

BromeliAdvisory

July 2016



People's Choice Award Winner – Photo by Desiree Meyer

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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

July 2016

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



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



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

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What	Who
Sales Table	Terrie Bert

MEETING: July 19, 2016
SPEAKER: Dr. Terrie Bert
RAFFLE TABLE: Robert Meyer
FOOD: Usual Suspects

About the Speaker

"Growing Uncommon Bromeliad Genera"

Only eight of the 55 bromeliad genera are commonly cultivated by bromeliad hobbyists throughout the world. A few of the other 47 genera can't be cultivated; but most can, at least in some environments. Some are relatively easy to grow; but not widely cultivated for various reasons. In this presentation, we'll take a look at those 47 genera. We'll characterize the environments they grow in naturally, learn about the cultivation conditions they need, and find the reasons they aren't widely cultivated. Along the way, we'll look at beautiful examples of each genus. You may come away with a deeper enthusiasm about trying to grow some species of these uncommon genera.

Dr. Terrie Bert is a longstanding member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society (SBS) and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and has held multiple offices in the SBS. She also served the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) as a representative and officer for eight years and has authored articles for the FCBS Newsletter. For the Bromeliad Society International, she has been a Florida Director, chaired several international committees, and contributed articles to the BSI Journal. Currently, she is Librarian, Curator of the Wally Berg Award of Excellence, and a Master Judge. Terrie has given over 150 presentations on bromeliads to numerous U.S. and international bromeliad societies and other groups and at international bromeliad conferences. She cultivates more than 2,000 different bromeliads in 30 genera. She's won multiple top awards in local bromeliad shows and BSI world conferences. Terrie has a Ph.D. in marine biology and is a research scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

President's Message by Robert Meyer

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ZIKA CONTINUES TO COME

Let's face it, Zika will become one of the most problematic issues of the bromeliad industry for Southern Florida, if not the greatest ever problem, for years to come.

As someone who has practiced bankruptcy law over three decades, I could easily tell bromeliad dealers what I told typewriter repairmen in the 1980's, vacuum repairmen in the 1990's, television repairmen of the 2000's, and computer screen repairmen of the 2010's – quit your day job and find another working endeavor.

Zika presently is an ugly word. But, soon it will be uglier. Already it can be uttered contemporaneously with chikungunya and dengue. And, did you know that the same culprits, mosquitoes, transmit a flavivirus called yellow fever? And, that like other flavivirus infections, no cure is known for yellow fever. Vaccines – yes. Cure – no. Think about that.

So, although Zika may not be identical to ghastly yellow fever, or even dengue, its symptoms and causes are similar enough to allow anyone to analogize one with the other. And, as time passes, and more baby heads emerge, the disdain will only increase.

And, from such alarm there will be a war, commencing with a battle.

Growers or owners of bromeliads may discover yourself fighting larger than life opponents. Literally, city hall has started an anti-bromeliad campaign. Miami-Dade has three pamphlets about this as they warn, “Did you know those attractive bromeliads in your garden could be breeding mosquitoes? Learn more about how you can keep these pesky pests out of your bromeliads.” See <http://www.miamidade.gov/solidwaste/>

Palmetto Bay's official web site says, “Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, known by the white-striped pattern on its legs have been linked to tropical

diseases including dengue, chikungunya and Zika. These mosquitoes like to breed in containers filled with stagnant water and plants that hold water, such as bromeliads..”

Some private sector publications have responded more favorably toward bromeliads' defense. Our own Leonard Goldstein wrote for Richard Lyons' Nursery, “When it comes to bromeliads in particular, it should be of some comfort to know that they are not the favorite habitat for Aedes aegypti. A University of Florida publication (<http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/frank/bromeliadbiota/mosbrom4.htm>) advises that the species prefers lower lighting than what occurs in bromeliad tanks.

Moreover, the two mosquito species most prominently found in bromeliads, belonging to the genus Wyeomyia, are not known to spread disease in humans. A companion UF article (<http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/frank/bromeliadbiota/mosbrom5.htm>) states that Bacillus sphaericus has some advantages over Bti..”

