



BromeliAdvisory

August 2008
BSSF OFFICERS 2008

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Member Plant Sales: Antonio Arbelaez
Raffle: Peter & Clara Kouchalakos
Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez
Photos: Michael Schmale

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

AUGUST 5, 2008 , 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Nat DeLeon "So You Want to Grow Bromeliads Commercially?" Nat will be discussing what nurseries look for in plants grown for the mass market. Nat always has valuable suggestions and hints even for backyard hobbyists. Be ready to pick up some tips

RAFFLE: Antonio Arbelaez

FOOD TABLE: TBA

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is a special BromeliAdvisory. Included in the pages are many unique items which deserve more attention than usually delivered by the BSSF's kind and conscious readers. They are:

1. A Nomination of Steve Correale as a lifetime member – something well deserved and perhaps well overdue. Thanks to Nat DeLeon about this oversight being remedied.
2. Historical perspective by "Professor" Alan Herndon.
3. Insightful review of Extravaganza by last year's chairman, our very own Jose Donayre.
4. Reminders about the great excursions/events coming THIS MONTH
5. And, photos on page three of the Tillandsia named after Steve Correale as explained by Nat in his nomination.

**NOMINATION FOR LIFE
MEMBERSHIP:**

STEVE CORREALE

by Nat DeLeon

At the July meeting of the Board of Directors, Steve Correale was unanimously voted to be a Life Member of our Society. Steve, or maybe he should be called “Mr. Tillandsia,” has been a long time member of our Society. He almost always brought in plants for our Show and Tell table. In later years, many of the plants in bloom were his own hybrids. He showed super patience since growing Tillandsias from seed is amongst the slowest genus you could work with.

Over the years Steve has also given many programs on Tillandsias, including the tough job of mounting them. He entered his Tillandsias in our annual shows and also sold them in the sales area of our shows.

Steve collected Tillandsias in the wild, some of them new to science. One in particular, a natural hybrid, was named *Tillandsia xcorrealei* in his honor.

Steve is certainly deserving of being elected a Life Member by our members at our next meeting.

Editor’s Note: HERE HERE!!!!!!

Reach Out and Go

This Society has two remaining great opportunities coming within the next several weeks.

On **August 9, 2008**, the organization is off to Sarasota – and in style. To Marie Selby Botanical Garden, Tropiflora and Michael Kiehl’s. If we are fortunate enough to hit that trifecta, we can then ride peacefully home in a motor coach which is being partially subsidized by the society. The cost charged to each member will be **less than the cost of gas**. And, no wear and tear – on the auto or your psyche. No traffic to worry about. Just lean back, and let the driver do the hard part.

Then on **August 29, 2008** it is the Extravaganza at Tampa. One more time to get out of the house. If you have not made reservations, try try again. This should be every bit as good as the prior two and we all enjoyed the prior two.

Man oh man – what a calendar is set for the bromeliad lover in you. Three great events. One for a good deed, one for adventure, and one to show support and have fun. Call, e-mail or do whatever you can to join in.

**History of bromeliads in cultivation
and the BSSF**

by Alan Herndon

With the 50th anniversary of the BSSF coming up next year, it seems like a good time to start a project aimed at preserving the history of the club. To that end, I ask club members who run into old items pertaining to this history make them available. The items of greatest interest include pre-1999 rosters, copies of the Bromeliadvisory from the same period and newspaper articles detailing activities of the club or its members. I will make copies and return the items unless you are hoping to get them out of your house permanently.

Another project is aimed at clarifying when various bromeliad species and hybrids were introduced to southern Florida gardens. For this project, the basic information needed is in the form of plant catalogs issued by the retail bromeliad nurseries that proliferated in the 1960's and 1970's. Again, I will copy and return these items. If the catalogs contain photographs of any plants, I will request them again for scanning at a later date. Another important source of information would be dated photographs of bromeliads in cultivation. I don't have the equipment to scan these yet, so I am not requesting actual photographs or slides, but I would appreciate knowing who has collections that could be consulted later.

Anyone with material they think may be relevant to these projects is welcome to contact me at the regularly scheduled meetings of the society or to email me at alanherndon@aol.com.

