

October 2023

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Bromeliad Society of South Florida

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FCBS Newsletter

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

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October 17, 2023 MEETING 7:00 PM
GARDEN HOUSE

ANNUAL RARE PLANT AUCTION
MEETING STARTS EARLY: 7:00 PM

Bring desserts and beverages - We supply entree

ANNUAL RARE PLANT AUCTION

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 17, 7 pm, for the BSSF Annual Rare Plant Auction. Unusual plants from our vendors, long time members and YOU, if you have one to spare. We'll have yummy food and drinks to go along with all the fun. And, since it is over 6 months before the 2024 show, anything you buy can be entered in the next show. Peter Kouchalakos is our auctioneer.

President's Message

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped at our garage sale. This money is being used for our educational field trip and bus tour on November 4. Sandy needs your \$20 fee at the Tuesday meeting at the latest. Please bring a bromeliad to donate to our auction on Tuesday. Every plant helps. We have some amazing, rare bromeliads, including some from Bullis and Plants in Design, so come on out and bid on your favorites. Only interested in bargains? Stick around for the end of the auction when Peter starts making his deals. This is always a fun and wonderful fundraiser for our club. Please invite your friends and neighbors for this great evening.

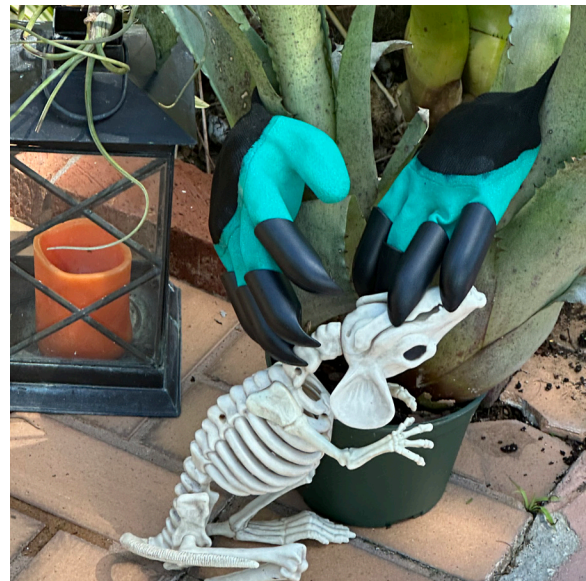
Tina Severson

OUR NEXT FIELD TRIP

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 4, 2023 for the next BSSF field trip. The plan is to rent a bus that holds 30 people and whatever plants we will buy and head to Naples Botanical Garden. This award winning garden was completed in 2014 and contains 12 themed gardens in its 170 acres. It was designed by a dream team of professionals including Raymond Jungles. Of course we will be stopping by several nurseries on the way back. The cost has been supplemented by proceeds from our two garage sale plus a small fee from members.

Admission is \$25.00 for adults with no reciprocity with Fairchild. However, you will get free admission if you can show you are a Bank of America customer. See Sandy Roth.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



This poor rat became entangled in the thorny leaves of this hohenbergia when the hands of death crept out and finished him off. (The hands of death are gardening gloves available on Amazon.)

MORE FIELD TRIP INFO

The fee for the field trip to Naples Botanical Garden will be \$20.00. This fee is to supplement the garage sale proceeds for the bus rental. The fee can be paid at the October meeting. Or you can send a check to:

Sandy Roth
12670 SW 102 Ave,
Miami, Fl 33176

Deadline for payment is October 17, the date of our October meeting. After that we will accept payment from those on the waiting list.

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: We have been on tram tours of Fairchild Garden, we have taken a field trip to Mounts Botanical Garden, Selby Gardens and Flamingo Garden and in November we are taking a field trip to Naples Botanical Garden. Are there any gardens that we missed?

Are you kidding? This is Florida, home to 9 national parks, over 180 state parks and 46 botanical gardens and arboretums. I am going to name and briefly describe the best 21 of the 46. We continue this month with the final 10 Florida botanical gardens. You can find the complete list on Wikipedia.

