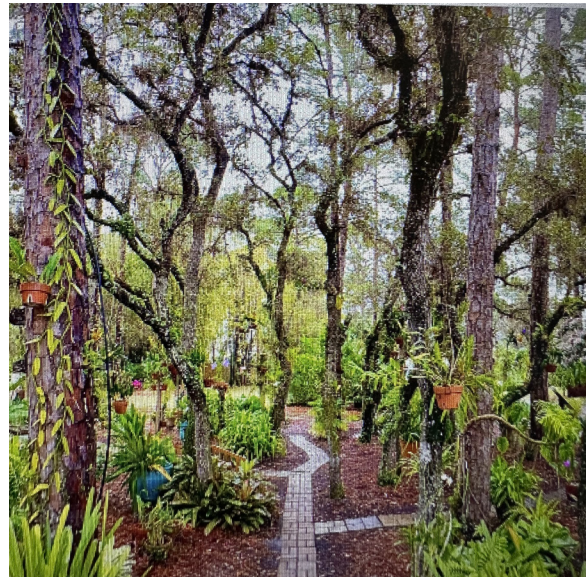
10. Miami Beach Botanic Garden consists of only 3 acres but it is packed. The dense trees and plants mute the traffic just outside and create a peaceful place. There is a Japanese garden, a native garden and an edible garden. The aim of this garden is to be sustainable. The garden sells cuttings, propagations and compost. They also sell food to feed the resident turtles.

11. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, our home garden, has been named the best botanical garden in the U.S. for the past 3 years. It was founded in 1938 by Colonel Robert Montgomery, an attorney and CPA, and was named for Dr. David Fairchild. Dr. Fairchild was a tropical plant explorer who worked for the USDA collecting plants, especially edible plants, from all over the tropics. Some of his original plant donations can still be found at the garden. Its landscape architect was William Lyman Phillips, a student of the famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead.

The remaining 10 gardens will be described in the October issue of the Advisory.



Harry Leu Gardens



Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden

Sources:

