



November 2023

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



Facebook- Public  
Bromeliad Society of South Florida

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



FCBS Newsletter

<https://www.fcbs.org/newsletters/FCBS/2022/8-2023pdf>

#### 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

November 21, 2023 MEETING **6:30 PM**

Corbin A - First Tour 6:45 pm

**OUR ANNUAL TRAM TOUR OF FAIRCHILD**

**OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION**

**Member Sales and Silent Auction OK**

**Appetizers appreciated - Win the Prize**

## GET READY FOR OUR HOLIDAY PARTY

Our Holiday party will be here before you know it (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.

Also, at the November meeting we will be passing around a sheet where you can sign up to bring the side dish of your choice. This party is always lots of festive fun.

## President's Message

The next couple of meetings are going to be so much fun! For those of us that went on our Naples field trip we all had a blast! I hope everyone comes out for our November Tram ride and also, we will be having our elections, so we need everyone's vote! Dec is our holiday party. Also don't forget to let me know if you will be attending the 3 stop field trip on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. I need to have an accurate account for those who want to go to Schnebly's. Let's all enjoy our fantastic weather together and make the most of the rest of this year. Looking forward to everyone's participation.

*Tina Severson*

### NOVEMBER IS OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

Our November meeting will feature a tram tour of Fairchild and it is also our annual meeting and election. Please try to be present when we elect our officers and board for 2024. The nominees so far are:

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

\* - Incumbent

Nominations from the floor are welcome as long as the nominee agrees.

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### RARE PLANT FESTIVAL IS A SUCCESS

The Rare Plant Festival took place October 20-22 at Redland Fruit and Spice Park. A dozen Bromeliad Society of South Florida members volunteered at the Festival. Not only did they have a great time but we made over \$900 for our Society. And most of us purchased some of the unusual plants offered for sale. The festival will return next year and we hope our members will volunteer again. This was a fun and painless fundraiser for BSSF. We will keep you posted on the dates for 2024.

## NEW FIELD TRIP

We have another field trip planned, this time in town on Saturday, December 2.

- 10:30 - Tradewinds Tropicals, 16400 SW 240 St.. Bring a bagged lunch. BSSF will provide coffee and water
- 1:30 - Bromeliad Specialties (Tillandsias), 28001 SW 197 Ave.
- 4:00 - Schnebly Winery, 30205 SW 217 Ave., \$25/person, reservation required.  
Contact Tina Severson to reserve.

## 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.

## ASK DR. BROM

Dear Dr. Brom: I am having some difficulty keeping the different types of bromeliads straight and figuring out how to care for each different one. Can you help me?

Learning about bromeliads and their care is a lifelong process. We do recommend you buy a book about bromeliads for beginners which will give you some basic knowledge. Here are a few:

Bromeliads for Home and Garden - Jack Kramer  
Starting with Bromeliads - Bromeliad Society of Queensland  
Starting with Bromeliads - Robert Reilly

You can always check the online databases of Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) and Bromeliad Society International. Pick a genus, such as *Portea*, that does not have too many species. Scroll down until you have seen photos of them all to familiarize yourself with the plants. Then try a genus that has more species, such as *Hohenbergia*.

But absent a book, here is a brief synopsis.

The family Bromeliaceae is divided into 8 subfamilies:

Brochinioideae	- 1 genus
Lindmanioideae	- 2 genera
Hechtioideae	- 1 genus
Navioideae	- 5 genera
Pitcairnioideae	- 5 genera
Puyoideae	- 1 genus
Tillandsioideae	- 21 genera
Bromelioideae	- 39 genera

While you really don't have to remember the Family or the 8 Subfamilies, it is helpful to remember the genera (plural of genus) in each subfamily. There are 76 total genera. Popular genera in south Florida include *Dyckia*, *Alcantarea*, *Catopsis*, *Goudaea*, *Guzmania*, *Tillandsia*, *Vriesea*, *Aechmea*, *Ananas*, *Billbergia*, *Canistrum*, *Cryptanthus*, *Edmundoa*, *Hohenbergia*, *Neoregelia*, *Nidularium*, *Orthophytum*, *Portea*, *Quesnelia*, and *Sincorea*.



