



December 2023

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



Facebook- Public  
Bromeliad Society of South Florida

[http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSSF/?bookmark\\_t=group](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/2022/8-2023.pdf>

#### DIRECTORS

Maureen Adelman, Past President  
Tina Severson, President  
Patty Gonzalez, VP  
Samantha Jones, Treasurer  
Maria Almodovar, Secretary  
Sandy Roth, Director  
Karen Bradley, Director  
Olivia Martinez, Director  
Denise Karman, Director

#### COMMITTEES

**Editor: Maureen Adelman**  
Advertising: Samantha Jones  
Door Prize: Alan Herndon  
Education: Alan Herndon  
Hospitality: Elaine Mills  
Library: Barbara Partagas  
Membership: Patty Gonzalez/Melody Ray  
Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello  
Refreshments: Sandy Roth  
Field Trips: Anyone with an idea  
Community Service: Carl Bauer  
Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo

December 19, 2023 MEETING 7:00 PM  
Garden House

**OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**

**Bring an unwrapped plant and a side dish**

**No Member Sales or Silent Auction**

## GET READY FOR OUR HOLIDAY PARTY

Our Holiday party is December 19. Time to pick out a nice plant for the plant exchange. Bring your plant unwrapped and you can exchange it for another unwrapped plant. Please bring a side dish. We will provide the main course. Contact Sandy Roth to let her know what you will bring (SandyR53@aol.com). This party is always lots of festive fun. Guests will be charged \$10.00 We will be decorating in the afternoon if you would like to help.

## President's Message

Happy Holidays Everyone! I believe we have the best weather in the country right now! I am looking forward to a bit of colder weather so it feels like winter but my bromeliads are happy with our current temperatures. It has been my pleasure serving you all the last couple of years as President. I am looking forward to the new ideas of our incoming president, Alex Bello, and will be there to support him in any way I can. I hope everyone comes out for our Holiday Party which is always so amazing! Let's end the year with a huge celebration together.

*Tina Severson*

### OUR ANNUAL ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the 2024 BSSF Officers and Directors elected at the November meeting:

Past President:	Tina Severson
President:	Alex Bello
Vice President:	Patty Gonzalez
Secretary:	Maria Almodovar
Treasurer:	Samantha Jones
Director:	Karen Bradley
Director:	Denise Karman
Director:	Sandy Roth
Director:	Lynn Gordon

And our thanks to the outgoing Board for all their time and effort.

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### ORCHID FESTIVAL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Karina Motes attended our November meeting and invited our members to volunteer at the Tamiami Orchid Festival at Miami Dade County Fair Expo, 10901 SW 24 St., on January 12-14. She and her husband run the festival. BSSF will be paid for each volunteer so it is a wonderful fundraiser for our club. Please reply to Tina Severson (305-519-8733).

### MEMBERSHIP

Our membership drive for 2024 begins at the holiday party. Renewals and new memberships will be taken at the entry. Renewal form attached at the end of the newsletter.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

For our 2023 Community Service Project the project committee and the Board have unanimously voted to continue our \$1000 scholarship donation to the Fairchild Botany Magnet High School.

## SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THE RAFFLE TABLE, SILENT AUCTION AND MEMBER PLANT SALES

The Board has been experimenting with different pricing strategies for the raffle table, silent auction and member plant sales to help offset our operating costs. We found the changes we made were not working out as well as we thought and were confusing our members. So we have returned to our tried and true 80/20 split.

Raffle Table - 80% to member, 20% to the Society  
Silent Auction - 80% to members, 20% to the Society  
Member Plant Sales - 80% to members, 20% to the Society

Thanks for your understanding through all the changes. You are always welcome to donate your proceeds.

## NAME BADGES

Sylvia Betz has graciously volunteered to fill our much needed Name Badge Chairperson position. We are researching vendors now and will be ready to order soon. Thanks, Sylvia.

## GOOD-BYE FROM DR. BROM

Dear Members,

This will be my final Dr. Brom article and my final newsletter issue as editor. I will be chasing other dreams from this point on. I do not believe in keeping the same editor for a long period of time as they tend to get “set in their ways”. Tina Severson, who is stepping down as President, will be filling the editor position but in another format and the change will do us all good.