A Florida Extravaganza Coming Up by Jose “Pepe” Donayre

It is again that time of the year when bromeliad fans in Florida are in an expectant mood for an upcoming Extravaganza. The appropriately called Extravaganzas are signature events for the state. No other state has anything similar. Because no other state has a state-wide Council bringing together most of the state bromeliad societies and under which auspices we stage this once-a-year, one-day marathon sale, banquet and auction.

I do not know exactly when this tradition started but having attended them for almost ten years I can say it is a remarkable feat for the organizing host society. It really is a complex enterprise requiring the concerted effort of its members and the unwavering support of the Council. After all it constitutes the only fund raising event for the Council and the major source of revenues for the hosting society. On a rotating basis, a society would have the chance only about once every ten years.

The last two Extravaganzas organized by BSSF and BSBC have been remarkable in the involvement of their members, the volume of attending public, the quality and number of plants and the resources they have raised. The upcoming Extravaganza to be hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay under the experienced leadership of Tom Wolfe promises to be in the same category. Tom has been President of the BSI and has been the leader in the organization of the famed Tampa World Bromeliad Conference.

The Tampa Extravaganza and the following one to be staged in Orlando are really filling the vacuum between the 17th WBC in San Diego (2006), and the 19th WBC (2010), which will be held in New Orleans. A gap was created by having the recent 18th WBC staged so brilliantly in Cairns, Australia. Therefore, hungry bromeliad fan crowds only choice was to attend the 2006 and 2007 Extravaganzas which they did in droves. They will most probably do so again in 2009.

Some of the several lessons learned relate to the strength of publicity looking for the most targeted, convenient and inexpensive means, the ability to mobilize sponsorship where much needs to be done, the need to maintain a continuous stream of communication with all society members, other plant societies and with bromeliad societies in other states.

But such notable success also laid bare some inadequacies in the staging of the events. These were in the main related to location, space, costs of ancillary functions, organization, and the handling of the auction especially with regard to the optimum number of plants and objects to be auctioned, number of auctioneers, cashier placing, early payment and pick up. In addition, the appropriate division of labor between Council and host society had to be made specific. Aware of these, the Council has moved quickly to develop a set a precise procedures to govern the Extravaganzas from this year onwards. These have to do particularly with the respective responsibilities of Council officers and those of the hosting society during the entire process. While the latter have to carry the main burden of setting the preliminaries and the basic organization with help from the Council, the Council is eminently responsible for conducting the auction whose revenues it receives in total. The new rules are meticulous in assigning duties to each now.



Plant named after our own Steve Correale

Tillandsia xcorrealei

Left: Photo by Bird Rock Tropicals
Right: Photo by K. Woods

THIS IS A DEAL THAT YOU CAN'T PASS UP

We have contracted with American Coach Lines of Miami for a Bus trip to Sarasota. BSSF is picking up 1/2 the tab for this trip!! Your participation will insure more trips like this..... This will be FUN!

COST: \$ 30.00 per person

PLEASE SEND CHECK BY AUGUST 1st TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE. SEND TO:
Lori Weyrick
14880 SW 200 Street
Miami, FL
(305) 345- 4661 Cell

Amenities: A/C, high-back seats, DVD/VHS, restroom, seating for 47

ITINERARY:

TROPIFLORA	10-12 am
SELBY GARDEN	12:30-2:30 pm
MICHAEL Kiehl	3:30-5 pm

TIME/DATE: 6 am Saturday, August 9th

WHERE TO MEET: Dadeland Shopping Center, in front of NORDSTROM in front row, closest to SW 88 Street (Kendall Drive)

TO BRING: - Something for breakfast since we are leaving early, PICNIC LUNCH, snacks, drinks.

Bring Your own money for :

1. admission to garden (or Fairchild Membership Card-reciprocal admission)
2. plant purchases at Tropicflora, Selby or Michael Kiehl
3. Dinner money- We will stop for dinner (Cracker Barrel?)
4. Tip for Bus Driver (we'll all chip in)

Bring:

1. Plastic bags or boxes for plant purchases so we don't get the bus dirty

Any questions please contact Lori Weyrick at (305) 345- 4661 – Call often

Summer is definitely here now

(Reprinted from Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society's July 2008 Letter)

... and that means that you should be working with your bromeliad collection to make the most of this active growing season. July is traditionally the month for stepping up your fertilization schedule to match the increasing rainfall and increasing temperatures. Of course, this is if you fertilize your plants – a lot of people don't and this is probably a subject that we should discuss at some time in the future. Bromeliads are growing more rapidly now, so you need to pay attention to them to avoid uneven growth. This means that if one side gets more sun than the other, you will need to turn your plants for even growth. It also means that if those pups still attached to their mother plants are large enough, now is a good time to remove them before they get too big and start developing a lop-sided look about them.