But, independent nurseries writing analyses which contradict or fight governmental agencies' policies have a *Don Quixote* or David vs.

Goliath character. They may be heard. May.

And, the dwindling effect of such battles may occur as quickly as the spread of the disease. Warp speed. The virus has shown an ability to spread quickly. Before 2015 it was found only in Africa - where it acquired its name from Uganda's Zika forest - southeast Asia and some islands in the Pacific. Now it has spread through South America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean.

When innocents, like newborn children, are affected, neighbors will certainly feel encouraged to direct their attentions toward the cause – presently mosquitoes and still waters. And, still waters are often associated with bromeliads.



Fighting for your loved bromeliads will succumb to public health. Our attentions are better spent if focused upon the vaccine. Inovio President and CEO Dr. Joseph Kim. Inovio, of Plymouth Meeting, Pa., and GeneOne Life Science, of Seoul, South Korea, will make the vaccine and FDA approval of the same arose on June 20, 2016.

Mice and monkey experiments have shown that the vaccine triggers a robust antibody response. Inovio's Zika product, GLS-5700, is a so-called DNA vaccine. DNA coded vaccines produce a protein that surrounds the Zika virus after being injected into the skin. The injection's site is subsequently zapped with an electronic device that delivers a pulse that stimulates or aids the DNA to bore into cells — a process called electroporation.



Another vaccine is in the works. In September, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases will create its own vaccine trials.

Anyone, who has been around FDA approval and testing, knows these actions are extraordinarily rapid in the world of governmental red tape and bureaucracy for health. The quickly expedited FDA testing of a Zika vaccine reflects the urgency surrounding efforts to develop a vaccine.

Others in other continents are moving at equal pace. But no vaccine will be worthy until *after* 2017. And, because of that harsh fact, growers and owners may have problems with their beloved bromeliads for the ensuing few years.

Robert

In Case You Missed It

Robert Meyer

Robert Meyer had a “picture show” of Desiree Meyer’s photographs of the Spring Show. Missed it? Easy to look at. Go onto facebook, and hit https://www.facebook.com/84661684279/photos/m.s.c.eJxllkuOOzEIBG80MmAM3P9iIzPnVL1MiW~_DebFjec~_ceddivM~_f~_ZArxC~_IN218SMJIBjLOITh5YJPO7OmsMEO8HnMtoVcxzpNOn7GLtS GJplcMyWWFW6ASRs5HmzYhnOBxqlDm5K~_yh6JF4noXEFVSYZYKz QJt6WKfVVJzUU1aqSL4Ub1oU3bEcIK14gNZ9pBxToku2xCJ3esHxXrDLGhZv24dS2KdVHnbokz4jXsaw53fg71GeMEx5hrgrPVSJeTyKLG18~;EOI9mvszwysx3J86B9nr8EosKSFDwpu5j9JIMunFC1CHatQpqaeckStJ5JrJNewL~_OUI4QQ7E~_ZC~_EmLKEaxu9FWYqXKGbcjTLe~_bl~_9GoqZiO5eG2WMLIfquqHqjpvS7IzWzw4Uxf~;ErkK5HvkDy pkG9nD7~;Y8CuzRHKJPi4b5fK~_gvd5CS5bhby44Fe4VjDaiYRYnM5wRB99szTpqQLUSOG7yKG Nte4vdcYeQltUojchPuY~;coFuMVXeXkz9~_WQ5GGcfZTIlc4KU173fuJIZHtTjflHso~;vZJ~;ekukH pIXNpXP4ZV4poQaPmPNTzp9wS72txDW~;ESNI5z7~_5~;7BxbSZG4~.bps.a.10154090964069280.1073741884.84661684279/10154090964139280/?type=3&theater



BromeliAdvisory: I did not personally go to the conference. What did you think of it?
Eddie: Mighty fine show they put on. And, some of the persons were as crazy as those who see Scotland’s fictional Nellie.

Another Interview With Eddie

by Robert Meyer

Once again I met with chief horticultural leader of the Irish state, Eddie O’Flaherty, who was enthusiastic and surprisingly sober for our short chat.

BromeliAdvisory: Were you able to attend the World Conference last month in Houston, Texas?

