



**May 2009
BSSF Officers 2009**

President Robert Meyer
VP: Pepe Donayre
Treasurer: Alan Herndon
Secretary: Barbara Partagas

DIRECTORS

Past Pres.: Sandy Roth
Directors:
Lori Weyrick '09
Peter Kouchalakos '09
Judy Pagliarulo '09-'10
Ofelia Sorzano '09-'10

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: Peter & Clara Kouchalakos
Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

APRIL 5, 2009, 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Dr. Jeffrey Block – a walk through his yard
RAFFLE TABLE: Jose “Pepe” Donayre
FOOD TABLE: Grub will be there

Speaker for the Month:

Dr. Block is an anaesthesiologist whose hobby for horticulture blossomed into a devotion of extraordinary scale. With a garden reviewed on numerous occasions by the Miami Herald and other publications, some of his bromeliad collection lies below the shadows created by rare palms which host rare orchids. Other horticultural wonders abound in his yard. His lecture will walk us through his yard without having to endure Miami’s heat.



Neoregelia Jeffrey Block
Photo by the Nature Collection

Suggestion Box Is Open

There will be a suggestion box at the meeting.

Show Summary – Thanks for the Memories by Alan Herndon

Since BSSF is celebrating its 50th anniversary, this year's show benefitted from special efforts put forward by many people to ensure its success. Let me begin by thanking the entire BSSF membership for their combined efforts. A large proportion of our members played an active role in the show. Many members played multiple roles with aplomb and grace.

In what follows, some highlights of the work that went into the show are presented.

Vital preparatory work was carried out by many people. **Joy Parrish** did an outstanding job convincing people to sponsor the crystal awards that are so characteristic of our show. **Shirley Berckmans** took over preparation of the Show Book. **Peter Kouchalakos**, in addition to recruiting commercial vendors, sold advertising to underwrite the Show Book. Publicity for the show was provided by **Robert Meyer** in media both new and old. Rhonda's brother, **Scott**, constructed the pipe racks we used for hanging plants.

Food service was coordinated by the always talented, and lovely, **Sandy Roth** and **Judy Pagliarulo**. They received major assistance from **Lori Weyrick** and **Sara Donayre**. Together, they provided a luncheon with a French theme for the judges, a barbeque dinner party for the judges and volunteers. Plentiful food was also provided for the legions of society volunteers during all four days of the show.

The irrepressible **Sharon Biddix-Maessen** ran the Art Show with flair. Her work extended over a much longer period than the four days of the show. Early in the year, she spent weeks organizing the art instructors and students at Kenwood Middle School to ensure a plentiful supply of paintings for the show. She also ensured that students had a variety of bromeliads in bloom to serve as models. Finally, she recruited accomplished local artists to show their works, others to judge the works of both students and adults, and a bevy of volunteers to register and display the artwork. Her organization was so efficient, that the setup for the art work was essentially complete by mid-afternoon.

Sharon also ensured that the tables needed for our plant show were available early. **Ofelia Sorzano** and her son, Lucas, had most of the tables placed out in rows by the time the persons responsible for setup arrived.

Classification, as usual, was handled by the debonair **Nat DeLeon** and **Karl Green**, with liberal assistance from **Dean Fairchild**.

Data entry presented a challenge since other obligations precluded the presence of the redoubtable **Ken Marks**, our data entry whiz for many years. The perpetually cheerful Ofelia undertook the monumental challenge of learning the data entry process under fire, and did a magnificent job despite initial problems getting a computer and printer combination that worked together. Of course, no single person could replace Ken Marks, so we were fortunate to have **Pepe Donayre** assist Ofelia throughout most of a very long day. Robert Meyer also entered data for a period to give our two stalwarts a brief respite. Throughout it all, Dean Fairchild was there to provide instruction on the data entry program.

Placement was originally assigned to Ofelia, but with Ofelia tied up in Data entry, the responsibility fell to veterans **Joy** and **Harlo von Wald**. They carried out the task admirably, with help provided by **Barbara Partagas**, **Patty Gonzalez** and others.

