Bromeliad Society of Broward County

Scurf

May 2015

www.bromeliadsocietybc.com/

Aechmea tayoensis long petiole

Image courtesy of Bruce Zaret

2015 Officers, Directors, and Chairpersons

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

Officers:

President	Charlene "Becky" Blackwood	954-791-8017
Vice President	Maurice Bruet	646-522-2519
Treasurer–Interim	Carol Mordas	954-587-6036
Recording Secretary	Josie Rivera-Abdo	954-999-0314
Corresponding Secretary	Gayle Spinell-Gellers	954-478-0367

Directors:

	Bruce Zaret	bruce4art@aol.com
	Suzee Newman	954-583-4277
	Shirley Konefal	954-922-5582

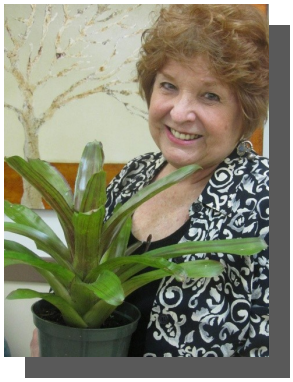
Committee Chairpersons:

Country Store	Bill David	954-321-9229
Librarian	Vacant	
Membership	Carol Mordas	954-587-6036
	Marcia David	954-321-9229
	Gloria Chernoff	954-327-8516
Photographer	Bill David	954-321-9229
Plant Sale Table	Bill David	954-321-9229
Publicity	Sara Donayre	964-925-5112
Raffle/Ticket Sales	Suzee Newman	954-583-4277
Refreshments	Harriet Abo	954-434-8466

Our meetings generally offer a speaker on timely and noteworthy topics, member plant sales, a plant raffle, special holiday plant auctions, diagnosis of disease and pest problems, and a Country Store with selected bromeliad and gardening supplies.
We meet the third Monday of every month except January and February.

Affliliations: BSBC supports

The President's Message



Someone forgot to tell the month of May…….Our temperatures shouldn't be in the high 80's yet. Can't wait for the summer months.

Our community plant sales are over until Fall. Since our April meeting, our members sold their plants at the Westfield Mall and the Plantation's Historical Society's Plant Sale at Heritage Park, both in Plantation. More than $2,000 was earned; with our members receiving 80% of sales and 20% for the Society for show entry fees and state sales tax. Even if you do not want to go to the trouble of potting your bromeliads to sell them, we are accepting "root stock" at plant sales at parks and at our general meetings but your plants must be cleaned (remove dead leaves, extra dirt and most of all SCALE).

This month, at our general meeting, member Larry Davis will be repeating his BROM 101 class for guests and members who want to know more about Bromeliads and their care. Don't forget to ask Larry about how to get rid of SCALE during his presentation. There will be pass outs of Larry's presentation to keep. Don't forget to bring something to write with and write on. Even though I was present for our first presentation over a year ago, I will be taking notes again for important information I missed.

While working at the plant sale in the Westfield Mall, member Richard Sedlack told me some trivia about some of our Society's famous members – Don Pearce, author of "Cool Hand Luke" and John LaRoche, the orchid thief of Ghost Orchid fame. Mr. Laroche was one of our Board members. Anyone else know some interesting facts about our Society's member. Send me an e-mail at cblackwood@bellsouth.net to share.

Don't forget to visit our member's plant sales, our Silent Auction unusual plants, our Raffle Table plants to take a chance with your raffle tickets, our Country Store for your bromeliad gardening supplies and our library, where all but one of our bromeliad books can be checked out by members. Appetizers and refreshments will be available.

We are moving our Fall Auction to our September meeting this year. Great plants, gardening supplies, art. Don't forget our advertisers in the SCURF. Some are helpful in finding that special bromeliad or plant you have been looking for or they can provide a valuable service to you or for you home.

Still looking for a volunteer to be our Librarian. Only time needed is at our monthly general meetings. The books are at Deicke Auditorium. The job requires putting the books out before each month's meeting and putting them away at the end of the evening. Also, keeping a members' checkout list for our Society's books. Also, looking for an accomplished computer person to maintain our current membership lists, updating it with new members. We have a membership committee who provide applications for new members, collect dues, pass out information but we need that special person to keep our computer list up to date. THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEMBERS NEED YOU.

Thank you to these members for all you do: Bill, Carol, Larry, Harriet, Shirley, Rich, Bruce, Suzee, Marcia, Maurice, Josie, Gloria, Anne, and anyone else I may have missed – we couldn't do it without you. See you at the meeting on the 18th. Don't forget to look for me and introduce yourself. I am the short, chubette with reddish hair and wearing our Society's tee shirt.

