



BromeliAdvisory

February 2024

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

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Alex Bello, President
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Hospitality: Denice Karmen
Membership, Patty Gonzalez & Melody Ray
Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello
Special Events/ Refreshments: Sandy Roth
Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo
Field Trip: Tina Severson

**March 19, 2024, Next Meeting 7:30 PM
Corbin A
(Member Sales Plants Allowed, We will
have Silent Auction & Raffle Table, Food
Items welcomed and appreciated)
About Our Speaker**

We will have a Show Recap and slide show and discuss the upcoming show and sale. Please bring your plants for show and tell. Our Show Chairman and veteran experts will be able to help you get your plants ready so bring them in if you want to have some questions answered! Our Committee Chairs will be recruiting volunteers. We need your help to make this event successful!



Membership Drive

Time again for our annual membership drive. Your membership is important to us. Please take the time to renew your membership or join if you are new. Dues remain \$25.00 per person and \$35.00 per couple. Please see Patty Gonzalez, membership chair. You can click on our website below to access the membership form and pay through the links below.

[Double Membership - \\$35](https://square.link/u/LpDC7hqv)
<https://square.link/u/LpDC7hqv>

[Single Membership - \\$25](https://square.link/u/3a3y4W9z)
<https://square.link/u/3a3y4W9z>

BSSF, INC Logo

Time for a change! If you have the talent to create a logo, we want to see it. We will be bringing the logos to the general meeting to decide on the final one. Please make it a digital logo.

Example here:



President's Message:

“Welcome to March and the beginning of spring! We are only 37 days away from our Show & Sale. Our next meeting we will be having a program on do's and don'ts of how to enter your plants. We will also have a recap of the judges' comments. Please bring any plant you wish to enter to our meeting and our veteran members can give you guidance on how to get to the head table.”

- Alex Bello



From the Editor:

All members are welcome to submit your bromeliad or tillandsia photos and articles related to our mission. If you'd like to be included in our newsletter, please submit your content at least 2 weeks prior to our general meeting to tinaseverson@gmail.com We would love to see your show & tell items. - Tina Severson

In Case You Missed It by Leonard Goldstein

BSSF Jeopardy for February 2024

Answer: May 2015

Question: When was the last time we saw Jason Mellica?

After a nearly 9-year drought, Jason returned to the BSSF from Sarasota to update his earlier topic, "Rise of the Tiger Neoregelia Hybrid." A lot has been going on in the interim.

Jason started hybridizing 15-20 years ago, but recommitted during COVID. He learned about bromeliads while an intern at Selby Gardens. Grant Groves was an early inspiration. Thirty years later, Jason possesses 30,000 plants. That's a lot of inspiration! He considers himself a Level 2 hybridizer and hopes to produce more variegated hybrids over the next 4-5 years. Strong, colorful hybrids are his goal.

Neos and other genera are slow from seed until about age 2. Tigers can take a lot of sun, and their formidable spines are becoming more popular. Stoloniferous Neos, such as *N. ampullacea*, are a bonus. Doubters said that Tigers wouldn't hybridize well with colorful species, but that proved wrong. *N. 'Omicron'* ('Cat's Pajamas' X 'Artemis') has been a great COVID-era cross.

Jason and the Argonauts, from Greek mythology, has been a source of names for Jason's crosses. Continuing in the same vein, his *N. 'Poseidon's Poison'* has proven to be a good hybrid; it's a wide-growing plant.

'Advanced Traits' is Jason's term for a hybrid that pups before it flowers. *N. 'Lava Lamp'* has wild patterns and possesses advanced traits. Another cross, *N. 'Waves of Zanzibar'*, is brand-new. *N. 'Dark Matter'* is an appropriately-named cross with advanced traits. Then there's *N. 'Elvira'*, which is, as its name suggests, very dark. It's distinguished by an upright growth habit.

Jason has been so busy making crosses during the COVID era that there are some 30 that he still has to name. His motto in hybridizing is, "Use the best material." He likes making crosses from Lisa Vinzant's plants. A 'Crimson Tide' X 'Artemis' hybrid, yet to be named, is promising. He also likes hybridizing with Roy Coleman's plants, which tend to contribute striations. And he'd like to do more work with Australian hybrids.

Not surprisingly, Chester Skotak's name also comes up as a source of material. Years ago he found five or six *N. carcharodon* varieties in Brazil that have become the source of numerous crosses. The plants are large and spiny, with wide, thick leaves.

Jason then turned to cultural topics.

Fertilizer: He uses Dynamite, 4-10 pellets per plant. He fertilizes with each repotting, because it initiates rapid growth and lasts 3-6 months. He does *not* apply fertilizer in the crown of plants; while it might stimulate pups, it can also burn. He adds that users of liquid fertilizer can spray the whole plant without incurring risk.

