

BromeliAdvisory

May 2019



INSIDE THE ISSUE

In Case You Missed It	2-3
Show Will be March 2020 – Start to Preapre?	4
Messages	5
Upcoming Events	5
Show Winners	6



BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

May 2019

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



http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSF/?bookmark_t=group



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

Alex Bello, Past President
Barbara Partagas, President
Olivia Martinez, VP
Sandy Roth, Treasurer
Lenny Goldstein, Secretary
Robert Meyer, Editor
Anna Harris, Director
Rhonda Herndon, Director
Richard Coe, Director
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Advertising: Robert Meyer
Door Prize: Alan Herndon
Education: Alan Herndon
Hospitality: Elaine Mills
Library: Barbara Partagas
Membership: Maureen
Adelman/Melody Ray
Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello
Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Mike Michalski or Alex Bello

MAY 21 AT 7:30 PM

CORBIN B

SPEAKER: BROMELIAD BINGO

Raffle Table: Alex Bello

Food Table: Usual Suspects

BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA

Information Sources

<https://www.facebook.com/events/orlando-florida/2019-bromeliad-extravaganza/2571514426256863/>

<https://www.bromeliadorslando.com/extravaganza>

https://www.bsi.org/bsi_info/affiliates/?bylocation&id=6#6

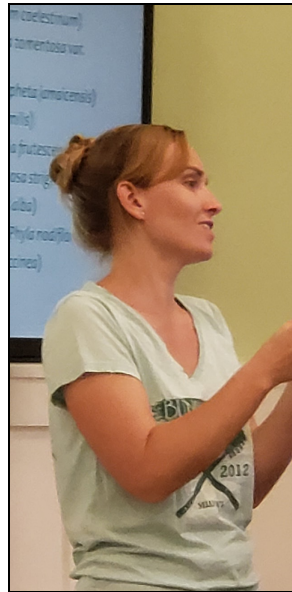


In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein

There was a special buzz around Corbin “A” on April 16. That’s because Inese Bunch spoke to an appreciative crowd on the subject of “Bees and Flowers: A Symbiotic Relationship.”

Inese, a native of Latvia and a 2011 graduate of Florida International University, received her Master Beekeeper certification from the University of Florida. Her beekeeping activities at Bunch Farms are based on sustainable practices. She also makes educational presentations about bees at schools around Miami-Dade County. The BSSF is probably the oldest kids’ group she has ever addressed, but she managed to maintain decorum throughout her program.



The first bees appeared about 100 million years ago, but wasps are even older. Although the first bees looked like wasps, they were not carnivorous. Instead, they co-evolved with flowers, and environment was instrumental in that development. Bees and flowers are mutually beneficial.

Honeybees belong to the genus *Apis*. But there are other bee species, including a stingless honey-producer in Asia. The European honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, originated in Africa, as did the Africanized bee. In Africa, because bees have many predators, they have had to be more



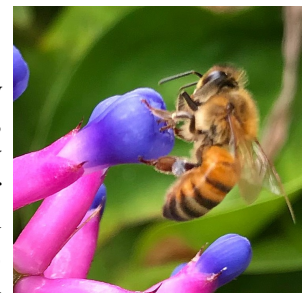
Honeycomb photo by Inese

defensive. But as *A. mellifera* spread into Europe, its major foe was cold rather than predators, so its behavior was modified; it was no longer critical for the insect to be menacing.

A honeybee colony contains a queen, workers and drones. The queen lays 1,200-1,500 eggs a day! She also produces pheromones (scents) that suppress the reproductive capacity of the workers. Drones arise only in the spring, and their single purpose is mating, after which they die. Workers are the caretakers of the colony. They also forage, a formidable task.

Dancing is a major form of communication among bees. Smell, via pheromones, is another type of communication; smell can signal intruders or injuries. The honeybee colony functions as a superorganism. If a single bee fails to achieve its task, the whole colony suffers. And bees are very clean animals: A dead member of the colony is quickly removed. These fastidious insects also defecate outside the hive.

With regard to flowers, honeybees are generalists; they don’t pick favorites among flowers. They are after nectar (for carbohydrates) and pollen (for protein), and they zero in on those flowers which



provide the easiest access to those nutrients. By contrast, other bee species may be very particular. For instance, hairy bees seek pollen-heavy plants.

