



BromeliAdvisory

May 2024

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

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Special Events/ Refreshments: Sandy Roth
Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo
Field Trip: Tina Severson

Bromeliad Bingo

May 21, 2024, Next Meeting 7:30 PM Corbin A

(Member Sales Plants Allowed, Silent Auction, **Food donations** welcomed and appreciated, raffle ticket given to those who bring in food)

Bromeliad Bingo

We always look forward to our Bingo night! Don't Miss this because it's so much fun and everyone leaves with bromeliads! If you have extra bromeliads in your yard to share for others to win, please bring them in. We will provide our members one free Bingo card to play all the games, you can purchase additional cards for \$5 each



These are photos from last year's Bromeliad Bingo 2023

BSSF, INC Logo

Time for a change! Let's clarify, in our Feb 2024 meeting Alex Bello brought this to our membership to bring in ideas for modernizing a logo.

We took a vote, and the majority wanted a change and we said we would consider the options.

As a reminder, nothing will be decided without a final vote once we have some entries submitted. All your input will be considered in this change. We want to keep the integrity of what our club represents as a society. We also want it to reflect what South FL Bromeliads look like. We just need to make a decision on something that is an actual logo and isn't **blurry** that has our nonprofit and website name on it, which is **BSSF, INC.**

We need something that can be used on tags, ribbons, crystal etc. and digital on our website and advisory and any other digital advertising.

If you have the talent to create a logo, we want to see it. We will be bringing the logos to the general meeting to decide on the final one in the next few months. Please make it a digital logo.

(Digital logos are logos that are designed to be viewed and interacted with online website. As companies see their clients shift toward digital, they should consider implementing a digital logo.)

This is for example purpose only:



President's Message:

“Members!! Another fantastic Show and Sale has come and gone, and I want to thank everyone for a smooth and successful event showcasing the best of BSSF. Hope to see everyone for bingo and World Conference in West Palm Beach !!”

- Alex Bello



Antonio J. Arbelaez

10/9/1935 - 04/27/2024

Antonio Arbelaez was born in the farmlands of a small town in Colombia. There he learned to work on the land and developed a love for agriculture. Even though he moved out of the farms as a young teenager, he remained a farmer at heart. He moved to the big cities in Colombia where he performed multiple jobs and ultimately learn the skills to become an industrial mechanic. He had an adventurous spirit, therefore, he continuously relocated in search of better opportunities. Eventually, he landed in New York City. While there he married his Colombian sweetheart, the love of his life for 53 years, with whom he had 3 kids. He worked as a Metallurgic Mechanic and helped many get into this industry. In 1981 he moved to Miami, Florida. Always wanting to get back to his planting years, he purchased a house with a large backyard in Kendall and grew many exotic fruit trees. Around 1996 he discovered Bromeliads and developed a fascination for them. He later joined the Bromeliad Society of South Florida and eventually replaced the majority of his fruit trees with his pride and joy, a large collection of Bromeliads. Upon retiring around 2001 he purchased a farm in a small town in Colombia and lived between his house in Miami and his farm in Colombia. He also loved traveling and was blessed with visiting many countries throughout his life. He was a very quiet man; however, he always was aware of his surroundings and knew what was going on. He loved to help whenever he could, especially those in need. He is survived by his children and grandchildren, who miss him dearly and will always carry him in their hearts.





Antonio Arbelaez with Mike Michalski

Antonio was a longtime member of BSSF. He was an avid collector and for many years, he sold bromeliads from his home. He was well known in his Kendall neighborhood for all the plants in his yard and especially for the plants on the roof of his carport. He always volunteered for our past Show & Sales when he was able, and we will miss his smiling face.

Antonio loved to travel. Along with friends Mike and Patty Michalski (as seen in the photo above), he traveled all over the world. He was loved and respected by all that knew him, and he was especially known for his kindness.

Moyna J. Prince

APRIL 16, 1938 – MAY 10, 2024

It's with great sadness we just recently heard about the passing of one of our Life members of our Bromeliad Society of South FL. Moyna wore just about every hat you can imagine: treasurer, board member, president, auctioneer, Spring Show leader, Extravaganza leader, award-winning horticulturalist, and editor of our advisory for many years. She was a volunteer at Fairchild Tropical Garden as seen in her photo below. She also collected bromeliad art. Those who were fortunate to know her were always amazed at her knowledge and willingness to help. She was an inspiration to all of us who knew her.

You can read her bio she did of Nat de Leon in the link below:

<https://www.fcbs.org/articles/NatDeLeon-MoynaPrince.htm>



Silent Auction Rules and Regulations Revisited

Silent Auction (SA) is a great way for members to sell and acquire Bromeliads at a good price. It benefits both our Club and the members, and it is a lot of fun!

