



April 2023

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



Facebook- Public
Bromeliad Society of South Florida

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



Facebook - Members
Bromeliad Society of South Florida

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



FCBS Newsletter

<https://www.fcbs.org/newsletters/FCBS/2023/02-2023.pdf>

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Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello
Refreshments: Sandy Roth
Field Trips: Heidi Davenport
Community Service: Carl Bauer
Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo

April 18, 2023 MEETING 7:30 PM

Corbin A

**SPEAKER: Prepping Your Plants for the Show
Barbara Partagas and Others
Food Donations Needed- Win the Prize
Member Plant Sales & Unlimited Silent Auction**

WHAT TO DO FOR THE SHOW
Clean, trim and repot your plants if necessary. Double tag the plants you sell for Member Plant Sales. Volunteer for the committee of your choice. Donate some food for volunteers to eat at the show. Bring the plants you want to enter to Fairchild on Thursday, April 27 between noon and 8 pm. Volunteer for plant holding on Saturday or Sunday (you tag and watch plants for people who want to visit the show in the Garden House). Volunteer to place the winning plants on the head table and choose crystal for each winner. Come to Fairchild on Sunday, April 30 at 4 pm to help clean up. Visit the show and buy plants from our vendors.

President's Message

We are all looking forward to our Show and Sale on April 27-30 at Fairchild. We need everyone's assistance to make this a success for our club! We are welcoming our judges for the first time since 2019 so let's make our Society and the whole community proud. We will have great fun socializing at our event. This is a time to be together and enjoy the shared love of our bromeliads and the beauty of Fairchild Garden.

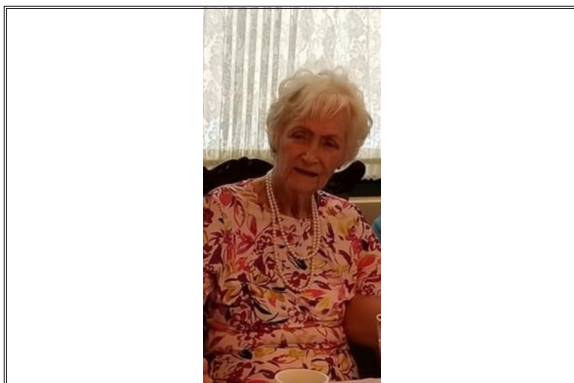
I hope to see all of you at our next meeting. We will be discussing prepping our plants, categories, committees and what is still needed from our volunteers. Please remember to bring any plants you would like to put in our silent auction or donate to our raffle table. It was a huge success last month. Or you may also want to save some plants for our member sales table or auction at the Show.

Tina Severson

IN MEMORIUM

JOY PARRISH

LIFE member Joy Parrish passed away on March 18. Joy was a member of BSSF for the past 41 years. She served as secretary in her earlier years with us. She was a constant presence at our shows, manning the information table and working on awards and plant placement with Barbara Sparling, her good friend. Joy won many of those awards herself and passed on her skills to her daughter-in-law, Geri Parrish. She was also known to make cakes for various members' birthdays. She is survived by her three sons, their wives and children. Our condolences to the Parrish family.



GARAGE SALE

June 10 is the date for our garage sale to replenish our depleted funds following the show. It will be at the home of Maureen Adelman. We hope to repeat the success of our last sale. Please begin to save those things you were getting ready to give to a charity or dispose of. People will buy just about anything at a garage sale:

clothing, furniture, rugs, household items, pots, games, baby items, jewelry, books, collectibles, craft supplies, art, frames, bedding, pet items, tile, books and of course plants. We will take anything you don't want or need. **START SAVING!**

DR. BROM is renovating and travelling & will return in June

A MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

As many of you have probably noticed, prices are going up at our Bromeliad Society's meetings. The price for raffle table tickets is now 3 for \$5 with a \$5 minimum. The percentage for silent auction and member plant sales is now 50/50 instead of 80/20. We are asking members to contribute more food. We are asking our speakers to donate 2 plants to our silent auction. We feel an explanation to our members is in order.