On Friday, Ofelia was there early (and, amazingly, still cheerful) to log in the judge's plant entries, and stayed throughout the judging to enter ribbons and other awards into the database, as well as print out the reports needed for judging. Dean Fairchild gave the judges final instructions and remained available to help settle questions raised by any of the judges panels. **Lynne Fieber** and her crew of clerks (notably including **Shirley Allen**) faithfully recorded the judges decisions and performed the innumerable tasks required to keep judging flowing smoothly. After the final awards were decided, **Barbara Sparling**, with the able assistance of **Jackie Gaudio** and **Joy Parrish**, set up the head table display of major award winners.

I would especially like to acknowledge the

three out-of-state judges who came to assist with our show. **Charlie Birdsong** of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; **Ed Doherty** of Dallas, Texas; and **William Soerries** of Columbus, Georgia. Their willingness to travel long distances to benefit our show exemplifies the generous spirit of bromeliad enthusiasts.

On Saturday and Sunday, the show and sale was open to the public and most of the volunteers who served on Thursday and Friday, rather than taking a well-deserved rest, assumed further duties.

Joy von Wald took on one of the largest jobs, overseeing the Member Sales Table. The members with large numbers of plants to sell provided steady support for sales, and Joy received help with the cashier's duties from Patty Gonzalez and **Carl Bauer**. Carl also resumed his old role as money counter after the show, providing an unassailable accounting of the sales attributed to each member.

Juan Espinosa-Almodovar headed the Information table, and spent long hours there. Sara Donayre, **Kris Green**, Barbara Partagas, **Moyna Prince** all spent time at the table, making new friends for the society. (Five new members were signed up during the show.)

The Auction was run by the persuasive Peter Kouchalakos and **John Lazarus**. This year, the Auction was enriched by several notable donations. Member **Jeff Block** donated some of his rarely seen variegated plants to the auction. Nat DeLeon donated one of his special hybrids, *Nidumea* 'Wow', and several more merely spectacular *Guzmania* hybrids. **Bill and Maureen Frazel**, judges from Broward County, donated a *Hohenbergia belemii*. Karl Green took one of his crystal-winning plants from the head table (*Orthophytum conquistense*) and entered it in the auction. Patty Rabin generously donated the floral arrangement 'Japanese Spring', an entry that won the Best Artistic gold award to the auction. Other members serving as runners in the auction included **Peggy Fisher**, **Chieng Manlee**, Robert Meyer and Lori Weyrick.

Show visitors could leave their purchases with the quietly efficient **Antonio Arbelaez** in the Plant Holding area. Chieng Manlee also spent many hours both Saturday and Sunday at Plant Holding.

Hospitality, headed by Harlo von Wald, saw a seismic shift in responsibility as the requirement that vendors attach a label to plants at the time of sale was unexpectedly dropped on Saturday morning. This obviated the need for BSSF members to check that all plants leaving the garden had the attached label. Many of these volunteers found their way to other jobs, often at the Members Sales Table.

We have grown used to the wonderful photos of the show and major award winners produced yearly by **Michael Schmale** and Lynne Fieber. Once again, they were busy Sunday afternoon, photographing the many magnificent plants from this year's show. We can look forward to another spectacular program from Michael and Lynne later in the year.

Finally, I have to express particular appreciation for the people who stayed to help with the clean-up on Sunday. It is people like you who make the ordeal of the show worthwhile.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Meyer

Alan already delivered a very heartfelt appreciation to those who aided him for this year's Annual Show. And, as someone who knows a little about the handling of the event, I must say that this year's Show may have been the best – and by quite a margin.

Some unknown events included the delivery by Nat DeLeon to Alan his purple (hybridized?) *Guzmania wittmackii*. Ordinarily seen in orange (some call it red), we were able to actually see two of the plant as Dr. Block provided another for Exhibit – which was auctioned off and the proceeds generously donated by Dr. Block.

What made the plant delivery special is that Alan's mother apparently has something to do with the *wittmackii*'s presence in South Florida. Some lore asserts she found the plant and began breeding it in our domain. Jokingly, we asked Alan if there was a *wittmackii* in each room of his childhood home.

Each of us, in his or her own way, delivered

our version of a special something to Alan in a manner similar to Nat DeLeon. And, in his own profound way, Alan's "Show Summary" article constitutes his pronounced appreciation from his Monday-morning perspective/review of the Show. We can all conclude that the 50th year's Annual Show was more than a momentous occasion as interpreted by golden anniversary – it was the best show in my not-so-short-lived membership to this organization, and may be the best even in the annals of longer-term members.

