

BromeliAdvisory

December 2011

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

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSSF/>

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

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Sandy Roth '11-'12
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Robert C Meyer

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Hospitality: Elaine Mills
Library: Skye Palmer
Membership: Moyna Prince
Member Plant Sales: Antonio Arbelaez
Raffle: Mike Michalski
Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

DECEMBER 20, 2011 @ 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: None, Phew

RAFFLE TABLE: No One – See Plant Exchange

FOOD TABLE: Everyone – contact
melodyluna@hotmail.com

Holiday Party and Its Rules

You are to contact melody to arrange for food – melodyluna@hotmail.com. You are to bring a smile. And, then there is a plant exchange. Rules; wrap it up. Deliver it to Corbin B. When the time comes, those who *bring* a plant are permitted to choose a wrapped goodie. Those who do not bring a plant, do not get to open a wrapped item, including a wrapped piece of coal. So bring the plant.

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President's Letter

First, a big "thank you" to all of our members for their contributions to another successful year for The Bromeliad Society of South Florida. As 2011 comes to an end, we have much to be proud of:

1. Our show last April was wonderful. Our guests were treated to one of our best-ever endeavors. For that, we have Chairman Alan Herndon and his large crew to thank. Congratulations to Josefa Leon, our Sweepstakes Winner.
2. Our membership topped 100 this year. We must be doing something right.
3. A college scholarship was established by the Society and will be awarded at our January meeting.
4. During a tough economic year we held our own. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden reported that all plant societies reported lower sales and attendance in 2011. We remain very sound financially.
5. Finally, we successfully moved our long-standing meeting night to the third Tuesday of the month at Fairchild.

Our last meeting of the year will be our annual Holiday Party on December 20th. See you there!

Carl Bauer, President

In Case You Missed It by Robert Meyer

Umps were stumped. Often.

Extravaganza 2011

by Alan Herndon

by Alan Herndon

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) held their 2011 Extravaganza, The Art of Bromeliads, in Daytona Beach during the first weekend in November. By itself, the Extravaganza is typically an all-day bromeliad sale ending with a banquet and auction to raise money for FCBS activities. This year there

were additions to the typical Extravaganza. FCBS organized a show of bromeliad-themed art to run in parallel with the Extravaganza. In addition, the Cryptanthus Society staged their yearly (judged) show in conjunction with the Extravaganza.

The Art Show was staged in a different site than the plant-related parts of the Extravaganza. A reception for Extravaganza participants, including an awards program for the artists who participated in the art show, was held Friday Evening. This gave everyone an opportunity to inspect the different ways bromeliads were treated by the artists. A majority of the works were paintings, but other media (including fiber, photography and printing) were also utilized. Our own Urszula Dudek was well represented with 4 paintings in the show. It will come as no surprise that Dudek's work (specifically the painting of *Cryptanthus* that she displayed at our show in April) was judged the best-in-show.



"Cryptanthus" acrylic by Urszula Dudek

With the
Cryptanthus

Society show present, many die-hard *Cryptanthus* fans from far away were at the Extravaganza. One notable example was our own Virginia Schrenker, now living in South Carolina, who we have not seen in several years. We hope she will be at our Show next April.

Plant sales held on Saturday were extensive, with over twenty vendors from throughout Florida, and one vendor from Louisiana. Plant material ranged from gaudy *Guzmania* hybrids to stately *Tillandsia* species to the spiny succulent bromeliads to the esoteric species beloved by a select set of discerning hobbyists. The *Cryptanthus* Society had their own sales tables full of amazing species and colorful hybrids. Mike Michalski was in the middle of the fray, selling plants from his booth throughout the day, but likely buying more plants from other vendors than he sold. Josefa Leon, and her grandson, Anthony, also represented southeastern Florida in the sales

room.

In addition to the plant sales, there were a few tables devoted to bromeliad art in the sales room. Artists exhibiting in the associated Art Show had a space where they could sell prints of their works. Prints of paintings by Urszula Dudek were, of course, well represented alongside the works of other artists from the Art Show. At a separate table, Penrith Goff, the bromeliad artist (from Michigan if you can believe it) who is a frequent winner of top awards in the Artistic Division at World Bromeliad Conference shows, was also selling prints of his fine paintings. Steve Littlefield from Saint Petersburg showed up with his t-shirts sporting colorful bromeliad portraits.

