



September 2021

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



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Bromeliad Society of South Florida

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



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FCBS Newsletter

<https://www.fcbs.org/newsletters/FCBS/2021/08-2021.pdf>

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SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 LIVE MEETING 7:30 PM
GARDEN HOUSE – NOT CORBIN BLDG
SPEAKER: Barbara Partagas and Sandy Roth,
Artistic Arrangements and Other Show Tips
FOOD OR DRINK WILL NOT BE SERVED
MEMBER PLANT SALES ALLOWED IN SEPT.

BSSF Covid Rules

To Insure Your Safety the Following are Covid Rules for In-Person Meetings:

- Masks are again required
- There will be one entry and one exit at the back of the Garden House. The kitchen entry will be locked.
- If you do not feel well or have a temperature – please stay home.
- Seating will be 6 ft. apart. Family members or social bubble members may sit together.
- Social distancing will be observed at raffle table, auction tables and plant sales.
- Plan to arrive early to purchase plants.
- Masks, disinfecting wipes, and hand sanitizer will be available at the entry.
- No food or drink will be served.

NEW WORLD CONFERENCE DATES

June 7 2022 to June 12, 2022

<https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>

If you booked rooms for this event, remember to cancel and rebook your reservations starting June 6, 2021

President’s Message

It is September and I am dreaming of cooler weather. I sense a slight cooling early in the morning. Or it could just be another storm out in the Atlantic with its breezes sending me into euphoric bliss. The truth is it is still blistering hot for most of the day, 90 degrees or more day after day. You might want to check your plants for signs of sun damage and move them. We are profoundly sorry to have cancelled last month’s meeting and we are going to try a live meeting this month. We hope you will bear with us as we make decisions about our meetings on a month by month basis. This month our covid rules will be enforced with masks again required, no food or drink, and social distancing as we had at our first live meeting back in April. Our featured speakers will be two old pros: Barbara Partagas and Sandy Roth. They will speak on potting, artistic arrangements and lots of show tips. Our annual show is on for March 24-27, 2022 and it’s about time. Our last show was in 2019 due to Covid. At upcoming meetings we will have speakers, Bromeliad bingo and in December our Holiday party will be combined with our annual auction.

See you at the meeting!

Maureen

Speakers:

Barbara Partagas and Sandy Roth

Barbara is a past BSSF president several times over, past vice president and current show chairman who has won many prizes, including the sweepstakes prize, for her bromeliads. She was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago. She attended Indiana University but finished college at UM after a particularly cold winter. She graduated with a BS in Psychology/Sociology and went into banking as a staff auditor. She married a banker, made Miami her home and proceeded to do a lot of boating but not much gardening. Once she found bromeliads she was hooked. “I have to say that the people I’ve met through the years of working with bromeliads have enriched my life second only to my family. “

Sandy has been a BSSF member for over 20 years. She has held almost every office in BSSF. She is a Miami native and graduate of Killian High. In addition to raising 4 children, she is a certified landscape planner with her own business and crew. When not landscaping or working on her breathtaking garden, she can be found enjoying the company of her legions of friends.

In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein will return next month

GARAGE SALE

Has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 15, 2022, 8 am to 2 pm. .Please save your household items books, clothing. baby items, anything you no longer use.

Silent Auction and Member Plant Sale Rules

When we have a speaker bringing plants, we will only allow 4 plants for silent auction in order to give our speakers who travel here and pack up their plants a fair chance to sell their plants. If you would like to sell a plant at the silent auction you will need to contact Rene Izquierdo (rcizquierdo@bellsouth.net or 786 246-5813) and he will let you know if there is an opening for your plants(s). You will be paid 80% of the sale price and BSSF will receive 20%.

We will likewise defer to our speakers for member plant sales and will hold no member plants sales when we have a speaker bringing plants. When we do have member plant sales, all plants must be double tagged with 2 plant id tags, one for the buyer and one for us to total up the sales. You will again be paid 80% of the sale price. To participate in member plant sales, please contact Alex Bello (bellotropicals@yahoo.com or 239-223-6155) to schedule your sale so that we are not overrun with plants.

BSI World Conference June 7-12, 2022 Sarasota, Fl One Day Sale - the Kampong Friday, Oct. 29 by reservation 3-4 pm members, 4-6 pm public March 24-27, 2022 BSSF Annual Show @ Fairchild Tropical Garden	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">UPCOMING EVENTS</div>	October 1-3, 2021 Tamiami International Orchid Festival https://www.facebook.com/tamiamiorchidfestival/ September 25 Fairchild Plant Club Day 10-4 Tickets Available Online https://fairchildgarden.org/eventon/plant-club-day-2/
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PLANT DAY

BSSF will have a booth at the Fairchild Plant Day on September 25th. This is a one day event for all the plant clubs that meet at Fairchild. We will be selling plants, books, etc. and recruit new members while spreading the word about our society. If you would like to volunteer to help out contact Maureen Adelman. You can email her at mhadelman@comcast.net.

