



Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies



Alcantarea imperialis

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This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. Contact the editor for permission to reprint articles from this publication.
Send all requests to karen@fcbs.org.

Please submit articles in word document format to editor at bromstudio@hotmail.com

On the cover: Alcantarea Imperialis Photo by Carol Wolfe

CATCHING UP, STAYING EVEN

Carol Wolfe, Editor



Aechmea cucullata

While browsing through the latest edition of *Woman's Day*, I noticed the magazine was offering \$5,000 to complete their survey. My first thoughts, I could use that money. Just complete a survey and you may be the lucky winner! But fill out the survey? I've done this in the past and the survey gets so long you finally close the program because you are tired of answering questions.

Immediately, I thought, "I just don't have the patience for it!" No patience? So how does that line up with making 166 pictures of the beautiful *Aechmea cucullata* to capture its exact image and colors! Because it's fun! I had the patience to move the lighting, change the camera settings, change lenses and move the plant until I captured its exact colors.

The plant was given to my husband, Tom, by Harry Luther about eight years ago so that made it special to us and since this was the first time it bloomed, it was even more exciting to photograph. The bloom was beautiful and the pink foliage outstanding! Don't you agree the *Aechmea cucullata* is gorgeous?

It takes patience to wait twenty years for a *Alcantarea imperialis* to bloom. During the wait, its name was changed from *Vriesea imperialis* to *Alcantarea imperialis*. It started blooming the first week of May and over the next few months, made its upward descent twelve feet and it was a gorgeous bloom bringing us much pleasure!

Many years ago when Tom purchased Andy Price's bromeliad collection, it included a small *Alcantarea imperialis* that we pampered for 14 years. The first ten years, we put it in the greenhouse for protection from the Florida freezes but it became too heavy to move so we planted it near our lanai. For the next few years, we put an electric light bulb under the cover to keep it from freezing. However, we didn't anticipate an arctic freeze this far south on a Christmas Eve (we were expecting Santa Clause) and the northern winds blew the cover off during the night and it froze. We planted another one on the south side of the house and we were able to keep it covered with frost cloth. During one of our wettest seasons, El Niño (which we are having again), caused it to topple over from the weight of the water and Tom replanted it in the same spot and from there it continued year after year until it bloomed. The fantastic bloom was worth the twenty year wait!

So what do bromeliads have to do with a computerized magazine and a boring survey? There is just no appetite for completing a survey, not even for cash, when you compare sitting at a computer screen answering survey questions when you could be looking at real live plants, bromeliads that grow and bloom!

I hope this is an exciting issue for all our readers as we have some new contributors to the Newsletter this month. As usual Karen Andreas has blessed us with a beautiful article on Nidulariums and "Bromeliad Basics – The Bromeliad Tool Box" for beginners; Tom Wolfe wrote an article on *Alcantarea imperialis*; Dr. Teresa Cooper and Dr. Ron Cave's update on the weevil research program as well as a call to contact the Governor of Florida regarding the budget he vetoed for the research/quarantine facility; Jay Thurrott has sent photos of the FCBS meeting and as well as a great article "Volunteers – Have you joined the ranks?"; Mike Michalski article "What's eating my bromeliads?"; Calandra Thurrott's draft minutes of the last FCBS meeting; an updated list of Bromeliad vendors; and Rick Ryall's contributions of registration forms for the Extravaganza – everything you need to know to attend the Extravaganza. So get ready for the Party and let's all meet in Miami on Friday, September 25th!

Nidularium

An Overlooked Landscape Bromeliad

By Karen Andreas

The perfect bromeliad for lower light or early morning light conditions, *Nidularium* is often overlooked when planting bromeliads in the Florida landscape. It is easy to grow and adds color for a good long time in the garden.

The genus *Nidularium* was first described in 1845. The name is derived from the Latin word *nidulus*, meaning small or little nest, describing the rosette shaped inflorescence that is found nestled in the center of some of the species. *Nidularium*'s native habitat is Brazil, where its 48 species are found in the lower parts of rain forests at sea level to the edge of cloud forests. They grow in the litter on the forest floor, on low tree limbs and sometimes are found on rock outcroppings.



Nidularium antoineanum
Photo by Michael Andreas

Moisture is a key component in the native environment of *Nidularium*. In cultivation, the soil should be moist but well drained. Do not let the soil or the rosette of the *Nidularium* dry out completely. While *Nidulariums* grow well in semi-shade and shady conditions, a little morning light will ensure that the leaves do not grow long and strappy. They can be grown well indoors if they have some humidity, filtered or diffused light and consistent temperature. They do not like temperatures below 55°.

Pups can be removed when they are at least one-third the size of the mother plant. The pups do not like to be over-potted; start them in 4" pots. Mature *Nidulariums* will thrive in 6" pots.

Nidulariums make excellent landscape plants. They add texture, shape and color to collections and are good for low light conditions, including in the home or office. Leaf color may be light or dark green, green with white stripes, green on top, maroon on bottom, green mottled with purple, or maroon.

The rosette-shaped inflorescence is long-lived, often for several months. In some *Nidulariums*, it sits nestled down among the leaves; in others, it rises on a stalk above the center of the plant. The shape also varies, with some rosettes of densely formed leaves and other inflorescences having a spiky appearance. The inflorescence color varies and can be rose, cerise or maroon. Its flowers are red, blue or white, and they open in sequence.

Nidularium is a rewarding bromeliad to grow. Both species and cultivars offer dramatic shapes and long lasting color, something for every taste. With its elegant leaves and intensely colored inflorescence, *Nidularium* is an attention getter in any collection.

Nidularium Gallery



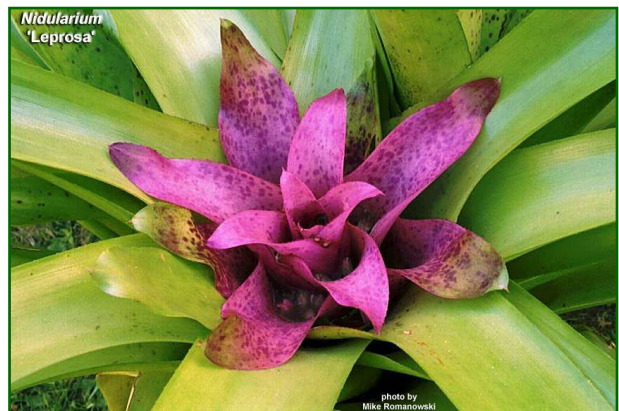
Nidularium antioineanum grows both terrestrially and epiphytically in habitat. Its dense rosette is pink when it commences blooming and turns to purple or mauve as it ages. Steens highly recommends this as a landscape plant, which should be prominently displayed for its dramatic impact. (Photo by Michael Andreas)

The fire engine red inflorescence of *Nidularium fulgens* lasts for more than six months, and fades to cerise as it ages. Its dark green leaves are spotted. (Photo by Michael Andreas)



Nidularium angustibracteatum features a spikey inflorescence rising above the throat of the narrow leaves. (Photo by Jere Rhine)

The leaves and rosette of *Nidularium* 'Leprosa' are green, mottled with purple. Even the rosette has the spots. (Photo by Mike Romanowski)





Nidularium 'Madam Robert Morobe' not only features a bright red inflorescence but also leaves with a dark purple underside. (Photo by Michael Andreas)

Nidularium 'Miranda' is a real stand out with its striped leaves and hot pink inflorescence. (Photo by Debra Jones)



Nidularium 'Lila Rosea' is another standout with its elongated inflorescence in rose pink and cream and its blue flowers. (Photo by Andrew Steens)

All pictures courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' website. See more Nidulariums at <http://fcbs.org> > Photo Index.



