



Meeting Information

Next Meeting: Thursday - 11/17/2011

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>

Officers

Cathy Burger - President
Nick Bethmann - Vice President
Tammy Marks - Treasurer
Betty Libertucci - Secretary

Directors

Ruth Lynch - Director
John Irvine - Director
Jeff Hutchinson - Director

Committee Chairs

Kathy Silverio - Refreshments
Lynn Thompson - Editor / e-Editor
Tammy Marks - Web Master
Vacant - Publicist
Lynn Thompson - Membership
Joe Libertucci - Past President
Vacant - Events
Tom Ramiccio - Sales
Cynthia Wroblowsky - Librarian

November Program:

Craig Morell from Pinecrest: see page 6 for short bio.

Election of officers, see page 5

November Ramble:

To be announced

President's Message November 2011

It is difficult to believe that November has arrived. The unusually warm temperatures and extremely wet weather are more in keeping with summer. I must say, however, that I welcome the rain, as it has transformed my garden into a lush and verdant landscape. Palms and cycads planted over the summer are putting out new growth, my begonias have more than doubled in size and my bromeliads are flush with "pups."

The society's October ramble to Casa Phippsberger, the beautiful Palm Beach estate of Bob Eigelberger and his wife, Susan Phipps Cochran, provided further evidence of the magical qualities of rain. I have visited the garden a number of times over the past six or seven years, and never have I seen the landscape so green and the plants in such beautiful condition.

Some individuals visit a garden once and feel no need to return. I have a different philosophy about repeat visits. I find that gardens evolve over time. Areas once sunny become shady; plants grow and transform in appearance. Such changes necessitate accommodations of various types, and, inevitably, the vistas change. I enjoy seeing the evolution. Additionally, before I place a 12" high plant from a 3 gallon container into the ground, I like to have an idea what the mature size and appearance of that plant will be. Visiting gardens such as Casa Phippsberger provides one with just such opportunities and information.

One of my initial visits to Casa Phippsberger was made following the three hurricanes that devastated our area six years ago. At that time many of the estate's mature, old-growth trees had been felled by the storms leaving large

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swaths of the property without canopy. Rather than lament his losses, Bob Eigelberger took advantage of the situation to create a more complex and even more interesting landscape than had existed previously. Dozens of new hardwood trees, cycads and palms were brought in and placed about the naked areas. I can recall walking up the driveway leading to the house and wondering just how many years it would take for these leaf bare trees and shrubs to become established. As I walked along that same path several weeks ago, I noted that a previously rather barren and desolate area is now completely grown in. All traces of the earlier devastation have been erased. It looks like untouched pristine wilderness.

I visited the estate again several years ago, just as Bob was completing construction of a stone wall fabricated from reclaimed, carved, architectural stones. At that time, the stone had not yet been covered with plants, and the various stone blocks were completely visible. I was incredibly impressed with this innovative garden installation and thought the site quite beautiful. Today, that same wall has the lush appearance of ancient ruins that have been reclaimed by nature, much like those one might see at Preah Khan or Ta Prohm in Cambodia, for example. It is difficult to believe the wall has not always been there. I am glad to have had the opportunity to have seen both the “before” and “after version,” as it gives me perspective and great appreciation for Bob’s handiwork and visionary attributes.

Walking through the garden afforded an opportunity to see how some of the anchor plantings have grown in and matured over time. I was pleased to see that the giant ficus tree at the front of the house had completely recovered from damage sustained during the hurricanes. It was laden with huge staghorn ferns and looked more beautiful than I have ever seen it. I noted, additionally, a number of new acquisitions. (Bob Eigelberger is the consummate “collector,” so one never knows what will turn up next.) There was a stunning “Bitter aloe” that looked like some ferocious life-form from another planet. In another area I noted a “yellow” crinum lily and a rare spotted crinum, to name just a few.

Casa Phippsberger is the type of garden one must visit and revisit. Each and every time I go, I “see” the garden anew. There are so many sites, sounds and smells that it is almost impossible to really take the experience all in over the matter of several hours. One leaves the garden in a state of “sensory overload.”

I recommend that if you missed this opportunity to visit this exquisite estate, you make a point to see it the next time it is open. Seeing Casa Phippsberger may just inspire you to create your own version of “Paradise,” just as Bob Eigelberger has done.

Cathy Burger

President’s Message December 2011

It is difficult to believe that we are once again at year’s end, and that my term as President will be ending after this month. I thoroughly enjoyed the earlier four year period during which I served as Vice-President and Program Chairman, and have had a wonderful year as President.

As I look back over the changes that have occurred during the past five years, I marvel just how far the society has come. When I first joined the Bromeliad Society, we met in a small room at the Community Center in Boca Raton. The membership totaled about fifty, and over time I became acquainted with just about everyone on a first name basis.

When I was asked to take on the Vice-President’s position, I agreed to the post with some trepidation. After my nomination was accepted, I was then told, “By the way, you need to come up with speakers for the next eleven months.” I did not have a clue who was who in the bromeliad world—I barely knew how to tell various genera and species apart. I queried some of the older members who I might call, and overtime a list of “contacts” was developed. I bought myself a 700 minute pre-paid phone card and started dialing.

