

BromeliAdvisory

June 2014



Neoregelia 'Bob Work' – photo by Alan Herndon

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



http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSF/?bookmark_t=group



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida/84661684279>

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What	Who
Sales Table	Alex Bello

JUNE 17, 2014 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Alan Herndon – “Shades of Chantini” and will be a photo essay on the tremendous variation seen within *Aechmea chantinii*.

RAFFLE TABLE: Sandy Roth
FOOD: Urszula Dudek, Alex Bello, Fred Sussenberger, Barbara Sparling, Lenny Goldstein

About the Speaker

Alan Herndon will grace us with his incredibly deep knowledge of *Aechmea chantinii*. Anyone who has visited the nursery knows that Alan has oodles of varieties and a shade house virtually dedicated to *Aech.chantinii*. Florida landscapes were once gracefully adorned by this plant, but even in these 21st century environs, the *chantinii* remain common to many landscapes and almost all collectors of Miami-Dade.



President's Message

by Barbara Partagas

Isn't it amazing that, while we continue to manage our daily lives with their ups and downs, bromeliads just keep growing and being the beautiful forms they have been for ages (not talking about hybrids)?

Reminders:

BOARD MEETINGS: Any member may attend the second Tuesday each month. Please advise me in advance.

LIBRARY: The library contains some beautiful books available for sign out. Members are welcome any time I am available.

FAIRCHILD PASS: The Club has an individual pass available to members throughout the year. If you have a guest visiting or are not a member of Fairchild and want to visit the Garden, call me.

WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE: It's coming up folks. Fares have been found for under \$800.00 round trip. Consider a trip to beautiful Hawaii in September.

BADGES: the following people may pick up their badges at the meeting: Patraicia Arnett, Mary Collins, John Collins, Scott Dunkin, John Farrar, Barbara Krantz, Natalia Lopez de La Cruz, Peter Morgan, Pamila S. Neumann, Linda and Martin Radnor, Lawrence Small, Ana Thompson, Victoria Wiltsie.

FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR WANTED: An individual with a little time to coordinate upcoming field trips. We'd like to schedule some fun events.

2015 EXTRAVAGANZA – "Bromeliads in the Magic City" : Save the date **9/26/15**. Details to follow. *Save Those Baskets*. Please save any gift baskets you do not plan on keeping and consider donating them at any time. They will be used for raffle baskets. Committees will be chosen soon.

Barbara Partagas

In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

Clad in Jim-Fowler-like safari gear, Dennis Cathcart came to our meeting filled with plants and digital photos of a recent 45-day trip to Brazil's territory surrounding touristic Rio de Janeiro.

After years of returning from trips with tales of the great things seen, his better half, Linda, decided to join forces and see what was previously merely a verbal description accompanied by photographic proof.

Armed with a new and much less expensive camera than what he had previous years, Dennis returned with such a large cache of photographic lovelies, that he divided the trip into two lectures – the one witnessed May 20, 2014 being proclaimed Part I.

The attempt to describe this lecture with words is a complete failure. The presentation was a slide show of hundreds of photographs, each depicting thousands of metaphoric words which this column cannot aptly describe.

The concept of the exploration was to find igneous rock formations where Dennis sought to gather *Dyckia* plants – plants which tend to thrive in such dry and hard-surfaced spaces. The first few days, apparently were not rewarding, but the trip ended with a true bang.

The silver lining in the gray cloud was well observed. Instead of *Dyckia*, Dennis came across numerous others. Eventually, the driving and journey's end included *Dyckia* as thought promised.

On occasion, when simply looking up at a rock formation, Brazil delivers to you the unique pleasure of seeing indigenous plants which are exclusively located within your vista – hence effectively permitting you to gaze upon all of that particular species' plants in one simple view. Dennis indicated he saw that on a few occasions.

A word of advice to anyone in the future – if you missed it, this column will not be able to

properly delievr proof of what you missed. Some photos of the plants at the meeting can be found at:

The trusted tool he used was an ultrasa zoom lens camera. Recent reviews assert the best include the Fujifilm FinePix S8200 16.2. Having a 16.2 megapixel resolution, and the ability to point and shoot (Including pop out flash), the 40x camera can zoom from 24MM to 960mm. This camera retails around \$300 – but Best Buy advertises sales of \$199.00.

Another competitor which some may liken for being smaller in hand and lesser in weight is the Nikon Coolpix S9100. The 18X (25-450mm) lense delivers only 12.1 megapixels, but is about half the size and less than half the price.



Canon Powershot is an amazingly portable camera with diverse lens capabilities.



The small size of the Sony Cybershot makes the use attractive to those who seek to travel great distances with more ease and leisure.

