



BromeliAdvisory

February 2009 BSSF Officers 2009

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Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

FEBRUARY 3, 2009, 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: JAY THURROTT – ON THE AUSTRALIAN 18TH WBC (Promises photos)
RAFFLE TABLE:
FOOD TABLE: Surely there will be chow

FEATURED SPEAKER

Jay Thurrott: will speak about the 18th WBC. Australia which was held June 24-28, 2008 in Cairns International Hotel, Australia. Jay's face will be recognizable to many who have attended the Annual Show. James (Jay) Thurrott, employed by the City of Daytona Beach for over 30 years as chief chemist [received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from SUNY Cortland] and manager for the Daytona Beach water utility system, has grown bromeliads since the 1970's. A longtime and active member of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society (FECBS). Jay has served as secretary, vice president and president to the FECBS and (I can feel for this) been its newsletter editor. Jay has also served as a representative to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies for many years, and currently (through 2008) reigns as its president. Jay has been active in the evil weevil project, among others. And, his photos are widely distributed throughout the web and in journals.

In his spare time, Jay grows over 500 varieties of bromeliads in Port Orange in addition to serving on the Board of Directors for the Bromeliad Society International, a BSI accredited bromeliad show judge

In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

Alan Herndon lectured about growing plants. Underneath the concept was the unique hybridization he is venturing into and what he aims to achieve and what he has achieved – whether by design or otherwise.

Concentrating first on variegation, he looked for strigated [having transverse bands of color], albomarginated [white edged], multicolored strigation, and mutated varieties. We most commonly see the chlorophyll-deprived strigate varieties – showing lines



Androlepis Skinnerii
Photo by Bullis

of white intermixed commonly with the green plants. But, color-induced strigated plants are emerging and catching more attention as their uniqueness surpasses the now commonly marketed chlorophyll-deprived strigated plants. Examples are *Androlepis skinerii* [a Bullis-inspired prize], which Herndon believes will catch more attention and fanfare as time delivers more of the plants to market.

Another item catching Herndon's attention was the somatic [of or relating to the wall of the body] mutation. Examples include *Aechmea chantinii* [stripes are horizontal instead of vertical], *Alcantarea imperialis* [front and back have different colors – mint green upperleaf and eggplant colored underleaf] and an apparently yet-to-be-named *Neoreglia* Picasso look-alike which is spotted and has albomargination.

Highlighting the discussion was the delivery of Alan and **Rhonda Herndon's** pet project: a spineless *Aechmea chantinii*. Even the society's founding father, **Nat DeLeon**, whose career's highlights (Look to November 2008 issue where extensive review of his career was

covered by the BromeliAdvisory) include the hybridization of *Aechmea fasciata* cultivar DeLeon [United States Patent PP07832], marveled at this plant's splendor and capabilities.

In many respects, listening and observing the lecture triggered fond memories of the many DeLeon presentations given to the society in the past. **Pepe Donayre's** reference to Herndon as the society's horticulturist was concise and appropriate. But, this society's membership includes many others who meet the definition of the term horticulturist [The science or art of cultivating fruits, vegetables, flowers, or ornamental plants.] and those would have to include **DeLeon, Steve Correale, Moyna Prince, Bob Work, Craig Morell, Bruce McAlpin, Karl Green, Josefa Leon** – as well as up and coming **Jorge Rodriguez**. We can only look forward to their presentations.

Message From the President

by Robert Meyer

This message ties into a few great occurrences at my first meeting. The primary occurrence was another president's reward: the magnificent delivery of a plant in the honor of past president **Sandy Roth**. The plant amazingly stood there for almost two hours and no one knew. The ever-secretive **Nat DeLeon** who handed the plant to Sandy – and no one knew a thing!

Having cooked and washed for what can only be measured as an eternity, Sandy's reward is incredibly well deserved. The past three years have been less than the best, and any little token of love or appreciation is well deserved. And, when Nat handed the plant to Sandy, the voluminous applause resoundingly approved of this gesture.

And, as a president at his first meeting for this new year, nothing more could have been asked of anyone. Thanks to Nat and his crew for the gift, and thanks to Sandy for being there so many times to make Nat and others think that no one is more deserving.

