

BromeliAdvisory

February 2021

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Photo: From Pam Koide-Hyatt's web page of her prize winning *Tillandsia* 'Samantha'



BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

February 2021

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



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

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

FEBRUARY 16, 2021 ZOOM MEETING

***** NEW LOG IN ID SEE BELOW**

Speaker: Pam Koide-Hyatt See page 3 for bio on speaker

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What	Who
Sales Table	Open to All We welcome members to sell plants at the monthly meetings. However, if you are planning to sell please call Alex Bello (239-223-6155 or bellotropicals@yahoo.com) to make arrangements.
Silent Auction	NONE

President's Message

Please join us for our February 16 zoom meeting. Our featured speaker is Pam Koide-Hyatt of Bird Rock Tropicals in California. She is a tillandsia collector and hybridizer extraordinaire. Our zoom link is always posted on our website: bssf-miami.org/calendar. We will have a new feature starting in February. We will start auctioning off one very nice plant at each meeting. It looks like we will be having zoom meetings for awhile but better safe than sorry. Fairchild has not even resumed tram tours as their guests are reportedly not all observing Covid precautions. I will be attending the aroid show at Fairchild On Feb. 6 to check out the setup and crowd control. This is the first show Fairchild has hosted since the pandemic began and it is all outside, an arrangement that would not suit our show. Though we are not charging dues this year many of our members may have changed addresses, phone numbers or email addresses. If so please email that information to Terri Tallale, our membership chairperson, at elwood172@aol.com, so that we can stay in touch. Finally, we urge you to get vaccinated if you are eligible. Did you know that Miami-Dade county now has a website and phone number where you can register for the vaccine even if you are not 65 and older? Check it out and register: miamidade.gov/vaccine or 305-614-2014.

See you at the meeting!

Maureen Adelman

ZOOM INFO FOR THE MEETING

If you Have download the FREE Zoom App on Computer

Meeting ID: 972 5832 6945

Passcode: BSSF2020

If Buying on Amazon – Think Smile.Amazon.com

I had some trouble balancing our BSSF checking account for December but it was for a good reason. There was a deposit from Smile.Amazon.com. Amazon will partner with a charity of your choice and donate .5% of all purchases to that charity. And you know how much we all shop on Amazon right now. First

sign up at Smile.Amazon and choose your charity, hopefully BSSF, Inc. Then instead of going to Amazon.com to shop, you go to **Smile.Amazon.com** and shop. It's the same website except for the charitable donation. I signed up as soon as I saw that donation on our bank statement and I hope you will too.

In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein

Our first remote meeting program of 2021, on January 19, was presented by Chris Regan on the topic “Variegated Vriesea.” Chris hails from a place in southwestern New York so small that it doesn't even have a Walmart. But he now resides in Palm City, Florida, where he developed an itch for bromeliads. He was inspired by hybridizer David Fell's Instagram page and ultimately became the southwest Florida distributor for Fell's creations.

Fell started out in the late 1970s and earned a degree in horticulture in 1979. He first grew seedlings and then began to hybridize Neoregelias, Vrieseas, and Alcantareas. But he didn't like spines, so making crosses with Neos was out. He and Sandy Kasman owned Hawaiian Sunshine Nursery for many years before selling it in 2017. They now own Fantastic Gardens Hawaii, a downsized operation.

Fell's Vriesea hybrids can be expensive. The reason is the time required to raise them: Seedlings take four years to progress to a 6-in. pot and then 3+ years to be evaluated and – if deemed desirable – registered. There's also a lot of time-consuming trial and error in Fell's work. One of his show-stoppers is ‘Pink Tiger.’ ‘Pink Mink’ was registered in 2020. ‘Hawaiian Raspberry’, registered in 2017, is another recent creation. ‘Wild Jean’ not only features very stable variegation, but also grows 3 ft. wide!

On the subject of fertilizer, Fell believes that a formulation with low phosphorus is better. Chris states that he hasn't yet fertilized a single one of Fell's hybrids. However, for those who want to use fertilizer, he mentions Nutricote slow-release 13-13-13.

Fell's Vrieseas produce an average of 4-8 pups. Chris suggests that waiting longer to separate pups will lead them to grow faster. He recommends using a sharp, flat knife, such as a linoleum knife, to cut slowly next to the mother plant. More pupping can be stimulated by

removing the flower and stabbing through the heart of the bromeliad with a screwdriver, using a twisting motion, then dropping one or two granules of a time-release fertilizer inside each axil of the lower leaves.

Chris is certainly aware of the difficulty of growing Vrieseas in Florida's climate. Accordingly, he pots his Fell hybrids in either coconut husks – ReptiChip is one of the current brands – or clay balls. (Those products also work well for Neos.) He mists plants a couple of times a week during the dry winter months. Chris recommends against keeping Vrieseas under oak trees, because the buildup of leaf litter in the plants can cause them to rot. He also does not plant his Vrieseas in the ground because of the risk of rot. In addition, he advises against using well water.

