



Bromeliad Advisory

June 2012

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

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

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

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What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

JUNE 19, 2012 7:30 PM

Speaker: Nat DeLeon

RAFFLE TABLE: Mike Michalski

FOOD: Usual Suspects and Lenny Goldstein, Chieng Manlee, Patricia Gaetjens, and Bernadette

ABOUT THE SPEAKER NAT DELEON

Nat is a member of the "Save Florida's Native Bromeliads Project Committee" which is instrumental in the evil weevil project.



Photo by Doug Upton
 Courtesy FCBS

Nat was a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Grants Committee for numerous years.

Nat introduced *Neoreglia* "Fireball" in the early 1960's. Nat's best named plant: *Aechmea* hybrid "Eileen"

A new and distinct *Aechmea* hybrid cultivar obtained by crossing (*Aechmea Fasciata* x *Aechmea serrata*) with *Aechmea serrata*, substantially as herein shown and described, characterized as to novelty by the unique combination of the spineless habit of the leaves, and a large, upright, heavily-branched inflorescence bright rose in color, which stays in color for several months.

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President's Message

by Carl Bauer

The field trips that our Society has offered in the last few months have been outstanding, especially on May 19th when we visited three nurseries, topped off by the amazing lunch prepared by Josefa Leon. I have never seen her entire property so beautiful and the thirty members in attendance couldn't have been more happy.[and full!] My Ford Explorer was full of plants purchased at every stop by my merry band. I look forward to more adventures in the future.

At our next meeting your Board will be presenting a budget for the World Conference in Orlando. A booth and advertising will be appropriate expenditures.

Summer doesn't officially begin until June 20, the day after our meeting. But the thermometer is already going past 90 degrees and rain, humidity and mosquitos make it feel like it's here full time. Get out in the garden early and often. It's a lot easier than facing it after lunch.

See you at the meeting,

Carl Bauer

In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

Tom Wolfe came to Miami to show his gorgeous slides of numerous plants – almost exclusively neoregelia. Over the years, he and more often his wife, have photographed the colorful plants.

Many of the plants are becoming obsolete in our gardens because of apathy or horticultural negligence or other reasons which cannot be pointed out. To see many of the plants which surrounded our landscapes decades ago was fostering to the imagination and retrieved memories many may have thought were lost.

Tom also cam full of plants to sell. Clean and reasonably priced, many took advantage of the opportunity.

If you missed it, you can him soon as Tom will be a speaker at the World Conference.

Garden Notes May 2012

by Alan Herndon

We still haven't gotten into our typical summertime rain pattern, but we have had plenty of rain over the past 2 months. This rain has all been due to cold fronts moving through our area from the north, or tropical disturbances coming from the south. Meanwhile, temperatures are approaching, but haven't yet reached our typical summer levels. Our plants have been in a frenzy of growth.

In the genus *Aechmea*, species related to *Aechmea chantinii* seem to dominate the blooming list. As

for *Aechmea chantinii*, a greater proportion are blooming than last month with progressively smaller plants now coming into bloom. The closely related *Aechmea tessmannii* was in flower through the middle of the month and the equally close *Aechmea zebrina* began to flower near the end of the month. Another near relative, *Aechmea tillandsioides*, and a slightly more distant relative, *Aechmea serrata*, continued to bloom through the month and *Aechmea dichlamydia* first flowered around the middle of the month. Although these last two may not seem to be close relatives of *Aechmea chantinii*, all of the species mentioned above belong in subgenus *Platyachmea*. This subgenus is defined by the presence of the thickened base of the floral bract that is shaped to provide a shallow bowl the ovary lays in at flower. Two thin walls arising from the tissue at the edge of this bowl run of along the sides of the ovary and continue onto the rachis (branch). The overall effect is



Aechmea nudicaulis drawing courtesy of Natural History Museum, London. See <http://freeartlondon.wordpress.com/2010/02/11/the-endeavour-botanical-illustrations/>

that the ovary is concealed during flowering with the floral bract tightly wrapped around the upper half and the lower half 'sunk' into the rachis. Various species of *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* continue to pop in and out of bloom as does the occasional *Aechmea weilbachii* clone. *Aechmea nudicaulis* was also commonly in bloom throughout the month, although each clone typically was only in flower about two weeks. Species in the old *Gravisia* complex were also seen: *Aechmea disjuncta* continued in flower from last month and *Aechmea mulfordii* (red leaf clone) began to flower.