ASK DR. BROM

Dear Dr. Brom: What is a 'landscape' bromeliad? Though all bromeliads can be used in the landscape, some are more appropriate than others. Landscape bromeliads require little care, are hardy and drought tolerant and provide structure in the landscape. They must be grown in a zone with little to few freezes, such as south Florida. A few are solitary, such as *Alcantarea imperialis*. But most will multiply in clumps to cover the ground and look good in large groups. A bromeliad that only flowers and pups every few years is not going to fill in your landscape but could be a solitary focal point, such as the *alcantareas*. Most landscape bromeliads are large and will fill large spaces with fewer plants, such as *Aechmea blanchetiana*. I had two *Ae. Blanchetiana* in a small full sun space last year and this year I have six of them crowding out the other plants. BSSF officers get phone calls from time to time from homeowners trying to sell us their *Ae. blanchetianas* when they relandscape. Some even want us to come and clear them out. We politely decline. Some landscape broms are too large for standard pots, such as *Neo. Johannes*. Some landscape broms. are small but will fill a space quickly, such as *Neo. Sheba* and *Neo. Fireball*. Most landscape bromeliads are not rare and are inexpensive. You could probably get them for nothing from a neighbor or fellow BSSF member, especially as pups. And remember to leave space in your landscape for these plants to pup and spread. So what is not a landscape bromeliad? Anything delicate that won't tolerate occasional lower temperatures. Anything that needs a lot of water or constant attention such as *Tillandsia 'Samantha'*, most *cryptanthus*, most slow growers, and *Guzmania musaica* to name a few. Landscape bromeliads are an economical way to fill your yard with color and texture. Following is a list, not comprehensive by any means, of landscape bromeliads for your yard:

FULL SUN:

Ae. blanchetiana
Ae. 'Bert'
Ae. ampla
Ae. chantinii 'Surprise'

Ae. del mar
Ae. fendleri
Ae. 'Little Harv, also the variegated version
Ae. 'MEND'
Ae. mexicana
Ae. orlandiana
Ae. pinot noir
Ae. spectabilis
Ananas comosus
Alcantareas as focal point, includes *imperialis* and *odorata*
Androlepsis skinerii
Dyckias, including 'Cherry Coke' and *fosteriana*
Hechtias
Hohenbergias, especially *castellanosii*
Neo. 'Bossa Nova'
Neo. carcharodon
Neo. carolinae
Neo compacta
Neo. correia-araujoi
Neo. cruenta
Neo. fireball
Neo. Johannes, also *Johannes 'Von Welk'*
Neo. macwilliamsii
Neo. 'Sheba'
Neo. spectabilis, painted fingernail
Porteas, especially *petropolitano* var. *petropolitano*

SHADE:

Billbergia pyramidalis
Guzmania lingulata and others
Quesnelia testudo
Neo. 'Martin'
Neo. 'Raphael'
Ae. fulgens

Sources: Bromeliads for Home and Garden by Jack Kramer; www.Bromeliads.info; FCBS Photo Index; Miami-Dade Extension office – IFAS; BSI website; www.gardenguide.com.

Garden Notes

Stephanie LaRusso

Tips for the SOLO Gardener

Gardening is A LOT of work. We love our gardens so, to us, all this extra effort is totally worth it. Managing even a small yard on your own can be very overwhelming. Our partners and loved ones may offer to help sometimes but particularly in summer, we may find that we will need to garden solo. As a long time solo gardener myself, I've tried to find new ways to minimize the work it takes to maintain my yard while maximizing the amount of plants. Here are a few tips that may help you spend less time pulling weeds and more time relaxing in your garden.

Tip 1- Create your own maintenance "paths"

I have to thank my father for this one. The first garden experience I remember was sneaking around with my dad in between the back of our hedges and the fence in our backyard. He used to call this hedge shortcut the "path". While throughout my childhood this "path" provided us with hours of exploration, I found out later that the real reason that he kept this area clear was to help make yard maintenance easier. By leaving and maintaining a clear space of about 24" from the back of the hedges to the fence, he was able both keep the hedges from destroying the fence and access the weeds trying to sneak in from the neighbors yard.

Shows my fence line path. Note how the weeds coming under the fence stop at the ground cover path making them easier to pull them. Both the fence line and back of the hedges are easily accessible for trimming and repairs.



When I moved into my current home I wanted desperately to build a garden, but the fence was in terrible shape and the house needed painting. I was worried about putting in any type of plantings because workmen have a habit of trampling plants. For this reason, it is always best to do any kind of construction before you plant. The problem was that I had no idea when we would be able to afford the repairs and I needed to get my garden started now!

