

NEW WORLD OF
Bromeli Advisory
VEGETABLE COOKERY

May 2017



Alex D. Hawkes

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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

May 2017

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

 http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSF/?bookmark_t=group
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What	Who
Sales Table	Jorge J. Zaldivar

MAY 16, 2017 AT 7:30PM AT FAIRCHILD CORBIN A
 SPEAKER: Jorge J. Zaldivar – “Discovering Botanist Alex D. Hawkes BSSF Pioneer and tropical Renaissance Man”
 RAFFLE TABLE: Ellis Brown
 FOOD: Usual Suspects

About the Speaker

Jorge J. Zaldivar, BSSF member, is a guava farmer at Guavonia Guava Grove in Homestead's Redland. Jorge will be presenting on botanist Alex D. Hawkes, coordinator of the BSSF. Alex became acquainted with esteemed characters such as Dr. David & Marian Fairchild, Colonel Montgomery, Nixon Smiley, Lucita Wait and many more during his employment for Fairchild Tropical Garden (FTG) in the late 1940s & 50s. Jorge will be exploring Alex's botanical adventures and the recipes Alex returned with, from his collecting trips around the world.



“A World of Vegetable Cookery is a result of combining my interests in botany and cooking over a number of years. My researches on my particular botanical specialties – orchids, palms, bromeliads, and certain other groups of plants – have taken me to many parts of the globe. Everywhere I have traveled, I have had the opportunity to note the good things that appear from the kitchen or campfire.” – Alex D. Hawkes - Coconut Grove, Florida (1968)

Come explore Alex D. Hawkes' world of recipes via <https://subtropiccookery.wordpress.com> ~ @RecipesLost

WORLD CONFERENCE IS AT PARADISE POINT

President's Message

by Alex Bello

Members,

First and foremost, I want to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone for all their hard work and dedication to the Society; and, for the incredible hard work in making our 39th annual Show and Sale a success. I was very proud to see all the volunteers and committee chairs engaged and doing what you do best !

I do want to take this opportunity to Thank Our Show and Sale Chairmen, ALAN HERNDON, whose leadership and knowledge enable us to have a smoother Show and Sale.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you in the coming months at our meetings. And, I specifically encourage you to come down for our June Meeting as we will have a very special speaker flying in from the Great State of Texas to give a program on *Cryptanthus* – something she will be giving to four clubs in Florida. She will be bringing plants .

Continue to stay involved and hope to see you all soon !

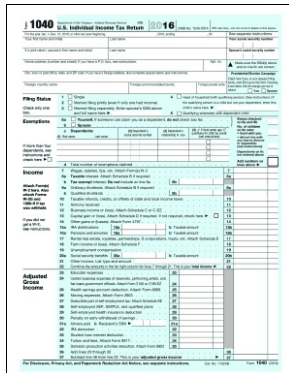
Your proud President !

Alex

In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein

You did what? You say you skipped the April meeting so that you could finish your income tax return? Well, bunkie, here's what you missed: A visit from Bruce McAlpin.



Bruce some years ago retired from a professorship in the Biology Department of Miami-Dade College and was lured upstate by the bright lights of LaBelle. But he cannot resist the chance to spend a few hours in Fairchild Garden's Corbin Education Building, where he has shown up as a plant society member or speaker for

28 years. And so it was that on April 18 Bruce reappeared in Corbin "A" with a thoroughgoing new program on Hohenbergias.

Before getting into the core of his program, Bruce reminded listeners of his approach to daily life. He relies on materials at hand whose utility might not be recognized by many individuals. This frugal approach has allowed him very successfully to grow plants from a variety of families. He added that his experience spending three years in southern Costa Rica early in his career prepared him for the rest of his life as a Luddite. If he has

anything to say about it, he will never become a computer whiz.

Bruce's interest in Hohenbergias was inspired some 15-18 years ago by Karl Green, and he has been building a collection ever since. The genus is found natively in two distinct areas – the Caribbean and Brazil. Bruce regards the Brazilian species as morphologically more interesting, especially when grown in containers. However, they do not age well; old leaves misbehave.

