

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

SEPTEMBER 2021 SCURF

www.bromeliadsocietybc.com/



Bullis variegated Blue Tango hybrid Aec. 'America'

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF BROWARD COUNTY
P.O. Box 17272
Plantation, FL 33318



Officers

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President | Brad Beardsley | 954-531-7322 |
| Vice President | Shirley Konefal | 954-632-4528 |
| Treasurer | Linda Romalin | 954-907-1333 |
| Recording Secretary | | |
| Corresponding Secretary | Brad Beardsley | 954-531-7322 |

Directors

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Eric Petrusa | 954-647-8548 |
| Shirley Wiggin | 954-472-0366 |
| David Harris | 305-342-4349 |

Committee Chairpersons

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Country Store | Brad Beardsley | 954-531-7322 |
| Membership | Susan Mather | 954-584-0908 |
| | Judith Lahey | 954-764-0429 |
| Photographer | Eric Petrusa | 954-647-8548 |
| Plant Sale Table | Shirley Konefal | 954-632-4528 |
| Publicity | Brad Beardsley | 954-531-7322 |
| Refreshments | | |



Jim Ward Community Center- New home of the BSBC!

Our indoor meetings will resume Monday, Sept. 27th from 6:30-8:30. Our new home is the Jim Ward Community Center located at 301 NW 46th Ave Plantation, FL 33317.

We will be meeting here as long as the county and CDC allow. Watch for updates in future newsletters so that you can keep up on meeting status and protocol. The health of our members is our priority!

Affiliations: BSBC supports the BSI, Cryptanthus Society and FCBS (2017-2020)

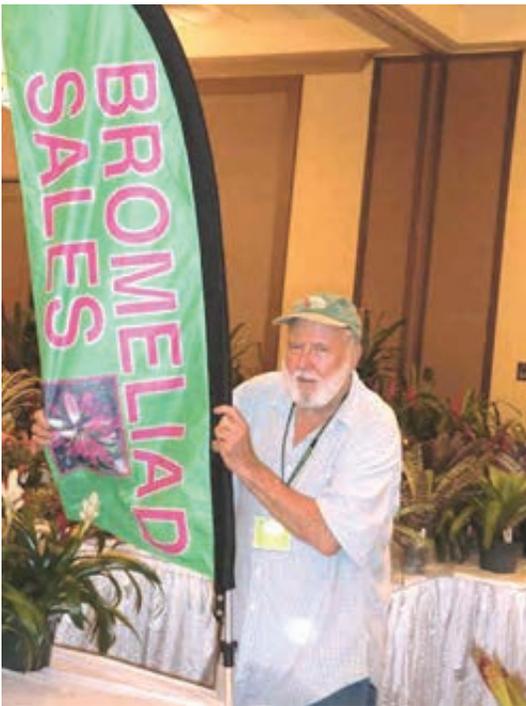


Return to Live Meetings!

This month brings the return of live, indoor meetings to the BSBC! So much has changed since our last indoor meeting in February 2020. For starters, we are in a new building. Our home was the Deicke Auditorium for many years, but it has been converted into a library for the foreseeable future while the Plantation library is being remodeled.

Our new home is the Jim Ward Community Center and we are excited to turn the page and start a whole new chapter! This lovely facility is located a little over a mile east of Deicke and offers much more than just meeting rooms. From a large exercise area filled with professional equipment to outdoor basketball courts, and large park area with pavilions for both family and community events. There is also a large playground and even a splash zone for the kids to cool down on those hot summer days! We look forward to meeting new friends and creating relationships with those who frequent this lovely facility.

This Month's Guest Speaker Is...



Our guest speaker this month is Mike Michalski who will be presenting a program on “Bromeliad Culture and Hybridization.” Mike Michalski has a history with Bromeliads. An avid orchid grower until hurricane Andrew came along and changed his direction, Mike took up bromeliad growing and never looked back. He grows most of the genera and has been hybridizing for the last 8 years. His “hands on” approach has gained him valuable experience which he will be sharing in his presentation.