Remember, I am always looking for your thoughts to improve our Society.

Becky

BSBC Board

VP, Maurice Bruet

Hi Everyone,

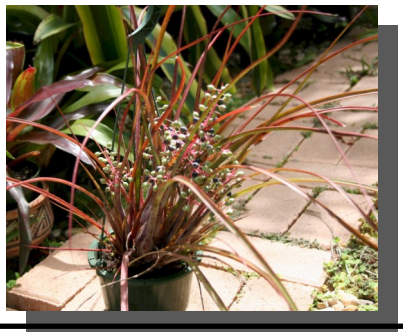
I am currently working on developing our program for the upcoming months. Please take a minute (really!) to complete our brief online survey so we can be sure to address your bromeliad gardening needs.

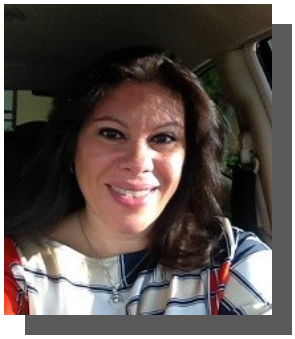
BSBC SURVEY LINK

Thanks,
Maurice

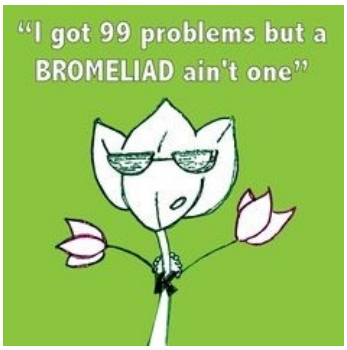
Shirley Konefal

For this month's Show & Tell, Board member Shirley Konefal is going to bring in the **Araecoccus flagellifolius** pictured below so you can have a close up look.





From Recording Secretary Josie Abdo-Rivera



SCURF Feature

April Mystery Plant Identified

Orthophytum gurkenii

Win a raffle sheet with 20 tickets
Be the first to email yrofti-ger@aol.com with the correct name of this brom

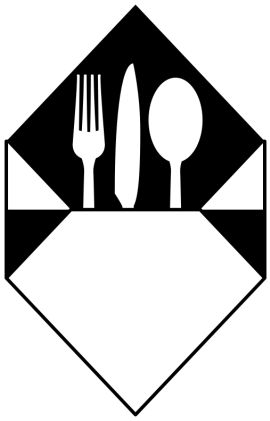
Harriet's Hoots

Happy May to Everyone and a Happy Belated Mother's Day to all you moms out there. It's not easy being a mom sometimes, but the rewards are great. At least I think so.

The weather is becoming quite nice - - - I love it when it's not so hot and there is a little breeze in the air. Although right now I'm sitting in my office and it sure does look like rain. Hey, I sound like a weatherman or weathergirl (hahaha), but I guess we do need some rain for our wonderful bromeliads.

Well, I don't have any snappy songs for you this time (you know I always try to come up with something) but I will say that our next speaker this month is quite snappy and funny. You know him; he's the guy who wears all those crazy hats. It's amazing how many he has and always looking for more. If you ask him about his hats, he'll ask you…. "Did it make you laugh?" and your answer will most likely be "Yes." So, look for the "Hat Guy" my honey and get ready for a great program. It will be very informative and if you want to learn a few things about bromeliads and……well, I've said too much and I don't want to spoil what he's going to talk about, so I would suggest that you all get to the meeting early, grab a seat, grab a snack and I'm sure that you'll learn a few things you might not know.

Well it's time once again to give thanks to our wonderful members who contributed to our "Buffet Table" (See , I said it correctly.) Drum roll please and they are…….



Harry Sperling – Apple Streusel Drizzled with Galliano Liquor (Delish)
Shirley Konefal – Deviled Eggs with Guacamole (Wow, those were good))
Bill David - - - Devil Chocolate Brownies (We need a recipe - wow)
Gloria Chernoff - - Assorted Pastries (Nice touch)
Jackie Matuseski - - Platter of Cheese and Crackers (Always welcome)
Barbara Morman - - Hummus, Spinach Dip with Crackers (Very good)
Susan Mather - - Coconut Macaroons (Sweet treat)
Eddie Yi - - Cucumber Salad and Hummus (Very nice)
Luella Weber - - Candy, Cookies & Fortune Cookies (We love our sweets)
Carol Mordas - - Chocolate Macaroons (Another sweet treat)

Oh, one more thing – I try to look out for everyone who brings a dish but sometimes I miss. So, if I don't see you, please, please see me and let me know what you have brought. You are all so wonderful to contribute that I would feel bad if I didn't acknowledge your contribution.

