

BromeliAdvisory

April 2019



Winning Art piece at Spring Show by Chieng Manlee
Photo by Vicky Chimside

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BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

April 2019

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

 http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSF/?bookmark_t=group
 <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida/84661684279>

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 Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Mike Michalski or Alex Bello

APRIL 16, 2019

CORBIN A AT 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Inese Bunch of Bunch Farms –
 LET'S TALK ABOUT THE HONEY, HONEY.



Raffle Table: Robert Meyer

Food Table: Usual Suspects

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to all of our show exhibitors. Whether or not your plants made the head table, you have gained valuable experience that will undoubtedly help you grow your plants a little better. A very big thank you to all of you who worked during the show. We truly can't do it without you. I especially want to thank those of you who helped breakdown on Sunday afternoon.

Welcome to our new members! We are excited to have you join us as we all learn how to grow bromeliads and new friendships. We hope you are able to join us for our April meeting or very soon. I've learned that bromeliad growers are really great fun to be with, to laugh with, and to learn from.

Tip of the month: Take the top dressing off your show plants and give them a good drink of water. Then put them back where they are happiest sooner rather than later.

Barbara Partagas

In Case You Missed It

by Leonard Goldstein

Easily the most nebulous aspect of the Society's annual Show & Sale is the set of standards applied by judges in the Artistic Division of the plant competition. In an effort to unlock some of the secrets to success and to inspire creativity among



Chieng Manlee ® is hugged by Sandy Roth

members contemplating a plunge into this category, Sandy Roth and James Chieng Manlee presented their approaches to artistic arrangements to an appreciative audience at the March general meeting.

The best way to illustrate their program is through the photos of the sample arrangements which Sandy and Chieng created on the spot, but a few words of



Sandy's Creation

explanation may help define their individual theories of design. Sandy started first with the revelation that she does not plan a creation; she simply lets the spirit move her. Her favored supplies include fishing line, nails, coaxial (electrical) staples, hooks, and glue—particularly E6000, a waterproof craft adhesive. In her view, scale is very important.

The plants and the medium on which she mounts them must not be out of proportion to one another. She likes working with driftwood; pieces with lots of holes make for especially easy work.

A very significant consideration in mounting bromeliads is to conceal nails. Another critical element is to look at the design from all angles while working on it. Sandy also likes to incorporate a different-looking bromeliad to create a point of contrast with the rest of the array. For instance, she may add a gray or silver cultivar to an arrangement where the other plants are red-hued. It's okay to mix genera in an artistic arrangement, as long as they're bromeliads. [Barbara Partagas highlighted a very important distinction between artistic and horticultural entries: Do not place *Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish Moss) in any of the horticultural entries.]

Next up was Chieng Manlee. One of his favorite basic materials is branches of Curly Willow [*Salix matsudana*], whose flexibility allow them to be stuffed into vases of varying sizes. The willow enhances his arrangements. He also likes to use Monkey Flower [*Mimulus spp.*]. He buys these materials at OFE and Berkeley Florist Supply, although he was quick to add that he acquires certain other constituents along the streets of Miami via five-fingered discount.



Chieng takes homely stick and makes magic

A favorite material for installing cut inflorescences in ceramic containers is water-absorbent floral foam. When it comes to installing decorative pieces in the foam, Chieng advised against making a

straight cut across a branch or flower stem. Instead he makes a diagonal cut, because it helps keep the piece stable when inserted in the foam. Supplies he uses in achieving his designs are plastic-coated wire and two types of pruners.

Chieng then offered some blunt insights: While judges know plants, they may not know art. However, their comments, even if ludicrous, help educate the artist. It's important to remember that people have

different tastes. What is pleasing to the eye is subjective.

Like Sandy, Chieng does not plan an arrangement. Ikebana is his baseline guiding principle, but he always improvises from there. He aims high. An arrangement needs a focal point; the artist wants the piece to command attention, but it should not be too ponderous. Not all of Chieng's creations have been successes, so he's had his share of red tags, but he learns from each experience.

At the Show, Old Wisdom Percolated

by Robert Meyer

At the show, I had the pleasure of running the members sale table. Numerous people came and asked questions about the plants being sold. I was surprised that I was able to answer many of those questions. Based upon a relatively long history involving this club, I was able to give pithy comments which I inherited from others. Some will be shown below. I hope to impart others' wisdom to you.

People often asked whether the plant needed to be watered on a regular basis. Whether the plant needed certain soil. What would happen if you did not take appropriate attention to the plant. My answer was first delivered to me by Alan Herndon. "Do not worry. Bromeliads are a very forgiving plant."

When asked about how much sun any particular plant would need, I remember a few contrite but accurate statements which were nearly full proof. Bob Mills: "The harder the leaf, the more sun the plant can take." Peter Kouchalakos: "If you are attaching it to a tree, put the plant on this shady side unless you know it can take full sun for the entire day."

Often, people would ask about what would happen when you planted the bromelaid beneath an oak tree. They were most particularly concerned about the leaves. Connie Johnson: "Bromeliads love the leaves from the oak trees."

One curious observer asked about hybridizing plants. He wondered how long it would take to make a hybrid like those in the neighboring tent of Peter Kouchalakos which had Steve Correale plants. Steve Correale: "It doesn't take that long to hybridize plants, only about 7 years."

When I asked people to take tillandsia and attach them to trees, they often wanted to know what kind of moss or dirt should go between the plants and the tree. The answer was surprising to them. There is no need for soil or dirt or moss. Steve Correale: "I put a dab of liquid nails on the tree and then hold the plant to that tree for about 2 minutes."

Telling people that these plants do not need to be put into the earth is almost like telling them that animals do not need to eat food. So, to be sure they did not leave thinking that these plants had to be without soil, I gave them Nat DeLeon's statement. "They can grow without soil, but they will grow better if put in soil."

To sell the plants, one really had to implore upon them how easy it is to ignore these plants. The above-recited Alan Herndon statement about the plants being forgiving was one line. A few other lines I created were derived from other sayings given by other people over the many years: "I put them on the tree and walk away. I have a day job. I cannot spend any more time with them that." "They are not like orchid's. You do not have to water them every 3rd day, sing to them every other Thursday, and send them birthday cards". "I heard you like orchid's and think that these plants are similar to orchids. Let me tell you something, they are a lot cheaper. In the planting world, people refer to these plants as the blue-collar orchid."

Then there is that one saying which applies to all plants, and does apply to per mill yards. "Give them son, but not too much son. Give them water, but not too much water. Fertilize them, but don't over fertilize them. Have any questions?"

MICALSKI'S SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S SHOW

[Reprinted from 2012 – if you heeded, great. If not, remember about these tricks for next year]

It is now too late to deliver plants in tip top shape for this show – but now is a good time to plan for the next year.

Tip 1: MAKE PLANTS. The gorgeous plant you buy at the show may be the envy of all next year. What to do? Cut off the inflorescence. It hurts to do it, but the cutting will emphasize new growth and pups will emerge within a short period of time. By the next year, your one-plant purchase may be a 2-5 plant experience.

Tip 2: MAINTAIN PLANTS. The pups come and make you the recipient of free new plants. Often to the tune of many to the one parent. You must acknowledge the preference of parent to child. Work to the child's best interest. That means removing intruding leaves on the parent for the benefit of the more rounded growth of the pup. Often ugly to the parent while nurturing the new growth, the ultimate result is a better and a less off-centered plant emerges from the old parent.

Tip 3: KNOW WHEN TO REMOVE PUPS. Alan Herndon says wait until the weather is warmer

– hovering or averaging 80 degrees daily. That is unfortunately sooner than you may wish. Wait until the pup is about half the size of the parent is often advisable. Pepe Donayre requests that the pup have roots of its own before extraction. If the pup is getting bigger and the weather remains cold – follow Mike's advice on trimming back the parent in Tip 2.

Tip 4: NURTURE THE BABIES. Look after them for a long period of time. Make sure there is screened covering. Make sure there is water. Make sure that the fertilizing, if delivered, is done consistently and not haphazardly – often a cause of long or irregularly shaped leaves in a plant. Clean regularly. Weekly if you can.

Tip 5: AN ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVE. Buy a great plant just outside of the jurisdictional 6-month ownership period. Make sure it is a beauty. Then baby it for the 6 months and hope that it remains as pretty to the day of the show. If successful, you did it and it only took 6 months of your time. And when the show is over, be more daring and attempt Tips 1-4.

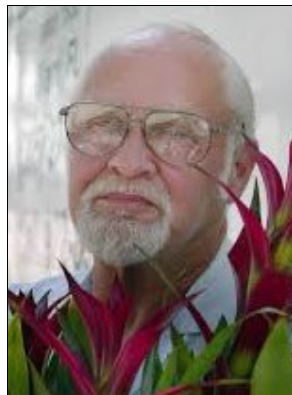
Oh, Florida! Farewell to a Plant Hustler Who Was No Shrinking Violet

By [Craig Pittman](#)

Published March 22, 2019 Tampa Bay Times

<https://www.tampabay.com/environment/oh-florida-farewell-to-a-plant-hustler-who-was-no-shrinking-violet-20190322/>

I just got word from his sister that Lee “The Adventurer” Moore died at age 82. Knowing Lee, I am a little surprised his departing soul didn't write the news across the sky in glittering letters 50 feet high so everyone would see it. Lee was that kind of guy.



Lee, who lived in a Miami suburb, was in some respects the quintessential Florida man. Not the

lunkheads you hear about most often — like

the Palm Beach County man who recently stole \$30,000 worth of rare coins and ran them through a CoinStar machine to collect a bounty of just \$29.30. No, Lee was the savvy, sharp-eyed hustler type of Florida man, constantly working the angles and willing to try just about anything to turn a buck. He knew how to spin a yarn, too.

I met him while working on a story about an orchid-smuggling case that led to federal charges against Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota. (Yes, people smuggle orchids — this one was worth \$10,000 a plant.) I once made the mistake of calling Lee an orchid-smuggler. He was quick to correct me. “I never smuggled orchids,” he said indignantly. “I used the orchids to hide what I was *really* smuggling.”

If you read Susan Orlean's bestselling book *The Orchid Thief*, you met Lee in those pages. Explaining his nickname, he told her, "Adventure and excitement will follow me the rest of my life. ... It is in my blood to explore it all."

"We were always smuggling something," Lee's Peruvian-born wife, Chady, told Orlean. "We had more going on, more situations than Indiana Jones! Oh, my God!"

Leeman Russell Moore Sr. was born in Georgia, but his father, who oversaw civilian airports during the Eisenhower Administration, moved the family to Miami in the mid-1950s because he got a really sweet deal there. In exchange for steering \$5 million in federal aid to the Miami airport, airport officials paid to completely redo his kitchen — in Maryland. It became quite a scandal after he sold the upgraded house for double what he'd paid for it, then took a job running the Miami airport, to which he had steered all that money.

For Lee, the move was life-changing. His new home was at the edge of the Everglades, and while his classmates were going to football games and school dances, he'd be out in the Everglades with a flashlight hunting snakes or interesting flowers.

He went to forestry school but wound up working construction. Then, during a camping trip in South America, he discovered he could pay for the trip by collecting exotic-looking flowers and selling them. He started working as a full-time collector of orchids and other plants, and soon he was finding species that no one had discovered before. That meant they would now bear his name — for instance, the *Cattleya mooreana*, which he found in the Amazon in 1956.

This is where he built his swashbuckling reputation. He traipsed through jungles discovering more species. He repeatedly cheated death. Once, after a plane he was supposed to be on crashed, his family mourned him for two weeks until he turned up. He also repeatedly dodged the authorities. At one point, according to Chady, the couple was on Mexico's 10 most wanted list.

That's because he had figured out he could make more money selling artifacts found in the jungles than he could selling orchids.

"I used to smuggle out pre-Columbian art in my orchid boxes," he told me. He boasted he was one of the top five dealers in the world, selling priceless artifacts to well-heeled collectors and the less scrupulous museums of Europe and North America. He enjoyed a six-figure income and owned a plane and a pair of Lincoln Continentals. The *Miami News* described him as "an urbane, polished adventurer, equally at home in luxurious mansions and galleries and in the humid, dangerous jungles."

His biggest coup — one he told me about more than once — came in 1968 when he helped dig up and smuggle out of Mexico an entire wall from a Mayan temple. A whole wall! Even he seemed amazed by the audacity.

He and his cohorts flew it to a buyer in New York, who offered it to the Metropolitan Museum of Art — which not only rejected the offer but also notified Mexican authorities. The wall is now on display at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City.

"I went to the museum when I was a kid and they tell about how two bandits trying to remove the wall were never caught," Lee's daughter Cindy, an Ocala photographer, told me. "I was tickled pink sitting there listening, thinking if they only knew I was the daughter of one of the bandits."

But then U.S. laws changed and Lee's risk of getting busted in his home country grew too great, so he went back to handling plants. That's how he wound up in the middle of the orchid-smuggling case I was researching. Somehow, out of all the people involved, Lee was the one who never faced any charges, even though several people told me they were convinced he was the mastermind behind the whole thing.

You might think Lee would lay low and avoid discussing the case, but you would be wrong. He not only talked to me for my stories, but when I wrote a book about it (*The Scent of Scandal*), he showed up for my book signing in Miami and signed copies too. He told me more than once he hoped Hollywood would turn it into a movie.

"And who would play you?" I asked.

"Me!" he replied. "Of course!"

MESSAGES

Badges Wear Them

We make some pretty neat badges. They help our fogged aged memories for names. Starting next month, anyone who wants a door prize *must* be wearing a name badge. This way we will better address one another by name. FYI – do not put the badge onto anything which may be affected by an external

NEW MEMBERS PLEASE COLLECT BADGES

We have 16 new members. Your membership entitles you to Membership Badges. We have them. Come to our meeting and pick them up. Ask for Maureen. She holds the badges.

BECOME A BSI JUDGE

Contact Betty Ann Prevatt.
\$25.00 first lesson
Application available at the Meeting
Contact Barbara Sparling

CRYSTAL

Thanks to the following for donating crystal to the Show: Robert Meyer, Barbara Partagas, Maureen Adelman, Sandy Roth, Patty Gonzalez, Elaine Mills, Virginia Shrenker and Barbara Sparling.

Donate Your Crystal to our Show which then will return it to you when you win awards., contact Barbara Sparling.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Garden Festival

April 12-14, 2019
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156



<https://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events-Community-Outreach/Spring-Garden-Festival-Featuring-the-Spring-Plant-Sale>

The South Florida Cactus and Succulent Society Cactus Show and Sale

May 25-26, 2019
Pinecrest Gardens
11000 Red Road
Pinecrest, FL 33156



<https://www.pinecrestgardens.org/entertainment/events-festivals/cactus-show>

2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza

September 20th - 21st, 2019

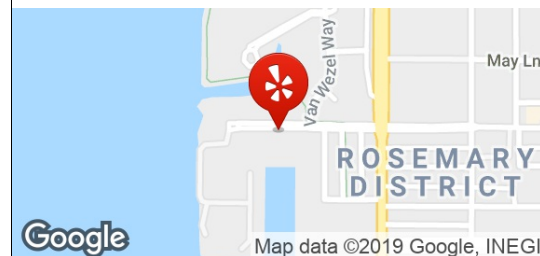
SpringHill Suites & TownePlace Suites,
8040 Palm Parkway,
Orlando Lake Buena Vista (near Disney Springs).

www.BromeliadX.com

R o o m b o o k i n g :
<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1547843838096&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

BSI World Conference

June 9-13, 2020
Sarasota Hyatt Regency
1000 Boulevard of the Arts
Sarasota, FL 34236



https://www.facebook.com/pg/Bromeliad-Society-International-BSI-468938213148940/events/?ref=page_internal

<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>