

BromeliA dvisory

August 2015



Canistrum seidelianum

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Photos of Canistrum by Robert Meyer



BromeliA dvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

August 2015

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



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



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida/84661684279>

AUGUST 18, 2015

SPEAKER: Jay Thurrott

RAFFLE TABLE: Dian Johnston

FOOD: Usual Suspects

Sandy Roth, President
 Alex Bello, VP
 Fred Sussenberger, Treasurer
 Maureen Adelman, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Past Pres.: Barbara Partagas

Directors:

Leonard Goldstein '14 - '15
 Barbara Sparling '14 - '15
 Rhonda Herndon '15 - '16
 Harlo VonWald '15 - '16

Editor

Robert C Meyer

Advertising: Robert Meyer
Door Prize: Alan Herndon
Education: Nat DeLeon
Hospitality: Elaine Mills
Library: Barbara Partagas
Membership: Maureen Adelman/Melody Ray
Mem. Plant Sales: Antonio Arbelaez
Raffle: Melissa Brail
Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

AUGUST SPEAKER IS VERY SPECIAL

Remember Hawaii? Topic air. Mountain backdrops. Exotic plants. Volcanos. Active volcanos. Open ocean.

Jay Thurrott – president of the BSI – was there with camera and more. He spoke at the program, predominantly as host, and will bring us back to September of 2014 to recall that experience.

Little about Jay from that convention's booklet:

Jay Thurrott is an environmental chemist who has worked in the public service sector for 30-plus years, recently retiring as Manager of Treatment Operations for the City of Daytona Beach. He began growing bromeliads in the 70's and now grows more than 700 varieties of bromeliads at his home in Port Orange, Florida and been growing bromeliads since the 70's. A longtime member of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society (FECBS), Jay is their newsletter editor and has served as secretary, vice president and president as well as chairman of the 2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza, which was hosted by the FECBS. He has served as a representative to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) for many years, is a past-Chairman of that organization and a co-editor of their newsletter. Also active in local garden club activities, he is a past president of the Halifax Council of Garden Clubs (a consortium of 7 garden clubs in the Daytona Beach area). He is currently President of the Bromeliad Society International after having served as a director and vice-president. Jay is also a BSI accredited

President's Message

by Sandy Roth

Hello Everyone

Friends Romans Countrymen.... lend me your ear
Our Extravaganza event is near...



I am being hopeful that our members have been thinking about how they are going to participate.

There are many positions to fill...ones where you sit; Ones where you stand; Ones where you walk; Ones where you talk; Ones for the young; Ones for the old Ones; Ones for the shy; and

Ones for the bold – something for everyone.

So come sign up for some fun !!

Peace n Luv

Sandy Roth

In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein

Chester Skotak, Jr., a Texas native, moved to eastern Collier County in the mid-1970s, intent on raising terrestrial ornamentals on his newly-purchased property. Unfortunately, reality in the form of walking catfish and saltwater intrusion interfered with his dream. But then Chester moved to Costa Rica, where he found botanical refuge against those insults and began breeding bromeliads. The rest, goes the saying, is history. And thanks to Chip Jones, we now know a little bit more about that history.

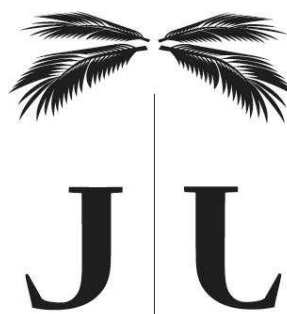


Neoregelia 'Absolutely Fabulous'
Photo from BSI

At the BSSF's July meeting, nearly 40 souls courageous enough to overcome the ennui of a

Florida summer were treated to a quick-paced, informative presentation by Jones, a nurseryman and landscaper with interests stretching across a broad botanical range. He entertained his audience with a program on "Hybrids and Plants of Chester Skotak: Works of a Bromeliad Magician."

Jones first asked, "Why are Chester's Plants the Best?" The answer is that he (1) is a good



Jones Landscaping Logo

(2) is a good grower, (3) has good access to various forms, (4) possesses years of experience, and (5) keeps only the best plants. There are now almost 400 Chester Skotak patented bromeliads -- large, small, intergeneric hybrids, variegated,

florally improved, endowed with commercial qualities. [For the full list, see <http://registry.bsi.org/index.php?fields=&id=11321&search=Skotak>.] And his creations carry equally imaginative names: 'Wild Zombie', 'White Gossip', 'Inkwell', 'Norman Bates', 'Orange Crush', 'Hannibal Lector', 'Yin', 'Yang', 'Sheba', 'Picasso', 'Skotak's Tiger', 'Absolutely Fabulous'.

