



BromeliAdvisory

June 2026

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

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Bromeliad Society Meeting – June 16th

Meeting Information

Please join us on Tuesday, June 16th, at **Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Corbin A Classroom**. Members typically begin arriving around 7:00 PM, and the meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 PM.

Special Meeting Highlights

- Dr. Terrie Bert will be bringing approximately 200 bromeliads for sale following her presentation, featuring many different genera and beautiful collector specimens.
- Our raffle table will be provided by Alex Bello.
- Silent Auction items are welcome.
- No vendor sales permitted.

Potluck & Food Raffle

Please bring a potluck item to share for a chance to receive a ticket for our food raffle, where you can win a bromeliad.

“What is a Bromeliad Collector?”

Are you a bromeliad collector? Being a bromeliad collector is both exciting and rewarding, and we are thrilled to welcome back one of our favorite speakers who always fills the room with her engaging and educational presentations.

Dr. Terrie Bert will discuss what it takes to become a recognized bromeliad collector and the many different ways collections can be developed. To help illustrate her presentation, she will bring approximately 200 bromeliads representing many different genera and styles of collecting.

All plants featured during the talk will be available for purchase afterward, giving attendees the opportunity to add beautiful specimens to their collections — or perhaps begin a brand-new collection of their own.

About Our Speaker – Dr. Terrie Bert

Dr. Terrie Bert is a longtime member of both the Sarasota Bromeliad Society (SBS) and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and has held multiple leadership positions within the SBS.

She also served the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) as both a representative and officer for eight years and has authored numerous articles for the FCBS Newsletter.

For the Bromeliad Society International (BSI), Terrie has served as:

- Librarian
- Florida Director
- Standard Show Chair on multiple occasions
- Curator of the Wally Berg Award of Excellence for 22 years

She currently serves as a Master Judge and on Entries Committees for international shows. Terrie has also chaired several international committees, judged numerous international shows, contributed articles to the BSI Journal, and has been an invited speaker at world conferences.

Terrie has delivered more than 175 presentations on bromeliads to bromeliad societies and organizations throughout the United States and internationally, including regional and world bromeliad conferences.

She currently cultivates more than 2,000 different bromeliads across approximately 35 genera and has earned multiple top awards in local bromeliad shows and BSI World Conferences.

In addition to her bromeliad expertise, Terrie earned her Master Naturalist certification from the Manatee County Extension Service. She holds a Ph.D. in Marine Biology and is retired from her position as a Research Scientist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

We look forward to another fantastic evening of learning, plants, raffles, and fellowship.

President's Message



Thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped make our Show & Sale at Fairchild such a tremendous success this year. Your hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm were instrumental in creating a wonderful event for our society.

Those who attended were treated to fantastic weather, and our display of bromeliads was absolutely stunning. The quality and beauty of the plants showcased truly reflected the passion and talent of our members.

I also encourage everyone to join us for our upcoming meeting and support this month's speaker. Her presentation promises to be both informative and inspiring, and you are sure to learn something new.

Stay tuned for more details and highlights from our Show & Sale in the coming weeks!

- Alex Bello

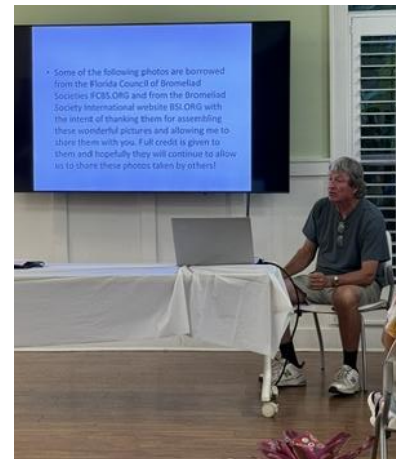
In case You Missed It:

By Tina Severson



Dave Johnston Presents “Billbergias Are Awesome!”

Our June speaker, Dave Johnston, delivered an outstanding presentation titled "Billbergias Are Awesome!" and



showed us why these fascinating bromeliads have become some of the most sought-after plants among collectors and hybridizers.

Dave explained that Billbergias were once considered the "black sheep" of the bromeliad world, but thanks to extensive hybridizing efforts, there are now more than 1,000 registered Billbergia hybrids. He paid tribute to the late Don Beadle, widely regarded as the father of



modern Billbergia hybridizing, who created more than 1,600 hybrids during his lifetime.

One of the highlights of the evening was Dave's discussion of hybridizing techniques. He noted that Billbergias are relatively easy to hybridize and shared several practical tips for growing seedlings. After pollination, seeds should be rinsed clean and placed in Miracle-Gro Seed Starting Mix inside a sealed Ziplock bag. Dave cautioned against placing seeds on a paper towel, as they can adhere so tightly that they are nearly impossible to remove. Seedlings can remain undisturbed in the sealed bag for up to a year.

For those interested in registering hybrids, Dave explained that a plant must have at least two generations of hybridization and produce a bloom spike before it can be registered. He also recommended using the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) Cultivar Registry's advanced search feature to determine whether other hybridizers have already used the same parent plants.

Patience is essential in the hybridizing process. Dave noted that it typically takes about three years from seed germination to first bloom. To date, he has completed an impressive 240 hybrid crosses.

Dave also shared valuable growing advice. Light levels play a major role in determining color intensity, and plants should be started in shade and gradually acclimated to brighter conditions. He recommends growing Billbergias under approximately 60% shade cloth. For fertilization, Dave prefers Nutricote one-year controlled-release fertilizer. He advised avoiding tap water whenever possible, recommending rainwater or filtered water instead.

His preferred growing medium consists of peat moss, perlite, and pine bark mulch, with the mulch providing beneficial acidity to the mix.

The evening concluded with a spectacular slide show featuring many of



Dave's own hybrids. The vibrant colors, patterns, and forms demonstrated the incredible diversity that can be achieved through hybridizing. Several of the plants were offered for sale, and sales were brisk as members eagerly added these exceptional

Billbergias to their collections.

Thank you, Dave, for an informative and inspiring presentation that left us all with a greater appreciation for these remarkable bromeliads.



Meeting Notes by Maureen Adelman
Edited by Tina Severson

Thank you to Denise Karman for taking the photos from our last meeting!



We Received our fired garden art!



Community Events:



<https://fairchildgarden.org/events/mango-festival/>

Prepare your palate and gather your favorite people — Fairchild’s legendary weekend of all things mango is back.

From the Editor: Share Your Exciting Community Events!

Do you know about an upcoming community event that our members would enjoy? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Please send me the details, along with any photos or links, for inclusion in our upcoming Advisories.

While we are particularly interested in events related to botanical gardens, plants, and horticulture, we welcome submissions on any topic that might be of interest to our members. Whether it's a local workshop, garden tour, or any exciting community event, your input is always appreciated.

To ensure your event makes it into our next issue, please send the information to me at least a week before our meetings. I always strive to highlight events that I think our members will find exciting, but your contributions will make it even better!

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Tina Severson