

BromeliAdvisory

**September 2010
BSSF Officers 2010**

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

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

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 Rhonda Herndon '10-'11
 Judy Pagliarulo '09-'10
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Editor
Robert C Meyer

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Hospitality: Elaine Mills
Library: Ofelia Sorzano
Membership: Moyna Prince
Member Plant Sales: Antonio Arbelaez
Raffle: Peter & Clara Kouchalakos
Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

SEPTEMBER 2010, 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: – Mike Michalski – a Review of the Spring Show
RAFFLE TABLE: Will be there
FOOD: Andy Sigle, Alex Benoit, Joy Parrish, and Judy Pagliarulo

Photos of Annual Show and Michalski Presentation



Mike Michalski will be speaking with a slide show of photographs shot by Sandy Roth's amigo: Mickey Gottlieb. An expected jovial presentation by our very own ho-ho-ho man of the society is expected. Mike is the FCBS representative for the BSSF and is seen at most shows in Miami-Dade County

selling his plants. Mike's active involvement is well known by members of the society and his voice is commonly heard at meetings and functions.

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In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

Peter Kouchalakos came to the Society to tell us more about the handling of plants, as opposed to identification and breeding of species.

Location, location, location were the recurring themes. Learning the differences between north and south, and so forth, were the concerns of the Grecian landscaper, coupled with shades, and other events which either nature or man would provide to alter the otherwise ironclad rules.

Attendance was great, questions were freely volleyed, and the message was clear. In the future, the lessons learned from this lecture may save a plant life – what more can a lecturer ask for.

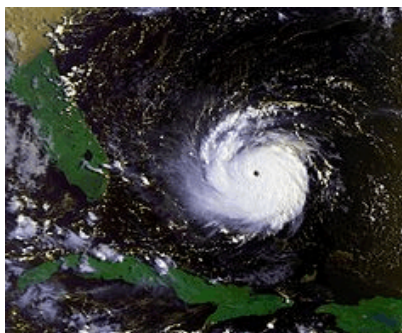
Peter, a recovering attorney who handles horticulture in his second career, and his wife, Clara, can be found in our community handling plant sales and handling plants – mainly bromeliads and orchids through their company known as PCK Orchids and Exotic Plants .

President's Message

Maşallah

This is the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. For most of you, that meant significant loss of plant inventory, weeks without electricity, personal hurdles which you may never have thought would be necessary. . . and more. The days were the lowest for many for that decade; and, maybe more.

It was during this same time that I learned that great principle delivered to me only three plus weeks earlier – when such confrontations are experienced, the word uttered is *Maşallah* – blessed to be alive.



Through events of greater magnitude, I had learned that such trauma delivers thanks – not bitterness. My wife had been under her second, maybe third, surgery and was to be bedridden for another four months. This was the weekend before she experienced sepsis. This was when I had friends like the BSSF and family come to my side and make me greet each day in a manner different from what I

had in the past or would in the future.

In the end of a 15-day drought of no electricity or water, I was not bitter. Me and my son laughed as the events were just a bump in the road. We were alive, and so was mom. *Maşallah* .

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS:

his Notice is being given in compliance with ARTICLE VII of the Bylaws – and will be subjected to vote at the October 2010 meeting.

Provision as it reads now:

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Society shall beheld on the first Tuesday of each month at Fairchild Tropical Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami, Florida. Such meeting times and locations may be changed by a majority vote of the membership present at the previous meeting or by the Board in case of emergency. In such cases, the members will be notified as soon as possible.

Provision to be amended to:

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Society shall beheld on the first Tuesday of each month at Fairchild Tropical Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami, Florida or at any other place determined appropriate by the membership – upon vote and approval – after one month's notice in substantial conformity with the procedures outlined in ARTICLE VII of the bylaws of Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Inc.. Such meeting times and locations may be changed by a majority vote of the membership present at the previous meeting or by the Board in case of emergency. In such cases, the members will be notified as soon as possible.