For the benefit of you tax zealots, along with those otherwise occupied on April 18, here are highlights of our introduction to Bruce's collection of Hohenbergias:

H. rosea is a species that grows about 3 ft. tall, with dark leaves. It reaches about 3 ft. in height. It is readily available.

H. castellanosii is a very large Brazilian species – to 3 ft. in a container and 4 ft. in the ground. It features green leaves with red tips, and it colors up better in a place with a large diurnal temperature range. It is capable of coming back from frost. Bruce's specimen has never bloomed in 20 years.

H. correia-araujoi 'Fudge Ripple' is a tall, tubular species that thrives in full afternoon sun and produces a typical Brazilian inflorescence – spiky but generally less showy than the foliage. It is an example of Bruce's proposition that Hohenbergias are better-looking when young.

H. burle-marxii is a Brazilian native that is broad-leafed and tall, but capable of growing in tight spaces. While it can be grown in a small pot, it does become top-heavy.

H. stellata is a green Brazilian species. It grows 3-4 ft. wide, and produces a pink or red spiky inflorescence that lasts two months. Pups take two years to flower.

H. leopoldo-horstii 'Wally Berg' is lime green and squatty, with dark leaf tips. This cultivar is stouter than the standard species. Spikes are tall, because the plant is pollinated by hummingbirds. The species is desirable in spite of less-than-impressive flowers. Because of dry lower leaves, plants are tough to prepare for a show.

H. vestita, native to Brazil, is similar to, but smaller than, *H. leopoldo-horstii*. Bruce speculates that they may ultimately be the same species, because their inflorescences are virtually identical. He also showed a *H. vestita* type which produces a small, fuzzy inflorescence. It flowers in two years, earlier than *H. vestita*.

H. penna, a Brazilian native, has a fat base and an upright growth habit. It makes a good show plant.

H. magnispina is a very robust Brazilian native, featuring upright leaves with black tips. It grows better if kept in a container. Juvenile plants look good. (Bruce added that *H. #357* at Michael's Bromeliads is, in fact, *H. magnispina*.)

H. catingae is native to a dry area of Brazil. It features a bulbous base, flaring leaves, and modestly upright growth. It is so spiny that ground plantings are impenetrable. This species is fairly variable, with a green or purplish hue; hence, there are varietal names associated with it. It is another example of a *Hohenbergia* that looks better as a juvenile.

H. disjuncta, a Brazilian species, is probably an Aechmea. It produces dark leaf tips. With enough water, it can endure temperatures well over 100°.

H. edmundoi 'Leme #2303' grows in a special environment in Brazil. It is very upright and slim, to 3 ft. tall. The clonal type, though still upright, is squattier. It is less attractive than 'Leme #2303'.

H. lemei is one of the most beautiful *Hohenbergias*. A winter-flowering species, it has a moderately bulbous base and produces dark red leaves.

H. carlos is a variegated species. The mother plant gave Bruce about 12 offsets! But no matter where he has situated them, his plants have fungal spots. Just this month he started a treatment program using three fungicides (two of them systemic) and fertilizer (to help the plants take up the fungicide).

Bruce then moved onto hybrids:

H. correia-araujoii X *leopoldo-horstii* 'Double Hyphen' is probably a California hybrid. Its pups are upright and robust even as juveniles.

H. lemei and *H. emundoi* are plants he's crossing. Bruce generally wants red hybrids, but the greens hold more leaves, with less fungus than the reds. He may keep six green hybrids out of hundreds produced.

H. lemei crosses with *H. catingae* also yield nice hybrids. Bruce thinks it's wrong to name a cross immediately; it's better to let some time pass.

On the subject of nutrition, Bruce was quick to credit several mentors. Ed and Moyna Prince influenced him to grow his bromeliads hard, but in recent times he has begun to yield a bit. He now fertilizes once at the start of the growing season and sometimes makes a second application a month later. However, he acknowledges that bromeliads may look better if grown hard.



Box of hohenbergia brought by Bruce



Hohenbergia stellata – photo courtesy of Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

He also adopted Harry Luther's suggestion to fertilize Tillandsias every month at half strength. Finally, he has followed Terrie Bert's advice to place 2-3 granules of Osmocote slow-release fertilizer in each lower leaf to help stimulate pupping. This practice is applicable to any bromeliad, not just Hohenbergias.

