



# BromeliAdvisory

May 2010  
BSSF Officers 2010

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

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What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

**MAY 4, 2010, 7:30 PM**

**SPEAKER:** – Steve Hopping: Cryptanthus  
**RAFFLE TABLE:** Will be there  
**FOOD:** Joy Von Wald, Barbara Sparling, and Joan Manley, Leftovers from Show?, and usual suspects.



Steve Hoppin is the present President of The Cryptanthus Society . He is a member of the Bromeliad Society International, the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society (where he has served as President, Vice President, Secretary and is currently on the Board of Directors), and the Cryptanthus Society. He maintains his memberships as well to the American Orchid Society and the Southwest Florida Orchid Society. Steve is a BSI accredited bromeliad judge and has judged shows throughout the US and internationally. He is also affiliated with numerous orchid organizations. Numerous photos shot by Hoppin appear at the Florida Council of Bromeliad Society web site.

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## Recap of Another Show

by Alan Herndon

Our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show and Sale is now history. Despite all of the obstacles erected by man and nature, we were able to stage a beautiful show that attracted admiration from many visitors. Since several members who have been especially active in recent shows were (through no fault of their own) unable to help this year, staging the show required a herculean effort from remaining members. We were also helped by the efforts of several newer members whose assistance proved to be valuable time and time again.

I want to start by recognizing three BSSF members of long standing who were especially helpful in making sure the plant entries were finished (even if the hour was unreasonable), the show area was set up to best advantage, the judging went smoothly and the Information Table was staffed at all times. Joy Parrish, Barbara Partagas and Barbara Sparling have my deepest respect and admiration. The show would not have been nearly so good without their efforts .

Sandy Roth again proved that she is an absolutely invaluable member of BSSF. She and her crew did a superb job feeding volunteers throughout the show and, especially, keeping the judges well-fed and entertained throughout Friday. She received major help from Peggy Fisher, John Lazarus, Judy Pagliarulo, Lori Weyrick and new member Cindy Davis. My only complaint is that Sandy makes a grueling job look too easy. Sandy never lets the demands and stress of Catering our show dampen her enthusiasm or slow her down, but you should never think the job is in any way easy. I hope more of you (who, perhaps, are more comfortable dealing with food than with plants) will be able to help her in coming years.

***Bullis Bromeliads provided the magnificent display that greeted visitors at the entrance to the show***

Sharon Biddix-Maessen attracted an even wider range of art works featuring bromeliads than in years past. This work complements our show plants, beautifully and undoubtedly draws in visitors who would have never thought of looking at a plant show. Art work by students in the local public schools remain the most important element of the art show, but a larger

number of local adult artists working in different media and styles were apparent this year.

Bullis Bromeliads provided the magnificent display that greeted visitors at the entrance to the show. Patricia Bullis herself designed the display and came to help with the installation. This display serves an important role in providing visitors with the opportunity to see plants, such as huge *Alcantarea* specimens, that we don't normally have elsewhere in the show. If we had the plants, most of us would have no way to bring even a single specimen to the show, much less several specimens. We are fortunate indeed to receive such support.

Despite the brutal winter we suffered, there were 234 total entries in the show, the great majority entered for judging. Entry numbers were down from the past two years, but plant quality was amazingly high. Josepha Leon retained her crown by winning the Sweepstakes Award, but she has to be wary of a new challenger. Miguel Nicolas \_ you might have mistaken him for mild-mannered based on his behavior during the general meetings \_ but he showed a formidable competitive streak by winning 4 major awards in the show. His entries were amazing.

Elaine Mills took responsibility for the Judge's Clerks like a true professional. Based on the fact that a smaller than normal group of judges were able to work through the judged entries in a reasonable time, Elaine and her crew deserve congratulations for a fine job.

Carl Bauer returned to a familiar role in charge of the Member Sales Table. With major help from Lavinia Acton, Doris Boissen, Patty Gonzales, Rhonda Herndon, Mike Michalski, Bob & Elaine Mills and Miguel Nicolas, he helped customers find the plants of their dreams during Saturday and faced down the inclement weather on Sunday to be on hand for the customers whose lust for bromeliads forced them into the rain in search of the perfect plant.

Paul Finlayson, a member only since last summer, recruited and oversaw a group of young people to help customers ferry their plants from the sales area to the parking areas.

For the first time in recent memory, we had rain and the threat of rain throughout most of Sunday. The rain was never heavy enough to wash out the sales area, but it did seriously reduce the number of people visiting the show that day.

Peter Kouchalakos recruited a variety of commercial vendors who offered a wide variety of plants, including many plants rarely offered for sale in this area. A special treat this year awaited anyone visiting the booth of Eloise Beach and Jim Pearce. They featured many new hybrids by Chester Skotak, including the first variegated *Alcantarea* I have seen offered for sale at our show.

