Bromeliad Society of Broward County

Scurf

October 2014

Auction this month!

www.bromeliadsocietybc.com/

Variegated form of Aechmea 'Romero' which is hybrid of Aechmea fendleri x Aechmea 'Perumazon' (a cv of chantinii forma amazonica)

Image courtesy of Bruce Zaret

2014 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	Larry Davis	954-434-8466
Treasurer–Interim	Carol Mordas	954-587-6036
Recording Secretary	Vacant	
Corresponding Secretary	Gayle Spinell-Gellers	954-478-0367

Directors:

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

Committee Chairpersons:

Country Store	Bill David	954-321-9229
Librarian	Tracy Moulton	954-864-9776
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

Seems as if there are more events for our Society in October than any other time of the year. I am certain these events will offer something for everyone!

If you missed our self-guided tour of our member Larry Searle's nursery on Sunday, October 5, 2014, I took some pictures of the bromeliads Larry had available for sale plus photos of the event and different plant areas. Our Scurf editor Gayle has included them on Page 6. The barbecue was great – hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, cokes and water and all for free. A sincere thank you to the whole Searle family for their hospitality.

FYI, Larry has just returned from the **Bromeliad Society International Annual Conference** in Hawaii and he has promised to share photos of the event at one of our spring meetings. Larry found some of the bromeliads in Hawaii very different from those we grow here in Florida. He said a number of the Florida bromeliad growers purchased some of the Hawaiian bromeliads and are going to try and grow them here in Florida. Hopefully, they will thrive here and offer future additions to our collections.

Next – another October reminder

October 18 and 19th, Saturday and Sunday – Plantation's Historical Society's Heritage Park Plant Affair at the corner of Fig Tree Lane and Peters Road in Plantation. Our Society will be participating in this plant sale for our members who would like to benefit from their "hard" work and want to enjoy their plant sales profits or buy more unusual bromeliads. Our dedicated members will be setting up on Friday afternoon to sell our bromeliads. If you have bromeliads to sell, join us. We are asking you to dedicate time for your set up, take down and a 4 hour shift on Saturday and Sunday's event. Our Vice President Larry Davis is in charge and he has addressed many of your questions in his article.

We've Saved the Best Until Last

October 20th – Monday – Deicke Auditorium – our annual **PLANT AUCTION** meeting with hundreds of unusual bromeliads, Shirley Konefal and I are providing two of our paintings – Shirley's subject is a Cryptanthus and mine is an Aechmea Neo; a beautiful peacock glass blown platter, a gardener's gift basket of gauntlet gloves, hat, Pro Mix Soil, pots, sticks, fertilizer and other gardening items donated by our members and plant vendors. Our auctioneer, Peter Kouchalakos, will provide the entertainment with his auctioneering. **EACH MEMBER IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE 3 ITEMS OR PLANTS FOR AUCTION. DELIVERY OF DONATED PLANTS OR ITEMS SHOULD BE BETWEEN 4:00 pm TO 5:45 pm. BIDDERS VIEWING BEGINS AT 6:00 pm and BIDDING BEGINS AT 6:30 pm. Remember to pick up your paddles when you sign in. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted. Appetizers and refreshments will be served. I guarantee you won't be disappointed.**

Thank you Gloria Chernoff, for volunteering to be a member of our membership committee.

See you at the Plant Affair and especially at our ANNUAL AUCTION - Becky

BSBC Vice-President Ramblings

Hi, Gang - -
Look out for the big four-day weekend coming up October 17, 18, 19 and 20 - - Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Plant Affair at Heritage Park on Peters Road and Monday at our annual Auction with Peter Kouchalakos. Talk about an active society!

I have names of about a dozen volunteers ready for our sale in the park - and received another in my email. Volunteering is work, but an awful lot of fun too - - anyone else who can spare a few hours anytime during the sale should send me an email and I'll respond with the work schedule - - everybody knows my email === SmilingLarry@aol.com.

The actual hours for setup and tear down is still to be determined with the park facilities. I will be getting out an email to all volunteers before October 9th or 10th. Now for the real fun - - the selling - - everyone knows that the bromeliad hobby is a rewarding activity - - but it has its costs - - here is your chance to get back a bit of your investments.

Step 1 - - get a seller number - - if you don't have one yet, email Carol Mordas at don-aldm3@bellsouth.net.