Having related that background, Inese then turned to the question of the relationship between honeybees and bromeliad flowers. The answer lies in an understanding of the

two types of flowers: primitive and advanced. In primitive flowers, all parts are present, and they are arranged in spirals. They are symmetrical and bisexual. Examples include sunflowers, citrus, and avocado. In advanced flowers, not all parts are present; there may be 10 or fewer. They may be fused, or they may even be missing. They are inconspicuous, asymmetrical, and unisexual. Examples include jatropha and papaya.



Slide at the talk

Bromeliad flowers are advanced; they have fewer than 10 parts. As a result, the generalist honeybee is not attracted to them. (However, robber bees can steal nectar when they can't get pollen.)

Inese provided the following useful list of Florida native plants to which honeybees are attracted:

American Beautyberry
(*Callicarpa americana*)
Blanket Flower
(*Gaillardia pulchella*)
Butterfly Sage
(*Cordia globosa*)
Climbing Aster
(*Symphyotrichum carolinianum*)
Dotted Horsemint
(*Monarda punctata*)
Dune Sunflower
(*Helianthus debilis*)
Goldenrod
(*Solidago odora*)
Heliotrope
(*Heliotropium curassavicum*)
Mistflower
(*Conoclinium coelestinum*)
Necklace Pod
(*Sophora tomentosa* var. *truncata*)
Pineland Heliotrope
(*Heliotropium polyphyllum*)
Porterweed
(*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*)
Rouge Plant
(*Rivina humilis*)
Seaside Oxeye

(*Borrchia frutescens*)
Spanish Needle
(*Bidens alba*)
Sunshine Mimosa
(*Mimosa strigillosa*)
Tropical Sage
(*Salvia coccinea*)
Turkey Tangle Fogfruit
(*Phyla nodiflora*)
Tickseed
(*Coreopsis leavenworthii*)

During the Q&A, Inese addressed a question about Colony Collapse Disorder. She explained that CCD is seen mostly in large commercial operations, because the bees have to be transported, a process that deprives them of food. During transport, colonies are fed with corn syrup instead of honey. And the transportation process itself imposes stress on the bees. At the new field, a transported colony is exposed to chemical sprays. Bees routinely gather water, but they don't know what's in it, so they inadvertently feed chemical-contaminated water to their sensitive larvae.



Inese, in closing, surprised many in the audience with the revelation that the term "organic honey" is meaningless. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) doesn't have guidelines for an "organic" designation of honeybees. That's because keepers don't know where their bees go! Honey labeled organic comes from other countries, whose standards for the designation are variable and potentially unreliable.



Honey with their labels

Show Will be In March 2020 – Start to Prepare Now?

By Robert Meyer

The Show is far from here, but there are ideas to prepare. These are not ideas asking that you spend extra hours each week and sacrifice that time for “other” things which you would prefer to do. Instead, they are concepts of what to do and when.

TIMING: You need to own the plant 6 months before the show. So Septemberish is the deadline. This summer, when it is hot and lethargic at some retail nurseries, haggle and see what they have. Who knows what you may encounter.

Go to our monthly table for sales. Price may not be perfect, but more often than not, the plants are unique and worth it – especially to aficionados who attend shows.

Go out of town and see another group’s meeting. They do NOT grow what we grow 100% of the time. Who knows, you may come back with something the rest of us do not know about.

TWEAKING: Sun is tougher each year. Water is an issue too. Go out and put your plant in a spot. If the sun bleaches it, move to shadier spot. This way the plant will survive the summer and glide into the less stringent winter months unharmed.

Same for watering. Watch it. If too much calcium or alkaline or whatever, use alternatives or remember to clean up in February.

Same for fertilizing. Watch it or keep it up. Once you start, you really have to continue or some leaves will be leggier than others.

Bugs. My dreaded concern. How to avoid gnawing critters and bugs? I use baskets. I have hooks and limbs on trees to attach the baskets. The baskets have hangers. On the

tree’s side, air breathes well. The water does not rot the plant. And, if done correctly, you can increase the pupping (future article).