So without repeating too much of what was already said by Alan, I will not thank those who helped. Instead, on behalf of those who helped or came to the Show, I thank Alan and Rhonda for their time and labor for making the 50th Show an event which will be well remembered by the BSSF.

GLOVES BEING OFFERED

Anyone who wants to order the elbow length, elasticized gloves we have had in the past should let Barbara Partagas know. They come in small, medium, and large at a cost of about \$15.00 /pair.

A Bruuuuuutal Drought

by Alan Herndon

Rains in the middle of March provided the first respite from a drought that lasted from November at our nursery. The complete lack of rain during the winter months is quite unusual in the Miami region, although it might be expected every decade or so. In any case, the extreme conditions provided a splendid test of the drought tolerance of various bromeliads.

At our nursery, several types of bromeliads are growing outside of the area covered by our watering system. This includes several clumps of *Aechmea chantinii* growing on the trunks of Avocado trees. A bed of *Neoregelia Ultima* growing in full midday sun. Beds of *Neoregelia* Fireball, Bossa Nova and *cruenta* growing under the shade of Gumbo Limbo and Oak trees. A bed of large bromeliads (including *Hohenbergia stellata* and large species of *Aechmea* in the *Gravisia* complex) under a Gumbo Limbo. And several large pots of *Aechmea blanchetiana*, *Aechmea* Little Harve, *Androlepis skinneri* and *Portea petropolitana extensa* growing in full sun.

By February, every one of these groups of unwatered plants were beginning to show evident water stress. Leaves were beginning to curl up. Lower leaves were dying much more rapidly than usual. The *Aechmea chantinii* attached to the Avocado trees showed the most damage. Not only did the older leaves begin to die off rapidly, most of the older plants also died before the recent rain. None of the plants listed above escaped damage, although plants in more shaded locations showed considerably less stress.

Unfortunately, we could still be facing another month to six weeks of rainless days. (The rainy season down here usually starts toward the end of May, but at times does not start before the middle of June.) Of course, the sun is rising higher in the sky each day, and temperatures are going up. This means the most stressful days for our plants are quite possibly still ahead.

Still, bromeliads are more drought resistant than many plant groups. A good watering every week or so will be sufficient to keep your bromeliads happy (although not necessarily growing at a maximum rate), but you need to keep an eye out for plants that lose protective shade as the sun moves in the sky. These plants may need water more often, or even need to be relocated into a more shady location.

JOIN the BSSF:

Friends or Family contact Moyna Prince at 305-251-5289

T-Shirts Still For Sale

Sandy Roth has determined to take on another task – make t-shirts. Artwork is approved and she has contacted the proper printers to manufacture t-shirts for the masses. Announcements will be delivered at the meeting.

We hope she has the shorts In any event, shirt deposits will be accepted at the meeting. Bring your money. Being attired in those shirts may help the organization financially and aesthetically.

What's in Bloom - April 2009

by Alan Herndon

Due to the press of show preparations, the flowering survey this month was less complete than usual. It is highly likely that several plants with short blooming periods were missed. Despite this, the number of *Neoregelia* species and hybrids coming into bloom, and a massive increase in bud production by *Aechmea chantinii* were impossible to miss.

Compare this list with the list for Mar 2009 and you will see that the number of blooming plants has increased significantly. Plants blooming for the first time still lag slightly behind the number of carry-overs from last month. Plants recorded for the first time are in bold letters.