Eddie: Aye, tis true I showed. But, that heat. It might as well have been a multinational conference about global warming. A very serious sun power there, indeed..

BromeliAdvisory: I did not personally go to the conference. What did you think of it?

Eddie: Mighty fine show they put on. And, some of the persons were as crazy as those who see Scotland’s fictional Nellie.

BromeliAdvisory: Wow, crazy people at the World Conference, do you care to extrapolate?

Eddie: Not really. What does one do to extrapolate. Sounds bit perverse, if you ask my mind about it. Just who d’ya think you are addressing here?

BromeliAdvisory: Okay. Can you tell us about what you mean by crazy people at the World Conference?

Eddie: Class a, top shelf people they were. But, loony as they come. There was this guy from Miami, ya probably know him. Name is Joshua. Works for the Miami police, he says. Science guy, ya know. Kept talking about hybrids, chimera and the like.

BromeliAdvisory: What makes hybrids and chimera the source of crazy?

Eddie: Please, try not to interrupt me. You do that a lot you do. I think three times in three interviews. Jesus, Mary and Joseph son, didn't your parents teach you any manners at all?

BromeliAdvisory: Wow.

Eddie: Pipe down son while Eddie is not yet finished. This Joshua guy told me about this girl named Susan. She is apparently the apple in his eye – if you know my meaning. And, I saw her. Not bad for the eyes.

BromeliAdvisory: *Laughter*

Eddie: What are you laughing at lad? When does beauty of a woman become the source of condescending laughter?

BromeliAdvisory: Well, I apologize if you interpret or misinterpret the laughter as condescending.

Eddie: Let me finish, will you? She anyway, according to him, has hybridized a bromeliad with an orchid. Genius, he tells me. Insanity, I tell you.

BromeliAdvisory: I beginning to get lost here.

Eddie: Oh yes, very much so. Listen, I ell you. This guy thinks that the hybridizing is like a chimera science. You know, where embryos re

part human, part animal. This is done, in the medical world, for purpose. Scientists use chimera embryos to create better animal models to study how human diseases happen and how they progress.

BromeliAdvisory: Can we get back to the topic of bromeliads?

Eddie: Good guy lad, get the wax out of your ears. There is a crazy among you, and you won't let this old man finish with his story.



BromeliAdvisory: Okay. Finish the story.

Eddie: I shall lad, I shall. Some look upon chimera as unsettling. You're getting into unsettling ground that I think is damaging to our sense of humanity. And, to Joshua, the hybridization of orchids with bromeliads was unsettling. But, for very different reasons.

BromeliAdvisory: Continue.

Eddie: Ah, yes. Chimera experiments are so sensitive that the National Institutes of Health has imposed a moratorium on funding them while officials explore the ethical

issues they raise. But, it is more observing than creating. Usually, chimeric embryos are dissected to see what the human stem cells are doing inside

BromeliAdvisory: And, this applies to bromeliads, because. . . ?

Eddie: That tis the question. And, little Joshua could not give me an answer. Just kept bumbling about mixing the two different plants to make money. Gobs and gobs of money.

BromeliAdvisory: And, that is the story?

Eddie: Great son, great son. You missed the boat. It went to sea days ago. Get on track, lad. If a male chimeric pig mated with a

female chimeric pig, the result could be a human fetus developing in the uterus of that female chimera. Another possibility is the animals could give birth to some kind of part-human, part-pig creature. Get my drift?

BromeliAdvisory: Not really.

Eddie: These loonies talk about mixing bromeliads with orchids like scientists cross humans with swine. And, maybe, one day, the queen of flora called "ORCHID" will be derived from the blue collared seed of an *Aechmea* – the wine of tropical epiphytes. See where I am going?

BromeliAdvisory: Not yet.

Eddie: Good God, man. The scientists excuse their actions with statements like I don't consider that we're playing God or even close to that." "We're just trying to use the technologies that we have developed to improve peoples' lives." And, that tis a good service to and for a good cause. But, this plant thing, tis all and only about the money. Get my drift?

BromeliAdvisory: I think I am. So what do we do about this?