On the subject of variegation, Jones explained that it does not hold up in tissue culture. Breeding via pups makes variegations stable and therefore commercially valuable. Skotak is among the handful of breeders possessing the interest in, and space for, conducting such

propagation. Jones, with the help of nice photos, singled out many of his favorites. They include *Aechmeas*: 'Golden Goddess', 'Pagoda', 'Shaggy', 'Supernova', 'Unstable Mabel'; *Alcantarea*: 'P.I.T.A.'; *Ananas*: 'White Lightning'; *Neoregelias*: 'Arctic Blast', 'Aventura', 'Bachata', 'Mojo' (miniature), 'Banggereng Rainbow' ('Captain Hook'), 'Ozone' (easy and colorful), 'Freddy Krueger' (large), 'Banshee', 'Bottoms Up', 'Wild Rabbit', 'Tiger Cub' (an ampullacea-tigrina descendant, therefore miniature), 'Skotak's Tiger'.

Jones reported that Skotak believes that to ensure the best quality control from which to make selections, a grower must observe a hybrid for three years, after which he/she will cross the resulting selections again.

Sometimes serendipity plays a major role in the creation of new bromeliads. For instance, *Neoregelia* 'Skotak's Tiger' (f/k/a 'Tiger'), a very important constituent of 21st century Neo. hybrids, came, according to Skotak's account, from a trash pile in Rio de Janeiro state which he [and another individual] discovered in 2004. It grows on rock or as an epiphyte.

Jones considers *Neoregelia* 'rothinessa' a deceptively good hybrid, with widely-spaced spines typical of *Neo. carcharodon*. Adding to his list of interesting and interestingly-named Skotak Neo. hybrids, he mentioned 'Shark Noodles', 'Moon Over Fort Dix', 'Bobby Hull' (ugly, but a good breeder), 'Duk Soon' (a phenomenal plant), 'Lorena' (named for Skotak's wife), 'Ed Prince' (but 'Moyna Prince' is a Gary Hendrix hybrid), 'Tunisia' (a lot like 'Ed Prince' and grows like a weed), 'Pimiento' (should be used more, looks best when larger, and can take full sun or shade).

Jones next addressed Skotak's 2007 book, "Searching for Miss Fortuna: The Hunt for a Bromeliad," disclosing that Skotak has said that people have offered him money not to write a second book. Jones diplomatically remarked that some of the content must have been fictionalized. Jones also reported that Skotak claims he has not made a cent off his *Neo. 'Harry Luther'* hybrid since selling his first group to Tropiflora. However, he does make money from hybridizing

pineapples. He also sells *Guzmanias* to Deroose [the huge Belgium-based plant producer], which makes selections and returns them to Skotak. Later, additional selections are made for tissue-culturing.

Jones has visited Skotak's facilities in Costa Rica. He described them as smaller than some of the Thai nurseries, but still large enough that they cannot be seen in one shot.

Nearing the end of his program, Jones observed that *Aechmea* 'Roberto Menescal' [named for the famed bossa nova composer/guitarist/vocalist] is a plant that performed better for Skotak in Costa Rica than for Menescal in Brazil. He added, parenthetically, that for criticizing Menescal's comments about Brazil's Atlantic rain forest, Skotak is practically *persona non grata* in Brazil.

The speaker concluded his enlightening presentation

by wistfully noting that the Bromeliad Magician culls hybrids more beautiful than anything Jones himself can produce; he would like to save them all.

Extravaganza

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Extravaganza-2015/680427458747123>

by Lenny Goldstein

Bromeliads in the Magic City is the theme for the Bromeliad Extravaganza to be held September 26 and 27 in Miami. Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South



Florida, this two-day event will be loaded with terrific activities for bromeliad lovers.

Timetable for Extravaganza

Date	Item
08/25/15	Build A Raffle Basket Party
08/26/15	Deadline to Reserve Room
08/26/15	Deadline to Submit Ad
09/22/15	Deadline Register for Extravaganza – try to be earlier to guarantee
09/25/15	BSI Meeting at Doubletree
09/26/15	Extravaganza Day
09/27/15	Tours

If time won't permit you to take in all the benefits of what will truly be an Extravaganza, then plan on attending the bromeliad sale on Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. There you will have access to the specialties of many highly-esteemed growers. The location is the ballroom of the DoubleTree Miami Airport and Convention Center, located at 711 NW 72nd Ave., next to the Airport Convention Center and the International Merchandise Mart.