These names should be more familiar to you. There are a total of 76 genera some of which don't even grow in south Florida due to their need for higher elevations. Each genus has similar characteristics. For example, most of us know that Neoregelia do not have big flowers but do have multicolored foliage.

Each genus then has a number of species. Tillandsia has the most species at 775. You would be quite knowledgeable if you knew the species in even this one genus. There are a total of 3640 species amongst the 76 genera. And that does not even count the hybrids, cultivars and intergenerics. Thus the admonition that this is a lifelong learning process.

But if you are like me you don't even know whether the genus comes first or the species. To remember, I just think Girl Scouts. Genus first, species second. Thus Alcantarea odorata is genus Alcantarea, species odorata.

Now that you have the big picture, we'll describe the 20 most popular south Florida genera and their care.

Dyckia - 172 species. Stiff, spiny edged leaves. Hard to divide. Turn upside down to divide. Can take full sun. Likes a saucer underneath but don't let it sit in water.

Dyckia burle-marxii



Dyckia burle-marxii from Goias photo by C Gastaldi

Alcantarea - 41 species. Full sun. Large plant that likes being in soil, not pot. Tall inflorescence. Can take up to 10 years to flower. Excellent in landscape. Great feature plant.

Alcantarea imperialis



Catopsis - 18 species. Epiphytes. Smooth edges, coated with scurf. Full sun. Berteroniana is native.

*Catopsis berteroniana*



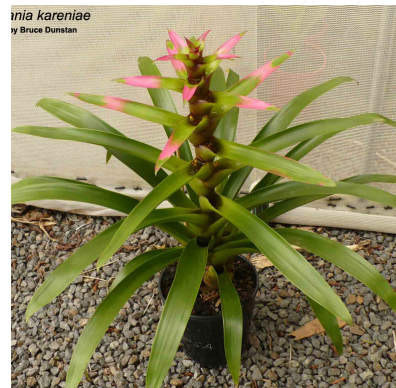
Goudaea - New genera, only 2 species. Full sun to partial shade. Goudaea ospinae var. gruberi has 'smeared' foliage.

*Goudaea ospinae* var. *gruberi*



Guzmania - 220 species. Solid or variegated leaves. Likes more shade than other species. Likes lower tree limbs. No spines. Does not produce a lot of pups.

*Guzmania kareniae*



Tillandsia - 775 species. Epiphytes. Grow in trees, mount on wood, hang from wire. Likes sun. Many shapes and sizes from 1" to 60". Soft leaved tillandisas are from the rainforest and like less sun. Silver leaved ones like sun. No cup like most other bromeliads.

*Tillandsia capitata*



Vriesea - 237 species. Does not like to be wet. Pebbles are good instead of soil. Beautiful patterns on leaves. Dappled light. Most are medium to large. Smooth leaves. Flowers last for weeks. Many Vrieseas have been moved to other genera such as Lutheria, Wallisia or Alcantarea.

*Vriesea fenestralis*



Aechmea - 252 species. The best known bromeliad. Flowers are vivid, upright and can last for months. Two to four ft tall. Tubular shape with spines. Can have multiple pups. Bright light. Keep vase of plant watered.

*Aechmea rubens*



Ananas - 4 species. Pineapple. One of the oldest genera. Plants need space. Grows in large rosette with spines. Top of fruit is pup and pups attached all over fruit. Full sun. Frequently hybridized.

*Ananus comosus*



Billbergia - 64 species. Many hybrids. Blooms 3x/yr. Fewer leaves than many bromeliads. Tall and tubular. Colorful bracts on pendant, short lived flowers. Many speckled varieties. Bright light, even sun. Keep vase filled. Don't need a lot of care. Bill. pyramidalis is prolific in S. Florida





Canistrum - 13 species. Good houseplant. Flower head is hidden. Likes tree trunks and rocks. Dappled light to semi-shade. Slow to pup. Distinctive flower.