Numerous between cameras exist including: Sony Cyber-shot DSC-WX300 (\$199.00 - \$334.95), Canon PowerShot SX500 IS (\$199.00-\$219.50), or Panasonic Lumix FZ70 (\$297.00 - \$300.00).

Photos at:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152391468694280.1073741854.84661684279&type=1>

Garden Notes May 2014

by Alan Herndon

Although air temperatures were reaching summer levels by the end of April, a cold front during the early days of May provided a few more days of moderate temperatures. Another cool front in the middle of the month provided actual springtime temperatures for a few more days. During the last week of the month, we saw an abrupt transition

from the relatively mild temperatures characteristic of spring to the uninterrupted heat of summer.

Some rain accompanied the cold front early in the month, but within a few days we were back in the crispy lawn zone. A substantial rain accompanied the front in the middle of the month. A summer rainfall pattern began to manifest itself during the last week of the month. We have thunderstorms again appearing over the Everglades as the day heats up. These will eventually move eastward, until they routinely hit the heavily populated areas of South Florida. When we are covered by rain, it will be due to a tropical disturbance moving up from the south rather than a spring storm moving down from the north.

Aechmea chantinii is showing another spike in flowering, that seemed to be increasing towards the end of May. The *Aechmea zebrina* from last month is still blooming because a large pup put out its own inflorescence. It has also been joined by a second plant, an *Aechmea zebrina* collected by Ed Prince in Ecuador. *Aechmea retusa* is also still in flower. Species in *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* are still blooming. This month both *Aechmea cylindrata* and *Aechmea gamosepala* had open flowers. Most species of the *Aechmea orlandiana* complex finished blooming long ago, but a single plant of *Aechmea gurkeniana* still retained some open flowers and the more distantly related *Aechmea disjuncta* is still in the early stages of bloom. Other species of *Aechmea* in bloom this month were *Aechmea pubescens*, *Aechmea dactylina*, *Aechmea nudicaulis* and *Aechmea farinosa conglomerata*.

This will be another busy year for *Alcantarea*. A very small plant of *Alcantarea vinicolor* was in bloom by the end of the month. I have at least 6 other plants showing signs of bloom. Karl Green also has multiple plants in bud in his collection. Many of the species, other than *Alcantarea imperialis*, produce pups in the center of the plant. These pups grow much more rapidly than the hair pups produced at the base of the plant, and will often bloom within 3 years after being established on their own.

Still, the number of plants in bud suggests that something about the past year triggered flowering far beyond normal.

Only *Billbergia nutans* was observed in flower during the month, but the season for *Billbergia* is truly past. However, if you repotted some of your billbergias this spring, you may be rewarded with some bloom during the summer.

Among species in *Canistropsis*, we had two forms of *Canistropsis billbergioides* bloom. *Canistropsis billbergioides azurea* is named for the blue color seen in the flower petals. Under our conditions, the color shows up more as a hint of blue. A clone of *Canistropsis billbergioides* with pink bracts has the (normal) white flower petals. It is worth noting that these two clones differ substantially in characters other than flower petal color. *Canistropsis burchellii*, a very different species with a pincushion type inflorescence, was also seen in flower.



Neoregelia eltoniana

Although I do not report on flowering in many of the *Hohenbergia* species, three species with great horticultural potential had open flowers this month. *Hohenbergia stellata* is already widely cultivated for its long-lasting, bright orange-red flower clusters (cones). *Hohenbergia pennae* and *Hohenbergia lemei* do not have bright flowers, but both have an interesting “bottle” shape and the foliage of *Hohenbergia lemei* is a dark red.

Several new species have joined the blooming list for *Neoregelia*, adding to the species that have been blooming in recent months. Various clones of *Neoregelia ampullacea* and the red leaved form of *Neoregelia punctatissima* continue to produce a few inflorescences every month. In May they were joined by the related (and wild-collected) *Neoregelia* ‘Devine Brown’. All members of the *Neoregelia olens* group that I have were in flower at some point during May. *Neoregelia camorimiana*, *Neoregelia olens* (the red-leaved form usually called ‘fluminensis’) along with *Neoregelia indecora* and *Neoregelia eltoniana* all

participated. *Neoregelia leviana* and *Neoregelia eleutheropetala bicolor* from the Andean subgenus *Hylaeaicum* were seen in flower. In *Neoregelia leviana* a pup off one of the previous flowering plants took over flower production. In *Neoregelia eleutheropetala bicolor*, the plants first reported in flower continued to send out open flowers slowly throughout the month. Other species in bloom this month included *Neoregelia tristis*, *Neoregelia maculata*, both red-leaved and green-leaved clones of *Neoregelia sarmentosa*, *Neoregelia martinellii* (a plant that looks suspiciously close to the red-leaved clone of *Neoregelia sarmentosa*), *Neoregelia carolinae*, *Neoregelia marmorata*, *Neoregelia* ‘Marble Throat’, *Neoregelia sapiatibensis* and *Neoregelia johannis*. I am sure other species escaped notice.