There will be no fee for attending the sale, so your only expense will be the hotel's \$5 charge for parking.

The sale will be a superlative event, but we hope you can register to join us for more of the Extravaganza. Here's a summary of what you can expect:

The festivities begin Friday afternoon. Tickets for a 50/50 raffle will be sold starting at 4:00 (and ending the next day just before 7:00). At 6:15 you will be able to start bidding in the first of two silent auctions, followed by a meet-and-greet in the event lobby from 7:00 to 8:30. There you will be able to get acquainted with a vast array of personalities, including growers, hobbyists, plant scientists and the next day's featured speakers.

On Saturday, registrants will be able to attend morning and afternoon presentations by two highly-regarded speakers, CRAIG MORELL,

horticulturist at Pinecrest Gardens, the former Parrot Jungle, and JOSE MANZANARES, a major grower in Ecuador. Following the afternoon program, there will still be time for you to head back to the sale room to resume your bromeliad acquisitions.

At 6:00 Saturday afternoon, the first phase of the dinner will begin with a cash bar, along with the second of the silent auctions. The banquet will commence at 7:00, and a not-to-be-missed rare plant auction will run from 8:15 until 10:30.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!!! On Sunday optional garden tours in the Dade-Broward region will be available to registrants. Stops include Block Botanical Gardens, Pinecrest Gardens (admission fee \$5 regular and \$3 senior), and Sunshine Bromeliads, each guaranteed to be a memorable experience.

The registration fee for Friday and Saturday is \$75. If you can attend only the banquet, the fee is \$50. More information, including Extravaganza and garden tour registration forms, can be found at <http://www.bssf-miami.org/state-convention.htm>.

We look forward to seeing you in September for Bromeliads in the Magic City!

DONATIONS NEEDED

Our society makes a silent raffle from baskets.



The money received from same goes to *this society*. Hence, the more donations means the more money coming in the BSSF's direction. Anything which you have which can be added to a basket would be

appreciated. Contact Sandy Roth for anything which you may have to offer

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers from BSSF are needed to act as tour guides for



approximately three hours on Sunday, Sept, 27th, at the home of Dr. Jeff Block in South Miami.

We need 5 volunteers from 8:00am sharp until approximately 11:00am to guide Extravaganza tour guests around the property.

From 8:00am to 9:00am the volunteers will receive a brief introduction to the Gardens and instructions from Dr. Block on how he wants the guests to proceed through the gardens. It is very important that volunteers arrive at 8:00am to be briefed by Dr. Block.

The tour is open to registrants at 9:00am. A sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting on July 21st or call/email Barbara Partagas. If you have never been to Block Botanical Gardens, this is a rare opportunity to receive a private tour and a great way to spend the morning and help BSSF and FCBS with this Extravaganza activity.

ex·trav·a·gan·za
ik?strav?'ganz?/
noun
noun: extravaganza; plural noun:
extravaganzas

Appeal to all BSSF Members Please help at the Extravaganza.

Chance for BSSF to earn big money to benefit the club and fund educational and scientific projects.

Volunteers – doesn't matter how new a member you are or how long you have been a member – we have something for you to do if you have a couple of hours or can come Saturday morning.

Benefits – free lunch and parking at the hotel Saturday, fun, comradeship, nice air-conditioned workspace.

Donors – We need to get corporate sponsors (Macy's is on board) to offer gift certificates or items to raffle-please beg somebody you buy a lot of goods from to donate by 8/25.

Party – Build A Raffle Basket Party is Tuesday, 8/25, come any time after 6:00pm - ? at Barbara

Partagas' house. Sandwiches and beverages provided. Wine optional.

Donations for BSSF Silent Auction – examples so far: crystal, commemorative poster, and books. Look around the house.

Register for the event – Be a good host, show up! Great plant sale. Shop at the Mall's very unusual shops.

Learn – about the history of bromeliads, a tribute to Nat, take a trip through the jungles of Ecuador with our keynote speaker. Eat, drink, and be merry-very merry.

Deadline – why wait? Sign up NOW!

