



# BromeliAdvisory

June 2010

## BSSF Officers 2010

### WEBPAGE:

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

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**Raffle:** Mike Michalski

**Refreshments:** Patty Gonzalez

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

**JUNE 2010, 7:30 PM**

**SPEAKER:** – Marina Tendler – Peruvian specialist

**RAFFLE TABLE:** Paul Finlayson and Bob Grayson

**FOOD:** Usual Suspects

Marina Tendler is a co-manager with Jose Tendler of RAINBOW MAKER LANDSCAPES, LLC which does business as Rainbow Maker Landscapes. Information about the Tendler business can be found

on the internet at <http://www.rainbowmakerlandscapes.com/about.html>.



The pictures at the web site show numerous brilliantly prepared landscapes focusing primarily upon bromeliads against wood, rock or other media. They are

open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM at their location – 17810 W Dixie Highway, Suite A-B, North Miami Beach, FL 33160.

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## Unusual Blooming Patterns Continue

by Alan Herndon



The unusual pattern of more intense blooming (both in terms of numbers of plants and numbers of species) seen last year seems to have followed us into the new year.

### *Billbergia 'Muriel'*

Waterman', a hybrid made by none other than Mulford Foster, grows very well for us in southern Florida, but does not normally bloom. This year, plants bloomed en masse around the time of our show.

The albomarginated form of *Aechmea nudicaulis* (flavomarginated would be a better description since the margins are distinctly yellow) blooms regularly for us in southern Florida, but usually only a few scattered plants flower in any given clump, and these usually don't bloom at the same time. This year, plants have been blooming in large masses simultaneously.

Last month's speaker, Craig Morell, reports that a large clump of *Dyckia "sulphurea"* in the succulent bed at Pinecrest Gardens is putting up many spikes this year in contrast to past years when 1 (possibly 2) spikes were all you could expect during the blooming season.

Most spectacular, however, has been the behavior of *Canistrum triangulare*. *Canistrum triangulare* has been known for years as a plant that rarely blooms under our conditions. The appearance of a bloom on a single plant was cause for excitement. I currently have 3 pots of the clone tracing back to Margo Racca (with a total of 10 blooming size rosettes). No fewer than 7 of these rosettes have inflorescences this year. I also have 3 pots of a smaller clone from cultivated sources. Unfortunately, all three pots spent most of the past year buried beneath a more vigorous neighbor. Each pot still contains only a single rosette. Despite this, one of the plants has an inflorescence.

These are just random observations from my own limited universe. If you have noticed other plants blooming more profusely than in years past, or, especially, plants that have rarely bloomed before this year, let us know.

It is tempting to blame the bitterly cold winter (yes,

I can hear the derisive laughter from those living in more northerly regions) for our unusual blooms this year. It is certainly possible that a near-death experience could prod a plant into flowering. Unfortunately, the case is not air tight. There is the inconvenient problem that unusual blooms were seen well before winter ever started. Also, the plants I have seen flowering with the most vigor are plants that seem to have suffered no ill effects (leafburn, secondary fungal infection, etc.) from the cold. Of course, if we have another extended period of freezing/near freezing weather this coming winter, we might gain more understanding of how cold affects blooming. I, for one, am willing to forego the opportunity for further knowledge under such uncontrolled conditions, and give those growing bromeliads in colder areas of the state an opportunity to take the lead on this study.

## Request for Information on Effects of Cold

by Alan Herndon

Everyone remembers, and undoubtedly would just as soon forget, the frightfully long cold period we suffered through this past January. We are still



seeing plant damage increase as time progresses, although it is unlikely that any plants currently looking fully healthy are still harboring damage from the cold.

Before expunging the memory of this cold forever, we should take the opportunity to see how we can use our sad experiences to guide us to more successful bromeliad growing in future winters. In particular, if we can determine what plants are most susceptible to cold, we can plan our protective efforts more efficiently in coming years. Our cold, of course, was nowhere near as severe as the cold experienced in more northern parts of the state, so we have detailed information available on the relative susceptibility of species and hybrids that would all be in the extreme damage category up north.

In our own experience at the nursery, many plants turned out to be surprisingly susceptible. Of course, you need to remember that we actively resisted the coming cold. We have a curtain across the northern end of our sales shadehouse

that was lowered to block the north wind. We also ran water over the growing areas once the temperature was clearly headed below freezing.