Our self-described Luddite noted that he relies on hummingbirds for the pollination of his Hohenbergias. That was just the last of many interesting revelations in an evening full of enlightening observations by one of the true plantsmen. Of course, he could have added that those of you who spent the evening fretting over a tax return might have been better off requesting an extension of time to file.

Variegations Found in Bromeliad Leaves

By Dudley Reynolds, East London Bromeliad Society
South Africa Newsletter, February 2014

The word 'variegate' comes from the Latin word *variegates*, meaning variable colouration with patches of different colours. Variegated bromeliads refer to plants with two colours in the leaf, for example, *Vriesea hieroglyphica*, which has dark and light green markings on the leaves. We are going to discuss

bromeliads with longitudinal stripes in the leaves, mainly white, yellow, green and red. There are variegated plants throughout the plant kingdom. Variegation is very strong within the Bromeliad family especially in the sub-family *Bromelioideae*. Plants where the top of the leaf is green and the underside is maroon such as *Aechmea* 'Shining Light' are referred to as a plant with discolour leaves and are not classified as variegated. The red on the undersides of the leaves is thought to act as a mirror, reflecting light back into the leaf, increasing photosynthesis and growth in the shaded conditions that these plants usually prefer to grow in.

We perceive white or yellow variegation as a desirable trait which adds to the visual beauty of a plant such as *Neoregelia imperfection*. The reduction of chlorophyll (which forms the green part of the leaf) reduces the plants vigour and makes it grow slower and might result in the plants requiring more exacting growing conditions and



Aech Red Ribbon



Neoregelia 'Amazing Grace' photo by K Golinski

attention.

What causes variegation?

- It is agreed by botanists that variegation is caused by a virus infection. Viruses may attack a plants meristem or main vascular system. Bromeliads mostly have parallel veins running lengthwise along the leaves.
- There are a number of other factors which could cause variegation. For example, chemical substances, micro-climate conditions, temperature, humidity and light all influence variegation to some degree.
- Biological stresses such as prolonged dehydration or poor nutrition is said to bring on variegation.
- Ecological disturbances such as fire, flooding and freezing may also bring on variegation.
- To sum it up, variegation may be caused by genetic mutation or by virus infection but it seems probable that a number of different causes contribute to bring on a variegated effect.

The term **variegata** refers generically to any form of white or yellow variegation (stripes) in a leaf.

The term **marginata** refers to a leaf with a stripe around the sides of a leaf. The white margins are referred to as **albo marginated**. The yellow margins are referred to as **flavo marginated**.

Variegata is the term used for a stripe down the centre of a leaf.

Striata is a multitude of stripes going the length of a leaf.

Lineata is a multitude of fine or thin stripes running the length of a leaf.

Medio Picta means a painted centre band in the leaf.

Tricolour is a leaf with three colours, usually green, cream and rose.

Bivittatus means double stripes running the lengthwise, two central bands of cream or pink on a green leaf.

Reddish brown stripes or bands are found in several hybrids such as *Aechmea* 'Red Ribbon' and *Neoregelia* 'Amazing Grace'

Propagation of variegates

As a rule, variegated bromeliads are usually harder to grow than the plain green-leafed varieties. Some are definitely slower growing. Vrieseas and Guzmanias are slower to take root. Therefore it is advisable to leave the pup on the mother until it is at least

half the size of the mother, before separating it. To encourage the development of the best variegated pups you could identify the better variegated leaf on the plant and tilt the mother plant to that side to maximize the light on that area of the mother plant to encourage it to produce a pup with the strongest variegation.

Once the variegated pup is seen developing one can cut away the leaves only on the side obstructing the pup, to maximize light to the pup. Variegated hybrid bromeliads do sometimes send out non-variegated pups. If you are intent on only wanting a pup identical to the mother, you could remove a developing non-variegated pup prematurely and discard it in the hopes that the mother will send out another pup which will be variegated. The mother will put all its energy into the desired pup.