Above: Alcantarea imperialis Below: Close up of the flower of Alcantarea imperialis



Bird nest in leaves.



ALCANTAREA IMPERIALIS IN THE WOLFE'S GARDEN

By Tom Wolfe

Formerly classified as *Vriesea imperialis*, this giant species is now *Alcantarea imperialis*. The plant is endemic to the mountains of Teresopolis of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil at approximately 4,500 feet (1,500 meters) elevation. The genus *Alcantarea* was named after Don Pedro de Alcantarea, the second Emperor of Brazil. Because of its habitat of growing on the rocky slopes of the mountains, it can obviously tolerate dry conditions. However, since the foliage forms an umbrella shape, very little rain water reaches the root system thereby making the root system rather weak. It is suggested stripping the lower leaves away as they turn brown to allow more rain to reach the roots. This may prevent this large plant from toppling over, especially when the inflorescence becomes mature.

This species is variable, having seven known cultivars, "Black Cinder" being one of the more outstanding ones (pictured below) In cultivation, *Alcantarea imperialis* requires full sun to partial shade and needs a well-drained soil. It makes a striking landscape specimen or a bold accent in the landscape. It will tolerate close to freezing and below freezing if covered with frost cloth *Alcantarea imperialis* also adapts well to coastal landscapes being resistant to salt spray.

Alcantarea imperialis in the Wolfe's garden measured 12 feet from ground to the tip of the inflorescence and 5 feet 8 inches in diameter. The leaves were 6 inches wide and 38 inches long. The open flowers attracted humming birds as well as honey bees, bumble bees, dragon flies, lizards, and a black snake was seen near it. We also found a bird's nest tucked in between the wide leaves.

Overall, this is a very desirable plant for any landscape or collection.



Mel Mele (1934-2012) shown at the 2003 New Orleans Bromeliad Show with his award-winning Alcantarea "Black Cinder"



References: V. Padella "Bromeliads" Crown Publishers 1966; A. Steens "Bromeliads online" Bromeliad Society Journal of New Zealand

Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report

January – March 2015

Teresa M. Cooper and Ronald D. Cave

1 Indian River Research & Education Center, UF, Ft. Pierce, FL

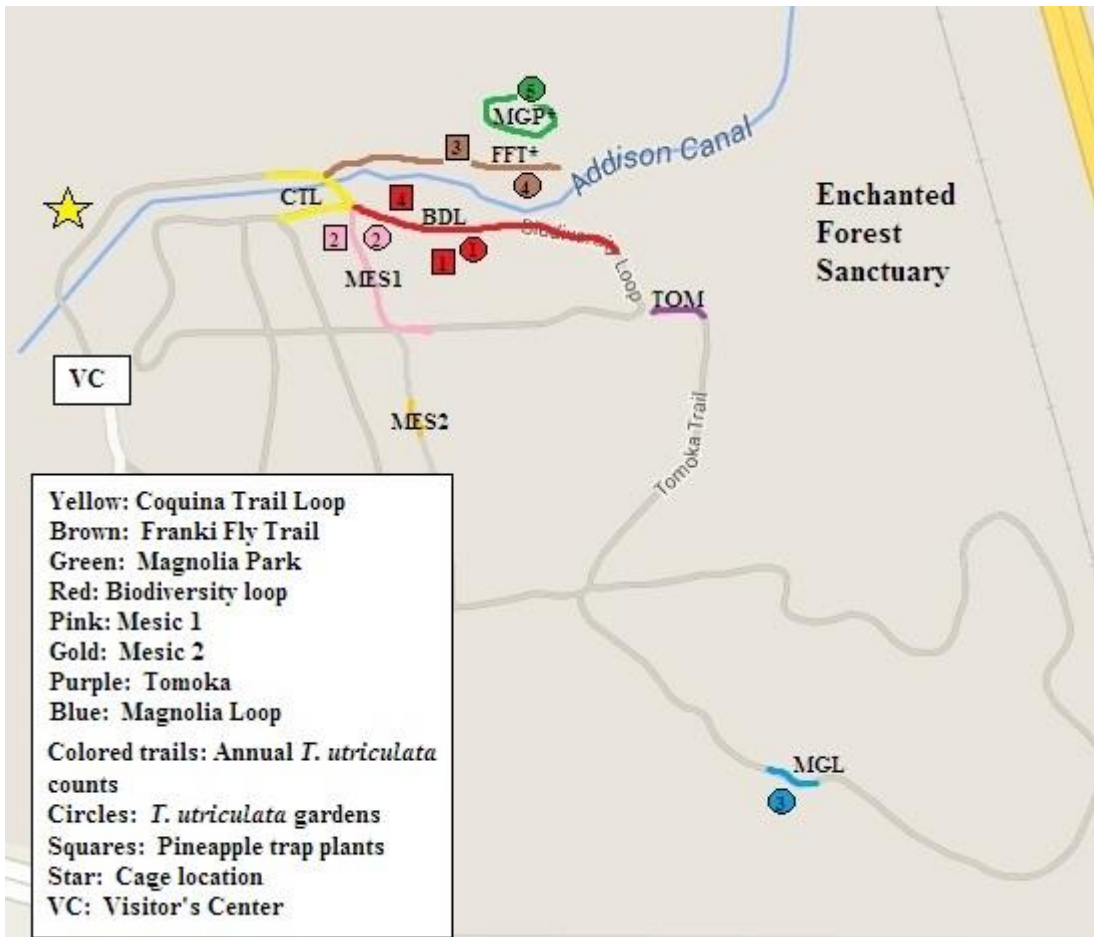


Figure 1: A map of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

Figure 1 is a map of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary (EFS) that shows the area where annual counts are made of the wild *Tillandsia utriculata* population (those plants with a longest leaf length of 30 cm or greater), the location of the five *T. utriculata* gardens, the four sites with pineapple tops set out for trapping Mexican bromeliad weevils, and the location of the cage for keeping and protecting large *T. utriculata*. Annual counts will be made of the wild *T. utriculata* plants in EFS to be able to assess the results of our conservation efforts. A count in April 2015 resulted in 75 plants and only one plant with an

inflorescence. The *T. utriculata* gardens are well-established and we have had very little damage caused by the weevil in the gardens. The pineapple tops that we have set out for trapping the Mexican bromeliad weevil are having mixed results, with occasionally large captures (up to 26 weevils in one trip), but mostly small numbers (2 or 3 weevils). One cage has been completed and has been placed in the forest (Figure 2). The personnel at EFS have been provided with a pesticide to spray the plants before placing the plants in the cage. Several volunteers are now involved in the project.

