



January 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/2022/11-2022.pdf>

#### DIRECTORS

Maureen Adelman, Past President  
Tina Severson, President  
Patty Gonzalez, VP  
Samantha Jones, Treasurer  
Leonard Goldstein, Secretary  
Maria Almodovar, 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: Heidi Davenport  
Community Service: Carl Bauer  
Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo

January 17, 2023 MEETING 7:30 PM

Corbin A

**SPEAKER: Lee Magnuson, Palm Beaches**  
**Hybridizing Tips and Tricks**

**Food Donations Appreciated - Win the Prize**  
**No Member Plant Sales; limit 3 silent auction plants**

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Lee Magnuson has lived in Broward County since he was 5 years old. About 14 years ago Lee had 1 bromeliad in his yard and didn't even know what it was. His wife told him it was a bromeliad and suggested he attend a meeting of the Bromeliad Society. He has been collecting and hybridizing ever since. Lee is a member of the Bromeliad Society International and currently is President of the Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches. He was also a vendor at the 2022 World Conference in Sarasota. His program will be a hands on demonstration and he will be selling some of his hybrids.

## President's Message

Happy New year everyone! May your gardens be beautiful and give you much peace, joy and happiness. We are excited to begin 2023 with our field trip on January 28. Please see the article inside for more details. Hoping everyone can come out and attend this fun day that is planned for you. We have some great speakers lined up for the next several months so please invite your friends and family to attend. Our goal this year is to increase our membership. I encourage you all to bring at least one new member this year. All membership dues need to be paid. Please see Patty Gonzalez if you haven't already renewed your membership for 2023. All of us enjoy a good meal before our meetings so remember to bring your potluck and receive a food raffle ticket.

*Tina Severson*

### BOOK OF THE MONTH SALE

BSSF is in the process of liquidating its library. Each month we will be selling one of our great reference books which are beautifully illustrated. One of these tomes could be the start of your bromeliad reference library.

The January selection is, 'Bromeliads in the Brazilian Wilderness' by Elton Leme, hardcover, 183 pages

Elton Leme is a Brazilian judge, self taught botanist and prolific author. His garden in the hills above Rio has been called a shrine to bromeliads. He has the most varied collection of Brazilian bromeliads in the world. He has discovered over 300 new species, more than any man alive. He shares his collection with research institutes and botanic gardens to preserve species on the brink of extinction. The book is listed on various sites from \$179 to \$361. We will charge less.

### FIELD TRIP

BSSF is hosting a field trip on Saturday, January 28, 10 am, at Tradewinds Tropicals, 16400 SW 240 St. This is the nursery of members Alan and Rhonda Herndon. We will have plant sales and a program. Lunch will follow at White Lion Cafe, 146 NW 7 St., Homestead. After lunch we will visit BelloTropicals, owned by member Alex Bello, and OFE (Everything for Orchids), 17899 SW 280 St. Park in front of OFE. All three places are great resources for bromeliad gardeners that we think you should be familiar with.



Waurahia Gigantea

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Time again for our annual membership drive.

Please take a moment to renew your membership. The \$25.00 fee is well worth it for the Holiday Party alone. The renewal form is at the back of the Advisory. Dues remain \$25.00 per person and \$35.00 per couple.

You can also renew your membership at the meeting or by mail. We will have forms ready for you and can accept your payment in cash or check.

The dues help provide funds for our speakers, refreshments, rent for Fairchild and fees for our annual show among many other things. They also help pay for the \$1000 scholarship which we are offering to a graduating senior of the Fairchild Botany Magnet High School Program.

The deadline for renewal is March 1, 2023 in order for you to be included in the FCBS roster and our own roster.

If you joined our society in October or later in 2022, your dues are paid through 2023.

---

## CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY WEBSITE

The Cryptanthus Society has redesigned and restarted their website very recently. Please check it out at [www.cryptanthussociety.net](http://www.cryptanthussociety.net)



## ASK DR. BROM

Dear Dr. Brom:

I am trying my best to learn the names of the bromeliads but the Tillandsias especially stump me. They all look alike! Any help would be appreciated.