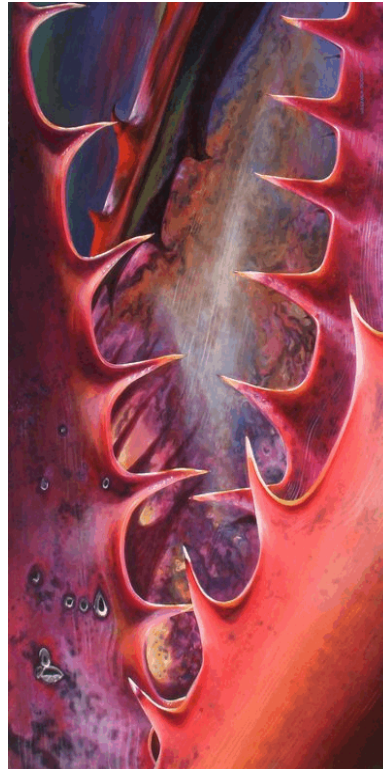
A series of lectures on various bromeliad topics took place during the Saturday. Organizers were savvy enough to delay the start of the lectures until noon. That gave everyone enough time to scour the sales room before heading in for an education at the talks. I suspect quite a few took another round in the sales room after the lectures also.

The judged show of *Cryptanthus* was also open for inspection by the public on Saturday. The entries were beautiful, massive specimens such as I could never dream of growing. However, other local members of our society (Richard Fulford and Barbara Partagas to name two) have recently developed an interest in *Cryptanthus*. We eagerly await the day when they compete in, and win, such shows.

The auction, following the banquet on Saturday, was larger than usual because the FCBS and the *Cryptanthus* Society each had a separate set of plants. This required careful coordination. Tom Wolfe, auctioneer for the FCBS would solicit bids on a few plants, then Larry Giroux, auctioneer for the *Cryptanthus* Society would take the dias to auction a few plants. Not surprisingly, the *Cryptanthus* Society share of the auction featured many large specimens of new or rare *Cryptanthus*,

both species and hybrids. At the time, it seemed that these *Cryptanthus* were attracting the highest bids of the night.

Robert Meyer, Sandy Roth and Urszula Dudek helped replenish the coffers of FCBS through active participation in the auction. Urszula seemed to be especially keen to acquire different kinds of *Cryptanthus*.



Another Dudek painting

Money raised by the auction is the primary source of income for the FCBS and goes to support programs such as the FCBS website (www.fcbs.org). If you haven't visited the site yet, you should do so soon. It contains a wealth of information essential to any bromeliad lover.

Bromeliad Extravaganzas are held at 2 year intervals, hosted by different local bromeliad societies in turn. You will have to wait until 2013 for your next chance to attend an Extravaganza, but remember, next summer we have an even bigger show – the World Bromeliad Conference – in Orlando.

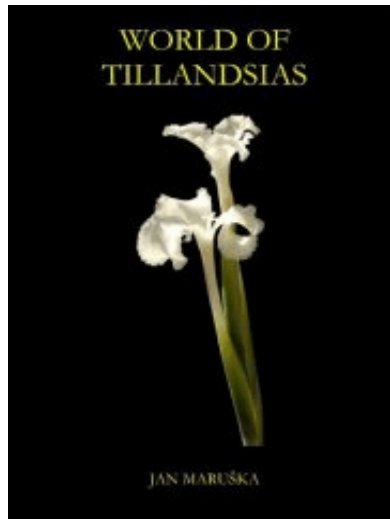
If you haven't given the World Conference much thought yet, despite the reminders you have been given during the past months, it is time to start concentrating. We have to start work on our own local show in January, and by the time we are finished in April, the opportunity for maximum discounts on registration fees will have passed. Unless you prefer to spend more money than necessary, think about the World Conference now. It will be an adventure far beyond what we do locally.

Book Review

by Moyna Prince

The World of Tillandsias is a book produced by the Czech grower Jan Maruska. There are over 90 pages with five to nine color photos per page, comprising approximately 180 species, varieties and a handful of hybrids.

The photos, which are of excellent quality, are in alphabetical order. Captions include



botanical name, country of origin, plant and flower size and growing requirements (light, temperature and humidity). Not included is altitude, an important consideration for South Florida hobbyists who grow out of doors. Many of

the Tillandsias included are new to me and I suspect are from high altitudes

You can see for yourself what the book looks like by going to: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/World-of-Tillandsias/119531598160114?sk=wall> or <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pASw4csbVc> If you want to buy your own copy (about \$90.00 including postage) contact the author directly.

