



**March 2009
BSSF Officers 2009**

President Robert Meyer
 VP: Pepe Donayre
 Treasurer: Alan Herndon
 Secretary: Barbara Partagas

DIRECTORS

Past Pres.: Sandy Roth
 Directors:
 Lori Weyrick '09
 Peter Kouchalakos '09
 Judy Pagliarulo '09-'10
 Ofelia Sorzano '09-'10

Editor
Robert C Meyer

Door Prize: Alan Herndon
Education: Nat DeLeon
Hospitality: Elaine Mills
Library: Juan Espinosa
Membership: Moyna Prince
Member Plant Sales: Antonio Arbelaez
Raffle: Peter & Clara Kouchalakos
Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

MARCH 3, 2009, 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: TOM WOLFE: "Judges' Dilemmas"
RAFFLE TABLE: KARL GREEN
FOOD TABLE: Surely there will be chow

Tom Wolfe – Berg Recipient For Future?

Speaker Tom Wolfe brings a great history. Delivering speeches in humble manner, he deceptively conjures thoughts in the unaware mind that bromeliads are merely a hobby. The truth is that the firm commitment by he and wife have delivered to the bromeliad world numerous concepts, hybrids and more which expanded the knowledge of the plant we admire.



In 1999, as BSI President, Tom Wolfe initiated the now respected "Wally Berg Award of Excellence." The award delivers appropriate response to BSI members request that Wally Berg's achievements be formally recognized. If the hobby-turned-passion enthusiasm toward growing bromeliads continues at the Wolfe farm, Wolfe may well enter the realm of receiving the very award he conceived.

INSIDE:
 Special article about our crown jewel.
 Growing *Orthophytum* – part 3
 The 50th anniversary's Annual Show outlined
 In Case You Missed it
 What's In Bloom
 Numerous Items of Importance – last page

Moyna Prince - Our crown Jewel

by Alan Herndon



Moyna Prince has been the heart and soul of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida for the past 20 years. This article is about her life in the Society, but it should be noted that everywhere Moyna was, her husband Ed was also. She and Ed were full partners in the process of guiding the Society during those two decades, and it would be futile to talk about one without the other.

Moyna's introduction to the world of bromeliads came through the yard plantings of Angela and Curtis Dowling, neighbors they discovered shortly after moving into her long-time home on 107 Court. On returning from visiting the Dowlings with the start of their bromeliad collection, Moyna began looking for more plants and the background information that went along with the plants.

Inevitably, they found the BSSF and joined in 1980. By the beginning of 1981, they were in charge of the Raffle Table at the monthly meetings and Moyna was recruited to work with the Security committee at the Annual Show. By 1982, they were in charge of the Security committee for the Annual Show. Since no good deed goes unpunished in a small society, they were pushed 'upward' to head the Show co-chairman committee in 1983. Thereafter, the society decided it would be possible to get even more work out of the Princes by having them work on separate committees. Most often, Moyna was in charge of Security/Hospitality

and Ed was in charge of Commercial Sales. More than once, Moyna took on the duties of general show chair.

A defining moment for the BSSF was hosting the 1988 World Bromeliad Conference. By this time, the Princes were fully integrated into the show production machinery and performed tasks well beyond those implied by their committee assignments. Ed remarked once that the secret to a successful show was simply putting their lives on hold and working full time on the Conference for 2 months.

In addition to serving as a volunteer in the Annual shows, Moyna and Ed began entering plants for competitive judging. Moyna remembers her first entry as a dismal failure, earning a red ribbon. Determined to learn how

to do better, she accosted Dean Fairchild and went up and down the tables with him while he explained the differences between blue ribbon plants and plants judged of lesser quality. Armed with this new



knowledge, she and Ed did better. Ed achieved the first blue ribbon plant in the family (an *Aechmea purpureo-rosea*). With some help from life member Bob Work, who happily shared the less commonly seen plants from his garden with them, they were soon a regular presence on the head table at the Annual Show.

Of course, their success largely depended on the fact that Moyna and Ed studied their plants in detail. They worked with their show plants until they were satisfied with the final appearance, adapting their growing methods to bring out the best in each plant and testing

different ways of displaying the plants to best advantage.