Eddie: Restrictions, lad. The scientist is already being confronted by ethicists. For example, scientists only let the chimera embryos develop for 28 days. At that point, they remove the embryos and dissect them. But, these orchid/bromeliad crossovers are not being limited. They shall perversely accumulate and potentially ruin the true breed from each arose. See where I am going?

BromeliAdvisory: Yes. I think I do.

Eddie: Ay. Me apologies for that rant. Was a bit. . . nah. Maybe, nah . . . And, I am not even a little drunk. But this is a social issue which will confront us more than we know..

BromeliAdvisory: So, you are saying they are crazy by not limiting the chimera. You are not saying that they are crazy about the possibility of creating the chimera. Correct?

Eddie: Oh, son, there may hope yet in our future. You are grasping at last. You can see the light now that the sun has burned your nose.

BromeliAdvisory: Well, other than that extremely depressing topic, did you learn anything from other persons or speakers.

Eddie: Aye. That Zika is coming your way, I see. Oh, that could be a plague to the outdoor living for you.

BromeliAdvisory: Well, we appear to be out of time. Hope all goes well with your ventures.

Eddie: But, lad. How about we share a pint at the pub?

At this point the interview ended.

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

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

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Outside, Gort felt more unappreciated than anywhere else. No one, inside or outside, even spoke to him. Gort kept daydreaming about his scientific achievements with gleeful daze, until a large Irish gentleman walked up to him and asked, "Heh there bloke. Do ya know anything about the back room sale of the plants? Love to see what the mighty Irish pound could afford these days, if you get me drift."

Gort did not know what to take of this conversation. He was unaware of any great backroom plants sales area. He was not swooned by the accent. And, the obtrusive character of the gentleman, added to his questionable look which was mainly attributable to his decision to wear tweed in the ghastly temperature, disgusted Gort. Before he could spout an answer, Gort bolted for a door leaving the Irish gentleman in his wake; and, the Irishman reaffirmed his disdain toward the American lack of simple civility.

Seeing this event, Susan extracted herself from her bowlcut acquaintance and the fleet of police watching their every move and strode toward the gentleman and asked, "Can I help you?"

"Yes you may." the Irishman retorted. "I come from the Emerald Isle. Name is Eddie. Eddie O'Flaherty. Been told this will be the show of shows. Am I so far correct?"

“Well,” Susan answered with a toss of her hair, askance head and flirtatious eyes aimed directly at here male socialite”you may be right, but that is a matter of interpretation. What makes you excited? What is a show of shows?”

“Plants. Sales. Lectures. Plants. More sales. And, if ya get what I am talking about. A little bartering in the rooms with the rarest plants. Ya know what I am talking about,eh?”

Overhearing this conversation, Marlene contacted Boss who contacted Captain who alerted the squad which made 20 pairs of eyes suddenly stare toward the Irish visitor as though he was more than a foreigner. The fixated eyes creepily caught the inner sense of the Irish guest, who suddenly thought of himself as being as awkward as a leper at the beach.

“Heh ma’am. Is it me, or are there 20 gents around here looking at me talking ta ya?” Eddie asked, already knowing the answer.

“They are looking at you,” Susan confirmed “but only because you are speaking to me. Good looking women are often the focus of many pairs of eyes. Welcome to my world, Mr. Flaherty is it?”

“O’Flaherty.” He corrected her in calm tone. “But, just call me Eddie.”

“Hi Eddie.” Susan said with an impish and nontrivial grin. “I like the sound of it.” Before she could forge another word, Joshua came in and interrupted.

“Have you ever seen science converge with nature to make chimera?” Joshua asked.

“Can’t say that I have.” Eddie answered.

“How about hybrids made of two different organisms?” Joshua immediately asked, not giving Susan a chance to interrupt his conversation.

“Can’t say that I have.” Eddie answered.

“How about a bromeliad crossed with another plant, not just another genus?” Joshua implored.

“Can’t say that I have.” Eddie answered. “But, son, I may not be a scientist, but ya sure are saying things which I believe cannot happen.”

“Oh, they can happen. And, if you follow me, I’ll could show you what I mean.”

