



BromeliAdvisory

July 2024

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

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Bromeliad Meeting

July 23, 2024, Next Meeting 7:15 PM Garden House through August

Member Sales Plants Allowed this month, Silent Auction will be allowed.

Food donations welcomed and appreciated, July's Food theme is Pasta Bar, please bring in anything you would like to eat with pasta. Let's make it a party!



(Bromeliad Raffle ticket given to those who bring in food we all love to eat!)

About Our Speaker

Alex Bello Show Chairman and President will be sharing a slide presentation with photos from our last 2024 Show & Sale. We want to thank Alex for stepping into the roles he does with great enthusiasm.



President's Message:

Hope everyone has been having a great Summer so far! This month we will be looking back to our 2024 Show & Sale and seeing all the great entries. We encourage you to remain engaged and continue to come to the meetings and share quality time with us!!

- Alex Bello

Alex Bello at our BSSF, INC Show & Sale April 20



From the Editor

As a reminder if you would like to submit an article with photos related to our mission please feel free to send it to my email at least 2 weeks prior. I welcome your input!

-Tina Severson

Show and Tell of the Month

July- Tillandsia

Our Board of Directors met to come up with fun ideas and we are implementing a Bromeliad for the month so please watch the advisory every month and bring in a plant for Show and Tell. We invite you all to bring in any Tillandsia's you would like to show us or share with us this meeting. If you have extra's you would like to donate bring them in and we will use for raffle or you can put them on silent auction. You can also ask the experts to help you with any questions you may have.

Last Month's Show & Tell was a beautiful Tillandsia Flavobracteata brought in by Rene Izquierdo. He has been a great leader in this, and we want to see more of everyone's plants!



From Karina Motes

“Thank you to BSSF for participating in **The 2024 Redland International Orchid Festival.**

The Orchid Festival made a \$295 donation to your society in the names of:

Tina Severson
Justin Severson
Maureen Adelman
Richard Adelman (scanner)

One last note! Redland will be taking place again October 18-20, 2024 (when it will be much cooler!!). Please let us know if you would like to volunteer again. We'd love to get a list of volunteer names in September. ”



Karina Motes handing check to our President Alex Bello



Vice President, Patty Gonzalez introducing our next Speaker Chip Jones

We Welcome Strong Participation!!!



Additional Visitors because of all the heavy rains!

In Case You Missed It- By Leonard Goldstein

Chip Jones is no stranger to our club. He's spoken to us a number of times, most recently in March 2023. A few years ago, he relocated to Moore Haven, a town that our research staff believes to be somewhere in central Wisconsin. But Chip is an enthusiastic traveler, and on June 18 he drove down to Fairchild Garden to present a program on "Growing Bromeliads Better" to a receptive audience.

Chip first addressed the influence of pot size on bromeliad health during the rainy season. Too much rain, he noted, can lead to unpleasant consequences. Sometimes it's better to dump water out of bromeliad cups after periods of high precipitation. (This was very timely advice. By the end of the month, rainfall in some parts of Miami-Dade and Broward Counties had cracked the 25-inch mark!) Chip doesn't water his bromeliads. One trick he has for overcoming heavy summer rainfall is to use a smaller pot for bromeliads; the soil will be covered by the plant's leaves and will stay dry. For periods of drier weather, he recommended placing saucers under those bromeliads whose leaves are large enough to keep water from getting into the soil. A good example is *Encholirium horridum*.

Rain risk notwithstanding, Chip prefers larger containers. He usually starts with a 6-in. pot, which he fills with soil and then shakes to collapse air pockets. His preferred soil mix is 45% pine bark, 25% Canadian coir, 10% sand, and 20% perlite. Since perlite dust is at least a respiratory irritant, and maybe worse, he moistens the product before use. He then applies 8-12 pellets of an 18-6-8, 360-day slow-release fertilizer which incorporates a purple marker that ages to black. A little fertilizer goes a long, long way, and Chip's goal is vegetative growth. Bromeliads want slow feeding; fertilizers that are quickly available to the plant create awkward growth. If pushed by feeding, bromeliads produce longer, skinnier leaves that make them less attractive. To prevent burning, plants should be watered first; the salts in fertilizers are hard on bromeliads.

Chip then moved on to other considerations. One is getting the maximum life out of a bromeliad. Dyckias, for instance, don't die when they bloom. *D. estevesii* can be rejuvenated by cutting the roots off. He also removes brown leaves from both the mother and the pups. The mother will then keep going for another 3-4 years. With Neoregelias, Chip isn't necessarily a fan of having them flower every year. He likes to let them grow and grow. *N.* 'Blushing Bride' has color all year long, not just at the time of flowering, i.e., its death. Chip noted that variegation is carried down into just 10% of its progeny.

Chip goes to a 7-in. pot for landscaping specimens or baskets in order to promote pupping. Solitary plants can stay in smaller pots. He often takes the first pup off the parent to stop the energy drain on it. He'll drop some fertilizer in the mom's cup, as well as a little bit into the pups. Then he pulls the plant out of the soil to help stimulate another couple of pups, and he places it in a soilless container that's kept off the ground.

Deuterocohnia is not an easy bromeliad to grow well. It likes alternating wet and dry periods. Its roots spread broadly. Chip gave the crowd a couple of tips: Plant Deuterocohnias a little deeply and repot twice a year. As for Neoregelias, plant them deeply enough to cover the white area on the stem of the pups. And by the way, fertilizer can make the difference between 1-

2 pups and 8 pups. Push plants hard in the spring, and then leave them alone in the summer and winter.

In concluding remarks Chip talked about dealing with a few pests: Scale is a sign of poor air flow. Remove spent leaves. As for raccoons, he recommended occasional use of snail bait to repel them. Squirrels, however, don't do a lot of damage.

Chip once told us that he likes to raise plants that are “slow-growing and can hurt you.” But I suspect that what he *really* loves is to raise beautiful plants. After all, his *Alcantarea* ‘John Stoddart’ won Best of Show in the Commercial Division at the BSI’s 2024 World Bromeliad Conference. And it doesn’t have a single spine!



Our Members were thoroughly engaged! Thank you, Chip Jones



Raffle Table Provided by Maureen Adelman
(Please see Alex if you are interested in doing the raffle table)



Bromeliads Below brought in by Chip Jones



USDA Annual Community Day Photos from Event on 6.29.24- Tina Severson

For those that were lucky enough to get there early and sign up for a Tram ride. I say to you, wow you were lucky! What a beautiful place with over 200 acres. Next year if they open to the Public I plan to get there very early. They gave out some free plants. Very shady with all the trees so the heat wasn't a problem. We may even want to consider being there as a club with our Bromeliads. There were many other clubs being represented and some familiar faces.

Driving into the USDA beautiful Palms on both sides of the road.



Upcoming Community Events



July 13 & 14 2024



Event Details

Mango Festival: A Celebration of the King of Tropical Fruit!

The **Mango Festival** returns to Fairchild. Bring your mango-loving family and friends and take your taste buds to the tropics for a weekend devoted to all things mango. **A 30-Year History of Bringing Mangos to South Florida**

Fairchild has been celebrating mangos during the Mango Festival for nearly 30 years. It's a weekend-long celebration of the sweet and delicious King of Tropical Fruit! Fairchild is home to The Tropical Fruit program and the world's largest mango collection. Our annual Mango Festival is a celebration of the more than 400 varieties of mangos in our prized collection, and it all culminates in a dazzling weekend filled with mango madness.

Click on the link for more details:

<https://ftbg.ticketapp.org/portal/product/67>