12. McKee Botanical Gardens in Vero Beach has been around since the 1920s. The original plan was to use the property to grow citrus but it was decided the land was too beautiful. The original McKee Jungle Gardens featured orchids and waterlilies. In 1976 much of the property was sold for condos and the garden was closed. In the 1990s 18 acres was saved and the garden was reopened. The garden still features waterlilies and there is a waterlily celebration every June. Don't miss the magnificent tree turned into a boat. The garden features over 10,000 plants and also has a very nice newsletter.

13. Cummer Museum of Art and Garden in Jacksonville was founded in 1961 when Nina Cummer bequeathed her art collection and garden to the city. The riverfront garden is over 100 years old and was designed by the Olmstead brothers among others. In 2017 there was significant damage from Hurricane Irma. The massive reconstruction ended in 2019. The Italian garden is studded with Cummer's collection of marble garden ornaments.

14. Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park in Tallahassee is also over 100 years old. It includes a lake for swimming, kayaking and paddleboarding. It was the winter home of the Maclays and contains large collections of camellias and azaleas. The Maclay house (1909) on the grounds is also open for tours.

15. Bok Tower Gardens in sleepy Lake Wales was founded in 1929 by publisher (Ladies Home Journal) and Pulitzer prize winning author Edward W. Bok as a bird sanctuary. It is located at the top of Iron Mountain, one of the highest elevations in Florida. The elevation creates some beautiful vistas. The 14 acre garden was designed by Frederick Law Olmstead who transformed an arid sand hill into an oasis

filled with plants and shelter for migrating birds and wildlife. The grounds feature lots of Spanish moss and vast lawns. The Singing Tower is 205 feet tall with a 60 bell carillon weighing close to 62 tons. There are concerts at 1pm and 3 pm daily. The grounds include the 1932 El Retiro mansion which is open for tours. The Gardens are dog friendly and the cafe has beer on tap. The gift shop is lovely and includes plants for sale.

16. Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Miami was built from 1914 to 1922 by James Deering of International Harvester fame. Everyone knows about the house built on 50 acres of waterfront beauty. But there are also 10 acres of formal Italian renaissance revival and French gardens. The gardens also include Greek, Roman and Italian Renaissance sculptures. The gardens are inspired by the landscape design of the 17th and 18th centuries. There is the maze garden, the walled garden, the theatre garden as well as a native forest preserved by Deering. Many plays, including Shakespeare, have been performed in the gardens and it is a magical setting for theatre.

17. Kanapaha Botanical Gardens on Lake Kanapaha in Gainesville sits on 62 acres. There are 24 distinct gardens including the largest public display of bamboo and the largest herb garden in the southeast United States. Other gardens include the oriental garden, children's garden, bromeliad garden, bulb garden, conifer garden and many others. There are also multiple waterfalls. A highlight of this garden is the Camellia Show for 2 days in early June. And the Spring Garden Festival is the number one horticultural event in north central Florida.

18. Morikami Museum and Japanese Garden in Delray Beach features 6 distinct gardens from 6 different periods in Japanese history, from 9th to the 20th century. One garden, the Shin-den garden, mimics the gardens of the Japanese nobility of the past. A highlight of the garden is its collection of Bonsai trees. It is one of only 3 collections in the world named a World Bonsai Friendship Federation collection. Plants are not labelled here and there is little signage as the garden is considered restorative and signs would be a distraction.

19. The Kampong in Coconut Grove is one of five gardens comprising the National Tropical Botanic Garden. The other 4 are in Hawaii. It is the former estate of David Fairchild and includes his house and several outbuildings, one of which is his preserved office. David Fairchild travelled the world collecting plants, especially edible plants, for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The estate, on 9 acres on Biscayne

Bay, features many varieties of fruit and over 50 varieties of mango. There is a Royal Poinciana that dips in and out of the ground mimicking a dragon. Another highlight is the palm collection.

20. Pan's Garden in Palm Beach was established by the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach. It promotes native Florida plants and the wildlife they support. The half acre garden was established in 1994 and is Florida's first all native garden. Upland and wetland areas feature many endangered species. A highlight is the Casa Apava wall, a 1920s tiled wall saved from a demolished estate. The garden also showcases the bronze sculpture of Pan of Rohallion. 386 Hibiscus Avenue.