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Susan knew that certain things in her life depended upon what transpired at this event. Joshua was intruding upon her ability to rectify the problem. Susan knew that the conversation, as short as it was, must and would be terminated. Immediately.

“Well, Eddie. Do you wish to speak and socialize with an apparent nut, or do you wish to come with me and see this marvelous show which in contract is as blissful as a fresh scent of reality?” Susan asked, followed with her flirtatious eyes and body movements.

Being middle aged was something which Eddie was now accustomed to. At first, the reality bit him like a cold winter’s wind. Snap, the reality made him cringe and shudder. But, the reality was not escapable. Anytime he walked near a mirror, the truth could not be untold. His face. His battle with the bulge. The slouch. The grey hair. All reminders of what he was. Eddie was too pragmatic to let himself escape the reality of who he was and in what period of life he was in. He knew that he was a hunk of man, stealthily sexy because of the gray hair and other aging attributes. He knew that he was what young women like Susan ran after. And, his having a few Irish pounds in his pocket would not distract her attention toward his mature masculinity. And so, he responded, “Come on lass, leave this wild one aside. I think he may be smitten fer ya, if you know what I mean.”

“I know what you mean.” Joshua uttered. “You mean that your decrepit old self will lose an opportunity of a lifetime in order to suck air around a youthful beauty who is younger than your own children. Your living in a time warp, gramps. On your borrowed time. Your desperate middle aged memories will soon fade into bitter questioning about all the things you failed to do – including what I offered you.” And, then Joshua began to walk away.

“You know” Susan’s bowlcut coiffured companion interrupted “I would like to see what that mad young man has to offer. He

may be loony as a jaybird, but – then again – he may offer something which I am not familiar with.” After which the others stared at each other.

“Hey, you. Boy with the cross pollinated plants, or whatever. Take me to where you were going to take the old Irish guy.”

“Say, what’s your name?” Joshua asked.

“Emily” she answered and followed with a great smile. Her small frame and great smile compensated for the haircut she received from a soup bowl and dull scissors.

“Well, Emily, do you know anything about the term chimera? Or about the Greek concept of mixing animals with men? Or that this is actually being done today. That scientists do this with the aid of federal grants? Do you know that similar things can more easily be done with plants? Especially simple plants. Like epiphytic bromeliads and orchids. Do you know that there are presently new plants coming to this show which will make heads pop off, as like the mammal chimera, these plants will hit new bounds and make previous great hybrids mere amateurs? Do you know what I am talking about?” Joshua finished, gasping as this statement was made in one long sentence, with no stops of breaths.

“Well,” Emily began “I do not think I really as bright as you are. I am certainly no scientist. But, I am a quick learner. And, I would love to see what you have.”

“So would I.” Eddie interrupted.

“But, then you would miss my company.” Susan replied in interruption.

“Aye. Tis true. Well good luck to you two” Eddie dismissively said while jiving away from Joshua. “And little miss with the haircut, return to me and tell me about the chimera, okay by ya?” Eddie said finished with a wink implying sarcasm which Emily did not know how to interpret.

Upon that statement’s conclusion Emily and Jihua eft the compound without restraint and unknowingly being followed by a flock of Miami-Dade’s best, all attired in Tommy Bahama shirts and khaki pants or shorts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 20, 2016

Dennis Cathcart Lecture
Equality Park Garden Club
Pride Center at Equality Park, 2040 N. Dixie Hwy,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305.
Website: www.pridecenterflorida.org/

July 29-31, 2016

Caladium Festival
Stuart Park
Lake Placid, Florida



<http://www.lpfla.com/caladium.htm>

August 20th - 21st

**Seminole Bromeliad and
Tropical Plant Society Sale**
The Garden Club of Sanford
(on 17-92, one block south of
Lake Mary Blvd)
9:00 - 4:00



November 11-13

FTBG Ramble
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/events-community-outreach/fall-garden-festival>

November 19-20, 2016

Key West Garden Club Show
West Martello Tower by Higgs Beach
www.keywestgardenclub.com/index.html

December 3-4, 2016

Orchid Festival
Bonnet House
900 N. Birch Rd
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
33304



<http://www.bonnethouse.org/news/orchid-festival/>