All of a sudden the memory of my father's "path" came to mind. I realized that if I planted all new plants between 3 feet and 4 feet from both the house and the fence, that when they filled in and were trimmed, I would have a clear space of about 18 to 24 inches. This would leave plenty of room not only for painters and workmen but also for me and my boyfriend to get to the windows when we needed to put up hurricane shutters.

Clear space between plantings and house allowing access for hurricane shutter install.



Tip 2- Walkways, Weed Paths and Plantings

I was loving my path plan but I wanted to take it a step further. In an attempt to get as many plants in my yard as possible, I had started creating very deep, dense planting beds all over the yard. The problem was that I often couldn't reach into the center of these paths to pull out weeds without precariously stepping over my delicate plants. Additionally all this bending down every time I went for a new handful of weeds was really killing my back. I decided that what I needed was to create winding paths in between these beds so that I could have a safe place to walk and access to these hard to reach places. I measured my arm reach from a sitting position and created winding paths just narrow enough for me to sit in, where the center of the planting never exceeded my arm's reach.

Shows how paths are spaced so that when sitting, the center of plantings, is reachable from multiple sides.



Creating easy access to all the beds in your yard can mean creating A LOT of paths. Lots of paths can be very busy to look at and can distract from a view of the plants themselves. To avoid making the yard look too busy, try making some paths wider and add step stones. Maybe even use a different rock to fill the lesser paths or even mulch. This will trick the eye into focusing on the main paths and let your secondary paths blend back in with the landscaping. As a bonus, people and animals tend to want to take the easier larger path. Accenting the main paths by making them wider and adding step stones can be a way to let guests and pets know where you would prefer them to walk when enjoying your yard.



Tip 3- Rock Cloth!

Use rock cloth everywhere!!!!!! Ok not everywhere but anywhere you aren't going to plant. Rock cloth is sturdy a fabric that allows water to penetrate downward but stops weeds from coming upward. This is a huge weeding time saver when used under your gravel path or walkways. It makes your pathways a virtually weed free zone and has the added benefit of keeping your rocks from settling into the ground and disappearing over time. You can also use rock cloth under mulch if you want less weeds but you don't want to spend a ton of cash on stones. If you buy quality rock cloth you can use and reuse it over and over. Just pull up the cloth, dump rocks into a bucket, relocate your cloth and re-drop rocks! This provides limitless flexibility which makes rearranging plant beds and paths a snap!

If you are creating stone areas near grass remember to add a thick plastic edging as a barrier. This will help prevent the lawn guy from dislodging stones while mowing or edging. Lose stones in your yard can get caught up in lawn mowers blades and shoot back out causing property damage such as broken windows or injury. Be sure to keep rocks out of the lawn. As a bonus, I use these plastic edges as boarders to let my lawn guys know where their territory starts and mine begins!



Tip 4- Get yourself a weeding bucket

I can not stress enough how amazing having a weed bucket is. Rolling lawn bins can be huge and heavy and so getting them to where you need them in the yard is impossible. A weed bucket, however, is smaller and more portable. I use a large nursery pot and keep next to me as I weed from my paths. When it gets full I walk it over to the large lawn bin and dump it in. Now... it will be tempting to get a larger weed bucket so you can pull more weeds before dumping. Remember however that you have to lift this bucket to dump it later. You'd be surprised just how much weeds can weigh so make sure that you chose a size weed bucket that you can lift when completely full. Any container can be a weed bucket but try to pick one that has drainage holes that way if it rains your weed bucket wont fill with water.



Tip 5- Tool belt and Mini Cooler

This is an inexpensive and super practical time saving investment. Wearing a tool belt is a great way to keep all the tools you need on your body as you work. Additionally, a small portable cooler allows you to stay hydrated without having to go in and out of the house.



Tip 6- Follow the shade

You will naturally have areas in your yard that are shady or sunny at different times of the day. Work smart and stay out of the sun and heat by planning your daily gardening around your shade zones.

Shows how shade location can change throughout the day.

