

BromeliAdvisory

April 2011

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

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Membership: Moyna Prince

Member Plant Sales: Antonio Arbelaez

Raffle: Mike Michalski

Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez

APRIL 19 2011, 7:30 PM

Speaker: None – Bingo by Mike Michalski

RAFFLE TABLE: Mike Michalski

FOOD TABLE: Usual suspects and leftovers from the show?

Show Basics:

April 14, 2011: Bring Plants in 9-5

April 15, 2011: Judging 9-2

April 16, 2011: Show 9:30 - 4:30

April 17, 2011: Show 9:30 - 4:30

April 17, 2011: Retrieve plants 4:30

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Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

facebook

Now we are on facebook with two pages for your pleasure.

President's Letter

A well deserved thank you for a job well done! To all who brought in plants, volunteered on one or more of the Show committees and anything else that had to be done last weekend--Thank You.

At tonight's meeting we'll relax a bit, play Bromeliad Bingo and receive our new 2011 Membership Rosters.[Yellow Pages this year.]

A special thanks to Show Chairman Alan Herndon and Rhonda. They do it all and make it look easy. We know it isn't but we are grateful for the outstanding leadership of the BSSF Show and Sale.

Don't forget our next meeting will begin at 7:30 PM on April 19 at the Garden -- the third Tuesday of the month. At that meeting we will vote to change the bi-laws to move all future meetings to the third Tuesday of each month.

Carl Bauer

By-Laws Amended

At the March meeting, in accordance with the by-laws, the amendment as shown in the previous Bromeliad Advisory editions was approved by the majority of the members in attendance.

In Case You Missed It –

by Robert Meyer

Barbara Partagas delivered the membership a speech which embraced experienced and novice growers in an exemplary request for the people in attendance – as well as those not able to appear – to cultivate, groom and deliver as many plants as permissible from their gardens to Fairchild this April 14, 2011.

After years of working with the judges at the annual show, Partagas told the members what “they look for” which surprised some and educated many.

In an attempt to simplify her lecture, letters will be employed to outline the concentrated issues of the matter.

C:

CENTER THE PLANT IN THE POT – unevenly planted winners in the pot will lose point.

COLORATION OF THE PLANT SHOULD BE MATURE – the better the color, the better the judicial response.

COMING PREPARED – Like a boy scout, have a plan on how you deliver the plants as you do not want them perfect when put into the car and destroyed when taken out.

CLEAN THE PLANTS PRIOR TO COMING – mites and other problems, if unaddressed, will become a problem with the judges.

CLEAN THE CONTAINER PRIOR TO COMING – clean the pot – Armor All or Windex should handle all your needs.

D:

DISEASE-FREE THE PLANT – Look at the leaves and if it has an illness, like the children, keep it at home this day.

DAMAGE-FREE THE PLANT – if the winter was harsh on your plant, so will be the judge

F:

FRESH INFLORESCENCE – I know it was great a week ago, but the fresher the growth the more impressed will be the judges.

S:

SIZE IN RELATION TO THE POT – To the judges, size or proportionate size does matter.

Now that you know the tidbits, the novice may ask – how do I make the plant clean, detect illness, rid mites, clean pots, center the plant and more. Barbara answered.

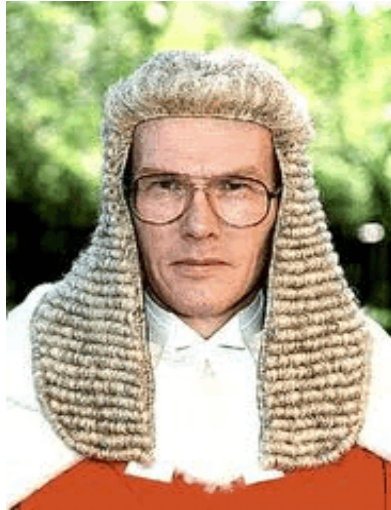
Centering the plant is easy when the plant is small. The larger plants with barbs can create problems. Some old pros use newspaper, wires or even other pots to hold the large entries tightly, and then submerge the secret holding ingredient or ingredients beneath dirt and cover.

