



**September 2007  
BSSF OFFICERS 2007**

**President Sandy Roth  
VP Sharon Biddix-Maessen  
Sec. Peggy Fisher  
Treas. Robert Meyer**

**DIRECTORS**

**Lori Weyrick '07  
Peter Kouchalakos '07-'08  
John Lazarus '07-'08  
Alan Herndon '06-'07  
VACANCY**

**Editors**

**Moyna Prince  
Robert C Meyer  
Lynne Fieber**

**Door Prize: Alan Herndon  
Education: Nat DeLeon  
Hospitality: Elaine Mills  
Library: Lynne Fieber  
Membership: Moyna Prince  
Member Plant Sales: Anthony Arbelaez  
Raffle: Peter & Clara Kouchalakos  
Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez**

| What        | Who              |
|-------------|------------------|
| Sales Table | Antonio Arbelaez |

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2007 MEETING 7:30 PM**

**SPEAKER:** Lynne Fieber – the annual slide show for the Annual Show. This annual presentation is fast becoming a favorite.

For those too sick to show at the Spring Show, this will be your opportunity to see what you missed. It was a good one.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Joan Agurcia, Lori Weyrick, Judy Pagliarulo, Shirley Berckmans, Barbara Spencer, and Juan Espinosa.

**RAFFLE:** Kris and Karl Green

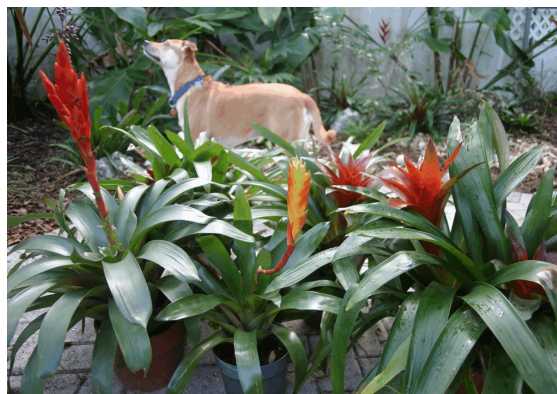
**2007 EXTRAVAGANZA**

September 29, 2007

Hilton, Ft. Lauderdale (954)920-3300

Single/Double \$89.00 until September 14, 2007

Speaker: **Chester Skotak**, bromeliad hybrids (his ace subject)



Lynne's Precious Dog with Precious *Guzmania*

## WILL IT EVER END ??

### President's Message

Last month's talk was very interesting, but then again... Craig Morrell's always interesting in a quirky way.

I learned that 89 degrees was a magic number in the heat index as far as plants starting to stress out. As I walk around my garden....I see stress !!! So I ran off to Atlantic Fertilizer with Juan Espinosa and purchased K Mag to supplement my garden's delicate condition. Now I only wish that it wasn't so hot so I could go outside to spread the granules to protect my garden....maybe tomorrow...after all tomorrow is another day.

Please remember that the Broward Extravaganza is on the 29th and we need to support our Bromeliad Brothers and donate some time to make it a success. Also, try to stay for the weekend if possible, it is a nice way to get to know each other and make new friends.

Peace and Love  
**Sandy Roth**

## WHO CAN BE A JUDGE OF A BROMELIAD'S CHARACTER?

BSSF has lost a number of BSI accredited judges and it's important we train some new ones. Anyone interested in undergoing the training should contact Moyna Prince at 305-251-5289 or MoynaP@bellsouth.net

You will need to make a certain commitment. Judges schools are held over a 3 year period, 2 schools a year. You'll learn how to judge a show plant and will be tested on what you've learned. In addition, it's necessary to travel to different shows throughout the state, at your own expense. Show judging takes place on Fridays, schools are held at weekends.

So if you've ever worked as a clerk at one of our shows and wondered what all that muttering was about among the judges, and if you have the time and desire to learn how to grow a perfect plant, this might be your chance to expand your interest in the world of bromeliads.

Let us hear from you.

*Editor's Note: In the July issue, we included mention that we now have only one judge in our area – Moyna. Many have moved on and it really is time for others to fill the void left by the others.*

## WHAT MAKES A PLANT VARIEGATED?

### By Bob Mills

(Reprinted from *Growing How To*)

Most variegated plants occur because of genetic mutations in which some leaf cells lack the ability to produce chlorophyll, the green pigment that's essential for photosynthesis. These areas of the leaf appear white, though other pigments in the cell add colors such as yellow or pink.