Among the surprises, *Aechmea tillandsioides* was almost wiped out in our collection. This includes a few different clones, most having grown under our conditions for 2 or more years. *Aechmea chantinii* showed only limited damage immediately after the coldest weather, but secondary fungal infections began showing up later and ultimately affected virtually all blooming size plants. Amazingly, rapidly growing seedlings were the least affected plants in this species. We also lost most of our *Aechmea retusa*. *Aechmea 'Malvo'* was another plant that showed little or no damage immediately after the cold. Some weeks later, a band of killed leaf tissue was apparent at the base of the leaf blades in all plants.

Of course, *Aechmea fulgens* is well known to be sensitive to cold, and most of our plants showed heavy immediate damage. All of the plants lost 70-80% of their leaf surface, but most seem to be recovering. Apparently, this species is not so susceptible to secondary fungal infection.

Some *Alcantarea* plants were damaged (exposed sections of the leaves were burned), and others were not in a seemingly random pattern. Unfortunately, this means you have to assume all of your *Alcantarea* need protection.

*Cryptanthus* is known for cold sensitivity, and most plants were heavily damaged during this past winter (although I have been told *Cryptanthus maritimus* weathered the winter without particular protection in Gainesville.) Most seem to be coming back, although it will some time before we get any specimens to size again.

Most *Neoregelia* (species and hybrids alike) handled the cold weather extremely well (plants in subgenus *Hylaeaicum* were the exception.) Most of the damage we suffered was found in Neo 'Fireball' (approximately 20% of the plants), Neo 'SuperFireball' (a Fireball-*compacta* hybrid), Neo 'Orange Crush', Neo 'Mo Pepper Please', Neo 'Morado' and Neo 'Paula'. The white margins of Neo 'Bossa Nova' also suffered damage belatedly although damage to the green areas of the leaves was rarely seen. In the subgenus *Hylaeaicum*, there are a few species that grow well in southern Florida (*Neoregelia mooreana*, *Neoregelia pendula* and *Neoregelia rosea*), and these showed no trouble with the cold in our collection. Plants in the *Neoregelia*

*eleutheropetala-myrmecophila* complex, however, are difficult to grow well under our conditions normally, and we generally killed off by the cold.

*Nidularium*, as expected, was not noticeably affected by our cold weather. Unfortunately, we do not have enough bigeneric hybrids involving *Nidularium* to see whether they were likewise tolerant.

Most *Orthophytum* species showed no ill effects from the cold. *Orthophytum maracasense* was the most evident exception, losing almost all leaves to frost burn. These plants are growing out very well (even flowering) although they have recovered only a fraction of their leaf area. Another species badly hurt by the cold was a single collection of *Orthophytum disjunctum* that likewise lost most leaves to the cold and has recovered quickly. Other plants in cultivation as *Orthophytum disjunctum* showed no damage. *Orthophytum ophiuroides*, a miniature more closely related to *Orthophytum naviooides* than the previous two species, did not show immediate damage from the cold weather, but over time, several rosettes died.

*Tillandsia* species, likewise, generally handled the cold extremely well. We did lose all of our *Tillandsia intermedia* and only the tips of previously lengthy *Tillandsia funckiana* stems are still alive. *Tillandsia xerographica* responded to the cold by developing a light red color on the most exposed leaves. This redness was certainly a sign of stress, but the stress never reached a dangerous level, and the color actually made the plants more attractive. Unfortunately, new growth is coming up with the normal green color.

As expected, *Vriesea* species were unaffected for the most part.

Given the differences in local climate (those closer to the coastline will generally not get as cold) and growing conditions (a canopy of trees overhead provides an excellent thermal insulation), I expect everyone will have a different list of plants that suffered most damage. Please share this information with us so we might all be better prepared the next time.

## In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

Craig Morell showed up to tell everyone the hot topics of fertilizing. And, basically how to do

the same and be eco friendly.



The basic premise comes from the three numbers on the bags. Nitrogen [N], phosphorous [P] and potassium [K]. Each has its use and can be an abuse if too strong.

The basic rule of thumb is N = foliage, P = root development and K = leaf or tissue development. Craig pointed out that Scotts Bonus, very high in nitrogen, was a wonder to the yard man as growth would be rampant after layering the yard with the green blue stuff.

Some items are low all around: Rose Tone [4-3-3]. And certain plants respond to them – Angel's Trumpet. Palms and heliconias respond to potassium, so they get high K numbers and lower P numbers.

Fertilizers respond to rain and sun. This could mean putting osmocote in the soil and covering with mulch or compost (which Craig says is not full of nutrition – especially manganese or iron which palms often desire and need.)

Small facts learned: saltpeter greens things up, but the epsom can be dangerous. Sulfate and potash can kill as well. To keep growth regular, low numbered Bonzi may be an answer – especially container plants. For containers, back off the N number.