Three entomopathogenic fungi are being tested for controlling the weevil in the gardens; two were ineffectual, but the third, *Beauveria bassiana*, is causing weevil mortality. Tests with Neem oil do not cause mortality to the weevil but reduces oviposition by the females. Research continues. Katie Schulman, in Naples, Florida, has nearly completed her proposal for testing insecticides for managing the weevil and should be able to start testing soon.

Data have been collected from our colony of Mexican bromeliad weevils that were brought back from Belize. Further data needs to be collected, organized, and analyzed. Developmental time for weevil growth is being tested on the *T. utriculata* plants that were brought back from Belize as well as the Florida form of *T. utriculata*. On the Belize *T.*

utriculata, the weevils are showing similar habits that were witnessed in the field in Belize: the larvae tend to channel the sides of the stem and not the center, therefore allowing the plant to continue growing.



Presentation:

Cooper TM. 24 June 2015. New Tactics for Saving Florida's Native Bromeliads. Florida Native Plant Society, Sea Coast Chapter.
Titusville, Florida

Figure 2: David Pick stands in front of the large *Tillandsia utriculata* cage in the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

ATTENTION ALL FCBS MEMBERS: WE NEED YOUR HELP

Governor Scott vetoed funds for the Research/Quarantine Facility

Teresa M. Cooper

At the FCBS Quarterly Meeting on 11 July 2015, I mentioned that Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida had line vetoed the funding for the research/quarantine facility where we are doing research to manage the Mexican bromeliad-weevil. It is very likely that the facility will be forced to close and research on the Mexican bromeliad weevil, as well as many other invasive organisms, will come to a halt.

Members at the FCBS meeting expressed a desire to contact Rick Scott and express their disapproval of this action, because they understand the importance of the work we are doing to save Florida's bromeliads from the weevil. A pdf file listing the line vetoes made by Rick Scott can be found at:

<http://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Final-Veto-List.pdf>

The line pertaining to our facility is on page four, line 1502, under the title: Special Categories – Transfer to University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences for Invasive Exotics Quarantine Facility, total funding \$900,000.⁰⁰.

The Web page for contacting Rick Scott is: <http://www.flgov.com/contact-gov-scott/email-the-governor/>

His address and phone number are:

Office of Governor Rick Scott
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
(850) 488-7146

They don't write out Rick Scott's email address, but they have a link on the Web page where you can submit an email. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Bromeliad Basics for Beginners

The Bromeliad Tool Box

By Karen Andreas



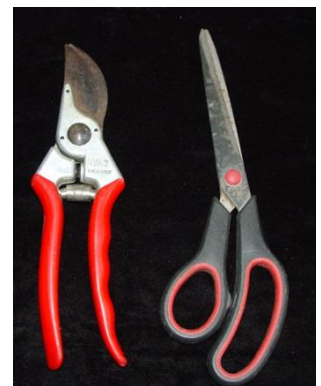
Bromeliads and gardens eat tools. It's a known fact that tools disappear at an alarming rate while you are working in the yard – the moment you lay something down and look away, the tool disappears.

The solution is simple. An inexpensive caddy easily becomes a garden tool box that you can easily tote around – and place tools in before the ravenous garden takes its toll.

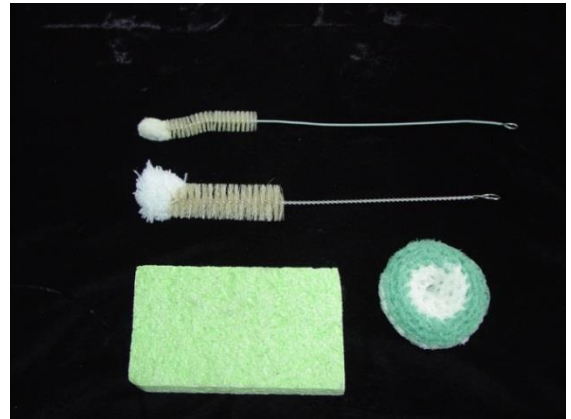
Here are some suggestions for stocking your bromeliad tool box.



Digging and cutting tools are staples for any box. Choose a variety of scissors to accommodate varied leaf sizes.



Carry a pencil – or your favorite markers – and a supply of name tags with you.



Ivory soap and water is a good way to remove scale. Use alcohol to clean tools. Soft bottle brushes can be used to clean out bromeliad tanks. The round sponge, when used with soapy water, is good for removing scale – on leaves without visible scurf. The rectangular sponge can be used to wipe pots after repotting a plant.

Use rooting powder on the cut ends of bromeliads, especially Cryptanthus.



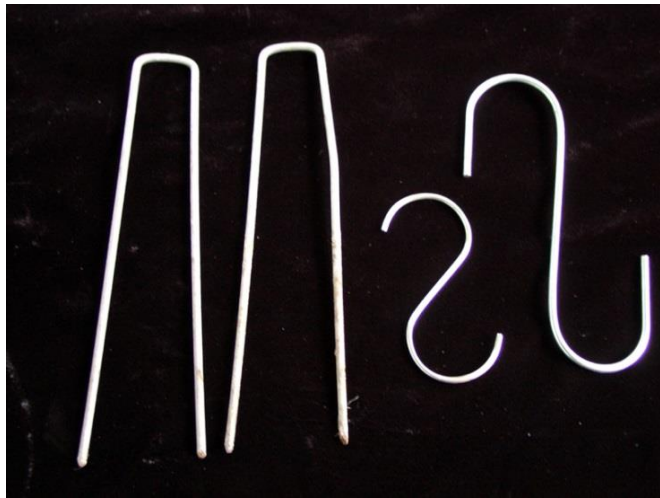
Use covered wire or plant tape for securing bromeliads to wood, fences, branches or other surfaces when glue/Goop is not possible.

Keep time release fertilizer in a covered container – and use with terrestrial bromeliads such as Cryptanthus, Pitcairnia, and Dyckia.