Websites for each garden listed

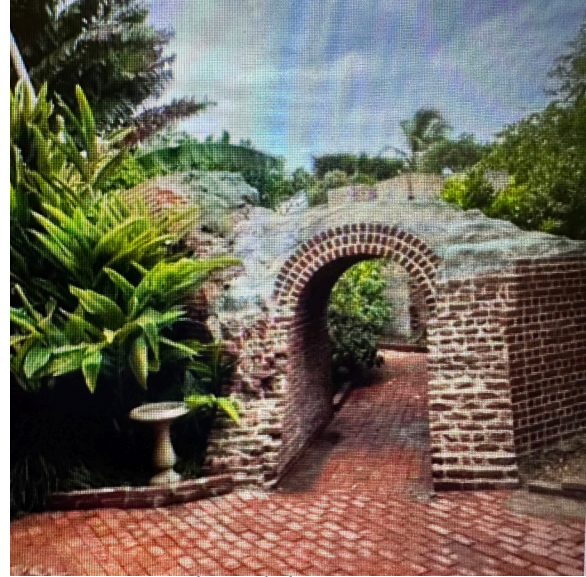
Veranda Magazine

Wikipedia.org

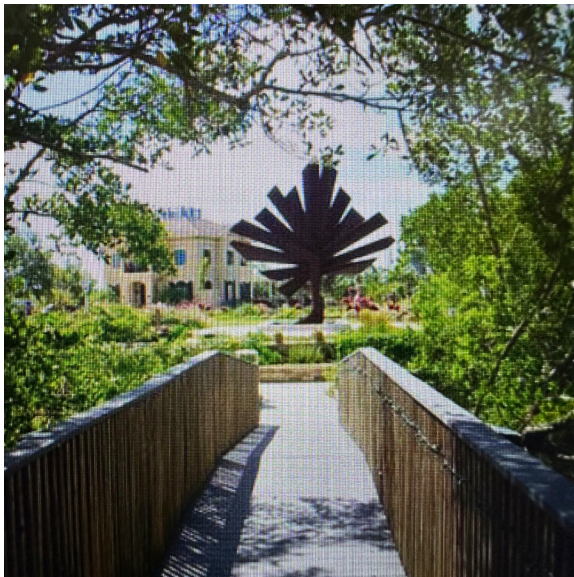
Fl.Trippers.com



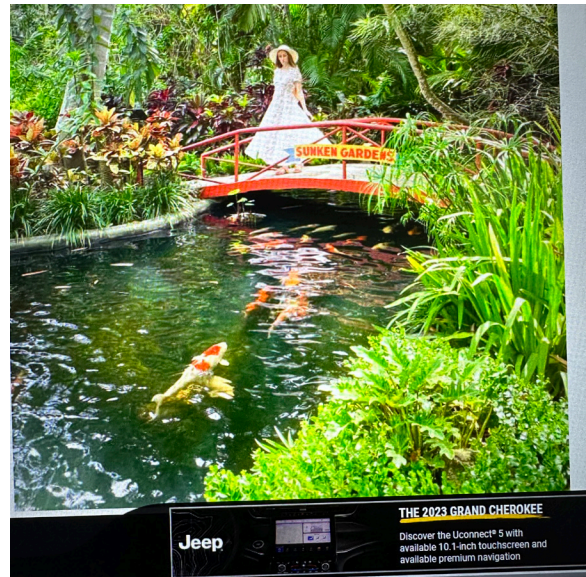
Sarasota Garden Club



Key West Garden Club

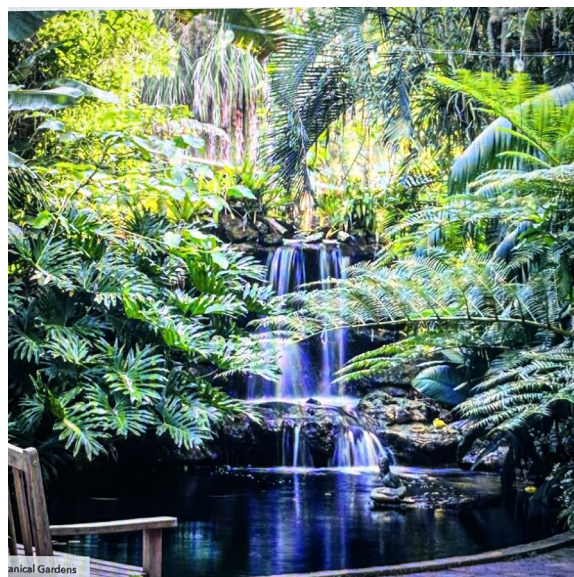


Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Garden



Sunken Gardens

Marie Selby Botanical
Garden

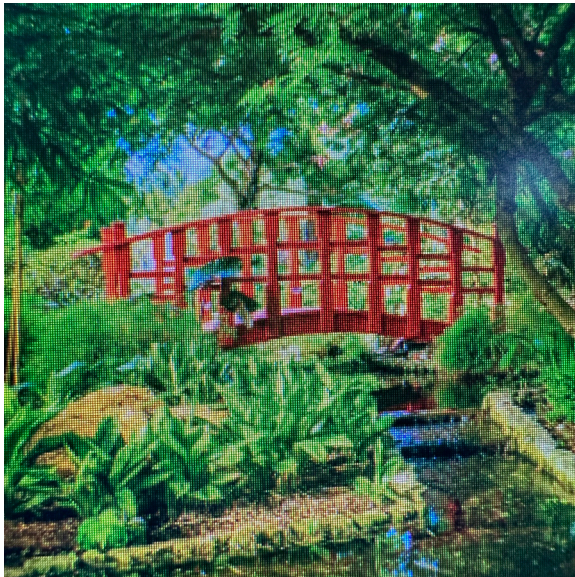




Cedar Lake Woods and Gardens



Naples Botanical Garden



Miami Beach Botanical Garden



Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

ABOUT LAST MONTH

Our first order of business at the August meeting was to introduce our Nominating Committee for 2024 Board members: Karen Bradley, chair, Samantha Jones, and Ophelia Sorzano. They will be calling and asking for volunteers for our board. Please respond with a yes if you are called. It takes all of us to keep this society running smoothly.

