

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF BROWARD COUNTY
SCURF
NOVEMBER 2014

www.bromeliadsocietybc.com/

HAPPY 50TH YEAR BSBC !



A very rare bromeliad....*Aechmea* (sub-genus *Chevaliera*) *germinyana*
See *From Our Education Chair* section for more information about this plant.

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.

Affiliations: BSBC supports



The President's Message

Greetings from my hammock:

Not really, but it has been one of those busy months when the hammock looks great with the cooler days and nights we have been enjoying. Those days of daily rain are behind us as well as the extra growth of our bromeliads.

It was a profitable time for our member growers who participated in the Plant Affair on October 19th and 20th at Heritage Park. I joined the following members for 3 beautiful days of weather and great plant sales: Lee Magnuson, Bill David, Larry Davis and Harriet Abo, John and Gina Havens, Carol Mordas, Kenny Seesahai, Elsa Snavely, Shirley and Rick Konefal, Maureen and Bill Frazel with Jeff, Patti Zicarelli and Susan Halliwell-Mather.



Special thanks to Lee Magnuson who helped me move the Society's equipment out of our storage unit, set up the booths and participated in taking down and returning the equipment to storage. And for our bromeliad expert members, Shirley Konefal and Larry Davis, Lee Magnuson, Kenny Seesahai and Bill David, our buyers had lots of questions which you so graciously answered. Our total sales were \$1607.00. The Society kept 20% of those sales to pay our members' sales tax and to provide funds for our operating expenses. Our sellers received up to \$300 in sales.

Did you miss our Annual Plant Auction? We were fortunate to receive unusual bromeliad donations from Bullis Nursery, The Country Garden, and our gracious members who are also professional bromeliad growers; Shirley Konefal, Josefa Leon and Maria Amador of Sunshine Bromeliads, and Larry Searle of Searle Brothers Nursery. Our auctioneer, Peter Kouchalakos, was at his best. There were real bargains, too. A Gardener's Delight basket sold for \$50 with garden items worth \$100. Another basket of goodies sold for \$40, worth more than \$75. That gorgeous peacock platter was a steal at \$30. At the end of the auction, several plants were grouped together and auctioned at really inexpensive prices. Despite a rainy evening, our attendees purchased more than \$2500 for our Society. Thank you to Carol Mordas, Gloria Chernoff, Josie Abdo-Rivera, Shirley Konefal, Larry Davis, Marcia and Bill David, Molly and Allan Lesnick, Maurice Bruet, and especially Susan Halliwell-Mather and Sandi Block-Brezner (my ladies-in-waiting), who graciously volunteered to assist in the event. Not to be forgotten; kudos to Harriet Abo and Larry Davis, for the great food and refreshments. And lastly to our members, who donated their plants - a special thanks for supporting our Society. You are by far the best.

We will be selling coupon books for \$10. at our upcoming meetings - \$5 coupon/\$50 for Winn Dixie good until December 31, 2014. Great time for savings for your holiday meals and gift giving. Other merchants include - \$5 coupons/\$30 purchase for Fresh Market, Sears, Dick's Sporting Goods, Outdoor World, Regal Movies, Michael's, Portrait Studios, Rental Car Agencies, Restaurants, 1-800-Flowers (\$10 coupon/ \$39.99 purchase), Sam's Club, Dunkin Donuts and many more. ³The Society will benefit from your purchase of these books. **ALL OF THESE AND OTHER DONORS COUPONS are good until December 31, 2015.** Win-Win for everyone.

I hope you have marked your calendars to attend our Holiday Party on December 8, 2014, at Deicke Auditorium. We are having a members covered dish dinner, our 50th Anniversary celebration, a Chinese Auction, gifts for our attendees and members and a few surprise guest speakers. You don't want to miss it. This year we will be donating canned goods and non-perishables for needy families. It is the time of the year to be grateful for all we have been given.