That's all Gang - - see you at the next meeting - -

Hugs,
Harriet

Membership News

M A Y

Gene Cain
Jillian Cain
Maureen Frazel
Bud Hendrix
Larry Hill
Barbara Ladin
Nancy Long
Barbara Moorman
Richard Sedlak
Michael Schaberl

Welcome New Members from Ft. Lauderdale

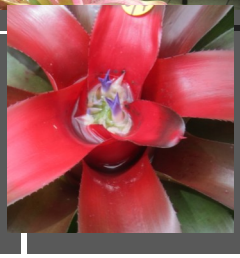
David Hoyt
Nick Sakhnovsky
Eric Schiavi

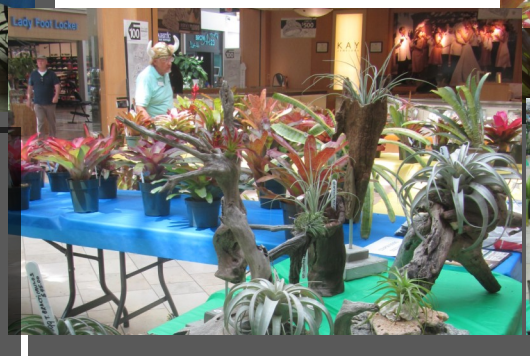
From Our Special Events

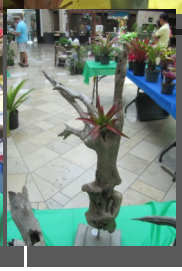
From the Orchid & Bromeliad Sale at Flamingo Gardens on April 4th & 5th. Larry Davis and Harriet Abo covering the event.

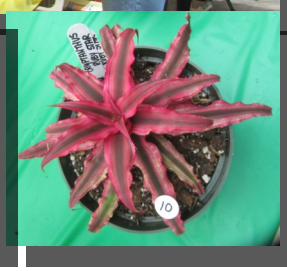
Three beautiful broms offered for auction.

Becky Blackwood, Carol Mordas, Larry Davis and Bill David in the BSBC booth at Westfield Mall Plant Sale. April 11 and 12.



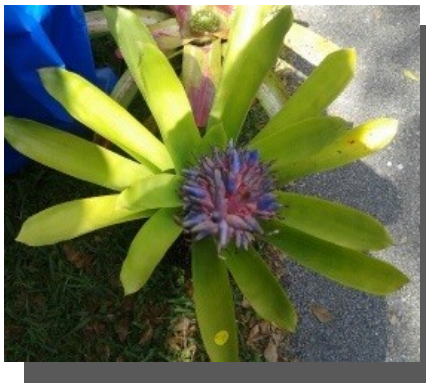


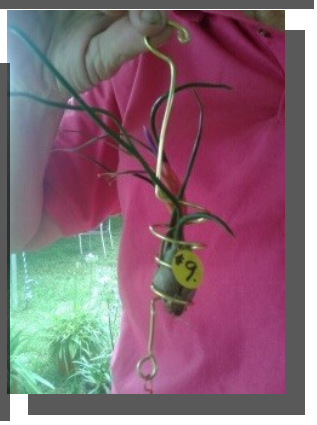




From Heritage Park Plant Sale —- Shirley Konefal, Gloria Chernoff, Bill Davis & Carol Mordas featured.

Always a fun event !





May Meeting

Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2015
6:30 pm at
Deicke Auditorium
5701 Cypress Road, Plantation, FL 33317

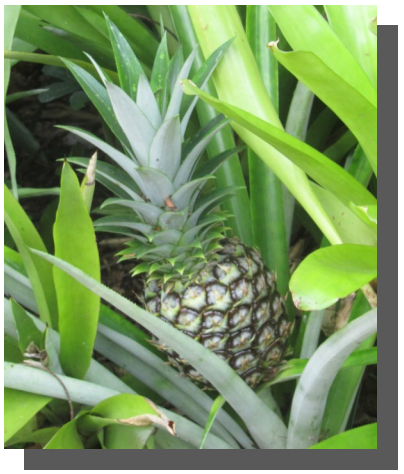
Guest Speaker: **Larry Davis**
Former BSBC VP

Topic: **Bromeliads 101**

If you want to know the basics, if you want to learn some tips and techniques, come learn from one of our own very experienced brom growers.

The Sales Table will be open. There will be both a Raffle Table and a Silent Auction with some more terrific special plants. Our Country Store will have the very supplies you need. Join us for an information-packed fun evening.

