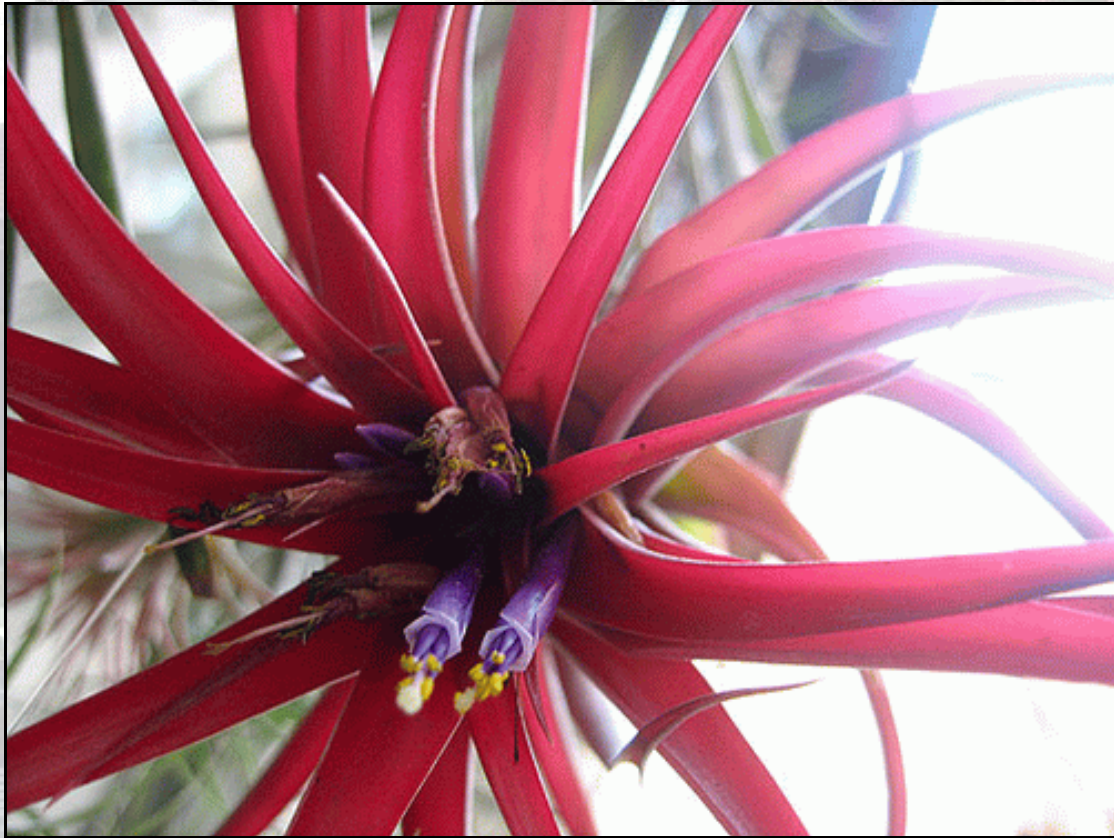


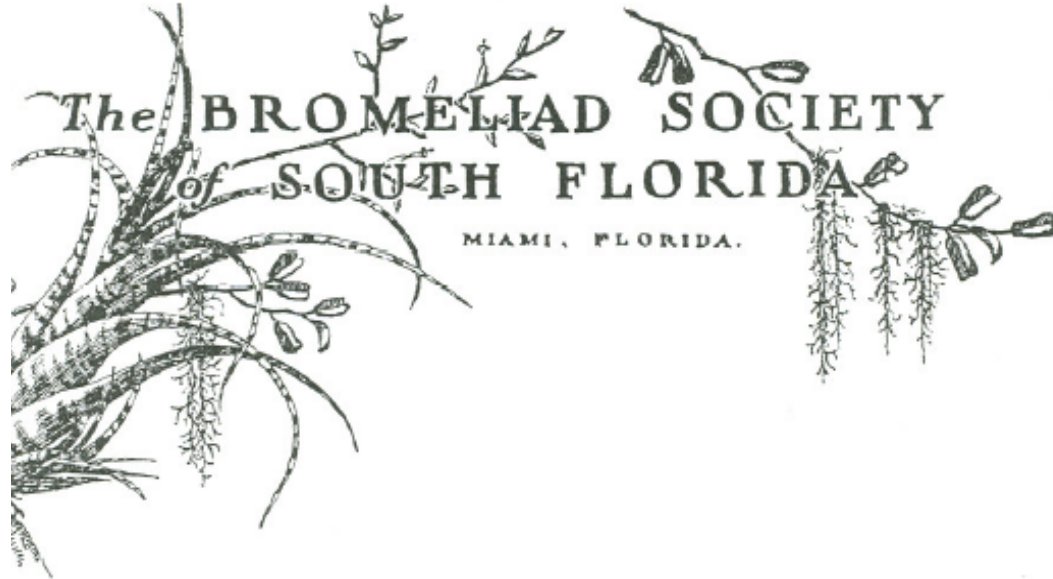
Bromeli Advisory

December 2015



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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

December 2015

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>

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Education: Nat DeLeon
Hospitality: Elaine Mills
Library: Barbara Partagas
Membership: Maureen Adelman/Melody Ray
Mem. Plant Sales: Antonio Arbelaez
Raffle: Melissa Brail
Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	None

DECEMBER 15, 2015

SPEAKER: Speaker: NONE

RAFFLE TABLE: NONE

FOOD: This is the Annual Holiday Party

No Speakers, Just Holiday Party

Time to take a rest. Holiday Party.

In case you have not been to a Holiday Party before, here are a few rules.



Bring food. Coordinate with food leader – Sandy Roth.

Second, wrap a plant. Then bring the plant. You get to take another wrapped plant in exchange for your plant.

Third, bring drink. No need to coordinate this. We prefer well aged cognac, single malts and red wines from the 1980's – preferably French.

Lastly, enjoy.

HOLIDAY PARTY HELPERS

Want to help?
 Make a call.

Sandy Roth 305-301-0306
 Barbara Partagas 305-256-7669

President's Message

by Sandy Roth

This is a time of reflection for me and many others.

As a Society...we have been through several losses or severe illnesses, that have an effect on our Society... in big and small ways.

We continue to evolve We gave lots of our time and efforts ...our spring Show ... our fall Auction AND we had our Extravaganza. ,which was a r e a l experience !!

B u t throughout those events, we made new friends and spent time with our old friends. To me that is what it is all about !! As the outgoing President, I hope I have instilled that Comradery amongst you. Don't be afraid to ask: Just feel like you belong!

I wish you Happy Healthy Holidays !!

Peace to all!

Sandy

In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein

Californian Pamela Koide Hyatt has been raising bromeliads since 1980, when she was in her mid-20s. She has spent the 35 years since then scouring the Americas for outstanding specimens and developing hybrids of her own. Those of us in attendance at the November meeting of the BSSF became the beneficiaries of Pamela's vast experience, as she shared highlights of her career in a fast-paced, photo-packed program.

Pamela founded her business, Bird Rock Tropicals, in 1981, and made Tillandsias her specialty. In 1983 she began to grow bromeliads from seed, from which she then made

selections. Two years later she started hybridizing, a decision due in part to her feeling that she wouldn't be able to collect in the wild. Despite that concern, she has never stopped making collecting trips.

Following two relocations of her nursery over the years, her stock is now 20% of its former size. She is now 1½ miles from the Pacific Ocean, giving her property a good climatic niche for growing high-elevation plants. She has also adapted to the smaller space by hanging her bromeliads on greenhouse walls, using alligator clips.

Pamela also has learned to overcome a problem that we in southern Florida would characterize as a blessing – low humidity. She dealt with the challenge by lining the ground with plastic. In addition, she grows her bromeliads on multiple levels, with the heat-loving plants positioned at the upper levels of the house. This solution has proven particularly helpful in raising Tillandsias.

Pamela then described how she creates hybrids. Her preference in pollinating bromeliads is to use her finger, instead of a brush, to collect pollen. She emphasized the importance of tagging plants, because some take two years to produce ripe seeds. Good records are essential, she stressed, because it may take 6-20 years to see the result of a cross! The information on her tags indicates the cross (seed plant listed first), followed by the date. In the last few years, she has also entered records into a computer. Fortunately, not all Tillandsia hybrid seed development is slow. Seedpods of the species *aeranthos*, *neglecta* and *stricta* are

ready in 4 - 8 months, so crosses made with them are considered quick.