Know thy yard! I have no screening. That means I like more *tillandsia* than the person who has a forest of oaks and a shaded pool. Thy yard may determine thy plants which do best. Know thy yard.



ASKING: Many of the members at the meeting can give you instantaneous response on how to handle the plant. With phone with cameras, the need to bring in the plant is less required. But, the real thing as opposed to an unmeasured-without-flower, photo of a green plant will probably aid in getting a more complete or accurate answer. Ask. Don’t feel silly or stupid. The simplest question may save a plant’s life.

LEARNING: Advice from the sage members of your area will always outweigh the advice from the anonymous generic messages on the internet. Too often what is good in Miami is not good elsewhere. Even Broward’s growing conditions are dramatically different. So what about Tampa. Or Orlando. Or the guy/gal from unknown land on the internet? Whose word do you want to take to learn? Easy answer, no?

GROWING: Once you learn, tweak, and ask, you will geometrically progress as a grower. You will not only know thy yard, you will know thy plants and their idiosyncratic characters. In turn, if you human, you will attempt to allow them to grow in a manner which requires the least effort from you. And, eventually, you can come in with that gargantuan *aechmea* growing in a basket on a plan tree. Yes, an *aechmea* the size of a large children’s toy, swinging in a basket beneath a tree. To be seen in a show and tell in the future.

MESSAGES

Badges Wear Them

We make some pretty neat badges. They help our fogged aged memories for names. Starting next month, anyone who wants a door prize *must* be wearing a name badge. This way we will better address one another by name. FYI – do not put the badge onto anything which may be affected by an external

NEW MEMBERS PLEASE COLLECT BADGES

We have 16 new members. Your membership entitles you to Membership Badges. We have them. Come to our meeting and pick them up. Ask for Maureen. She holds the badges.

BECOME A BSI JUDGE

Contact Betty Ann Prevatt.
\$25.00 first lesson
Application available at the Meeting
Contact Alex Bello

CRYSTAL

Thanks to the following for donating crystal to the Show: Robert Meyer, Barbara Partagas, Maureen Adelman, Sandy Roth, Patty Gonzalez, Elaine Mills, Virginia Shrenker and Barbara Sparling.

Donate Your Crystal to our Show which then will return it to you when you win awards., contact Barbara Sparling.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The South Florida Cactus and Succulent Society Cactus Show and Sale

May 25-26, 2019

Pinecrest Gardens

11000 Red Road

Pinecrest, FL 33156

<https://www.pinecrestgardens.org/entertainment/events-festival/cactus-show>



2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza

September 20th - 21st, 2019

SpringHill Suites & TownePlace Suites,

8040 Palm Parkway,

Orlando Lake Buena Vista (near Disney Springs).

www.BromeliadX.com

R o o m b o o k i n g :
<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1547843838096&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Fairchild Ramble

November 8-10, 2019

10901 Old Cutler Road

Coral Gables, FL 33156



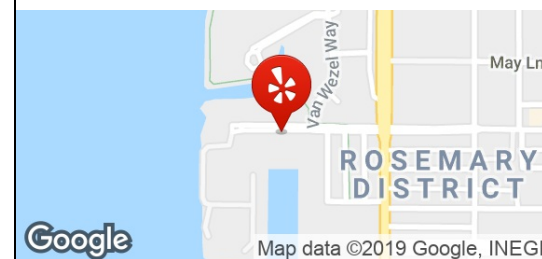
BSI World Conference

June 9-13, 2020

Sarasota Hyatt Regency

1000 Boulevard of the Arts

Sarasota, FL 34236



https://www.facebook.com/pg/Bromeliad-Society-International-BSI-468938213148940/events/?ref=page_internal