Our speaker was Alex Bello, 2023 Show Chairman. Alex gave us insights on the entries from a chairman's and judges point of view using hundreds of photos taken by the talented Annette Rodriguez. Annette is the head photographer of the American Orchid Society which is based at Fairchild. She used her considerable skills to produce about 700 outstanding photos from the show. Rather than just talk about the plants, Alex gave us some of the judge's comments so that we can improve our entries for future shows and just grow better plants.

Alex's opinion was that the show was phenomenal, the judges were impressed, the vendors were happy and member sales were good. He advised us not to be afraid to enter. Even our best growers get red ribbons from time to time. The judges were asked for their input via comments on the back of the entry sheets. They gladly complied though not on every single entry. Certain comments were repeated often.

The number one comment from judges related to pots used for the show. Photo after photo showed dirty pots. A clean, unblemished pot is one of the easiest ways to gain points for your entry. Pots can be cleaned with Armor-All, vegetable oil or just soap and water. Better yet, use a new pot. OFE International Orchid Supply has them in various sizes.

You can use aquarium pebbles in a neutral black or brown to top off your plant and give your plant a finished appearance. Another tip was to put a saucer under your dyckias to prevent the bottom leaves from browning.

New hybrids that are not registered can be judged and even win an Award of Merit.

But unregistered hybrids cannot be awarded crystal. So if you have a beautiful un-registered hybrid you want to show off, please do. And we had a beauty at the show. Just remember you can't win crystal with it so you won't be disappointed.

Another frequent comment from the judges was leaves that were trimmed incorrectly. If you have to trim leaves try to maintain the natural shape of the leaf and coat the cut edges with aloe vera to keep them green.

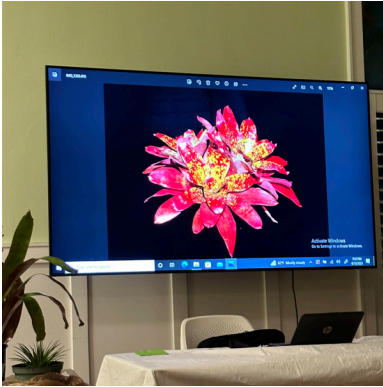
Alex commented that we are the only society that has entries for Artistic Arrangements and also has a student art show and competition.

Past shows have had over 100 (even 200) plants. This show had fewer plants but they were of excellent quality. So we need more members entering plants. Bullis Bromeliads, which usually has a large assortment of plants for exhibit, did not display plants this year as bad weather during the past year left them with plants that were not up to their usual standards.

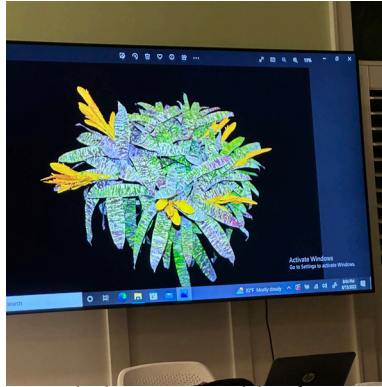
Alex promised us another program in the future with judge's comments on even more plants. A good time might be right before our next show.

All this and we had a killer surprise raffle table supplied by Barbara Partagas who has been dividing her plants this summer like a lot of us.