Starting in March 2020 with the advent of Covid-19 our income plummeted. We had no in-person meetings for almost 2 years. No income from raffle tables, plant sales, silent auction or our annual show sales. And yet we still had expenses. We had speakers at our zoom meetings to pay. We had annual licences and taxes to pay. We had our storage unit rent. And in 2021 we did not charge our members dues as we had so little to offer due to Covid restrictions. Though our membership went down, still we managed to hold our society together using reserves. As a result our bank balance slowly shrank to numbers never seen before.

Now that things are getting back to normal our expenses are increasing due to inflation. We have raised the fee we pay our speakers to be more in line with what other societies are paying. We must again pay Fairchild for room rental. Our food expenses have been running in the \$125 per month range. And now we are preparing for our first judged show in 4 years which requires a large outlay of funds for room rental, advertising, food and entertaining, ribbons and crystal for our winners.

So we have had to come up with some strategies to make our meetings pay for themselves so that we can continue our mission, stated in our bylaws, to increase knowledge of bromeliads for our members and the public and to encourage research in all aspects of bromeliad culture. Thus the increase in raffle ticket prices and in percentages we pay for silent auction and member plant sales.

With the financial changes we have made we are well on our way to financial stability. I am happy to report that, with the changes we have made, our March meeting paid for itself for the first time in years.

We appreciate your understanding of the changes we have made and the reasons for them. We hope to continue having fun, socializing and learning about bromeliads for many years to come. Respectfully, Tina Severson and your Board

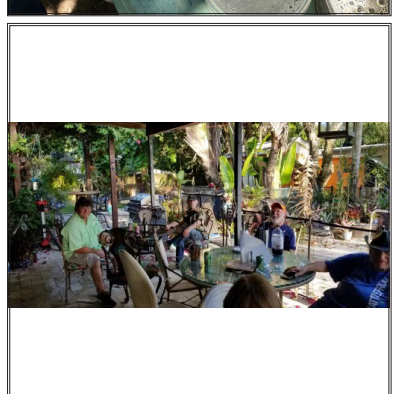
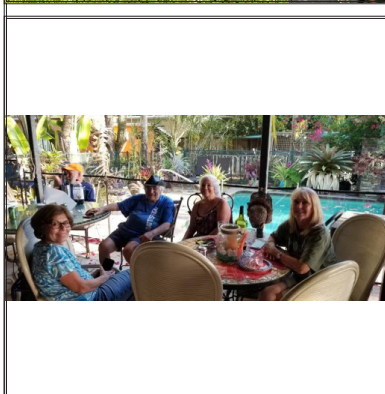
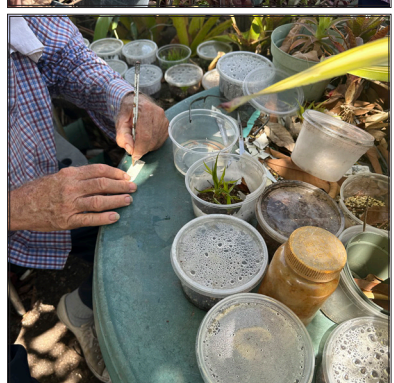
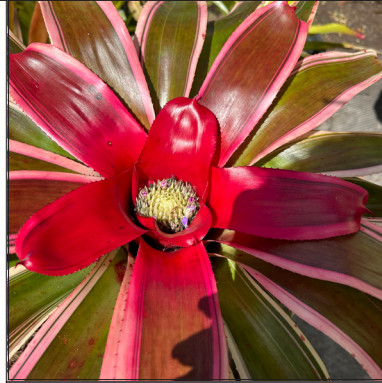
HYBRIDIZING FIELD TRIP A REAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Our latest field trip was super informative for anyone who has wanted to unlock the mysteries of hybridizing. There really is no mystery to it as we learned from Mike Michalski. You will need a pair of long tweezers (we sell these). Use the tweezers to pull out the pollen from the pollen parent plant, in this case Neo. olens. Use the tweezers to place the pollen into the open flower of the flower parent plant, a beautiful Neo. supernova. Then wait. It will take about 3 months for the pollinated seed to germinate. After three months the pollinated flower should be fat. That is when you squeeze out the pollinated seeds (there will be many) into a container of water. Let them soak in the water for two days and then place the seeds all over the top of a container of perlite and peat moss and cover. Mike uses plastic containers from the deli. Mike repeated this process until all our members had hybridized a plant. He made labels: the parent plant is written on top (Neo. supernova) and the pollen parent (Neo.olens) is written on the bottom. In about three months when the pollinated seeds are ready, we can pick them up and continue the process at home until we have plants to bring to a meeting for show and tell. It is difficult to get two of the proper plants to flower at the same time. Mike says you can freeze pollen from one flower by wrapping it in foil and waiting for the right 2nd plant to flower. This does not work for all bromeliads. The pollen should last in the freezer for about a year.