Annual Auction Almost Upon Us by Alan Herndon

Rather than a regular meeting in October, we will hold our annual auction. This is the largest single fund-raising event of the year for our society, so its importance cannot be overstated. We ask every member to participate fully in the auction. Bring plants (or other bromeliad-

related items) for the auction. Bring friends to enjoy the evening. Bid frequently in the auction yourselves

We ask that each member bring one or two especially nice plants for the auction. There will also be plants from local bromeliad nurseries. If you can help transporting some of these plants to the auction, please let us know.

Volunteers will be needed to help Sandy, Lori and Judy with the refreshments table (after all, who wants to bid on an empty stomach). Please see Sandy at the September meeting

We also need volunteers to help with the auction itself. A few people are needed to deliver the completed bid sheets to successful bidders, and the plants to the holding area. The holding area requires 1-2 people to organize the auctioned plants so it is easy for successful bidders to find their prizes quickly when they are ready to pay.

Bromeliads in the Big Easy by Alan Herndon

The recent World Bromeliad Conference in New Orleans was an impressive affair. Nearly 300 bromeliad lovers from throughout the world attended 4 days of shows, sales and seminars. More than a few also sampled the world-famous restaurants and music venues of the host city.

Members of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida who attended the conference were Antonio Arbalaez, John and Beth Bethell, Patricia Bullis, Sara and Pepe Donayre, Marina Essayig-Tendler, Alan Herndon, Mike Michalski and Patty Gonzalez, and Barbara Partagas. We must acknowledge that several of these members were not solely representing our society. Sara and Pepe also represented the Bromeliad Society of Broward County. Patricia Bullis was also representing Bullis Bromeliads. John and Beth Bethell were part of a large contingent from the Bahamas attending the conference.

Patricia Bullis must be singled out for her contribution to the conference. Not only did Bullis Bromeliads donate a large number of beautiful plants for decorating the venue, but Patricia personally supervised the placement of the plants to achieve maximum effect.



Some important decisions were announced at the conference. The 2012 World Bromeliad Conference will be held somewhere in the state of Florida _ hosted by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS). A date and site will be selected by the FCBS within the next few months. Regardless of the site chosen, each local bromeliad society in the state will need to provide material support for this conference. In particular, each society will need to provide volunteers to tend the various tables and to provide security for the show area and sales area. If we all work together, we can find enough volunteers to ensure that no person spends the entire conference stuck at a table. After all, the opportunity to talk with other participants is one of the primary benefits of attending a World Conference.

Jay Thurrott of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society (in the vicinity of Daytona Beach) was selected as the new President of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI). Sara Donayre was selected as the new Secretary. We wish them the best in their new offices.

Elton Leme was named the recipient of the Wally Berg Award for his contributions to our knowledge of bromeliads. From a local standpoint, it must also be said that he has been the source of many new species recently available in cultivation.

Plants with a Miami connection played a prominent role in the Rare Plant Auction. A small pup of *Aechmea chantinii* DeLeon was sold for \$60. A blooming size pup of *Aechmea bahiana*, originally from the collection of Karl Green and donated by Brian Weber, attracted a bid of \$100.

Karl donated two plants directly: an *Alcantarea glaziouana* (albo-, more correctly flavo-marginate) that attracted a bid of \$130 and a small offset of *Orthophytum zanonii* that earned \$80. I also donated two plants that originated in Karl's collection: a blooming *Nidularium krisgreeniae* (discolor form) that went for \$40 and a blooming plant of *Orthophytum harleyi* that earned \$140. Of course, the real fireworks in the auction belonged to a quilt made by Michael Young, a beloved member of the Baton Rouge Bromeliad Society, that sold for \$1000 and a new variegated *Neoregelia* hybrid donated by Ray Coleman (along with naming rights) that sold for \$1200.

Miami members played an important role in making the New Orleans conference a success.

Pepe Donayre helped judge the show entries and organized a silent auction of printed material donated by the Broward County Bromeliad Society. Sara Donayre organized the Raffle (actually a series of 4 daily raffles). I worked on data entry for the show. Two other Miami members deserve special mention for the work they did. Patty Gonzalez spent hours at the Registration/Hospitality table helping conference registrants. She was not required to volunteer her time, but did so willingly. I hope her example will inspire other BSSF members in 2012.