Among the species of the *Orthophytum amoenum* complex three bloomed this month. *Orthophytum roseum*, *Orthophytum navioides* and a very small, very poorly treated pot of *Orthophytum burle-*

marxii. For the first time I noticed that *Orthophytum navioides* has the stigma pushed considerably beyond the anthers. So far, this is the only *Orthophytum* species I have seen exhibiting this character, and I very much wish I still had the short leaf clone from Elton Leme for comparison. Unfortunately, this Leme clone died from damages suffered in the series of bad winters a few years ago. In the more commonly known members of the *Orthophytum disjunctum* complex, we have *Orthophytum lymaniana*, *Orthophytum harleyi*, *Orthophytum triumfense*, *Orthophytum magalhaesii*, *Orthophytum maracasense*, *Orthophytum sucrei*, *Orthophytum rubiginosum*, *Orthophytum conquistense* and *Orthophytum alvimii* in flower. A few more flowering species have not yet been identified and are left off the list.

The first plants of *Portea petropolitana extensa* came into bloom this month. All other plants

will soon follow.

Tillandsia rodriguezia and *Tillandsia pueblensis* are still producing flowers. In both species, flowers are produced very slowly, so it is taking a very long time to work through all of the buds on a rather small inflorescence. *Tillandsia foliosa*, with its bright orange bracts, just started to bloom near the end of the month while *Tillandsia geminiflora* flowered for about two weeks during the middle of the month. *Tillandsia schatzlii* continued to bloom from last month. Surprisingly, the color on the inflorescence of this species has improved over the course of the month. The large floral bracts were basically green when flowering started, but developed a nice pink color by the end of the month.

Vriesea brusquensis continued to flower in May. It was joined by *Vriesea muelleri*, a species with a highly branched candelabra style inflorescence. *Vriesea barclayana* was also in flower, but had clearly been in flower for a significant amount of time when first noticed. There is now no way to estimate when it first began to flower. Two new plants of *Vriesea carinata* had open flowers. The small clone of *Vriesea erythrodactylon* continued to flower, although the struggle to protect these delectable inflorescences from snail connoisseurs is just beginning with the start of the rainy season. Finally, a plant of *Vriesea pseudatra* has sent up a largely green inflorescence with heavy-petaled flowers. These heavy flower petals are usually taken as a sign that the plant is fertilized by bats and the flowers on this *Vriesea pseudatra* certainly don't have any bright colors designed to attract day-flying pollinators.

With the rainy season here, we won't have to be so vigilant about watering. As long as you get rains every two or three days, your gardens will be happy.

Still, you need to remember that more tender plants can be damaged by water stress if the rains don't show up for more than 4 days. Overall, however, this is the time when your plants will grow at their maximum rate. You will see significant changes even if you make frequent trips through the garden. Also, it is not too early to start looking for plants to enter in next year's show.

Bernadette Small Passes Away



Bernadette Small, survived by BSSF member, Lawrence, passed away in September of 2013. Apologies by the BSSF for this late transmittal.

Bob Work Passes Away

Bob Work, a long-time Life member of BSSF, passed away June 4, 2014. He had been in poor health for some time.



Neoregelia 'Bob Work'

Bob was an outstanding collector and grower of bromeliads, particularly Brazilian

species. He had an unerring eye for something different and gave his plants meticulous care in his back yard. In his working life he was a marine biologist who specialized in mollusks and had an outstanding shell collection. He will be missed by his many friends

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 14, 2014

Adopt-a-Tree

G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School
3601 SW 147th Avenue
Miami, FL
9:00 - 12:00

<http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/adopt-a-tree.asp>

June 21-22, 2014

Fruit & Spice Park
24801 S.W. 187th Avenue
Homestead, Florida 33031
10:00 - 5:00PM
<http://www.fruitandspicepark.org/>

July 25-27, 2014

Caladium Festival
Stuart Park
Lake Placid, FL
<http://www.lpfla.com/caladium.htm>

September 8-14, 2014

21st World Bromeliad Conference
Honolulu, HI
<http://www.bsi.org/new/wbc-2014-registration-and-info/>
<http://www.bsi.org/new/wbc-2014-event-schedule/>

October 21, 2014 – 7:00 PM
Annual BSSF Auction
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

MURDER IN CORBIN A

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PREVIOUS CHAPTERS MAY BE SEEN IN
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

95.

Susan's elocution of her past dishonables was both complete and tiring. She was eloquent in her rendition, but terribly thorough in detail, making her date strain to keep his eyes open and mouth shut. Yawning urges beckoned him. He was forever afraid of losing her attention, and wanted her to only continue, and ultimately dig a grave for herself so that some other poor geek would not have to awaken with tied hands and feet in a wet bed after having seized from a poisonous concoction she made which was meant to only induce sleep, but actually induced much more.

