



March 2007

BSSF OFFICERS 2007

President Sandy Roth
VP Sharon Biddix-Maessen
Sec. Peggy Fisher
Treas. Robert Meyer

DIRECTORS

Nick Crespo
Peter Kouchalakos
John Lazarus
Alan Herndon

Editors

Moyna Prince
Robert C Meyer
Lynne Fieber

MARCH 6, 2007 MEETING 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Craig Morell
TOPIC: South Florida Bromeliads
RAFFLE TABLE: TBA
REFRESHMENTS: Elaine Mills, Bobby Dooley, Barbara Partagas, Joy Parrish, and Judy Pagliarulo

SHOW AND TELL TABLE: Bring your problem plants and our experts will try to help. If you have something unusual or in bloom, bring it in and share it with us. The S&T table is where we can get some quick tips from our resident experts.

THIS BROMELIADVISORY: Concentrating on getting prepared for the Spring Show – April 21 and 22, 2007 [Judging on April 20, 2007 and entries to be on April 19, 2007]. This issue brings you to the final lap of the Spring Show. Lynne Fieber again describes the latest items to handle in preparation for the Spring Show. Robert Meyer send out smoke signals and SOS messages for those who wish to help the needy in providing services or the show. And, an article from Peter Waters is reprinted to explain how to label plants

For this Month's Meeting:

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbalaez

Inside the BROMELIADVISORY:

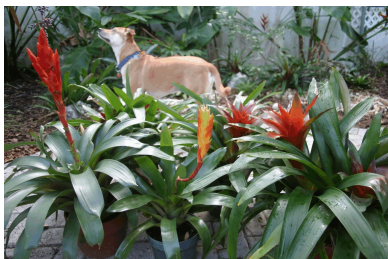
p. 2 March Plant Clinic, Deering Estate Visit
 p. 3 Reprint of Nemeth formula
 p. 4 Spring Show, Meet the Speaker
 p. 5 Peter Waters Article
 p. 6 Show Hand Out

March Plant Clinic

By: Lynne Fieber (photographer too)

There are just about 3 months to go before our little lovelies make their debut at our annual show. Since I wrote my last column, 2 more of my plants have come into bloom. One of them is a *Gusmania wittmackii*, and I am praying that the inflorescence will take its sweet time reaching final height and then coloring up. If I am extremely lucky, its flowers won't be totally spent by the time of our show in late April.

Which brings me to an interesting point. Nature designed *G. wittmackii* to bloom in February in



Lynne's Precious Dog with Precious *Guzmania*

the Northern Hemisphere. So my plant is right on schedule. You may think me unlucky that my plant is blooming so early before our show, but when I am feeling optimistic about it, I remind myself that because this plant is blooming in its correct season, it is likely to develop full size and full color, two things not guaranteed if it were blooming in July, instead. A sure show winner, if it can last that long!

For the rest of my blooming plants, all *Vrieseas* and *Guzmanias* plus one *Aechmea*, there's no need for nail-biting; I know I have already lost my chance to have these plants in the show. I keep my chin up while caring for their sisters, hoping they will be late bloomers, because, alas, there is no bromeliad category called "Finished Blooming".

A few cold snaps have visited us during the last month. I watered copiously, and then covered my plants with old sheets right where they stood, leaving this cover on for 2 days while I waited for warmth to return. All of them made it through the cold just fine. An *Aechmea* "Patricia" left uncovered in my landscape turned up with bright red leaves soon after, attesting to just how low the mercury had dropped. With the balmy weather blessing us this winter, it's difficult to remain vigilant about cold. But attention to cold with your show plants is critical, folks, because we are nearly in the home stretch!

Another tip for March: critically evaluate the symmetry of your future show winners this month. Do your plants have an obvious bare side? If so, abandon your regular turning schedule and rotate the plant so that the bare spot is toward the strongest light. Keep the plant in this orientation until the asymmetry rights itself. This may take a few months.