No wonder you're stumped. The Tillandsias are the largest genus of bromeliads, consisting of 775 species. The other large genera don't even come close - Aechmea at 252, Vriesea at 237 and Neoregelia at 123. Making it more difficult are the many hybrids.

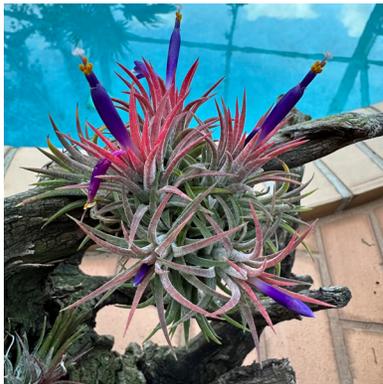
We will not be discussing 775 species today, only the Tillandsias that thrive in south Florida. That reduces the number considerably. And we will divide and conquer.

There are three groups of Tillandsias:

1. Mesophyte Tillandsias have green leaves and need moisture and shade. They like the same conditions as Vrieseas. Some can grow in pots and can grow roots. We will not be discussing them as they are not that numerous in south Florida.
2. Hydric climate Tillandsias need heavy frequent rain and grow close to the water. Think rainforest tillandsias. We can't readily grow these in our area and will not be discussing them.
3. Xerophyte tillandsias have grey, bluish or white leaves coated with trichomes. They like sun and can take full sun but need to be checked in the summer months. Generally the thicker the leaf the more sun it can take They like hanging or attaching themselves to tree trunks. These plants don't have cups and depend on the rain. These are the tillandsias that thrive in our area and this is where we will concentrate our efforts. We can divide the plants into small, medium and large groups. And incidentally, all tillandsias are spineless.

Small Tillandsias

Tillandsia Ionantha - the most popular and common small tillandsia, with many varieties. This petite plant has 2 inch leaves, turns red when flowering and likes to grow in clumps.



Till. Ionantha  
left



Till. Argentea  
right

*Tillandsia argentea* - Similar to *ionantha* but with thinner leaves in shades of green blue, grey and silver.

*Tillandsia bulbosa* - has fewer leaves and a bulblike appearance, many varieties, green leaves grow 4-6" high. Grow sideways to avoid too much water in plant.

*Tillandsia tectorum* - very popular grey tillandsia covered in trichomes giving it furry appearance. Trichomes are tiny structures on the leaves that help it capture and absorb moisture and nutrients. Grows to 6" high. Grow under the eaves of your house and do not water.



Till. bulbosa  
left



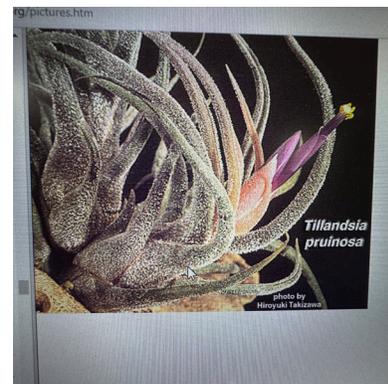
Till. tectorum  
right

*Tillandsia recurvata* - A Florida native called ball moss. It is plentiful, the kind of bromeliad you find on the ground when it falls from a tree. The leaves curve inward forming a ball. Small 1 1/2" leaves. You might mistake it for Spanish moss.

*Tillandsia pruinosa* - Called the fuzzy wuzzy air plant, it is endangered. Grows to 5 inches high and covered in trichomes with a bulblike shape.



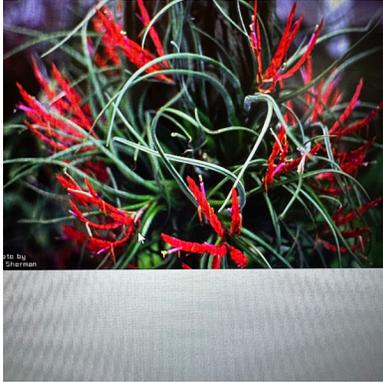
Till. recurvata  
left



Till. pruinosa  
right

*Tillandsia caput-medusa* - called the octopus plant, it resembles the serpents in Medusa's hair. It has long, twisted leaves and comes in red and peach varieties, has a bulbous base.