The soil you use to put the plant in or hide the above-described secrets is not important. But, judges like simple rock, aquarium gravel on the top. These items hide the judicially dislikes perlite or sphagnum moss which may be the edenesque growing medium, but not the sightliest topsoil for judging eyes. And, note: no Spanish Moss on top, around or amid the plant. This may ruin the right of the plant to enter (you are merging another bromeliad with the show plant) and Spanish Moss has a proven history for receiving the judges' disdain.

Cleaning plants can simply be said to be an act of elbow grease. Bruce McAlpin recommends that you treat the plant initially by taking a hose and flush out the leaves and debris in the crevices. Then look at the green, and Barbara recommends using tender touch and a wood dowel or other non-abrasive tool to lightly scrape off mites affixed to the leaves. She

also showed sponge brushes she gets at Home Depot, cuticle sticks, and regular sponges.

Shaping leaves may also be cleaning. Barbara showed how to make a template of good leaves with tracing paper or other paper, and cutting over the bad leaves with this shape to make the plant appear more uniform. She also said do this only just before the plant's entry as age browns the edges. And, suggested using aloe on the cut edges to decrease the browning's chances. Barbara annually enters Joanne Fabrics and buys new, surgically sharp bevel edged scissors to assure fine and accurate cuts.



For the novice, this probably is asking a little much – leaf fixing. If a leaf flops, like those bangs you had in the 1960's, you can affix it to a metal pin, cut hanger piece, or whatever for a few days, weeks, months to correct the position. Of course, that is all gone on show day, but the plant's corrective action during the days, weeks, months before the show may prove valuable.

The pots are easily cleaned with Armor All or Windex. Just do not spray the plant with the toxins. Do not use white or painted pots (if you do, you will be entered in decorative container or artistic as opposed to the plant portion of the show). Plain brown, black, terra cotta and dark green are all fine pots.

Measuring size proportionate to pot size was not as easily agreed upon by the speaker and pundits in the crowd. An apparently discretionary concept, the lesson learned is that obvious disproportionate plants will always be penalized, but the judgment calls may surprise judges and entries alike as the judges are *not* uniform in their opinions on this subject. It is a call from your eye.

Fronting the plant is also important – remember even Mariah Carey has a good side and bad side (she does?) – so does the plant. Simply get a toothpick, put it in the soil to be the *front* which you have determined to be the good side. That

toothpick is your communication to the judges of where you want the tag placed.

Carrying the plants to the show is always an issue. Boxes are always a help. Sleeves are also recommended.

Now that you have learned how to prepare, get to it. When you have chosen the plants you are bringing, fill out the sheet at the end of the Bromeliad Advisory and put the same in the box of the sleeved plants which are entering. Good luck

TECH SAVVY? INTERNET-CURIOUS?

Look to the top left corner of Page 1. It shows the quick links to the web page as well as [two](#) facebook member pages. Curious? Go to the link, click, and you will see what we have done. Or to make your life easier: here are the links.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=29533118703>

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_188155814554155&ap=1

HOW SHAMELESS CAN YOU BE?

We are promoting the show as best we can. We have numerous sites. All we ask is that you forward word to friends and family. Some sites to refer them to are:

<http://www.zvents.com/z/miami-fl/bromeliad-annual-show--events--174453805>

<http://www.eventcrazy.com/Miami-FL/events/details/35090-Bromeliad-Show-and-Sale>

<http://fcbs.org/events.htm>

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=2011-04-16>

Our 2011 Annual Show Is Upon Us

by Alan Herndon

Bromeliad Society International certified judges, some traveling from halfway across the country, will soon be here to examine our locally grown plants. Let's show them the good stuff. Most of our plants have wonderful foliage color this year, so the tables should be ablaze. In addition, many plants seem to be blooming earlier this year than last, so we should see many flowers.

Clean your plants well. Remove stray bits of detritus hiding in the leaf bases and any algae built up in the cups of leaves. Double check that your plants are scale-free and properly centered in new (at least new-looking) pots. If the soil mix in a pot looks a little old, remove a small layer from the top

surface and replace it with fresh mix or a neutral mulch such as aquarium gravel or coir. Just remember that you are not allowed to wax the leaves on your plant to make it shinier. Use of any product that leaves a visible residue on the foliage is forbidden (not to mention dangerous to your plants), and, even if your plant is not caught and disqualified by members of the Classification committee, it will not be considered for any ribbons by the judges.

