



# BromeliAdvisory

**August 2011**

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

 [http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_188155814554155&ap=1](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_188155814554155&ap=1)

 <http://ja-jp.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida/84661684279>

President Carl Bauer  
 VP: Barbara Partagas  
 Treasurer: Alan Herndon  
 Secretary: Lori Weyrick

**DIRECTORS**

Past Pres.: Robert Meyer

Directors:

Nat DeLeon '10-'11  
 Rhonda Herndon '10-'11  
 Sandy Roth '11-'12  
 Craig Morrell '11-'12

**Editor**  
**Robert C Meyer**

**Door Prize: Alan Herndon**  
**Education: Nat DeLeon**  
**Hospitality: Elaine Mills**  
**Library: Ofelia Sorzano**  
**Membership: Moyna Prince**  
**Member Plant Sales: Antonio Arbelaez**  
**Raffle: Mike Michalski**  
**Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez**

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez



Do you know where this is?

**AUGUST 16 2011 @ 7 :30 PM**

Speaker: Show Slides

RAFFLE TABLE: Bob Mills

FOOD Table: Barbara Sparling , Chien Manlee,  
 Melody Ray, Maureen Adelman , Mirna Martinez

REMEMBER – [at the large room next door](#)

**Inside this edition:**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . . .	2
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT . . . . .	2
GARDEN NOTES . . . . .	2-4
TIME TO GET SERIOUS . . . . .	4-5
MURDER IN CORBIN A . . . . .	5-7
EVENTS . . . . .	7

## President's Letter

When they report about the weather and cite "averages", the problem is they are talking about the combined and divided results of two extremes – not representative of what really happened! We had our drought here in Florida and now we have our rainy season. But future records will probably say it was an average year – go figure. At least my mosquito count has gone down in the last two weeks.

Our next meeting will be on the third Tuesday, August 16, in the **Garden Room** [auditorium] at Fairchild. Bring a friend, we'll have plenty of room and refreshments.

November 4, 5 and 6 are the Extravaganza dates in Daytona. It looks like it will be a good one and we will be working on transportation [car pools] to make the travel portion easier for members. Please try to attend. You'll be glad that you did.

Then, next April 21 and 22 will be the dates of our own annual Show. It's not too early to identify your own bromeliads for show and presentation. Of course, the Show is a "full court press", requiring the involvement of all of us, so please plan on being a part of it.

Finally, take it easy in the heat. I am only working hard [hardly working?] in the early morning hours. Don't overdo it in the afternoon heat.

**Carl Bauer**

## In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

West Palm Beach's duo came to discuss and show us "How Not to Grow Bromeliads." The slide show (or is it digitally delivered show?) Explained in color as well as English how certain peculiarities arise in growing the plants we love to grow.

Issues regarding light (too little versus too much), being around nuclear plants (*A cruenta* pupped vertically), habitat (wild versus controlled) and plant bed (vertical on lattice of trees as opposed to terrestrially planted) showed great difference.

Cold concepts, a topic to be reviewed later this year, were a great concern to the Palm Beach County growers who found a few interesting conclusions: (a) plants on trees seemed to handle cold better than their in ground

counterparts; (b) certain genuses need more protection than others; and (c) cold could deliver some reddening or other seemingly beneficial results.

After last month's article about planting items in trees, this group presented some new concepts on planting on trees – using chicken wire. They would go to home depot and buy less tall chicken wire strips, band around a tree, fasten tightly, then cut certain places to plug plants into – which often would be accompanied by moss or sphagnum moss. The end result, some photos showing the projects a few years after initial planting, made impressive displays on the trees where the wire was hidden and the lush multi-genus cluster made an impressive colored and textured display. Perhaps a topic for a future article.

The topic's ending more reflected "How to Grow Your Bromeliads" as the speakers showed numerous slides of their plants in their yard, all flourishing in the spot or spots where their respective plants shined. In addition, the landscaping knowledge of \_\_\_ was displayed with beds where bromeliads shared spaces with agave, crotons, orchids, cycads and more. The companion-plant projects impressed the audience and gave ideas to many

## Garden Notes - Jul 2011

by Alan Herndon

Summer has more than taken over with temperature reaching oppressive levels many mornings. Fortunately, clouds have usually developed by afternoon and kept the temperature at a tolerable level. Until the last two weeks of July, we had rain consistently enough at the nursery that we had not watered for weeks. However, we then entered a dry spell, and were forced to resume watering briefly. There was considerable rain throughout the Miami region on some days during this dry period, but it all missed us.