Some silvery variegations are caused by light-reflecting air pockets under the leaf's surface layer of cells. Other causes include the presence of colored hairs, concentrations of other pigments (often dark red or purple), and even viral diseases.

Why do variegated plants grow more slowly than all-green plants?

Since less of the leaf is able to photosynthesize, a variegated leaf can't produce as much food energy as a green leaf.

Can I propagate variegated plants?

Variegated plants can occur as seedlings or develop as branch sports (mutated branches on otherwise green plants). Most variegated plants must be vegetatively propagated (cuttings, grafting, or division) to maintain the variegation. You can grow a few variegated annuals and perennials from seed, but watch for and remove all-green or all-white seedlings.

Why do I have a green branch on my variegated plant?

Variegation is often an unstable trait in plants. It's not unusual to see a green-leafed branch develop on a variegated plant, a process known as reversion. Since the green-leafed section is likely to be more vigorous than the rest of the plant, it can quickly take over. To maintain an all-variegated plant, prune out green reversions.

## Plant Pests To Get A Taste Of Their Own Medicine

By ANDRIY R. PAZUNIAK, The Tampa Tribune

Published: June 30, 2007

ODESSA - In the moist, quiet air of a Hillsborough County forest Friday, a small army of tiny warriors flew from their base and set out to save some of Florida's most cherished plants.

Their mission: penetrate deep into enemy territory and eat their way out.

A team of University of Florida researchers unleashed 56 parasitic flies into Lake Rogers Park on Friday to ward off the infestation of the Mexican bromeliad weevil, a type of beetle that has been wreaking havoc on the native bromeliad population of southern Florida since 1989.

Weevil larvae bury themselves in the bromeliads and eat the plants to death before they have a chance to flower and release their seeds, putting future plant generations at risk.

Researchers are hoping the flies will do the same to the weevils.

The plan is for the fly larvae to lodge in the weevil larvae and eat them alive, killing the weevils before they can kill the bromeliads.

“It’s like that scene in the first “Alien movie,” Ronald Cave, a UF entomologist who led the research effort with his colleague Howard Frank, said after releasing the flies into the wild.

Results May Be Seen In Months

Cave said he hopes to see tangible results within a couple of months but conceded his team would be “real lucky” if the flies act that quickly.

“They won’t last much longer,” said Frank, staring up at a tree with dead bromeliads hanging from it.

First spotted in Fort Lauderdale in 1989, the weevil made its debut at Lake Rogers in May. Barely a month later, numerous patches of tree-hanging bromeliads have dried up and died throughout the park as a result of the weevil infestation.

In Myakka River State Park in Sarasota, approximately 80 percent of the bromeliad population has been wiped out since the weevils first appeared, said Teresa Cooper, a UF graduate student working with Cave and Frank on the project.

The team hopes to unleash more flies in other weevil-infested trouble spots in coming weeks, including Broward, Palm Beach and Collier counties. The team must wait for permits to be approved.

The introduction of an insect into the ecological system does not concern researchers, Cave said, because the flies feast solely on the beetle’s larvae.

“Our research indicates it will not attack any other insects, any other animals, and will not attack plants,” Cave said.

Cave discovered the fly species in the mountain forests of Honduras in 1993 and named it after his colleague, Frank. The official name of the fly is “Lixadmontia Franki.”

“He didn’t think it’d be a good idea to name it after his wife,” Frank said.

Cave and Frank brought the species to Florida and worked to create new generations at the UF Biological Control Research and Containment Laboratory in Fort Pierce.

Progress To Be Checked In 6 Weeks

Friday’s release was the first of an organism reared at the facility, which opened in 2004.

Though elimination of the weevil would be ideal, Frank said the team is trying to remain realistic.

“We just hope to reduce the population so it’s no longer a significant ecological pest,” Frank said.

Cooper will return to the Lake Rogers site in six weeks to check on the flies’ progress.

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## AUCTION -October 2

This is a major fund raiser for our Society. Our continued success depends on a great event.

For the auction, you must follow the ancient right of “Bringa.” We need each and every one of you to bring three things to our Auction on October 2nd:

1. Bring at least one of your very best plants for our Auction.
2. Bring your checkbook and buy, at least one great plant.
3. Bring a friend, who must buy at least two great plants.