Anxious to learn even more about bromeliads, they attended the BSI judging schools and became accredited judges. BSI judges are expected to pay their own traveling expenses when judging shows _ Ed and Moyna regarded an invitation to judge at a far away show as an opportunity to visit a new city or new country. They took this to an extreme when they were invited to judge at the combined Australia/New Zealand Bromeliad Conference (held in New Zealand) in 2003. In addition to performing their judging duties, they spent time touring through New Zealand and visiting with bromeliad growers from that country. Moyna remembers this trip as one of the highlights in their life.

In 1995, Moyna assumed editorial duties for the BromeliAdvisory. She carried this thankless burden through most of 2007 (with an all too brief respite in 2004). During this period, she not only edited the Advisory, but prepared the mailing labels (she also was in charge of membership), overseeing the printing of the Advisory and mailing the finished product to the membership. She maintains the membership rolls and provides mailing labels for the Advisory to this day.

While serving the BSSF in multiple capacities over nearly 3 decades, Moyna avoided the elective offices in the Society. Ed served many times as an officer or director of BSSF, but Moyna was only induced to serve a single term as a director (1996-1997) and to fill in a seat left empty in the middle of a term (2006). She was also convinced to serve as a director of the BSI for a single term (2000-2002).



In backyard with friends

innumerable necessary tasks.

For the most part, however, Moyna preferred to work in the background, helping the society work smoothly by doing

Moyna has also been a stellar ambassador for the BSSF. She and Ed made friends throughout the bromeliad universe. In the early days, they became close friends of Angela and Curtis Dowling and Bob Work. Later, they became friends with John Anderson and Wally Berg. Through Wally Berg, they met Chester Skotak and, through Chester, the ex-pat American plantsman and artist John Hall. As editor of the Advisory, Moyna kept up a vigorous exchange with other societies, maintaining ties between the BSSF and bromeliad growers throughout the world. Finally, at the Information Table for the Annual Show, Moyna has answered the questions from thousands of strangers and convinced a few each year to join the BSSF.

We thank you, Moyna, for all you have done for us. We hope you will stay with us for a long time to come.

GLOVES BEING OFFERED

Anyone who wants to order the elbow length, elasticized gloves we have had in the past should let Barbara Partagas know. They come in small, medium, and large at a cost of about \$13.00 /pair. Barbara will place an order after the March meeting

SAVE THE DATES:

- April 16 – Plant entries
- April 17 – Plant Judging
- April 18 – Show and Noon Auction
- April 19 – Show

2009 Show - Full speed ahead

All committee chairs for the 2009 Annual Show and Sale are now in place.

General chairman	Alan Herndon
Advertising	Peter Kouchalakos
Art	Sharon Biddix-Maessen
Auction	Peter Kouchalakos
	John Lazarus
Award Sponsors	Joy Parrish
Awards	Barbara Sparling
Catering	Sandy Roth
	Judy Pagliarulo
Classification	Nat DeLeon

Clerks	Karl Green
Commercial	Alan Herndon
Sales	Lynne Fieber
Entries	Peter Kouchalakos
	Dean Fairchild
	Ken Marks
Hospitality	Harlo von Wald
/Security	J u a n E s p i n o s a -
Information Table	Almodovar
Judges	Alan Herndon
Member Sales	Joy von Wald
Photography	Michael Schmale
	Lynne Fieber
Placement	Ofelia Sorzano
Plant Holding	Antonio Arbelaez
Publicity	Robert Meyer
Schedule	Dean Fairchild
Show Booklet	Shirley Berckmans
Staging	Alan Herndon
	Sharon Biddix-Maessen

If you would like to volunteer your time, please speak to the appropriate committee chair (before they track you down). If you would like to be more involved, volunteer to be a co-chair on a committee such as Art, Hospitality, Information Table, Placement, Plant Holding or Staging. If you prefer even greater responsibility or dream of running the show yourself, volunteer to be co-chair of the show and learn about all the various pieces. Note that one benefit of being a volunteer is free access to the show (and sale) even if you are not a member of Fairchild.