“Am I boring you?” Susan asked as his eyes were showing a bit of ennui.

“No. It's just that I did not know that someone as young as you could perform so much evil.

I mean so much harm. I mean so much. . . I don't know what I mean.”

“I know what you mean, and I am not proud of this. I just feel that it may be better that I get this off my chest. I should feel some sort of – how do they call it in the literary world? – a catharsis. You know? Oh, please let me continue, as I feel light, I feel free, I feel released.”

“No, go ahead.” The pocket still held the phone which was on and was relaying every word to Jose.

“Now, when I was eighteen, I was really tired of these milder crimes, and that was when I really grabbed for the brass ring.” Susan's voice inflected with the word “Ring.” She was coming to a great confession. And, Joshua thought, what was so mild about scamming people out of thousands of dollars, cheating classmates of grades with computer prowess, sleeping with teachers for indeterminate favors, and even bedding friends' fathers for extortionate means? He had to hear the rest of this.

“I finally could commit a felony which would not hurt anyone – the ultimate crime. No broken hearts, no sexually compromised spirits, no computer hijacking which converted truth to fiction at the expense of others, and no physical harm. I got to scam Bell. You got it, the phone company. And, Verizon and all of the other suckers who overcharge everyone, every day.”

“Wow,” Joshua thought. “Everyone told me that the fortune came from insurance fraud. But, she is talking about lopping a little off for the herself from the monopoly. What does this mean?” He was thoroughly confused.

“You want to know how I did it?” Susan asked and Joshua merely excitedly responded with a quick nodding of his head.

“Calling cards.” He was more confused.



“I get the calling cards from Ma Bell, after I bought some hours from her, and sold them. After a few months of growth, Ma Bell extends credit to me. I succeed more. Then I grow with calling cards, which use the minutes I bought from Ma Bell, all delivered with extended credit. I run the tab to eleven million dollars. I sell fifteen million of calling cards, and give half to the vendors – bodegas, magazine stands and the like. Then I pocket the other seven and half million. Ma Bell calls me for payment. I close the doors, and escape with a new name. Get it?”

“I think so. Like check kiting, I guess.” Joshua asked.

“Yes. And, the beauty of the entire matter is that the dealing of illicit items is not criminal – this is better than drugs! I do the same thing as the drug dealer, but I do not get involved with statutory crime. I may be civilly liable. But, not criminally. Anyway, that happened so many years ago that the statute of limitations has lapsed, and believe it or not, my attorney tells me that the judgments have gone stale as well.”

“Well,” Joshua responded slowly, “you really had this all figured out. Now what are you going to do with all of the loot?” After asking this question, he wished to retract it. “I don’t mean to be personal. You do not need to answer.”

“No. No. I told you that I owe this to you. I have invested the money into the great horticultural project which will soon be known to the world. And, if it succeeds, it will change everything.”

96.

The Captain picked up the phone and got in touch with Jenkins – the biker broad with a badge. She quickly picked up her cell and said, “Shirley here, you’re surely there, and what can we do about you being here with Shirley?”

Captain was shocked, but regained composure and firmly spoke, : Shirley, this is your captain with an emergency. I need for you to get on down to Reynold’s Rose on the double. Know where it is?” “Sure do.”

“And how many undercover could you gather to meet you there within the next 30 minutes, Shirley?”

“I would bet on four, maybe six, but surely could bring is four.”

“Great Shirley. We sure could use as many as ten. But, get who you can. Now, do you know Boss? Do you know what he looks like?” When Captain finished the question, he realized that may be the worst questions he has asked in years.

“You mean my superior who is shorter than my 8-year old nephew, who smokes cigars twice as long as his you know what, and swaggers when he walks because of the bow in his legs?”

“All right” Captain said hoping to end this dialogue. “His life is in your hands. If he gets hurt tonight while on your watch, you will be the one looking funny, walking funny and receiving ridiculous remarks like what I just heard. Got me Ms. I-got-skeletons-in-my-closet too? Shirley you understand me, correct?”

“Sure.” she responded with muffled voice and a lack of any of the emotion which just the previous sentence exuded.

“So, Shirley, what are we waiting for? Surely you have other people to telephone now. Instead of holding onto that phone and waiting for me to say anything else, I surely believe hat you would rather end this discussion and take care of business of protecting your superior. Correct Shirley?”

Shirley was now slightly upset and became a bit surly from Captain’s insistence that she move on it and take control of actions.

“Yes, sir. Shirley will immediately be on it sir.”

And, at the end of that uncomfortable discussion, Captain was sure that Shirley his girly would surely handle the requisite commands thrust upon her.