



**May 2008**  
**BSSF OFFICERS 2008**

**President Karl Green**  
**VP Peter Kouchalakos**  
**Sec. Peggy Fisher**  
**Treas. Robert Meyer**

#### **DIRECTORS**

**Sandy Roth, Past President**  
**Judy Pagliarulo, '08**  
**John Lazarus '07-'08**  
**Alan Herndon '08-'09**  
**Lori Weyrick '08-09**

#### **Editors**

**Moyna Prince**  
**Robert C Meyer**

**Door Prize: Alan Herndon**  
**Education: Nat DeLeon**  
**Hospitality: Elaine Mills**  
**Library: Sandy Roth**  
**Membership: Moyna Prince**  
**Member Plant Sales: Antonio Arbelaez**  
**Raffle: Peter & Clara Kouchalakos**  
**Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez**  
**Photos: Michael Schmale**

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

**MAY 6, 2008 , 7:30 PM**

**SPEAKER: Dr. Theresa Bert**



**RAFFLE: Leo & Maricela Castro** (They will be hosting the first leg of the Nursery visit just a few days after the meeting.)

**FOOD TABLE: Josefa Leon, Lavinia Acton, Marilyn Gresh and Joy Parrish** and *leftovers from the Show!!!*

#### **Who Is Dr. Bert?**



Dr. Bert has chaired symposia on ecology and aquaculture, and numerous presentations on fisheries, evolutionary biology, population genetics, and biodiversity. She has reviewed for 10 research agencies and 19 professional journals in the areas of marine ecology and biology. Bert has held the editor's title for four publications, and has helped to acquire over \$1 million in research grants. And, in her spare time, she works extensively with bromeliads. Bachelor's

Math and Biology Southeast Missouri State University; Master's Marine Science Univ. South Florida, Ph.D. Yale University.

**PHOTOGRAPHER NOTICE:** All photos of show and show plants were from **Lynne Fieber** and **Michael Schmale**.

**NURSERY VISIT THIS MONTH! Article on page 2. Date: May 10, 2008, 4-6:30 PM, or straggle on with libations (and maybe some old jokes).**

## SHOW CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

*By: Robert Meyer*

### SHOW WAS BRILLIANT

As to the display of flora, the show was perhaps unparalleled in recent history. The diversity and range of plants delivered was unquestionably among the best seen by the event in years. Over 368 entries were received. Elsewhere in the advisory, you will see how impressive that number is.

Much of the diversity was owed to a few displayers. First, exhibitors of merit were **Bullis Bromeliads** and **DeLeon Bromeliads World, Inc.** Nat DeLeon added his talents to the show by being there Thursday to help identify the plants.

From start to finish, the show had **Barbara Sparling, Alan Herndon, Rhonda Herndon, Barbara Partagas, Mike Michalski, Patty Gonzalez, Peter Kouchalakos, Clara Kouchalakos, Kris Green** (until ailment), **Karl Green, Jeri Parrish, Joy Parrish, Sharon Biddix-Maessen, Harlo Von Wald, Joy Von Wald, Bruce McAlpin, Lavinia Acton** (and her sisters), **Doris Boisen, Judy Pagliarulo, Sandy Roth, Moyna Prince, Juan Espinosa Almodovar, Jorge Rodriguez,** and **Antonio Arbelaez.**

Also working relentlessly were **Sara Donayre, Charlotte Futerfas, Valory Greenfield, John Lazarus, Betty McQuale, Lynne Fieber, Michael Schmale, Jacqueline Gaudio, Charlotte Futerfas,** and **Josefa Leon.**

Invaluable Thursday appearances were made by **Dean Fairchild** and **Ken Marks** who computerized the entry sheets. Dean with Lynne and her aides coordinated the judging Friday morning and afternoon, while numerous of those people aforementioned either observed or helped.

Friday evening was a trip to Sandy's house where western wear and grilled food maintained the theme for what Michalski would call the "attending Bubbas." Turn out at the affair was very receptive and Sandy had to "crow bar" some stragglers at the evening's waning hours.

Saturday and Sunday were filled with resplendent weather with only some cloud cover – all occasionally well received to obtain reprieve from the incessantly tiring effects of the prolonged sun.

Attendance by purchasing parties may have been less than seen in recent years, but the attendance was well above the amounts seen prior to 2005.