I leave you with a rogue's gallery of precocious bloomers from my collection. They may be too late for the show, but they put a smile on my face nevertheless, because I did a good job of growing them (maybe *too* good a job...).

THE DEERING ESTATE VISIT A SUCCESS

by Lynne Fieber

Saturday morning February 3, 2007 BSSF member and intrepid naturalist **Rick Cohen** led 9 lucky BSSF members on a 3 hour nature walk through the Charles Deering Estate grounds in lovely winter weather. The natural areas of this 400 acre property include tropical hardwood hammock bristling with epiphytes, mangrove forests populating both brackish water marshland and the fringes of Biscayne Bay, as well as one of the largest remaining pine rockland ecosystems remaining in South Florida. Our prey was the beautiful Deering Estate clone of *Tillandsia fasciculata* found only there (as far as we know), as well as fresh air, great views, sunshine, exercise, and of course, camaraderie.

Rick is a volunteer naturalist guide at Deering, and we could not have hoped for a better informed and engaging guide. Rick taught us loads of interesting plant names and historical uses to which the early Miami settlers, many of whom lived in the area in the 1840's onwards, put these plants. We also learned something of Rick's particular passions, the orchids, ferns and bromeliads, as he pointed out illustrative specimens of them all for us along the trail (and sometimes, off the trail). Highlights for our group were the native tillandsias thriving in the humidity of the tropical hardwood hammock and reaching for light at the edge of the pine rockland. We counted many threatened



T. fasciculata Deering

T. utriculata thriving here, apparently free of evil weevil (*Metamasius callizona*) infestation. We saw blushing *T. setacea*, plump *T. balbesiana*, variable *T. variabilis*, graceful *T. flexuosa*, playful *T. recurvata*, and cascading *T. useneoides*. But the star of the show for many of us was the Deering Estate *T. fasciculata* var. *densispica*. This lovely clone is characterized by a peachy inflorescence in which the color extends all the way up to the tip (see the accompanying photo*), accenting the typical violet flowers. These lovely plants coexisted with our more common - but not unspectacular - S. Florida clone, characterized by a deep pink inflorescence with green tips and violet flowers. Clearly there is quite a bit of self-fertilization going on, since both clones were present on the Estate grounds.

There's something special about seeing Florida's native bromeliads with others of your kind. These rather humble plants take on a renewed significance when you see them as nature has strewn them over the landscape, with others



Lori and Shirley

appreciating them as much as you are. Our Deering Estate walk made me realize how lucky I am to be an inhabitant of Miami, where we can experience native bromeliad abundance while walking the

same Old Cutler road the first Miamians used.

*online version of this newsletter displays the photos in color!

NOTE: Join the e-mail group of the BromeliAdvisory. E-mail meyerrobertc@cs.com and merely state ADVISORY in your e-mail topic and we will add you to the list.

THE FORMULA YOU ALL HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR:

A reprint of the formula handed out by Gyula Nemeth at this lecture February 6, 2007.

Guzmania culture

Probably the most important aspect of *Guzmania* culture is water and the quality of it. *Guzmanias* drink large quantities of it and are more sensitive

to the compounds that are dissolved in it. Rain water is best but not required. Water for your *Guzmanias* should be on the acid side, that is between 5.5 and 6.0 do not go above-6.0. If you keep your water at this level the fertilizers you use will be readily available to your plants. I use the continuous feed method. This way your plants will never be lacking in the nutrients for optimum growth. All you need to accomplish this is a siphon mixer that attaches to your faucet and a hose long enough to reach your plants.

The following is a mixture I use in a five-gallon container with the siphon mixer that is preset at a 1 to 15 ratio.

- 1 cup of household vinegar..
- 1 cup of Epsom salts = magnesium sulfate $MgSO_4$
- 3 Tbs Captan
- 3 Tbs Peters 20/10/20 peat light special
- 4 Tbs "K -power" = potassium nitrate 13.75 - 0 - 46

I should point out that Bromeliads in general and *Guzmanias* in particular do not like phosphorus. Phosphorus, in large amounts, will cause brown spots on leaves of *Guzmanias*, – some worse than others. Also the amount of vinegar you use will vary depending on your on local water supply.