The second occurrence was the health of the membership. Recently less than stellar, many members appeared at the meeting full of vigor and energy. That is great news. And, we can only hope for the good health and love of bromeliads to continue to be our common denominator.

BLOOMIN' EVERYWHERE



Moyna Prince notes that a stunning pair of *Aechmea woronowii* (her photo on left) are blooming at FTBG in the Conservatory.

She also notes that bromeliads are blooming throughout her back yard, some for the first time. Hmm: Field Trip???

At the Ed Prince garden at Sunset High there's also an *Androlepis skinneri* in flower.

REMINDER REMINDER REMINDER

The annual dues are due, due, due.
Remember the yellow sheet and send it
If there re is a red check mark on your
mailing label – that means that your dues
have not been received. If you need another
copy of the form, we got them.

Moyna Prince with money. Her address is
11220 SW 107 Ct, Miami, FL 33176-3902.

Why enter plants in a judged show?

By Alan Herndon

The BSSF Annual Show will soon be upon us, and you can expect to hear the pleas to enter plants often in the coming months. Why should you do this? After all, it takes quite a bit of work to clean and otherwise prepare the plants designated for the show.

First, entering plants in the show helps this society fulfill its mission of promoting bromeliads to the general public. The annual show is our major opportunity to advertise both our plants and our society. After all, what better way to introduce new people to the pleasures of bromeliads than a roomful of gorgeous specimens showcasing the wide range of variation in the family? Historically, BSSF also attracts many new members through the annual show.

In order to take full advantage of the opportunity presented by the Annual Show, we need a wide range of entries. Given the rigid schedule for our show, species and hybrids of *Neoregelia* are the plants most readily available for entry, but we need good representation of

other genera also. Participation by a wide range of growers is the easiest way to ensure a wide range of plant entries since most people tend to specialize.

Second, making the effort to grow plants for the show will turn you into a better bromeliad grower in general. Even if you pick plants from the garden two weeks before the show (that would put you firmly in the majority of exhibitors), you will learn to recognize when plants are growing well. Paying attention to the characteristics deemed important by judges, you will become attuned to observing the form and color of plants. You will learn to recognize the superior plants in your collection, and to become more discriminating in obtaining new plants. This will lead to better-informed placements of plants, and, overall, a better looking garden

If these high-minded reasons are not sufficient, there is always the crass personal lure of the crystal awards and bragging rights. The crystal awards are not available in your corner store (not even your corner glass store), so even your non-bromeliad friends will recognize your uniqueness.

Most bromeliad growers will produce a spectacular plant or two every year even if accidentally. We ask that you keep an eye out for these specimens and, please, take the time to prepare them for entry in this year's show.

IT'S SHOW TIME IN SOUTH FLORIDA

By B. Dean Fairchild

In 1977, the Orlando, Florida 1980 World Bromeliad Conference [“WBC”] was announced to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the BSI (Bromeliad Society International, at that time Inc.). The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies [“FCBS”] was also created that year to assist in putting on the WBC. Each Florida society was then encouraged to have bromeliad shows to display our beautiful lovelies to the public in preparation for this gathering.

The BSSF (Bromeliad Society of South Florida) put on the first of its annual shows in 1978. Shows had been staged in earlier years, but they were neither annual nor serial. Major shows were held by the BSSF in 1964 and 1970, but I doubt they were judged.

On or about this time, Tampa area's Ervin Wurthmann was asked to set up schools to prepare judges in evaluating bromeliads. He adhered and classes began. Plants were judged against a 'perfect' standard with points deducted from 100 for less than perfect growth/color/inflorescence. Ribbons were awarded to each entry based on the number of points earned (see below).

The first bromeliad shows were initially modeled on a Garden Club flower show. Entries were placed in five major divisions: Single Plant; Multiple Plant; Horticultural Display (anything not in a regular pot); Artistic; and Exhibits

The single and multiple classes could be repotted just prior to the show and multiples (clumps) were required to grow from a single stem.

The Horticultural Display class sought separate entries with diverse types of bromeliads: e.g. hanging versus basket-planted or even terrarium housed. All must grow in or on non-decorative material.

The Artistic classes were for arrangements and decorative containers.

All of the Exhibits were for landscapes and educational exhibits.