Gardening gloves are often too bulky, especially with soft leaf or tiny bromeliads. Believe it or not, latex gloves provide protection from the smaller teeth of Aechmeas and Neoregelias. You can find boxes of them at the grocery store.

When you need to get into the tank of a bromeliad that is either too deep or too heavily armored

for your fingers and even gloves won't help, long tweezers will do the trick. You can find very long tweezers at flea markets or even some nurseries. "S" hooks are handy tools that readily disappear into mulch. Keep a supply in your tool box so you can always reach for them.



Earth staples (above, left) are handy for anchoring pots and anchoring bromeliads.



These are just a few ideas of what to stock in your bromeliad tool box. Customize your caddy to suit your needs and your collection. Get in the habit of tossing your tools, your bits and your pieces in to the box so you will always know where your supplies are – and you can spend time on your bromeliads, not on runaway tools.

MINUTES (Draft, Revised 7/21/15)
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
July 11, 2015
Sarasota, FL

The meeting was called to order at the First Church United Methodist—104 South Pineapple Ave. Lunch provided by Sarasota Bromeliad Society. The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by Council Chair, Kay Klugh (SBTPS). In attendance: Tom Wolfe (BGTB), Betsy McCrory (BSCF), Ben Klugh (BSCF), Mike Michalski (BSSF), Patty Gonzalez (BSSF), Vicky Chirnside (CBS), Dr. Larry Giroux (CBS), Rick Ryals (FECBS), Calandra Thurrott (FECBS), Ashley Graham (FWCBS), Alton Lee (FWCBS), Jean Thomas (GBS), Richard Thomas (GBS), David Johnson (SBS), John O'Steen (SBS), Sudi Hipsley (SBTPS), Dr. Teresa Cooper (UFL), Barbara Partagas (BSI Director, BSSF, 2015 Extravaganza Chair), Jay Thurrott (BSI President, FECBS), Bruce Holst (BSI Director, SBS).

All nine societies represented.

Reports & Updates:

– Minutes of April 11, 2015 were accepted with unanimous consent. Motion made by Ashley Graham, Second by Kay Klugh.

– Treasurer Report presented by Sudi Hipsley.

– Webmaster Report, no report.

– Newsletter Report, Tom Wolf representing Newsletter editor, Carol Wolfe presented her written report to thank members for their support and outline new future articles featuring individual clubs activities. There was discussion of the possibility of co-editors to assist her, if she should ever need.

– Weevil Research, Dr. Teresa Cooper presented a written report of her most recent findings and thanks the Council for its support. She discussed her work in the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, her work in the lab with alternative methods for weevil control in the form of three fungi, non-pesticides, and botanical oils. Prominent in her discussion was the loss of funding for her research at the U of F facility in Fort Pierce which will end September 10, 2015. She hopes to continue her work with the Mexican bromeliad weevil in some other capacity through U of F.

– FCBS Roster, Ashley Graham will be sending extras to the individual clubs. Many thanks to Susan Sousa.

– BSI News, Jay Thurrott, reports that the next BSI directors meeting will be the morning of Friday, September 25, 2015 in Miami at the Extravaganza. A BSI members' meeting precedes the meeting of directors and he encourages all to attend.

Old Business:

– Extravaganza 2015, Barbara Partagas reports that the Bromeliad Society of South Florida has seven paid ads, eight commercial vendors, one non-commercial vendor, and the 78 room commitment met. Polo shirts (\$15) and t-shirts (\$9) featuring Nat DeLeon's Neo. 'Passion' are available to volunteers working the event. Dr. Teresa Cooper will have an information booth there and Bullis Bromeliads will provide a display. Barbara asked for clarification about the auction setup and asked for speakers to be introduced. After much discussion about whether auctioneers should be reimbursed, she has agreed to ask Peter Kouchalakos from her society to volunteer as auctioneer. Carolyn Schoenau, Extravaganza auction chair, will send plant donation forms to be filled out ahead of time by members for the five donated items from their clubs.

– Non- Extravaganza 2016 Event, Rick Ryals discussed a possible event for FCBS at the Mounts Botanical Garden, West Palm Beach, FL. He suggested a judged show, auction, speakers, food, and plant sales. This would be an activity during non-Extravaganza years. He said that he would continue to speak with the Director of the Mounts.

– Standing Rules & Bylaws Review Committee, Ashley Graham reported some minor changes: dates, dues, membership,



Kay Klugh, FCBS Chairman, Ben Klugh (BSCF), Mike Michalski (BSSF), Betsy McCrory (BSCF),

Extravaganza rotations, who will put together the roster (a volunteer or the secretary as the case may be), verbiage regarding BSI officers and directors, co-editors for the FCBS newsletter, and rules for speaker reimbursement. She hopes to have a redline draft in October.

- Letter to Non-affiliated Bromeliad Societies, Kay Klugh sent an invitation to four clubs who are not affiliated with FCBS asking them to come to our meetings and the Extravaganza. The clubs are: Indian River Bromeliad Society, Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society, Broward Bromeliad Society, and the Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches. They have not responded. Rick Ryals suggested that we allow those societies to become non-voting members with limited duties to bring them into the Council and effectively boosting membership.

- Extravaganza 2017, The Council discussed whether BGTB might be involved in the Extravaganza 2017 or be able to remain in the Council. Since a motion was passed to change the meeting dates Tom Wolfe should be able to attend the Council meetings. He reports that his society will still be represented in the Council as a result.

New Business:

- Rick Ryals reports that FCBS will send an email for the Extravaganza to all members. This is a first time use of email notification to members. Mass email will be used on a limited basis.

- Ashley Graham will produce name tags for the Council members for next meeting.

- Discussion was made to change the months of meetings to three per year: the fourth Saturday in February, June, and October. A motion was made by Ashley Graham, and seconded by Tom Wolfe requiring a by-law change. The motion carried.

- Society News/Updates, all nine societies reporting. Some of the speakers to the clubs and their topics:

Tom Wolfe, “Ways to Display Bromeliads”; Mike Michalski, “Trip to Ecuador”, “Hybridizing” and “Bromeliad Bingo”; Greg Spak, “Dyckias”; Lisa Robinette, “Getting Ready for a Show”; Ray Lemieux, “Terrestrials from Seed”; Bruce Holst, “Trip to Belize”; Jason Mellica, “Hybridizing”; Don Beadle, “Billbergias”; Dennis Cathcart, “Brazil Part 2”; Brian Weber, “Mounting Bromeliads”; Alton Lee, “Vrieseas”; Dr. Terrie Bert, “Bromeliads S—W”; and David Johnston, “Vrieseas”.