21. Mounts Botanical Garden in Palm Beach county sits on 14 acres. Its 25 distinct garden areas are meant to inspire sub-tropical gardens. Here you will see some of the more common and popular plants and observe how to grow them and integrate them into your landscape. It really is a gardener's garden. Mounts is over 40 years old and contains over 7,000 species. Some of the distinct areas include the rose and fragrance garden, dry creek beds, a pine grove, a shade garden, an herb garden and a walkway over a wetland area, among others. It also has a killer thrift shop. BSSF has visited this garden during one of their big plant sales but it is worth a second look without the vendors to distract you.

These are the top 21 gardens in Florida. You will notice that many of them are in south Florida and can be visited on a day excursion. Road trip anyone? Or make a bucket list and check them off one by one.

Sources:

Websites for each garden listed

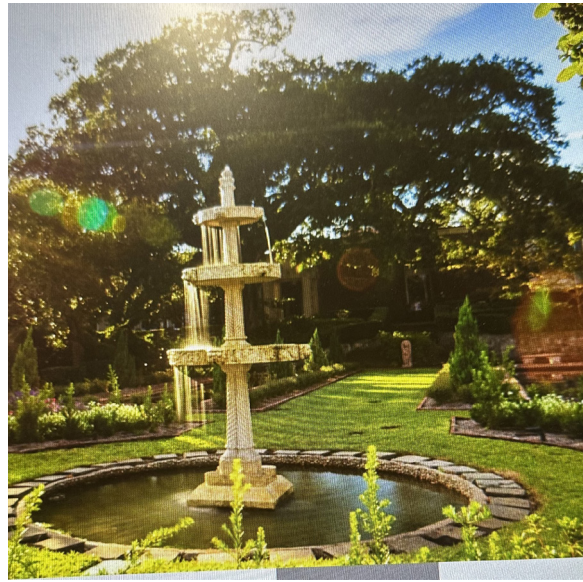
Veranda Magazine

Wikipedia.org

FLTrippers.com



McKee Botanical Garden - Vero Beach



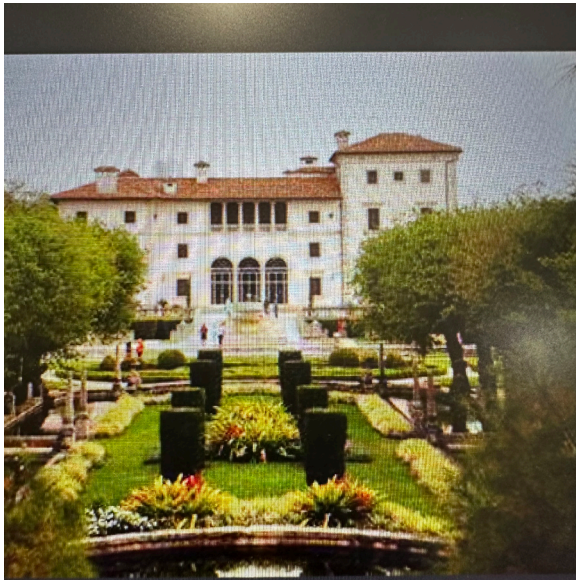
Cummer Museum of Art & Garden -
Jacksonville



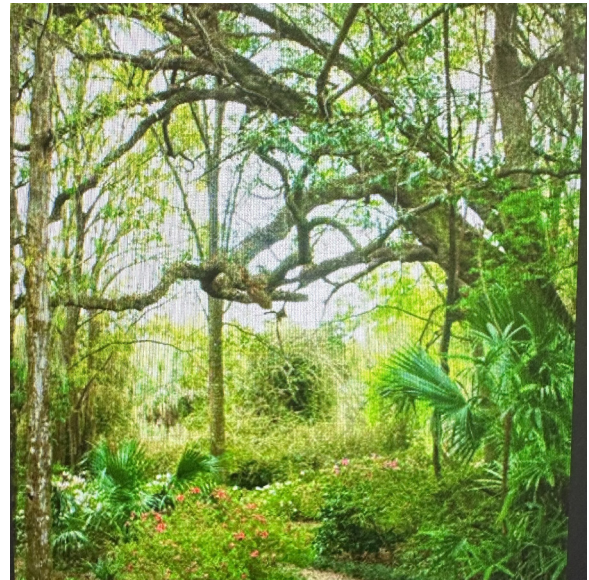
Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park
Tallahassee