CALENDAR

AUGUST 9, 2008

Bus trip

AUGUST 29, 2008

Extravaganza Tampa, FL 33607

October 7, 2008

Annual Auction

The Auction is Coming.

Annually, the organization auctions its members' bromeliads in October. That means, as the above-article suggests, rotate the plants, and then deliver the same to the auction for one of the best choices you will get for the next several months.

JOAN BUNDY AGURCIA PASSES

(Reprinted from Miami Herald)

Bundy, 71 of Pinecrest passed away on July 19, 2008. Born on December 31, 1936 in Grass Valley, CA, she moved to Pinecrest in 1965. For many years, she taught at Palmetto Middle School. She also volunteered her time with Fairchild Tropical Gardens and the Bromeliad Society. She was a great friend and neighbor in the Pinecrest community. She is survived by her children, Eileen M. Agurcia (Alejandro La Fuente) and Marco E. Agurcia; grandson, Jack Arthur Agurcia; brother, Paul Bundy and niece, Tatiana Bundy Smith.

VA PROJECT a SUCCESS

What do **Robert Meyer, Desiree Meyer, Sandy Roth, Jeremy Roth, Juan Espinosa Almodovar, Alan Herndon, Rhonda Herndon, Doris Boiesen, Elizabeth McQuale,, George __, and Lori Weyric** have in common? If you answered: members of the BSSF (wrong), or good hearted kind spirited, or good looking – you would be right on the latter, but have given the wrong answer.

The answer is that they are the people who ventured to the VA on Saturday July 26, 2008 to plant the garden. And, what a feat it was.

Arriving at 10:00 AM they went to the median where arrangements had been made to plant the material, And then, in 90+ degree temperature, they witnessed that it had been so



– leaving nothing for the plants.

But, negotiations ensued, and the parties were permitted to remove the sod.



The once plain sight of sod, within hours, became a wonderful sight of bromeliad's kaleidoscope of wonder.



Then they had to work on “another area.” Directly under the sun for every minute of every day the sun shine, the dirt was sand, and the plants had to be drought tolerant and sun loving.



The end result was a miracle in the sun.



At the end the group got together and somehow showed a smile after the 4 hours in the sun.

Digging began, and the sun’s heat started to tire the souls.



Alan Herndon digs the first dirt on the Project

A Day at the Council

By Juan Espinosa Almodovar

Attending a meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies means, more often than not, going out of town, usually to somewhere in central or northern Florida. Rarely is a meeting held at one's home society, or nearby. Rotating locations are prescribed ahead of time, so one may plan some other activity or visit in that area. Renewing contact with bromeliad collectors and society members elsewhere is both enticing as well as rewarding. Naturally, a visit to a new nursery specializing in our beloved *bromeliads* is always a rich, sometimes costly, experience. But, time and money well spent.

The FCBS meetings are held on a quarterly basis, coordinated by the local society for each area, and are preceded by a luncheon provided by that host society. The informal gathering allows the representatives from bromeliad societies in Florida to meet with some of the local members of each area. Socializing and catching up with one another's problems or successes with plants lets us unwind from any lingering road-stress and sets the mood for what is almost always a cordial and amenable business meeting. Our mutual concerns about bromeliads and the well-being of the societies that foster their growth and collections only makes the work more pleasant to all of us.

Our third meeting this year took place on July 11, at the USDA Extension of St. Lucie County, in Fort Pierce – an easy and short trip from Miami-Dade County. We were received and made welcome by the Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society. It was good to be there after a long, if involuntary absence. TCBS rejoined the Council about fifteen months ago, after a lapse dictated by a much reduced membership. We were delighted when Mark Peters, the then just-elected president, broke the news last year that they were back, and expanding their roster. Sharing Treasure Coast's resurgence and being

graciously received by their new president, Terry Quillen, Adele King, with a pair of angels-in-attendance, Heddy and Suzanne, was the icing on the cake for all of us from other Florida societies.