If you are worried that your plants are not perfect, loosen up. An attractive overall appearance can be more important than technical perfection. Also, remember that most of the judges come from areas that had more brutal weather during the winter than we did. It is likely that most judges not only suffered cosmetic damage to many of their plants, but also lost plants to the cold. In short, they are likely to have sympathy for the grower whose prize plant suffered minor damage during our bouts with freezing temperatures.

Plants and other entries for the show will be accepted for classification from noon until about 8 pm on Thursday, 14 April. If you come in early to work on Staging for either the plant or the art show, you may bring your plants in when you arrive. This only applies to people who will be working that morning. In any case, Classification will not start before noon. As in years past, it is helpful if you can stay with your plants until the official entry tag is attached. You, after all, have the advantage of knowing your own plants. The poor people in Placement only have the temporary tag numbers to go by, and often spend a lot of time looking through other owners plants to find the correct tag. Also remember, the only tag allowed in a plant during the show is the official entry tag. If you forget to remove your tags, they will be removed by Placement and piled in a disorganized jumble. It will be up to you to retrieve them later.

Volunteers who are signed up to help us are allowed free entry to Fairchild during the course of the show. Check with the chair of the committee you signed up for to verify that your name has been submitted to Fairchild for this purpose.

We will have two auctions during the show. The first, held early Saturday afternoon (1 pm) will feature plants provided by the commercial vendors. The second, held early Sunday afternoon (1 pm again) will feature plants from BSSF member's collections. If you have an exceptionally nice plant that you would like to donate to the Sunday auction, you can bring it to the Garden House any time Thursday or Friday.

We suggest that members of BSSF who are volunteering at the show wear their BSSF name tags. If you have shirts featuring bromeliad artwork, it would also be appropriate to wear them.

Finally, remember that this show is our primary chance to show members of the public who have not yet succumbed to the allure of bromeliads what they are missing. Help them as much as possible.

Thank you all. Bring plenty of plants and have a great show.

Garden Notes - Mar 2011

by Alan Herndon

With the immanent arrival of spring (according to the calendar _ in terms of temperature, we are fast pushing into summer), there is plenty of flowering in our gardens. In particular, the spring flowering flush in *Aechmea chantinii* is starting. If you have several clumps of *Aechmea chantinii* in your garden, it is likely that you will see flowers on them sometime during the next month. Meanwhile, members of *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia*, including *Aechmea caudata*, *Aechmea blumenavii*, *Aechmea gracilis*, *Aechmea gamosepala* and *Aechmea coelestis* have been blooming for at least the second time this year. Various clones of *Aechmea nudicaulis* have also been blooming off and on.

Hohenbergia stellata, the most striking of the *Hohenbergia* species in flower, is blooming. Inflorescences on this species retain their bright colors to liven up our gardens for many weeks.

Many species of *Orthophytum* are in full bloom. Any plant with any size is likely to be producing a flower or flower buds. New offsets appearing at the bases of species in the *disjunctum* complex start to produce inflorescences almost as soon as they appear. Species I have seen with open flowers recently include *Orthophytum alvimii*, *Orthophytum conquistense*, *Orthophytum harleyi*, *Orthophytum albopictum*, *Orthophytum sarmentosa*, and *Orthophytum grossiorum*. This is far from a complete list, but it is the best my feeble memory can produce at the present time. *Orthophytum burle-marxii* and *Orthophytum navioides* are in bud, but no flowers have appeared yet. Finally, the unknown *Orthophytum* I brought to the last meeting appears to match the newly published *Orthophytum roseum* (this was the plant brought to our area by Karl Green, and shown by him to great effect in our show several years ago.) It is still blooming, but, like other members of the *amoenum* complex, has a short bloom life and will be in serious decline before the upcoming show starts.

Different clones of *Portea alatisepala* have been blooming over the past several weeks. Though the blooms on individual plants are short-lived, it is easy to grow a few clumps so you can have different plants blooming at different times.

Many *Tillandsia* species are in bud or in bloom right now. This includes some clumps of *Tillandsia ionantha* that apparently did not realize they were supposed to bloom for Christmas. Still, there are many members of *Tillandsia* subgenus *Anoplophytum* and, especially, members of the *Tillandsia fasciculata* complex coming into bloom now.