You will need to remain vigilant: 3 dry days during these hot months could push many plants, particularly those plants that are growing rapidly, to dangerous levels of water stress. With the brief dry period, we actually had some damage to plants. A few *Billbergia* that were being pushed to grow rapidly actually suffered burns on their leaves. Since most *Billbergia* have few leaves to begin with, any burn is

serious, but a quick recovery is also expected. We have also seen signs of stress on several *Neoregelia* hybrids that falls short of leaf damage but adversely affects the appearance of the plants. Most commonly, the stress is evidenced by a washed-out appearance in leaf color with a noticeable shift towards yellow. The affected leaves will not recover their original color, but they are usually easy to overlook once leaves with better color begin to grow out again.

*Aechmea chantinii* is still producing new blooms in numbers. In fact, a greater proportion of plants appear to be blooming now than during the past two months. Notable among the flowering clones are *Aechmea chantinii* 'Harlequin', a plant with dark leaves that arose in a batch of otherwise green-leaved seedlings raised by Gary Hendrix many years ago, and the miniature clone with narrow cross-banding from Grant Groves. Unfortunately, it is not easy to grow the Groves clone in our area. I have trouble replacing one plant with a pup each generation, let alone building up a number of plants. Another close relative of *Aechmea chantinii*, *Aechmea mooreana* is also blooming. *Aechmea correia-araujoi*, a close relative of *Aechmea orlandiana* is still blooming. To the members of the *Gravisia* complex (relatives of *Aechmea blanchetiana* and *Aechmea mulfordii*) blooming last month, we can add: *Aechmea blanchetiana*, *Aechmea aquilega*, *Aechmea fraudulosa* and *Aechmea rubens*.

*Catopsis morreniana* bloomed during the month. With small, white flowers, this is not a highly sought after plant. It has the advantage, however, that it is one of the few *Catopsis* species we can easily grow in our area.

Several *Cryptanthus* species are blooming now. They are also producing masses of pups. You need to pay particular attention to these plants now. Some of the species produce new generations of pups very quickly, and you can easily find yourself with a mass of very small plants that are starving because they lost any connection with the potting soil two generations earlier. Preferably, you will plant pups in new pots before this condition is reached, but, when you find plants like this, get some pups into new soil as quickly as possible. *Cryptanthus*, for all their delicate nature, are

tough enough to recover quickly in most cases.

*Hohenbergia lemei* and *Hohenbergia pennae* are still in bloom. Despite its small size, *Hohenbergia pennae* has a long blooming period. *Hohenbergia stellata*, a form with 'red' leaves and pink floral bracts, is just starting to bloom. This clone of *Hohenbergia stellata* is distinct from the 'pink' clone that bloomed earlier in the year. That clone had green leaves with much different looking marginal spines.

Members of the *Neoregelia ampullacea* complex are, as usual, blooming sporadically. I have also seen at least one *Neoregelia* 'Fireball' with open flowers. Since we have tens of thousands of *Neoregelia* 'Fireball' plants on hand at any given time, this should not be noteworthy. However, one of the characteristics of *Neoregelia* 'Fireball', since its introduction to the United States by Nat DeLeon, has been a reluctance to bloom. If you are cultivating a small patch (say 30-50 plants), you may not see them bloom ever. Even when you grow large masses, you never see a large number in flower; only scattered rosettes. Needless to say, this presented a challenge for hybridizers, but the desirable qualities of *Neoregelia* 'Fireball' (rapid growth, spineless leaves, small size, stoloniferous habit, leaf color) were so compelling that it became one of the most heavily hybridized bromeliads. By the way, *Neoregelia* 'Fireball' develops the same central red circle of color on the leaves surrounding the inflorescence that you would see in *Neoregelia caroliniae* or *Neoregelia compacta*, but this is not evident when the plants are grown under (the preferred) conditions where the entire leaf is red.

Species of *Nidularium* are still blooming in numbers although most species now seem to be finished for the year or between blooming periods. *Nidularium viridiflorum*, *Nidularium rutilans* and *Nidularium jonesianum* have open flowers.

Blooming has not slowed down among species of *Orthophytum*, although the activity is now almost entirely confined to members of the *Orthophytum disjunctum* complex. *Orthophytum zanonii* is still in flower, but appears to be nearing the end

The original plant of *Puya laxa* mentioned last month is now well past bloom. Another plant, however, has started flowering.

A few members of *Tillandsia* subgenus *Anoplophytum* still pop into bloom from time to time. *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola* remains in bloom. *Tillandsia remota*, a species with 'needle-like' leaves, is blooming. Although the leaves on this species are similar to the leaves on our native *Tillandsia setacea*, they are not closely related. I also have a *Tillandsia xerographica* originally from Moyna Prince that is blooming. This species does not bloom as readily as most other *Tillandsia*, but the silvery leaves of the rosette are beautiful in their own right. Some clones of *Tillandsia capitata* are also blooming now. Unfortunately, these blooms tend to be short-lived.

Many *Vriesea* species are still in bud or in bloom right now. Still in bloom are from last month are *Vriesea ensiformis*, *Vriesea erythrodactylon* and *Vriesea malzinii*. *Vriesea taritubensis* has been on what appears to be the verge of flowering for the past two months, and I am beginning to think I haven't seen the flowers because I am not looking at the plant correctly.

For those interested in garden critters, we have had a grand showing of butterflies lately. In addition to the expected species, Variegated Fritillaries and different Crescents have been common. Unfortunately, I have not been able to examine the Crescents closely enough to determine the species involved.

## Welcome new members

We have had several new members join since the 2011 roster was printed.

Michael Greenberg  
8430 SW 46 St  
Miami, FL 33155  
786 395-2552  
[Japan4Miami@yahoo.com](mailto:Japan4Miami@yahoo.com)

Dian D. Johnston  
1667 Bogie Dr  
Big Pine Key, FL 33043  
305 587-0687

[johnstonsnest@juno.com](mailto:johnstonsnest@juno.com)

Mary Ann LaRusso  
10855 SW 136<sup>th</sup> Ct  
Miami, FL 33186  
305 386-2079  
[larussom@bellsouth.net](mailto:larussom@bellsouth.net)

Kenneth Navarro Pomales  
Urb. Paseos de Jacaranda  
Calle Hucar 15029  
Santa Isavel, PR 00757  
787 473-8531  
[fiestlookserv@yahoo.com](mailto:fiestlookserv@yahoo.com)

Jesse Noell & Jeannie Roper  
391 SW 65<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Margate, FL 33068  
954 592-3920 (Jesse)  
954 592-6212 (Jeannie)  
[JeannieRoper@yahoo.com](mailto:JeannieRoper@yahoo.com)

Dora Piccini  
131 NE 8<sup>th</sup> St  
Homestead, FL 33030  
786 399-0808  
[dpstarshine@gmail.com](mailto:dpstarshine@gmail.com)

Melody L. Ray  
13720-3 SW 149 Circle Lane  
Miami, FL 33186  
305 252-6657  
[melodyluna@hotmail.com](mailto:melodyluna@hotmail.com)

Bernice P. Reed  
10401 SW 93 St  
Miami, FL 33176  
305 279-6010  
[missbea5@bellsouth.net](mailto:missbea5@bellsouth.net)

Jutta Staab  
6151 SW 90th Ct  
Miami, FL 33173  
305 274-7916

We welcome all these new members, and hope to see them at upcoming meetings.

## Time to Get Serious

by Alan Herndon

Only three months remain before the Bromeliad Extravaganza is upon us. You need to make arrangements for rooms and register soon.

Further details about the Extravaganza and the bromeliad-themed art show being held nearby at the same time can be found on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website ([www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org)). In particular, if you wish to participate in sales at the Extravaganza, you should be making arrangements now. See the website for regulations governing sales.

Anyone making a serious bid for major awards at our BSSF 2012 Show next April should have their show plants set aside. We are in the period of most rapid plant growth now, so you need to be vigilant about keeping these plants adequately watered and fed. The goal is to get rapid, even growth throughout the summer in order to reach maximum plant sizes. When the weather cools down and the intensity of the sun diminishes (by November), plant growth will slow and any red foliage colors will begin to intensify. In order to get the best foliage color, stop fertilizing when plant growth slows noticeably and don't fertilize at all during the winter months.

It is also time to get serious about the 2012 World Bromeliad Conference. It may seem unduly early to prepare for something that is still a year away, but there is great need for early planning. First, the price of registration is at the lowest level now (\$160 per person) and will begin to rise in Mar 2012. You are not required to register until the conference opens, but you will pay \$40 extra per person if you choose to wait that long. Also, remember that you can get an Affiliate discount of \$10 per person if you pay through BSSF. To do this, fill in a registration form completely and submit it with payment to the BSSF Treasurer. Remember that you must be a BSI member to register for the conference (non-members will be charged an extra \$45 per person to cover membership dues). Couples can save money by signing up for a dual membership directly through the BSI before registering for the conference.