Questions? Contact **John Lazarus** or **Peter Kouchalakos**.

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## In Case You Missed It

Craig Morrell came to tell us **3** tips for summer growing – we left with no less than **5** tips.

**Tip 1:** Sun will burn the plants too. Move them to the shade through mid-October. Plants burn fuel (old leaves) to survive. Result is brown leaves and wilt.

**Tip 2:** Snails – organic removal = foot stomping. Inorganic methods include copper fungicide, ground glass, and metaldehyde (toxic to pets and children).

**Tip 3:** Fertilize 13-13-13 is good, but he prefers hard to find 1-0-30. Osmocote is good, but he prefers Nutricote. Nutricote can be put in bromeliad crown, osmocote will burn if placed in the crown. And, his milorganite lesson, put it in the hole before adding the plant – mix with nutricote and cedar and lava rock.

**Tip 4:** Fungicides can cost a lot – Heritage \$455/lbs; Cheaper is Zyban and Banrot. Both the cheaper are dangerous. Maybe, organic is best for pocket and health.

**Tip 5:** Mosquito suppression – Paraffin Oil is good, but mealy bugs may crawl out as their predators are reduced. Cutter product with hose attachment may be best.

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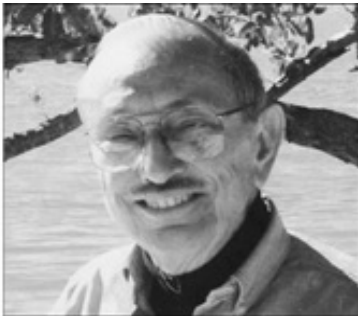
## President Names New Position

**Sandy Roth** announced to the board that the BSSF will have a new position among the many – Chairman of the Community Service Project. **Juan Espinosa** has accepted the position and will take on responsibilities which remain to be determined. The concept is a by product of an idea to be involved in a project or two each year. If anyone either has an idea or wished to participate, merely call or contact Juan at his listed number or meet him at the next meeting.

## Health News

**Nat De Leon** remains in recovery at the Palace in Kendall for rehabilitation.

**Owen Parrish** died August 13, 2007. He is survived by his wife of 50+ years – the wonderful **Joy Parrish** who has bestowed many gracious efforts to the BSSF over many years. He is also survived



by **Jeri Parrish** whose green thumb and white smile adorn our meetings while she sits next her mother in

law. The family asks that donations be made to either the *American Cancer Society* or to the *American Heart Association*.

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## Upcoming Plant Events

**September 15-16 at FTBG**  
Aroid Show and Sale

**September 29, 2007**  
FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza 2007  
Airport Hilton Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Bromeliad Society of Broward County  
Contact: Jose Donayre, Chairman, email  
[jcadonayre@bellsouth.net](mailto:jcadonayre@bellsouth.net)

**October 2 BSSF Auction**  
Annual Auction 7:00 PM  
Note the time

**October 13-14 at FTBG**  
Bonsai Show and Sale

**November 3-4 at FTBG**  
Palm Show and Sale  
Garden House and Lawn

**November 17-18 at FTBG**  
67th Annual Ramble - A Garden Festival

**November 30 - December 1 & 2, 2007**  
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale and Show  
10th International Cryptanthus Show  
Terry Park, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd (SR80) Fort Myers, FL  
Contact: Steve Hoppin @  
[Steveandlarry@comcast.net](mailto:Steveandlarry@comcast.net) or 239-997-2237

## IS IT REALLY THAT TIME OF THE YEAR?

by Robert Meyer

Personally, this past year has not been as depressing as the prior year. But, certain tragic events of the 2007 summer seemed to inflict depression to the BSSF psyche. Like repressive summertime heat, we all seemed to want to get over it.

But, the summer heat should only last a few months more, followed by annually celebrated events. September means school is back in session, football kicks off, and the Extravaganza. October means the Auction, and Halloween. November means FTBG annual (67<sup>th</sup>) Ramble and Thanksgiving. And, December means the holidays – including our annual feast. These moments are joyously laden with days off from work, presents (received and given) and delightful memories. And, these memorable days mean “family.”

For many, the BSSF is a family. And this family has been tremendously supportive to others these past several days, weeks, months, years. Kudos to all, and thanks from me on a personal note.

And, this family will continue to show its support this September in Broward and October at the Auction. See you at both events, and more.