The next meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies will be Saturday, October 24, 2015 hosted by the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Prepared by: Calandra Thurrott (FCBS Secretary, Representative)



Kay Klugh, FCBS Chairman, Ben Klugh (BSCF)

**The July meeting of the Florida Council
Behind the Scenes Tour
Jay Thurrott**

The July meeting of the Florida Council was hosted by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society. Several of those representatives



**Bruce Holst, Director of Botany
For Marie Selby Botanical Gardens
Photo by Jay Thurrott**

who arrived early were treated to a “behind the scenes” tour of the gardens by Bruce Holst, director of Botany for Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. For those who have never walked through the greenhouses which currently contain the largest and most diverse collection of bromeliad species plants in the world, this was a truly wonderful opportunity. Along the pathway between greenhouses were many mature *Tillandsia utriculatas* from the Fakahatchee Strand that had been rescued before they could be attacked by the Mexican Weevil. When these plants bloom, the seed that is produced will be harvested, germinated and raised to prevent the loss of the genes associated with plants from this area, should the weevil’s destruction continue uncontrolled.

During the business meeting several clubs reported that it was difficult finding volunteers to serve as club representatives to the Florida Council. Incentives to attend in the form of tours of nearby botanical gardens and bromeliad collections of club members in the area are often offered to the club representatives and several clubs reported that they reimburse the travel expenses of their



representatives to the Council. These “fringe benefits” may help offset the inconvenience of travelling to these meetings, making attendance more attractive.

**FCBS representative received
behind the scene tour with Bruce
Holst,
Director of Botany for Marie Selby
Botanical Gardens
Photo Rick Ryals**





What's Eating My Bromeliads?

By Mike Michalski

One day when I went out to a shade house to see one of my new bromeliad crosses it was chewed in half at its base. I started to look at other plants around the yard and found over 50 bromeliads that had been chewed and eaten. A lot of them were the new pups that were just starting to emerge from the mother plants.

I didn't know what was eating the bromeliads, so I put a star fruit on the soil where the plant was chewed in half. The next day, the star fruit was on the ground. I put another star fruit on a similar plant in another shade house. I went out at 9 PM to see that the star fruit was half eaten and knocked to the ground. The same thing happened the next night. I was thinking a squirrel might have eaten up but they usually don't eat at night so must be a raccoon or who knows what? My next guess was maybe it was a fruit bat. With this in mind, the next night, I put another star fruit on the plant and told my wife I was going to sit out there with a flashlight as long as necessary to see what was eating my plants.



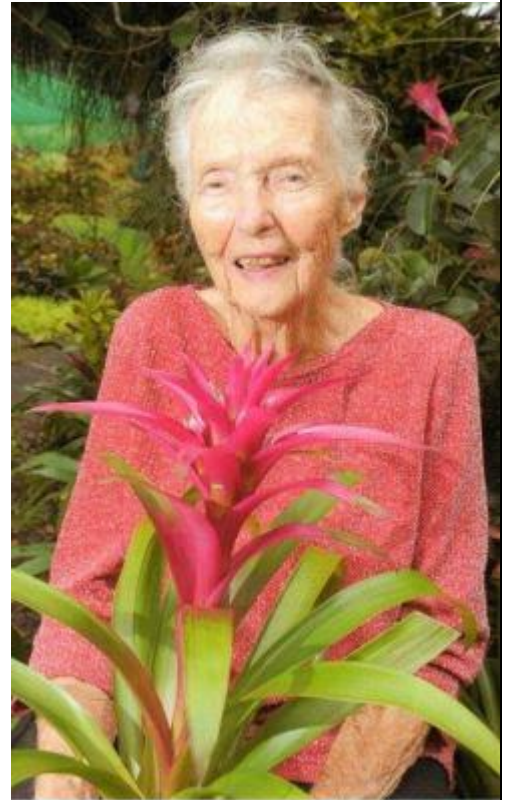
After dark, sitting in my chair about 50' from the plant, I shined my light on the plant and not only saw the plant but a rat the size of a baby elephant. The next day I purchased six rat traps. I put one out near the bromeliad and when I went to check it, I couldn't find the trap. The rat was so big he had escaped with the trap. However, persistence pays off and during the next two weeks, I set the trap every night and caught around ten of the rats!



★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

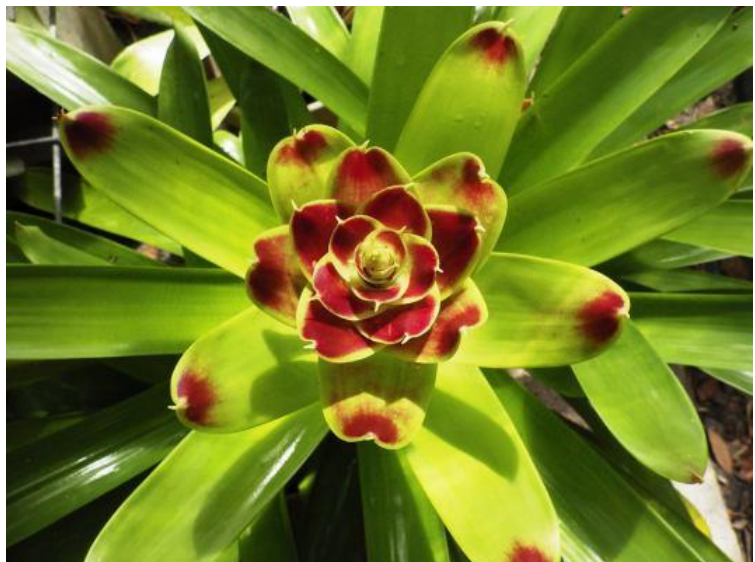
The Florida Council of
Bromeliad Societies sends best
wishes to Grace Goode on her
98th Birthday, July 23rd.
Chances are you have one of
her many hybrids.

(Submitted by Rick Ryals)



Vriesea phillipo-coburgii

The beautiful development of a *V. phillipo-coburgii* inflorescence. Grown by Marty Folk this summer in Kissimmee, FL, perhaps the result of a cool winter. Marty is a member of the Central Florida and Seminole Bromeliad Societies in addition to being a FL Director for the BSI. Photos sent in by Rick Ryals.



VOLUNTEERS - HAVE YOU JOINED THE RANKS?

BY JAY THURROTT



I have been very fortunate in having had the opportunity to visit and talk with many garden clubs and bromeliad societies throughout the state these past few years. They have more in common than you might think and it's been interesting seeing the 'ebb and flow' from year to year of their membership numbers as well as general participation in activities by those members. Some clubs that have traditionally boasted of maintaining large rosters have found those membership numbers declining - in some cases at an alarming rate. I know that a frequently heard comment when discussing the reasons for declining club membership is that more recent generations are just not as interested in joining organizations as in the past and that many of their interests and needs are met now by visits to websites catering to each individual's specific interests. This is certainly a valid point, but it doesn't quite explain why as some clubs decline in membership, others are seeing either stable numbers or an increase in active members. There is clearly more involved in the dynamics of membership than just the perceived difference in generations. I don't have the answer to this question of course, but I've noted a few features that are common to both healthy garden clubs and healthy bromeliad societies.