For the most up-to-date information concerning the 2012 WBC, make it a habit to visit the Bromeliad Society International webpage ([www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org)) periodically. A link to WBC information is prominently displayed on the home page. You can also sign up for BSI membership on the webpage.

We also need to get serious about a BSSF display at the WBC. We could use some creative thinking from our design-oriented

members on how to put together a display of outstanding visual quality. Otherwise, you run the risk of having to put up with (and be represented by) whatever design, however pedestrian it may be, that I come up with. Just remember that we need a design soon so we can estimate how many plants of each type will be needed and make arrangements for growing plants that are not readily available..

## **Murder in Corbin A**

© by Robert Meyer

PREVIOUS CHAPTERS MAY BE SEEN IN  
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

### **28.**

Boss, during the entire meeting with Marin, thought only about how the investigation had circled from Bea to Candy to the judge and back to Candy. Candy, whose descriptive language of bromeliad varieties had stumped he and Rodriguez at first description. He believed he would feel more comfortable with a new meeting. So, he called Rodriguez and asked that he be ready when he and Marlene returned – he informed him that they would immediately leave the precinct for a visit to Candy to observe her behavior.

When the two arrived at Candy's home, music cascaded out of her front door and reached the streets in extremely audible fashion. Her choice surprised the two policemen as she was not listening to crooners or classic rock or even classical. This bromeliad lover was a rap lover who like any neighboring teenager seemed not able to appreciate this genre of music without decibel-defying volume.

Not unexpectedly, their ringing of the bell was unanswered. Not unexpectedly, their knocking on the door was unanswered. So they did what anyone with their expertise would do – they called by their cell phone. And within one ring, Candy answered.

“This is Miami-Dade Metro police. We are at your door. Could you kindly allow us to come in and talk with you about a few things?”

Candy, surprised at their personal visit, but not surprised of their calling, did not answer, and merely turned off the music and swiftly walked to the door and opened it. Perspiring from head to toe, she said, “Come on in.” And, then she smiled, and like a good host pantingly asked if they wanted anything to drink. They answered

affirmatively for water and she returned with two ice cube-loaded highballs full of Miami-Dade's cleanest county water.

"You know, Candy, I did not think of you as a rap lover." Rodriguez offered.

"Oh, I am more than a lover. I write lyrics for it too. And, I perform. Want to hear some?"

Rodriguez could not resist. And he nodded before Boss could respond negatively and spare all of them this display. In accord with the tune and rhythm of Will Smith's "Miami" she sang:

Here I am in the place where I come let flow  
Miami the place where the bromos grow  
Every plant like a fertilize, every plant love  
sunny day  
Some rain all pray, okay  
So we snip a little something, plant da best to  
fill  
Me an BSSF runnin up a high Home Depot bill  
Nothin allowed ta kill, when we hoe and till  
When da BSSF amass, they like (Candy Hill)  
Can y'all see me, amid all kinds and species  
Real sweet faces  
Every different kind, Neos, Aechmees,  
Gusmas, Tillands,  
Red, Blue, White, Native, and Asian  
We only came for few days of planting  
But every time we come we always increase  
our garden  
This the type of ground I could sow more seed  
in  
Miami the city that keeps the warmth for  
growin

Before she could start the chorus, Boss raised his hand and smiled and followed with an applause which Rodriguez properly treated as cue for his clapping of hands. The two allowed the applause to last for a few seconds, and Candy then sat down and let her improvised mike be set down next to her on the coffee table.

Before they could begin to ask a question, Boss could feel his phone vibrate and excused himself leaving Rodriguez alone with Candy. All three were very uncomfortable at the same time.

## 29.

The call was from Marin. He had good news and some extremely good news. He had an *Alcanterea albomarginated chantinii* – a

species which no one had heard of or seen but a few who had walked the lands south of the border.

"How do we get it and how to we cut the pie between us?" Boss asked in level toned manner indicating to Marin that this was a true business person who would not need too much persuasion or coddling.

"I am a fair man. Fifty-fifty, and the price has to be \$3,000.00. The costs come out before the even division. The costs to ship are \$1,000.00."

Understanding that the division was going to be more 2/3 and 1/3, Boss had to also recognize that the deal would involve a \$1,000 profit in a matter which took about one day. And, his side of the deal was legal, while Marin had to work the hard end of the bargain. "Deal." Boss said, and each smiled into their respective cell phones and then allowed their respective grinning mouths to coordinate a rendezvous with the plants.