One of Pam's slides

In nature, seedpods which have been drying open up just before the onset of the rainy season to release seeds. Seeds attached to fine hairs known as coma spin like propellers until they alight on trees.

With the onset of the rainy season, the coma then act like wicks to absorb precipitation. A grower can intervene to preserve a high percentage of seed by harvesting them before pods open.

Seeds are placed on horizontal shade cloth for 6-24 months while germination and root development take place. Seedlings may bloom and, fortunately, even pup, while on trays. Those seedlings that need less moisture are kept bare-root; those more needy are put in a potting medium. Like older plants, seedlings are kept on four levels in the greenhouse, based on their particular needs.

Pamela devoted the rest of her program to surveying Tillandsia hybrids. Natural hybrids occur by three means: (1) in habitat, among nearby species, (2) accidentally or voluntarily in private or commercial sites, and (3) intentionally. For example, *T. ionantha* X *T. fasciculata* is a natural hybrid in Mexico. But both species of the cross are variable, so the resulting hybrid plants are also variable. However, most natural hybrids produce plants whose features are intermediate to their parentage. Other natural hybrids of Mexico include *T. circinnatoides* X *ionantha* and *T. ionantha* X *schiedeana*.

Among Pamela's earliest finds in Mexico were hybrids of *T. ehlersiana*, a species which crosses with *T. streptophylla* and *T. schiedeana*. *T. schiedeana* itself naturally crosses with a number of other species. A hybrid found in the Dominican Republic is *T. compressa* X *moscosoi*.

Other natural hybrids that Pamela singled out include *T. fasciculata* X *xerographica*

(Guatemala) and *T. fasciculata* X *roland-gosselinii*. Among high-elevation natural hybrids, she likes *T. borealis* X *mooreana* (Mexico) and *T. rodrigueziana* X *seleriana*, but the most spectacular natural hybrid she has seen at high elevation is *T. punctulata* X *eizii*,

a plant featuring a lot of red coloration. It occurs in an area where fog is common, with breaks for sun.

This year, Pamela and Andy Siekkinen, whom we recall from his presentation in

August 2014, went on a collecting trip in which they were surprised to find 45 natural hybrids in just one week. What explains the upsurge in natural hybrids? Pamela believes it is due to logging. The Tillandsias' pollinators, hummingbirds, are distributing pollen over a broader range as they are forced to work harder to find sustenance.

Pamela also noted on that trip that *T. prodigiosa* is crossing a lot as elevations increase. She believes that birds are spreading the pollen into many *Tillandsia* species. Based upon her knowledge of how long it takes for pods to develop and

plants to flower, she surmises that the advent of this phenomenon happened 17 years ago. On the topic of artificial hybrids, Pamela first offered a few comments about several accomplished Tillandsia breeders. Mark Dimmitt has created very nice hybrids using *T. albertsiana*, and he also makes good crosses with *T. chiapensis*. She added that our own Steve Correale has always used *T. chiapensis* as a seed parent in his crosses. She also



mentioned John Arden, a hybridizer who has relied heavily on *T. capitata* in his crosses. She noted that one of his crosses stays in color for nearly a year!

Finally Pamela discussed some of her Tillandsia hybrids, including 'Coral Reef,' 'Coral Star,' and 'Mini Star.' She disclosed that she uses *T. neglecta* a lot in her crosses, as well as *T. mooreana* (which has multiple forms), *T. achyrostachys*, and *T. schusteri*. She pointed out that 'Chameleon' produces multiple colors, including black. But her favorite cross may be 'Queen's Delight' (*T. carlsoniae* X *chiapensis*), and one of her favorite little hybrids is 'Queen's Trinket.' Other crosses that she likes include *T. bulbosa* X *punctulata*, a beautiful red plant, and *T. compressa* (Dominican Republic) X *fasciculata* (Mexico).

