



BromeliAdvisory

January 2007

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FIRST MEETING OF 2007

JANUARY 2, 2007 MEETING 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Alan Herndon
TOPIC: "Basics of Potting Mix" Alan Herndon will be discussing basic soil mixes specific to the needs of bromeliads in South Florida.

[See p. 4 for blip biography of Alan Herndon]

RAFFLE TABLE: Alan and Rhonda will be providing the plants for the January meeting. You can expect to find some old favorites and some of the more uncommon plants in their selection.

DOOR PRIZE: Ed and Moyna Prince

REFRESHMENTS: Patty Gonzalez

SHOW AND TELL TABLE: Bring your problem plants and our experts will try and help. If you have something unusual or in bloom, bring it in and share it with us. The S&T table is where we can get some quick tips from our resident experts.

For this Month's Meeting:

What	Who
Raffle	Alan and Rhonda Herndon
Table	Antonio Arbalaez

THIS IS A REALLY COLD BROMELIADVISORY

This issue takes you to and fro on cold weather. What to do. What plants are susceptible. What temperatures threaten what plants. What little tips may help. Super thanks to **Jeri Parrish, Lynne Fieber, Moyna Prince, Nat DeLeon, Grant Groves, and Nelson Redfern** for their masses of wisdom.

January Plant Clinic

By: Lynne Fieber

I interviewed 2006 multi-award winner Jeri Parrish on her cold care methods for tender bromeliads. Jeri has a three-pronged approach for caring for her plants when really cold weather is anticipated. First, when a chill is impending, she soaks her plants, whether planted, potted or hanging, heavily with water from a hose. This makes it less likely the plants will freeze, and reduces stress from cold and wind. Then she covers all planted and potted plants with large sheets to hold the ground heat in around them and cut the wind. She leaves these coverings on the plants for however long the cold and wind are upon us. Hanging plants could be brought to the ground and included in the coverings, or you could encase them in a pillowcase or small sheet as they hang if you are so inclined. Finally, Jeri goes the final mile and brings inside plants she simply can't bear to lose or to have damaged by the cold. This can be as many as 20 plants!

MORE COLD WEATHER TIPS FROM MORE EXPERTS !!!!

By Moyna Prince

COLD WEATHER PROTECTION

Our last few winters have been mild, but don't be lulled into forgetting to protect cold-sensitive plants. A list of the plants will be separately listed below. That list is not all-inclusive!

There are some common-sense guidelines which should be observed. If you have a plant that is valuable to you, protect it. If you're not sure about its sensitivity, err on the side of caution. Because plants haven't had time to become acclimated, damage can occur if there is a sudden temperature drop after a mild spell. Pay attention to weather forecasts that indicate a sudden drop. Be wary of the windchill factor. If you have wind protection on the north and west, so much the better. Large trees also provide protection.

Grant Groves wrote the following suggestions for the Newsletter of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, July 1998.

- If you are not using ice to protect your plants, water them well a day before expected cold.
- Cover to prevent frost from settling. Never

leave the cover on after the sun comes up.

- Plants in containers are more susceptible than plants in the ground.
- Less nitrogen, more potassium will increase cold hardiness.
- In general, the most cold hardy bromeliads come from southern Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay to Argentina.
- Frost can be as damaging as a freeze and forms at temperatures above 32° and as high as 38°.
- Duration of cold is as much a factor as actual temperature.

TIPS FOR WARMING IN THE COLD

Some years ago the newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Broward County printed these hints by **Nelson Redfern**:

1. Keep plants warm. This can be achieved by bringing them indoors or by providing heat where they grow.
2. Provide cover to plants. This prevents heat loss by convection air currents and prevents evaporative heat loss. If plants are on or in the ground, it also prevents ground heat loss and creates a warm pocket.
3. Keep plants out of the wind when possible. Convection air currents will lower surface and core temperatures of plants. Keeping plants close to the ground will help as well as moving plants next to buildings or other larger plants that will shield the wind.
4. Place plants in areas where warmth is likely to be preserved. Close placement to the ground or on the ground where conduction from the warm ground will help. Close placement to bodies of water, large trees or buildings will also help.
5. Cover open shade structures. This allows for the retention of warm air by entrapment. This also allows the warm air to be stratified (warm air tends to rise).
6. Sprinkle plants with caution. This is especially effective if frost is imminent and duration of cold is brief. It is less effective if there is prolonged frost or there are cold, dry winds.

WHICH PLANTS ARE PRONE TO COLD, AND WHAT IS THEIR DANGER ZONE?

AT 50 DEGREES F –

Navia igneosicola and *Tillandsia dyeriana*.

AT ABOUT 40 DEGREES F –

Most *Cryptanthus*

Aechmea fulgens and its forms

Aechmea mexicana

AT HIGH TO MID-THIRTIES –

Aechmea brevicollis

Some hybrids of *Aec. fulgens*

Aec. magdalenae var. *quadricolor*

Aec. germinyana

Aec. mertensii

Neoregelia eleutheropetala

Neo. mooreana (or *Neo. peruviana*)

Most of the Amazon neos

MID-THIRTIES –

Aechmea chantinii and its various forms

Aec. corymbosa

Aec. melinonii

Aec. moorei

Aec. nallyi

Aec. politii

Aec. servitensis var. *exigua*

Aec. tessmanii

Ananas - all species

Bromelia humilis

Guzmania bracteosa

Guz. donnell-smithii

Vriesea splendens - its varieties and some hybrids

PLAIN OLD HATE COLD PLANTS –

Aechmea 'Orange Sherbet' (*Aec. chantinii* x

Aec. brevicollis) and *Ananas parguazensis*.