In short, the event was a success. The superlatives recited by observers of the show – where more than 375 plants stood, adorned by numerous pieces of related art – spoke volumes about the show's presentation and reception

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### NURSERY TOUR & YARD VISIT

**By Lori Weyrick**

<b>DATE &amp; TIME:</b> Saturday, May 10, 2008 <b>4-6:30 PM</b>
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Join in and share the camaraderie with other members of BSSF at a nursery and yard tour in the Redland.

**1st STOP: 4 - 5 PM** Tour of **Country Garden Bromeliads** owned and operated by BSSF members Leo and Marisela Castro. They specialize in shade and sun grown landscape bromeliads (Neos, Aechmea, Vriesea and Tillandsia). They have over 100,00 sq. ft. of shade houses- Visit their website at **www.bromeliadworld.com** and then bring your 'must have' list and buy bromeliads at wholesale prices

**ADDRESS:** 15403 SW 200 Street (Quail Roost Drive) (786) 543-0622 cell

**DIRECTIONS: FROM US 1 (S. DIXIE HWY)** : US 1 to 186<sup>th</sup> Street (Quail Roost Drive), turn WEST and keep going about 5 ½ miles (about ½ way out Quail Roost Dr. it turns into 200 Street- don't ask me why). There is a flashing red light at 147<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Quail Roost Dr.- Go THROUGH the light staying on Quail Roost Drive. You will pass over a canal (C-102). **Country Garden Bromeliads** is located 1-2 blocks beyond the canal on the NORTH side of the street There is a sign out front. (If you go over the railroad tracks, turn around- you have gone too far)

**FROM TURNPIKE:** Exit 13, head west on Quail Roost Drive and follow above directions

**2<sup>nd</sup> STOP: 5- 6:30 PM Home of Lori Weyrick.** Lori, the former owner of Quail Roost Nursery, Inc. lives on a 5 acre property in the Redland which features a 1/4 acre waterfall and ponds with a 16' grotto. It was originally designed as a native plant and wildlife habitat and is registered with the National Wildlife Federation and Florida Yards and Neighborhoods. Her waterfall, pond and grotto were featured in the Miami Herald 3 years ago. Many changes have taken place.....Since joining BSSF, Lori has added bromeliads (Neos, Aechmeas and Tillandsias) around the pond, in the trees and other areas of the landscape. Lori also has an extensive collection of rare and endangered palms, cycads and bamboo. Wine, cheese and appetizers will be served. **COME AND MINGLE WITH BSSF MEMBERS!!**

**ADDRESS:** 14880 SW 200 Street (Quail Roost Drive) (305) 346-4661 cell

**DIRECTIONS (2nd STOP):** After exiting Country Garden Bromeliads, turn left (East) on Quail Roost Drive and go to 149th Avenue (SOUTH side of 200 Street) Property is located on the corner of 149<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 200 Street (Quail Roost Dr.). **PLEASE PARK OUTSIDE GATE IN FIELD AND WALK IN.**

#### **Elizabeth McQuale's Husband Dies** [Taken from Miami Herald]



McQUALE, JOHN. Born in Philadelphia, PA on August 11, 1920; deceased March 23, 2008 in Coral Gables, FL. A graduate of

the University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School 1948), where he met and married Celia Ebert with whom he had four sons, Jonathan, Christopher, Seth, and Brooke. Known as "Jack", he proudly served our nation as lieutenant and then captain flying C-47s and C-54s, respectively, in both WWII and the Korean War.

He is survived by his wife, **Elizabeth (Lattell) McQuale**, his sons Christopher, Seth (his wife, Barbara), and Brooke

McQuale, his two grandsons Cameron and Brett McQuale, along with his step children Douglas Beardmore, Marian (her husband, Tim) Hasty and their children, Timothy and Daniel Hasty.

#### **Can You Think Ahead?** **EXTRAVAGANZA 2008**

**WHEN: August 29, 2008 Friday 1:00 – 6:00 PM , 7:00 PM Reception**  
**August 30, 2008 Saturday 9:00 – 4:00 PM**  
**Sales, seminars**  
**6:30 PM Banquet and Auction**  
**August 31, 2008 Sunday 9:00 AM Bus Tours**

**WHERE: 4400 W. Cypress Street**  
**Tampa, FL 33607**

**NOTE: This is Labor Day Weekend**

**CONTACT:**  
[www.sheraton.com/tampaairport](http://www.sheraton.com/tampaairport)

**All accommodations are room suites.**  
**Room Rate \$99.00 Double or single.**  
**Airport shuttle complimentary 24/7 on the hour**

#### **In case you missed it** by Robert Meyer

**Craig Morrell** delivered one of those calls which we try to ignore as the realization of the impending topic would often leave us anxiety-ridden in bed all morning. The topic: Water conservation. Permanent water restrictions will not be a seasonal call derived from future natural events; instead it will be a pronounced response to population growth and other determinates of our region.