Mike and Patty's home is on a winding canal. The wall to wall bromeliads combined with the canal's water attract a variety of birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Mike has a crow (or possibly a grackle) almost eating out of his hand on a regular basis. We all enjoyed the noise from the many birds and ducks.

Then it was on to Tina Severson's house for a shish-kebob cookout and camaraderie. The bonfire had to be postponed for another time due to the heat. It was a great day for everyone.





THE EXTRAVAGANZA IS COMING

Featuring

FCBS
& Bromeliad Society
of the Palm Beaches
presents
Bromeliad Extravaganza
July 28-29, 2023

Don't Delay, Register Today!

Hotel Registration: West Palm Beach Marriott
1001 Okeechobee Blvd. • West Palm Beach, FL 33401
www.marriott.com

Conference Registration: www.fcbsextravaganza.org

For more information: 561-386-7812 • tramiccio@aol.com

Chester Skotak
Costa Rica

Eloise Beach
Apopka, FL

David Shiigi
Hawaii

Undoubtedly, many of you have received this save the date card from FCBS. The weekend promises to be a fun one. There is a Friday night BBQ followed by a registrant plant sale from 7:30 to 9:30pm. On Saturday there are afternoon lectures including what is billed as Chester Skotak's final lecture. The Saturday night banquet includes a live auction and a silent auction. On Sunday there is an optional \$25 Garden Tour and Brunch. Registration is \$150 by April 30, \$175 after May 1. Rooms at the Marriott are \$139 until June 30. Parking is \$8/day. You can register online. This Extravaganza is also close to home. Mark your calendars and plan ahead

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR LOWER PRICE IS APRIL 30

THE SHOW - WHAT WE HAVE AND WHAT WE NEED FROM OUR MEMBERS

We have received our contract from Fairchild and the show is on for April 27-30. 2023 Show Chairman Alex Bello says our number one need is volunteers. This is your chance to give back to the community by sharing your knowledge and love of bromeliads. Committee chairs are listed below so that you may contact them to volunteer. Your choices are as varied as your interests.

We will also be calling all our members seeking donations for crystal, our traditional prizes at the show. We are the only society to give such prestigious prizes. When you get the call, please answer it and be as generous as you can.

Judges and Awards:	Barbara Partagas
Clerks:	Patty Gonzalez
Vendors:	Peter Kouchalakos
Student Art and Co-Chair:	Samantha Jones
Member Sales:	Tina Severson
Classification:	Alan Herndon
Data Entry:	Ofelia Sorzano
Awards and Plant Placement:	Open
Hospitality & Information:	Karen Bradley
Food:	Sandy Roth
Advertising & Social Media:	Samantha Jones
Photography:	George Katsaris
Security:	Open
Plant Holding	Open

Please contact the committee chair or Alex Bello (bellotropicals@yahoo.com) to volunteer.

ABOUT LAST MONTH

Chip Jones let us in on some of his landscaping secrets at our last meeting with his talk, "Landscape Design Using Bromeliads." First you have to look at the conditions you have:

1. The light - north gets the least light, a northeast exposure gets some sun. You can place bromeliads on the north side of a palm where they get the least light and will flourish. On a northwest or northeast exposure the plant will turn to where it wants to be. Avoid west or southwest exposure for most bromeliads as they will die. In the summer you may have to move some plants as the sun is more intense. Or you could pot them up for the summer.
2. Clean spaces - some plants like those leaves falling from your trees and the grass clippings from the mower. These will kill other plants. Other things bromeliads don't like are flooding, weed eaters, copper and fertilizer drift from other plantings.
3. The perspective or view. Don't compete with the view if you have one, accentuate it. How does your landscape look from a distance, up close as individuals or from multi angles. A nice perspective is looking down a path, keeping plants at eye level on trees. Remember that some plants mass well and some plants need to be seen up close to be appreciated. Some plants work well vertically, such as Neo. Martin and Neo Bossa Nova, which like to climb.
4. Traffic patterns and pets need to be worked around.