Fell does not ship a Vriesea hybrid without roots. Chris then plants the pups in a 1-gal. pot to continue rooting for a couple of months, during which time the plants have no great need for water.

Chris notes that, unlike Skotak or Bullis hybrids, Fell's are not available in great quantity. Here is his thumbnail review of some of the hybrid Vrieseas: ‘Pink Tiger’ gets pinker in winter sun, especially on the undersides of the leaves. ‘Tulip’ is very stable cross; it sells for \$100-125. ‘Pink Delight’ is about \$300. ‘Pink Magic’, about 2 ft. wide, is not variegated. ‘Hawaiian Raspberry’ is very popular and expensive, in Chris's view like “paying for a masterpiece.” ‘Jamie Smethie’ runs about \$400. The most-sought Fell hybrid is ‘Hawaiian Fantasy’, which sells for about \$500.

‘Eldorado’, which grows about 3 ft. wide, costs \$200-300. ‘Wild Jean’, mentioned earlier in the program, goes for \$250-500. ‘Pink Chestnut’ starts at \$150. ‘Strange Brew’, a large-growing cross, sells for around \$350. ‘Abigail Jean’, a

very stable albo-marginated beauty, runs \$200-250. 'Cosmic Cory' is available in the \$200-250 range. 'Hyperspace', bearing streaks, is a \$500 plant.

Chris suggests looking at www.BSI.org for good descriptions of Fell's Vrieseas.

The Q&A session led to some additional advice:

- If there are no trees around, artificial shading should be in the 50-70% range. Chris uses a 60% shade cloth from Harbor Freight. However, greater light exposure can be



Vriesea 'Cosmic Cory' Photo Facebook anonymous

given during winter months. If signs of bleaching appear, plants should be eased back into more shade.

- Because of concerns about rotting, Chris doesn't mix anything with either coconut husks or clay balls as a potting medium. If conditions become very dry, he monitors watering.

- Vrieseas don't have as extensive a root system as Neos, so broken roots might cause a plant to die.

- Popping time is unpredictable. Some of the Vriesea hybrids pup young, but others don't.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 26-28, 2021

Tropiflora Spring Festival

<https://tropiflora.com/pages/events>

October 1-3, 2021

Tamiami International Orchid Festival

<https://www.facebook.com/tamiamiorchidfestival/>

MESSAGES

WORLD CONFERENCE SAME PLACE NEXT YEAR

World Conference may be held on June 8, 2021 to June 12, 2021 at same place. Information can be found at: <https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>

About the Speaker

by Karen Bradley

Pamela Koide-Hyatt, has been exploring and growing Bromeliads, with an emphasis on Tillandsias for more than half her life. Since starting Bird Rock Topicals in 1981, Pamela has traveled extensively throughout Mexico, Central and South America in search of tillandsias. During these travels she has discovered more than a dozen species new to science as well as many more natural hybrids. Experiencing plants in habitat and growing for more than 35 years gives her a unique insight into this amazing genus.

Pamela soon began growing from seed and hybridizing tillandsias. It can take up to two years for the seed to be ready to harvest, and growing the

plants to maturity can take anywhere from three to twenty years. Of the more than 3000 hybrids that were made, many have bloomed for the first time over the past few years. One of these hybrids, Tillandsia Samantha, was nominated for 'Plant of the Year' at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2012, and in 2013, Tillandsia Samantha won the 'Glass Tulip Award' in the category of houseplants. The Glass Tulip Award is one of the most prestigious awards in Horticulture awarded by Flora Holland. Additionally, Pamela is an International Accredited Bromeliad Master Judge and has served as President and newsletter editors of both the San Diego Bromeliad Society and the North County Bromeliad Society. She has served as a Director of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI), and Publications Chairman for the BSI, and currently, the Editorial Advisory Board for the Journal of the Bromeliad Society (BSI). She recently completed nine years as a Trustee at the San Diego Botanic Garden.

In 1992 she contributed to the revision of the BSI Cultural Manual and in 1998, Pamela revised and compiled a Bromeliad Glossary, published by the Bromeliad Society International. Pamela has been a keynote speaker at the Australian Biennial Conference in 1998, 2003 (in New Zealand), 2007 and 2015; the Japanese Bromeliad Society in Tokyo, 2001; NorthPark in Singapore 2015; the WBC

Hawaii in 2014; the WBC in Houston 2016; the WBC in San Diego 2018; Tillandsia Day in Brisbane, Australia 2019; and numerous local societies and plant clubs in the United States.

Pamela has consulted on several different botanical projects. These include consulting not only at private gardens, but Botanical Gardens in Thailand, Singapore, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and San Diego, as well as hotel installations at the Mirage, Bellagio and MGM in Las Vegas.

In 2014 Pamela published Tilli-Cards™, a set of 100 reference cards for species and hybrid tillandsias. In

2015, Pamela created and developed the first Application for IOS smart phones related to Tillandsias. The app, Air Plant Tilli-Cards, is a reference guide to the identification and cultivation of Tillandsia air plants. The app can be easily updated to include most species and many common hybrids.