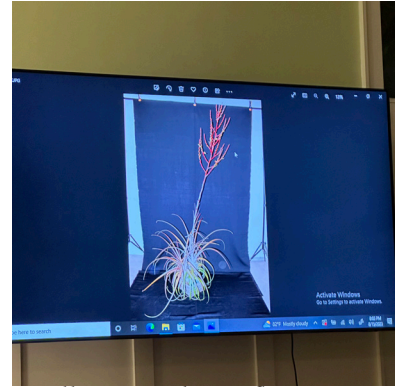




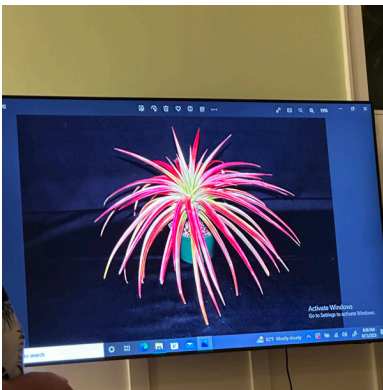
New unregistered hybrid



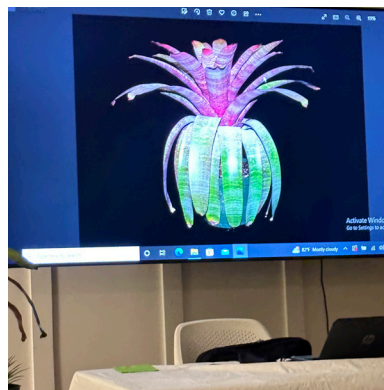
Good clump, good leaf tips



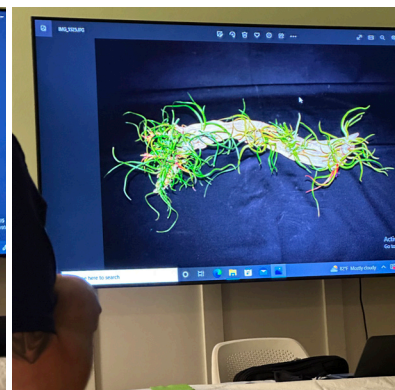
Well grown, large flower
is not straight



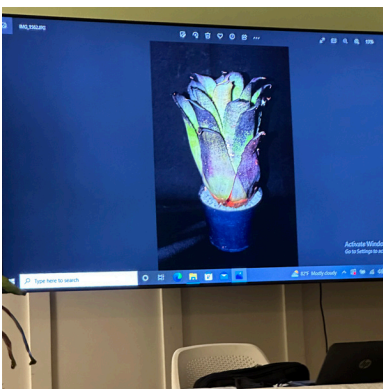
Caudex too long , loose in pot



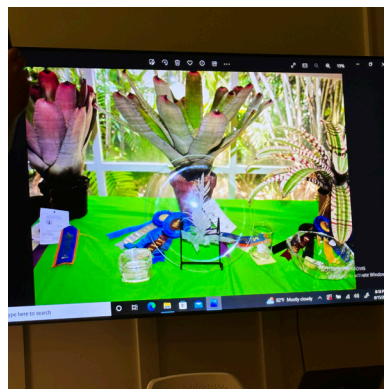
Good skirt under upper
leaves with no brown leaves



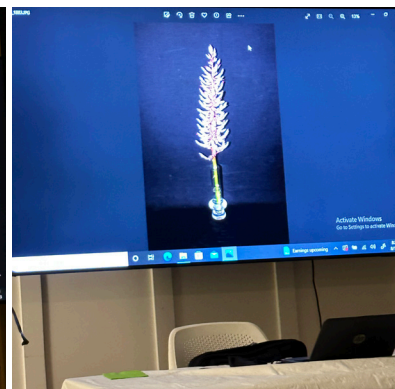
No contrast, sparse



Well grown, right pot size



Well grown, a top winner



Pot too small for flower, out of
balance

SILENT AUCTION AND MEMBER PLANT SALE RULES

We now have unlimited silent auction plant sales. You will be paid 80% of the sales price and BSSF will receive 20%.

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 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.

if you would like to host the raffle table, please contact Alex Bello. You will be paid 80% of the proceeds.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden:
Aroid Show and Sale - Sept. 16/17
Members' Day Plant Sale - 9/30
Palm Society Sale - Nov. 4-5

Mounts Botanical Garden -
Summer Plantapalooza - September 16 & 17
Palm and Cycad Sale - Oct. 7
Fall Plantapalooza - Nov. 4 & 5

Fruit & Spice Park - Rare Plant &
Orchid Festival - 10/20-10/22

BSSF Annual Show - 4/18-21/24

BSI World Conference - 5/22-25/24

RAFFLE TABLE RULES

Raffle table tickets are now 5 for \$5.00 with a \$5.00 minimum. Still a bargain! Donations to the raffle table are greatly appreciated.

FOOD AT MEETINGS

We continue to need food donations for our meetings. Side dishes and desserts are a good choice. And you have a chance to win the food prize which is usually, you guessed it, a plant.

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

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