A well marked variegated plant is always pleasing on the eye and tempting to acquire for your collection.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Bromeliads by the Bay Extravaganza August 4-5, 2017

Clarion Hotel

www.clariontampa.com

813-971-4710

2701 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL 33612

813-971-4710

<http://www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org/news>

Rate guaranteed by hotel until July 13, 2017



Registration: \$100.00 per person
After July 25, 2017: \$110.00 per person
Registration includes:
Friday Night: Barbeque Buffet
Saturday: Plant Sales 9 AM to 4 PM
Seminars with guest speakers
Raffles
Silent auctions
Banquet and Rare Plant Auction
Sunday: Optional Garden Tours

Cactus Show and Sale

May 26-28, 2017

Pinecrest Gardens

11000 Red Rd

soflacactus@earthlink.net

(305) 606-5365



World Conference

May 29, 2018-June 3, 2018

San Diego, CA

Registration form on back of this
Advisory



MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

PREVIOUS CHAPTERS MAY BE SEEN IN

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

The book has come to an end. The final chapter(s) will not be published. Anyone interested may email the editor for copies.



Nat DeLeon Award for Best Blooming
Bromeliad Tillandsia 'Samantha' (Josefa Leon)

**39th Bromeliad Society of South Florida Show
Major Award Winners**

Sweepstakes Award for Best set of Entries	Josefa Leon
Ralph Davis Award for Cultural Excellence	Quesnelia marmorata ‘Tim Plowman’ (Chip Jones)
Harvey Bullis Memorial Award for Best Variegated Bromeliad	Vriesea ‘Josefa Leon’ (Josefa Leon)
Best of Judges Challenge	Araeococcus flagellifolius (Jay Thurrott)
People’s Choice – Artistic Arrangement	“Bromeliads in Parrot-dise” (Judy Kilburn)
People’s Choice – Decorative Container.	“Sailing in the Tropics” (Rusty Brown)
Nat DeLeon Award for Best Blooming Bromeliad	Tillandsia ‘Samantha’ (Josefa Leon)
Best Blooming Aechmea.	Aechmea nidularioides (Josefa Leon)
Best Blooming Billbergia	Billbergia ‘Carioca’ (Barbara Partagas)
Best Blooming Canistrum.	Canistrum seidelianum (Josefa Leon)
Best Blooming Cryptanthus	Cryptanthus ‘Red Star’ (Barbara Partagas)
Best Blooming Guzmania	Guzmania ‘Orange Crush’ (Josefa Leon)
Dean Fairchild Award for Best Blooming Neoregelia	Neoregelia pendula var. brevifolia (Josefa Leon)
Best Blooming Orthophytum	Orthophytum roseum (Karl Green)
Best Blooming Tillandsia	Tillandsia ionantha ‘Druid’ (Robert Meyer)
Ed Prince Award for Best Non-blooming Bromeliad	Vriesea ospinae ‘Hawaiian Magic’ (Josefa Leon)
Best Non-blooming Aechmea.	Aechmea pineliana (Karl Green)
Best Non-blooming Billbergia	Billbergia ‘Sangre’ (Barbara Partagas)
Best Non-blooming Catopsis	Catopsis berteroaana (Karl Green)
Best Non-blooming Cryptanthus.	Cryptanthus ‘Durrell’ x ‘Richard Lum’
Bronze Non-blooming Cryptanthus	Cryptanthus ‘Thriller’ (Barbara Partagas)
Best Non-blooming Neoregelia	Neoregelia ‘Shelldance’ (Josefa Leon)
Bronze Non-blooming Neo.	Neoregelia ‘Big Mac Special’ (Chip Jones)
Best Non-blooming Tillandsia	Tillandsia tectorum (Maureen Adelman)
Bronze Non-blooming Vriesea	Vriesea ‘Josefa Leon’ (Josefa Leon)
Best Artistic Entry	
Best Artistic Arrangement.	“Dancing Tiger” (Josefa Leon)
Bronze Award for Artistic Arrangement	“Tickling Tillandsias” (Josefa Leon)
Best Cut Inflorescence	Aechmea ‘Blue Tango’ (Barbara Partagas)
Best Decorative Container	Quesnelia marmorata ‘Tim Plowman’ (Chieng Manlee)