Many *Vriesea* species are also in bud or in bloom right now. Although many of these have very short blooming periods, several should be in the perfect stage for the show. Do not entirely neglect the species with softer colors. Even if they are not as likely to top the list of ‘must-have’ plants as several hybrids, we would like to expose visitors to the whole range of beauty, even if subtle, provided by bromeliads.

Honey Bees have been very active during the past few weeks. They don’t seem to visit bromeliad flowers to any extent, but they flock to native trees with smaller flowers. These bees are looking mostly for nectar – something many bromeliad species and hybrids provide in copious quantities – but they have short tongues and rather bulky bodies. It is likely that they can’t reach the nectar in most of our bromeliads. The bromeliads generally have narrow flowers that look like long tubes. However, the flowers of *Dyckia* are short and open enough to accommodate a honey bee. Unfortunately, I have not watched blooming *Dyckia* enough to know whether honey bees regularly visit their flowers.

Carrying on the subject of pollination, many of the plants in the *Aechmea orlandiana* complex that were blooming during the winter now have blue berries. Presumably, these berries contain viable seed from cross-pollinations carried out by our friendly hummingbirds during their winter residence. If you have the time and inclination, it could be interesting to raise some seedlings from such seeds. You would not know what to expect since the pollen parent is totally unknown, and it is highly unlikely that a seedling would turn out to be superior to the parents in any respect, but you could spend many hours happily speculating on the ultimate results as the seedlings grow.

Murder in Corbin A

© by Robert Meyer

previous chapters may be seen in
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

20.

When walking into the meeting room, Boss noticed a few things. First, the person who stood at the door was Paul. Paul, upon seeing Boss, immediately realized he had other chores and disappeared before the two were within earshot of one another.

The second emotion that overcame Boss was the group itself. It was eclectic. Old and young, thin and fat, men and women, ethnically diverse – in short it was a group in which a four-foot dwarf may actually blend in. Stares were not immediately coming. And, in fact, shortly after he entered, he was given tickets for raffles and more. People smiled at him, not at him. Slowly, he began to like the place. Not for their topic of interest. But, for them. He fought this emotion with everything he had, but lost. Boss was soon about to enjoy this evening, even though he could not just minutes earlier when he left the office for the evening’s entertainment.

As usual, Linares called out if there were any new members in the audience. And, if there were, she would ask that they stand up. Boss stood, and because of his stature, Linares missed spotting him.. Friedman, sitting next to Boss, responded to Linares and said that the person seated next to her was a new member – from which Linares squinted her eyes and noticed that there was a person there who apparently was impertinent enough not to stand when asked.

“What is your name sir?”

“Vazquez.”

“And what brought about your interest in these plants sir?”

“I kind of stumbled across the plants. Someone I never knew, but who has recently become a focus in my life, was very into these plants and enlightened me about their existence and even diversity. From that lesson, came more people who educated e about the plants and their various nurserymen in the area and new ventures for hybrids, the Extravaganza and World Conference. In a short period of time I have become somewhat immersed with the business.”

Marlene, pretending not to know Boss as her undercover assignment remained, rolled her eyes to this comment and immediately leaned toward her neighbor and whispered something which Boss, upon seeing her actions, assumed included nothing but derogatory remarks about his statement.

“Well, thank you Mr. Vazquez for your frank statement. And, if the World Conference asks for our help in Miami, I now know that I have one more supporter to donate his time to the good event and its cause.”

Not knowing what to say, he sat down. Linares, still gazing in his direction when he sat, for the first time realized that he had stood. And that he was now a head shorter than anyone else in the room when seated. This caught her attention – in aplomb she knew that she had to meet this little man when the break occurred. He was cute, and about the right age for her. She was not going to let this opportunity escape.

At break, Linares beelined to Vazquez and started conversation. Within minutes they had a date and Boss wanted it to be at the Captain’s home with people she believed knew most about bromeliads and the newest plants of its world. When all arrangements had been made – basically swapping cell phone numbers and establishing available dates– Boss looked toward Marlene, winked about his triumph, and walked out of Corbin A feeling very proud of himself.

21.

