



## BromeliAdvisory

**May 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: Antonio Arbelaez  
Raffle: Peter & Clara Kouchalakos  
Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez  
Photos: Michael Schmale**

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

**JUNE 3, 2008 , 7:30 PM**

**SPEAKER:** Harry Luther – If you are going to grow bromeliads, you will need to know the name Harry Luther. . .

**RAFFLE:** Lavinia Acton

**FOOD TABLE:** Josefa Leon, Marilyn Gresh, Joy Parrish and Barbara Sparling

#### **Who Is Harry E. Luther?**

**Harry Luther** is the Director of the Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center, and Curator of Living Collections at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 811 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236. Recognized as a specialist in the systematics of the Bromeliaceae, he is presently engaged in the Bromeliaceae treatments for Ecuadorian flora (more than four hundred species) and monographic studies of Aechmea and Tillandsia. Having studied bromeliads in cultivation, in herbaria and in the field from Florida and Mexico to Peru and Brazil. He has written over one hundred thirty articles that serve both as a definitive introduction of new or revised taxa and as general information for non-scientists. His definitive book "An alphabetical list of Bromeliad binomials" (1991) still demands collectors' attention.

As one author put it, "If you are going to grow Bromeliads, you will need to know the name Harry Luther, the foremost bromeliad taxonomist in the field today."



SHOW CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE  
*By: Robert Meyer*

### Running Out of Breath

Being editor to this publication, treasurer to the society, and Chairman of the Annual Show has been more than draining. At this juncture, one responsibility has to be released. And, this is mandated by an exhaustion evidenced by a serious shortness of breath,

Having a need to shed no less than one of the three responsibilities, I ask that someone boldly take the helm of the Annual Show which actually requires the least time consumption and delivers more reward. Anything but tedious, the Annual Show is a splendid event which includes hundreds of plants and generosity by so many members that any leader's future will be less time-consuming and almost exclusively enjoyable.

I will still help in the matters to which I have been engaged in the past – just to enjoy Sandy's food, if nothing else – and look forward to seeing a sea of raised hands at the next meeting when I posture the question of who is interested in taking over this honorable responsibility.

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### **NURSERY TOUR & YARD VISIT**

Only half of the visit remained, the weather was warm, and the timing was not right for some people. With all of these causes to reach for "Plan B" the tour of the yard (singular) was a success. It may be that Lori Weyrick started something off which we can suppose will be a habit in the society's future.

Lori writes:

Thank you to all that came to our first 'Yard Tour' program on Saturday May 10th at my home in the Redland. We spent a lazy afternoon walking the garden and sharing bromeliad information and other stories under the chickee hut and around the pond. It was great to get together in an informal setting and get to know my fellow members of the Bromeliad Society.

Many thanks to Sandy Roth for helping me set everything up...

We would like to make "Yard Tours" and "Nursery Visits" a ongoing part of our program starting again in September but we need your help. If you would like to share your yard or nursery with members of the society for a tour please give me a call. I know that there are some wonderful bromeliad collections/ plantings to be seen out there!!!

### **NEW MEMBERSHIP**

**Aisha and Walter Perez** joined at the show. They live at 810 Morningside Drive, Miami Springs, FL 33166. 305-494-0809. Please add them to your 2008 Roster.

Also rejoining at the 2008 show were **Anne Keppler and Chieng Manlee**. Anne lives at 5851 SW 76 St., Miami, 33143 (305-663-2973). Chieng lives at 6606 SW 115 Ct., Miami, 33173 (305-274-2195)

### In case you missed it

by Robert Meyer

**Terrie Bert** gave us her "Common Stuff to Buy and Grow" program. It was delivered visually on slides and came with numerous brochures that she downloaded from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences web site: <HTTP://IFAS.UFL.EDU>.

Thematically concentrating on three core issues of the different plants, Bert focused on: (1) Propagation; (2) Growing Conditions; and (3) Problems associated with the main species of bromeliads.

Some of the common plants included *Aechmea fasciata*, *Billbergia nutans*, *Guzmania lingulata*, *Guzmania wittmackiana*, and assorted *Vriesea*, *Neoregelia*, and *Tillandsia*.

My grossly broad brush simplistic review would deliver conclusory rationalizations that *Aechmea* should propagate by pup removal, be fertilized lightly around the outer leaves, and be watered only a few times each week.

*Dyckia* are similar in not wanting too much water, loving sun, but Bert warned of their far reaching roots.

In the opposite spectrum are shade-loving *Cryptanthus* and *Guzmania* who adore hugging tree roots and living in a loose medium.