I have enjoyed answering your questions during the past 32 months. I have learned a lot through my research and hope you have too. Together we have explored plant pests, fertilization, landscape bromeliads, how to use bromeliads in floral displays, bromeliad classification and nomenclature, birds and bromeliads, where bromeliad names come from, new subfamilies and new genera based on DNA research, how bromeliads are judged at a show, native bromeliads, how to tell Tillandsias apart, caring for bromeliads in the heat and the cold, hurricane protection for our plants, preventing root rot, botanical gardens of Florida, and more. Whew!

But what really puzzles me after all this is: Why do we do it? Why do we grow these bromeliads and other plants? Why do we get so excited at a new and different hybrid? Why do we chase all over the state to find new ones and hear new speakers? Why do we act like expectant parents when we see a pup? Why do we mourn when a plant dies unexpectedly and promise never to grow it again? Why do we get ourselves absolutely filthy planting and arranging and finish with a big smile on our faces? Is it the promise of new life, of a future? Or is it for just the joy and delight we feel? Is it how we get lost in our gardens, forgetting all our cares and woes? Is it to reassure ourselves that good things come from the earth where we will return one day? Why do I not mind when my cats or other creatures live in/drink from my plants? Gardeners and garden writers have been pondering these questions for generations. Here are some of their thoughts:

“To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body but the soul.”

Alfred Austin, garden writer

“The plant responds to every affectionate touch.”

Liberty Hyde Bailey, horticulturist

“A person who is growing a garden is improving a piece of the world.”

Wendell Berry, poet

“Gardening is an insatiable passion like everything else to which a man gives his heart.”

Karel Capek, Czech writer

“The garden is a love song, a duet between a human being and Mother Nature.”

Jeff Cox, author

“When you travel among the flowers your body touches heaven.”

Mehmet Murat Iloan, Turkish novelist

“My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece.”

Claude Monet, artist

“To create a garden is to search for a better world...guided by a vision of paradise.”

Marina Schinz, garden writer

Add to that the famous poem by English poet Dorothy Frances Gurney:

The kiss of the sun for pardon  
The song of the birds for mirth  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth.

And my personal favorite, author unknown:

“Gardeners dream of heaven.”

Yes I dream of heaven, and when I get there, there had better be plants.

Fondly,

Maureen Adelman

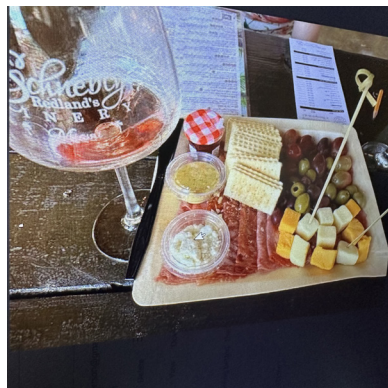
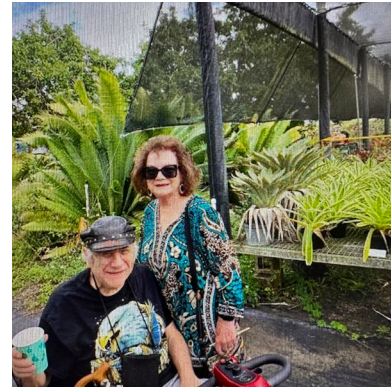
Racinaea  
dyeriana



Photo:  
Bird Rock Tropicals

## FIELD TRIP TO THE REDLAND DECEMBER 2

Our members enjoyed a field trip with 3 stops in the Redland on December 2. Everyone met at Alan and Rhonda Herndon's Tradewinds Tropicals Nursery for coffee, plant buying and lunch. They continued on to Bromeliad Specialties for lots of tillandsias of every kind. The trip ended at Schnebly winery for wine and hors-d'oeuvres. Everyone returned happy with their treasures.



## EARTH FRIENDLY REPLACEMENTS FOR PEAT MOSS

If you are like most of our members, you are using peat moss in your bromeliad pots. Peat moss is ideal for the good drainage bromeliads need. However there is a current debate over whether using peat moss is bad for the environment.

