



Meeting Information

Next Meeting: Thursday - 06/16/2011

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Mounts Botanical Garden at 531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach FL 33415. North of Southern Blvd. Meeting is in the building next to the front parking lot. (Do not go through the main entrance gate.)

Website: <http://www.bsi.org/webpages/bspb>

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By-Laws Changes

At our June meeting we will vote to update our By-Laws.

June Program: Bromeliad grower Ray Lemieux. See page 3 for bio.

June Ramble: Saturday, June 18th
See Ramble News on page 3 and see email attachment for directions.

President's Message

Summer is upon us, although cooling winds and a relative lack of humidity continue to make working out of doors tolerable in spite of the high temperatures. The current drought and water restrictions pose problems in terms of keeping many plants adequately watered. Now is a good time to check and assess the integrity of one's sprinkler system. Sprinkler heads can be blocked by new plant growth, obstructed by debris and/or knocked off by animals and or lawn services. In examining my own system recently, I was surprised to find a number of heads malfunctioning and/or under-performing. Having addressed these deficiencies, our plants now look less stressed.

Although bromeliads generally take extremes of weather in stride, now is, additionally, a good time to check for sun stressed plants and move these into more dappled shade. Yellowing of leaves and "burn" marks on previously intact leaves are several indicators of over exposure to the sun. I keep the majority of my small and medium size bromeliads in pots, and, when integrating these into the garden, plant both pot and plant. By landscaping in this manner, one can easily relocate a stressed plant to a more suitable area by just picking up the pot and placing it elsewhere. No roots are disturbed, so the plant experiences no transplant shock. This also works for larger scale bromeliads if one doesn't mind a bit of digging.

Spring and summer are good times to assess one's landscaping mistakes and take corrective action as plants are actively growing and will establish easily and/or tolerate transplantation at this time. When, for example, I initially started acquiring bromeliads, I placed these throughout my garden.

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RAMBLE NEWS

The Bromeliad Society's May 21st ramble to four homes in Ft. Lauderdale was one of our most successful events to date. I wish to give a special note of thanks to Eddie Griffith and Stan Tillotson for working with me to organize this.

Ken Slump's home in Wilton Manors was notable for its strong collection of palms, orchids, bromeliads and artful placement of pergolas, all of which combined to create an extremely tropical effect. There were numerous shady spots perfect for wiling away the hours reading a book, listening to music and/or dining al fresco. Ken's use of architectural elements was of particular interest. The use of these transformed areas that otherwise would have been sun drenched and sweltering into lovely, cool and inviting spots suitable for use during the hottest periods of the day.

John Wrench's home was fascinating for its diversity. In addition to his beautiful collection of palms and bromeliads there was a lovely succulent area filled with unusual cacti and cycads. John utilized decorative pots to display his vast collection of bromeliads and creatively displayed orchids and other exotics under slat houses along his property line.

Stan and Eddie's garden was notable for its lovely winding paths through islands of palms and native trees. Eddie also built a large pond along the rear of the property and filled it with beautiful water lilies and other water loving plants. The feature that drew the greatest amount of attention, however, was Eddie's rooftop nursery that appeared, from ground level, to be burgeoning with plants. If you have a flat roof and are short on space to store your plants, talk to Eddie about his creative storage solutions.

Chip Jones nursery was an unexpected surprise, replete with a large collection of cycads, cacti, succulents, orchids, bromeliads and palms. It afforded members flush with

new ideas for their garden layouts to purchase a wide variety of unusual plants at reasonable prices.

If you missed last month's ramble, put June's on your schedule. Two stops are scheduled. At 10:00 A.M. we will meet at Bud Hendrix home in Ft. Lauderdale and have an opportunity to purchase some of his outstanding collection of rare and unusual bromeliads. From there the group will head to Harriet and Larry's for a tour of their garden and a cookout. Members are requested to bring a delicious side dish and/or beverages for the picnic. This is our last ramble before summer hits, so let's make it memorable.