Pamela's hybrid 'Samantha' (*T. mooreana* X *kalmbacheri*) has a special story attached to it. Another grower asked her for a seedling of this cross, and she gave him one, though she held on to the best-looking of the batch. Nevertheless, this 'lesser' creation won the Glass Tulip Award in 2013 in the houseplant category. The Glass Tulip is an award given annually in the Netherlands to the most successful market introductions.

On the subject of her use of technology, Pamela noted that she uses an app to give care instructions and photos in the form of a flappable card. The app allows her to correct mistakes more easily than if she were using printed cards.

Pamela concluded her very interesting presentation with a word of concern. Her years of experience help her recognize natural hybrids, but with the recent proliferation of natural hybrids, she is concerned that some newcomer won't know how to interpret what he/she is seeing.

TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP

At the back of this issue are membership forms for renewal and new members. Note, there is an allowance to pay for up to 5 years.

Annual Show is Coming Soon

Alan Herndon will be informing you of the Annual Show in next month's Advisory. Keep an eye out. There will be some changes.

Holiday Party Facts

Question: What day is it?

BromeliAdvisory: December 15, 2015.

Question: Do I need to bring food?

BromeliAdvisory: Good. Yes. Please. Call Sandy or Barbara Partagas who Numbers are respectively 305.301.0306 or 305.256.7669.

Question: Can guests come?

BromeliAdvisory: Yes – and only \$10.00.

Question: What is this Plant Exchange thing?

BromeliAdvisory: Get a plant, a good one. Wrap it so no one can see it. When you enter, they will give you a ticket. Those who bring plants can then go to the back room and (without peeking) take another plant which is wrapped.

Question: Sounds cool.

BromeliAdvisory: It is.

Question: Can we bring liquor?

BromeliAdvisory: Absolutely.

Question: How late do we go?

BromeliAdvisory: Usual hours.

Question: Do we need to bring anything else?

BromeliAdvisory: Preferably a 2015 Tesla in mint condition, wrapped in 100 dollar bills for your Advisory editor.

Question: Seriously, anything else?

BromeliAdvisory: There will be a 50/50 there with Carl Bauer.

Question: How many show?



BromeliAdvisory: Usually around 80 to 100 with appetites.

Question: Any surprises?

BromeliAdvisory: If I tell you, it isn't a surprise. But, it involves free plants, *cryptanthus*, gifts, Barbara Partagas, and you will have to come to see how to get one.

Merry Chanukah, Happy Christmas

How the Xmas Plant War Was Lost

by Robert Meyer

Well over one thousand years ago, impoverished parishioners of the local churches sought to deliver more than the usual giving when attending the December masses in honor of Jesus Christ.

For centuries, the winter months were too cold for northern climates to grow additional foods. But, in Mexico, where the warm airs circulate year round, farmers had the ability to harvest for the December assemblies. In addition to common corn and other staples, they chose to grow plants in deep red. The tone for the plant was to depict Jesus. Red, the color of sacrifice, mercy and life. How perfect a match was that color with Jesus, they all thought.

One year, a lively grower of poinsettia came to the church with radiant red plants. All oohed and awed when looking at the plants. The color's deep hue entranced even the sophisticated grower. This was a new plant, and its ability to deliver the magnificent color during the Christmas month made it the ideal plant for generations to come.



In 1806, another great grower experimented with plants – but only bromeliads. He was a tireless worker with *Tillandsia* and found that his experiments took languishing hours, and indeterminate decades to see the final results. The efforts effectively took a lifetime as the average man lived only to 32 years of age at that time in Mexico. The secrets of the horticultural work were passed from generation to generation, until a dramatic *Tillandsia brachycaulos* was grown profusely in the family's garden. When the great grower's great grandson entered the church in 1846, the plant's size and dramatic coloring caught all the parishioners' attention, and much to the disgust of the poinsettia growers of the region.

Communications ensued between the *Tillandsia* family and the church for great orders of the red flowering plant to be used throughout the parish's refined and gorgeous garden. When news of this bountiful agreement reached the town's gossips, the news quickly reached the poinsettia growers who

immediately called for a meeting to address the *Tillandsia* farm's encroachment up to their December market.

At the meeting, the great Poinsettia leader was Jose Cattleya, of great orchid family, who told all of the growers of how bromeliads are mere step children in the family of great epiphytic plants; and, continued to tell the listeners of the cheap and disgraceful position that *Tillandsia* had even in the lowly world of

bromeliads.

When asked about how they could stop the contract between the church and the *Tillandsia* family, Cattleya told them that there was nothing to worry about. And, that night, he returned to the cellar of his palatial home where the darkness and stale air made no one happy, with the lone exception of his tenant of 20 years: the devil himself. Cattleya, during a drought four score before, had to revive the fortune his family had held for centuries, and resorted to the last alternative, and gave El Diablo his soul in return for maintenance of the family's farm and fortune. When entering the cellar, he felt the Diablo's presence, although no person nor apparition showed him a sign of life. Soon thereafter a discussion ensued between man and the soulless. A deal was struck. For one more soul of the family, the problem would be handled. Arrangements were swiftly made.

The next morning, the *Tillandsia* family members saw that their entire crop was destroyed. It appeared as though all had been the victim of an Evil Weevil. Rotten to the core, the plants lost all merchantability. The farm was lost. And, the contracts and fortune were also lost because of the devilish damage.

From that day forward, the poinsettia became the only plant which blossomed in December. When new *Tillandsia brachycaulos* blossomed, it would rarely be in December. The marketability of the plant succumbed to what all thought was a curse of Mother Nature. The Cattleya family flourished and enjoyed some great horticultural feats. And, forever after the association of the Christmas holidays with bromeliads ended. *Tillandsia brachycaulos* would never again be known as the Christmas plant.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 11 - 12, 2016
Tropiflora Winter Sale
3530 Tallevast Road
Sarasota, Florida 34243.
www.tropiflora.com

December 12-13, 2015
Stelmar Sale
9:00 to 4:00
19350 SW 232 St, Miami,
FL 33170
305-672-4437



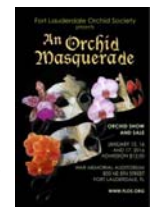
December 12-13, 2015
Ree Gardens Sale
9:00 to 5:00
7860 SW 124 St
Miami, FL
msnock@gmail.com



December 15,, 2015
Annual BSSF Holiday Party
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, Florida



January 15-17, 2016
Broward Orchid Festival
NE War Memorial Auditorium
800 NE 8 Street
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Parking is free.
<http://www.flos.org/wp/society-activities/an-orchid-masquerade-2016-fort-lauderdale-orchid-society-show/>



MARCH 11-13, 2016
FTBG ORCHID FESTIVAL
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, Florida
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/events-community-outreach>



APRIL 16-17, 2016
ANNUAL RARE PLANT AND SALE FOR BSSF
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, Florida



**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
BSSF, Inc.
2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

(PLEASE PRINT) NAME(S) _____

(Couples - please include BOTH first names)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

ADD'L. TEL. _____

Year Joined BSSF: _____

Referred by: _____

Include e-mail address in the roster? (Y/N) Yes No

E-mail BromeliAdvisory? (Y/N) Yes No (You will not receive a hard copy)

EMAIL _____

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR,
PLEASE **HIGHLIGHT** OR UNDERLINE

Please renew my(our) membership in the BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
for the period of March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017.

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, 2016, IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE
INCLUDED IN THE 2016 ROSTER**

Please mail completed form and check

(Payable to BSSF, Inc.) to:

Maureen Adelman
9421 SW 134 Street
Miami, FL 33176

Or E-Mail this form to:

mhadelman@comcast.net

You can pay up to 5 years at the rates
described above. All payments are
NONREFUNDABLE

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
BSSF, Inc.
2016 MEMBERSHIP for NEW MEMBERS

(PLEASE PRINT) NAME(S)

(Couples - please include BOTH first names)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

ADD'L. TEL. _____

Year Joined BSSF: _____

Referred by: _____

Include e-mail address in the roster? (Y/N) Yes No

E-mail BromeliAdvisory? (Y/N) Yes No (You will not receive a hard copy)

EMAIL _____

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR,
PLEASE **HIGHLIGHT** OR UNDERLINE

Please create my(our) membership in the BSSF, Inc. for the period of March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017.

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