Step 2 - - find an attractive salable plant in your collection - - clean up the pot - - pull all weeds - - and add 2 sticks with the plant price, it's name and your selling number - - best writing implements are #2 pencils - - I use the big, fat kindergarten pencils available at most Publix. There will be members available to help.

Step 3 - - a round colored sticker with the price should be affixed to the plant in a conspicuous place. Again, members will assist. The stickers should be yellow for full sun plants, blue for partial shade and green for shade plants.

Step 4 - - bring along small grocery bags to help your customer carry your treasures home.

The club collects all money, pays the tax and sends you a check for 80% of your plant sales. Plants must be picked up by close of sale on Sunday. If not picked up, your plants are now our plants and you will see them in the raffle or the auction.

We are trying to make available to you the needed sticks, pots and soil mix for your sale plants. Wow - - I'm way out of space, but I hope I have encouraged more of you to participate in the weekend fun.

And if this is not enough - - just wait for our fun auction. I'm sure Becky gave you all the skinny on the activity. I just can't wait to be entertained by my buddy Peter.

And don't forget that we will learn about Foliage Vrieseas on November 17 by Dave Johnston.

Larry

(Oh, BTW my birthday is on our Fri so I'll bring donuts and drinks)

Membership News

OCT

Bill David
Larry Davis
Jose Donayre
Susan Halliwell-Mather
Shirley Konefal
Molly Lesnick
Valeria Paz
John Wrench

For all members who also collect orchids, a retirement sale is underway in the Orlando area. Check out www.orchidspecialist.com for inventory and pricing.

SCURF Feature

September Mystery Plant Identi-

Cryptanthus Warren

Win a raffle sheet with 20 tick-ets….

Be the first to email the SCURF editor at yroftiger@aol.com with the correct name of this brom

More Membership News

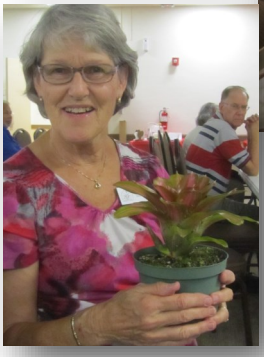
Our next meeting: October 20, 2014
BSBC Annual AUCTION !!!!
6:00 pm plant preview
Auction begins at 6:30 pm

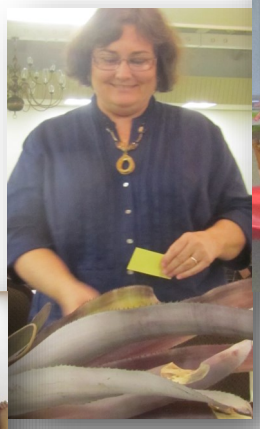
Legendary auctioneer
Peter Kouchalakos
will be making a return appearance and sharing information about the many terrific plants available for bidding.

The place to be on 10/20 is:
Deicke Auditorium, 5701 Cypress Road, Plantation, FL

Info Fun Friendship Plants Food

Images From Our September Meeting and Searle's Nursery Event





Harriet's Hoots

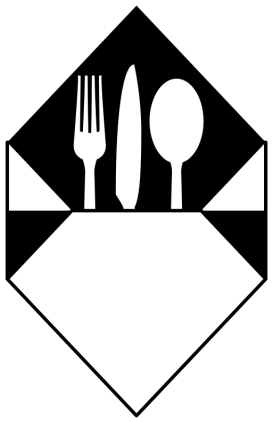
Greetings Everyone,

So are you ready for the holidays? Yes, they are creeping up on us pretty fast. Halloween is just around the corner. Do you all have your costumes ready (LOL)? I do and I'll tell you why. I'm taking my grandkids to Mickey's Not So Scary Halloween and you know where that is….. Disney, here we come. There is no way you can go to that event without a costume and the candy they pass out - - -WOW, just what 3 little kids need (hahaha). Anyway, I think it will be such fun.

Our upcoming meeting is our famous and fabulous Auction. Start exercising your arms so that you can raise your paddles and Bid, Bid, Bid. I'm sure we'll have some wonderful plants for you to take home.

Our refreshment table will be up and running as always. I would like to ask anyone who plans on bringing something that it be a finger type food, something you can just pick up and pop into your mouth... chunks of cheese, deviled eggs, veggies cut up, sliced brownies, mini cookies, chicken nuggets, little smokies, hummus with crackers, small pretzels, sandwiches cut into triangles, fruit bowl, etc. There will be chairs set up but no tables and so it will be easier for people to grab a small plate with some goodies on it that they can pick up with their fingers (don't panic, I still will have utensils on the table). You are all so good with your cooking skills that I'm sure you will come up with some wonderful goodies and I do appreciate all your contributions.