Clip ⌘-----⌘

Bob Spivey Fertilizer Chart

Species	N (Nitrogen) parts	P (Phosphorus) parts	K (potassium) parts
<i>Aechmea</i>	1	1-1.5	3-4
<i>Guzmania</i>	1	.3-.5	2-3
<i>Neoregelia</i>	1	.5	2-3
<i>Tillandsia</i>	1	1	2
<i>Vriesea</i>	1	.75	2.5

Clip ⌘-----⌘

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership news: Welcome to new member **Harry Hoffman**, who has just joined. Harry lives at 13950 SW 106 St., Miami, FL 33186.

THE SPRING SHOW IS COMING – Here are Some Areas Where You Can Help and Rules you Will Need to Know

THE ANNUAL SHOW IS JUST MONTHS AWAY – April, 21 -22 2007

By Robert Meyer

Saturday and Sunday, 4/21-22:
The Show is open to the public.

We have needs in various responsibilities which will be addressed below.

Hospitality: Joy and Harlo Von Wald have the demanding job of placing members throughout the Garden, acting as “security” and hosts/hostesses. They REALLY need your help! Please call them to volunteer for half a day or longer.

Plant Holding: This spot is located just outside the show room, so that visitors can leave their purchased plants safely while viewing the show. **Antonio Arbelaez** runs this committee and needs a few good people to help keep track of what belongs to which visitors.

Clerks: Judging takes place on Friday. Judges are accompanied by clerks, who attach ribbons to each place. This is a great job for someone who wants to learn more about the intricacies of judging a show plant. Call **Lynne Fieber** for this job.

Entries and Placement: On Thursday afternoon, show plants will be received and processed. Help is needed with Entries (**Dean Fairchild**) and Placement (**Clara Kouchalakos**).

Show Sponsors: Can you sponsor an award? Crystal is presented to the major winners, and these pieces are quite expensive. If you would like to sponsor an award, please send your check to **Joy Parrish**, 12222 SW 77 Ave., Miami, FL 33156-5208. Checks (payable to BSSF) may be for any amount. Donors will be acknowledged in the Show Booklet and at the Show.

Show Sales: **Bob** and **Elaine Mills** are your leaders. They will relay the rules to you – or I can e-mail the same to you [contact me at meyerrobertc@cs.com and put the words MEMBERS SALES” in the title]. But, note

that you must be a member. See box below.

NOTE: If you have NOT paid your 2006 dues you will experience a problem with the show: you cannot sell plants at the show. If you are delayed in payment and care to sell plants at the show, send a check to Moyna Prince, 11220 SW 107 Ct., Miami, FL 33176. \$20 single, \$30 dual. Make checks payable to BSSF

If ANYONE WANTS TO BE INVOLVED, call me. (305) 285-8838 during the day or (305)668-334 after business hours. Or e-mail me at meyerrobertc@cs.com and entitle the e-mail as “SPRING SHOW.”

I thank you in advance.

Your show chairman,
Robert C. Meyer.

MEET THE SPEAKER

At 10, Craig developed an interest in plants while living in the forested tundra of Milwaukee. He subsequently saw the light and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Florida in 1988. From 1988 to 1994, Craig held various positions in the Florida Department of Agriculture and private industry.

In 1994 Craig took a position as Head Horticulturist and Nursery Manager for the Boca Raton Resort and Club, where he managed all facets of the club’s 356-acre garden. While at the Boca Raton Resort and Club, Craig oversaw the construction and maintenance of three nurseries and propagation facilities, including two orchid houses. He was also instrumental in developing a unique Chef’s Herb Garden (large enough to supply all the herbs required by the resort’s restaurant) as well as a unique, tropical rainforest garden.