*Tillandsia Edithae* - has been in our auctions. Small silver leaves with a coral flower which is rare in tillandsias.



Till. caput-medusae  
left



Till. edithae  
right

Tillandsia pauciflora - A Florida native with 5-10 leaves, almost white in color due to its many tri-chomes. Called the potbelly plant due to its bulbous base. Endangered. Likes to grow in clusters to 8 inches high.

Tillandsia usneoides - A native which we all know as Spanish moss. Looks larger but is actually small plants clustered together.



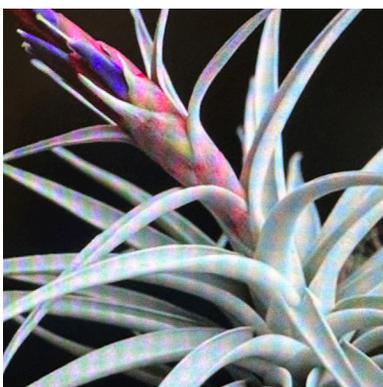
Till. pauciflora  
left



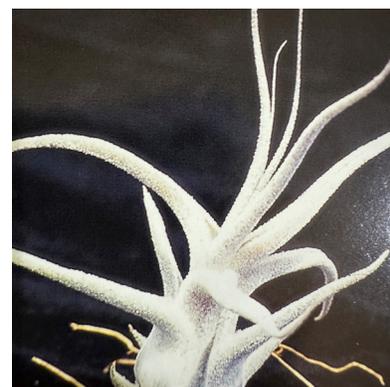
Till. usneoides  
right

Tillandsia harrissii - a hardy tillandsia which can take more light. The more light the more purple bluish. Grows to 8 inches.

Tillandsia ehlersiana - Likes light, has a bulbous base with silver leaves. Can grow o 10 inches.



Till. harrissii  
left



Till. ehlersiana  
right

Tillandsia funkiana - You will remember this for the name alone. No, it's not funky but was named after a man named Funk. Also called the caterpillar plant. It is non branching, can grow in clumps and resembles a pine branch.



Till. funkiana

That is all for this month. We will continue in the next two months with the medium and large tillandsias. Here are some resources for identifying your tillandsias:

Wikipedia Index has a list of species. Tap on the name for a photo  
FCBS Photo Index - Just type in FCBS Photo index and you are there  
BSI Species and Cultivar registries

Or you could buy a book. Every month starting in January we will be selling a bromeliad book at our meetings.

The following page is a cheat sheet for identifying bromeliads, courtesy of Bromeliad Specialties nursery. Print it out and hang it on your bulletin board for quick reference

Sources:

[www.gardenista](http://www.gardenista)  
[www.decoist.com](http://www.decoist.com)  
[Birdrocktropicals.com](http://Birdrocktropicals.com)  
Bromeliad Society of Queensland, 'Starting with Bromeliads'  
Jack Kramer, 'Bromeliads for Home and Garden'  
Victoria Padilla, 'Bromeliads'  
Ronald Parkhurst, 'The Book of Bromeliads'  
FCBS Photo Index  
Jose Manzanares, 'Bromeliaceae of Ecuador'



*Til. andreaea*

*Til. hybrid 51*

*Til. struthio hybrid 13*

*Til. junceaifolia*

*Til. funkiana*  
Hybrid

*Til. funkiana*

*Til. brachycanlos*  
hybrid

*Til. capitata* Peach

*Til. brachycanlos*

*Til. brachycanlos* Burgundy

*Vr. eperosa*

*Til. Victoriana*

*Til. streptophylla* hybrid

*Til. hybrid 37*

*Til. araucaei*

*Til. brachycanlos* Select

*Til. bulbosa*

*Til. hybrid # 85*

*Til. iso-foveandis*

*Til. stricta* hybrid

Neo Fireball

*Til. ionantha* fuego  
*Til. ionantha* mexicana

*Til. ionantha* n

*Til. stricta* hard

*Til. concolor*

*Til. renuifolia* blue  
*Til. renuifolia* "emerald forest"

*Til. vernicosa*

5YKP09666

*Til. capitata* red

*Til. hybrid 1*

*Til. rolandi* gasellinii

*Til. novakii*

*Til. arifolia*

THE EXTRAVAGANZA IS COMING!