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I strongly believed that the programs should be entertaining and educational. To that end, I sought out experts in various fields of bromeliad horticulture. I also tried to bring in speakers who would, in addition to their talks, bring bromeliads to sell to the members. I enjoyed getting to know the various experts, and they enjoyed interacting with our membership. After virtually every visit, I would receive an email from that month's speaker telling me just what a hospitable, fun and wonderful society we had.

As the membership began to grow, we needed to find a larger facility. I was a staunch advocate for moving the meeting to the Mount's (which I thought was the most centrally located facility), and, additionally, changing our name to better reflect the geographic areas from which we drew our membership. That decision proved to be a good one, as our membership has now grown to more than 150, making us one of the largest groups in the state.

I credit all of you with making our organization so dynamic and enjoyable, not to mention immensely popular. When we asked you to provide plants for our raffle table, you generously pulled beautiful bromeliads from your gardens to meet the demand. In so doing, you have made the raffle table one of our biggest "draws" for both new and seasoned members. When we asked for people to open their gardens for "rambles," you not only did so but provided food and refreshments to boot! When we asked for members to donate food to our refreshment table, you turned it into a gourmand's delight, leading us to often refer to our group as a "culinary society" disguised as a "bromeliad society." When we asked for designs for a new "logo" for the society, we had a number of beautiful submissions from artistic members of the group. In summary, you have met every request with enthusiasm, ingenuity and generosity.

We have many talented and enthusiastic members within the group. I encourage you to get involved. In the coming New Year, resolve to volunteer for a committee or to assist in some of the society's activities. In most organizations, a small percentage of the members do the lion's share of the work involved in running the club, and, as a result, stasis can occur within an organization. I encourage you to get involved and keep things fresh and innovative.

I want to thank all of you who have so loyally supported and assisted me during my terms as Vice-President and President. You have made my tenure incredibly rewarding and enjoyable. Your friendship, assistance and kind words have been enormously heartwarming. Serving as your representative was my pleasure.

***Best wishes for the New Year,
Cathy Burger***

Jammed Packed!

What a great meeting last month. Eighty-Three members attended. The refreshment table was jammed packed. We had sausage and peppers, Pizza, Chips and dip, Homemade chocolate chip



cookies and chocolate cookies, Jelly rolls, snicker doodles, oatmeal cookies, fresh guacamole and chips, chocolate cupcakes, a vegie tray and Bromeliad Juice.

Thank you to all the members who contributed to the table, Harriet and Larry, Rod, Joel, Joe, Pedro, Mark, John, Jean and Ben. I am sure I probably missed someone so thank you to members who I may have missed. Member contributions are the keys that make the table a success every month.

Our meeting is coming up on Thursday, November 17th. If it is your birthday month or even if you just want to bring something for the refreshment table. Just let me know by emailing me at drrodrigis@aol.com. Or call me at (561) 635-1507.

***See you at the meeting!
Kathy Silverio
Refreshment chair***

Holiday Party!



It is never too early to think about the Holiday Party. It is just around the corner and before you know it will be here. So make sure you mark your calendars, Sunday December 4th. It is an event not to be missed, Food, camaraderie and of course a Bromeliad Secret Santa gift exchange.

You ask, what is bromeliad secret Santa Gift exchange? Take a really nice bromeliad, something that you would like to receive if you were getting it as a gift. Place it in a nice gift bag so that no one will see it. Then bring it to the party for the gift exchange. We will be handing out raffle tickets for the gifts.

And you all know we are a "Gourmet Food club" disguised as the BSPB. We had so much food last year we almost ran out of space. The Roast Turkey and Baked Ham are contributed by the BSPB but all the other food is potluck. We ask every member attending to bring a dish. So start thinking about what dish (hot or cold) you will be bringing to the party. If you need ideas just ask me, I will be more than happy to give you suggestions. There will be a sign-up sheet at the November meeting. This is the one event I really need for you to RSVP if you are coming, so I can make sure I bring enough glasses, plates, silverware, napkins and drinks for the evening. Also I will need a volunteer set-up crew of about 4 people to prepare the room for the party. You would need to come one hour before the party starts. Volunteers will also be needed for the clean-up at the end of the party. If everyone chips in it usually is pretty quick. It will be an alcohol free event. **Alcohol is not permitted at Mounts Botanical Garden or anywhere on the premises.**

Please RSVP to Kathy Silverio by November 25th (561) 635-1507 or email her at drrodrigos@aol.com and sign up to bring a dish.

Time: 4:00 P.M.

**Location: Mounts Botanical Gardens.
531 North Military Trail W Palm Beach FL
33415**

See you at the party on Sunday, December 4th.
Kathy Silverio
Refreshment Chair

November Birthdays:

Lolly Bloom, Joyce Cohen, Kathleen Hedrick, Bob Hendricks, John Irvine, Lynda Koehler, Sally Leyenberger, Arlene Owens, Alec Pridgeon, Leslie Rosenfeld, Fred Sklar, Fe Stott, Terry Virta, Ronald Wiringer
Happy Birthday!