In 2005 Craig took a position as Horticulturist for Pinecrest Gardens where he has undertaken the task of transforming the once well known tourist attraction into a unique botanical garden. With a staff of just 2 ½ [that is what Craig describes to be the staff], Craig has cleared the overgrown garden

of noxious plants and infused bromeliads, rare palms, begonias, aroids, heliconias and orchids to complement the garden's unique rock formations and topography. The garden has never looked better – except maybe when Nat DeLeon sowed his seeds on the same hallowed ground.

Time to Pay Your Dues

Dues must be paid by Feb. 28 for you to be retained on our mailing list. If there's a red check mark by your name on the label it means we haven't received your dues and this will be your last issue of the BromeliAdvisory. Please send your check (payable to BSSF) to Moyna Prince, 11220 SW 107 Ct., Miami, Fla. 33176. \$20 single, \$30 dual.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR PLANT LABELS -*Peter Waters [Reprinted from "Bromeliad" Vol. 46, No. 11, November 2006]*

An important part of your bromeliad collection is the labeling. If you are going to the trouble of growing a nice plant the effect can be spoilt by a label written in a shoddy manner or in the incorrect format. It is particularly important when entering your plants in competitive shows.

If the plant is a species, then the genus should have a capital letter and small letters for the remainder of the label. The same is true for varieties and other botanically described forms. When printed, italics are used, although not necessary for your labels:

Tillandsia fasciculata

Tillandsia fasciculata var *densispica*

Neoregelia carolinae forma *tricolor*

Cultivars are as the name suggests, cultivated varieties and are plants that differ from the species or varieties to a recognizable degree. Their names are written with a capital letter and are enclosed in single quotes and we do not put this in italics when printing. They may be found in the wild or in cultivation.

Strictly speaking it is not necessary to include the species on these labels but in practice it is helpful to know that this plant is a species and to differentiate from the next group:

Billbergia vittata 'Domingos Martins'
Neoregelia johannis 'DeRolf'
Aechmea agamosepala 'LuckyStripes'
Vriesea fosteriana 'Red Chestnut'
Aechmea orlandiana 'Ensign'

Cultivars also refer to this group, which are the product of crossing two species or hybrids, and these can only be propagated by offsets. When bromeliads are raised from seed there can be considerable variety in the progeny, particularly if the parents are themselves, hybrids, and the total issue is called the grex. A good example is *Neoregelia* Aussie Dream, a very diverse group of variegated plants, of which over 30 now carry a distinct name and these are cultivars. Once again the cultivar starts with a capital letter and has single quotes:

Neoregelia 'Kahala Dawn'
Aechmea 'Burgundy'
Billbergia 'Catherine Wilson'

A cultivar name can occasionally be used for a species found in the wild, but not yet described by a botanist and formally named:

Neoregelia 'fireball'

This leaves a group of plants with unofficial names, such as 'Variegata', 'Albomarginata', giant form, red form etc. The best way to handle these is to follow the format we use in our *Bromeliad Journal* and that is to use brackets and anglicise where possible:

Neoregelia carolinae (variegated)

Neoregelia 'Kahala Dawn' (albomarginated)

Tillandsia bulbosa (large form)

Some examples where the importance of writing the labels correctly is demonstrated:

Neoregelia tigrina is a species.

Neoregelia 'Tigrina' is a cultivar of *Neoregelia ampullacea*.

Neoregelia princeps is a species. *Neoregelia* 'Princeps' is a cultivar of *Neoregelia carolinae*

Another example where there is confusion because the 'incomplete' name does not have the species:

Neoregelia 'Inferno' a cultivar of *Neoregelia carolinae*.

Neoregelia 'Inferno' a hybrid between *Neo marmorata* and *Neo* 'Royal Robe'

Word Description:

Grex: (grêks) A classification for cultivars derived from the same hybrid.

[Latin, herd, flock; see gregarious.]