No matter what the plant: one motto was learned – stop feeding the plant and start feeding the soil. And put the fertilizer below the soil top by “dibbling” that is puncturing the soil with a hole and spilling the fertilizer into the hole, and cover spot with dirt when completed.

## What's in Bloom - May 2010

By Alan Herndon

Once again, *Aechmea chantinii* is in bloom and order is restored to the universe. A large number of *chantinii* are in bud, so I expect to see it continue in bloom for a long time to come.

This month, it is evident that we have a greater number and variety of plants blooming than we have had for the past several months. Based on plants currently in bud, we can expect many more species of *Neoregelia*, *Nidularium* and *Vriesea* to be blooming

in coming months. The larger numbers should continue through the summer, although the list of plants in bloom will probably change considerably each month.

I need to point out that *Aechmea alopecurus*, although it appears on the list for the first time this year, was also in bloom last month. It was unaccountably overlooked.

*Aechmea (alopercurus, angustifolia, blumenavii, bracteata, comata, carvalhoi, caudata, chantinii, comata, contracta, cylindrata, distans (formerly *Hohenbergia distans*) disticantha, germiniana, gurkeniana, kleinii, Little Harv, luddeemanniana, mexicana, milsteiniana, nudicaulis (several different clones), pineliana, pimenti-velosoi, racinae, victoriana, warasii, wittmackiana)*

*Ananas nanus*

*Araeococcus parviflorus*

*Billbergia (viridiflora)*

*Canistropsis (billbergioides, microps)*

*Canistrum seidelii, triangulare*

*Cryptanthus warasii*

*Fosterella (caulescens, petiolata)*

*Guzmania (lingulata, wittmackii)*

*Hohenbergia (leopoldo-horstii, stellata, undulatifolia)*

*Lymania (alvimii, spiculata)*

*Neoregelia (Annick, bahiana, Bossa Nova, burle-marxii ssp. meeanum, camorimiana, carolinae (several clones), chlorosticta, compacta, correia-araujoi, eltoniana, johannis 'Fairchild', laevis, laevis maculata, macwilliamsii, magdalena, marmorata, olens ("fluminensis"), olens cv. 'Marie', oligantha, sanguineum, Sheba)*

*Nidularium (innocentii, longiflorum)*

*Orthophytum (burle-marxii, disjunctum, duartei, fosterianum, harleyi, lemei, lymaniana, magalhaesii, maracasense, rubiginosum)*

*Pitcairnia (amblyosperma, recurvata, xanthocalyx, yaupi-bajaensis)*

*Portea (petropolitana var. extensa)*

*Quesnelia (humilis)*

*Tillandsia (araujoi, correallii, fasciculata densispica, stricta)*

*Vriesea (ensiformis, erythrodactylon, incurvata, Mariae, poenulata, schwackeana, simplex)*

## President's Message

By Robert Meyer

Now that you have gathered your breath, pay attention to the various notices below which involve the day-to-day events of the organization. If one catches your eye – rise to the call and respond. Become engaged. So many people need to be more involved.

We are opening new concepts for participation. The committee for the scholarship fund will be exciting. And, if it follows most scholarships based upon merit, we may engage in essay reviews to determine entitlement – something else which would require your time, but time well spent.

We are conceiving a methodology for more participation with the raffle table – a one time per year event for anyone. And, the knowledge that may be obtained would benefit all.

We have show and tell every month. Be bold enough to bring the plant in so that Nat or Karl or Alan tell you what to expect of the plant, and maybe offer its name as well.

The Clone Project handled primarily by Alan and Nat could never think of denying help. And, what an education that would be!

If you are not involved, get involved. If you are involved, get more involved. If you dare not to, you may be the next body found in Corbin A.

## Barbara Sparling Thank You

Thanks to JOY PARRISH, JACKIE GAUDIO and LENNY GOLDSTEIN for their help placing the plants, ribbons and crystal on the stage. Also a great big thank you to all of you that set up the tables on the stage, we made it to the party much earlier.

## Need a Committee

The Bromeliad Society of South Florida wants to commence a committee to investigate the creation of a long-discussed, never-acted-upon, concept of providing a scholarship for a college-aged student attending university or college in the area or from the area. If you are interested, please contact Barbara Partagas at the next meeting or email Robert C. Meyer at [meyerrobertc@cs.com](mailto:meyerrobertc@cs.com).



## Did You Leave Something Behind?

Would the person that received the crystal plate engraved 1988 World Conference please call me, 305-235-6477 and I will exchange it for the correct award. Thank you, Barbara Sparling

## Polly Pascal Passes Away

We were sorry to hear of the death of long time member Polly Pascal in April. Polly was one of our first South Florida Bromeliad judges and although she lived in Broward was a faithful and long time member of BSS. According to the BSI accredited judge's page, she was a judge emeritus. She represented BSBC many times (years) for FCBS functions. She was a president fo the Bromeliad Society of Broward. She was published in the BSI Journal. She died April 10, 2010 at 79 years of age.