Peat moss comes from peat bogs located mostly in Canada and Russia. Some believe that peat bogs are as important as rain forests. They prevent flooding, purify water and absorb carbon dioxide. They are being harvested at a rapid rate. Harvesting them releases carbon into the atmosphere thereby contributing to a warmer climate.

Peat bogs are also a native habitat for birds, reptiles, insects and small animals. It takes centuries for a harvested peat bog to recover. Therefore harvesting them is non sustainable. England is banning peat moss starting in 2024.

There are several alternatives available although, as with many environmentally friendly replacements, they might be cost prohibitive, especially at a commercial level. Try them on just a few plants at first to see how effective they are.

It is recommended that these products be blended with peat moss at a one part replacement product to two parts peat moss.

Hydrafiber is made from recycled wood products. PittMoss is a recycled cardboard product. These products also come preblended with peat moss. Other alternatives are cocopeat or coco coir, composted manure, and leaf mold. Many are available at Amazon or Lowe's. Hydrafiber has its own website.

Thank you to Barbara Partagas for sharing the African Violet Society of America's email on this subject.

Sources:

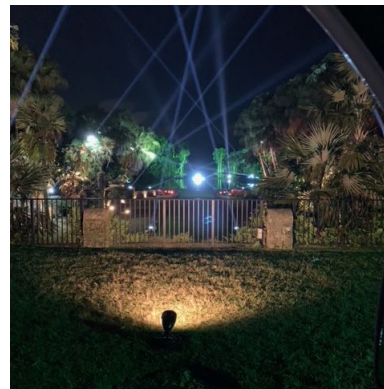
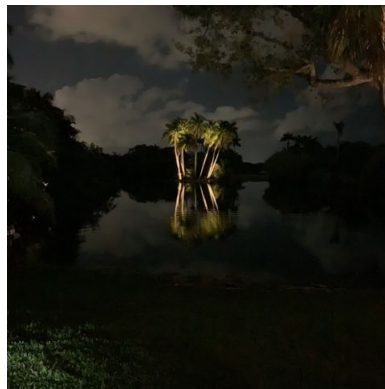
African Violet Society of America

Today.OregonState.edu

MinnetonkaOrchids.com

## ABOUT LAST MONTH

Last month's program included our annual tour of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Luck was with us as our tour coincided with Fairchild's spectacular Night Garden display. While some were on the tour, those waiting for the next tour were treated to a really great raffle table supplied by Barbara Partagas as well as a large silent auction. Karina Motes of the Motes orchid family spoke to our members and encouraged us to volunteer at the upcoming Tamiami Orchid Festival in January. Finally, this was our Annual Meeting where we elected our Officers and Board for the coming year. Results on Page 2.





## SILENT AUCTION AND MEMBER PLANT SALE RULES

We now have unlimited silent auction plant sales. You will be paid 80% of the sales price and BSSF will receive 20%.

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 80% 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.

If you would like to host the raffle table, please contact Alex Bello. You will be paid 80% of the proceeds.

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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden:  
Night Garden, 11/10 - 1/7

Chocolate Festival, 1/20-21

Pinecrest Garden: Art & Design  
Fair, 1/20 & 21

Night of Lights, 12/9-1/6

Redland Fruit & Spice Park:

Migratory Bird Class, 12/17

Tickets \$25

Mounts Botanical Garden: Winter  
Plant-a-Palooza, 2/10-2/11

BSSF Annual Show - 4/18-21/24

BSI World Conference - 5/22-25/24

## RAFFLE TABLE RULES

Raffle table tickets are now 5 for \$5.00 with a \$5.00 minimum. Still a bargain! Donations to the raffle table are greatly appreciated.

## FOOD AT MEETINGS

We continue to need food donations for our meetings. Side dishes and desserts are a good choice. And you have a chance to win the food prize which is usually, you guessed it, a plant.

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
BSSF. INC.

2024 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, 2024 to February 28, 2025.

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, 2024 in order for you to be included in the BSSF 2024 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](mailto:pgonza7782@aol.com)

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