Alcantarea vinicolor continued to flower in May. Towards the middle of the month, two plants of *Alcantarea glaziouana* joined in flower. I have two additional species in bud, although no *Alcantarea imperialis*.

Billbergia viridiflorum was notable in bloom. Other species undoubtedly bloomed, but I did not record any of them.

Once again, a plant of *Guzmania minor* was seen in flower. These plants are growing in clumps of 4-5 plants, and at least 2 rosettes in each clump are flowering size at any time. They don't seem to flower simultaneously, so the effective blooming period for a clump is much greater than the blooming period for a single rosette.

Several species of *Hohenbergia* were in bloom or bud during the month. Only *Hohenbergia correia-araujoi* and *Hohenbergia stellata* (the pink flowered clone) are of interest to the general bromeliad collector, although another blooming species worthy of consideration is *Hohenbergia humilis*. This small species has a short-lived bloom of no great beauty, but the plant is attractive and easy to handle.

Lymania spiculata is this month's addition to the oddball register. It was in flower for most of the month.

Neoglaziovia variegata continued to produce flowers for a few days into the month.

Many species of *Neoregelia* were seen in bloom during May. *Neoregelia johannis* and *Neoregelia correia-araujoi* were in bloom throughout the month. Two different clones of *Neoregelia carcharodon* also bloomed. I do not see blooms on this species every year, despite having several pots of most clones. Perhaps the species does not grow quite as well in our climate as in other areas. *Neoregelia compacta* and *Neoregelia macwilliamsii* could also be found blooming in May, although none were in flower at the end of the month. In any case, a new crop of pups is showing signs of flowering in June. Among the smaller species, *Neoregelia odorata* (the red leaf form often sold under the name *fluminensis*),

Neoregelia ampullacea and *Neoregelia punctatissima* (red leaf form) showed up a few times. *Neoregelia dungsiana* was also seen in flower more than once. *Neoregelia amandae* bloomed for about 2 weeks during the month when all plants with any size were in flower simultaneously. In a first for me, *Neoregelia carinata* bloomed during May. Finally, I noticed *Neoregelia nivea* in bloom.

A new plant of *Orthophytum roseum* began to flower towards the end of the month. Both other members of the *amoenum* group reported in bloom for April, *Orthophytum burle-marxii* and *Orthophytum zanonii*, also were in bloom in May.

Most members of the *Orthophytum disjunctum* group continued to flower from months past. These include: *Orthophytum alvimii*, *Orthophytum conquistense*, *Orthophytum lemei*, *Orthophytum lymanianum*, *Orthophytum harleyi* and *Orthophytum horridum*. New flowers were seen on *Orthophytum disjunctum* and *Orthophytum magalhaesii* after being absent for a month. *Orthophytum rubiginosum* bloomed for the first time this year. *Orthophytum sucrei* was in bloom during March, and flowers reappeared this month.

Flowering is very quick in this species. A few days after the first flowers open, the inflorescence has bloomed out and started to produce a new plant from the end of the old stem. This new plant will grow rapidly and soon produce its own inflorescence at the end of its own stem. Under conditions favorable to rapid growth, it is possible to have 4 or 5 generations of plants connected end to end before the original plant finally dies. In the wild, any of the younger generations could root if they happened to land on a favorable patch of soil.

After much anticipation, *Portea petropolitana extensa* started their mass display of blooms in May.

A *Quesnelia edmundoi* produced flowers throughout the month. There were probably species in *Quesnelia* subgenus *Billbergiopsis* flowering also, but I never caught them in the act. True to their subgenus name, these species has flowering periods rivaling those of *Billbergia* species.

In a further rebuke to my assertion that the species blooms in winter, *Tillandsia ionantha* 'Ron' again



Neoregelia johannis can spread as great as four feet in diameter.

bloomed in May. *Tillandsia* 'Victoriana', the hybrid between *Tillandsia ionantha* and *Tillandsia brachycaulos* that looks like a gigantic *ionantha*, also came into bloom in May. A giant clone of *Tillandsia brachycaulos* bloomed in May. *Tillandsia correalei* made a second appearance on the blooming list this year, along with *Tillandsia rodriguezia*. In the subgenus *Anoplophytum*, *Tillandsia vernicosa* and *Tillandsia globosa* appeared in flower. New clones of *Tillandsia fasciculata* come into flower to keep that species on the list. *Tillandsia streptocarpa*, one of the species with delightfully fragrant flowers from subgenus *Phytarrhiza*, also bloomed during May.