1. Fun and education are stressed in successful clubs (not necessarily in that order). It's easy to see that members in growing clubs not only enjoy the meeting experience, but they attend to learn more about growing techniques and problem solving when their current culture methods aren't producing the results they would like to see. They are not there for politics, tedious business meetings, endless discussions about by-laws, or to observe personality clashes between members. These are things best left for the club officers to control, and for executive committees to hash out and present to the general membership in the form of brief motions intended for a simple yes or no vote.
2. Members want to see plants, other members' yards and collections, nearby botanical gardens, and seasonal garden-related events, but are sometimes reluctant or unable to travel on their own. The more successful clubs recognize this and go out of their way to get as many members as possible to join in for these activities. Some clubs charter buses to travel in style, while others arrange to meet at specified locations. Car-pooling is a great way to increase member participation in these field trips as well as a good opportunity for members to interact and get to know each other a little better.
3. Volunteers - often members are asked to participate in club sales, shows and fund-raisers, but some may not be comfortable answering questions from the public about bromeliads while health problems may



prevent others from being on their feet for long periods of time...and so, when a request is made for volunteers there may be few hands raised. It's not enough to simply sigh and complain that there isn't enough participation in your events – members need to be enticed to step forward when the request for help is made for a function or activity. There are jobs for everyone – whether it be manning a hospitality table (for those who may be less mobile than others), selling raffle tickets, providing refreshments (for those who love to bake), creating signage (for those who are more artistically inclined), contacting local media for publicity, and even a clean-up crew at the end of the event. It's up to the club leadership to try to match necessary jobs with members' interests and needs, but it's up to each member to step forward to volunteer to help when the request is made.

4. Each year garden clubs and bromeliad societies have their election of officers and many of those clubs have

WE ♥ VOLUNTEERS

difficulty finding volunteers to fill each officer position. Why is that? It's common knowledge that most clubs have a small core of members that do the bulk of the work to keep that club functioning and those same people are often the ones who are "recycled" in their officer positions each year. These are the people willing to put in a little effort for the good of those same clubs and societies. They are the people who when asked to help in a club activity are the ones who say "yes, I'll give it a try" rather the usual "I'm too busy" - - we're all too busy, but you know what they say- "if you want something done, ask a busy person to do it". Each bromeliad society's leadership is made up of people just like you – they're all volunteers, they don't get paid for their service, but they're proud of their organization and are willing to do whatever small part is necessary to make it even better. Unfortunately, these same people are in the minority in many clubs or even absent in those that have either static or shrinking memberships. Become one of that minority! The next time a call goes out for volunteers to help with a club activity, say "yes" – do your part. Not only will your club benefit from this, you'll find that you will get more enjoyment of club activities as well...and you may even want to volunteer to serve as an officer – it's really not much work and it's a wonderful way to get to know fellow club members better!



**The next time a call goes out for volunteers
to help with a club activity, say "yes" – do your part!**



2015 Extravaganza Registration Form, please fill in:

**The 2015
Bromeliad Extravaganza®
'Bromeliads in the Magic City'**

WHAT: You're invited to attend the 2015 Bromeliad Extravaganza®

Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida

WHEN: Friday & Saturday, September 25 and 26, 2015

WHERE: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Miami Airport & Convention Center

EXTRAVAGANZA REGISTRATION FORM

Extravaganza Registration Includes:

Admission to Friday Night "Meet and Greet"

Saturday: Lectures, Plant Sales, Banquet and Rare Plant Auction

Registration Fee: \$75.00 per person

Banquet Only Fee: \$50.00*

*This is only for guests of paid registrants (i.e. family, friends) attending the Florida Council

Banquet and Rare Plant Auction

Please indicate the number of persons:

___ Grilled Free Range Chicken

___ Grilled Veggies with Couscous

___ Grilled Mojo Spiced Salmon

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone/Cell/Email: _____

Bromeliad Club/Society Affiliation: _____

Checks should be payable to BSSF, Inc. and mailed to:

Fred Sussenberger, BSSF Treasurer

19731 Eagle Nest Rd., Cutler Bay, FL 33157-8642

Refunds in the event of illness only will be considered until August 26th.

We cannot guarantee any banquet registrations received after September 22nd.

Extravaganza Hotel Rates: \$107.00 a night (plus applicable taxes) have been secured with the group code **BRO**, Bromeliads in the

Magic City. For special requests, please contact the hotel directly. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/doubletree-hilton-BRO-reserve> or

call group reservations at (305) 261-3800, extension 4333, toll free (888) 353-1995, FAX (305) 260-8900. Last date to qualify for

the special rate is August 26, 2015 so make your reservations TODAY.

Refer to www.bssf-miami.org or www.fcbs.org for more information and important dates.

EXTRAVAGANZA TOUR FORM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

Reservations are requested in order to give our hosts an idea of how many people to expect.

Go on your own at no transportation cost -or- use our scheduled transportation at a cost of \$22.00 per person. Bus/van transportation to Block Botanical Gardens and Pinecrest Gardens is approximately a 5 hour round trip departing from the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel at 8:30 am on Sunday, September 27, 2015. Payment must be received by July 26, 2015

Minimum number of persons for bus/van service is 25.

The Transportation Fee is totally refundable if minimum is not met and we will communicate as such with you no later than July 31, 2015.

Name(s): _____

Contact Telephone Number: _____

(Preferably the phone you will have on your person while visiting Miami)

_____ Number of persons in your party going to **Sunshine Bromeliads**.

_____ Number of persons in your party going to **Block Botanical Gardens**

___ I/We will **not** need transportation.

_____ Number of persons in your party going to **Pinecrest Gardens***

___ I/We will **not** need transportation.

_____ Number of persons in your party going to **Block Botanical Gardens and Pinecrest Gardens:**

___ I/We **will need** transportation.

*Please note that since Pinecrest Gardens is a municipal garden a fee will be collected at their entrance gate, \$5.00 regular admission, \$3.00 senior admission. There is no entrance fee for either Block Botanical Gardens or Sunshine Bromeliads.

Payment must be received by July 26, 2015

Please return this page with your Extravaganza Registration. Checks should be payable to

BSSF, Inc. and mailed to:

Fred Sussenberger, BSSF Treasurer

19731 Eagle Nest Rd.

Cutler Bay, FL 33157-8642

Refer to www.bssf-miami.org or www.fcbs.org for more information and important updates.

Email the Event Chair, Barbara Partagas at bpartagas8554@gmail.com. US Phone (305) 256-7669.