Bok Tower Gardens - Lake Wales



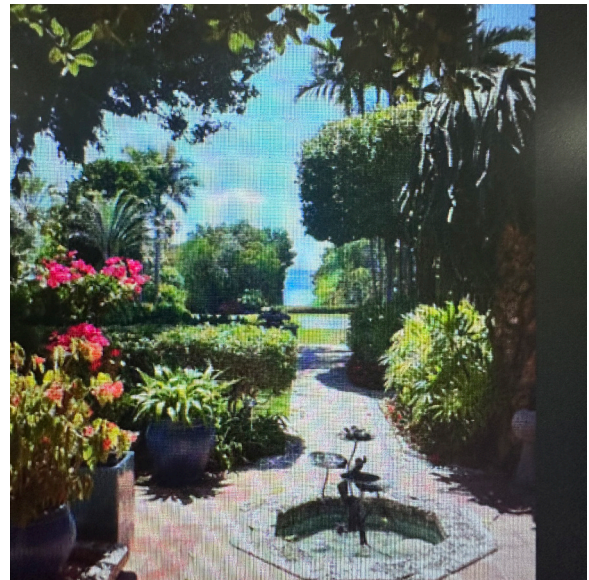
Vizcaya Museum & Gardens - Miami



Kanapaha Botanical Gardens - Gainesville



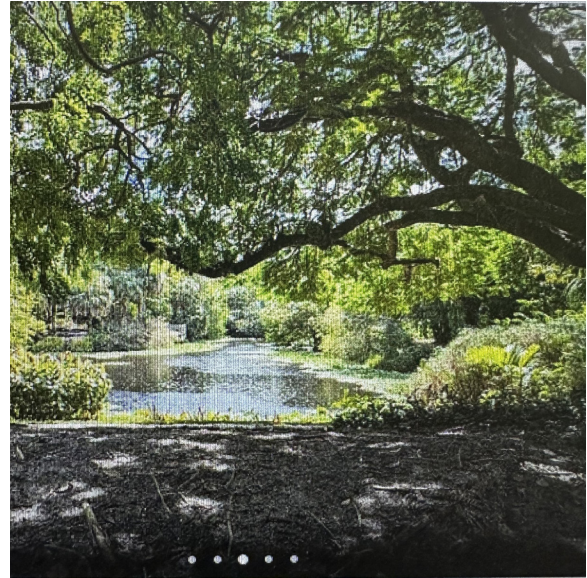
Morikami Museum & Japanese Garden
Delray Beach



The Kampong - Coconut Grove



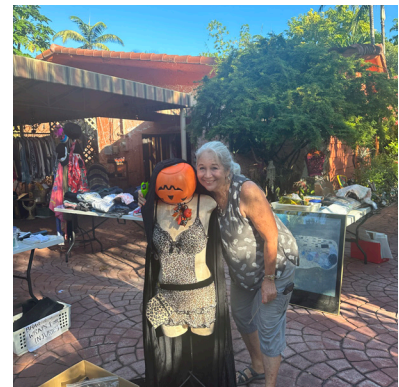
Pan's Garden - Palm Beach



Mounts Botanical Garden - West Palm Beach

GARAGE SALE

Our second garage sale of the year was held Saturday, October 7, at the home of Sandy Roth. The sale included the many items left from our earlier sale plus a few new things. The weather was great. Everyone had a wonderful time talking to each other and meeting new neighbors. The sale netted \$285.00 for our field trip. Wine and relaxation followed.



In Case You Missed It - Leonard Goldstein

On September 19, we welcomed back marine biologist Terri Bert, a familiar face at our meetings over the years. But something has changed since we last saw her. She is now *retired* marine biologist Terri Bert, and she brought with her several tables worth of interesting bromeliads from her collection of 2,000 or so. Her ambition going forward is to pare that number by about half. After the program, we helped her do it.