My vote for unsung hero of the conference goes to Barbara Partagas. On Wednesday, after spending a full day working at the Raffle Table, Barbara volunteered to help me finish data entry for the show. When we were kicked out of the show room before finishing, it was Barbara who pointed out that the laptop I was using for data entry was perfectly portable. We simply moved to another table with a convenient wall outlet and finished the work. On Thursday morning, Barbara showed up to help in case there was a rush of late entries before moving on to another day of work at the Raffle Table. Due to its location, the Raffle Table was a heavily visited location. During her entire time at the table, Barbara was talking to participants from all regions, making new friends for the BSSF. One result is that she brought back a copy of a video made by Dennis Odean Head (of Texas) during the 1988 World Bromeliad Conference in Miami. I had never heard of this locally, and it has probably never been available for our use before. Barbara was, simply put, an outstanding representative for BSSF.

Start planning now for 2012. Travel difficulties will be non-existent with the conference in Florida. You will see bromeliads on display that we don't (and sometimes can't) grow here, and you will have the chance to meet bromeliad enthusiasts from other parts of the world. It is an opportunity too good to pass up.

What's in Bloom - July 2010

by Alan Herndon

This report is a month late, and you can be assured that many more species in bloom were missed than is usually the case. I did not have the time to survey plants for bloom in sufficient detail. Still, the list of plants is reasonably long.

Many bromeliads that have bloomed in recent months were only in flower for a brief period. Several of the smaller *Neoregelia* species were in flower for only two or three weeks. However, I usually grow these plants in clumps (I find this much easier than taking the time to break the clumps up and restart new pots when I should.) When you see (for instance) *Neoregelia ampullacea* listed in consecutive months,

it is because different rosettes within the clumps bloomed at different times.

Perhaps surprising is the number of *Vriesea* species with short blooming periods. We are so accustomed to *Vriesea* hybrids with seemingly limitless bloom duration that we forget this trait is not necessarily common in wild species. In most cases where a species occurs on the list over several months, this is due to different rosettes within a clump coming into bloom at different times. Some wild species, for instance *Vriesea ensiformis* and *Vriesea procera* do produce flowers from a single inflorescence over several months. A great majority of the wild species I have, however, have blooms lasting a month or less.

Aechmea (*alopecurus*, *angustifolia*, *bracteata*, *calyculata* 'Alaya', *chantinii*, *dichlamydia*, *dichlamydia*, *disjuncta* (formerly *Hohenbergia disjuncta*), *fasciata*, *germinyana*, Little Harv, *luddemanniana*, *miniata*, *mulfordii* (red leaf form, also known as 'Malvo'), *nudicaulis* (some different clones), *paniculigera*, *racinae*, *retusa*, *tessmannii*, *tillandsioides*, *werdermannii*, *wittmackiana*)

Ananas nanus

Canistropsis (*elata*, *pulcherrima*)

Canistrum (*pickelii*)

Cryptanthus (*delicatus*)

Guzmania (*wittmackii*)

Hohenbergia (*correia-araujoi*, *edmundoi*, *lanata*, *leopoldo-horstii*, *undulatifolia*)

Neoregelia (*ampullacea*, *angustifolia*, Annick, Bossa Nova, *burle-marxii* ssp. *burle-marxii*, *burle-marxii* ssp. *meeanum*, *camorimiana*, *carcharodon*, *carolinae* (several clones), *compacta*, *correia-araujoi*, *guttata*, *indecora*, *johannis* 'Fairchild', *liliputiana*, *macwilliamsii*, *macrosepala*, *magdalena*, *marmorata*, *olens* ("fluminensis"), *pendula brevifolia*, Sheba, *tristis*)

Nidularium (*angustibracteatum*, *catarinensis*, *innocentii*, *krisgreeniae*, *longiflorum*, *meeanum*, *rutilans*, *scheremetiewii*)

Orthophytum (*compactum*, *harleyi*, *lemei*, *lymaniana*, *magalhaesii*, *maracasense*, *rubiginosum*)

Pitcairnia (*armata*, *domingensis*, *imbricata*, *recurvata*, *undulata*)

Portea (*petropolitana* var. *extensa*)

Puya mirabilis

Quesnelia (*edmundoi*)

Tillandsia (*baileyi proliferata*, *concolor*, *copanensis*, *edithae*, *harrisii*, *ionantha*, *occulta*)

Vriesea (*brusquensis*, *carinata*, *ensiformis*, *flammea*, *incurvata*, *inflata*, *Mariae*, *muelleri*, *procera*, *rodigasiana*, *schwackeana*, *scalaris*, *simplex*)

Murder in Corbin A

Parts 6 and 7

© by Robert Meyer

If you have missed the previous 5 chapters, go to:
<http://bssf-miami.org/newsbulletins.htm>

Chapter 6.

Candy Albertson, quite simply, was the first name on their list. Being alphabetically before all of the others, they scurried from the judge's home directly to her little abode. Although the single story home was simple on the outside and barely memorable, its surrounding garden was different. Scattered beneath the larger palms and flowering trees scattered throughout the yard were miniature plants which neither of the policemen knew too well. On many of the trees were small clumpy plants resembling deep sea creatures. None actually defined as pretty, but some with bright colored leaves or inflorescence.

After Boss and Rodriguez showed their badges to Candy, and asked the preliminary question about the deceased, she startled them with her response. "Standish was an *Aechmea bracteata*. Spiny and sharp, if you ever got close to her, she would harm you. Leave you bleeding. Not good for your health, that one."

The Boss and his companion looked at one another and wondered what this all meant. Neither felt comfortable nodding affirmatively or asking a clarifying question. Then Candy added "Ugly as a *Tillandsia bryoides*. Thin as a *Ferneia itatiaiae*. As hard to touch as a *Dyckia*. As rare as a *Deinacanthon urbanianum*." Perplexed tenfold from what they were just seconds earlier, the cops opened their mouths in attempt to frame a question when Candy finished, "A strange one – that bird."

Now, the police understood that the deceased was eccentric or strange or awkward in the mind of this person who spoke in bromliadese. They knew budgetary constraints would never allow anyone to decipher what she meant, so Boss took initiative and tried to narrow down the issues volunteered by Candy's strange statements. "What did she do that made her different from anyone else?"

"Oh that's easy. She loved singing to her *Neoregelias*. She liked to tell others where they belonged in the sun. How the average would color more if in the sun more of the day than its peer, brother or sibling which was kept in the shade for more hours of the day. And, the mottling of light would always be a grand discussion for that one. Oh how she would preach shade and dappled life for her *Guzmania*. You know what I mean."

In fact, Boss knew nothing of what she meant. And,

ending this meeting was going to be the best thing he could ever do. And, such was what he did in immediate fashion as he and his partner said their goodbyes while striding toward the door.

Upon return to the station, Boss asked his partner to call the next name on the list. Obediently Rodriguez did and almost as quick as lightening, he returned and said out loud to Boss while reading his notes from his pad that "This one called her an *Orthophytum* with wishes of being as colorful as a *Guzmania* as large as an *Hohenbergia* and as hardy as an *Aechmea*."

"Oh you love bromeliads too?" responded Marlene from the corner of the office. Everyone in the office ignored this comment, but Boss and his confused first hand. And, upon review of the first two eccentrics and the fact that someone in his office could decipher what was being said, he asked Marlene to come over to his desk and speak some more. Before the end of the day, Captain Sanchez assigned Marlene to be a special partner to Boss on this matter and left Rodriguez at desk duty for the next few says inheriting Marlene's responsibilities.

Chapter 7.

Marlene did not love bromeliads, she inherited them from her parents who handled a nursery in the Redlands. They thought of making the big money in orchids, but had to lower themselves to the land of blue collar orchidae – bromeliaceae. "Mom and dad could not afford the shipping, the cloning, the hybridizing of orchids with the larger growers who shipped monthly to the far east where outsourced labs and labor made the long trips still economically feasible – so long as the volume of plants remained in the thousands per month." she explained. Their small nursery could not handle such volume, and therefore could not compete.

But, Marlene's parents had a large lot on Krome Avenue where weekend travelers from urban Miami ventured to often engage in hundred dollar impulse buys for colorful zone 10 tropical foliage which they thought no one else in their respective neighborhoods had growing within eyeshot of the street's view. When the time came to pass the torch from parents to children, the next generation balked. Torturous outdoor activity under the Miami summer sun which lasted no less than six months each year was not a dream for these Nintendo-raised, computer-crazed children.

"When mom and dad decided to retire, we put the lot for sale and a large orchid grower bought it almost for the asking price, razed our old building,

built a spectacular Spanish style building, erected a two-acre screened enclosure, and set up a sophisticated reverse osmosis purification system for the drip irrigation system for the orchids. Heck, they drink cleaner water than we do – and get fanned 24/7 by electric fans placed every ten feet within the hot houses.”

Boss could not tolerate more small talk about the business he neither knew anything about nor cared to learn about. “So what do you think these discussions of these first two suspects means?”

“Simple. The woman was abrasive and not embracing. Which kind of surprises me.”

“Why?” Boss asked as it seemed the vast majority of Miami residents could be described as abrasive and not embracing.

“Heck, she belonged to the Bromeliad Society. They are like your mom and pop, aunt and uncle, the salt-of-the-earth cast of characters. You know the difference between bromeliad people and orchid people? Of course you don’t. It is simple – generosity. You go to an orchid person, tell them how gorgeous their fifteen feet of plant is, and they thank you for the compliment. Do the same to a bromeliad person, and they reach over to the plant, rip a piece off, and put a mass bigger than your fist into your mitts, ask if you want more, and then walk you to the next plant which you may or may not want a cutting or pup from.”

“So how do these people tolerate a person like her in the society?” Boss asked.

“Don’t know. But someone does. We need to find the society’s gossip. Each one has one. Just got to find him or her. They know more about the place and people than a covert operation officer could ever want to know.”

“Okay.” Boss answered and stalled a bit for time pondering how he or anyone would find the gossip of the society. Knowing he knew nothing, he posited, “Tell me what we need to do to find this person?”

“Easy. I join the organization, bring a pie to the meeting, raise my hand to introduce myself, and while the speaker is giving the talk, I scope the place out and see who is talking to who. Usually, the gossip is eliciting and relaying the information while the monthly lecture – sometimes very boring and to people like you always boring – are delivered to the society. You give me the okay, and I will deliver a voucher request to the captain to pay the dues and get my name on their list.”

At this time, Boss thought about this crazy scheme.

He was into a murder to which the underlying motive, even if uncovered, would remain a mystery to him. And, spending hundreds of dollars for his associate to join the society was going to be hard to sell to the captain. So he asked, “Just how much is this going to cost?” After which, he bowed his head not wanting to hear the large number.

“Oh, this is bromeliads. They are most reasonable. I think 20 or 30 dollars per year.”

“This is a mystery to me” thought Boss who could not believe that any membership in Miami could cost little more than a meal for two at a fast food restaurant.

FACTOIDS:

There are 3,170 species of Bromeliads – a monocot flowering plant.

The largest bromeliad is *Puya raimondii*, which reaches 3–4 m tall in vegetative growth with a flower spike 9–10 m tall.

The smallest is probably a form of Spanish Moss.

Upcoming Events:

September 6, 2010
Everglades Bird Festival
Flamingo Gardens
Botanical Collections & Everglades Wildlife Sanctuary
3750 S Flamingo Road, Davie
<http://www.flamingogardens.org/events.htm>

Saturday
September 25, 2010
Miami-Dade Adopt-a-Tree
J.C. Bermudez Park
3100 NW 87 Avenue
Doral, FL
http://www.miamidade.gov/derm/aat_event_schedule.asp

October 1st - 3rd, 2010
Tropiflora Fall Festival
3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota

Saturday & Sunday, November 13th & 14th
Great Green Family Festival
Fruit and Spice Park
24801 S.W. 187th Avenue
Homestead, Florida 33031

The 70th Annual Ramble at Fairchild
Friday, November 12, 2010 - Sunday, November 14, 2010 from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=2010-11-12>