Boss hung up and walked back to Candy. She and Rodriguez looked very uncomfortable. But, they were talking about rap, another subject which Boss felt foreign to. Two entries into her home and two discussion to which he had no knowledge. This was not a home which he wanted to enter, but because of her father's death, it was a home he had to enter. So, his little legs continued to push toward her and in accord with police protocol he gave his condolences and asked her how she was dealing with the terrible loss of her father.

"Dad and I were not the closest. We had very few things in common. Other than bromeliads, I had nothing to share with him. And, to be truthful, the plant thing in his life was really something that emanated from mother. She was the lover of plants and he began to enjoy them, but not love them."

"But he was a rare one, like an *Alcanterea albomarginated chantinii* ." Boss offered and looking deeply into her pupils to see her response to this statement. Modern technology uses eye movement to detect lies. Instead of measuring a person's emotional reaction to lying, Boss knew that eye-tracking technology measures cognitive reaction. He also knew that researchers record a number of measurements while a subject answers a series of true-and-false questions on a computer. The

measurements include pupil dilation and response time – two things that he could do without the aid of a computer.

Candy's eyes did the little shake-shake. Her ophthalmologist saw little more than what Boss observed the next few seconds. Fits, her eyes moved from left to right. Then the color of her eyes seemed to darken as the pupils dilated. At this juncture, her throat must have experienced dryness as the mouth did not open and a verbal response did not jet out. He expected "What kind of plant is that?" Or "You know about that beauty?" Or "Where can one ever get that plant?" But none of these responses was given.

Instead, Candy said, "You know that my father had a collection in Miami-Dade County. But, did you know that he was the only person in the county, and in the state, and maybe in the United States of America, who had such a plant? That was his prize. Everyone, amateur to collector, has a plant in their yard or in their collection that few or no one else has. And, in their pride, they show this plant to others and tell them that this is their special plant. Well, for dad, the prize was *Alcanterea albomarginated chantinii*."

"Wow." Rodriguez said not knowing the significance of anything she just said.

"How much would a plant like that be worth?" Boss asked.

"Thousands. Probably \$5,000.00." Candy answered.

At this time, Boss again excused himself and called Marlene. He asked her if she looked at the judge's collection at the home. She had. "Any *Alcanterea albomarginated chantinii* in that collection?" he asked.

"No." she answered. "He had nothing of any value, let alone anything of such incredible value such as that plant." she finished.

## SHOW and TELL

Bring plants in which you either cannot label or think deserve special attention. The masters – Alan Herndon, Nat DeLeon or Karl Green – will review the plants, give you potentially incisive insight and deliver factoids of interest which you may or may not have known about the little beauty which you delivered for the

benefit of the others.

## Events of Interest:

21ST ANNUAL CALADIUM ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL  
Where: Stuart Park - Lake Placid, Florida  
When: August 26, 2011 Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
August 27 2011 Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. No show on Sunday this year!  
Phone: Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce:  
Website : [www.visitlakeplacidflorida.com](http://www.visitlakeplacidflorida.com)  
Admission :Free

MEMBERS DAY PLANT SALE  
Where: FTBG  
10901 Old Cutler Road Coral Gables, FL 33156 • Phone: 305.667.1651 • Fax 305.661.8953  
When: Saturday October 1, 2011  
9:00 AM -1:00 PM

BROWARD COUNTY PLANT AFFAIR  
Where: Plantation Heritage Park - Plantation, FL  
When: October 22,2011 Saturday 9:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
October 23, 2011 Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Phone: Plantation Historical Museum 954- 797-2722  
Admission : Only \$2.00 fee to enter the Park

EXTRAVANGANZA & ART SHOW  
Where: Daytona's Plaza Reort & Spa  
600 N Atlantic Ave., Daytona, FL 32118  
386-255-4471  
When: Nov 4-6, 2011  
Registration:  
<http://theartofbromeliads.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/registration.pdf>

RAMBLE  
Where: FTBG  
10901 Old Cutler Road Coral Gables, FL 33156 • Phone: 305.667.1651 • Fax 305.661.8953  
When: Nov. 11-12, 2011 9:30 AM - 4:40 PM

CALOOSAHATCHEE SHOW AND SALE  
December 2nd, 3rd and 4th  
Caloosahatchee Show and Sale  
Terry Park, Fort Myers  
For information, contact Dr. Larry Giroux at [DrLarry@comcast.net](mailto:DrLarry@comcast.net)