Terri first spoke about Neoregelias – Chester Skotak hybrids and some others. She noted that she grows so many bromeliads that some sun-lovers have had to be shade-grown. Tubular Neos look good in clusters, especially if the color of the underside of leaves is good. An example is *N. kerryi*. She regards Skotak as possibly the best Neo hybridizer ever. A lot of his crosses resemble one another. They tend to have a lot of red or albo-margination in them. He uses Hannibal Lecter a lot as one of the parents. *N.* ‘Hot Embers’ and *N.* ‘Avant Garde’ are good examples, and *N.* ‘White Hot Embers’ is one of Skotak’s best. Great crosses from other hybridizers are *N.* ‘Cheers’ and *N.* ‘Galactic Explosion.’ Skotak also does a lot of re-crosses with his larger Neos. *N.* ‘Equalizer’ is one example. It features spotting, vertical striping, and albo-margination.

Terri went on to emphasize the importance of conscientious tagging. Even double-tagging helps. Without a tag, it’s hard to explain and sell a plant, particularly a hybrid. She also noted that this year’s summer weather in her hometown, Bradenton, has posed a challenge to keep her plants from burning because of lack of rain.

Continuing with Neos, Terri showed *N. sanguinea*, a large, green plant with an almost iridescent center that last for months. Her *N. johannis* has a pink inflorescence. With luck and the right light, the entire plant will turn pink. Another *N. johannis* has yellow variegation. *N.* ‘Olens’ turns red at Christmastime. It takes sun or shade, and is a great tree-climber. Terri suggests planting it at the base of a tree, and it will do the rest. Importantly, it can also withstand leaf litter, although acorns

In Case You Missed It

still need to be removed, perhaps by running a garden hose into the leaves at low pressure. *N.* 'Compacta X Olens' is another desirable hybrid, and *N.* 'Compacta' doesn't burn in sunny exposures.

An even larger Neo is *N. correia-araujoi*. Growing it under shadecloth will keep it from burning. Terri also recommended *N.* 'Big Bopper,' a non-Skotak hybrid. *N. cruenta* is another multiform species, and it can handle drought and sun.

Australia and New Zealand growers raise many Vrieseas, but not so many Neos. *Vriesea warmingii* grows very large.

Aechmea is the trashcan genus of bromeliads, meaning that its nomenclature is confused. It is the receptacle for unknowns. Arboreal bromeliad forms are a more recent development evolutionarily. For great variety, concentrate on the Mata Atlantica of Brazil. Aechmea species are rather salt-tolerant. *A. eurychorymbus* and *A. rubens* have beautiful inflorescences. Like *A. blanchetiana*, *A. eurychorymbus* is a great landscape bromeliad. *A. mulfordii* (purple form), was collected by Wally Berg. It produces a yellow inflorescence.

A. paradoxa has been moved from genus to genus. It's a true paradox, and it has an ugly inflorescence. *A. nudicaulis* has about 40 forms and occurs over the largest range of any species in its genus.

The genus *Portea* has only nine species, and they all live at the edge of the gallery forest. *P.* 'Jungles' will turn red in the sun.

Pitcairnias can take more sun than many folks believe. Some inflorescences can grow 20 ft. long in order to emerge from dark places. The species love water.

In Case You Missed It

Terri noted that her *Nidulariums* came from famed bromeliad expert Harry Luther in exchange for her driving him around. Most species in the genus have red bracts and blue flowers. Some are mottled. *N. innocentii* occurs in many forms, and it likes deep shade. Its environment is always wet. It is a discolor species, i.e., it possesses one color on upper leaf surfaces and a different color on lower leaf surfaces. That characteristic is a clue that a plant lives deep in gallery rainforest. However, *Nidularium atalaiaense* is tougher than most of the species and can probably take more sun.

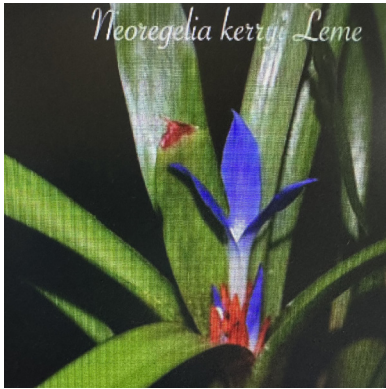
Canistropsis seidelii comes in red and yellow forms. Its flower is longer than most, borne on a long inflorescence.

Terri noted that 50% of bromeliad genera are terrestrial. One of them, *Orthophytum*, has many drought-adapted species. *Orthophytum* is unique in two ways: It possesses long inflorescences with pups and stolons with pups. *O. foliosum* is one of the best species in the genus; it turns bronzy in the sun.