Now back to thanking our members who contributed to last month's table and they are……



Shirley Konefal - - Salad with Chipotle Dressing (Great Choice)
Harry Sperling - - Chocolate Cake (Wonderful as always)
Susan Mather - - Hummus with Multigrain Chips (Healthy and good)
Bridgette Sheeks - - Platter of Gold Fish (Love those little fishes)
Bill Frazel - - - - - Brownies (Always a treat)
Dale Fenster - - Glazed Lemon Cream Cake (Just hit the spot)
Louella Weber - - Avocado Carrabolla Salad (Absolutely Delish)
Patty Zicarelli - - -Tubule (Nice Selection)

Well, time to wrap up and remember - - Bid like crazy. See you all at the Auction - - - -

Hugs,
Harriet

From the Editor

Meet Josefa Leon — to know her, is to love her

Last December in search of a pretty plant for our annual Holiday Party, I drove out to Sunshine Bromeliads, parked my car on the gravel drive, walked around a small building only to be caught off guard. You expect to find nice plants at a nursery, but Sunshine Bromeliads was truly an experience. Scores of picture- perfect bromeliads on raised racks abounded in every direction, all grouped by lighting requirements, all with beautiful symmetry and shiny, shiny leaves. Wow, brom heaven! A tiny black and white cat decided to accompany me as I wandered aisle by aisle checking out displays of small Tillandsias, rows of colorful Neos and endless Vriesia. What was going to be a 10 minute stop, turned into a 45 minute "don't really want to leave" visit. I finally selected a beautiful Neophytum Burgundy Hill and several other irresistibiles. Southwest Broward was undeveloped when I moved here forty years ago. Who was the visionary behind all of this? Sure, I had heard of Josefa Leon and had seen her at a Garden Fest, drooled over some of her award-winning plants but had not really put the whole thing together. When BSBC awarded Josefa an Honorary membership, for all she has done for the society, that all changed.

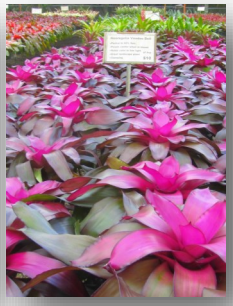
The morning of our interview was a scorcher. First up was a bottle of ice cold water handed to me by one of Josefa's three daughters. Arley, Maria and Jackie all of whom help their mother out in some way with the nursery and as do her grandsons. They are such nice ladies. Josefa was right there outside tending to her plants. A customer was wheeling out a cart filled with broms. "I'll be back." We all smiled--another happy brom gardener was born.

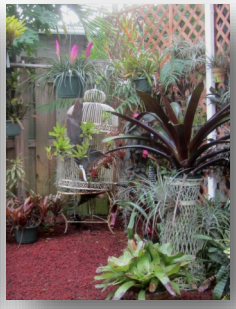
In early 1962 Josefa and her young family left Havana for the US in the hopes of building a new life away from the increasing conflict within their native country. Initially they settled in South Miami where Josefa worked in a variety of local industries. Nearly 20 years later, the family relocated to Miami Lakes where a casual stroll through a local plant and crafts fair changed the course of Josefa's life and that of her family. Overhearing a lively, animated vendor, an intrigued Josefa walked over to the booth of native Philadelphian turned Floridian Jerry Puittinen who was selling bromeliads. Despite language barriers, Jerry spoke no Spanish and Josefa spoke no English, this was the beginning of a friendship. Josefa left the fair that day with six plants, at least one of which was an Aechmea Victoria. She remembers it all so clearly. It was Jerry who ultimately took Josefa to a bromeliad society meeting which further spurred her on to a career path in growing bromeliads.

In 1983 Josefa was able to purchase almost 3 acres of land in southwest Broward. Ultimately a lovely home was built and Sunshine Bromeliads was born. Josefa and her friend Jerry sold their

plants together at every possible opportunity. Josefa remembers the whole era and her friendship with Jerry with great and touching fondness. The ladies remained friends until Jerry's death in 1998.