- *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* (*blumenavii*, *caudata*, *comata*, *cylindrata*, *kerteziae*, *kleinii*, *organensis*, *pimenti-velosii*, *winkleri*)
- *Aechmea* (Alvarez, *amicorum*, *angustifolia*, *bracteata*, *pacifica*, *burle-marxii*, *carvahloi*, *chantinii*, *contracta*, *fosteriana*, Little Harv, *milsteiniana*, *miniata discolor*, *nudicaulis*, *pineliana*, *racinae*, *strobilina*, *tillandsioides*, Victoria, *victoriana*, *warasii intermedia*, *weilbachii albibracteata*)
- *Ananas nanus*
- *Cryptanthus* (*arelii*, *bromelioides*, *burle-marxii*, *correia-araujoii*, *delicatus*, *fosterianus*, *leuzingeriae*)
- *Fosterella petiolata*
- *Guzmania* (*lingulata*, Noah, *ronhoffiana*)
- *Hechtia* (*coerulea*, *marnier-lapostollei*)
- *Hohenbergia* (*augusta*, *distans*, *pennae*, *undulatifolia*, *stellata* (pink))
- *Neoregelia* (Aztec, Bossa Nova, *carolinae* (several clones), Charm, Catherine Wilson, *compacta*, *correia-araujoii*, *dungsianum*, Devroe, *eltoniana*, Emerald City, Gespacho, *johannis*, *laevis*, *leprosa*, *macrosepala*, *macwilliamsii*, *marmorata*, Morado, Nonis, *olens* (*fluminensis* of trade), *roethii*, *sanguineum*, *sarmentosa*, Sheba, Tossed Salad, Tricolor Perfecta, *uleana*, Ultima, *zonatus*)
- *Nidularium* (*albiflorum*, *azureum*, *innocentii* (striate), *kris-greeniae*, *longiflorum* (green), *longiflorum* (discolor), *meeanum*)
- *Orthophytum* (*alvimii*, *conquistense*, *grossiorum*, *harleyi*, *lanuginosum*, *lemei*, *leprosum*, *lymaniana*, *saxicola*)
- *Pitcairnia* (*integrifolia*, *junceae*, *recurvata*, *xanthocalyx*)

- *Portea* (*alatisepala*, *petropolitana extensa*)
- *Quesnelia* (*arvensis*, *indecora*, *liboniana*, *quesneliana*)
- *Ronnbergia petersii*
- *Tillandsia* (*aeranthos*, *dyeriana*, *festucoides*, *leonamiana*)
- *Ursulaea tuitensis*
- *Vriesea* (*bleheri*, *brusquensis*, *carinata*, *fosterianus* 'Red Chestnut', *incurvata*, *inflata* (yellow), Mariae, *muelleri*, *ospinae*, *pinottii*, *scalaris*)

Letters to the Editor:

Re: Roberto Burle Marx article by Jose "Pepe" Donayre

Thanks for the April Advisory. I appreciated the article about Roberto Burle Marx and his significance to the bromeliad world and his work in promoting recognition in Brazil of its local flora, particularly bromeliads which Roberto used in many mass plantings throughout the country. But the writer missed reporting that in 1992 (just 2 years before Roberto died) the BSI and the Tampa Bay Bromeliad Society formally honored Roberto at the World Bromeliad Conference in Tampa. He was both the honored guest and keynote speaker at the conference. With the cooperation of Tom Wolfe, I arranged for Roberto's participation in the event, prepared a written account of his accomplishments and was privileged to introduce him to the conference. I consider those efforts to be a high point in my activities in behalf of BSI.

Herb Plover

Protect Your Arms with Arm Protective Gloves

Anyone who wants to order the elbow length, elasticized gloves we have had in the past should let Barbara Partagas know. They come in small, medium, and large at a cost of about \$15.00 /pair. Buy at 7-7:30 PM, or at the break at the meeting.

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.

AWARD WINNERS - 2009 SHOW

SWEEPSTAKES: Josefa Leon

DIVISION WINNERS - GOLD

Best Habitat: *Vriesea lubbersii* on driftwood - Jacquelin Gaudio
Best Non-blooming Bromeliad: *Hohenbergia edmundoi* - Karl Green
Best Blooming Bromeliad: *Billbergia viridiflora* - Josefa Leon
Best Artistic: *Portea*, *Neoregelia* and *Tillandsia*, created by Patty Rabin

SPECIAL AWARDS

Ralph Davis Award for Most Outstanding Culture: *Hohenbergia edmundoi* - Karl Green
Judges Entry: *Neoregelia (compacta X 'Fireball') X 'Fireball'* - Terrie Bert
Harvey Bullis Award for Best Variegated Bromeliad: *Guzmania variegata* - Maureen Adelman
Ed Prince Award - Neoregelia: *Neoregelia* 'Bob Work' in Basket - Jeri Parrish
Ed Prince Award - Other: *Tillandsia dyeriana* - Jacquelin Gaudio