*Canistrum auratum*



Cryptanthus - 56 species. Small, insignificant flower is always white. Grown for its foliage. Slow grower, few pests. One of the smaller bromeliads. Likes shadier area and likes to be moist. Grows well on top of pebbles covered with water.

*Cryptanthus fosterianus*



*Cryptanthus fosterianus*  
13th World Bromeliad Conference, Houston, Texas July 1 - 5, 1998

Entered by BB

Edmundoa - 3 species. Was part of Canistrum. Epiphytic. Most common form is *Edmundoa lindenii*. Flowers are covered in something resembling wool. Grows in large flat rosette. Deep to light shade. Distinctive flower.

*Edmundoa lindenii* -  
albomarginated



*Edmundoa lindenii* albomarginated

photo by Ker

Hohenbergia - 49 species. Long erect flower spike. A tall bromeliad. Bright sun. Many are vase shaped.

*Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii*



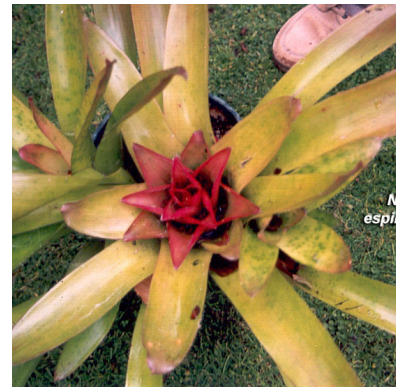
Neoregelia - 123 species and countless hybrids. Probably the most popular bromeliad. Like shadier locations and good air circulation. Grown for its foliage as flowers do not leave the cup. Colors up at blooming time and the color can last for months. Keep pots in a low location so foliage can be viewed. Has multiple pups. Neo. johannes and its variations can take full sun.

Neoregelia compacta



Nidularium - 48 species. Needs more light than neoregelias. Gets a flat rosette at blooming time and center turns red. Pups readily. Do not let it sit in water - will rot. Flower is like a mini plant on top of the larger plant.

Nidularium espirito-santense



Orthophytum - 58 species. A hardy bromeliad resembling a succulent. Likes the sun. Pups grow on long flower spike. Likes to grow on rocks. Many thorns.

Orthophytum glabrum



Portea - 9 species. Large, clumping bromeliad with long spiny leaves. Large, decorative flowers. Full sun. Clumps can get thick and hard to manage. A tall plant with blue flowers.

Portea petropolitana  
varf, petropolitana



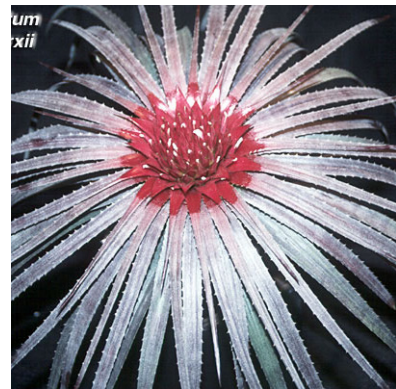
*Quesnelia* - 23 species. Most popular is *Quesnelia marmorata* 'Tim Plowman'. Likes to grow in masses. Filtered light such as a screened patio/pool enclosure. Pink and blue flowers are striking en masse. Thick leaves, few pests. Robust growers that can adapt to sun. Pups readily.

*Quesnelia testudo*



*Sincoraea* - 11 species. Species are all very similar. No stem. Flower does not rise above cup. Was in orthophytum family. Sunburst type of growth. Likes to live on rocks in Brazil partly shaded by shrubs. Likes a dry environment. Many narrow, stiff leaves with large curved spines. Bright light. Base for many hybrids and intergenerics. Resembles a succulent.