Cathy Burger

Ray Lemieux

Ray Lemieux, a Sarasota, Florida bromeliad enthusiast and grower will be our June speaker. Ray's attraction to bromeliads began over fifteen years ago when he saw his first cryptanthus at a garage sale. Ray indicates that he was drawn to "the unusual banding patterns and colors" as well as the serrated edges of the leaves" which reminded him of "sharks teeth." In an effort to learn more about bromeliads, Ray traveled to Selby Gardens. There he was told about the existence of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society (which he ultimately joined) and a nursery specializing in bromeliads—Tropiflora.

Ray visited Tropiflora where he met Linda Cathcart, one of the owners. Noting his special interest in cryptanthus, Linda introduced him to Jim Irvin, a cryptanthus hybridizer. While visiting Jim Irvin's nursery Ray saw and fell in love with a "spiny succulent with stiff leaves and the color of galvanized steel." Jim noted Rays attraction to the plant and subsequently presented him with his first *Orthophytum*, *Orthophytum lemei*.

Ray soon found himself "hooked" on bromeliads and took a job at Tropiflora in order to learn more about bromeliads and their culture. Ray has worked there for more than thirteen years, handling Tropiflora's "succulent" and terrestrial bromeliad collections.

I WANT YOU!

Remember the picture of Uncle Sam staring straight at you with a finger pointing, and the statement 'I Want You.' Guess what? We want you too. We're starting the process a little early in researching the posts that need to be filled next year. A most prestigious and absolutely necessary position is the Treasurer's position which amazingly enough will become available next year.

Hold on; that's not all. If you contact us now... Imagine! You get to write checks and it's not even your money (how cool is that?) We're not done. Every month, behind closed doors under a dim bulb you get to count large sums of money. Gotta be quick though before Fast Eddie comes knocking with his tommy-gun or it could be Elliot Ness. You never know who comes knocking on your chamber door.

You never knew this job was so exciting did you? It's a well kept secret but if you send in \$5 we'll consider you for the job (well I am the treasurer). Operators are standing by. And if you act now we'll even waive the \$5 fee from now until December 31st, 2011. All you have to do is tell one of those people that talks a lot at the front of the meeting room you're interested, that you passed 4th grade math and am honest as the day is long.

We'll rendezvous by the banyan tree at the next full moon and we'll talk some more. I'll be the one holding a white carnation bush. We're looking for a few good men and women. Volunteer now!

....By Tammy Marks

New Members:

Rita Welch

Welcome!

June Birthdays:

Eddie Griffith, Mark Havlik, Jeffrey Hutchinson, Sally Kauffman, Ruth Lynch, Tammy Marks, Ken Marks, Nedra Obradovich, Lynn Ottimer, Glen Polverari, Allen Sistrunk, Paton White, Linda Wiringer

Happy Birthday!

Free Days at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Sundays

August 7, 14, 21 and 28

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Enjoy the beauty of Fairchild the Garden for free every Sunday in August. There will also be complimentary tram rides and yoga classes, as well as local plant vendors selling great plants for South Florida and local food trucks with lots of tasty food. Visit the Fairchild Garden link below for details.

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org>

Photos:

May ramble pictures by Fe Stot and Lynn Thompson

<http://www.bsi.org/webpages/bspb/11-06/Fe.html>

<http://www.bsi.org/webpages/bspb/11-06/Slump.html>

<http://www.bsi.org/webpages/bspb/11-06/Eddie.html>

<http://www.bsi.org/webpages/bspb/11-06/Wrench.html>

<http://www.bsi.org/webpages/bspb/11-06/Jones.html>

Websites:

BSI International:

<http://www.bsi.org/>

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

<http://www.FCBS.org>

Boca Raton Bromeliad Forum

<http://forums.bocabromeliads.com/>

Mounts Botanical Garden

<http://www.mounts.org/home.asp>