We were fed like kings and queens. The cake served for desert was excellent, as were the entrees: a tasty lasagna, a delicately curried chicken salad and an out-of-the-ordinary spinach dip with crunchy morsels. Our hosts and hostesses took care to please and make us welcome, and stocked plenty of iced tea.

By convention, each meeting is called to order by the Chairperson, with a request for each person present to introduce her/himself, stating name, bromeliad society affiliation, and whether

there as a representative or visitor. Once we have gone around the full group, the previously issued agenda is followed – dealing with pending matters, newly emerged matters, or with an upcoming event.

This last meeting also included the presence of David Pick, a young assistant to Dr. Ron Cave in the ongoing research project against the Evil Weevil. Specifically this is a project for the larval production of predatory populations of a fly which delights on our nemesis and bromeliad foe. The Evil Weevil is already responsible for much damage to bromeliads in our state, whether in native populations or in private collections. Still a high school student, David Pick's efforts in preparing a documentary poster and presenting personal work on "Evaluation of Artificial Diets for Rearing *Metamasius Callizona*" had been recognized and awarded First Place during the Treasure Coast Science Fair in February of 2008. In our previous meeting in Tampa FCBS allocated \$500.00 TO enable him to attend the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair, in Lakeland and the International Science and Engineering Fair, in Atlanta, Georgia. Once again, he presented the said poster in competition and acquitted himself well, earning another award,



a third place commendation at the State level, in Lakeland. We were glad to have a studious and committed young talent in our midst to recognize his contribution and thank him with applause.

Needless to say, the main issue of the meeting was our upcoming **Bromeliad Extravaganza 2008**, just around the corner, to take place on August 28 and 29, next, hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. Tom Wolfe, Chair of the event, selected a very well appointed small hotel, the Sheraton Suites, with easy access from the Tampa Airport and about half a block from the exit of the expressway that leads to it. The untimely death of Steve Prins, president of the Tampa Bay Guild and co-chair with Tom Wolfe, was a severe blow to fellow members of the Tampa Bay Guild, especially at such a junction.

Steve Prins' passing is also sadly felt by members of the Council; his enthusiasm and bonhomie at previous meetings and during last year's Extravaganza in Fort Lauderdale, were sincerely enjoyed and gladly remembered by all of us. In spite of this setback, Tom Wolfe and the members of the Tampa Bay Guild are resolved to make this next Extravaganza an outstanding success, and they have our full support.

As it was started, the meeting is brought to a close at the end of the Agenda by a call from the Chairperson to each representative to provide a synopsis of recent activities and/or future events for each member society. Once again, a group tour, casual and relaxed moves around the room until all aspects and possibilities are mentioned, with some or other glib comment or funny remark from the rest of us. Well intended, mind you; any bit of excess is resoundingly met with boos by the rest . . . not that it happens often. Well, hardly at all, but that's another story.

If we are lucky, there is a local garden or bromeliad collection available afterwards to linger at a while longer. Someone is usually well informed about a local eatery or brasserie where to rework every point covered in the meeting and all the ones we didn't, etc., etc. Coming home is always a good experience with time on the road to let things sink in and mull them over, already missing the glad company of

fellow bromeliad-lovers, already looking forward to the next time, the next meeting town, the next bromeliad event.

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Upcoming Events

August 9, 2008

Bus trip

August 16-17, 2008

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Fall Plant Sale

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sanford Garden Club

17-92 at Fairmont Drive, Sanford, FL (one block south of Lake Mary Blvd on 19-92).

Contact (407) 366-4860 or

(321) 377-2189

August 30, 2008

FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza

Bromeliad Rainforest Fantasy

Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport

4400 W. Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33607

(813) 873-8675/

Toll free (800) 325-3535

October 11 - 12, 2008

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

University of South Florida Fall Sale

4202 East Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL

We Have Another Project

The Ed Prince Memorial Garden will be a second venture for the society. Planting bromeliads at a designated spot at the Sunset High School is the venue. The time and date are yet to be determined.

We need names and faces for this fun and rewarding experience. If you missed the VA Project, try to get involved with this one.

A sign up sheet will be delivered at a meeting in the not-too-distant future.