Please observe the following Rules and Regulations

1. Plants must be free of insects and diseases.
2. Plants must have the correct nametag.
3. Payments by cash or check only.
4. Maximum number of plants to be brought in by members is 3 (exceptions can be made. Consult with the Chairman prior to the meeting)
5. Bring only choice plants, in good condition.
6. Please do not bring discards.
7. The Club receives 20% of all sales; members 80%. However, members who would like to donate a plant to the Club may do so by specifying on the SA form that 100% of the proceeds should go to the Club.
8. When SA closes, please refrain from approaching the SA table. It leads to confusion for the Chairman and for everyone involved in helping distribute the plants. Wait until the name of the winner is called. Good Luck!

Thank you for following these simple rules!

René C. Izquierdo



The April 2024 Show & Sale Photos

(More Photos to come in June Advisory)

We had an amazing show. It was so nice to see our members come out and help support. We were happy some of our new members joined us and we got to see some of our old members visiting and supporting us.

The teamwork was phenomenal and always worth it in the end! We were blessed to have perfect weather all weekend too.



Plants arriving and being categorized.





Thank you Judges!



The judges were thoughtful and meticulous in their decisions, giving us great insight into what we can do to improve in the future.

Our BSSF clerks joined our judges, and we appreciate you all and thank you for all your help and hard work.





Some of our winners with their plants. More photos to come in June 2024



Pat Gonzalez with her artwork



Samantha Jones with 1 of 2 winning cut Inflorescence



Tina Severson with her Neo Picasso



Rene Izquierdo and sister Neyda with their very large, amazing Tillandsia Intermedia Habitat entry



Lori Weyrick with her award-winning Tillandsia Bartramii

Maureen Adelman, Tina Severson, with Pres, Alex Bello



Peter Kouchalakos, Auctioneer



Tina Severson & Samantha Jones



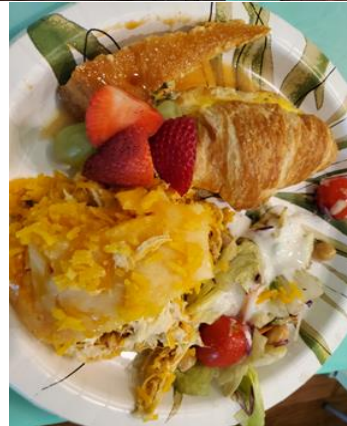


Artwork by Patty Gonzalez



King of the Jungle by Tina Severson

Judges Luncheon





Our Member Vendors



Member Sales



Volunteer Dinner

Thank you to Sandy Mora Roth for hosting our event and planning the meals for us all weekend.

We always enjoy spending time at your house. You can see in the photos below some of her fantastic artwork and plants. Special thanks to Denice Karman for her fabulous cooking and all those that helped make our weekend special.



In Case You Missed It-By Leonard Goldstein

How often do you hear a great program on bromeliads from a resident of Knoxville, Tennessee -- average January low temperature, 28°? Not often at all, but BSSF did in April. That's when Steve Hoppin spoke to a receptive audience about his nearly 25 years as a bromeliad hybridizer.

In all fairness, Steve was one of us – a resident of hot, steamy southern Florida – until 2021. His concentration on bromeliads dates back to 2000, and since then, he has created 20-plus *Cryptanthus* hybrids, including 'Love Potion #9.' He was *Cryptanthus* Society president from 2006 to 2012. His appearance before our group was delayed three years by COVID-19. Now ensconced in a nice home nearly 900 ft. above sea level, Steve was in town to serve as a judge at the annual BSSF Show & amp, Sale.

To be sure, Steve's growing practices in Knoxville have changed. His plants now spend a lot of the year in a garage under lights, but that doesn't appear to have dampened his enthusiasm. "What can you grow in Knoxville?" he asked rhetorically. "Plenty," he replied. In fact, *Aechmea recurvata* 'Aztec Gold' might grow better in East Tennessee than in South Florida!

His program was titled, "The *Cryptanthus* Group: Obligated Terrestrials." *Cryptanthus*, he warned, is a true terrestrial bromeliad. Its roots don't just stabilize the plants as do those of other genera, but they also search for nutrients. (Leaf litter helps provide a few of the needed nutrients.) Some are lithophytes – rock growers – but no *Cryptanthus* species has ever been reported growing epiphytically. All species are native to Brazil, from sunny/dry to shady/moist environments.