Vriesea erythrodactylon bloomed throughout the month. For the first half of the month, both the small clone and the large clone had flowers, but only the large clone was flowering during the final half of the month. *Vriesea platynema* began to bloom near the beginning of the month, and stayed in flower until almost the end.. *Vriesea malzinii* and *Vriesea warmingii*, on the other hand, first flowered at the end of May.

With the hot and rainy weather, we will all be engaged in an unending battle with weeds over the next few months. Whenever you get a chance to lift your head and look around the garden, you can expect to see even more different plants coming into flower as the spring bloomers revert to vegetative growth.

Don't be surprised if next month sees a large increase in the number of blooming species. I missed many more blooming plants than usual this month and will try mightily to do better next month.

WORLD CONFERENCE MEMORIAL

If you have photos or other images (CD, JPEG. . .) of any members you believe are distinguished friends of colleagues of your Bromeliad Society, please feel free to send to Rick Ryals at 2169 Nottingham Road, South Daytona, FL 32119 or

coordinate with our Society through Barbara Partagas.

THANKS TO THE SHOW'S HELPERS

Thanks to Joy Parrish, Winnie Lynch and Lenny Goldstein for all their help with the head tables. A Job very well done.

Thanks to Karl Green for his donation of crystal.

Thanks, Barbara Sparling

Spring Cleaning

by Alan Herndon

Spring cleaning is a ritual designed to encourage a fresh start after the winter doldrums. With bromeliads, it would be more accurate to talk about a dry-season cleaning to give your plants the best chance to thrive in the coming rainy season, but the motivation is much the same, so I am appropriating the well-known phrase for my own purposes.

Part of the regular maintenance program to keep your bromeliads healthy will involve some spring cleaning. Left to themselves, many bromeliads naturally form tight clumps. This can occur in almost any genus of bromeliad, but is a particular problem among the clumping species of *Tillandsia*. To see the problem, think about the normal life cycle within a growing clump. Individual plants within the rosette bloom, produce pups and slowly die. As the old mother plants die, they are typically attacked by a number of fungi – including some that can attack living plants. Growing pups have natural defenses against invasion by these fungi, but these defenses can be overwhelmed when a large and continuous source of new fungal propagules is in intimate contact with the growing pup over a long time period. Plants of *Tillandsia*



Buy a Mug at the Meeting

Coffee mugs will be for sale at the meeting. For a simple \$10.00 you get a beautiful mug and deliver money to aid your society.

streptophylla and *Tillandsia caput-medusae*, for example, can produce several pups at the base of each mother plant. During the rainy season, the dying mother plants tend to remain constantly wet, providing an excellent breeding ground for fungi. In a large clump, with several dying mother plants, every rosette in the clump is constantly being bathed in fungal spores. Eventually, the entire clump suffers as pathogenic fungi become common enough to start killing growing pups.

This is basically why we cannot grow *Tillandsia* clumps as large and thick as they can in the Southwest. At some point they become too thick and patches begin to die, breaking up the clump. (Strictly speaking, if you have a greenhouse where the plants are protected from rain, and a large amount of time to devote to ensuring your plants receive the correct amount of water, you can grow much larger clumps.) If you are growing your plants outdoors, selective removal of dead and dying rosettes will allow the clumps to dry out more quickly and remove much of the source of potentially dangerous fungus. It is more effective to do this before the rains start, although it is beneficial at any time.

Remember that the microclimate your clumps are growing in is very important in this operation. Clumps growing in more sun, with more exposure to wind, will dry out more quickly between rains, and will require less pruning. Plants growing in more shaded, wetter areas need to be pruned more frequently to maintain their health.