He has been active in the Bromeliad Society of South Florida for years and is usually at the head of the table at the plant sales at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens. He and his wife, Patti, are now representatives to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies on behalf of the BSSF, and the BSI World Conferences are always on the agenda for their participation. Lots of his plants will be offered for sale before the talk, so be prepared to add to your collection!

We will also have lots of smaller treasures on the raffle tables so be sure to get your tickets on your way in! We will be providing bottled water and some pre-packaged snacks, but due to covid we will not have open food or coffee so bring what you want for yourself.

While masks will be required regardless of your vaccination status, it will be great to finally have an inside meeting and to see the group together again. We hope to see you there!

Bullis Bromeliads August Tour

Last month several members gathered in the heat of August to tour one of the top bromeliad nurseries in the country and it's right here in south Florida! "Family owned and operated since 1977, Bullis Bromeliads resides on more than 25 acres and has over 18 acres of shade houses and 2.5 acres of greenhouses". But it's so much more than just a place to find unique and high-quality broms. From the moment you walk up to the retail center, you'll find inspiration and creativity everywhere you look which makes Bullis more than your average nursery.



Several members waiting to start the tour



Xerographica sphere



Distressed wood planter w/Bullis hybrids



Antique Moroccan bench and coffee table



Rustic wood planter filled w/'Aec America'

These are just a few of the unique displays and arrangements that greet you when you enter the retail center.

This was the first time several members had been to this amazing place, but even those that had been here before were amazed at how the place continues to evolve!



Antique light fixture filled with tillandsias



Colorful stick planters

After several minutes of exploring the retail area, it was time to actually start the tour with our gracious host Jenessa. She's been with Bullis for years and has a vast knowledge of bromeliads and other plant groups not to mention the dozens of hybrids created by Bullis.



The view as you enter the shade houses



Perfect plants in bloom



The mere size of their collection is crazy!



Variegated version of the famous 'Del Mar'

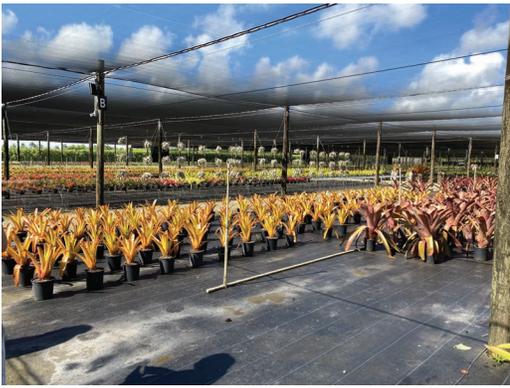


Row after row of perfect GuzmaniasC



Traditionally known for producing large Aechmea and Alcantarea bromeliads, Bullis has the largest selection of small and large Neoregelia's in the market. Bullis has introduced hundreds of new hybrids and currently holds dozens of U.S. Patent Right Protections for their proprietary hybrids like Aec. 'Blue Tango', Aec. 'Del Mar' and Neos such as 'Autumn Rain', 'Donger', and 'Maria' just to name a few.

The talented growers at Bullis are exceptional at creating variegated hybrids and have several additions to the market such as a variegated version of the 'Blue Tango' called 'America'. Members were treated to large variegated Guzmanias like 'Jim and Tony', 'Hasta La Vista' and Vrieseas like 'Inferno' and 'Volcano' which ended up in several carts at the end of the tour! There was so much to pick from that it soon became clear that whatever budget you had in mind on your way there, you were going to double it hoping that would be enough...and you're only in the second row! As the tour went on, the will power to resist buying more plants faded as fast as a New Year's resolution to lose weight and get in shape!



Can't wait to see the crop moving in here



Jenessa shares memories



A sea of broms beyond the retail center



Pretty maids all in a row! The presentation and sheer number of species they carry is so impressive!



'nor heat of day' will keep us from shopping *Variegated 'Bracteata'*



As the tour went on, the staff shared the history and story of Bullis and many of the patented plants that they've created and shared with the world of bromeliad enthusiasts!