Karl and Kris Green made a generous donation of crystal they have won at past shows to BSSF. This crystal will be used for awards in the 2009 show. If you have any crystal you are thinking of donating, please do so by the next general meeting.

If you didn't start choosing and cleaning your plants for the show last month, you should start now.. A cleaning now will make your life much easier later. Remember to concentrate on eliminating any live scale.

If you are serious about winning crystal awards, you will need the Show Schedule. This booklet, describing all of the various categories of entry available in our show, will be available at the March and Apr meetings. The schedule

is the same as that used the past few years. As long as you have a schedule that says Rules:(effective 2005) at the top of the first page, you have the correct copy. Ask at the meeting(s) if you need a new copy.

CALLING ALL DONATIONS

Anyone donating crystal to the society should please bring it in to the March meeting. We need to have a count to place our order for what we need in March.

Thanks Barbara Sparling

What's in Bloom - Feb 2009

Compare this list with the list for Jan 2009 and you will see that most of the plants in bloom are carry-overs from last month. Plants recorded for the first time are in bold letters

Aechmea orlandiana (var. *orlandiana*, Ensign)
Aechmea subgenus *Ortgiesia* (*caudata*, *guaratubensis*)
Aechmea (*amicorum*, *andersoniana*, *azurea*, *bocainensis*, *bromeliifolia*, *capixabae*, *carvahloi*, *chantinii*, *contracta*, David Barry, *fasciata*, *fulgens*, Little Harv, *mexicana*, *milsteiniana*, *miniata* *discolor*, *nudicaulis*, *penduliflora*, *pineliana* (Giant form), *racinae*, *recurvata*, *benrathii*, *seidelii*, *tillandsioides*, Victoria, *victoriana*, *warasii*, *warasii discolor*)
Billbergia (a few species and hybrids still in bloom)
Canistropsis billbergioides
Cryptanthus (*bahianus*, *dianae*)
Fosterella micrantha
Guzmania ()
Lymania corallina
Neoregelia (*compacta*, *eltoniana*, *macwilliamsii*, *marmorata*, Morado, *rosea*, Sheba, Ultima)
Nidularium kris-greeniae
Orthophytum (*compactum*, *disjunctum*, *gurkenii*, *lemei*, *leprosum*, *lymaniana*, *saxicola*)
Pitcairnia (*corallina*, ***fulgens***, ***juncea***)
Portea (*alatisepala*, *grandiflora*, *kermesina*)
Quesnelia (*strobilospica*)
Ronnbergia brasiliensis
Tillandsia (*bartramii*, *dyeriana*, *neglecta*, *tricolor melanocrater*)
Vriesea (*carinata*, ***colnagoi***, *Mariae*, *muelleri*(3122), *pinottii*, *procera*)

Growing Orthophytum - Part 3

by Alan Herndon

As a group, the species of the *Orthophytum disjunctum* complex are difficult to show. The elongated stems tend to be top-heavy and are highly likely to be leaning and bending severely by the time flowers are open. In addition, the lower leaves frequently begin to die before flowers open. I don't know any cultural practices that can consistently alleviate these problems. If you can find any such cures, however, you will be assured of success in shows as long as your methods remain secret. If you grow a few pots each of several species, however, one or two pots may produce show worthy plants just by chance each year.

A somewhat safer approach is to concentrate on the few species that tend to produce plants more amenable to the show table. The upright stems of *Orthophytum lemei* are stiff enough to resist bending, and can be trained to an erect posture during development. Unfortunately, the leaves are very succulent and do not lend themselves to pre-show trimming if the tips brown prematurely. *Orthophytum alvimii* can look like a cluster of small trees in a pot since the basal leaves are few and small while leaves up near the top of the scape are larger and more plentiful. These basal leaves are almost certain



Photo Dorothy Berg – *Orthophytum burle-marxii*

to be dying by the time flowers are produced, but you can probably remove them. The major problem is removing anything from these plants without marring the dense mat of trichomes that cover the surface of the scape and the leaves. In *Orthophytum saxicola*, the extended stems are quite short, so they do not lean. This plant also produces offsets in profusion, so it makes a pleasingly full pot. The downside is that cleaning will involve a lot

of trimming in tight areas right at the soil surface. Similarly, *Orthophytum compactum* has a short, stiff scape that normally remains erect. These plants also produce basal offsets in profusion, so you are likely to have a full pot.