Most *Cryptanthus* species are round or oval in shape. Leaves do not overlap, and no central cup forms. Large specimens can reach 2+ ft. in diameter. The color range is fairly broad: pink-red-green-gray, gray and brown, expresso brown-albomarginated-variegated-shiny-mottled-striped. Some species can be partially or heavily covered with trichomes, i.e., the outgrowths on the surface of leaves that absorb water and minerals for the plant's benefit, and also protect the plant from things like herbivores and UV rays.

Translated from latinized Greed, '*Cryptanthus*' means 'hidden flowers.' Most flowers in the genus are white, but some are colored, and a few are even

fragrant. A plant might produce 25 flowers, but normally only 1-3 open at a time. The flowers are imperfect, producing only stamens. Plants bloom for a period of four days to two weeks. Steve wryly observed that *Cryptanthus* plants are not bought for their flowers.

Steve then offered some cultural advice. Offsets should be 1/3 the size of the parent plant before removal. In planting separated offsets, he recommended applying a rooting hormone. Use 4-6" pots – Steve prefers plastic – with great drainage. For a loose, porous mix, he uses Pro-Mix with some additives. Coco coir is also good and can be combined with Vermiculite. Turface (calcined clay) helps promote porosity. When repotting, use a #2 pencil to prepare a label.

(1) Appropriate light exposure is, of course, important. Medium bright should be the goal. Light that's too low will result in strappy leaves, and full sun can burn. The right light maximizes colors, although Steve noted that *Cryptanthus* plants undergo seasonal color changes, with strongest coloration occurring during the summer.

(2) Temperature is another key cultural element; 60-85° is optimal, but plants can tolerate lows of 40-55°.

(3) Humidity is another important factor. It should be in the 40-90% range.

(4) With regard to watering, plants should be kept evenly damp. Overhead Irrigation is okay. The key to successful growing is good drainage.

(5) Steve applies a couple of different blends of fertilizer: 14-14-14 or 20-20-20, a half teaspoon per plant. He uses time-release products in 3-, 6-, or 9-month blends.

(6) Good air circulation is essential to avoid pests and fungi. Insects and Other pests are rare in *Cryptanthus* unless the plants are stressed. The Evil Weevil does like this genus, and it can be treated with Imidacloprid granules.

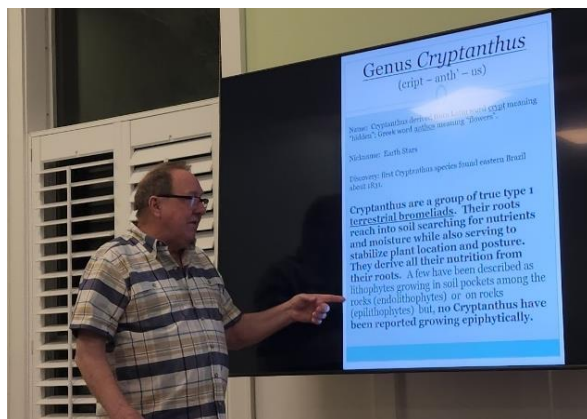
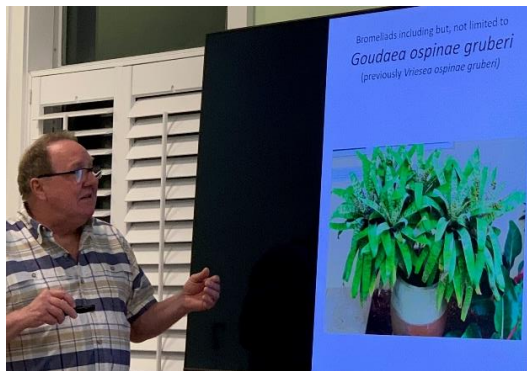
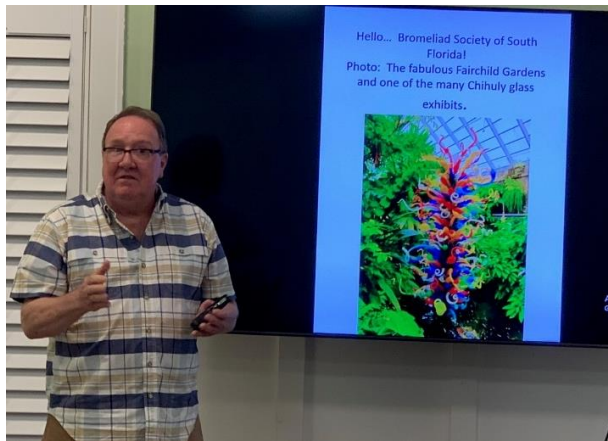
Steve then turned to the subject of how to show *Cryptanthus* plants. First, it requires good planning. Look for good conformation, such as lack of gaps between leaves. The plant should be mature. If the flowers don't look great, snip them out.