Tom and Jenessa's knowledge and expertise helped make the day one to recall until the next time you come. Two more treasures you find at Bullis!

Every bromeliad lover has dreamed at one time or another of having so many to choose from so you can find that special plant.

Then you look up and see just how many are in front of you! They are all so perfect so you soon realize that choosing only one will be really hard as David Harris and Carol Plask do here. Row after row of amazing plants at the same stage of life make that dream a reality. But you still have to choose!



The history behind the sculptures (right) is one of love that still thrives today. All these amazing plants and the organization of the nursery can be visual overload, but the rows of plants only tell a portion of the story of Bullis Bromeliads.

The grounds themselves are tranquil and well planned out. From massive palm trees to koi ponds and water features, the surrounding gardens have some of the most unique and rare plants, grown in Bullis tradition!



Natural log creations



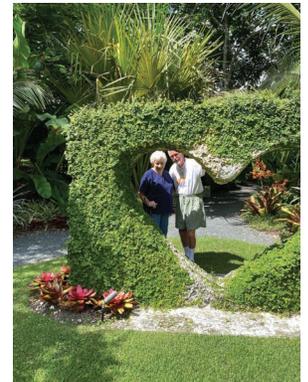
Harry & Tom cruising



Natural pond full of Koi and lush plants



Harvesting this root must have been fun



Carol & Jack relaxing

There is a large water feature and pond filled with various fish and water creatures of all kinds. There is an entire area dedicated to driftwood so that you can make your own creation from a small display to one that nearly dwarfs a driveway (above).



The gigantic palm tree (far left) and the man-made wood entry way (left) in the rear gardens are not only unique, but each is part of a well planned design to create an oasis for the Bullis family and you.



If you haven't been to Bullis lately, you owe it to yourself to make the journey and plan to spend the day just "grazing" the nursery and grounds.

Call ahead to make a plan with Janessa and Tom to come when they have more time to give you the nickel tour. You won't be sorry!

From The Editor



Summer's almost over, cooler weather is on the way, and we are finally having a live indoor meeting and at a brand new place! There's a lot going on this month, but what else is new?

I've spent the last couple weekends getting my plants ready for the plant show coming up at Heritage Park this October 23rd & 24th and of course the fall auction. It had been awhile since I had time to weed, trim, and prune my plants so they really needed some attention! My worms are also looking forward to the fall temps. Their condo was moved to a new spot in the yard this summer and they are doing quite well.



This is my haul from the day at Bullis. While my wife may not believe it, I was lucky to have gotten out of that place with only this much loot! While I may not 'need' one of each I saw, I'll be finding homes for many of my existing plants in the coming months so I can go back to Bullis and continue the 'face lift' on my collection. Thank goodness the holidays are coming!

*Until next time,
-Brad*

September Birthdays



Denise Addison

Carol Plask

Upcoming Events, Things to See

| Date-Time | Event | Place |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Mon. Sept. 27th 6:30 -8:30 pm | Sept. BSBC General Meeting | Jim Ward Community Center 301 NW 46th Ave Plantation, FL 33317 |
| Time To be announced Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31 | Harvest Festival | Davie, FL 33330-1614 Flamingo Gardens 3750 S Flamingo Rd |
| Mon. Oct. 18th 6:30 -8:30 pm | BSBC General Meeting | Jim Ward Community Center 301 NW 46th Ave Plantation, FL 33317 |
| Sat. Oct. 23rd & Sun. Oct. 24th | Plant Affair | Heritage Park, Plantation, FL 33317 |
| Mon. Nov. 15th 6:30-8:30 | BSBC Fall Auction | Jim Ward Community Center 301 NW 46th Ave Plantation, FL 33317 |
| Mon. Dec. 20th 6:30-8:30 | BSBC Holiday Party | Jim Ward Community Center 301 NW 46th Ave Plantation, FL 33317 |
| Jan. 19-21 2022 | Tropical Plant International Expo | Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL |
| June 2022 | BSI World Conference | Hyatt Regency Sarasota, FL |