In 2017, Pamela along with Mexico Nature Tours, co-lead her first Bromeliad Eco Tour in Oaxaca and Chiapas. They also lead the World Bromeliad Conference Pre-Conference Eco Tour in May 2018, again in Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico

Garden Notes- February 2021

By Stephanie LaRusso

Introduction

This is the first of, hopefully, a series of columns meant to continue the work of Alan Herndon, which documented the plants in his collection as they came into bloom every month. As before, the listed plants will have started or completed blooming between the middle of the previous month and the first half of the current month listed in the title. Bloom longevity can vary greatly so shorter blooming plants may be expired by the time this is published, while longer lasting blooms may overlap into the following month. Please note that this will not be a complete list of all the bromeliads which bloom each month but simply an overview of what is currently in bloom in the Herndon Collection. In addition to naming plants in bloom, each month's column will start with an article which will note important considerations for the current month and/ or points of interest relating to the growing or study of bromeliads. I hope you will enjoy reading this column as much as I will enjoy writing it!

February- Winter is still here!

It is important to remember that, while we are getting close to the start of spring, cold fronts can still roll in. Most bromeliads can tolerate temperatures down to 45 degrees Fahrenheit without damage however when temperatures drop below 40 degrees Fahrenheit plants should be protected when possible.

There are two main dangers to bromeliads during winter months. The first is the temperature drop and the second is dry wind. Northern fronts can bring not only cold temperatures but also a drier air which can cause leaf burn if adequate water is not provided or if newly planted pups have not yet grown roots. Figure A shows an example of cold damage from a recent cold snap at the beginning of this month. Figure B shows the yellowing of bromeliad leaves on a newly planted pup which often happens when plants are not getting enough water



During winter months and into February, be sure to check the local weather forecast each week. If you notice that temperatures are going to drop below 40, you can do the following to protect your plants. Potted bromeliads can be brought indoors. Keeping them inside during the temperature drop will keep them safe from not only the cold but the wind as well. If you cannot move potted plants indoors, tuck them in close to the wall of your home and pack them tightly together

This will help keep them out of the wind and allow them to share each other's warmth. Bromeliads in the ground, which cannot be moved indoors, can be protected in a different way. Both the ground and the bromeliads give off heat throughout the day and by adding a blanket over them you can help to keep this heat in, particularly at night when temperatures are likely to drop the most. If you decide to blanket your plants, however, use a lightweight blanket such as a bed sheet (so that it will not crush the plants) and be sure it has a tight knit (so that it will be less likely to

get caught on the bromeliad thorns when you try to remove it later). Remember that blankets will block the light from getting to your plants so use them at night or only when absolutely needed during the day.

Most bromeliads, if not protected, will survive typical South Florida cold weather but they may show mild to severe leaf damage. While severe leaf damage may ruin the look of the plant, the pups from cold damaged plants will come up perfectly beautiful and healthy. There are a few Bromeliads, however, which are particularly sensitive and should always be protected from the cold weather.

Some of these include *Cryptanthus*, *Aechmea fulgens*, and *Aechmea tillandsioides*. Additionally, since root growth is slower during this time, new pups, which do not have roots yet, may get damaged or die. For this .

reason, it is best not to plant new pups until the warmer weather has arrived

What's Blooming

Despite the fear of cold weather, the colder months, particularly February, are a wonderful time to really appreciate your bromeliad collection. When temperatures drop, bromeliads slow their growth and this causes them to come in to their best color! Additionally, many bromeliads like *Billbergias*, *Aechmeas* and the bromeliads in the *Compacta* complex are winter bloomers. This means that during winter and particularly in February, when the other plants in your garden may not look their best, your Bromeliad collection will provide amazing colors and blooms which you can appreciate in comfort during the good weather. Here is what is in bloom in the Herndon Collection this month!



Herndon Collection- *Quesnelia arvensis*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Dyckia speices*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Pitcarnia* species



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Neoregelia Wilsoniana*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Ronbergiacolumbiana*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso

Herndon Collection- *Neoregelia 'Bob Read'*



Photo By: Stephanie LaRusso





CHANGES IN ADDRESS? PHONE? EMAIL?

The form on the following page needs ONLY be filled out in the event that your contact information has changed. Remember, membership in 2021 is **free**.

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
BSSF, Inc. 2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
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Include e-mail address in the roster? (Y/N) Yes No

E-mail BromeliAdvisory? (Y/N) Yes No (You will not receive a hard copy)

EMAIL _____

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR,
PLEASE **HIGHLIGHT** OR UNDERLINE

Please renew my(our) membership in the BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
for the period of March 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022.

Check the category: Single membership \$Free
 Dual membership \$Free

Dual members enjoy all the privileges of active membership, but receive only one
copy of the BromeliAdvisory.

**DUES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2020, IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE
INCLUDED IN THE 2020 ROSTER**

Please mail completed form to:

Terri Tallale
17201 SW 86 Avenue
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

Or E-Mail this form to:

elwood172@aol.com