At the inception of the annual shows, the BSSF judges experimented and developed the schedule for bromeliads. This evolution included judging the entries on merit (if more than one of the same type of bromeliad scored 90 points or better, each could get a blue ribbon) rather than competitive (only one-blue-ribbon/one-red/etc. allowed for each type bromeliad) It culminated with rewards for many: for example, if there were 3 *Neoregelia carolinae* in the same section, ordinarily only one could win a blue ribbon. But, under the merit judging system, all three plants could win blue ribbons if they were all well grown and presented.

Part of this less extreme treatment derives from BSI amendments to judging. The BSI Judges handbook was revised to allow both types of judging. The merit system has become so

embraced that I do not know of any show that uses the competitive method today.

Other embracing concepts at the show include special awards. At the inception of the shows, we could neither give the Mulford B. Foster Best-In-Show award nor the Sweepstakes award to artistic. But, amendments to rules were made. The BSI Handbook Committee created the Morris Henry Hobbs award for Best-In-Show in the Artistic Divisions.

Observing this award, the BSSF devised an Award-Of-Merit ribbon for those entries to be considered for a major award. Other societies used a star on the entry card to designate the Award of Merit ["AM?"], but most now use a separate ribbon as we do.

Points to receive ribbon:

79 or below	White
80-84	Yellow
85-89	Red
90-100	Blue
96-100	AM

Over the years, the Show Schedule was remodeled to such an extent it is now completely different in structure from the early shows. Instead of the 5 Divisions listed earlier, our show now places entries in the 5 Divisions: Blooming Bromeliads, Non-blooming Bromeliads, Habitat Bromeliads, Artistic and Exhibits.

Blooming plants do not compete against the non-blooming plants; therefore, we have a Best-Blooming Award and a Best-Non-Blooming Award, but we do not have a Best-In-Show Award. Within the Blooming Bromeliads and Non-blooming Bromeliads divisions, entries are divided into Sections (genera). We then add the free-standing and hanging Classes to more easily locate the entry.

Some societies run two shows. One for commercial and one for non-commercial growers. On a few occasions, BSSF followed that approach, but it was most wanted to see the best plant win regardless of the status of the grower.

The BSSF also removed the classification of Horticultural Display (all entries in horticulture are displays). The BSSF added Cut Inflorescence, Fruiting, Collection and Habitat competitions – all with the idea that all bromeliad exhibits should be entered into our shows.

All plants earning the AM are huddled in the end to compete against other plants in the same section (genus) for best of section (Silver) awards. All section winners within a division compete for best of Division (Gold) awards, etc.’ We also have an award sponsored by the Bullis family for the best Variegated bromeliad and the Ralph Davis Memorial Award, sponsored by BSSF, for the plant exemplifying the best culture.

BSSF has had 30 outstanding bromeliad shows, most have been the largest in the world (including world conferences of over 600 entries).

Some landmark occasions include the following: the 1993 show was put on, but it was not judged, because of damage inflicted on local bromeliad collections by Hurricane Andrew; the 1981 show included 246 blue ribbons from 463 entries; the 1982 show included 491 entries; and the 1983 show included 505 entries. The largest show I have a record of was 1989 with 532 entries.

Numbers of entries have declined since the 1990's, although some 300 entries were judged out of a total near 400 in 2007.

This 50th anniversary is a celebration of the great things the hard working members of the Bromeliad Society Of South Florida have done and the great things that lie ahead of us in the future and the shows are a part of that heritage.

[I thank Martha Kent for locating and supplying the information on the 1964 and 1970 BSSF shows]

Clip ⌘-----⌘
Some old formulae for Healthier plants:
1 cup of household vinegar..
1 cup of Epsom salts = magnesium sulfate
MgSO₄
3 Tbs Captan
3 Tbs Peters 20/10/20 peat light special
4 Tbs “K -power”potassium nitrate 13.75 - 0 - 46
Clip ⌘-----⌘

What’s in bloom? - January 2009

by Alan Herndon

This is the first in what is hoped to be a continuing series. Given the requirements for putting the Advisory together, the information in each installment will cover the first half of the month in the title and the last half of the previous month. By the time you read it, the information will always be out of date. This first installment is especially out of date, since it did not make it into the January Advisory.

Since this is a new series, the format is subject to change. For the moment, I am listing species individually only if there are notes that go with the species. Otherwise, all species are listed in a group behind the genus to save space.