*Sincoraea burle-marxii*



There are other genera grown in South Florida that are not as well known such as: *Lutheria*, *Werauhia*, *Wallisia*, *Deuterocohnia*, *Pitcairnia*, *Acanthostachys*, *Androlepsis*, *Bromelia* and *Lymaia*. Please see the following chart listing the subfamilies and genera.

Sources:

Jack Kramer, *Bromeliads for Home and Garden*

FCBS Photo Index

Victoria Padilla, *Bromeliads*

*Encyclopedia of Bromeliads*

Larry Giroux, "Time to Start Relabelling Your Plants, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Meristem, Jan-Feb., 2019

Tropiflora.com



# 8 SUBFAMILIES OF BROMELIACEAE

## **BROCHINIOIDEAE (1 genus)**

~~1 GENUS~~ 1 GENUS  
~~1 GENUS~~ *Brocchinia* - 20

## **LINDMANIOIDEAE (2 genera)**

2 GENERA  
*Connellia* - 6  
*Lindmania* - 39

## **HECHTIOIDEAE (1 genus)**

1 GENUS  
*Hechtia* - 76

## **NAVIOIDEAE (5 genera)**

5 GENERA  
*Brewcaria* - 6  
*Cottendorfia* - 1  
*Navia* - 92  
*Sequencia* - 1  
*Steyerbromelia* - 9

## **PITCAIRNIOIDEAE (5 genera)**

5 GENERA  
*Deuterocohnia* - 17  
*Dyckia* - 172  
*Encholirium* - 36  
*Fosterella* - 31  
*Pitcairnia* - 408

## **PUYOIDEAE (1 genus)**

1 GENUS  
*Puya* - 226

## **TILLANDSIOIDEAE (21 genera)**

21 GENERA  
*Alcantarea* - 41  
*Barfussia* - 3  
*Catopsis* - 18  
*Cipriopsis* - 3  
*Glomeropitcairnia* - 2  
*Goudaea* - 2  
*Gregbrownia* - 4  
*Guzmania* - 220  
*Jagranthia* - 1  
*Josemania* - 5  
*Lemeltonia* - 7  
*Lutheria* - 4  
*Mezobromelia* - 5  
*Pseudalcantarea* - 3  
*Racinaea* - 78  
*Stigmatodon* - 18  
*Tillandsia* - 775  
*Vriesea* - 237  
*Werauhia* - 92  
*Wallisia* - 5  
*Waltillia* - 1

## **BROMELIOIDEAE (39 genera)**

39 GENERA  
*Acanthostachys* - 2  
*Aechmea* - 252  
*Ananas* - 4  
*Androlepis* - 2  
*Araeococcus* - 9  
*Billbergia* - 64  
*Bromelia* - 71  
*Canistropsis* - 11  
*Canistrum* - 13  
*Cryptanthus* - 56  
*Deinacanthus* - 1  
*Disteganthus* - 5  
*Edmundoa* - 3  
*Eduandrea* - 1  
*Fascicularia* - 1  
*Fernseea* - 2  
*Greigia* - 35

*Hohenbergia* - 49  
*Hohenbergiopsis* - 1  
*XHohenmea* - 1  
*Hoplocryptanthus* - 8  
*Laptanthus* - 2  
*Lymania* - 9  
*Neoglaziovia* - 3  
*Neoregelia* - 123  
*Nidularium* - 48  
*xNiduregelia* - 3  
*Ochagavia* - 4  
*Orthophytum* - 58  
*Portea* - 9  
*Pseudoaechmea* - 1  
*Pseudoananas* - 1  
*Quesnelia* - 23  
*Rokautskyi* - 14  
*Ronnbergia* - 22  
*Sincoraea* - 11  
*Ursulaea* - 2  
*Wittmackia* - 44  
*Wittrockia* - 7  
*Zizkaea* - 1