My apologies to those contributing members whose names are not mentioned above. Much of the important work during the show was carried out quietly and efficiently by our dedicated members. A failing memory, however, ensures that I do not know who was engaged in what task for any given time period (I can barely remember the show itself anymore.) Still, I want to thank everyone who volunteered for any part of the show. You did a wonderful job.

I want to end by expressing my deepest appreciation to the members who stayed late on Sunday to help clean up the Garden Room and, especially, move the rented tables to a single location for pickup. Maureen Adelman, Lenny Goldstein, Rhonda Herndon and Miguel Nicolas were absolutely invaluable in helping finish the clean-up at a reasonable hour.

## Major Awards - BSSF 32nd Annual Show - Apr 16-18, 2010

SWEEPSTAKES ..... Josepha Leon

### DIVISION WINNERS - GOLD

**Artistic:** *Tillandsia brachycaulos* (blooming) in seashell ..... Jacqueline Gaudio



**Blooming Plants:** *Aechmea nudicaulis pleurifolia*

..... Josepha Leon

**Non-blooming Plants:** *Neoregelia 'Zoe'*

..... Jeff Block

### SPECIAL AWARDS

**Harvey R. Bullis Memorial Award for Best Variegated Bromeliad:** *Neoregelia johannis* 'DeRolf' Jacqueline Gaudio

**Ralph Davis Memorial Award for Outstanding Culture:** *Aechmea* 'Bert' ..... Miguel Nicolas'

**Nat DeLeon Award:** *Guzmania wittmackii* - ..... Jeff Block

**Ed Prince Memorial Award:** *Neoregelia Gespacho* ..... Barbara Partagas

**Best Judge's Entry:** *Aechmea chantinii* 'White Knight' ..... Tim Hendrix

**Best Novice Entry:** *Tillandsia funckiana* ..... Sandra Schulz

### SECTION WINNERS - SILVER

**Artistic Arrangement:** "Edith's Fairy Garden" ..... Jeri Parrish



**Bromeliad Collection:** *Neoregelia* Zoe with *Tillandsia ionantha* and *Till. usneoides* ..... Jacqueline Gaudio

**Cut Inflorescence:** *Hohenbergia stellata* ..... Karl Green

**Best Non-blooming Habitat:** *Neoregelia* 'Fireball' ..... Miguel Nicolas

**Blooming Billbergia:** *Billbergia viridiflora* ..... Josepha Leon

**Blooming Guzmania:** *Guzmania* 'Orange Crush' ..... Josepha Leon

**Blooming Neoregelia:** *Neoregelia* 'Blushing Tiger' ..... Josepha Leon

**Blooming Tillandsia:** *Tillandsia streptophylla* ..... Miguel Nicolas

**Blooming Ursulaea:** *Ursulaea mcvaughii* Jorge Rodriguez

**Blooming Vriesea:** *Vriesea bituminosa x saundersii* (variegated) ..... Jeff Block

**Non-blooming Aechmea:** *Aechmea* 'Bert'

..... Miguel Nicolas

**Non-blooming Billbergia:** *Billbergia vittata* 'Domingos-Martins' ..... Jose Donayre

**Non-blooming Hohenbergia:** *Hohenbergia pennae* ..... Karl Green

**Non-blooming Tillandsia:** *Tillandsia aeranthos* ..... Peter Kouchalakos

**Non-blooming Tillandsia:** *Tillandsia setacea* - ..... Shirley Berckmans

**Non-blooming Vriesea:** *Vriesea gigantea* 'Nova' ..... Lavinia Acton

**Non-blooming Inter-generic:** X *Neophytum*

‘Galactic Warrior’ . . . . . Miguel Nicolas

BRONZE AWARDS

**Blooming Neoregelia:** *Neoregelia concentrica*  
‘Burle Marx’



. . . . . Jorge Rodriguez

**Non-blooming Neoregelia:**  
*Neoregelia* ‘Margaret’

. . . . . Barbara Partagas

**Non-blooming Neoregelia:**  
*Neoregelia* ‘Takizawa Princeps’

. . . . . Jose Donayre

**Neoregelia** ‘Verona’ . . . . . Jose Donayre

**Blooming Tillandsia:** *Tillandsia stricta* . . . .  
. . . . . Josepha Leon

Aches and fatigue are just two of the rewards you get for the show. And, as seen by the list above, a good number received awards from the judges.

And, if any one of you out there, with feet on ottoman and backs comfortably on therapeutic, mattress, believing that this will not happen next year, as you know you cannot do it again – think how some of the others feel. You saw Sandy’s eye. You saw Alan everywhere. The activities by so many of the members under so much physical and emotional toil cannot be placed in proper perspective on these sterile pages. But, here is the best I can do: Thanks to all.