Becky

BSBC Vice-President Ramblings



Hi, Gang - -

Wonderful auction, great Plant Affair - - can it get any better? Just you wait and see.

But first some old business to clean up- as you may remember when Bob McMillan talked in August he suggested some of you might want to receive a disc of his talk or some other things from him - - anyway some of your requests got eaten by his dog - - and he is asking those of you that have requested things from him to repeat your requests - - his email is mcmillan@kerrys.com.

For most of you, the wonderful thing about bromeliads is that they bloom often and pup profusely. As you progress in this hobby and as your collection grows - - and grows - - you find that the worst thing about bromeliads is that they bloom often and pup profusely. The work of weeding and pupping and potting is really a chore - - and so - - many of us take some real joy in a plant that just sits around and looks beautiful for years and years and finally blooms spectacularly and then pups profusely. This is what draws many of us to the foliage Vrieseas, the Alcantareas, the Ursulaeas and a few others.

On November 17 you will meet Dave Johnston of Bromeliads Galore in Pinellas Park. He raises scads of different bromeliads, but he is known for his knowledge and collection of Foliage Vrieseas.

You probably think of Vrieseas as slender plants with bright colored blooms on 12 or 18 inch stems. Foliage Vrieseas are completely different. They are really large green plants with dazzling patterns on large flat leaves . They do best in reflected sun. I bought one from Dave about 6 months ago - - Vriesea gigantea variety Nova - - 9 inches wide when I bought it - - 16 inches now - - one of the most beautiful plants in my shade house. It will grow to 36 inches wide, 30 inches tall - - these plants are not easily found because they grow so slowly - - they normally cost a few dollars more - - but they are well worth it. We will learn much more about Foliage Vrieseas on November 17 - - and Dave promises to bring several of these rare plants with him for sale.

Larry

Membership News

Welcome New Member: Laura Palazzo of Plantation

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V



Eugene Broder
Suzanne Broucek
Tim Hendrix
Elena Metzkes

June Schram
Elsa Snavely
Jane Von Waldburg
Bruce Zaret

Next Meeting



Our next meeting: November 17, 2014
Deicke Auditorium, 5701 Cypress Road, Plantation, FL
6:30 pm

Dave Johnston of Bromeliads Galore

Dave has years of experience with bromeliads, is a well known hybridizer and frequent presenter.

The topic for the night will be : **Foliage Vrieseas**

**Dave will bringing plants for sale so our own sale table will be closed.
There will be a raffle table.**

SCURF Feature

October Mystery Plant Identified



Deuterocohnia brevifolia var. *brevifolia*

Win a raffle sheet with 20 tickets....

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



Harriet's Hoots

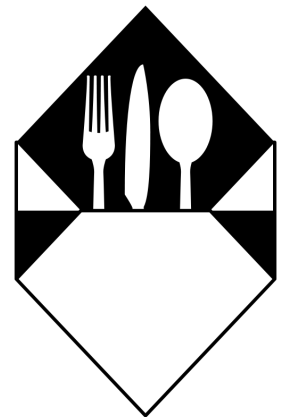
Hi Gang: - -

Are you all getting ready for "Turkey Day"? See I told you the holidays are creeping up. I love Thanksgiving. It's my favorite holiday of all. However, I do feel bad about those poor turkeys. I'm sure they are all gathering together right now and wondering who is going to be picked out. You can just hear them..."I think it's going to be George this year." "No," says another one, "Sylvester is going to be picked, you know we all really don't like him so we all voted for him to go"---and so on and so on. You know how turkeys are when they all get together (LOL). Ok, I have one joke for you and then I'll get on with my article. Why did the turkey cross the road???? (It was the chicken's day off.) Come on, everyone, laugh (hahaha).