A Simple Pineapple - MUST Read for those who enjoy pineapples…
forwarded to us by Harry Sperling
(origin of this write-up unknown)



The pineapple is a member of the bromeliad family. It is extremely rare that bromeliads produce edible fruit. The pineapple is the only available edible bromeliad today .

It is a multiple fruit. One pineapple is actually made up of dozens of individual floweret's that grow together to form the entire fruit. Each scale on a pineapple is evidence of a separate flower.

Pineapples stop ripening the minute they are picked. No special way of storing them will help ripen them further. Color is relatively unimportant in determining ripeness. Choose your pineapple by smell. If it smells fresh, tropical and sweet, it will be a good fruit. The more scales on the pineapple, the sweeter and juicier the taste. After you cut off the top, you can plant it. It should grow much like a sweet potato will.

This delicious fruit is not only sweet and tropical; it also offers many benefits to our health. Pineapple is a remarable fruit. We find it enjoyable because of its lush, sweet and exotic flavor, but it may also be one of the most healthful foods available today . If we take a more detailed look at it, we will find that pineapple is valuable for easing indigestion, arthritis or sinusitis. The juice has an anthelmintic effect; it helps get rid of intestinal worms.

Let's look at how pineapple affects other conditions.

Pineapple is high in manganese, a mineral that is critical to development of strong bones and connective tissue. A cup of fresh pineapple will give you nearly 75% of the recommended daily amount. It is particularly helpful to older adults, whose bones tend to become brittle with age. Bromelain, a proteolytic enzyme, is the key to pineapple's value. Proteolytic means "breaks down protein", which is why pineapple is known to be a digestive aid. It helps the body digest proteins more efficiently. Bromelain is also considered an effective anti-inflammatory. Regular ingestion of at least one half cup of fresh pineapple daily is purported to relieve painful joints common to osteoarthritis. It also produces mild pain relief. In Germany , bromelain is approved as a post-injury medication because it is thought to reduce inflammation and swelling. Orange juice is a popular liquid for those suffering from a cold because it is high in Vitamin C. Fresh pineapple is not only high in this vitamin, but because of the Bromelain, it has the ability to reduce mucous in the throat. If you have a cold with a productive cough, add pineapple to your diet. It is commonly used in Europe as a post-operative measure to cut mucous after certain sinus and throat operations. Those individuals who eat fresh pineapple daily report fewer sinus problems related to allergies. In and of itself, pineapple has a very low risk for allergies.

Pineapple is also known to discourage blood clot development. This makes it a valuable dietary addition for frequent fliers and others who may be at risk for blood clots.

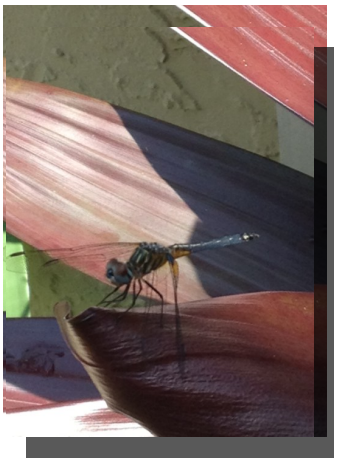
An old folk remedy for morning sickness is fresh pineapple juice. It really works! Fresh juice and some nuts first thing in the morning often make a difference.

It's also good for a healthier mouth. The fresh juice discourages plaque growth.

Here is a link for how to grow a pineapple from the top. It works, too!
http://plantcaretoday.com/how-to-grow-a-pineapple.html

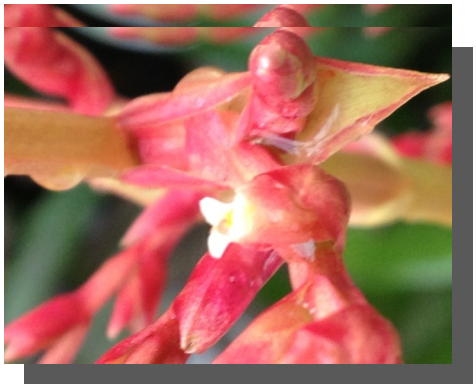
From Our Education Chair

Above….
An unusual Canistrum with flat recessed inflorescence that has a wooly yellow-green sepal/bract material from which small flowers with pink petals and white stamen.emerge.