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 12 & 13, 2015
Mounts Botanical Garden
Orchid Sale & Shady Affair
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Mounts Botanical Garden
559 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL
More Info: 561-233-1757 <http://mounts.org/>



September 26, 2015

Bromeliad Extravaganza
“Bromeliads in the Magic City”
711 N.W. 72nd Avenue
Miami, Florida, 33126
For Any Info:
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/state-convention.htm>
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Extravaganza-2015/680427458747123>

Saturday, October 17, 2015 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, October 18, 2015 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Broward County Plant Affair
Plantation Heritage Park
1100 South Fig Tree Lane
Plantation, FL
More Info: 954-797-2722
<http://www.broward.org/calendar/welcome.htm>

October 19, 2015

Annual BSSF Auction of Plants
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, Florida

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/events-community-outreach>

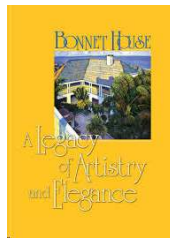
November 14-16, 2015

Fall Ramble – 75th Annual
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, Florida

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/events-community-outreach>

December 5 & 6, 2015

BONNET HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDEN
9TH ANNUAL ORCHID, GARDEN &
GOURMET FOOD FESTIVAL
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
900 N. Birch Road just south of Sunrise
Blvd. between A1A and the Intracoastal
on Fort Lauderdale beach.
(954) 563-5393 or (954)925-2021.



<http://www.bonnethouse.org/news/orchid-festival/>

December 21, 2015

Annual BSSF Holiday Party
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, Florida

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/events-community-outreach>

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

PREVIOUS CHAPTERS MAY BE SEEN IN
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

121.

On the way over, Boss called Rodriguez. “You still there with the pipes?”

“Yes. Want anything from us?”

“Yes. I want you to get proof of any rent payments made by that pissant.” Boss implored.

“What’s a pissant?” Rodriguez asked.

“It is one of those words which means exactly what it sounds like. Capiche?”

Rodriguez understood and told the pissant to gather all canceled checks or receipts. Such request was

obliged without problem within only a few minutes. Upon receipt, Rodriguez called Boss and said, “All checks made out to Dorset. All checks endorsed by Dorset. All checks cleared by Barnett Bank. We just need to know if this is the same Dorset as the one in the BSSF.”

“Very good my man.” Boss replied. “You are learning very well.”

When returning to the station, Boss called upon Marlene to visit Dorset for questions about which banks he may have used. Meanwhile, a title search showed the Dorsets to own the property. Paul was being thrown under the bus, and by amateurs whose paper trail disproved many of their representations to Paul only an hour earlier.

Boss hated liars. Especially wealthy liars. Especially wealthy liars whose homes he jealously despised because he could not afford such a home, let alone the living room where they met. More than anything, Boss hated wealthy liars who used servants as inferior people. He hated anyone who used servants, nut wealthy liars who used servants were the bottom of his pile. Such people were treated like he was. Invisible to those around them. Thrown off as unsophisticated, and unread, or just intellectually inferior. They were tossed about as aesthetically inferior, unless blessed with good looks – which may lead to other manipulations. Being shunned as dumb and ugly is something which Boss knew well. And, then a bulb entered his head.

Boss called Marlene while on her way to the Dorset home. “Don’t speak to the Dorsets. Get the servant. Pull her, cuff her, and take her to the station. I’ll explain later.”

“What are the charges?”

“Make up something? How about bromeliad hater? Or copper kettle maker wannabe? Or, the usual – tax evasion, immigration or something semi serious.”

Less than an hour later, while Boss and Paul had been in the room for what Paul would only describe as an eternity, the servant arrived with Marlene.

And, the tenant came in with Rodriguez only minutes later. Unlike the servant, the tenant was smiling and glad to be of assistance.

122.

Joshua learned more about plants in one day than he

had learned in a lifetime. And, in some ways, that was not by accident as his interest in plants was below even the other subjects he loathed – like Sports Page talk and ESPN. He was a nerd, and proud of it. If pressed, he would spell out that title of nerd with a capital “N.”

But, this crash course involved something that sports trivia could not – financial reward. The Gorts effectively delivered the plant world to a place which had been previously untouched. Probably, the orchid world would shun this concept and look upon it as the bastardization of their world’s heredity. He thought of that year when a Seattle fish farm had an outbreak. Trouble wreaked havoc. The Atlantic salmon were farmed, and locals did not want such inferior fish to spawn with Pacific salmon. So, free license to fish the escapees was launched. Great rewards were received by local hobbyists. And, many a sea lion came to shore, belly up, trying to digest their great daily catches which on occasion became death sentences derived from their gluttonous appetites. He knew bromeliads were Atlantic salmon and orchids were Pacific salmon – and he wondered whether the plant world would be more accommodating than the fishing world of Washington state.

As thoughts about salmon and orchids and bromeliads dallied about in his conscientiousness, Joshua heard a voice come from behind him.