Soil: Jason uses a mix of $\frac{3}{4}$ peat moss and $\frac{1}{4}$ perlite (sometimes less). The sterile mix means minimal weeds -- mostly ferns.

Pest control: He discourages scale on dying bromeliads by removing old leaves to create better aeration. White scale is the easiest to deal with. Black scale is a much bigger problem, but brown scale is the worst, because it can eat holes in leaves. Separation of plants helps discourage scale infestation. Pups tend not to attract scale, so Jason sometimes keeps the pup and throws out the mother plant.





Jason Mellica selling his bromeliads

Silent Auction Table



Rene Izquierdo - Committee Chairman



Richard Coe & Laura Schrier Coe

Raffle Table

See Alex Bello if you are interested in providing the raffel table.





Thank you all for participating!

Upcoming Community Events



3210 N Palm Ave, Hollywood, FL 33026 Saturday April 6, 2023 | 10 AM



THE BUNNY HOPPENING

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy the Garden in bloom with live music, Eggsplore Galore hunts, picnic baskets, trackless train rides lawn games, plant sales, and a bunny hop hosted by Mr. Bunny himself!

And for the adults we've got mimosas and chocolate martinis! It's the perfect way to spring into the Garden.

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Saturday & Sunday, April 20-21 10:00 AM -5:00 PM



Event Details

Bromeliad Show & Sale presented by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida
April 20-21, 2024
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet and interact with bromeliad experts, shop, and enjoy a beautiful day in paradise.

Plants for Sale

South Florida has a great number of specialist growers and nurseries who propagate, hybridize grow, and sell bromeliads worldwide. There will be approximately ten vendors selling unique types of bromeliads and related merchandise. Vendors can provide growing tips to keep new acquisitions in great shape.

The Bromeliad Society of South Florida Exhibit

Be sure to check out the Annual Show Exhibit, a juried competition of rare plants. And be sure to chat members to learn about the important work this plant society is doing.

Rare Plant Auctions

Experience the lively auction of plants chosen from the growers' and nurserymen's collections. This is the perfect chance to purchase plants you will only see here and never on retail shelves. Make your best bid and take home some unique plants. Come early to check these plants out before the auction.

Students' Art Show

The Bromeliad Society of South Florida is very proud to partner with the Miami-Dade School District in presenting a juried art show of very talented middle school students. All works feature bromeliads.

Click on the link: <https://ftbg.ticketapp.org/portal/product/168>



Plant-a-Palooza Spring Plant Sale 2024

April 27 @ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Click on the link <https://www.mounts.org/plant-sales/>



Mother's Day Celebration
Sunday, May 12, 2024
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

[Ticket Info click here](#)

REDLAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL

MAY 17-19, 2024 | 10 AM – 6 PM DAILY

24801 SW 187TH AVE

REDLAND, FL 33031

FRUIT AND SPICE PARK

Click on the link <https://redlandorchidfestival.com/>

BSI World Bromeliad Conference 2024

22 - 25 May 2024 West Palm Beach Marriott, [West Palm Beach, USA](#)

CLICK ON THE LINK [HTTPS://WWW.BSI.ORG/NEW/CONFERENCE-CORNER/](https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/)

Bromeliad Society International Presents
World Bromeliad Conference 2024
May 22-25, 2024 • West Palm Beach, Florida

WBC 2024 will feature an exciting slate of events including a welcome reception, botanical tours, a banquet dinner, several world-renowned speakers & guests, the world's largest bromeliad sale and a professionally judged bromeliad show.

Conference registration for attendees includes:

- Welcome Reception — International poolside barbecue
- Historic WBC 2024 tote bag
- World conference banquet dinner with speaker Andrew Devonshire on "Hybridising, The Kiwi Way"
- Mounts Botanical Garden tour by luxurious motor-coach
- Access to world renowned speakers & honored guests
- World's largest bromeliad sale
- Professionally judged bromeliad show

Don't wait — register and reserve a hotel room online soon to save!
(Special reduced rates are available to all current BSI members)

Grant's Farm Nursery Tour



Join us for a special, behind-the-scenes tour to Florida's oldest bromeliad nursery! Reserve your space online for only \$25.

WBC 2024 World-Renowned Speakers



Find the latest WBC 2024 news and registration links online:
www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/

We look forward to seeing you at WBC 2024!
Conference Chairman Tom Ramiccio (Tramiccio@aol.com) & Conference Co-Chairman Alex Bello

Post-Conference Ecuador Field Trip with Plant Expeditions



Complete your conference experience with a 13 day tour through Ecuador. See over 150 bromeliad species in their native habitat! Also see wildlife—butterflies, birds, insects and monkeys! For more tour information and to reserve your space visit:
www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2024/ecuador/

