



April 2008
BSSF OFFICERS 2008

President Karl Green
VP Peter Kouchalakos
Sec. Peggy Fisher
Treas. Robert Meyer

DIRECTORS

Sandy Roth, Past President
Judy Pagliarulo, '08
John Lazarus '07-'08
Alan Herndon '08-'09
Lori Weyrick '08-09

Editors

Moyna Prince
Robert C Meyer

Door Prize: Alan Herndon
Education: Nat DeLeon
Hospitality: Elaine Mills
Library: Sandy Roth
Membership: Moyna Prince
Member Plant Sales: Anthony Arbelaez
Raffle: Peter & Clara Kouchalakos
Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez
Photos: Michael Schmale

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

APRIL 1, 2008 , 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Humorist Craig Morell
RAFFLE: Alan and Rhonda Herndon
FOOD TABLE: Jorge Rodriquez, Sheila Bishop and Charlotte Futerfas

Show Needs New Committee Head

Last month: "Over the years, you have seen many of the names on the front page repeat themselves year after year. This cannot continue endlessly, as health, travail or other issues arise which interrupt service to the organization." Sure enough, beloved Elaine Mills had an awkward accident which removed her from the Awards Committee as her health shall forever prioritize over the endearing commitment to the BSSF. It is in times as this, that we ask that someone rise from the observing crowd to accept her place. Most of the work has *already* been done – she has ordered and we have paid for hte awards. All that remains is placing the awards on the respective plants.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED – HERE IS LIST OF THE SHOW'S COMMITTEES:

Art/Artistic; Award Sponsors; Awards; Catering; Classification; Clerks; Commercial Sales; Hospitality; Information Table; Judges; Photography; Placement; Plant Holding; Publicity; Sales (Money); Schedule; Show Booklet; Staging; and Vendors.

Note: *Emergency need for Awards Committee Leader.* Story above.

JOIN EARLY. JOIN OFTEN. Eat Sandy's Food.

In case you missed it

The Michael Michalshki Bingo event again brought the crowd to FTBG's Corbin Room. The variety of games on the flat board seemed endless. Next month, the organization will encounter lecture from someone who can relay information about the plants and their nuances. But, the once-a-year deviation from education makes this annual event as wonderfully beloved as a "snow day" or other day off from the daily doldrums and routine.

Columbus and Bromeliads

Not until Columbus brought home bromeliads from his searches to the new land had a European experienced or witnessed Bromeliads. Christopher Columbus in the late fifteenth century landed on the island of Guadalupe where he encountered the cultivated bromeliad known today as the edible Pineapple (*Ananus comosus*). Locals told Columbus that the edible plant came from the northern areas of South America (The actual place origin is unknown).

Columbus returned to Europe with samples of this "very delicious and refreshing to the taste" fruit back to Spain as gifts for the authorities and the King. The fame of the pineapple rapidly spread throughout Europe.

The first drawing of the pineapple was published in Spain in 1535 in the "Historia Universal de las Indias Occidentalis."

EVER WANTED TO SOW SEEDS?

Member **Steve Correale** has shown us what years of labor in sowing seeds can do. Some rather funky and amazing results.

If you ever get the urge to do this, you may want to remember what **Mike Michalski** showed you at the last meeting. Or look at the simple summary below:

- Mix 50 % Canadian Peat and 50% Perlite. Dampen with warm, soapy water, fill a tray to 2.5 cm depth.
- Sow seeds on top, do not cover with soil.
- Cover with a clear plastic lid. Place on waterbed mattress and cover with a white cotton sheet, for 2 – 3 days.
- Remove sheet, provide some light.

- After 14 days, place seedlings trays with adults.
- After 21 days, pot up individually.

It may be a weird way to grow bromeliads by seed, but it's quick (Editor's note: HmMMMM) and easy and very inexpensive. (if you don't have a waterbed, children's sizes are very inexpensive, and if you later decide not to grow more seed, the bed liner makes a great garden pool).