“Hi there stranger.” The voice was too deep to be a girl. And, as he turned around, he noticed the skin-toughened and age-worn skin of Marin’s face. “Missed me?” Marin then smiled and asked the younger gentleman to walk with him outside where less ears and eyes could be found.

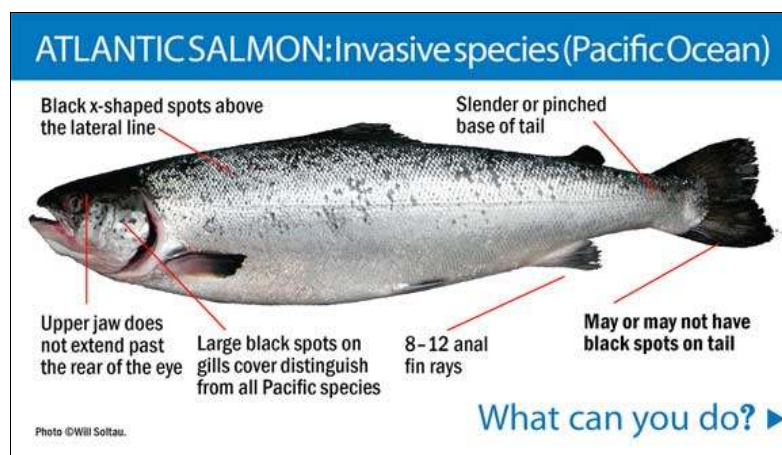
As they exited the building, Marin asked, “So you now know how the Gorts may have tricked Mother Nature. But, do you know who doesn’t like to be fooled?”

Joshua humbly and slowly nodded his head side to side.

Marin, seeing the cue from Joshua’s head motion, answered his own question. “The people who make money from selling orchids. The people who make money from selling bromeliads. The people who have millions of dollars invested in plant culture, who ship to all continents, and make millions in profits by shipping millions upon millions of plants each year.”

“Millions?” Joshua cheeped almost silently.

“Sure. There are houses all over America and Europe which mass produce these plants and sell to nurseries from fractions of a dollar under the auspices of recurring business with orders amassing in the millions. Do you know what happens when their plants become yesterday’s prize while the Gort’s new cross comes into the



limelight?”

Joshua again nodded side to side .

“Bankruptcy. Nurseries treat their suppliers like a cheap hooker treats her customers. Whoever delivers the better profit is the next to be serviced. The Gorts had spread the word that their plant would be mass produced, at bromeliad prices. That little slice of knowledge was a sledgehammer of concern to the business. Better plant than the bromeliad for the same price? That formula is a disaster to the old plant. And, as this new bromeliad resembles orchids, but can be purchased for bromeliad prices, another disaster to another world – the orchid.”

Joshua understood this, and then asked a very poignant question: “Who spread the rumor about the prices?”

Marin could not answer.



**The 2015
Bromeliad Extravaganza®
'Bromeliads in the Magic City'**

WHAT: You're invited to attend the 2015 Bromeliad Extravaganza®
Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida
WHEN: Friday & Saturday, September 25 and 26, 2015
WHERE: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Miami Airport & Convention Center

EXTRAVAGANZA REGISTRATION FORM

Extravaganza Registration Includes:

Admission to Friday Night "Meet and Greet"
Saturday: Lectures, Plant Sales, Banquet and Rare Plant Auction

Registration Fee: \$75.00 per person

Banquet Only Fee: \$50.00*

*This is only for guests of paid registrants (i.e. family, friends) attending the Florida Council Banquet and Rare Plant Auction

Please indicate the number of persons:

___ Grilled Free Range Chicken
___ Grilled Veggies with Couscous
___ Grilled Mojo Spiced Salmon

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone/Cell/Email: _____

Bromeliad Club/Society Affiliation: _____

Checks should be payable to BSSF, Inc. and mailed to:
Fred Sussenberger, BSSF Treasurer
19731 Eagle Nest Rd.
Cutler Bay, FL 33157-8642

Refunds in the event of illness only will be considered until August 26th.
We cannot guarantee any banquet registrations received after September 22nd.

Extravaganza Hotel Rates: \$107.00 a night (plus applicable taxes) have been secured with the group code **BRO**, Bromeliads in the Magic City. For special requests, please contact the hotel directly. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/doubletree-hilton-BRO-reserve> or call group reservations at **(305) 261-3800**, extension 4333, toll free **(888) 353-1995**, FAX **(305) 260-8900**. Last date to qualify for the special rate is August 26, 2015 so make your reservations TODAY.
Refer to www.bssf-miami.org or www.fcbs.org for more information and important dates.