Unquestionably damaged at about 40 deg.

Thanks to Nat DeLeon and Moyna Prince

HAPPY HOLIDAYS REPORT

If you arrived at Fairchild around 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5, you might not have realized how much time and effort had gone into the festive looks of the Corbin classrooms. How wrong you would have been! Santa's elves, in the persons of **Clara and Peter Kouchalakos**, **Sandy Roth** and **Mickey**, **Judy Pagliarulo** and **Mike**, had spent literally hours preparing the rooms. Clara was responsible for decorating the tables so beautifully (gold plates and cutlery!)

and also coordinated all the casseroles. She had help from **Sharon Biddix-Maessen**, who added fern and palm leaves to the table decorations with great effect. Judy and Sandy picked up desserts and the ham, while Judy also cooked the turkey. That delicious pork was cooked by **Josefa Leon**. Peter and **Ed Prince** collected the beautiful gift plants from **DeLeon's Bromeliads**. Other plants were donated by **Evelyn Tennant** and brought in by **Mike Michalski**.

All our members brought their wonderful side dishes and casseroles, and many members participated in the gift exchange, which is always eagerly anticipated. The organizers stayed around to clean up when everything was over, and were ably helped by **Alan and Rhonda Herndon**.

Baby, 2006 was a great year for the Bromeliad Society for South Florida – the Show in April, Extravaganza in September and Auction in November. The 2006 Holiday Party was a fitting end, and we thank all the officers and directors who have helped make our society one of the best.



HOW COLD IS IT?

If you think it is getting too cold for your plants, merely take a quick glance at the (cold) plant hardiness zone map, and you will see that we are in the "red" zone.

ZONE MAP at:

http://www.ahs.org/pdfs/USDA_Map_3.03.pdf

Orchid Growers' Tip for Cold

Some orchid people suggest water as water is the only feasible source of heat available to plants grown in the open, under trees, in shade houses or on patios in South Florida. Usually at about 63 F in our southern Florida warm

confines, water is nature's shield. If plants are wet in very dry and rapidly moving air, evaporative cooling will be suppressed by liberal watering. Make sure the plants do not dry when cool *and* windy. Water liberally in cold windy times!!!

Bromeliadtoid – A factoid about Bromeliads

Irritant plants may cause a local irritation or rash where they come into contact with the skin. Unlike poison ivy, oak, or sumac, you do not have to be allergic to the plant to develop a rash. Irritant plants include:

– Plants from the bromeliad family, such as pineapple and Spanish moss.

New Board Named

On December 5, 2006 the new board was announced to the membership. Among the newly introduced board members are: **Sharon Biddix-Maessen, Peggy Fischer, and John Lazuras**. Familair (not old) faces of **Alan Herndon, Sandy Roth, Peter Kouchalakos, and Robert Meyer** were also introduced to the members. **Nick Crespo** could not attend and is the final member of the directors.

Ed Prince Persuades BSSF to Giveth \$1,000.00

“Big” **Ed Prince** stood before the Holiday Party Crowd and requested approval of two gifts, each of \$500,00, one to the BSI color fund and the other to the Bromeliad Identification Center.

In what sounded like an unanimous approval, the BSSF approved of the proposal(s) and to the organizations, the treasurer states, “The checks are in the mail.” Congratulations BSSF for your generous and appreciated gifts.

MEET THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER, ALAN HERNDON

Our speaker for January is Alan Herndon. Alan has been a member for years and recently became a member of the board. Alan runs a nursery with his wife – and fellow member – Rhonda. If you have not ventured to their place, give them a call and visit – number (305)498-2345 and nursery location is 16400 SW 240 St. Alan and Rhonda own Tradewinds Tropicals nursery in Homestead and have been growing bromeliads their entire adult lives. They have recently raised yet another shade house edifice – good news for the bromeliads they lovingly raise,

bad news for the mango trees which are removed for the shade house's land.

Born in Miami, and raised on the edge of Homestead, Alan proved intellectually gifted when being admitted to Cornell University as a young man. After studying physical sciences, he returned to Florida and worked on postgraduate research on biology at FIU where he obtained a masters in Biological Sciences.

Alan can best be described as professorial as his interest in plants exceeds the esoteric, aesthetic or generic reasons. He is a student of the plants, and does much more than have an acumen for identifying or describing the same. The depth of his consciousness or knowledge for the plants exceeds what most of us would fathom, and we are graced to have him be a member as well as educator for our society. We, the BSSF, can only hope that he will facilitate us with other speeches on other topics in the future.

His cold weather hint: You are pretty safe if under a tree canopy (gives you about 5 degrees protection).

DEERING ESTATE NEWS

Deering Estate Tour

WHEN: Saturday, February 3, 9:00 A.M.

WHO: Rick Cohen will be leading a tour of the Deering Estate on February 3rd.

HOW LONG: The tour will last 3 – 4 hours and will take us through the wilderness area that's usually off-limits to the public.

HOW MUCH: There is a \$7.00 admission fee.

WHAT DO I DO: If you want to join the tour, please call Moyna Prince (305-251-5289) or email MoynaP@bellsouth.net

President's Message

Because everything is so wonderful, Sandy merely imparts her best wishes to each and everyone for a happy holiday and healthy new year.

Time to Pay Your Dues

Bromeliading is a love of life, and for some, a way of going broke,
Rashes, cuts, irritating scabs, make you think you're just another dumb ol' bloke.
But love it is, so much that you join the society and yearly pay your dues,
And now is the time to deliver your gift, to which we bellow out, “thank you..”

If you have not paid Moyna, please do.