This book will be a worthwhile addition to any bromeliad library, and we will have a copy of the book in our library in January.

Garden Notes - November 2011

by Alan Herndon

The first real winter weather reached us at the end of the month. Temperatures fell into the 50's overnight and did not reach 80 during the day. Of course, this only lasted two days before warming up. Still, our daytime temperatures now are in a comfortable range for all but the most strenuous activity.

Winter species are beginning to bloom among the bromeliads. More clones of *Aechmea nudicaulis* are joining 'Telephone Hill' in bloom. 'Telephone Hill' is still following the pattern that was established during the summer

of producing 1 bloom each month. *Aechmea orlandiana* and it's hybrid offspring, *Aechmea 'Bert'*, started bloom towards the end of the month. Members of *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* also started to bloom, led by *Aechmea apocalyptica* and *Aechmea gracilis*. These were soon joined by *Aechmea kurtiszieae* with many other species to follow soon. *Aechmea mexicana* started blooming in October, but many more plants came into bloom during November. In the meantime, *Aechmea alopecurus* continued to bloom into November along with two members of the *Gravisia* complex: *Aechmea blanchetiana* and *Aechmea amicorum*. *Aechmea fendleri* finished its too brief appearance on the flowering list. Our dependable crop of *Aechmea chantinii* continued to produce a few plants with open flowers.

Different *Billbergia* species and hybrids are beginning to bloom now in a foretaste of the winter season. *Billbergia pyramidalis* and *Billbergia 'Poquito Mas'* were conspicuous with many rosettes flowering at the same time. *Billbergia 'Hallelujah'* also produced a few inflorescences during month. We can expect more species in bloom over the coming months.

Cryptanthus warren-loosei was seen in flower this month. As usual, there were other species in bloom when I wasn't looking, so they were not recorded. This is probably the month when *Cryptanthus* look their best. Next month we can expect the first front with sufficiently cool and dry winds to toast the leaves on the plants that look so beautiful right now. Of course, you can protect the looks of your plants by moving them to sheltered locations right next to your house _ or by growing them indoors.

Guzmania minor and *Guzmania sanguinea* continued to bloom throughout the month, although in both cases, the flowering period of an individual rosette is much less than a month. As one plant has finished blooming, a new plant has taken its place.

Hechtia rosea began to bloom this month _ and finished quite quickly. However, the inflorescence was fully colored _ a bright orange-red _ for a few weeks before the first flowers opened and a week or so after the last flowers closed, so you get a good show for at least a month. In my case, another rosette in the same pot put out an inflorescence several weeks

after the first, so I had a brilliant display throughout November and can expect it to last well into December.

Hohenbergia pennae indeed continued blooming well into November, but it appears to be finished before December reaches us. This same plant has been flowering since May _ six months ago.

Few species of *Neoregelia* are blooming now. Among the small species that bloom more than once a year, mostly during the summer months, a plant of *Neoregelia ampullacea* 'Midget' and a few plants of the red leaf form of *Neoregelia punctatissima* produced flowers. In *Neoregelia compacta*, however, a period of mass blooming, as opposed to the scattering of rosettes in bloom during the past several months, is just starting.

Several *Orthophytum* species are still in bloom although the peak flowering season has clearly past. A new plant of *Orthophytum zanonii* has recently come into flower while *Orthophytum alvimii* and *Orthophytum lymaniana* continue to bloom. After a brief period without flowering activity, some new plants of *Orthophytum disjunctum* have also started to flower.

Pitcairnia xanthocalyx, with nearly white flowers, bloomed early in the month while *Pitcairnia flammea floccosa*, with bright red flowers, began to flower towards the end of the month.

Several clones of *Portea alatisepala* are just starting to bloom or in late bud now. If you have large clumps of these plants, you can expect a mass flowering where virtually every rosette in a clump produces an inflorescence at the same time. I also have *Portea petropolitana petropolitana* _ a different plant from the one blooming earlier this year _ in flower.