**The 2015
Bromeliad Extravaganza®
'Bromeliads in the Magic City'**

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Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida

WHEN: Friday & Saturday, September 25 and 26, 2015

WHERE: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Miami Airport & Convention Center

The Bromeliad Society of South Florida is our host this year as we enjoy a two day event (with optional tours on Sunday, September 27) in beautiful Miami. It's a fun filled weekend of activities starting on Friday evening with a meet and greet. Enjoy a huge bromeliad sale on Saturday. Guest speakers are Sr. José M. Mazanares from Ecuador and Mr. Craig Morell of Pinecrest Gardens. A wonderful banquet on Saturday evening is followed by a fabulous Florida Council Rare Plant Auction. Optional tours on Sunday include Block Botanical Gardens, Sunshine Bromeliads and Pinecrest Gardens. *This is your opportunity to join hundreds of bromeliad growers, hybridizers, artists and enthusiasts from around Florida and around the world to discuss everything bromeliad related.*

HOTEL INFORMATION

The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Miami Airport & Convention Center, 711 NW 72nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33126, will serve as the host hotel providing incredible amenities for you and your family. Special Extravaganza rates of \$107.00 a night (plus applicable taxes) have been secured with the group code: BRO, Bromeliads in the Magic City. For special requests, please contact the hotel directly. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/doubletree-hilton-BRO-reserve> or call group reservations at (305)261-3800, extension 4333, toll free (888)353-1995, FAX (305)260-8900. Last date to qualify

for the special rate is August 26, 2015 so make your reservations today.

PARKING INFORMATION

The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel provides on site, self and valet parking for a fee. To receive a reduced parking rate of \$5.00, mention "Bromeliads in the Magic City".

SHOPPING AT THE MERCHANDISE MART

Be sure to check out the unique Miami International Merchandise Mart, a wholesale, 200-shop adventure adjacent to the hotel. Open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

TENTATIVE EVENTS FOR THE WEEKEND INCLUDE

(Subject to Change)

BSI ANNUAL MEETING

The Bromeliad Society International will hold its 2015 Board of Directors Annual Meeting at the hotel on Friday. The purpose of the BSI is to promote and maintain public and scientific interest in the research, development, preservation, and distribution of bromeliads, both natural and hybrid, throughout the world. They publish a quarterly "Journal" and hold biennial international conferences throughout the world. While the Board of Directors meets nearly the entire day, a BSI member opportunity to participate is from 8:00 to 9:00am, Friday.

FRIDAY EVENING MEET & GREET

An opportunity to visit with old friends and meet some new ones. And your first chance to meet Sr. José M. Manzanares and Mr. Craig Morell who will speak on Saturday. As a part of the evening a special BSSF Silent Auction will take place.

BROMELIAD SALE

One of the biggest highlights and the 'Must Do' of the weekend is the sales area. This is your chance to purchase all things bromeliad related, including thousands of beautiful bromeliads. It's also an opportunity to speak with some of the most knowledgeable growers in the business. Confirmed vendors at this time include: Jose & Karine Bracke Manzanares, Bromeliads Galore, Randy's Bromeliads & More, Lobo Landscaping, ColorZone Tropicals and Michael's Bromeliads.

There is no fee to attend the sale and this event is advertised and open to the general public. Come early for best selection. Cash, debit and major credit cards will be accepted.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Sr. José M. Mazanares Our special guest **Sr. José M. Mazanares** from Ecuador will speak on Saturday. Born in Spain, he graduated from the University of Barcelona and the School of Gardening with studies in horticulture. After finishing his studies in Spain he moved to Belgium to specialize in the cultivation of tropical plants including bromeliads. In 1983 he traveled to Ecuador to see the Bromeliaceae in their natural habitat and has remained in the country to this day. Sr. Mazanares has dedicated himself to the study of the bromeliads of Ecuador and the cultivation and export of roses. A writer, researcher, explorer and lecturer he has written numerous articles for the BSI Journal and other publications in Ecuador and throughout the world. He has published two books entitled, Jewels of the Jungle, Bromeliaceae of Ecuador, Part I and II. Sr. Manzanares will have at least one of the books for signing and purchase. (Extravaganza registration is required for this event)

Mr. Craig Morell Commonly referred to as the 'Pinecrest Plant Guy' for a blog he writes, he is a career horticulturist and plant collector, currently the horticulturist at Pinecrest Gardens, former site of Parrot Jungle. Currently living in South Miami, Mr. Morell has worked at Pinecrest Gardens since 2004, renovating and modernizing the garden. It is a work in progress, but it is a rare event when a botanical garden is handed to a horticulturist for a career. (Extravaganza registration is required for this event)

RAFFLE BASKETS

Wonderful opportunities to take a chance on a beautiful raffle basket filled with all types of goodies or a chance at the weekend 50/50 raffle will occur on both Friday and Saturday. Check the 'Winners Board' frequently on Saturday for the raffle baskets. The 50/50 drawing takes place on Saturday evening, and you need not be present to win this one!

FLORIDA COUNCIL BANQUET

What a better way to end an exciting day than a banquet on Saturday evening with all the registered attendees and special guests of the Extravaganza. Select from three menu choices and complete your registration form today. The dress code is casual, perhaps your favorite bromeliad shirt!

FLORIDA COUNCIL RARE PLANT AUCTION

Growers, hybridizers, artists, writers and each of our nine member societies contribute to this exciting auction. Over 100 items will be auctioned to the highest bidder, in both a silent and live auction. This is always a chance to bid on a newly hybridized bromeliad, a beautiful piece of bromeliad art or that rare bromeliad book. Proceeds benefit the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and their support of the Harry Luther Scholarship Fund and eradication of the Mexican Bromeliad evil weevil. If you have a special item you would like to donate to the auction please contact our Auction Chair, Carolyn Schoenau at orlandiana2012@gator.net. (A cash bar is available and Extravaganza registration is NOT required for this event.)

SUNDAY TOURS

These tours are optional and you may do them 'on your own' or with 'scheduled transportation'. Scheduled transportation to Block Botanical Gardens and Pinecrest Gardens will be made available only if a required amount of attendance is pre-registered. Please register no later than July 26, 2015. There is no scheduled transportation to Sunshine Bromeliads.

BLOCK BOTANICAL GARDENS (Sunday 9:00 am to 11:00 am)

Private Residence, 7299 SW 79th Court, Miami, FL 33143; Join a guided tour of the grounds and greenhouse of the Dr. Jeffrey S. Block Family. A residential garden gem that for twenty-five years has consistently emphasized the finest in advanced subtropical horticulture, and features mature examples of some of the world's most beautiful ornamental plant species. Thriving in a century old mango and avocado grove originally chosen for its rich natural resources, the site has been designed and sustainably nurtured by physician botanist/horticulturist and Master Gardener, Dr. Jeff Block.

