

# BromeliAdvisory

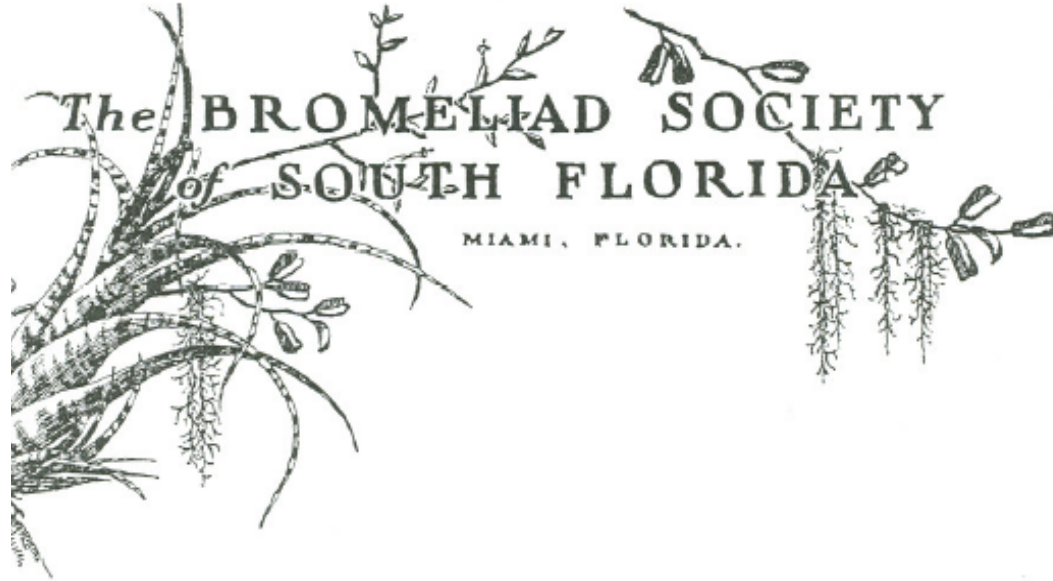
March 2016



Award Winning Entry by Barbara Partagas  
Photo by Robert Meyer

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# BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

**March 2016**

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

 [http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSF/?bookmark\\_t=group](http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSF/?bookmark_t=group)  
 <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida/84661684279>

## OFFICERS

Robert Meyer, President  
 Alex Bello, VP  
 Fred Sussenberger, Treasurer  
 Maureen Adelman, Secretary

## DIRECTORS

Past Pres.: Sandy Roth  
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Rhonda Herndon '15 - '16  
 Harlo Von Wald - '15 - '16  
 Leonard Goldstein '16 - '17  
 Barbara Sparling '16 - '17

**Editor: Robert C Meyer**

**Advertising:** ..... Robert Meyer  
**Door Prize:** ..... Alan Herndon  
**Education:** ..... Alan Herndon  
**Hospitality:** ..... Elaine Mills  
**Library:** ..... Barbara Partagas  
**Membership:** .....  
 Maureen Adelman and Melody Ray  
**Mem. Plant Sales:** .....  
 Antonio Arbelaez/Alex Bello  
**Raffle:** ..... Melissa Brail  
**Refreshments:** ..... Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Dennis Cathcart

**MEETING: March 15, 2016**

**SPEAKER: DENNIS CATHCART**

**RAFFLE TABLE: Mike Michalski**

**FOOD: Bobbe Dooley, Barbara Partagas, Maureen Adelman, Chris Pfeiffer, Melissa Brail, Sharon Maessen, Anna Harris**

## About the Speaker

**Source: Webpage of Tropiflora**

DENNIS CATHCART will be speaking about "New Explorations and Discoveries in Brazil, part 3 Santa Catarina." The attached map shows location of Santa Catarina in Brazil. Dennis is no stranger to the BSSF. Always the dreamer and adventurer, he started Tropiflora in the early '70s as an outgrowth of a bromeliad collecting hobby. A "hobby gone bad" he says. Following years of collecting reptiles and traveling the Caribbean and Latin America, he discovered bromeliads or they discovered him and the direction of his life was changed for evermore. Collecting and exploring were always his first interests in the plant world and over the years he and Linda have visited over 25 countries on more than 100 trips and expeditions. Together they have made travel, adventure, plant exploring, speaking, writing and the nursery business a way of life. He and Linda are now passing their passion for plants on to their children, to take Tropiflora into the second generation.



## TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP

The back of this BromeliAdvisory is a form for renewal of your membership. Please sign and deliver to Maureen Adelman at the meeting. The deadline is here, and anyone who has not paid will not be included in the book.

## President's Message

by Robert Meyer

Work while the weather allows it.

The energies of the people who have worked the Extravaganza and the upcoming Annual Spring Show are being tested. Thankfully, the weather is making the efforts less arduous.

It is at this time that the BSSF calls upon the new, the less involved, and the energetic to lend a hand and do a thing or two. Alan earlier said there were some voids in the leadership positions for the Show – Advertising, Photography, Placement, Plant Holding or Staging. All of these require only an allotted time for one day during the 3-day affair. And, all are indoors.

Call Alan or email him. And, you receive one wonderful benefit for this call to duty – a dinner with free everything (that even means the liquor) at Sandy's home with some really nice people.

Robert

## In Case You Missed It

Leonard Goldstein

With an eye toward the 35th BSSF Show and Sale on April 16-17, the February program was devoted to the subject of getting your plants ready for judging. Our home-grown experts gave lots of sage advice. Here are some of the highlights:

Karl Green spoke to the attendees on mounting Tillandsias. He mounts the plants on cedar shakes, of which he uses the top, thicker part. \$20 worth of shakes will yield about 100 mounts. To make the job easy, he recommends using a 10-12-inch miter saw to make the cuts. Karl staples an identification tag on the back of the wood. Staple guns cost about \$30, and, depending on size, the tags cost 4-5¢ apiece. He then attaches a hanger by drilling a hole in the center of the wood, about 3/8 in. down from the top. Galvanized 16- or 17-gauge wire hangers are inexpensive. To attach the plant to the wood, he drills two holes and then uses telephone wire to tie the plant on. Karl then applies liquid nails to tie the plant down. He uses only a #2 pencil to write plant names. Growers who are worried about fading should write the plant name on both sides of the tag. The plant can stay on the plaque for five years. Karl then offered a few more tips: *Tillandsias* that are caulescent



Karl Green

(possessed of stems) are hung upside down when mounted. Larger *Tillandsias*, such as *T. fasciculata*, may need a tie wrap to hold them against the plaque. After roots form in a couple of months, the tie can be cut off.

Alan Herndon then spoke about paperwork necessary for the sale. He urged early submission due to the tight time schedule the Society faces this year. Growers should provide the name of the plant or a description of the artistic entry. The name includes the genus, the species and, where appropriate, the cultivar name. Cultivar names should be enclosed in single quotation marks; such names are given primarily to hybrids. With some hybrids, there will be only cultivar names. A clonal name is placed in brackets.

Artistic arrangements present a special challenge. It's important to become familiar with the show schedule, because some categories require a title on a 3 X 5 in. index card. In that case, the title replaces the plant name. The schedule is not a how-to-grow guide, but instead describes what the judges want. One thing they definitely don't want is a dirty container. They do want a plant that's centered in its container. Entry information can be put on the fillable form, i.e., typed in. Adobe Reader must be used to fill out the form, but it can't be saved, so the form needs to be printed out and sent to Alan.

Next Mike Michalski demonstrated methods of improving plants for purposes of entry into the judging. The container can be made to look better by using cooking oil or Armor All. Marshall's sells vases. Mike demonstrated the importance of symmetry; sometimes it's necessary to repot a plant so as to move it closer to the center of the container. There is still time between now and the sale to place needy plants in more sunlight. Bad *Neoregelia* leaves can be best removed by splitting them lengthwise and pulling the halves to each side. To treat scale insects, use Orthonex.

A lopsided plant can be rehabilitated by cutting the stem so as to leave very few roots. Mike uses the remaining root system at the bottom of a new container, then fills the pot the rest of the way with good soil. He pushes the new soil down firmly in order to help keep the plant in the pot. Another alternative for lopsided bromeliads is to mount them. Alan Herndon advised growers that a dressing, such as pebbles, is not required. If used, it should not be flashy enough to detract from the



Mike Michalski

plant. Mike concluded his presentation by cautioning that pups left on a mother plant too long after competition will grow so unsymmetrically that they cannot be entered in the judging the next year.

## Members to the Rescue

by Robert Meyer

On February 20, 2016, brave souls went early in the morning to Lavinia Acton's home to help her clean her very impressive garden.

If you haven't been there, you are missing out.

The home is a one story classically designed ranch-style home with clever eaves for shadowing, and a great garage attachment with its own half bath where those cut by her aggressive *Aechmea* could clean wounds.

Edging the home, situated on the northwest corner of her 94,960 square foot lot (originally it was larger, but over the years, there have been sales) are Lavinia's well kept gardens, alternating in style with hints of far east to genuine Miami-Dade County. Bromeliads are a large focal attraction along with Lavinia's love for orchids.

Lavinia has known the neighborhood since she was a child. She grew up only a short walk away. She and her husband, George, bought the lot in 1969 and husband/architect planned the home which remains standing after the challenges of Hurricanes Andrew, Katrina and Wilma.

On tables near here home were plants which needed attention. So, MAUREEN ADELMAN, FRED SUSSEMBERGER, MARTHA SUSSEMBERGER and ROBERT MEYER made the trek to what-used-to-referred-to-as-western-hickstown Dade County. After about 4 or 5 hours of individual time, or a total exceeding 16 man hours, the tables were cleaned and repotted. This effort was instrumentally aided by Lavinia's barrels of soil, perlite, chips and other potting medium together with her abundant supply of plastic pots.

In the end, the group left with some souvenirs and a generous serving of fruit and pastries by the host. The experience was a great one for all.

## Show Coming up Fast

by Alan Herndon

Our 38<sup>th</sup> annual show is just around the corner. Setup will start at 4pm on Thursday, 14 April 2016. If you are able help setting up for either the Art Show or the Plant Show, please come early, ready to work.

Classification of Show Entries will also begin at 4pm on Thursday. If you will be helping with the setup, please bring your show entries. Show entries can only be accepted up to 8 pm on Thursday. There will be another brief period when show entries are accepted on Friday morning (8-10 am), but we will only be able to accept a limited number of entries on Friday due to the 1130 am deadline for finishing all data processing and setup in preparation for judging .

If you have never entered a plant or artistic piece in the show because you are intimidated by the thought of competition with more experienced growers, you can always enter as a Novice. Even if you have entered as a Novice before, you are allowed to continue as a Novice until you win an Award of Merit (AM) or a Blue ribbon in the ribbon judging. If your plant(s) has an AM ribbon, it will move to the major award judging. If judged the best entry in the Novice class, you win a nice piece of crystal.

I hope you will be able to fill out the right hand side of the entry sheet a few days before the show. It will help greatly if we can enter some of the data before setup starts. The information you should fill out is your name and address and the information needed to identify your entry. Identification should include the genus and species or cultivar name for entries that will be judged as plants. If you have a plant suitable for entry, but don't know the name, please bring it to the meeting next week, and ask whether anyone can identify it. Unfortunately, we can't identify everything, but we will have more time to try at the meeting than during show setup. Also, please remember that you will have to remove your own tags by the time the official entry card is attached to the entry.

Artistic entries are identified in different ways depending upon the section. Artistic Arrangements are identified by a title provided by the exhibitor. This title will go in the species, etc. column of the entry sheet and also on a 3x5" index card that will be placed with the entry on the display table. A list of the predominant bromeliad(s) in the Artistic Arrangements is put in the species, etc. column behind the title. Decorative containers are identified by the genus and species or cultivar of the featured plant along with a short description of the 'container' The Genus name goes in the genus column. The species/cultivar name and the container description go in the species etc. column. Entries in the Cut Inflorescence and Fruiting Bromeliad sections are identified by the genus and species/cultivar name of the exhibited plant or inflorescence.

Judging will start after the Judges Luncheon (1130-

1230). We need more volunteers to serve as Judges Clerks on Friday afternoon. Expect to be busy as a Clerk this year. With the limited number of hours between the start of judging and the start of the Judges and Volunteers Dinner/Party at Sandy's, everyone will be operating at a more rapid pace.

Most of the Committee Chairs have been identified. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the show, consider becoming a co-chair for a committee. In any case, expect the committee chairs to be actively recruiting more volunteers at the general meeting.



Show 2014

We will have 2 Auctions during the show weekend. The Auction at 1pm on Saturday will feature plants donated by the vendors. Plants for the Auction at 1 pm on Sunday are supplied by donations from club members. If you have an extra plant of a spectacular hybrid or species that needs a good home, please consider donating it to the Sunday Auction.

Also, if you have some plants you would like to sell at the Membership Sales Table, please see Alex Bello. You will need to get a vendor number and double tag your plants with the vendor number so the club knows whose plants are sold. If you have an

accumulation of plants that need to be moved out, but don't care to deal with selling them, you can always donate them to the club for sale at the table.

At the end of the show on Sunday afternoon, everyone is tired and wants to get home as quickly as possible. We still need volunteers to help with the breakdown and clean-up of the outside vendor area and the show room. This includes helping exhibitors move their plants to their vehicles, getting the tablecloths and other show materials off the tables and packed up, making sure all trash is in appropriate receptacles.

- Advertising ..... ???
- Art ..... Sharon Biddex-Maessen
- Auction ..... Peter Kouchalakos
- Award Sponsors .....

***Alan Herndon then spoke about paperwork necessary for the sale. He urged early submission due to the tight time schedule the Society faces this year.***

- Barbara Sparling & Robert Meyer
- Awards ..... Barbara Sparling  
Skye Palmer
- Catering ..... Sandy Roth
- Classification ..... Karl Green
- Lynne Fieber, Alan Herndon, Moyna Prince
- Commercial Sales ..... Peter Kouchalakos
- Data Entry ..... Maria Almodovar  
Ofelia Sorzano
- Hospitality ..... Maureen Adelman
- Information Table ..... Barbara Partagas
- Judges ..... Dean Fairchild
- Judges clerks ..... Jeri Parrish
- Photography ..... ???
- Placement ..... ???
- Plant Holding ..... Antonio Arbelaez
- Publicity ..... Robert Meyer
- Member Sales Table ..... Alex Bello
- Show Booklet ..... Ofelia Sorzano
- Show Schedule ..... Dean Fairchild
- Staging ..... Sharon Biddex-Maessen (Art)  
??? (Plants)

If any member knows of a group (up to 6) of young teens who would enjoy helping customers carry purchases to their cars for tips, please let us know. The teens should be accompanied by an adult whose role is to keep the young peoples attention from wandering too far astray .

There will be a FINAL SHOW MEETING **Thursday, April 7** at CARL BAUER'S HOUSE. If you are interested in becoming more deeply involved with the show, you are welcome to come to that meeting. Please notify Carl if you are planning to come.

Our annual show requires a huge amount of work, but it also gives us our best chance during the year to win over members of the public who have not yet fully committed to bromeliads. Please join us.

### **MURDER IN CORBIN A**

© by Robert Meyer  
PREVIOUS CHAPTERS MAY BE SEEN IN  
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

### **131.**

After Susan explained the basics of the Extravaganza, Boss had to ask specific questions.

“How many people go to these things?” he asked.

“About three or four hundred, but only 120-150 will attend the dinner.” Susan responded.

“How many people are actively involved?” Boss

asked.

“Really, only a core of about 20 people handle it and that group is more about 10 handling the major issues.” Susan replied.

“Why would the culprit go this thing?” Boss asked, knowing this was the real question to which a response was needed.

“Because I am setting the bait.” Susan said.

“What does that exactly mean?” Boss asked, knowing he had no idea of how to bait the murder.

“I am going to make the murderer know that Joshua is the party with the information and to work with him. Joshua looks harmless enough, and they will approach him. When they do – bam.” Susan said with a slight grin on her face.

“Bam.” Boss said. “I think we need to describe to you that bam is not part of this discussion. Joshua is an employee of the county. He is not a member of the force. He is not trained for such things. We do not jeopardize Joshua nor anyone like Joshua on a mission like this. Marlene, who is on the force, could be used as bait, but under our terms. Do you understand?” Boss very sternly said.

“Yes.” Susan said. Then she rose from her seat and began to walk away. As this was done Boss strongly asked, “What are you doing?”

“Leaving, as this has to be done my way.”

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“Yes.” Susan said. Then she rose from her seat and began to walk away. As this was done Boss strongly asked, “What are you doing?”

“Leaving, as this has to be done my way.”

Without hesitation and before Susan took one more stride toward her exit, Boss moved his little legs in frenetic fashion and curtailed Susan's attempted departure with his unforeseen expediency. Stopped in her tracks, Susan somewhat authoritatively and somewhat meekly uttered, “will you get out of my way . . . please.”

Boss did not deliver any verbal response. Instead, holding his ground, and looking up to Susan, his grimacing visage stared deeply at her with a cold glare which penetrated through Susan's psyche. The stare, seeming to have lasted for seconds or minutes, actually lasted less than three seconds. But, the three seconds were enough for Boss to communicate to Susan that her future was under his control and the concept of a sting was his alone.

The seemingly concrete-set silence ended when Captain walked to their table and in bold tone said, “Have we worked out our details for the Extravaganza sting?”

The receipt of his voice comforted Susan who remained in angst and feeling uncomfortably under siege with Boss's stare. Simultaneously, Boss felt remarkably confident after his superior referred to the Extravaganza sting as “our” sting – thereby supporting his message to Susan of Miami-Dade's exclusive control over the operation to which she had only moments earlier asserted would be her own.

“We are working out the details at this very moment.” Boss responded.

“Yes.” Susan affirmed. “We need to go over the details and logistics for the dinner. Details, details and more details.”

“Good.” Captain said and looked to Boss while Susan was not watching and winked before he exited the room.

“So what details do we start with?” Susan asked.

9First, no Joshua. Second, we name your date. Third, how many others would we bring? And fourth, who do you think we should focus on. And, lastly, are you familiar with using a wire.” and Boss concluded with another stare at Susan, but this time far less icily and the glare ended with an impish grin.

And, with the details being worked out, cafe cubanos were drunk, ham croquetas were nibbled, cuban toasts were munched, and important words were exchanged until the idea ripened to be a well planned operation which Boss assured himself and anyone else would be under the control of Miami-Dade.

Before they left, Marlene approached Susan and held out her hand and said, “Hi, I am Marlene. I will be your date for the Extravaganza.”

“Why am I not surprised.” Susan muttered. And, this time she left Versailles understanding that this year's Extravaganza would probably be her last and her least liked.

### World Conference

Who Sponsors: BSI and Bromeliad Society of Houston, Inc.

Where: The Westin Galleria Houston  
Room:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1508179660&key=30585FE2>

\$139/night

When: June 10-22, 2016 for rooms  
Conference is June 13-19, 2016



#### If You Got'em, Donate'em Crystal or Give Donations for Awards

Anyone who has previously well deserved and won crystal from the Bromeliad Show is urged to recycle and give the same to Barbara Sparling who handles the awards for the show.

Anyone wanting to donate for awards needs to merely give Barbara an email or call.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**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>



**MARCH 12-13, 2016**

**9:30 - 4:30**

Montgomery Botanical Center  
\$5 admission fee to MBC  
parking is available at the Gulliver School,

12595 SW 57th Ave. (Red Rd.)

<http://www.palmtalk.org/forum/index.php?/topic/48854-2016-south-florida-palm-society-show-sale/>



**MARCH 21, 2016**

**9:00 - 4:00**

The Dade Chapter FNPS 21st  
NATIVE PLANT DAY

Bill Sadowski Park at Old Cutler Hammock  
SW 79 Avenue, Palmetto Bay, 33157

(1/2 mile west of Old Cutler Road on SW 176 St)



**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



**June 13-19 2016**

### Bromeliad Society International

World Bromeliad Conference  
Houston, Texas USA

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

#### Registration:

[http://www.bsi.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Registration\\_Form.pdf](http://www.bsi.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Registration_Form.pdf)

Online Registration:  
[http://www.bsi.org/bsi\\_info/wbc/](http://www.bsi.org/bsi_info/wbc/)



Westin Galleria Houston  
5060 West Alabama Street  
Houston, TX 77056

### Note to the Membership:

Alan Herndon spoke about paperwork necessary for the show. He urged early submission due to the tight time schedule the Society faces this year.

**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