Now back to business...How about our Auction last month, I thought it was great. Our auctioneer was wonderful and I think that everyone had a good time. The refreshment table was filled with goodies. Thank you all for contributing and bringing finger type foods. The table was set up a little differently if you remember due to the type of meeting we were having. However, after I studied it for a while, I decided that it was in a perfect location and I am going to set it up just like we had last month and see how it works out for everyone. So, when you come to the meeting, don't panic - there will be food and goodies, just look in the back of the room and I'll be there waiting for you and waving (LOL).

Last month's contribution came from the following and our thanks go out to.....

Lee Magnuson - - - Chocolate Cookies and fruit (Yummy)
Shirley Konefal - - - Pizza Bites (Very Good)
Delores Bass - - - Green Snap Peas (I'm going to buy them)
Ann Schandelmayer - - - Open Face Cream Cheese Sandwiches (Nice touch)
Molly Lesnick - - - Cookie Bars and Grapes (Loved them)
Harry Sperling - - - Zucchini Apple Log (Delicious)
Sally Biggs - - - Cheese Bread & Banana Bread (Wonderful)
Gayle Spinell-Gellers - - - Cucumber with Herb Cheese & Tomato (Very Nice)
Susan Mather - - - Fresh Mozzarella (Really Good)
Marianna Yi - - - Chips and Onion Dip (That went fast)
Bill & Marsha David - - - Sheet Cake and Cup Cakes (Very Special)
Louella Weber - - - Cookies (Love our sweets)
Sandi Block-Brezner - - - Halloween Cookies (More sweets to love)



Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting - -

Hugs,
Harriet

From Our Education Chair



Aechmea (subgenus *Chevaliera*) *germinyana* (seen above) was discovered in 1881 and named for Count Alfredo de Germiny. It is a terrestrial or epiphytic medium sized plant that grows in the Panamanian and Colombian deep rainforest. The specimen pictured on the cover of this month's SCURF is 2 years old and was grown in the shade. The inflorescence is cone-shaped with red floral bracts and white petals and pistil.

Aechmea germinyana is one of 22 species (see list below) that together constitute the *Aechmea* subgenus *Chevaliera*. Except for *Aechmea tayoensis* and *Aechmea sphaerocephala*, members of this subgenus are rarely seen in US collections. Evidence of their obscurity is reflected by the photographic absence of 10 of its species in the FCBS.org Photo index. Only 7 species of *Chevaliera* originate from locations outside of Brazil: *Aechmea germinyana*- Panama & Colombia; *Aechmea magdaleneae* and *Aechmea magdaleneae v. quadricolor*- Mexico, Ecuador & Venezuela; *Aechmea rubiginosa*- Colombia & Venezuela; *Aechmea tayoensis*- Ecuador & Peru; and *Aechmea veitchii*- Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia. Hence the term *Chevaliera*, which refers to local origin from the Rio de Janeiro area.

Many of the *Chevaliera* sub-species have a cone-shaped inflorescence, although some such as *Aechmea digitata* have a digitated and branched inflorescence. They are almost always found at altitudes under 1000 meters elevation and are primarily terrestrial or epiphytic, although *Aechmea gustavoii* is saxicollic (grows on rocks). Most of the species are large to very large in size.

Chevaliera sub-species list:

Aechmea cariocae

Aechmea depressa

Aechmea frassyi

Aechmea leucolepis

Aechmea microcephala

Aechmea perforata

Aechmea sphaerocephala

Aechmea veitchii

Aechmea castanea

Aechmea digitata

Aechmea germinyana

Aechmea magdaleneae

Aechmea multiflora

Aechmea rubiginosa

Aechmea strobilaecea

Aechmea conifer

Aechmea fernandae

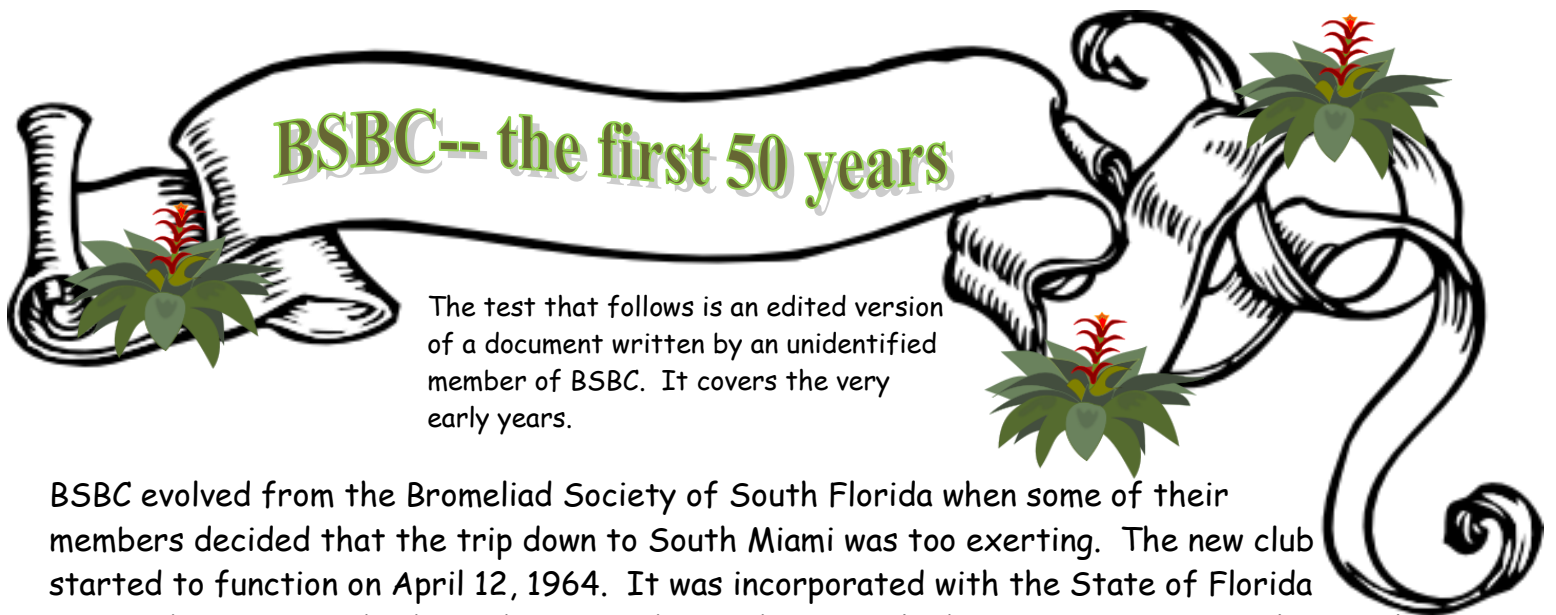
Aechmea gustavoii

Aechmea magdaleneae v. quadricolor

Aechmea muricata

Aechmea saxicola

Aechmea tayoensis



The text that follows is an edited version of a document written by an unidentified member of BSBC. It covers the very early years.

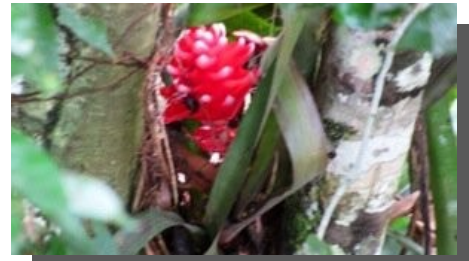
BSBC evolved from the Bromeliad Society of South Florida when some of their members decided that the trip down to South Miami was too exerting. The new club started to function on April 12, 1964. It was incorporated with the State of Florida on March 6, 1965 and achieved membership in the Bromeliad Society International in April 1974. The society was organized with 12 charter members and consisted of a group of distinguished collectors, growers, hybridizers and aficionados at one point reaching more than 100 members. Members like Nat DeLeon and Maggie Pearl kept membership in both clubs. Jim Fisher was the first editor of "The Bromeliad Commentary" the name of club's newsletter which remained unchanged for nearly 35 years until it was renamed SCURF. Early editions had drawings of bromeliads on the cover, articles on cultivation, plant descriptions, info on new plants, upcoming events. There was a section for questions and answers and references to articles published in the BSI Journal. Other contributors included Kevin Gray and Stan McMillan. Irma Gail became the historian in residence. Bob and Jean Burstrom, now in Atlanta, Stan McMillan, Gertrude Cole, Jim Lessley are among the outstanding members during the 60's and 70's who filled top positions on the Board.