December Birthdays:

Harriet Abo, Weyman Bussey, Lynda Evans, Diane Haumann, Sylvia Hill, Johanna Kitson, Tim Nielsen, Diane Peaden, Steve Pressley, Ellen Pressman, Tom Ramiccio, Christine Schwartz, Carol Sciolino
Happy Birthday!

New Member Report:

Bob Hendricks, Lois Hendricks, Gerard Valentini
Welcome!

Mounts Sale Pictures by Kathy Silverio:

<http://www.bsi.org/webpages/bspb/11-11/Mounts.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>

Nomination Slate for 2012 Board

This year the nominating committee consisted of Tammy Marks, Jeff Hutchinson and Kitty Philips. Selecting a board is difficult as so many people are qualified but personal obligations take precedence as they should so the pool of candidates becomes smaller. Nonetheless we've come up with a spectacular board for next year as I hope you'll agree. I thank the previous board for serving and I thank in advance the new board of 2012 on their service.

Election Rules

The nominating committee will present the new board at the October meeting. At this time any nominations from the floor will be taken. The vote for the positions will be taken at the November meeting. The new board will take office in January of the following year. As a note, the By-Laws can be found here for your review: http://www.bsi.org/webpages/bspb/11-06_E-Bylaws.html

President:

Joe Libertucci – After serving three previous years and skipping this year as required by our By-Laws Joe is willing to return for another term as president. His past experience and know how will allow for a smooth transition.

Role of the president – The president represents the Society at large, presides at regular meetings and Executive Board meetings, appoints the Chairman of the various committees not stated in the By-Laws.

Vice-President:

Nick Bethmann – As returning vice-president Nick will have a full understanding of the requirements of the office. This year's learning experience provides a solid foundation from which to get new speakers and presenters which is one of the most challenging tasks in our Society. Serving as webmaster for the Bromeliad Society International his network of contacts is crucial to knowing who is available for presentations, who's a good talker, or who's been on a great trip.

Role of the vice-president – The vice-president performs the duties of the President in the absence of the president. The vice-president serves as the Program Chair.

Secretary:

Kitty Philips – Kitty is an experienced professional; her organizational skills provide a solid foundation to keep track of our meetings, documents and roster. Kitty has previously served as president of our Society; her past history gives her much background to jump right into the secretary position.

Role of the secretary – The secretary keeps records of all the regular meetings, of all special meetings and of all Executive Board Meetings.

Treasurer:

Jeffrey Philips – As the newest member to our Society who has not served previously Jeffrey yet comes with a load of experience. He has served as assistant treasurer at his church for several years; he has handled the accounting, payroll, taxes, accounts payable and receivables in several small businesses. His experience will be greatly appreciated.

Role of the treasurer – The Treasurer shall perform the duties usually pertaining to the office, assist the Membership Chairman in collecting all dues, and make all payments subject to the approval of the Society and/or Executive Board. The Treasurer shall maintain a roster of the Society, together with their addresses, and shall notify the Membership Chairman of all delinquent members and their unpaid dues, working in close cooperation with the Membership Chairman. The Treasurer shall keep an inventory of all properties belonging to the Society, and shall prepare and submit an annual report to the State of Florida.

Chairmen and Directors

Just as critical as the board and doing a lot of work for the Society we have the following people for the additional positions within the society.

Refreshments Chair – Diane Dempsey

Membership Chair – Kitty Philips

Editor – Betty Libertuci

Webmaster – Tammy Marks

Sales Chair – Tom Ramiccio

Director (1 year) – Jeff Hutchinson

Director (2 year) – Ruth Lynch

Director (3 year) – TBD



**Parting is Such
Sweet Sorrow**

This is my last official newsletter and I just wanted to say thank you to all of you that helped make the newsletter the informative publication that it is. First and foremost I want to thank my husband, Mike. He helped me with every issue, quietly in the background, wanting no recognition. I appreciate his help and support. Thank you to all of you who wrote articles and submitted pictures, those are what keep the publication worth reading. It was a labor of love, but now I want some time off to go hike the Florida Trail before I get to old and creaky to walk.

I wish you all the Happiest Thanksgiving and hope you have wonderful holidays to look forward to at the end of the year. I'll be seeing you at the meetings and Holiday Party.

Thank you all!

Lynn Thompson



**Bromeliad Society
of the Palm Beaches**

**Logo Merchandise
available through Action Sportswear**



Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 e-mail address _____
 Item _____
 Quantity _____ Style Number _____
 Size _____ Color _____ Men's Ladies
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 Payment by cash or check payable to Action Sportswear

- Polo Shirt \$20.00
- T-Shirt..... \$15.00
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Call for pricing and availability of additional items.

Speaker Craig Morell

Craig is a career horticulturist and plant collector, and a member of BSPB. He is currently the horticulturist at Pinecrest Gardens, former site of Parrot Jungle. Craig currently lives in South Miami, He has worked at Pinecrest Gardens since 2004, renovating and modernizing the garden.