See you next year.

**What’s in Bloom - April 2010**

by Alan Herndon

Since this month coincides with the period of our Annual Show, I had less time than usual to look for blooming plants. Accordingly, the list below is far from complete. Most of the overlooked plants undoubtedly belong in the groups of usual suspects: *Cryptanthus* and the species of *Neoregelia* that do not undergo color changes during bloom.

Many species of *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* (relatives of *Aechmea caudata* and *Aechmea gamosepala*) are still blooming, but, for the first time in many months, I did not find a blooming *Aechmea chantinii*. This situation will not last long since several plants of *chantinii* are in bud.

The number of blooming *Orthophytum* species has been steadily growing over the past few months. Many of these species (those related to *Orthophytum disjunctum* especially) will continue to bloom throughout the summer. However, species more closely related to *Orthophytum navioides* (such as *Orthophytum burle-marxii*) have a much shorter blooming period

*Aechmea* (*amicorum*, *angustifolia*, *blumenavii*, *bracteata*, *burle-marxii*, *castelnavii*, *caudata*, *cylindrata*, *disticantha*, *comata*, *fosteriana*, *gracilis*, *gurkeniana*, Little Harv, *luddemanniana*, *mexicana*, *nudicaulis* (a

**T-Shirts Still For Sale**  
Sandy Roth has shirts to sell to the masses  
– contact her at the next meeting

**In Case You Missed It**

by Robert Meyer

Often this column is devoted to the big event of the prior month – usually educational speeches delivered by friends of the society at Corbin A. But, this year, I literally missed the large event of the month (if not the year): the show. So, if you missed it, you can now know that you were not alone. And, I can only hope that reasons for your absence were much less solemn than my own.

See you next year.

**President’s Message**

by Robert Meyer

By the time you receive this Advisory, you will sit back and keep your feet up in the air. The aching feet. You always wonder why they ache so much this time of year, and the show can be the best subject of explanation.

You may also feel fatigues. Monday’s morning seemed less ebullient than those in the recent past. Waking up seemed so hard to do. The show can be the best subject of explanation.

few different clones), *pineliana*, *racinae*, *warasii*)  
*Androlepis skinneri*  
*Billbergia* (*amoena*, ***seidelii***, *pyramidalis*)  
*Canistropsis* (*billbergioides*, *seidelii* (yellow bracts))  
*Fosterella* (*caulescens*, *micrantha*, ***petiolata***)  
*Guzmania* (*lingulata*)  
*Neoregelia* (*Annick*, *bahiana*, Bossa Nova, ***carolinae*** (several clones), ***cathcartii***, *compacta*, ***correia-araujoi***, *macwilliamsii*, ***magdalena***, ***olens*** (“fluminensis”) Sheba, ***spectabilis***)  
*Nidularium* (*innocentii*, ***longiflorum***)  
*Orthophytum* (***burle-marxii***, ***disjunctum***, *duartei*, *fosterianum*, *harleyi*, ***lemei***, *lymaniana*, *magalhaesii*, *maracasense*, ***rubiginosum***)  
*Pitcairnia* (*recurvata*)  
*Portea* (*petropolitana* var. *petropolitana*)  
*Quesnelia* (***indecora***, ***lateralis***, ***liboniana***, *quesneliana*, *strobilospica*)  
*Tillandsia* (*fasciculata* *clavispica*, ***flagellata***, *festucoides*, ***jonesianus***, ***lineatispica***, *polzii*)  
*Vriesea* (*ensiformis*, *erythroductylon*, *incurvata*, *Mariae*, *saundersii*)

## COMPOSTING – RECYCLING’S ENVIRONMENTAL TRIFECTA

By Robert Meyer

Recycling is more than gathering cans and plastics into a bin and delivering them to the curbside on a biweekly basis. Think composting. In fact, as natural gases escalate in the garbage dumps of large refuses like Miami’s Mount Trashmore, the green lifestyle advantages raised by composting can well surpass the actions placed each fortnight at our home’s curb. Use of compost will result in very large reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

University of Washington Professor Sally Brown wrote, “Methane avoidance may end up being the tool that forces the understanding of a wide range of benefits that compost can provide. But understanding the true value of compost involves using a broad and realistic mindset, not just considering methane avoidance. ” Composting has much more environmental impact than



recycling aluminum and plastic!

Composting both relieves gas growth and GHG emissions at the dumps and decreases demand for environmentally unfriendly fertilizer purchases as well as buying compost essentials from your neighborhood (or beheimath) garden stores, while replenishing the soils – what a win-win-win unless you sell the products. Composting can benefit your environment as well as your expenditures. It has two characteristics which entitle it to be deemed a green alternative.