Dragonfly sunning on a xVriecantera Merlot

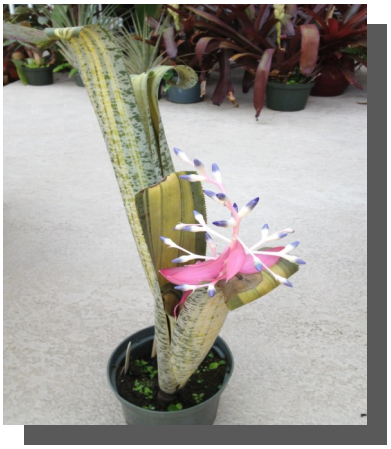
Images of Racinae fraseri



Note the white petals. This plant was previously classified as a Tillandsia. Inflorescence is 42 inches tall. This is a very unusual specimen.

Nidualrium 'Rainbow'

Cultivar of Nidularium regelioides which has slightly serrated red floral bracts the latter of which distinguished it from rutilans which has smooth edged floral bracts; regelioides has been subsequently reclassified as rutilans as the difference between the two was felt to not be significant enough to merit it's own species distinction. 'Rainbow' has red floral bracts with orange-red petals. The mottled leaf pattern sets off the inflorescence. Simple but elegant!



Two views of a Variegated Quesnelia marmarota in bloom.

Images courtesy of Bruce Zaret

From the Editor

We went to Costa Rica with an agenda…. Check out bromeliads in the wild and in an established garden, zipline over the rainforest, catch sight of the morpho butterfly and watch a quetzal fly. Didn't expect to come home batting 100%, but we did. All that was "on the list" and so much more. As of today, I am still sorting and cropping over 800 photos that I took. For now, here are the details of just one moment in time from the cloud forest in Montverde.

As we walked thru the mists on one of the suspension bridges high over a carpet of enormous ferns with mega-sized fronds, we heard howler monkeys which sounded strangely like the velociraptors in *Jurassic Park*. They were deafening! We came upon one skinny tree trunk rising easily fifty feet high which stood out from the rest. Atop that one tree was a bromeliad perched dead center. Not a particularly unusual plant but its placement just spoke volumes. Nature has a way of finding its way.

Such was the case with so many broms that we saw in the wild on our trip. Many plants were typical tillandsias that somehow anchored themselves in the most precarious of locations —- all along the sides of dead trees, way down low in the underbrush, on the side of the crater at Poas volcano. Occasionally a brightly colored brom would appear in the middle of an otherwise sea of green as if a ray of sunshine was repeatedly hitting that one spot and none other. It catches the viewer off guard.

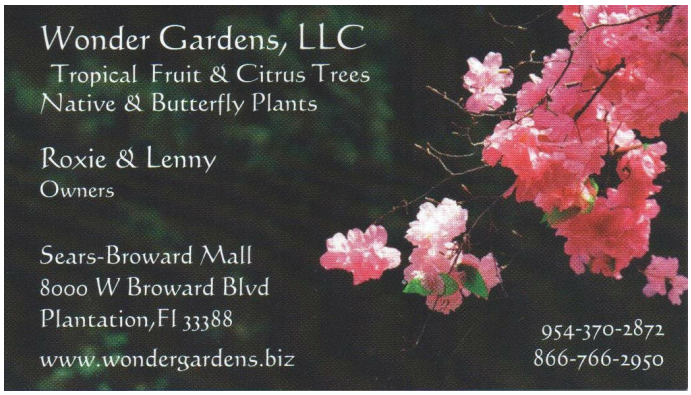
Did we make it to Lankester Garden? Oh yes and their bromeliad garden does not disappoint. Hope to share that with you in the months to come. Meanwhile, Garden On,

Gayle

Calendar of Local Plant Society Meetings

1st Tuesday	Plantation Orchid Society	Volunteer Park
2nd Friday	Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club	Birch State Park
2nd Monday	BSBC Board Meeting	Deicke Auditorium
2nd Friday	B.U.S.H.	Trinity Church Community Rm
3rd Monday	Bromeliad Society of Broward County	Deicke Auditorium
3rd Tuesday	Bromeliad Society of So. Florida	Fairchild Gardens
3rd Wednesday	Equality Park Garden Club	Pride Center
3rd Wednesday	Plantation Garden Club 9:30 am—noon	El Dorado Community Center
3rd Thursday	Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches	Mounts Botanical
3rd Thursday	Shade Brigade (no meetings July & Aug.)	Plantation Bldg. Dept.

Places to Go, Things to See

Aug. 8, 2015	Bromeliad Sale		USF Botanical Gardens, 4202 E. Fowler Avenue NES107, Tampa
Sept. 25, 2015	Bromeliads in the Magic City		Double Tree Hotel 711 NW 72 St., Miami

Businesses