During all of the rushing about, Boss had forgotten that the confiscated box had never been inventoried. Inside of the box was more than a few little things. It included charts and identifications of numerous bromeliad plants, and with each identification came a price and names of people. Boss assumed that the names were people who discovered the plants, but could not be sure. Instead of asking Marlene questions about translating the book for him, he decided to do what he had done so successfully for so many years, he became a thorough and quick study of the plants, their names, and the names associated with the same. After hours of study, he had more knowledge than even the rare avid bromeliad fan. He had immersed himself into the book and left as a walking bibliography for the same.

When asked by Linares to discuss show plants, Boss amazed her with his identification of the plants and their values. But, when he started to blurt out names associated with certain species or hybrid, Linares was floored. How could someone so new know so much about her world of bromeliads? He was throwing out names like Foster, Berg and DeLeon – although those same names belonged to members of years before or who had been deceased for decades.

“Do you know much about Foster?” Linares asked.

“Only about his handling of the *Aechmea fosteriana* or his *Vriesea fosteriana* – of course

with the *Aechmea* being much more influential in these parts. Why do you ask?”

“What do you think about making a cross between *Aechmea fosteriana* and *Aechmea fraseri*?”

“Great contrast, especially with the unique inflorescence of the *fraseri* and its daisy like top — I don’t know if there is a mix, but if the mix brings the great striping of *fosteriana* with the inflorescence of *fraseri*, I would venture to guess that you might be able to receive as much as \$75 the first year and \$45 to \$55 the years thereafter.”



Courtesy of FCBS
Nidularium rutilans
Photo by Holger Sachs

Linares was both amazed and quickly becoming smitten by the large amount of knowledge displayed by this little man. She just stared in adoration toward Boss when he finished this last sentence and effectively passed the baton to him as the knowledge master of bromeliaceae.

When the discussion tempered, Boss leaned toward Linares and let his slightly inebriated mind ask a question which his sober mind may have forbidden. “Do you know whatever happened to Bill Marin? All the books mention him, but his name appears to have fallen off the records about 7 years ago.”

Linares did not know where to start. Marin was a character of great renown in the bromeliad world, as well as the worlds of orchids, heliconia, ferns and some art. He was known as someone who found and sold everything in a an efficient manner, and never would he be asked the source of his discovery. He merely needed to provide the sales and seemed always to provide when asked some of the toughest tasks.

“Oh, where do I start? You know he was my ex-husband?”

Not knowing whether it was an amicable or violent divorce, Boss hesitated to respond to this last sentence. Finally, he regained his senses and said “Oh, I had no idea. If this is too strained, please ignore the question. It is not anything of importance, just plain old fashioned curiosity.”

“No, nothing violent. We remain distant friends. In fact, I had not thought of the man for weeks, months, maybe more than a year until that horrible incident when Bea was found on our floor. When she died, I wondered . . .” But before she could

finish, others interrupted and asked Linares to help them with the name of a plant whose description they offered from their inebriated minds, and to which she could not remember.

“*Nidularium rutilans*.” Boss offered.

“Yea. That’s the one. Wow, great job.” one of the people mentioned.

As the interruption ebbed, Linares pushed her seat closer to Boss as her heart warmed for his mind and manners. This man was brought to her for some reason that she could not mention. Life was being very good to her at this time.

Bromeliad Cultivar Registry available

An up-to-date version of the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry (BCR), developed by Geoff Lawn (BSI Registrar) in conjunction with Eric Gouda and Derek Butcher is now available online. Type the following URL into your browser – <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/bcr/>

If you still prefer to have access to the 'paper version', a 2010 update of the BCR is available in the Cultivar Corner of the BSI website as a downloadable pdf file. This is available to the general public.

This online version of the BCR will be continuously updated, so you can keep track of the latest registered cultivars.

FLAMINGO GARDENS ORCHID & BROMELIAD EXPO & SALE

April 23 and 24, 2011

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

3750 South Flamingo Road

Davie, FL 33330

For more information call: 954-473-2955

BROWARD COUNTY PLANT AFFAIR

Saturday & Sunday, May 7 & 8, 2011,

9:00 to 5:00

Plantation Heritage Park

1100 South Fig Tree Lane

Plantation, FL

More Info: 954-797-2722

REDLAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL

May 13 thru 15, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fruit and Spice Park

24801 SW 187th Ave

Miami, FL



Nidularium rutilans



Aechmea caudata



Tillandsia ionantha

Entry Worksheet - Bromeliad Society of South Florida

[illegible]