Plants other than *Tillandsia* can also benefit from selective thinning in spring. This is especially true of species that form tight clumps (such as *Aechmea wittmackiana* and many species in *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia*, or many species and hybrids in *Billbergia*). Cutting out the dead or dying mother plants from these clumps provides additional air circulation around the plants and additional light for each remaining rosette. This gives the clump a chance to grow rapidly during the wet season while reducing the opportunity for a pathogenic fungus to establish itself. You might also want to think about shaping a clump for the show table by selective pruning of young pups growing in the wrong places.

In a normal year, we would just be entering the rainy season now. This year, of course, we have had a very wet April and May. In other words, this reminder should have been in th Advisory last month, or even the month before. Still, there is time to start working on your plants now. After all, there are 3 months of prime growing weather between now and the World Bromeliad Conference at the end of September _

plenty of time to get your entries in shape. Perhaps you should start with some judicious Spring Cleaning.

WEBSITES for WORLD CONFERENCE

A basic web page has been created:
wbcinfo.com

It also ties you into the BSI page for the same:
<http://www.bsi.org/events/2012/Orlando2012.html>

or
<http://fcbs.org/WBC2012.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 16-17, 2012

American Bougainvillea Sale
FTBG
9:30 - 4:40

June 29-30

Tropiflora's Summer Sale
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
3530 Tallevast Road
Sarasota, FL 34243

July 14, 2012

FCBS quarterly meeting
Hosted by BSSF

July 14-15, 2012

20th Annual Mango Festival
FTBG
<http://ftbg.org/Events/?date=07-2012&eventID=599>

August 5, 12, 19, 26 and September 5, 2012

Free Sundays at Fairchild

August 19-19, 2012

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale
Sanford Garden Club
407-539-4314 for details

September 24th-30th

20th World Conference – Orlandiana '12

The Caribe Royal,
8101 World Center,
Orlando, FL 32821

Check out the BSI website
(<http://www.bsi.org/events/2012/Orlando2012.html>)
or the Florida Council Website for the latest information.

<http://fcbs.org/>

October 6, 2012
Members' Plant Sale
FTBG
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

October 13-14, 2012
Fall Plant and Orchid Sale
9AM - 5PM
Kanapaha Botanical Garden
4700 S.W. 58th Drive
Gainesville, FL 32608

November 9-11, 2012
RAMBLE
FTBG
9:30 - 4:30

January 23-25, 2013
Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition
TPIE 2013 Show
1950 Eisenhower Blvd. at Port Everglades
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316-4205

Congratulations to Nat DeLeon

Our esteemed leader is one of a handful of people on this earth to have been a member of BSI for over 50 years. Anything done for 50 years is phenomenal. BSI and BSSF are well indebted to those decades of efforts.

Photojournals of Yards

With the increasing size of our photo albums at our facebook pages, ideas sprung out to greater our photo history of the BSSF. The Society invites the plant and photo bugs to walk about their yard with digital camera and photojournal their yard. Delivery of the same can be made via email to your editor who then can put them onto the facebook pages or web page – or both. The result is garden tour without the oppressive heat. And, at meetings we could download the pages and keep on a table for slide show review for those interested in seeing the latest digitally embraced yard.



Come on – act now and be the first to take on this great opportunity.

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

PREVIOUS CHAPTERS MAY BE SEEN IN
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

49.

In a momentum rivaling Hurricane Andrew, rumors among the women of the BSSF passed by phone and text messaging about the tryst between Boss and Linares. Now, the event was seemingly innocuous to the adults involved, but to the women of the society scandal had come. When word reached Marlene, in her now closed confines behind her computer screen beyond view of the Captain and his elementary school principal's stare, she stood up and walked toward the Boss's office and asked that he join her for a cup of coffee . . . outside.

“Why out here, hot as heck out here?” Even after months of dwelling in the 90 degree weather, compounded with 90 percent humidity, the locals' confidently admitted that even they – the thinnest of blooded mammals on the continental U.S. – found the weather intolerably hot.

“You and a married woman is why?”

“What are you talking about? What woman are you talking about?”

“Linares. Don't you remember anything. The first time that I met her, she gave me the first lead. Her husband's poker game. Rodriguez has been milking the old man ever since. Remember now?” Marlene was becoming concerned and her tone of voice was gentle.

“Now that you mention it, yes. Damn. Damn. How did I get into this mess. Jesus H. Christ. What a fool I am. And, why did she lead me to it? What was she thinking? What is going on in this society? Are these tree huggers smoking the wacky tobacky and singing songs around camp fires with classical guitars? What is going on?”