South Florida will inevitably follow what the majority of the state has already encountered – mandatory water restrictions from the present throughout the rest of the future. And, one of the greatest wastes of water comes from our beloved watering of the garden.

Morrell's statistics of the watering were astounding: 4 gallons per minute for the average water head of an automated sprinkler system; 10 gallons a minute for the large waterbird hammer head; 2.25 million gallons a day for some golf courses; and 500 billion gallons a year for one area of Florida. The problem is not so much the arrival of the issue. Instead, it is the realization that the

issue is here; and, our yard habits may be part of the cause.

Nipping that cause at the root may create a partial solution. Morrell proposed two easy remedies: better water usage and better use of mulch. Combining the two would be most effective.

Water usage is encountering a renaissance wherein drip irrigation is affordably manufactured and readily marketed. Morrell showed three types of tubes which limited the water to as little as one gallon per minute for endless feet of the tube. Topping the tubes with mulch (not putting the drip irrigation on top of the mulch) improves the effectiveness of the drip irrigation system.

Pinecrest Gardens, Morrell's eden, has gone from 500 thousand gallons of water per watering cycle (a 2-day event for the large garden) to merely 80,000 gallons per cycle.

Morrell's message is that you can follow his garden's lead by implementing similar strategies. He showed us timers, filters, hoses and other devices which restrained the outflow of water, but ultimately pleased the beloved plants as well, if not better, than the sprinkler counterpart which we have used over the past several decades.

Morrell's message was tempered with rational advice: do not attempt to change everything at once. Start with a small project on one site, then another, and so forth. In a period of a few years, the project will be accomplished, without much expense, and ultimately the conservation derived from simple changes may astound you and your neighbors.

Ultimately, the aim is to stop the water table from dropping to the point where salt water intrusion creates a significant threat to our potable resources. And, who knows, maybe – just maybe – future politicians and others may implement another conservation idea which has been used by other places for decades": salt water sewer pipes. Perhaps a topic for another meeting by another group.

Hopefully, "Yard Visits" will become an on-going opportunity to learn about bromeliads in various landscape settings, both formal and informal and to share the successes and failures in growing them from other BSSF members.

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### Special Thanks to Herndons



Unless you watched, you would not know it. **Alan Herndon** and **Rhonda Herndon** tirelessly aided from the start to finish. I cannot count exactly

how many items of the show relied upon their collective efforts. A few are: communicating and obtaining judges, identifying the plants, preparing the facility with socket wrenches and the like, placing the plants, being present at time of the judging, aiding with supplies to members' table, and – good for them – winning two of the named prizes at the show. And, believe me, they were involved with so much more. Karl Green can attest to their efforts as late as dusk Sunday. To the Herndons, this chairman says a special thanks is owed to your tireless efforts. These are two people who ask for nothing from the society, but seem to give to it more than we could ever expect from anyone – human or superhuman. The photograph above is Rhonda's winning *Pitcairnia Tabuliformis* which is not in bloom. Ultimately, it may bloom and look like:



Photo by Peter Tristram



*Nidularium Francois Spae*



## New Award Declared *Ed Prince* Winner named

Ed Prince, a member of innumerable services and talents which annually delivered benefit to the BSSF has received the latest named award. The board of the BSSF will determine the criteria for the award before the next show, but **Mike Michalski** wished to deliver crystal to a member this year in Ed's honor. The winner was **Jacqueline Gaudio's** *neoregelia* fireball mantlepiece stunner.



## But Who Is Counting?

After looking at more than 350 plants, the judges delivered verdicts for the various plants. Through a relatively complex of quantitatively measuring the judge's qualitative opinions, the show was completed with a winner: **Josefa Leon**. Although that is not too surprising to the members of the society, the margin of victory and other aspects of the competition show that her reign may be coming to a close. Josefa won with 150 points, edging **Karl Green's** 149 points. Grandson to Josefa, **Jorge Rodriguez**, came a close third. A youth movement appears to be in the making.