We expect (or hope) that clumps of *Tillandsia ionantha* will be in full color just in time for Christmas, but *Tillandsia ionantha* 'Tall Velvet' and *Tillandsia ionantha vanhyningi* have been flowering for me for the past few months. It will be interesting to see whether these plants will color up during December also. It is possible that the flowering I have seen to date represents the flowering of a small proportion of rosettes in a clump of 'Tall

Velvet'. (Regrettably, I have not taken the time to examine the clumps closely.) Since the *Tillandsia ionantha vanhyningi* are separated, I can tell, even on casual inspection, that only scattered plants are blooming any month. In other words, the majority of rosettes in clumps of 'Tall Velvet' may still color up together during December to give us our typical stunning holiday display. Of course, other *Tillandsia* species are blooming now too. *Tillandsia X correalii* continued to flower into early November. *Tillandsia chiapensis*, now that it has started to flower, shows no sign of finishing soon. We can only hope that the inflorescence retains its frosted pink color throughout the flowering period. *Tillandsia vernicosa* continues to bloom. The first plants reported in flower earlier this year finished blooming some weeks ago, but new plants have replaced them. *Tillandsia cyanea* bloomed during November. Flowers are open for a relatively short period in this species, but the inflorescence takes a relatively long time to develop and remains quite attractive during that period. Two species first seen flowering in November were *Tillandsia didisticha*, a species closely related to *Tillandsia vernicosa*, and a clone of *Tillandsia fasciculata* from Abaco (Bahamas).

As we creep ever deeper into the winter months, we will see again the steady progression of species in bloom. *Aechmea weilbachii* clones are now lying in wait for the proper moment to open their large buds. We can also expect many more members of *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* to show up on the list soon. With any luck, we may have the odd plant that hasn't bloomed for me before (although it is more likely that I simply missed previous blooms.)

Until we have a freeze bearing down on us, this is the best time of the year to be outdoors, so enjoy your plants and the lovely weather. Best wishes for the Holiday Season and for good growing conditions through the winter.



Events of Interest:

Fruit and Spice Park

Redland Heritage Festival
January 21 & 22, 2012
24801 S.W. 187th Avenue
Homestead, Florida 33031

New Directors

Welcome the new directors Urszula Dudek and Lenny Goldstein. Two years of their participation in our board for the years 2012 and 2013. Welcome aboard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORLD CONFERENCE

Although it is about one year away, the World Conference is still a large task which will require your efforts. Interested parties may contact Alan Herndon at Alanherndon@aol.com or Mike Michalski at pgonza7782@aol.com.

Want to know what the schedule looks like? Go to:

<http://fcbs.org/WBC12ScheduleofEvents.pdf>

SPRING SHOW

This matter is coming to use rapidly and much will be demanded of the society. Interested parties may contact Alan Herndon at Alanherndon@aol.com.

Ideas for the Speakers

Barbara Partagas invites anyone for suggestions for speakers for the 2012 year. Contact her at bpartagas@bellsouth.net or just walk up to her with a friendly suggestion.

Murder in Corbin A

© by Robert Meyer

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

36.

Boss, when the door slammed behind Marlene, thought less of the story rendition than the fact that his liaison with Linares would be affected by this moment. To put it bluntly – the Captain had been

a real buzz kill to whatever libido he would have that evening.

The story was correctly and thoroughly delivered by the three officers to the Captain. Marlene occasionally ruined the tempo of the story by correcting pronunciations of a few species which Boss referred to – he was a book learner of the items who did not know the unique manners of pronouncing the predominantly foreign words of the species of this plant world – and in the end there was a simple grunt from Captain.

Grunts from Captain came in a few varieties. To a blind person they were all the same – it was the position of the hand that would change the effect. If he was mildly upset, he held his right hand in clenched fist with thumb extended out at his adam's apple. If more upset, the same hand position would be at his lower lip. If really upset, the hand would touch the tip of his nose as the grunt emanated from the same area of his face. To everyone's relief, this was an adam's apple moment.

When they left, Boss and Rodriguez looked at their watches while Marlene looked at her phone for the time of the day. Each had their respective duties or engagements, and with little discussion went their respective directions. Boss, in an attempt to retrieve his romantic mood, went to his favorite liquor store, bought a very expensive bottle of champagne, and went from there to Linares' home.

When he arrived with bottle and a street-vendor-purchased bouquet of flowers, he rang her bell and waited with a mildly large grin on his face. As the door opened the smile vanished.

Linares was dressed in ugly drab clothes more likely to be worn when cleaning than anything else. Her eyes were red. She had been crying, and her cheeks were showing signs of the same. He voice was coarse and deep. She welcomed him in, but could not understand what had happened.