Another such genus is *Sincoraea*. *S. burle-marxii* is a desirable species. And another genus, *Fosterella*, is somehow the ancestor of drought-adapted, hard-leaved species.

Hechtias and *Dyckias* are examples of convergent evolution. *Hechtia* grows only north of the Panama Canal. Although the genera are not closely related, they have similar morphology.

After Terri's fast-paced, informative journey through many bromeliad genera, vigorous sales followed, and she drove home content in the knowledge that she had begun to make a dent in her huge collection.



Neo. Kerryi



Neo. 'White Hot Embers'



Neo. Cheers



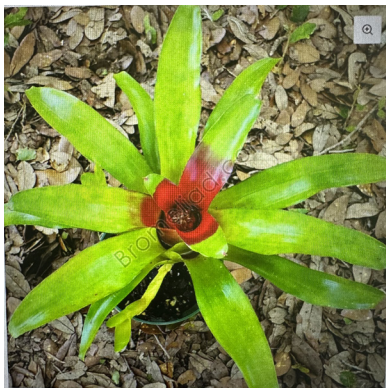
Neo. 'Galactic Explosion'



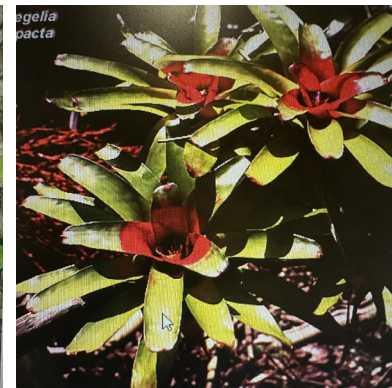
Neo. 'Equalizer'



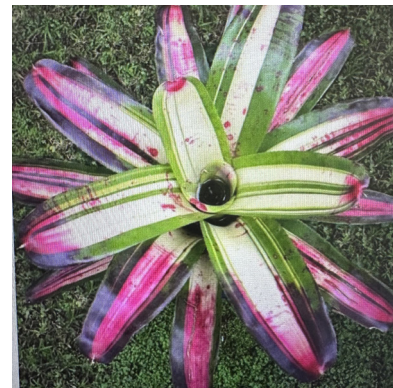
Neo. olens



Neo. compacta x olens



Neo. compacta



Neo. 'Big Bopper'



Neo. cruenta



Vr. warmingii



Ae. rubens



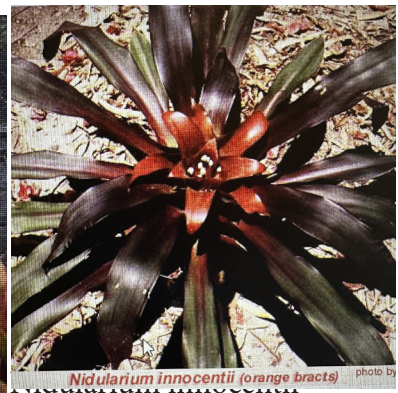
Ae. eurychorymbus



Ae. nudicaulis



Portea 'Jungles'



Nidularium innocetii (orange bracts) photo by



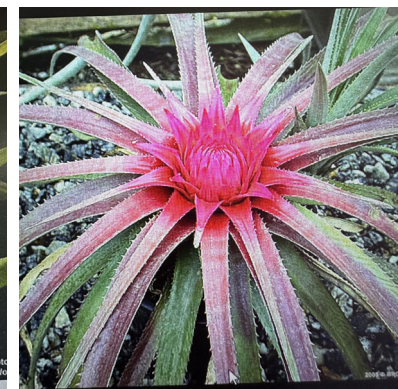
Nidularium atalaiaense photo by Ma



Canistropis seidelii photo by K. W

Nidularium atalaiaense

Canistropis seidelii



Sincorea burle-marxii

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:
Palm Society Sale - Nov.4-5
Orchids in October Festival -
Oct. 14-15

Mounts Botanical Garden -
Fall Plantapalooza - Nov. 4 & 5

Fruit & Spice Park - Rare Plant &
Orchid Festival - 10/20-10/22
BSSF members to volunteer

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

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