Over the years Josefa has continued to develop her nursery with plants from Costa Rica and Venezuela and from the many friends she has made along the way. She acquired her knowledge thru trial and error and by attending meetings of the South Florida Bromeliad Society at Fairchild Garden where she is still a member and still attends meetings even if they go on until 9:30. She loves running into patrons/friends wherever she goes, including at Publix! With a smile she said, "Hundreds of them." While she was initially drawn to Guzmanias, her current favorites are Neoregelias because they are strong plants, with long lasting inflorescence and produce many pups. When asked how many plants she actually has, the answer was, "demasiado" or "too many", but her eyes twinkled and she smiled again nonetheless. She considers location the key factor in successfully growing broms and warns patrons to be careful of our sun and not to leave the plants in the car!





As we chatted and walked about her gardens and home I could not help but admire her warmth, her courage, her commitment and her endless level of fascination with broms, other plants, growing fruit, koi in assorted sizes. Every plant seems to get personal attention and every animal lives in a dwelling that has her artistic touch. Josefa is just one of those people who has an innate sense of design and an eye for creative use of materials. You can't help but get ideas by just looking at what she has done all over the property. If the cabinet of beautiful crystal awards and plaques is any indication, Josefa has been incredibly successful as a grower. During our walk, she subtly pointed out certain plants she was zeroing in on as possible candidates for a show....They will get special care, no doubt. Long time friend Harry Sperling said, "I have sent a number of people to her nursery and the report I get is that they are thankful for seeing and purchasing some of the wonderful plants but they also tell me about how graciously they were received and how much knowledge they obtained in just one visit." You arrive at Sunshine Bromeliads as a customer, you leave having made a friend. As the patron said on that sizzling morning," I, too, will be back."

Happy gardening,

Gayle

HELP WANTED

The Bromeliad Society of Broward County's Executive Board is seeking volunteers for the following positions:

Recording Secretary
(This position comes complete with a tape recorder!) ☺

Fundraising Chairman

An organization cannot succeed without the shared involvement of its members. We are asking for individuals who can donate no more than 6 hours a month (in some months, even less) to our organization to share the business responsibilities of our Society.

Computer knowledge and access is required. If you are yearning for a distracting outside activity from your job; a position to make your retirement more interesting or just love bromeliads and want to be in on the ground floor, WE NEED YOU DESPERATELY.

WE PROMISE NOT TO REQUIRE YOU TO SERVE MORE THAN ONE TERM OR TO OVERBURDEN YOU WITH WORK, BUT WE DO NEED HELP AND MORE GOOD IDEAS.

If the criteria listed above describes you, call
Becky Blackwood at 954-791-8017
or
e-mail cblackwood@bellsouth.net

From Our Education Chair

Hot off the presses is an announcement that just appeared on the Fairchild Gardens' blog. An important new bird gardening book has been published by the University of Florida focusing specifically on the many issues and concerns surrounding the bird population here in South Florida. The book includes information about gardening, local plants, wildlife as well as birds and offers suggestions of how the choices we each make can help the situation. Check out

Attracting Birds to South Florida Gardens

by James S. Kushlan and Kirsten Hine

If you are looking for a new way to organize all your brom gardening tools, check out this latest suggestion from the web. A local home goods store has just reduced their "Going to College" organizational supplies, so with that sale price and coupons, this shoe organizer can be acquired at a very good price. Since it is made of canvas, it can be easily washed.

The Saga of the Puya alpestris begins….
This brom, aka the Sapphire Tower, which is native to the Chilean Andes, is said to be a challenge to grow—-slow, kind of messy and yet, has beautiful rosettes. When I acquired some seeds, I passed some along to Bruce Zaret and to Harry Sperling. We each have different growing conditions so stay tuned for updates on the Puya Project. Hopefully, one of us will get these plants to grow! Gayle

Image from flikr

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
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

Oct. 18 –19	Broward County Plant Affair	9 –5 on Sat. 9—4 on Sun	Plantation Heritage Park 1100 S. Fig Tree Plantation, FL
Nov. 1—2	Mounts Botanical Fall Plant Sale	9—5 on Sat. 9—3 on Sun.	Mounts 559 West Military Trail West Palm Beach, FL

Business

Advertise Here …….

$10 per month

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Have a bromeliad question? Email yroftiger@aol.com and we'll ask our experts.

BSBC Country Store

The Country Store has the following items for sale at great prices!

6 in" pots_____5 pots for $ 1.00
Plant Sticks___50 sticks for $1.00

Contact Bill David
@ 954-321-9229