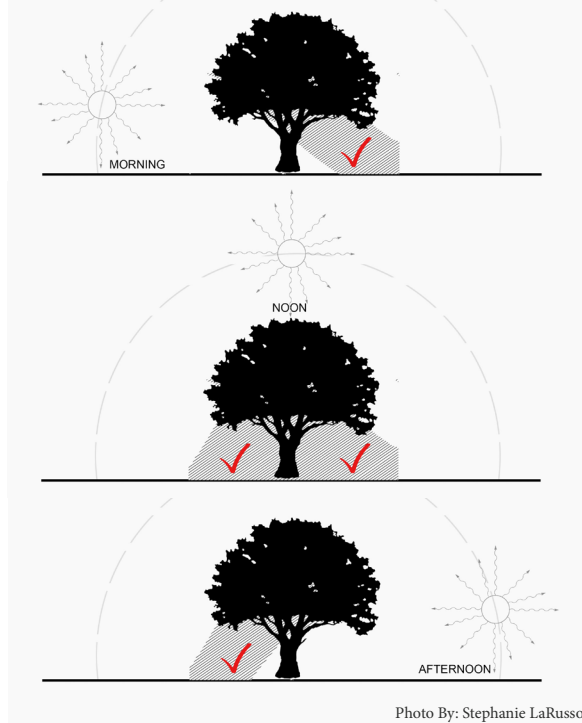


Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

If you don't have a shade zone yet or have limited choice on what time of day you can garden you can make your own shade. This is going to sound silly but I often use a portable umbrella or tailgating tent in the hot days of summer. I simply set up the umbrella or tent so it covers the area I need to work on. When its time to start another zone, I move my shade so it follows me throughout the day.

When I am very busy or feeling super crazy I grab a headlamp or plug in a portable outdoor light fixture and work at night. The weeds are still there even when the sun goes down. Why not pull them in the evening when it is cooler and you can open a bottle of wine and have a great view of the stars while you work?

Tip 7- Ground cover plants

One beautiful way to fight weeds is to use ground cover plants in your planting beds. There are a variety of shade and sun plants that are small and crawl across the ground. As they fill in they block light and from getting to the ground, greatly reducing the amount of weed seeds that sprout. Typically these plants are very reasonably priced and fill in very quickly so you don't need to buy a lot of them to fill your bed. The only downside is that when they get really dense they can steal a lot of the nutrients and water from you plant beds. If you plant them around Bromeliads however this is not a problem! In fact, ground cover plants pair nicely with bromeliads exactly because they absorb extra water and nutrients. Bromeliads look their best when the soil drains or dries quickly and they get the best color when they have less fertilizer. Its a backyard garden ecosystem dream!

When you select ground cover plants be sure that you know what lighting conditions they prefer. There are both shade and sun-loving ground covers so be sure to put the right plant in the right spot.

Peacock Fern- grown between shade plantings



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Mimosa - grown between sun plantings



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Garden Notes

Stephanie LaRusso

Tip 8- Plant Hospital

Sometimes your plants are going to get sick. Outbreaks of disease and pests can spread in a small yard very quickly. In addition to pests and disease, sometimes plants can start going bad simply because they don't like where you put them. Plants are very resilient and can recover from lots of abuse so just throwing out sick or damaged plants can be unnecessary. By building a small plant hospital you can give sick plants that extra chance to survive while protecting the rest of your garden. I often dig up sick or damaged plants and re-pot them. Many times they recover and are returned to my yard.

If you decide to build a plant hospital you should choose a spot that gets fairly even light throughout the day and is tucked away out of view. It doesn't have to be fancy. A simple structure covered in shade cloth will do the trick. I used some aluminum bed frames I found on Amazon and threw some old nursery shade cloth over them.

Tip 9- Workbench

Creating a dedicated work area in your garden can save you time, money and back pain. All you need is a work surface, a chair and a storage bin.

For a work surface, I recommend a standing height table with a glass top. The counter itself should be approximately 36" high which is the same height as your kitchen counter top. Having a counter top height workspace is best because you don't need to bend over or sit to comfortably use the table. I recommend a glass top because it holds up outside, it is easy to clean and it is solid so you won't make a huge soil mess under your table every time you work.

The next thing you need is a chair.

Gardening is tiring! When you need to re-pot a plant, mix up a new batch of soil, or measure out your fertilizer you might as well sit down while you work. Outdoor barstools are fairly easy to find. Just make sure the barstool is made for a counter height table not a bar height table.

The last thing you will need is a storage bin. This is just a waterproof container that stays outside under your work table. I use this to hold small bags of fertilizer, zip ties, plant tie tape and tools that I use every day. Going out to the garage every time I need something or having to put everything back in the garage when I'm done wastes a lot of time. A storage bin located closer to the garden is super convenient!

Tip 10- Enjoy your yard!

The last tip is the most important!

Remember to enjoy your yard. If you are like me every time you look outside you see things to do. Weeds to pull... plants to re-pot... spots that still look empty and will need another plant. A garden is always changing and evolving and it is beautiful just the way it is every day. Remember to make a space just for you where you can sit and just appreciate the hard work both you and your plants put into making your yard so wonderful. Be sure to spend a little time every day just watching the plants and animals enjoy your garden. This will keep you motivated to keep spending time in your garden and also remind you that gardening is not about pulling all the weeds or making everything look perfect. It's about getting to know your plants and your yard so you can continue to grow together. Keep Growing Everyone!

My favorite spot for morning coffee



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

What's Blooming

By Stephanie LaRusso

This month in the Herndon Collection there is a little of everything! The bloom cycles of many different genus overlap this month. It's a great time of year to appreciate all the variety in Bromeliad bloom forms and colors.