Some advice - mix large and small bromeliads for balance. Know the mature size of your plants. Place fine textured plants in front of course textured plants. Place smaller plants in front of larger ones. Use strong colored plants for accents. Place plants with similar needs, such as water or fertilizer, together. Use plants that complement or show off your bromeliads.

Layout - Place larger plants at each end of your landscape. And don't forget the front door and windows which can divide your landscape into sections. The door can be the center with 2 sections on each side. Front windows can divide your landscape into thirds. Use groups as massing is pleasing to the eye. But always work in odd numbers as using even numbers of plants forces the eye to look right down the middle.

Geometric shapes help organize your landscape. A paisley shape is pleasing to the eye. Three plants can form a circle. Plants can be placed in staggered rows.

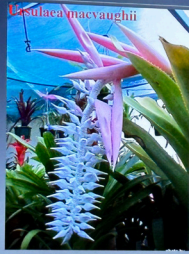
Plants that Chip favors for landscaping include:

- Neo. compacta - good in a mass
- Neo. bossa nova - also good in a mass
- Neo high voltage - has lots of pups
- Neo. Dr. Tim Hewson gets massive and pups a lot
- Neo. Royal Burgundy has lots of pups.
- Neo. Rafael, the patent is now expired
- Some variegated plants do not reproduce true to form and should be avoided.
- Neo. monet is good in the shade
- Neo, purple star
- Neo. medium rare - the color lasts.
- Neo. zoe likes to climb
- Neo, Hannibal Lector, which takes light or shade, looks great with Neo. royal burgundy.
- Neo. martin pups a lot.
- Neo. Picasso
- Ae. chantinii, all varieties, always look good in the landscape
- Ae. orlandiana looks good in the landscape but better in a tree
- Ae. nudicaulis 'Parati'
- Ursulaea macvaughii - plain looking but with a spectacular flower
- Alcantareas are excellent accent or specimen plants
- Ae. 'blue tango', the patent is now expired

Other insights - put miniature bromeliads on a small palm such as phoenix robellini. Aechmeas die in the cold but neos come back after a cold spell. Ae. burt becomes weedy looking after climbing a tree for awhile. For scale, mix Dawn with water and spray directly on the scale. And if your plants have scale, they need better air circulation. Clean the bottom of the plant where the scale hide. Never use antibacterial soaps on your plants. Clip off old flowers and cut the base of dead plants to keep your plants looking neat. For raccoons, use snail bait on your plants to remove their food source or give up and put out dog food for them.



Ursulaea macvaughii



Acanthera odorata



Aechmea nudicalis 'Parati'



Aechmea 'Hayward'



Neoregelia Picasso

Note: similar to Neo 'Little Louie'



Neoregelia 'Martin'



Neoregelia 'Hannibal Lector'



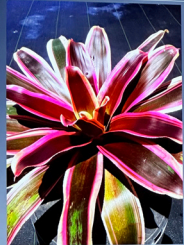
Neoregelia 'Medium Rare'



Neoregelia 'Purple Star'



Neoregelia 'Rafael'