Josefa and Jorge pose with undoubtedly another winner.

## Sometimes Schmale's Photos Improve the Flora's Natural Beauty

Was it the light, the shutter speed, the resonance, the lens? Who knows, but below is a *Tillandsia Capitata* *Mayan Gold* with purples and yellows which my bare eye did not see as vibrantly as Schmale's lens.



## Summer Growing Tips revisited

Craig Morrell came to tell us 3 tips for summer growing in September– we left with no less than 5 tips.

**Tip 1:** Move the plants to the shade through mid-October.

**Tip 2:** Snail: Inorganic methods include copper fungicide, ground glass, and metaldehyde..

**Tip 3:** Fertilize 13-13-13 is good, but he prefers hard to find 1-0-30.

**Tip 4:** Fungicides can cost a lot. Cheaper ones are Zyban and Banrot. Both are dangerous. Maybe, organic is best for pocket and health.

**Tip 5:** Mosquito suppression – Paraffin Oil is good Cutter product with hose attachment may be best.

### BROMELIADTOID

THE NUMBER OF PLANTS PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL BSSF SHOW EXCEEDS THE NUMBER PRESENTED AT THE WORLD CONFERENCE. THIS LITTLE ORGANIZATION SHOWS REAL MOXY BY BEING SO VOLUMINOUS AN ASSORTMENT OF PLANTS. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO SUBMITTED PLANTS TO WHAT WE CAN CALL THE LARGEST BROMELIAD SHOW IN NORTH AMERICA.

## CURTIS F. DOWLING JR. 1919 - 2008

By Moyna Prince

Curtis F. Dowling Jr., a member of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, passed away on April 20, 2008. He is survived by his wife Angela, and many nieces and nephews.

When Ed and I moved to our present house in 1968, we found an established community with neighbors who were eager to share plants. We were soon the owners of *Billbergia pyramidalis* and *Neoregelia spectabilis*. But we were curious to learn more. A walk down the block took us past a house with what looked like a rain forest in the back yard. Ed knocked on the front door which was opened by Curt Dowling. It seemed the Dowlings had bromeliads in the trees, under the trees, all over the place, and we went home the proud owners of huge specimens like *Androlepis skinneri* and *Aechmea bracteata*.

After this auspicious beginning the Dowlings became friends. I soon discovered that Curt knew every bug in my yard and almost every plant. His back yard rain forest was a refuge for rare palms, aroids, ferns, orchids and bromeliads. Birds and bugs were equally happy. He was a member of every plant society, including the BSI, and subscribed to every botanical and entomological journal. He had an impressive memory and enjoyed telling stories of long ago - always with his wry humor and deadpan expression.

Curt met Angela, who was born in Costa Rica, when they both worked for United Fruit Co. in Central America. When they settled back in Florida Curt worked for the state agriculture department's Division of Plant Industry where one of his responsibilities was control of the medfly.

He recently asked me if the Herbarium at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden might be interested in his old dried plant specimens, collected and mounted in Dade and Broward Counties in the 1940s. Of course they were very excited to get these native plants from

sixty years ago, all with the collection dates and locations in Curt's meticulous writing. They will be scanned into the Virtual Herbarium records and ultimately available for on line research.

I have so many plants that came from the Dowlings after those early bromeliads. They're a wonderful memento of two good friends.

## Some Recipes for Potting

1. A soil recipe for bromeliads is to take two parts good potting soil and one part pea gravel (small gravel, like aquarium gravel).

*Anonymous*

2. When adapting bromeliads that normally grow as epiphytes to pot culture it is important that their potting medium contain the following qualities: enough substance to hold the plant firm and upright in the container, the ability to hold moisture, enough drainage to provide good aeration and prevent root rotting.

Inorganic materials such as perlite, polystyrene or styrofoam beads, hadite, coarse granite (turkey grit) or river gravel aid in maintaining the porosity of the mix as the organic materials decay. Some of the organic materials used to provide good drainage : crushed pine bark, shredded tree fern, redwood wool, redwood bark, fine and/or medium fir bark, and cork. Coarse sand, potting soil, long fiber sphagnum moss, osmunda fiber and peat (Canadian or German) are materials which have water holding ability. Peat also furnishes acidity and bromeliads like a neutral to acid medium.

*Teas Nursery*

## Bob Spivey Fertilizer Chart

Species	Nitrogen parts	Phosphorous 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