SECTION WINNERS - SILVER

Best Orthophytum: *Orthophytum conquistense* - Karl Green
Best Blooming Tillandsia: *Tillandsia sucrei* - Karl Green
Best Billbergia: *Billbergia* 'Hallelujah' - Barbara Partagas
Best Vriesea: *Vriesea chrysostachys stenophylla* - Jose Donayre
Best Decorative Container: *Tillandsia streptophylla* on pink dish - Joy Parrish
Best Cut Inflorescence: *Hohenbergia stellata* - Sharon Biddix-Maessen
Best Vriesea: *Vriesea fosteriana* 'Raspberry' - Jeffrey Block
Best Non-blooming Tillandsia: *Tillandsia xerographica* - Barbara Sparling
Best Pitcairnia: *Pitcairnia tabuliformis* - Shirley Berckmans
Best Guzmania: *Guzmania* 'Orange Crush' - Josefa Leon
Best Inter-Generic: *XNidumea Pepe* - Josefa Leon
Best Ananas: *Ananas nanas* - Josefa Leon
Best Orthophytum: *Orthophytum vagans* - Josefa Leon
Best Aechmea: *Aechmea* 'Reginaldo' - Josefa Leon
Best Canistrum: *Canistrum montanum* - Josefa Leon
Best Neoregelia: *Neoregelia* 'Royal Cordovan' - Josefa Leon
Best Aechmea: *Aechmea Mexican* 'White Margins' - Jorge Rodriguez
Best Neoregelia: *Neoregelia* 'Criss Cross' - Mike Michalski
Best Blooming Habitat: *Tillandsia cyanea* - Sandy Roth

BRONZE WINNERS

Neoregelia 'Big Mac Special' - Jacquelin Gaudio
Tillandsia baileyi proliferata - Karl Green
Tillandsia ehlersiana - Peter Kouchalakos
Neoregelia 'Victoria' - Robert Mills
Tillandsia harrisii - Habitat - Juan Espinosa-Almodovar
Neoregelia 'Aurora' - Moyna Prince
Tillandsia tectorum - Habitat - Moyna Prince
Billbergia 'Incendiaray' 'Delight' - Jose Donayre
Neoregelia 'Buddy Worley' - Jose Donayre
Neoregelia ampullacea variegata - Decorative Container - Anne Kauffman
Ananas lucidus - Decorative Container - Anne Kauffman
Vriesea ospinae - Josefa Leon
Neoregelia johannis 'Fairchild' - Jorge Rodriguez
Neoregelia 'Lou Wilson' - Mike Michalski

Upcoming Events:

August 14th - 15th, 2009
Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale
200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford

November 13th - 15th, 2009
FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza
Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Renaissance Orlando Hotel Airport
5445 Forbes Place, Orlando

To Fun Times at the Annual Show



Karl Green sports a *Tillandsia funkiana*



Juan Espinosa-Almodovar before his winning *Tillandsia harrisii*



Taking a break – L to R. Front Rhonda Herndon, Lori Weyrick, Judy Pagliarulo, and Sandy Roth. Back: Desiree Meyer, Robert Meyer and Chieng Manlee.



Pepé Donayre before *Neoregelia* 'Buddy Worley'



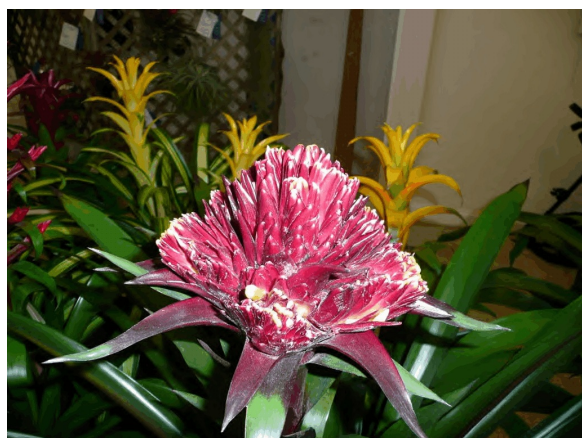
Tillandsia dyeriana – Jacquelin Guadio



Mixed Company: Robert Meyer (left) somehow is pictured with plant gurus Craig Morell and Nat DeLeon.



Nat hands Alan the *Guzmania wittmackii*



Another special Nat DeLeon hybrid



Dr. Jeffrey Block's *Orthophytum*



Identify this albomarginated plant. Why, you may ask. It is a test of your skills and your interest (are you reading this advisory?) Anyone with an answer merely needs to state such at the meeting and win a prize.