No claim is made concerning the completeness of this list. It is based on quick surveys of plants in my collection. It is predictable that some groups, such as the small *Neoregelia* species that have no color change associated with blooming, will be overlooked



Photo by Moyna Prince

with some frequency. Also, the more plants of a given species or hybrid in our nursery, the more likely they will be observed in bloom.

- Aechmea orlandiana* (var. **orlandiana**, **Ensign**, Gold Tone, **Reverse Ensign**)
- Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* (many species)
- Aechmea weilbachii* (var. *weilbachii*, var. *leodiensis*, var. *penduliflora*)
- Aechmea* (*bromeliifolia*, **carvahloi**, *chantinii*, *contracta*, **corymbosa**, David Barry, **fasciata**, *fulgens*, **gurkeniana**, Little Harv, *nudicaulis*, *penduliflora*, *racinae*, *recurvata* *benrathii*, *tillandsioides*, Victoria, *warasii* *discolor*, **wittmackiana**) 2824
- Billbergia* (many species and hybrids still in bloom)
- Canistropsis billbergioides**
- Cryptanthus* (*bahianus*, **beuckeri**, **colnagoi**, **incrassatus**, *warren-loosei*)

Fosterella micrantha

Guzmania (minor, sanguinea)

Lymania corallina

Neoregelia (compacta, macwilliamsii, Morado, 'rubrifolia', Sheba, Ultima)

Nidularium kris-greeniae

Orthophytum (compactum, conquistensis, disjunctum, gurkenii, lemei, saxicola)

Pitcairnia (corallina, echinatus vallensis, smithiorum)

Portea (alatisepala, grandiflora, kermesina, nana)

Quesnelia (humilis, liboniana)

Tillandsia (dyeriana, neglecta, tricolor melanocrater)

Vriesea (carinata, languida, Mariae, pinottii, procera)



Photo by Moyna Prince

Annual Show Coming Soon

by Alan Herndon – Chairman

Most past committee chairs have been coerced into taking up their duties for another year. At the February meeting, a full scale volunteer drive will be carried out by these chairs. Think about investing your time and talents in one or more of the committees. Committees that historically need lots of volunteers are:

Art - if you are as interested in the paintings as the plants at the show, you can help Sharon Biddix-Maessen with the setup on Thursday afternoon and evening.

Catering - responsible for keeping volunteers and judges fed over all four days of the show (see Sandy Roth to volunteer)

Clerks - responsible for moving plants as needed for judging, keeping track of decisions by judges and affixing ribbons to plants on

Friday. (This is a highly sought assignment, be sure to have your resume in top shape before approaching Lynne Fieber)

Hospitality/Security - volunteers mainly needed to check plants going out the gates to ensure they were purchased, Saturday and Sunday (see Harlo von Wald)

Membership Sales - volunteers needed to help sell plants at the BSSF tables on Saturday and Sunday (see Joy von Wald)

Placement - volunteers needed to organize the mass of plant entries into a feast for the eyes of the public, Thursday afternoon and evening (see Ofelia Sorzano)

If you are ambitious and want to have a broader understanding of the Annual Show, volunteer to be a co-chair on a committee of interest.

Start getting your plants in shape for the show. In particular, eliminate any signs of live scale infestation on plants you intend to enter. You can scrape the scale off individually, or treat the plant with a systemic insecticide to kill all scale. Also, if you give your plants a preliminary cleaning now, they will be easier to prepare for the show later. Wash any debris and algae out of the cups and leaf bases, trim back dying leaves, etc.

Reminder: If you are thinking about donating excess crystal awards to the Society for reuse, please make your donations by the first week or two of March so we can correctly determine the number of new pieces to purchase for the coming show.

Editor's Note: Recycling crystal is a great benefit to the society. To all of those who are unlike the editor – win crystal – please aid in delivering crystal to add to other's collections.

SAVE THE DATES:

April 16 – Plant entries

April 17 – Plant Judging

April 18 – Show and Noon Auction

April 19 – Show

Growing Orthophytum - 2

by Alan Herndon

Most species in the *Orthophytum disjunctum* complex are easy to propagate vegetatively. Offsets are usually produced both at the plant base and at the ends of the inflorescence branches. Offsets at the plant base may be broadly attached to the enlarged basal portion of the mother plant, or may be formed at the ends of specialized stems (stolons = a shoot that bends to the ground or that grows horizontally above the ground and produces roots and shoots at the nodes.) The stolons may be short to extremely long. In some species the stolons will coil repeatedly around the bottom of a pot before exiting through one of the drainage holes.