## Get on (the) Board

Soon, there will be a gathering of the nomination committee as to next year's Board and other officers. Show interest, and get your name on the slate.



## The World Conference is Coming

WHAT: 19<sup>th</sup> World Conference

WHEN: July 26, 2010 - August 1, 2010

WHERE: New Orleans

Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel, 39 Canal St. in downtown New Orleans. The Astor Crown Plaza Hotel is conveniently located at the corner of Bourbon & Canal Streets

WHY: This is history, and maybe party too

INFO:

[http://www.gnobromeliads.com/GNOBS\\_WBC\\_2010.htm](http://www.gnobromeliads.com/GNOBS_WBC_2010.htm)

## Roster Correction

Tom and Nancy Steinmetz, address should be changed to 8415 Ryan Lake Dr., N.E., Stacy, MN 55079. 651-462-8011

## Suggestion Box

Anything need to be changed – other than the room's configuration? Put a suggestion in the suggestion box.

## Volunteer for Raffle Table

Contact Mike Michalski to be the party who delivers the plants for the raffle. Why? Two reasons – helps you clean out the yard, and you get to keep a piece of the pie. If you wish, you can donate your portion to the BSSF

## Want to Write an Article

Write about anything that tickles your fancy. This is not a scientific journal, although Alan Herndon's pieces are well worthy of publication in the same. Articles over the years have included humor and more. The common denominator has always been one simple item: bromeliads. Give it a whirl.

## Murder in Corbin A

© by Robert Meyer

*Part 2*

When the sirens slowly calmed, Paul rose from his plastic patio chair and strode to the door. At this time he fully understood that his cloudless night of sweet undisturbed tranquility beneath the Miami moon was about to be surrendered to bureaucratic uproar by the Miami-Dade County police forces together with Coral Gables police. He strode to the door, turned the handle, and immediately was blinded by the sharp red-white flashing which resonated from numerous vehicles parked outside the premises. Expecting to see a detective or ambulance worked at the door, or at least silhouetted against the glare of the flashing lights, Paul was surprised to see no one. He squinted his eyes, hoping to clear his sight, and still no one appeared.

But, a voice came from the foreground, a husky voice, and their utterances made Paul follow the sound by looking down about his knees where the voice apparently came.

"Hi sir. My name is Vazquez. I am with Miami-Dade Metro. Show us where the hurt lady is."

"She is right over there," Paul said while pointing to his left, to the door to Corbin A. Immediately, emergency rescue in white, police in brown, and a gurney galloped to the opening. Paul, brushed by the moving hoard, stepped back, and watched the

stampede efficiently and seemingly organized move to the site without using one single extra step.

By the time he entered the room, he overheard one paramedic speak to the crowd, "There is no pulse." Another responded, "Judging by the blood coagulation, she has been here for hours." "I hear nothing on the stethoscope."

"Cold to my touch." added Vazquez. And within moments, a white sheet was placed over the body, lifted onto the gurney and whisked back to the driveway where the ambulance waited with rear door opened.

At this time, Vazquez walked toward Paul and as he neared, Paul recognized that his approaching gait never made his height increase. For the first time this confusing night, Paul understood that Vazquez, at best, was four feet tall. His arms were short and stumpy. His legs were also short and bowed. His head was proportionate, and the only thing which made him look slightly irregular was the long Havana-like stogie protruding from his mouth.

With cigar still in his mouth, Vazquez spoke with a slight impediment, and asked, "Why don't we go somewhere else and discuss what happened this evening which led you to find this body. Is there somewhere where we can talk and no one will be able to disturb us?"

"Yes sir. The coffee room over in the auditorium is a nice quiet place." They walked the fifty feet for what Paul thought was fifty yards. And upon sitting there, Vazquez immediately asked, "Do you know this woman named Bea Smith?"

Paul's thoughts of her immediately flourished like fireworks. She had been at most bromeliad meetings. She was at numerous water color painting classes in the same room. She had been to numerous shows held on most weekends at the garden. She had personally given Paul holiday tips at the end of each of the past three years, although most others had not. In turn, he would hold her door open and carry plants to her Mercedes vehicle without her ever having to ask. And, their relationship grew to where she had hosted him for Thanksgiving dinner the past two years as she knew that his family lived mostly in Georgia – a travel too distant and too expensive for him to make for a four-day weekend. And, before his thoughts could think more, he blurted "Not really."