“My ex was pulled into the police station today. He said it was about a plant deal he did with a midget. And, he was told that if he did not squeal, the midget would. So, he spoke and the midget went to jail. Then I asked him what the midget looked like, and he told me. That is when I began to cry. You understand.”

Boss knew that the flowers and champagne were respectively going to compost and the fridge. He asked that she sit down. When she sat, he told her he could not tell her everything, but identified himself and how he was investigating the murders of Bea and the Judge. He was not doing anything but his job,

but that when his investigation brought him to Linares, that she became the only good thing from something so rotten. He also told her he would not apologize for what happened to Marin, he got what he deserved. After all, Marin had sold a stolen plant for much more than its worth; and worse, he had misrepresented its genus.

Linares was not going to accept the arrest or the selling the plant as being a crime – but the misrepresentation of the plant's identity caught her attention. She knew that was wrong. And, she knew that Marin would not make such an error unless there was a reason.

“You are sure that Marin sold the plant as one type, but in reality it was another?” she asked in strong tone.

“Yes.” Boss quietly responded.

“The last time he did this, it was code. He is trying to say something which he otherwise cannot say.”

37.

When the Captain returned home after another endless day on toils and spoils, he reached toward his wife of 32 years, received his daily dose of martini dry in a vintage martini glass, sat in his leather chair which had become supple in all of the right spots, and sat down before his television which would turn onto his station, Fox News.

Almost as though in script, his wife would ask, “How was your day today honey?” And, usually he would respond with “Great, a few less of the bad guys walking on our streets thanks to yours truly.” But, today was different to the old codger. He was not about to think about bad guys on the street. Instead, he was focused upon the plant world. And, instead words flowed from his lips which he could not stop, like a cascading water, they emerged into his home's television room and toward his wife in the adjacent kitchen. “Greta, I think. Caught a penny pinching, widow thieving, tree hugging, conniving SOB who I learned today was involved in a trade of illegal plants with little big man. Yeah, the little lieutenant has become quite a plant aficionado lately, and guess what he sold a little bromeliad for to this to-the-core dirty rotten scoundrel?”

“I have no idea,” his wife responded, “they always cost about eight to 11 dollars for a guzmania at Home Depot.”

The Captain was a little amazed she knew the price at Home Depot. He was even more surprised that she was aware of what a bromeliad was. And, he

was even more impressed or surprised that she knew the difference between a *Guzmania* from any other future compost producing foliage he would dig a hold for in his yard.. But, he had started this discussion and wanted to finish it now that he thought about it and responded, “Nope. He got \$500 for it. American. Cash in his hand. One plant. Not any bigger than those Goosemania things you see in Home Depot. Think about it. Five hundred dollars, a week's salary for a rookie, for one piece of foliage which cannot even be relied upon for a good bite.”

“Maybe it was a pineapple. You know pineapples are bromeliads, right honey?” His wife did it again. When did she, the person who never finished high school, know so much about the bromeliad world which his little big man lieutenant, Rodriguez and Marlene touch in their investigation? Must be that Johnson woman's influence, he thought. Amazing, he thought, after all these years of marriage, she can still surprise me.

“No pineapple I ever ate was worth more than a dollar. If it was pineapple, I am going to buy Dole stock tomorrow. Remind me to ask the guys if it was a pineapple. Hold on, I'll do it myself.” At this time, he rummaged about looking for his cell phone. Forgetting where he laid it, he thumbed all around his entryway, until he saw it neck to his glock on an interior table where he habitually placed his phone each evening. At this time, and unbeknownst to his wife, he picked up his cell phone and called the Boss.

“Hello.” Boss answered immediately.

“This is your Captain speaking. Have a question for you. Was that plant you sold for a king's ransom a pineapple?”

“No, sir.” responded Boss. “It is one of those rare plants that grow in the wilds and cannot make it to Florida but for a prayer and a miracle. That brought its price to the hundreds.”

“Any pineapple cost that much?” the Captain asked wondering if Dole still may be of some value.

“A few local hybrids by our growers cost a few bucks, but they are ornamental, not for digestion. So, if you are thinking of buying stock in Dole, don't.”

The Captain was stunned. How did this guy know what he was thinking. But, this happened too often in his life. He thanked the lieutenant and hung up.

As he hung up his cell phone, Boss took the land line and said his goodbyes to the Captain's wife who had called him just a few moments earlier when she asked whether her husband should buy Dole stock.