Note: Taken from Central Coast NSW Bromeliad Society Inc. Bromelia Post – January 2005.

[Editors Note: The similarity between our climate and that of Australia may make this system extremely applicable in our environs.]

SHOW CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By: *Robert Meyer*

We are encroaching upon the last furlong of the annual race known as the "Annual Show." Duties placed upon the committee members are relatively well understood, and it is now that I bestow duties to the members.

We need plants. Lots and lots of plants. Without annual gargantuan numbers placed by **Nat DeLeon**, the show will quite truly be naked and appear emasculated when compared to previous show entries.

Avoid at all costs this potentially embarrassing moment. Bring plants to the show. Good or bad, they need to be delivered, tagged, and shown at the table.

Many derivative benefits will be derived by your placement. First, you will get the obvious ribbon or crystal (good luck to all who obtain the crystal). Secondly, you will most likely expand the species and cultures to the show – more in number unquestionably delivers more diversity of shown plants to the show. Lastly, the large auditorium will appear to be appropriately sized forum for this event. If the numbers are down, we will have the empty feeling of a Marlins home game where 9,000 people attend a facility made for over 42,000 fans.

As to those who want to do more, I reimplore upon anyone to help. Placement is an annual chore which requires someone to pick up the plants Thursday April 17, 2008. You do not do this

alone. But, we need many hands to get this done. More the merrier.

Awards is another simple job which needs replacement. **Donna Pearce** is leaving us, her replacement **Elaine Mills** suffered an unfortunate fall, which leads me to explain that we need for someone to replace Mills. This job will require no more than 4-5 hours of your time. At this time your job merely entails being there on Friday afternoon to ascribe the medal, crystal or whatever to the judicially proclaimed winner. Come on – give us a hand.

Any young and strong-abled bodies can help **Alan Herndon** and crew in the task of setting up the stage etc.

In the end, you ask: what's in it for me? In exchange for your efforts, you can party heartily Friday night at **Sandy Roth's** home with other volunteers and the many judges. This year's theme? Western BBQ and kerchiefs and hats for the cowfolk. Anyone with cap guns, leave them at the door.



NIDULARIUM FULGENS
Photos by Michael Andreas

Coming Attractions:
April 12-13, 2008
Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
University of South Florida Spring Sale
4202 East Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL

2008 ROSTER

The Roster for this year is already in the works, and we need to get your membership checks ASAP if you want to be included. Dues are \$20 single, \$30 for two people living at the same address. Send your check, payable to BSSF, to 11220 SW 107 Ct., Miami, FL 33176. IF THERE IS A RED CHECK MARK NEXT TO YOUR NAME ON THE LABEL, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR DUES!

We're encouraging members to sign up for the BROMELIADVISORY by email (no hard copy). On the membership renewal form, please write your email address clearly and indicate that you want to receive the newsletter by this method. You will then have the color version and save the society the postage.

Can You Think Ahead? EXTRAVAGANZA 2008

WHEN: August 29, 2008 Friday 1:00 – 6:00 PM , 7:00 PM Reception
August 30, 2008 Saturday 9:00 – 4:00 PM Sales, seminars
6:30 PM Banquet and Auction
August 31, 208 Sunday 9:00 AM Bus Tours

WHERE: 4400 W. Cypress Street
Tampa, FL 33607

CONTACT:
www.sheraton.com/tampaairport

All accommodations are room suites.
Room Rate \$99.00 Double or single.
Airport shuttle complimentary 24/7 on the hour

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership chair Moyna Prince will order name tags for new members. If you have any preference on how the tag should read, call Moyna at 305-251-5289. If you've lost your tag, call Moyna or email her at MoynaP@bellsouth.net

Note: name tags are free the first time. There's a nominal charge for replacements.



GREIGIA SPHACELATA
Photos by Dr. Peter Sack