**Featuring**

  
**Chester Skotak**  
Costa Rica

  
**Eloise Beach**  
Apopka, FL

  
**David Shiigi**  
Hawaii

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

**Don't Delay, Register Today!**

Hotel: West Palm Beach Marriott  
Registration: 1001 Okeechobee Blvd. • West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
[www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)

Conference  
Registration: [www.fcbsextravaganza.org](http://www.fcbsextravaganza.org)

**For more information: 561-386-7812 • [tramiccio@aol.com](mailto:tramiccio@aol.com)**

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.

## ABOUT LAST MONTH

December marked our annual Holiday Party and if you missed it, we are sorry. The food was delicious and there were so many plants! I personally took home 5 beautiful plants and other members had more. At the party we named our Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations to Samantha Jones for going the extra mile for our Society. Thanks to everyone who brought plants for the plant exchange. Thanks to Alan and Rhonda Herndon, Karl Green and Barbara Partagas for their copious plants and plant donations. Thanks to Sandy Roth and her crew for the set up, break down and decorations. And a big thank you to our members for their delicious dishes. We saw some members we haven't seen in awhile and also got a lot of renewals at the entrance. We even got a sneak peek at the Fairchild Light Show. It was a wonderful, festive evening.





## SPRING SHOW AND SALE IS SCHEDULED

Our spring show and sale has been scheduled and approved by Fairchild. This will be a judged show, our first since 2019. If you remember our show scheduled for March 2020 was cancelled at the last minute due to Covid. It is not too early to look over your plants and give a few some special attention for the show. The dates are April 27-30, 2023.

---

## AMAZON SMILE PERMANENT FUNDRAISER

If you are buying on Amazon, think Smile.Amazon.com. Sometimes we have trouble balancing our BSSF checking account. That is because we have received an automatic deposit from Smile.Amazon.com from some of our members who use this website instead of Amazon.com. Amazon will partner with a charity of your choice and donate .5% of all purchases. It adds up. And you know how much we all like to shop on Amazon. Both websites are exactly the same but you cannot get the donation from the regular Amazon website. Just go to Smile.Amazon.com and sign up. Choose the charity of your choice, hopefully BSSF, Inc., and then shop there every time you need something from Amazon. I signed up as soon as I saw that donation in our checking account and I hope you will too. It's like free money.

---

## BEWARE OF EMAILS

If you receive emails purportedly from the BSSF president or another officer asking you to purchase gift cards for some event or charity we support, please ignore. We, along with several other plant societies, have a longstanding problem with a cybercrook hijacking officer emails. We will never ask you to buy gift cards or money orders.

## SILENT AUCTION AND MEMBER PLANT SALE RULES

When we have a speaker bringing plants, we will only allow 4 plants for silent auction in order to give our speakers who travel here and pack up their plants a fair chance to sell their plants. If you would like to sell a plant at the silent auction you will need to contact Rene Izquierdo (rcizquierdo@bellsouth.net) or 305 282 9333 and he will let you know if there is an opening for your plants. You will be paid 80% of the sale price and BSSF will receive 20%.

We will likewise defer to our speakers for member plant sales when we have a speaker bringing plants. You will again be paid 80% of the sales 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

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden:  
1/21-22 Chocolate Festival  
- Fairchild sells some rare and  
different plants online. Go to  
website, click virtual plant sale  
under events

Pinecrest Gardens  
1/21-22 Fine Arts Festival, 10-5  
w/free entrance

Flamingo Gardens  
1/14-15 - Flamingo Fest

Mounts Botanical Garden  
2/11-12 - Winter Plant-A-  
Palooza, 9-3

## MAKE MONEY WITH YOUR PLANTS

We are in need of volunteers to supply our Raffle Table. Cut some pups from 8-10 of your plants and bring them to the meeting. If you are uncomfortable with public speaking someone else can talk about the plants, even if you don't know their names. You receive 80% of total sales. Contact Alex Bello 239-223-6155 or bellotropicals@yahoo.com

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](mailto:pgonza7782@aol.com)

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