FAMILY/BROMELIACEAE

8 SUBFAMILIES

76 GENERA

3640 SPECIES

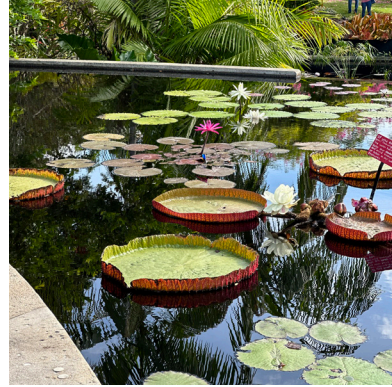
GENUS → SPECIES

## FIELD TRIP TO NAPLES BOTANICAL GARDEN AND MAREE FARMS

About 24 BSSF members had a wonderful field trip to Naples Botanical Garden and Maree Farms on November 4. The weather was clear and not too sweaty. We took off from the Falls parking lot at 8:15 and talked our way to Naples. The Garden, larger than Fairchild, gets lush every year. We were there in time to view the dancers celebrating El Dios de la Muerte, or Day of the Dead, with its colorful decorations throughout the garden. Then we all went off in different directions to see the beautifully maintained grounds. The water garden featured multiple varieties of water lilies in bloom. The Naples Garden Club idea garden was filled with displays we can recreate in our yards. There was a succulent garden, an Asian Garden and multiple waterfalls. Everyone enjoyed the Orchid Garden and there were bromeliads everywhere. I fell in love with a huge Palmyra palm which I would love to add to my garden if I can even find (or afford!) one. There was a beautiful tamarind tree, its branches weeping in perfect symmetry. Everyone had their favorite but we all ended up in the same place - Fogg Cafe. The food was very good but pricey. If you ever go, try the bowl of fries. Then it was on to the gift shop which actually sold plants among other things. We then took a nice ride in the country to Maree Farms. This nursery had bromeliads, nothing rare, and lots of succulents and unusual pots in a beautiful setting. We then settled in for the ride home, tired but happy. We have another in town field trip planned for December 2. See the separate article.



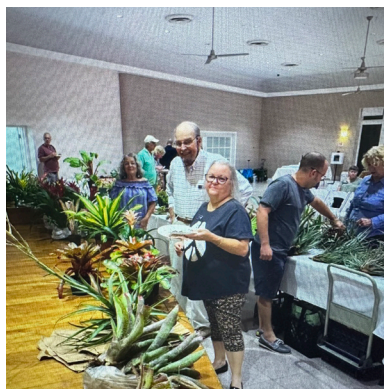






## ABOUT LAST MONTH

Our October meeting featured our Annual Rare Plant Auction. We were not sure we would have time to auction off all the plants that filled the tables but we managed to sell everything. The prices were reasonable for an auction so there were bargains to be had, especially at the end. The food was fantastic. The recipe for Key Lime cake follows by request. Our Society made over \$1900 to be used for room rental, expenses, food, speakers and everything else that makes our meetings successful. Thank you to everyone who donated plants and food and to everyone who came out to bid.



## Vivienne Hatton's Key Lime Cake

Published in the Miami Herald in the 1980s

For the Cake:

3/4 cup oil  
3/4 cup orange juice  
5 eggs  
1 3-ounce package lime flavor gelatin  
1 package lemon flavored cake mix (Duncan Hines is best)

Combine oil, orange juice, eggs, gelatin and cake mix, beating until smooth. Pour into a greased and floured 9 x 13 pan and bake at 325 d. 20 to 30 minutes or until tests done. Do not overbake. Take cake from oven and prick all over with a fork.

Combine 1/4 cup lime juice and 6 tablespoons confectioner's sugar. Stir until smooth and drizzle all over cake.

For the Icing:

8 oz. cream cheese, softened  
1 stick butter, softened  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 teaspoon lime juice (optional)  
1 1 lb. box confectioner's sugar

Beat cream cheese and butter until smooth. Beat in vanilla and lime juice then beat in sugar until creamy. Spread over cooled cake. Can add sprinkles if desired. Serves 20.

## 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

Pinecrest Garden: Art & Design  
Fair, 1/20 & 21  
Night of Lights, 12/9-1/6

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.

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.