She analogized *Tillandsia* and *Vriesea* in that they can tolerate some, but royally oppressive, sun. She also discussed *Neoregelia*'s delicate and

simultaneously resilient style.

The handouts were freely given and can easily be downloaded at the site in this article's first paragraph.

This review fails to deliver the oodles of information delivered by Bert.



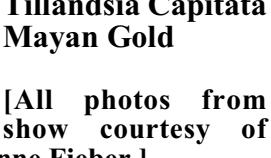
Smiling Sandy Roth



**nidularium**

**Tillandsia Capitata  
Mayan Gold**

[All photos from  
show courtesy of  
Michael Schmale or Lynne Fieber.]



## Cryptanthus Anyone?

The *Cryptanthus* Society home page is up and active. This page includes membership information and application, news and announcements, links to the *Cryptanthus* photos in the Photo Index and a link to the *Cryptanthus* species key.

The Cryptanthus Society home page:  
<http://fcbs.org/cryptanthussociety>



**Harlo Von Wald and Patti Gonzalez**



**Nat DeLeon, Eileen DeLeon and Karl Green**

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please welcome new member **Elaine Spear** who joined at the May meeting. Elaine lives at 5500 Snapper Creek Road, Coral Gables, FL 33156.

**Betty McQuale** was recently honored by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden for her twenty years volunteer service. Congratulations Betty!

We have nametags for the following new members:

**Maricelo and Leo Castro**

**Dennis and Joan Murasaki**

**Aisha and Walter Perez**

**Cynthia Christoph**

Please come to the meeting to pick them up. Remember, there will be a door prize drawing only for members for wearing their name tags!

### Membership Book Correction

Telephone correction: The 2008 Roster has an incomplete phone number for Marilyn Gresh & Andy Sigr. The full number is 305-546-9403.

Any new members who have not received their name tags should call Moyna at 305-251-5289.

### 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, 2008 Sunday 9:00 AM Bus Tours

**WHERE:** 4400 W. Cypress Street  
Tampa, FL 33607

**NOTE: This is Labor Day Weekend**

#### CONTACT:

[www.sheraton.com/tampaairport](http://www.sheraton.com/tampaairport)

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

### SUGGESTION BOX, GIVE YOUR \$.02

The Suggestion Box, although missing at one time, should be making a reappearance at the meeting. Take the time to give your two cents.

### DON'T MISS THIS!!!!!

Culture classes commence soon. Starting at 6:45 PM and ending at 7:00 PM, our experts will be coming in to share some of their time-honored secrets on what we can do to improve our horticultural returns. AT THE MEETING, specifics will be announced about when this activity will commence.

### Weevil Information on IFAS Pages

The Evil weevil is more thoroughly reviewed on the IFAS pages than one would care to admit. The depth of review is almost dizzying. When searching in the web site for such information, hundreds

of results popped up. Including the almost-too-thorough drawing at the left.

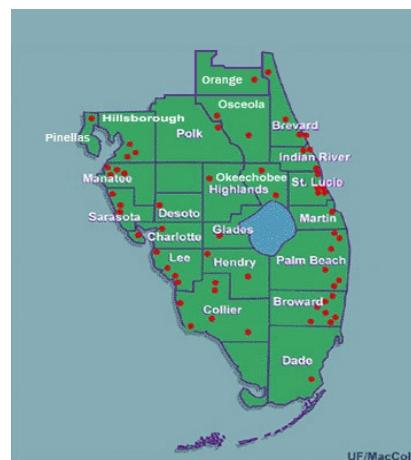
On one site, they list the weevils – totaling 26 in number. Over 500 are known to exist. Our region's most common problematic weevil is *Metamasius Callizona*. The little bugger is pictured to your right and has employed many a scientist with grants over the past several years.

Originally gobbling up native bromeliads in the Everglades, and eventually moving to the inhabited areas and chewing on ornamental plants, the evil Weevil was becoming more than a common pest. *Metamasius callizona* has devastated populations of *Tillandsia utriculata* at sites in southeastern Florida. But, science rebuffed the tiny tyrant with application (by Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department) the biological control agent *Lixadmontia franki* – a fly



UF/J.L. Castner

Consequently, the first release of the fly was made about 9 a.m. on June 29, 2007 consisting of 56 adult flies, 27 females and 29 males. The release location was the swamp forest. Scientists are awaiting results. Map of distribution of *M. callizona* in



Florida, 2006.

For complete story, go to:  
<http://bromeliadbiota.ifas.ufl.edu/wvbrom.htm>