Offsets on stolons are extremely easy to harvest. Cut the stolon about a finger's width from the rosette of the offset. The offset can be more readily established and will grow faster if it is allowed to form roots before it is harvested. Offsets broadly attached to the parent must be removed carefully, if at all. It may be easier to leave them attached and cut away the mother plant as it dies back.

The most common complication in propagation of basal offsets is seasonal. During the blooming season, a basal offset is likely to start blooming at a much smaller size than the parent. An offset taken during this period may not grow at all before starting to elongate, leaving you with a small plant. This is not a problem unless your aim is to grow a plant with a rosette of large basal leaves. Of course, you can let the plants clump during the blooming season (remember to keep them well fertilized). When the offsets begin to grow larger than the previous generation, you can harvest them to start your specimen plants.

Offsets on inflorescence branches are somewhat more difficult to harvest. First, the inflorescence branches themselves look somewhat like the rosette of leaves on the mother plant. However, the bracts that form the rosette on flower-bearing portions of the inflorescence are all the same size and color. In addition, flower buds are usually apparent close to the apex of the branch. Once flowering is finished, it may take many weeks before an offset is formed. The offset will

feature leaves that are noticeably increasing in size. In addition, the leaves will match those of the mother plant in color and shape. After these offsets have produced 4-5 leaves that are perhaps 1 inch long or more, they have probably produced roots. Cut the inflorescence branches a short distance below the lowermost of the obvious leaves. You will have to strip off the remaining floral bracts to ensure that the roots have access to the soil. Often, you will have to trim a few of the lower leaves on the offset or you will have a plant that keeps pushing itself above the soil level (the lower leaves will tend to curl downward as they dry out). In particularly stubborn cases, you can pin the lower leaves down with stiff wire bent into a U shape, or weight the lower leaves down with large nails. The intention is to keep the plant base in contact with the soil. This will ensure the roots have an opportunity to grow normally.

Musical interlude

Sunday evening, March 22, 2009, Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden is presenting a concert 'The Best of Brazilian Bossa Nova' by Roberto Menescal.

It is of interest to note that Roberto Menescal has one of the finest collections of bromeliads in Brazil. Many of the plants he has collected and cultivated have been used as the basis for new species, including *Canistropsis elata*, *Canistrum alagoanum*, *Neoregelia menescalii*, *Nidularium espiritasantense* and *Vriesea menescalii*.

He has also been very generous in sharing his plants with other collectors, including our own Karl Green. If you have gotten *Aechmea ampla*, *Billbergia lymania angustifolia* or *Cryptanthus lacerdae* 'Menescal' from Karl Green, it came originally from the gardens of Roberto Menescal.

From Wikipedia: Roberto Menescal (born October 25, 1937) is a Brazilian jazz guitarist important to the founding of bossa nova. In many of his songs there are references to the sea. He is also known for work with Carlos Lyra. Menescal has performed in a variety of Latin music mediums, including Brazilian pop, Música Popular Brasileira, Bossa nova and Samba. He was nominated for a Latin Grammy for his work with his son's bossa group Bossacucanova in 2002.

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA 2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME(S) _____
(Couples - please include BOTH first names)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TEL _____ CELL TEL. _____

EMAIL _____

Include email address in the roster? (Y/N) _____

Email BromeliAdvisory? (Y/N) _____

Would you like to preserve natural resources and only receive *BromeliAdvisory* by E-mail? (Y/N) _____



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, 2009 to February 28, 2010.

Check the category:

_____ Single membership \$20.00

_____ Dual membership \$30.00

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

Do you want to join the Bromeliad Society International? If so, add \$30/single, \$35/dual, to your BSSF dues and we will do the rest for you. Membership includes the BSI Journal, issued bimonthly. Check Yes _____ if you do. (NOTE: New memberships only)

Make check payable to BSSF

DUES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2009, IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2009 ROSTER

Please mail completed form and check to: Moyna Prince
11220 S.W. 107 Ct
Miami, Fla. 33176-3902