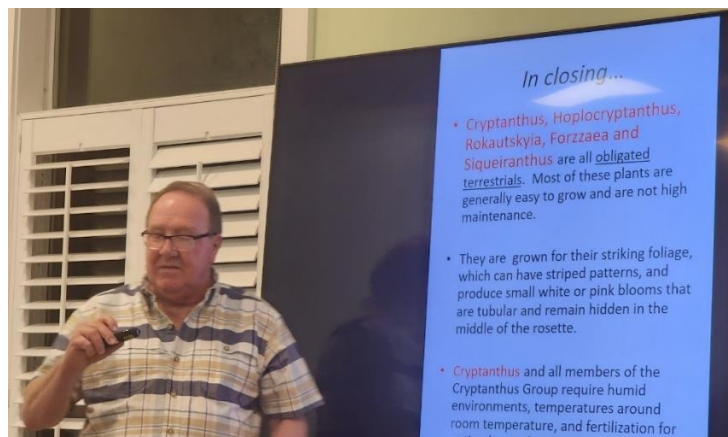
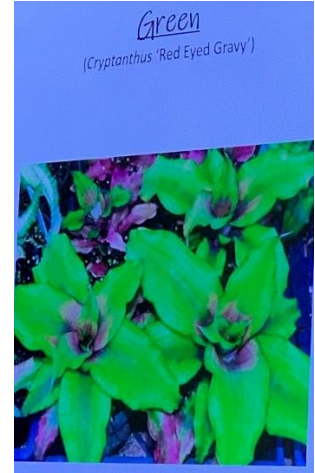
He urged growers to respect judges' decisions and pay attention to their written comments.

Steve also touched on taxonomic changes to the *Cryptanthus* group (or complex). There have been major changes since 2017. There are now five genera in the group. RNA and DNA problems have contributed to the changes.

In closing his program, Steve acknowledges those who were his mentors in the field of bromeliads: Gene McKenzie (a founder of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society), Dean Fairchild, Craig Allen, Grace Goode, Jim Irvin, Carole Richtmyer, Larry Giroux, Rick Ryals, Grant Groves, Kelli Ahnen, and Anthony Warfield.

Steve Hoppin





Thank you Steve we thoroughly enjoyed your presentation!

Raffle Table provided by Mike Michalski



Please see Alex if you are interested in doing the raffle table



Show & Tell

Upcoming Community Events

REDLAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL

(COME VISIT OUR BSSF, INC VOLUNTEERS THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE FUNDRAISER FOR US AND THIS WEEKEND WILL BE FANTASTIC WEATHER!)

MAY 17-19, 2024 | 10 AM – 6 PM DAILY
24801 SW 187TH AVE
REDLAND, FL 33031
FRUIT AND SPICE PARK

Click on the link <https://redlandorchidfestival.com/>



BSI World Bromeliad Conference 2024

22 - 25 May 2024 West Palm Beach Marriott, West Palm Beach, USA

CLICK ON THE LINK

[HTTPS://WWW.BSI.ORG/NEW/CONFERENCE-CORNER/](https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/)

Bromeliad Society International Presents
World Bromeliad Conference 2024
May 22-25, 2024 • West Palm Beach, Florida

WBC 2024 will feature an exciting slate of events including a welcome reception, botanical tours, a banquet dinner, several world-renowned speakers & guests, the world's largest bromeliad sale and a professionally judged bromeliad show.

Conference registration for attendees includes:

- Welcome Reception — International poolside barbecue
- Historic WBC 2024 tote bag
- World conference banquet dinner with speaker Andrew Devonshire on 'Hybridising, The Kiwi Way'
- Mounts Botanical Garden tour by luxurious motor-coach
- Access to world renowned speakers & honored guests
- World's largest bromeliad sale
- Professionally judged bromeliad show

Don't wait — register and reserve a hotel room online soon to save!
(Special reduced rates are available to all current BSI members)

Grant's Farm Nursery Tour


Join us for a special, behind-the-scenes tour to Florida's oldest bromeliad nursery! Reserve your space online for only \$25.

WBC 2024 World-Renowned Speakers



Find the latest WBC 2024 news and registration links online:
www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/

We look forward to seeing you at WBC 2024!
Conference Chairman Tom Ramiccio (Tramiccio@aol.com) & Conference Co-Chairman Alex Bello

Post-Conference Ecuador Field Trip with Plant Expeditions


Complete your conference experience with a 15 day tour through Ecuador. See over 150 bromeliad species in their native habitat! Also see wildlife—butterflies, birds, insects and monkeys! For more tour information and to reserve your space visit:
www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2024/ecuador


Saturday June 8th Alex Bello Welcomes us to his
Nursery from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Please RSVP

239-223-6155



**BELLO'S
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