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

Major and Special Award winners – 2019 Bromeliad Society of South Florida Show

HORTICULTURAL ENTRIES

Nat DeLeon Award for Best

Blooming Bromeliad	<i>Aechmea chantinii</i>	Alan Herndon
Best Blooming Guzmania	<i>Guzmania minor</i>	Karl Green
Best Blooming Hohenbergia	<i>Hohenbergia magnispina</i> ‘Karla’	Chip Jones
Best Blooming Lymania	<i>Lymania corallina</i>	Karl Green
Best Blooming Neoregelia	<i>Neoregelia sanguinea</i>	Karl Green
Bronze Blooming Neoregelia	<i>Neoregelia carolinae tricolor</i>	Karl Green
Best Blooming Orthophytum	<i>Orthophytum grossiorum</i>	Karl Green
Best Blooming Tillandsia	<i>Tillandsia foliosum</i>	Karl Green
Bronze Blooming Tillandsia	<i>Tillandsia dasyliriifolia</i>	Chieng Manlee

Ed Prince Award for Best

Non-blooming Bromeliad	<i>Tillandsia hildae</i>	Maureen Adelman
Best Non-blooming Aechmea	<i>Aechmea correia-araujoi</i>	Karl Green
Best Non-blooming Billbergia	<i>Billbergia</i> ‘Hallelujah’ (varie.)	Barbara Partagas
Best Non-blooming Canistrum	<i>Canistrum seidelianum</i>	Alan Herndon
Best Non-blooming Cryptanthus	<i>Cryptanthus warasii</i>	Barbara Partagas
Best Non-blooming Deuterocohnia	<i>Deuterocohnia brevifolia</i>	Chip Jones
Best Non-blooming Dyckia	<i>Dyckia domfelicianensis</i>	Barbara Partagas
Best Non-blooming Hohenbergia	<i>Hohenbergia brachycephala</i>	José Donayre
Best Non-blooming Neoregelia	<i>Neoregelia carolinae</i> (varie.)	Karl Green
Bronze Non-blooming Neoregelia	<i>Neoregelia</i> ‘Sexy Pink’	Chrissy Pfeffer
Best Non-blooming Orthophytum	<i>Orthophytum zanonii</i>	Alan Herndon
Best Non-blooming Quesnelia	<i>Quesnelia marmorata</i>	
	‘Rafael Oliveira’	Chip Jones
Bronze Non-blooming Tillandsia	<i>Tillandsia duratii</i>	Maureen Adelman
Best Non-blooming Vriesea	<i>Vriesea lubbersii</i>	Karl Green

HABITAT

Best Non-blooming Habitat	<i>Neoregelia chlorosticta</i> on wood	Barbara Partagas
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ARTISTIC ENTRIES

Dean Fairchild Award for

Best Artistic Entry	Tillandsias on driftwood featuring <i>Tillandsia seleriana</i>	Brad Beardsley
	‘Innovation’	Chieng Manlee
Best Bromeliad Collection	<i>Hohenbergia stellata</i>	Chieng Manlee
Best Cut Inflorescence	<i>Aechmea</i> ‘Blue Tango’	Barbara Partagas
Bronze Cut Inflorescence	<i>Orthophytum gurkenii</i>	
Best Decorative Container	<i>warren-loosei</i>	Ofelia Sorzano
Bronze Decorative Container	<i>Billbergia</i> ‘Poquito Mas’ x	
	‘Strawberry’	Jose Donayre
Best Fruiting Bromeliad	<i>Acanthostachys pitcairnioides</i>	Ofelia Sorzano

SPECIAL AWARDS

Best Novice Entry	<i>Tillandsia festucoides</i>	Terrie Tallale
Bullis Award for Best Variegation	<i>Neoregelia carolinae</i> (variegated)	Karl Green
Ralph Davis Award for Best Culture	<i>Vriesea</i> ‘Lemon Pride’	Chieng Manlee

Steve Correale Award for Best

Tillandsia	<i>Tillandsia hildae</i>	Maureen Adelman
Irwin Futerfas People’s Choice Award for Decorative Container	<i>Aechmea bromeliifolia</i>	Rhonda Herndon

Pat Gaetjens People’s Choice Award for Artistic Arrangement

Cryptanthus Society International Awards		
Best Cryptanthus species	<i>Cryptanthus warasii</i>	Barbara Partagas
Best Cryptanthus hybrid	<i>Cryptanthus</i> ‘Red Baron’	Barbara Sparling

SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS FOR BEST COLLECTION OF ENTRIES

Sweepstakes		Barbara Partagas
Intermediate Sweepstakes		Ofelia Sorzano