Back in those early days, the club met at The Broward Extension Building in Davie. Activities included lectures, plant displays and sales at monthly meetings. Some members participated South Florida Society shows in the 70's as there were no competitive shows for broms at the time. The Society was instrumental in bringing Valerie Steckler, the editor of the *Handbook for Judges, Exhibitors & Affiliates* to Florida for a visit which resulted in the starting of the first judge's school in Florida after the 1977 bromeliad conference in New Orleans. Victoria Padilla, author of *Bromeliads, Bromeliads in Colors, and The Colorful Bromeliads* was also an early speaker as was Jeffrey Kent of Kent Nurseries in Vista, California. Bill Frazel was the key reviewer of plants and the "to go" person for plant identification as well as a generous supplier of plants. Traditions of an October auction and Show & Sale every two years have remained constant over the history of the organization. These activities raised awareness and funds and allowed members to showcase their prized plants. The club also participated in local plant events such as the Plant and Flower Festival at Heritage Park. Clubs public places including Tradewinds Fishing Hall of Fame. Here's to the members have helped landscape local Park, Heritage Park, and the patio of the next 50 years!



From the Editor

Retired Media Specialist Jane Claud and I have been friends for over 30 years. Jane is an incredible gardener and world traveler. The backyard of her home in the heart of Pompano Beach is one of those lush settings snow birds drool over.... broms, plumeria, tomato plants, ferns, hibiscus, palms. Why leave? Nonetheless, when Jane said she was heading to Peru to volunteer at a library as part of a [Conapac](#) fundraising initiative, I asked her to keep an eye out for bromeliads along the Amazon and Napo Rivers. She was only too willing and did just that as she traveled by small boat, on foot and by moto kar thru the rainforest. Check out the images of broms in the wild to the right as seen during a walk thru the rainforest canopy Jane's guides were pretty adept at spotting the broms and they advised that November is THE month for brom blooming in Peru. Jane plans to head back to Peru next year. I am hoping she goes in November, camera in hand.

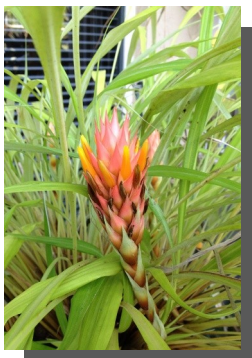


Speaking of broms in the wild, the [Coral Springs Museum of Art](#) has a really nice exhibit of Clyde Butcher's photographs running through the 22nd of this month. Leave it to Clyde to capture some of the most incredible images of tillandsias. We have been to a number of exhibits of his work and to his gallery, but this museum definitely has some photos none of us had seen before. So worth going.

Part of the plan for 2015 is to simplify life and to get control over things. This is especially true of the garden, the supplies required, the broms which are colliding upon each other. Surfing around the web for some hacks to help out, this suggestion to repurpose a pocket shoe organizer for gardening tools popped up. Pretty cool.



Happy organized gardening,



This is a 6 foot plus diameter *Pitcairnia smithiorm* multiple grown from a single plant. This cluster is about 4 years old. Thanks for sharing, Bruce!



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
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

March 2015	Tropical Plant Affair	Equality Park Garden Wilton Manors, FL
April 2015	Westfield Mall Plant Sale	Westfield Mall 8000 W. Broward Blvd

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