The two best species in the *Orthophytum disjunctum* complex for the show table that I have seen are *Orthophytum conquistensis* and *Orthophytum harleyi*. Plants of these species are not easy to come by yet, but they seem to be well-adapted to our climate, so availability is likely to increase during the coming years. *Orthophytum harleyi*, in particular, has a truly perfect form and growth habit for the show table.

Last Call:

If you have failed to renew your membership, you will be removed from the directory and will not be receiving the Advisory in the future. Contact Moyna Prince and deliver the money to her if you have overlooked this endeavor.

In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

Upon return from cross-Pacific travel to explore the regions adjoining the Australian-hosted Bromeliad World Conference, Jay Thurrot delivered a through account of numerous idiosyncratic episodes of what happens with horticulture in the land down under.

Upon concluding luxurious Qantas air passage, Jay started his adventure in the relatively unknown New Zealand. Using his built in flower radar, he and his wife tripped happenstance upon a green house when leaving the airport. And, like good people of floradore, they entered the sight only to discover *Tillandsia* and *Nidularium* at their feet. Other plants cascading from the walls included orchids, chenille, carnivorous pitcher plants and *cyclamen*.

The brilliant photos included great – but boring to the New Zealand eye – red hot poker plants which grow wildly at the roadside. Between visits to gardens, Thurrot and his better half saw the more common tourist sights which included a fernery, a worm cave, Maori sights, the Blue Mountains (a green Grand Canyon), Featherdale Wildlife Park, Churchill Vineyard, Sydney's market (which had a bromeliad vendor),

Kewarra Beach, Queensway Rail, and more. The ultimate sight in Australia may have been Cairns' Flecker Botanical Gardens – a wonderland of sensory overload where bamboo, ginger, calathea, heliconia, begonia add color to the velvety thick green provided by ferns and other tropical zone flora.

At the end of the speech, Jay offered some photos of the World Conference and showed the now mythically great *Neoreglia* Shell Dance – a red marginated plant of a local grower which had been artificially trained to curl by Nigel Thompson of the Dandaloo Nursery. When people left and discovered the curl was a product of Nigel and not nature, the plant lost some of its intrigue, but the margination provided ample argument of its uniqueness and reason for it to be deemed a great plant of the future.

The photo tour ended with Conference Tours of local nurserymen, many being on small lots in residential neighborhoods – akin to our Michalski or Arbelaez. Very interesting photos in that their choice plants are not identical to our own.

Jay and his wife graciously admitted us to the secrets of the World Conference which was for most of us too many miles and too many dollars away from our homes and budget. We greatly thank them for the opportunity to vicariously enjoy the bi-annual World Conference through their camera's lens.

MINI AUCTION

There will be a mini-auction of rare Nat DeLeon hybrid plants at the next meeting. Proceeds go to advertising for our Annual Show. Great opportunity to gather a rare plant and give money to a great cause. Bring the checkbook.

EARLY BIRDS GET TO READ

The great BSSF library will open its doors at 7PM on the first Tuesday of each month at the Corbin Building – the monthly meetings' venue. Bring the bifocals.

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

MICHALSKI RSVP's NEEDED Education Seminar with Free Food

Mike Michaski opens his doors to have people come to his home either Saturday March 7, 2009. Call him to RSVP as he will give out free plants, teach you how to prepare plants for growth or show, and feed you some of his famous cave man hot dogs. 305-279-2416.

ROAD TRIP

It's official: we are going to have another road trip. It will be local this year – visiting a few local nurseries in a span of a few hours on an agreed Saturday within the next few weeks. More details will be discussed at the meeting. A sign up sheet will be there. If you cannot be at the meeting, call someone to proxy and sign for you.

Calling for Award Sponsors

Anyone wishing to donate money for an award for the Annual Show, need only contact Joy Parrish. E-mail OWENJOY@aol.com or give her a ring.