“I don't know.” Marlene said consolingly. “But, think it through. She led you to the lair. She let the rumor leak out. She does not seem concerned about the wildfire of the rumor coming to haunt her and her husband. Heck, everyone and their sister knows by now. Even Channel Six knows – but you are no story to them.”

“Was she setting me up after the arrest of he ex? Is she the Miami Mata Hari? Is she a professional set

up woman?"

"Let me get back to you on that?" And upon finishing that sentence, Marlene walked back to her cubicle and dialed Candy. After the gentle and almost over-the-line hello, Marlene asked Candy a hypothetical question: would Linares do almost anything to help out her ex – Marin? Candy, who had more tenure in the society than Marlene, knew the answer without hesitation. "Yes."

"What about her present husband? Doesn't her allegiance belong to him?"

"Oh, you beautiful and gullible young latin lovely. You think marriage and love are synonymous. Heck, I was married once, and love was the last thing involved. Sex was rare, love was rarer. Deceit was daily, and our respective private lives were 'understood.'" So you may ask, 'What was the bond, Candy?' I will tell you – money. My husband had lots of it. And, we would entertain with it. Daily. Often extravagantly. Comfortably. And almost always happily."

"So Linares' husband is wealthy?"

"Not two-story, one yacht, Gables-by-the-Sea wealthy. But, he has a ranch house in Pinecrest fully paid for and enough money for a few vacations each year and dinners out any night. Understand?" She did and nodded into the phone and gently placed the receiver into his cradle without saying good bye.

50.

Unloading his can of God in a Jar was more difficult than anything he tried to unload for the past decade. Rodriguez, after numerous times of having sticky fingers at crime sights, could always deliver goods to the right party for the right price. He was never having difficulty finding the person or place to unload used wares. But, cancer causing liquids were proving to be more than just a task. Either those who cared little for plants could care less or those who knew plants had enough knowledge to stay away from the stuff.

This irked him so much that when he arrived at the bromeliad poker night, he wanted to see if he could bully a plant or two out of Gorts who unloaded the toxin in him the previous night of cards. When he arrived, he asked for Gorts because he could not see him seated at the table.

"Gorts ain't here. In fact, you may never see him again. Haven't 'ya heard?"

"Heard what?" Rodriguez asked with genuine naivete.

"Man is MIA. House in foreclosure. Wife gone to who knows where. Kids out of the private school and not enrolled in public school. Car not seen for weeks. Business doors shut and eviction notice on the same. Man is gone."

"I bet he is in witness protection program now." offered Martinez without explanation.

"Why would a guy like Gorts need witness protection?" Rodriguez asked.

"Don't know for sure, but he mentioned some things he touched on a few occasions. Like how he knew this mob that needed his CITES license to get plants into Miami. The plants would be used as mules by some drug lord in Colombia. Heck, the stories he told. Boats with cocaine under the paneling in the 1980's. Trips weekly to the islands with those boats. Planes riding low in the everglades and dropping off to the Indians in the 1990's. And, then that thing with the plants." Martinez explained.

"You are telling me a tree hugging nerd BSSF member has the *cojones* to pretend to be a *bandito* with the 21st century scarfaces?" Rodriguez asked knowing the answer to be in the negative.

"Not just Smith. Heck, I think Bea, the judge and others were in it as well. They used to come here on occasion and be a little tipsy from drinking and let their devils between their chin and nose betray them. Heck, Bea would come here and talk without breathing about how her plants and CITES license had been the only source of income for her for the past three years. Judge, retired as he was, claimed he made the money on e-bay. But, Bea told us he was into the plants business like she was. No explanation was ever given. But, she acknowledged they were into the same thing."

"Well, I'll be damned," thought Rodriguez. "These panty-waisted, tree-hugging, Obama-sympathizing people he practically stole money from these poker nights were living a second life. They were secret thieves. Thieves among gentlemen and women." Rodriguez had to think these thoughts to himself, but had to run to Boss to let him know about these people.

Shirts for Sale

Contact Sandy Roth for the exclusive BSSF shirts adorned with the original art of Urszula Dudek. Price is right, look is good, and cause is priceless.