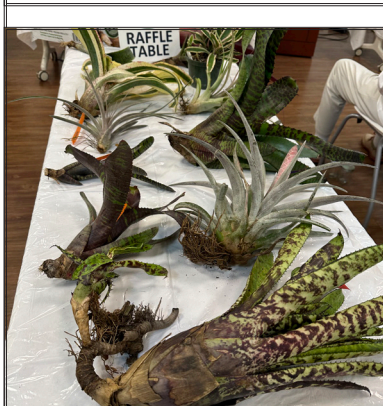
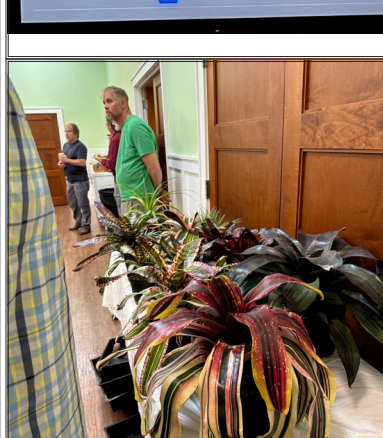
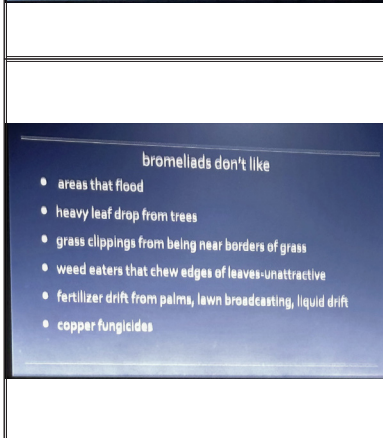
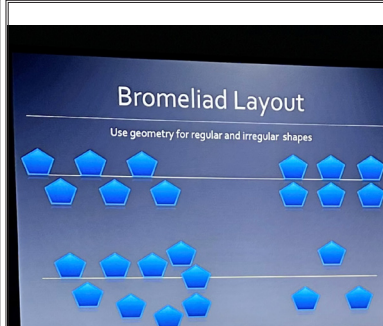
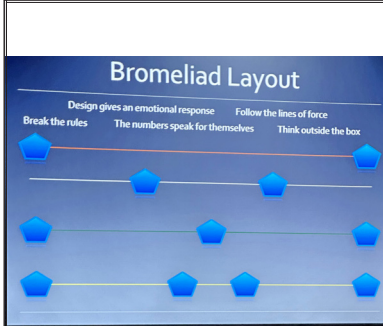


Neoregelia 'Royal Burgundy' pp



Neoregelia 'Bossonova'





NEW RULES FOR SILENT AUCTION AND MEMBER PLANT SALES

We now have unlimited silent auction plant sales. You will be paid 50% of the sale price and BSSF will receive 50%.

We will defer to our speakers for member plant sales when we have a speaker bringing plants. We will have no member plant sales on these occasions. This will give our speakers who travel here and pack up their plants a fair chance to sell their plants. When we do have member plant sales you will be paid 50% of the sale price.

To participate in member plant sales, please contact Alex Bello (bellotropicals@yahoo.com) or 239 223 6155 to schedule your sale so that we are not overrun with plants.

We appreciate your cooperation so that there will be no hard feelings if members bring plants and are turned away because we have a speaker who brought plants to sell.

SILENT AUCTION: Rene Izquierdo
(rcizquierdo@bellsouth.net)
305 282 9333

MEMBER PLANT SALES:
Alex Bello (bellotropicals @
yahoo.com)
239 223 6155

UPCOMING EVENTS

BSSF Spring Judged Show and Sale -
April 27-30, 2023 - Fairchild
FCBS Extravaganza - W. Palm Beach
July 28-29

Redland Fruit & Spice Park -
May 19, 10-5
Redland Orchid Festival

Bromeliad Society of Houston 49th
Show and Sale
May 6 and 7, in Houston

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
May 2, 7pm, Annual Auction
6085 Park Blvd N. Pinellas Park

NEW RAFFLE TABLE RULES

Like everything else in this world, the raffle table ticket prices are going up. Tickets are now 3 for \$5.00 with a \$5.00 minimum. Still a bargain and equal in price to the raffle tables of other plant societies.

FOOD FOR MEETINGS

We are asking members to supply food, especially heartier main courses, for our meetings, until after the show. Many societies do this permanently but we hope to return to supplying main courses after the show. We appreciate your cooking skills and generosity.

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
BSSF. INC.

2023 MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW MEMBERS ___ AND RENEWAL ___

Please print names: (Couples include both names) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ ADD'L PHONE _____

Year Joined BSSF: _____

Referred by: _____

E MAIL (you will not receive a newsletter without an email) _____

PLEASE HIGHLIGHT ANY INFORMATION ABOVE THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR

Please create my membership in BSSF, Inc. for the period of March 1, 2023 to February 28, 2024.

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, 2023 in order for you to be included in the BSSF 2023 Roster. All fees are non refundable.

Please mail completed form and check payable to BSSF, Inc. to:

Patti Gonzalez

10565 SW 109 St., Miami, FL 33176

Or email this form to:

pgonza7782@aol.com

You can pay up to 5 years at the rates above.