PINECREST GARDENS (Sunday 11:30am to 12:30pm)

Municipal Park, 11000 SW 57th Avenue (Red Road), Pinecrest FL 33156 In the 1930s, Austrian born Franz Scherr envisioned building an attraction where birds would "fly free". He rented twenty acres of hammock land for \$25.00 per year and started developing the tourist attraction that would become Parrot Jungle. On December 20, 1936, about 100 curious visitors paid 25 cents admission to see and hear Scherr describe his birds, trees and flowers. And of course this is also the start to an incredible bromeliad pioneer, Mr. Nat DeLeon who adorned the property with outstanding displays of bromeliads he was painstakingly collecting from all over the world. On December 17, 2002, the Village of Pinecrest completed the purchase of the Parrot Jungle property and began the transition towards developing the site as Pinecrest Gardens. Entrance charges apply, \$5.00 regular admission, \$3.00 senior admission.

SUNSHINE BROMELIADS (Sunday 8:00 am to whenever)

Private Residence and Commercial Nursery, 14601 Old Sheridan St. South West Ranches, FL 33030 Sunshine Bromeliads, has been a family owned business serving South Florida landscapers and collectors since 1985. The business was started by Joséfa León, a well-known and respected grower of bromeliads. Joséfa started her fascination with bromeliads in 1980 when she attended a plant show in Miami Lakes, Florida. She was amazed at the wide array of vibrant colors and different varieties within the bromeliad family; needless to say she was instantly hooked. The fascination started as a hobby and quickly turned into an incredible career. Joséfa has come to be known as one of the top bromeliad collector/growers in South Florida; she's won countless awards and a frequent feature in the Miami Herald Home & Garden Section.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It takes a lot of folks to pull off an event of this size. Anyone who would care to assist the Bromeliad Society of South Florida (BSSF) during the Saturday events with the plant holding area, sales area or security is welcome to participate. Please contact Mike Michalski (305) 279-2416 or pgonza7782@aol.com.

ADVERTISING

The Bromeliad Society of South Florida (BSSF) is very excited to offer members, societies, businesses, vendors or any other parties the opportunity to advertise in the program booklet for the 2015 Bromeliad Extravaganza, 'Bromeliads in the Magic City'. Rates start at \$25, camera ready art or your ad must be received no later than August 26, 2015.

QUESTIONS/CONTACT US

Refer to www.bssf-miami.org or www.fcbs.org for the advertising forms, registration forms, garden tour forms and the tentative schedule. Make all checks payable to BSSF, Inc. and mail to BSSF Treasurer: Frederick Sussenberger, 19731 Eagle Nest Road, Cutler Bay, FL 33157-8642. Email the Event Chair, Barbara Partagas at bpartagas8554@gmail.com. **US Phone (305) 256-7669.**

2015 Bromeliad Sources An Annual list of Bromeliad Sources in Florida

Bromeliads Galore

Approximately 1000 different species and hybrids in pretty much all genera across the board, including bi-generics.

Dave Johnston

6399 90th Avenue North

Pinellas Park 33782

Call or email for appointment

Home: (727) 544-9187; cell: (727) 481-5962

johnston28@tampabay.rr.com

Hours are after 4:00 PM Monday through Friday;
all day Saturday and Sunday.

Color Zone Tropicals

(The nursery did not move; only the address has changed.)

Grant Groves

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday - Friday

After 3 PM please call ahead

17936 W. Phil C. Peters Rd

Winter Garden 34787

(407) 616-7595; grantgroves@gmail.com

<http://www.colorzonetropicals.com>

Jungle Gems

Selections from all genera

Marty Baxley

4719 Huron Road, St., Petersburg 33708

Call or email for appointment

(727) 504-8951; susiebaxley@verizon.net

Mike's Bromeliads

Mike Michalski

10565 SW 109 Street, Miami

Call or email for appointment

(305) 279-2416

pgonza7782@aol.com

Michael's Bromeliads, Inc.

Visitors are always welcome. We have 10 acres of wooded property with naturally growing Bromeliads, and 14 shade structures housing our collection of over 3000 Bromeliad species and hybrids. For tours please call ahead.

We specialize in the new and unusual.

Our current plant listing is available on our website.

Michael and Donna Kiehl

973 First Dirt Road

Venice, FL 34292

Cell: (727) 415-7276

Our new retail store, 'Donna's Secret Garden' is now open to the public

9 AM -5 PM Monday – Saturday.

www.donnasecretgarden.com

info@michaelsbromeliads.com

www.michaelsbromeliads.com

The Nature Collection

A retail bromeliad nursery ranging from small collectibles to large landscaping specimens; also offering a collection of artistic driftwood mounts, hangings and sculptures; shipped across the USA

Shirley and Richard Konefal

2319 Taylor Street, Hollywood 33020

Call or email for appointment

(954) 922-5582; grillskonefal@aol.com

www.thenaturecollection.com;

www.facebook.com/pages/The-Nature-Collection/123218014400179

Plants N Things by George

Specializing in bromeliads

George and Irene Aldrich

746 NE 35th Street, Ocala 34479-2712

Call or email for appointment

(352) 629-1913;

plantsnthings5@cox.net

Powell's Nursery

Growing and selling mainly bromeliads

Robert Powell

1002 Bayvista Drive, Tarpon Springs 34689

Daily Hours: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Call or email for appointment

(727) 938-0831

rpowell110@tampabay.rr.com

Randy's Bromeliads & More, Inc.

Contact: Randy Garcia, (813) 241-0500;

randysbromeliads@msn.com

<http://www.randysbromeliads.com>

No appointments - Mail order only

Russell's Bromeliads

Specializing in quality Tillandsias

15100 Lost Lake Road, Clermont 34711

(407) 656-5541; Fax: (407) 656-7640

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

T & C Tropicals

Our nursery is located in the heart of beautiful historic Plantation. We have hundreds of different varieties Neoregelia and Tillandsia.

Tim and Colleen Hendrix

21 Holly Lane, Plantation 33317

Call or email for appointment.

(954) 931-1711 or (954) 530-0076

timbo-169@comcast.net

Tropiflora

Established in 1976, our nursery specializes in collectible plants such as bromeliads, but includes orchids, succulents, aroids, much more. Our bromeliad collection includes 4,000 varieties of species and hybrids, an inventory of over 1,000,000 plants housed in 6 acres of greenhouses and shade houses.

Mail orders world-wide

Visitors welcome.

No appointment necessary.

Dennis and Linda Cathcart

3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota 34243

(800) 613-7520 / (941) 351-2267;

Fax (941) 351-6985

sales@tropiflora.com

www.tropiflora.com

Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM;

Saturday, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM