



## April 2009 BSSF Officers 2009

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**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

## APRIL 7, 2009, 7:30 PM

**SPEAKER:** Three Members: "Show Preparation"

**RAFFLE TABLE:** Mike Michalski

**FOOD TABLE:** Joy Von Wald, Shirley Berckmans, Joy Parrish, Maureen Adelman, Sara Donayre

## Speakers for the Month:

We are attempting to give the members more information about planting, potting, fertilizing and other horticultural aspects. In following this philosophy, the society will dedicate the April discussion to potting by using the services of some of the more knowledgeable members: **Michael "Mike" Michalski, Karl Green and Alan Herndon.** Pay attention and most of the issues will be readily easily resolved. This is not complicated and the speakers should make the preparation of plants an even easier chore.

## Inside this issue:

Great Stuff Packed Inside!!

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## **Dates and Deadlines for Show**

by Alan Herndon

Our annual show is now only a few weeks away. Your show plants should have gotten their preliminary cleaning and be set aside in a protected location awaiting the entry date (16 Apr). If you haven't been able to take these preliminary steps with your show plants – welcome to the club. All I can say is that you can give yourself a decided advantage over those of us genetically incapable of preparing ahead by spending a modest amount of time a month before the show. If you are entering plants with the intention of winning crystal, and don't yet have the show schedule, be sure to pick up a copy at April meeting.

If you wish to sell plants at the Members Sales Table, you will need to get a vendor number from **Joy von Wald**. Vendors will receive 80% of the money collected for each of their plants sold. You will be expected to spend an amount of time helping at the Table proportionate to the number of plants you bring to sell. (After all, who else will be as interested in selling your plants?) Of course, all plants brought for sale at the Members Table should be healthy and attractive. Two tags will be needed for every plant sold. One tag should contain the name of the plant (if you want to include the price and/or your vendor number, you may do so, but it is not required), the other tag must contain your vendor number and the price.

Pay close attention to the accuracy of these tags because the only record we have of a sale is the retained tag with the vendor number and sales price. If there is a missing price, we won't know how much to credit to your sales. If there is an incorrect vendor number, we won't be able to determine where credit for the sales belong. Be warned that sales we cannot confidently assign to a vendor will be treated as sales on behalf of BSSF.

If you do not wish to sell plants yourself, but have few plants that you could donate for the benefit of the BSSF, please let Joy know. These plants should be tagged as above, but write BSSF in place of a vendor number.

As usual, there will be Commerical Vendors from throughout the southern half of the state (including the Miami area). You can be assured that plants not usually seen in our area will be available from one vendor or another, so take time

to visit all of the booths.

**Sandy Roth** promises to have bromeliad t-shirts available for sale at the Show. These shirts will be sold at the Information Table.

There will be two Auctions in this Show. The regular Auction will be held Saturday, and a separate Auction will be held at 2 PM Sunday. The Saturday Auction will feature plants from the Commercial Vendors. The Sunday Auction will feature plants donated by members of BSSF.

Volunteers are still needed for many of the committees. If you can spare a few hours on Saturday or Sunday, please let the committee chairs know. **Joy von Wald** (Members Sales Table) needs volunteers with experience growing bromeliads to help sell plants. **Harlo von Wald** needs help with the Hospitality committee (no knowledge of bromeliads is needed for most of these jobs).

**Antonio Arbelaez** (Plant Holding) can always use help watching over the plants entrusted to his care while the customers are enjoying the judged show or out purchasing more plants. **Sandy Roth** and **Judy Pagliarulo** can always use help feeding the judges and volunteers over the course of the show. Please sign up soon. We need to forward a list of volunteers to Fairchild several days before the show so the list can be made available to personnel at the entrance gates. Your presence on the list of volunteers assures free entrance to Fairchild during the days of the show. Membership in BSSF alone does not.

**Josefa Leon** generously donated some of the crystal she has won in years past for reuse in the coming show. We will gladly accept donations of excess crystal at any time, but the deadline has passed for us to use donations in the 2009 Show. Donations made after the March meeting will be placed in storage for use in the 2010 Show or beyond.

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

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

## **Robert C. (Bob) Work** **A Man for all seasons**

by Alan Herndon

Bob Work spent his life near the sea. He grew up in St. Augustine, Daytona Beach and Panama City, Florida. From 1944 to 1950, he spent



considerable time on Sanibel Island, and moved to Naples (Florida) soon after that. He joined the staff of the Institute of Marine Science at the University of Miami in 1955 and has remained in Miami since. He started as a Field Assistant in the Institute of Marine Science, and worked on major projects surveying sponges along the Gulf Coast of Florida and mapping the sea grass beds of Biscayne Bay and their associated fauna. Later, he was admitted to the graduate program at the University of Miami and received an M.S. in 1968 for 'Systematics, Ecology, and Distribution of the Mollusks of Los Roques, Venezuela'. After earning his degree, he remained at UM as a Research Associate until his retirement in 1984. Among his other duties was teaching a methods course that introduced aspiring marine biologists to the rigors of work collecting specimens at sea and identifying the specimens back in the lab later.

Bob first started growing bromeliads on Sanibel Island. Storm surge from a Hurricane in 1944 wiped away his earliest collection, but, within a few years, he was collecting bromeliads again in Naples. His earliest source for a variety of exotic bromeliads was Caribbean Gardens, a nursery run by Julius Fleischman. Among other experiences, he visited Bromel-La, the estate of Mulford and Racine Foster with Julius in search of new plants.

Bob was an early member of BSSF, although not among the earliest members. By the 1966-1967 club year (at this time, BSSF ran on a May to May calendar) he was Vice president, a position he also held during the 1967-1968 term. Early on, he wrote an article 'Fickle Puppies and Upper Puppies' that was published in the Bulletin of the Bromeliad Society in 1968. He was one of the most popular, and frequent, speakers at BSSF meetings over many years. During the early 1970's and, again, the early 1980's, he usually gave a formal slide program each year, as well as

participating in panel discussions on bromeliad culture. He was not as active during most the latter half of the 1970's, although he remained a member. In the 1980's he again became one of the most active members of the society, and was awarded a Life Membership in 1985.

Bob was a natural-born collector. He collected marine shells in his youth, as well as starting a bromeliad collection. Marine shell collecting was part of his duty at UM, and he also collected marine shells for study by others. Working in the shallow offshore waters and along the mangrove fringe during his collecting, he also encountered and collected old bottles. It seems that most of his early collections were given to friends or traded for something he deemed more desirable. As he entered more deeply into the field of malacology, other factors forced him to limit his accumulation of specimens. For example, since many marine shells have significant commercial value, there were at times worries that privately-held shell collections by staff members of the Institute of Marine Science might attract charges of unfair access to valuable property. When these worries were crystalized into school policy, he had no choice but to dispose of whatever shells he had accumulated. After retirement, he was free to build as large a collection as he wanted. Friends from years past gladly donated shells to his growing collection. Throughout this period, whatever the state of his shell collection, his bromeliad collection remained large. He also maintained a relatively small, but select, bottle collection and later started a collection of *Heliconia* species.

Evelina and Ernesto Marcus were two Sao Paulo based scientists Bob worked with, collecting nudibranchs (sea slugs) of North America for their study. Bob's collections proved invaluable to their work, with several representing previously unknown species. In recognition of his efforts, the Marcus's invited Bob to visit them in Brazil. This was his first trip to the center of bromeliad diversity, and changed the way he viewed his collection. His early bromeliad collection included many hybrids, but by 1985 he preferred to concentrate on plants he collected from the wild himself.

In addition to his work on bromeliads and the BSSF, Bob also found time to support those

interested in the study of marine mollusks. As a self-taught expert, he was always ready to encourage young students interested in the field. He was active in the Miami area shell clubs, and frequently served as a judge in their shows. A cursory search reveals 4 species of marine mollusk named for Bob. These include *Conus worki* (a cone) and *Strombus worki* (a small conch). He published his thesis in the Bulletin of Marine Science (Vol. 19 in 1969), and contributed to several papers on the seagrass beds of Biscayne Bay. He also contributed chapters on mollusks and sponges found living in the coral reefs of the Caribbean (in Hannau, H. 1974. Coral Reefs of the Caribbean, Bahamas, Florida and Bermuda. Doubleday and Co., NY.)

One of Bob's most important contributions to BSSF and the bromeliad world in general was interesting a younger colleague at the Institute of Marine Science in our plants. That colleague was **Gary Hendrix**, a long-time member of BSSF and an important hybridizer. Bob also encouraged the interest of the then short-term members Ed and Moyna Prince through advice on growing and gifts of plants. A significant portion of **Moyna Prince's** collection can still be traced back to gifts from Bob.

Important bromeliad introductions that trace back to Bob Work include *Neoregelia correia-araujoi*, *Vriesea* 'Christoph', *Vriesea* 'Moyna', a seedling of a (presumed) cross between *Vr. fosteriana* and *Vr. gigantea* Bob obtained from Caribbean Gardens, and the beautiful, but shy blooming, *Wittrockia cyathiformis* from his own collection in Brazil.

[Author's Note: I would like to thank **Lynne Fieber** for much valuable information on Bob Work's time at the University of Miami.]

[Editor's Note: *Malacology is the branch of invertebrate zoology which deals with the study of mollusks, the second-largest phylum of animals in terms of described species after the arthropods. One division of malacology, conchology, is devoted to the study of mollusk shells.*]

#### **More on Bob Work** by Moyna Prince

Ed and I were fortunate to have the example of stellar growers like **Nat DeLeon**, **Dean Fairchild**, **Connie Johnson** and Bob Work to learn from when we joined BSSF in 1980. Bob

gave us particular encouragement by inviting us to his house and sharing some outstanding collected species and cultivars with these greenhorns.

Bob also taught us the importance of accuracy in labeling. This included both striving to attach the correct name to any plant and keeping track of the source of each plant. With his scientific background, Bob knew that such information could make plants in private collections useful to future scientists. In fact, his favorite field of study – biogeography (the study of the distribution of plants and animals) is only possible when large numbers of specimens with detailed information on where and when they were collected are available.

Many of Bob's spectacular plants in *Vriesea* and *Neoregelia* have been donated to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and can be found in the flowering tree area, not far from the Visitors Center. Of course, I still keep all my favorite Bob Work plants in my own back yard!

#### **Yet More**

by Gary Hendrix

It was Bob Work who got me into bromeliads. He used to bring blooming bromeliads into the Marine Lab and display them at the reception desk. That really opened my eyes to what bromeliads could be beyond the local *Tillandsias*.

I started visiting a little cottage he rented on Sunset in South Miami where he had a beautiful bed of *Neos* and *Aechmeas* planted by his front door. Also, I think I went with him to my first bromeliad meeting at the old meeting place in Simpson Park

He brought back many choice bromeliads from gardens he visited in Sao Paulo as well as from the road to the coast to Caraguatatuba on the coast. I used several of those plants he collected in making my hybrids. When I left Miami for Atlanta, I gave many of my best hybrids to Bob for safe keeping.

#### **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.

## 2009 Show - Direct Your Attention to These People

Alan Herndon is swamped enough. If your questions are about a particular aspect of the show – contact these people.

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
	Karl Green
	Alan Herndon
Clerks	Lynne Fieber
Commercial	
Sales	Peter Kouchalakos
Entries	Dean Fairchild
	Ken Marks
Hospitality	
/Security	Harlo von Wald
Information Table	Juan Espinosa-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

## T-Shirts For Sale

Sandy Roth has determined to take on another task – make t-shirts. Artwork is approved and she has contacted the proper printers to manufacture t-shirts for the masses. Announcements will be delivered at the meeting.

We hope she has the shorts. In any event, shirt deposits will be accepted at the meeting. Bring your money. Being attired in those shirts may help the organization financially and aesthetically.

## What's in Bloom - March 2009

by Alan Herndon

Compare this list with the list for Feb 2009 and you will see that the number of plants blooming for the first time are near the number of carry-overs from last month. Plants recorded for the first time are in bold letters. Look forward to many new species coming into bloom in the next few months.

*Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* (*caudata*, *guaratubensis*)

*Aechmea* (***abbreviata***, **Alvarez**, *amicorum*, ***angustifolia***, ***bracteata pacifica***, *bromeliifolia*, *capixabae*, *carvahloi*, *chantinii*, ***chantinii amazonica***, ***cylindrata***, ***fosteriana***, ***gamosepala*** ‘**Lucky Stripes**’, *Little Harv*, *mexicana*, *milsteiniana*, *miniata* *discolor*, *nudicaulis*, *pineliana* (Giant form), ***seidelii***, ***stobilina***, *tillandsioides*, *Victoria*, *victoriana*, *warasii discolor*)

*Billbergia* (a few species and hybrids still in bloom)

*Canistropsis billbergioides*, ***seidelii*** (red)

***Canistrum*** (***lanigerum***, ***montanum***)

*Cryptanthus* (***alagoanus***, ***arelii***, *bahianus*, ***correia-araujoi***, *dianae*, ***fosterianus***, *incrasattus*)

***Dyckia*** ‘Espirito Santo’ *Fosterella* (*micrantha*, ***petiolata***)

***Guzmania*** (***lingulata***, **Noah**, ***ronhoffiana***)

***Hechtia marnier-lapostollei***

***Hohenbergia*** (***augusta***, ***distans***, ***pennae***, ***undulatifolia***)

*Neoregelia* (**Bossa Nova**, *compacta*, ***correia-araujoi***, *eltoniana*, *macwilliamsii*, *marmorata*, **Nonis**, ***olens***, *rosea*, *Sheba*, *Ultima*)

*Nidularium* (***albiflorum***, *kris-greeniae*)

*Orthophytum* (***alvimii***, *gurkenii*, ***harleyi***, ***lanuginosum***, *lemei*, *leprosum*, *lymaniana*, ***magalhaesii***, *saxicola*)

*Portea* (*alatisepala*)

*Quesnelia* (***arvensis***, ***lateralis***, ***liboniana***, ***quesneliana***)

*Tillandsia* (*dyeriana*, ***festucoides***, ***leonamiana***)

*Vriesea* (*carinata*, ***colnagoi***, *Mariae*, ***ospinae***, *pinottii*, ***rafaelii***)

### 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

### 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.

## ROBERTO BURLE MARX

by Jose "Pepe" Donayre

All throughout this year there will be a number of events and celebrations honoring Roberto Burle Marx around the world. In fact, one is already taking place at the New York Botanical Gardens and another one at the Paco Imperial Museum in Rio.

His name is part of a distinguished generation of outstanding Brazilians dedicated to nature of which he was the senior member. They are people like Roberto Menescal, Roberto Kautsky, Luiz K. Correia de Araujo, Renato Bello, Elton M. C. Leme and Luiz Felipe Nevares de Carvalho all of whom we will recognize because of their involvement with bromeliads.

This famous Brazilian creative genius of white mane and ample moustache, best known for his monumental garden and landscaping work, was born 100 years ago this year, precisely on August 4 1909. A self-taught botanist, he will be celebrated as an artist of nature having had the privilege of been born in a



country synonymous with tropical flora. It is said that while studying painting, one of his early avocations, in Berlin in 1928, he frequently visited the Dahlem Botanical Gardens, where he came to the full realization to what his country really was as one possessed of the most varied species of plants in the world. He devoted the rest of his life to explore and protect the natural grandeur he was born in.

He died on June 4, 1994 at 84 years of age after having been involved in about 3,000 large landscaping projects in 20 countries, including the famous undulating promenade at Copacabana Beach in Rio and a redesign of a section of Miami's Biscayne Blvd. I have not found reference as to the exact location.

Upon returning from Germany, he was enticed by

noted architect Lucio Costa to contribute to the building of Brasilia, the extraordinary new capital where he designed a series of magnificent gardens including his spectacular Itamarati hanging gardens at the modernistic Ministry of Foreign Relations building. He also excelled in the visual arts transferring some of his major design works to colorful paintings and tapestries as he developed his signature gardens of bold curved forms mixing plants and local materials.

He exhibited his art widely in many countries, including a show at the Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan in 1991 "The Unnatural Art of the Garden" which I had the curiosity to attend when I worked there at the UN. Unaware as I was about bromeliads at that time I was attracted by his new approach to gardens and landscaping but I came out of the experience thinking that the New York area could not ever be a place for tropical plants.

Although his work was characterized by the artistic mix of large groupings of tropical plants, Bromeliads had a special place in his designs. He collected and brought into cultivation numerous Brazilian species and his name has been given to bromeliad species in nine genus. We can find a "burle-marxii" in *Aechmea*, *Dickya*, *Cryptanthus*, *Hohenbergia*, *Neoregelia*, *Neoglaziovia*, *Orthophytum*, *Pitcarnia* and *Tillandsia* genera.

His memory lives in his exuberant estate of Sao Antonio de Bica, 250 acres of what was previously a plain coffee plantation. He converted it into a magnificent naturalistic landscape creation that cannot be defined simply as a botanical garden where his architectural genius and his sense of arrangement of diverse plants live. His warm friendship with the superb plant illustrator Margaret Mee ("In search of Flowers of the Amazon Forest", "Bromeliads") who lived nearby made him dedicate a section of his garden to her. He is also recognized for his unbending defense of the environment and his battles against the destruction of natural habitats, a resistance that has claimed many Brazilian lives.

If a World Bromeliad Conference takes place in Brazil, not a far fetched thought now that the BSI is searching for another international location after Cairns, his estate now under the protection of the state and named "Sitio Roberto Burle Marx" will be the greatest attraction we would never miss.



## President's Message by Robert Meyer

Only one item needs attention this month – the show. And, we have always showed great support and warmth in handling the same.

To those who have been involved with the organization for a period of time far greater than I, this marks a date which they may have never conceived – the 50<sup>th</sup> years of the organization, and with an annual show still being given (not for all 50 years).

Alan Herndon, one of the elite bromeliad people of the organization, will quickly learn the turmoil and disrupted stomach are temporary pains which will be hidden in the shadows of the show's triumphs.

Hope all attend. And, follow the motto of the new organization – Bring a Friend. Let others know your secret. Pleasantries may ensue.

### New Members

**Maureen Adelman; Gary and Bunny Hendrix** (who used to be members many years ago); **Kevin Lennon and Susan Hamilton-Smith; Miguel Nicolas**, who has also rejoined; **John Samuels; Bill Shade and Nancy Westberry**. Welcome to you all. New members who need name tags should call Moyna at 305-251-5289. They are free.

## Clone Update – part 4 by Alan Herndon

We are slowly moving forward with the clone preservation project. It is clear that site visits,

although ultimately necessary, are going to be a painfully slow way of gathering basic information on the distribution of plants in collections. We are, accordingly, trying to find ways of gathering more information quickly.

Nat DeLeon suggested one potentially useful method: going through lists of plants entered in past shows. BSSF does not have a lengthy history of saving the show entry forms, so we can't recover past data, but it should be useful for the future.

In addition to gathering information, we are looking for a way to get more of the membership

involved in the project. The article is included in the BromeliAdvisory, to prod BSSF members into taking a more active role in clone preservation and provide some of the distribution information we need. It is our hope that other societies throughout the state can undertake similar efforts with groups of plants of particular local interest.

I will be sending updates, probably on a monthly basis for the rest of this year, or until a formal method of communication is established (if you don't wish to receive the updates, please let me know; if there are other people you think would be interested in the updates, let me know).

### Afternoon Tea a Success



**M**oyna Prince stands before the gloriously lush display of cakes and teas at Sandy Roth's house where over 25 members came to partake in festivities in honor of Moyna and her long and incredibly acclaimed journey in the world of bromeliads and the BSSF.

Photo provided by Shirley Berckmans

Clip <----->

### Bob Spivey Fertilizer Chart

Species	N (Nitrogen) parts	P (Phosphor ous) parts	K (potassiu m) parts
<i>Aechmea</i>	1	1-1.5	3-4
<i>Guzmani a</i>	1	.3-.5	2-3
<i>Neoregel ia</i>	1	.5	2-3
<i>Tillandsi a</i>	1	1	2
<i>Vriesea</i>	1	.75	2.5

## In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

Tom Wolfe trekked all the way from Lutz, Florida to deliver a speech outlining what he curtly described as the “Judge’s Dilemma.”

Utilizing bifocal visual display, Tom outlined many common examples by showing slide of similar plants which appear to extremely divergent – often to the point where the commonality becomes questionable by the plants’ infrequent similarities or traits.

Concluding that the level playing field could so easily be described as truly sloped, the photos showed how differences in the plants can increase the field’s slope. A red plant that comes out greener may be penalized or rewarded. One plant may grow large, while its cousin is a runt. Margination comes in a seemingly infinite variety. More obvious judging categories are vibrance in color, form and fullness.

The judges’ quantitative and biased interpretation for one aspect of the plant – as opposed to the other and different look provided by the same cultivar – may further increase the slope. In short, the disparity is greater than one might imagine, and the same creates problems for both the judges and the exhibitors.

Unlike most sporting events where scores are based upon prowess and not judicial predisposition, the talk can easily provide the listener to conclude that preconceptions by certain individuals will have great impact in determining the victor.

But, for anyone who has attended a judge’s meeting – judging is not merely folly. Anonymity protects against most prejudice, and judicial preference can often sway as other judges’ interpretations or comments can jive the previously different opinion(s) provided by a judge or judges.

Wolfe also discussed how points are often removed when certain items exist. We know the inflorescence handles 20 points, but do not know what happens with a damaged inflorescence or other item(s) of numeric concern.

In the future, we will try to obtain a more detailed statement as to the point system

Thanks to Tom and his time.

## Growing Orthophytum - 4

by Alan Herndon

In the previous 3 parts of this series, I have concentrated on the *Orthophytum disjunctum* complex. I have finally reached the *Orthophytum navioides*. This group includes the plants most often seen on the show table.

*Orthophytum navioides* and related species form rosettes of long, narrowly-triangular leaves growing close to the ground surface. In bloom, the flowers appear to grow out of a flat area in the center of the leaf rosette. Usually, a bright red or pink ring forms around the flowering area. In *Orthophytum albopictum*, the ring is white. The most spectacular displays are produced by plants where all leaves turn a bright red (including *Orthophytum navioides* and *Orthophytum burle-marxii*). Culture is largely the same as for the *Orthophytum disjunctum* complex. These plants are all terrestrial, so they need frequent repotting in fresh soil, and they respond wonderfully to heavy fertilization. Otherwise, they grow under the same general conditions as species of *Aechmea* and *Neoregelia*.

There are some special considerations when growing these plants for show. The most important consideration is when to remove pups. Offsets of these plants are very hard to keep alive unless they have good root development before being removed. Of course, since the leaves of the mother plant are so close to the soil surface, it can be very difficult to tell whether an offset has roots. I have seen offsets a quarter of the size of the parent with no roots, so the conservative approach is to leave offsets on until they reach perhaps half the size of the parent.. This may lead to a plant receiving low scores when judged since a large pup is considered to damage the symmetry of the parent plant. However, judges have some discretion on this point, and, unless you have enough plants that you don’t mind sacrificing some offsets (keep in mind that these plants often don’t produce many offsets), it is probably better to take your chances with the sympathy of the judges.

*Orthophytum navioides* has very long, very brittle leaves. If grown in the ordinary manner, the leaves lay on the surface of the growing table where they are subject to mechanical injury and distortion. It is absolutely necessary to grow this plant on some sort of pedestal to keep the leaves in good shape. A stack of pots



serves the purpose if you don't have a pedestal handy, but plastic pots don't weigh much so you have to make sure the stack is supported well enough that it will not topple over as the plant on top grows to maturity. Other species in the complex do not have leaves as long, but several have leaves that will droop onto the growing surface unless you take remedial action. Other species have brittle leaves and need careful handling to avoid damage.

More people should grow the species in this group. Aside from being careful to check for root growth before taking offsets, there are no special growing conditions required (unless they are being prepared for the show table.), and the plants more than repay any effort with the beauty of their blooms.



Bullis display at 2008 Annual Show

Photographer Michael Schmale

## **Countdown to the Show**

by Robert Meyer

Four days will jump upon you for the annual show for the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. This edition will feature many aspects of that event, and may gather your interest in handling the matter. For those who wish to be organized in the future, I have a schedule of events which should

aid you in handling the ensuing weeks.

**TODAY:** Get out your plants and clean them. Maybe buy some pots and soil to help your preparation.

**APRIL 7, 2009:** Meeting in which members will discuss how to better pot the plants you potted a few weeks earlier.

**APRIL 15, 2009:** Prepare plants to take to show and discover problems with your potting.

**APRIL 16, 2009:** Repot plants as quickly as you can so as to make it to Fairchild in time to be included in the judging to be held April 17, 2009.

**APRIL 17, 2009:** Judges look at your plants and comment on the unique method on how you potted your plants.

**APRIL 18-19, 2009:** If you get a good ribbon, you tell others, otherwise you deny any involvement with the plant that received the only brown ribbon.

**APRIL 19, 2009:** Pick up your plant and container and hope no one sees you with the same (if it is a browner).

**APRIL 20 OR SOON THEREAFTER:** Put the plant in the ground and forget about this affair until April of 2010.

## **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](mailto:OWENJOY@aol.com) or give her a ring.

## **Upcoming Events:**

April 4th - 5th, 2009  
Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society  
210 Savannah Road, Ft. Pierce 34982

April 11th - 12th, 2009  
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society  
USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Festival  
Saturday 10:00-4:00; Sunday 11:00-3:00

April 25th and 26th, 2009  
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens  
April 25 (10 AM-5 PM)  
April 26 (10 AM - 4 PM)

August 14th - 15th, 2009  
Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society  
Sale  
200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford

November 13th - 15th, 2009  
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