Compost is both environmentally and soil friendly; the soil becomes healthier which gives rise to healthier crops which are free from chemicals. Now, one must ask – am I capable of handling the compost procedure? Is it economic? Can it be handled without too much effort? And, how quickly can the items turn around and become utile for the garden?



Before responding to those questions, a quick identification of compost will be made. Compost is essentially dried leaves, grass clippings, fruit peelings, vegetables, animal manure, sawdust, organic items (crushed) or newspaper melded with a touch of water and placed in the heat of Florida to ultimately become a solid additive with enriching nutrients.

The formula for the materials is basically: moisture, aeration, pile temperature, particle size, and carbo to nitrogen ration observed.

**MOISTURE:** Basically wet to the touch but no water comes when grasped – like a damp sponge.

**AERATION:** Microbes need air to grow and survive, so turning the items around with shovel or pitch fork on a routine basis is required.

**PILE TEMPERATURE:** Hot is good. Three consecutive days of 131degrees F will kill weed items.

**PARTICLE SIZE:** Small is better. Cut everything before putting into the pile and the smaller the cuts, the quicker the degeneration.

**CARBON-NITROGEN RATION:** Don't get caught up. They want 30:1 ration. But, go to site below to handle the basic numbers.

Can you handle the procedure? First, do you have the room. Most plant members do. And, the friendly outdoor weather of Florida helps. To find the best spot, look to you back yard and see which of the three adjoining neighbors you like least and put the bin there – not true. Many like to keep it close to the kitchen for a quick run with recent casualties or cuttings from the salad or other meal components. Whatever is most convenient.



Is it economic? More so than days of yore. You can take an old garbage can and make it the compost container. Or get one with neat features: Sears' Exaco ThermoQuick® 110 Gallon Compost Bin with drawers [\$99.00]; BestNest Panacea Basic Compost Bin (wire mesh) [\$37.99 plus shipping]; Bopzanle's Outdoor Composter Compost Bin on Amazon [\$77.95 plus S&H]; Green Options' Envirocycle Backyard Composter which has handle to turn [\$159.00 plus S&H]; Tumbleweed 8 cubic feet Compost Tumbler [\$180.00 plus S&H]; Urban Compost Tumbler 9.5 Cubic Feet which tumbles with handle [\$244.00 plus S&H]; Dual Tumbling Composter with easy handle 33 and 770 gallon [265.99 and 399.99 plus S&H]; or just make one from kit or from scratch.

How long is the turn around time in Florida? Quick. Unlike our tundra-dwelling friends of the north, we can see results within the confines of the composter within weeks. But, do not rush. If



the organic materials have not completely decomposed, plants growing in the compost media may turn yellow and appear stressed. This is because the decomposition process is continuing near the plant roots and the microorganisms in the compost are competing for nitrogen. If you are unsure of the aging, add dirt, peat moss, and perlite to the mixture. The

immaturity of the compost may lose intensity.

In recent days, as the leaves flew about the yard, I took 5-gallon containers and filled them with the leaves, topped that with peat and dirt. Then I placed the pups of existing plants into the peat mixture. Ultimately, the leaves will degenerate but hopefully before the roots of the pup reach into the mixture – thereby avoiding the issue of yellowing.



The air plant characteristic of the majority of the bromeliads makes the nitrogen-fighting/yellow-resulting a nonissue the vast majority of the time for bromeliad growth. I have placed plants like Blue Tango and other *Aechmea* into pure and immature compost materials without any side effects. My experiences with palms is the opposite.

In the end, you have decreased GHG emissions, returned organic resources back to the soil to essentially reverse land degradation, avoiding buying pesticides and other inorganic items which seep into the soil and perhaps even water tables, allowed reduction of watering with the added layer of organic materials holding water moisture, and more.



Some sites to visit:

<http://compostinfo.com/tutorial/ElementOfComposting.htm>

<http://www.jgpress.com/archives/free/001355.html>

<http://www.growandmake.com/grow-it/compost/envirocycle-spinning-composter-with-compost-tea-maker-base-2.html>



## Murder in Corbin A

© by Robert Meyer

Part 1

Editor's Note: This is the first installment of a murder mystery mixed with BSSF, bromeliads and the backdrop of the FTBG. It is entirely fiction, and any personality that seems to be like any original person is purely intentional.

Stretching his legs after watching the gate for more than three restless hours, Paul understood that the necessity for walking was heightened as the hours progressed. As a night watchman at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, he had to assure the safety to the structures, the garden's plants and the art.

Such a job did not require the greatest effort – the garden's location in the middle of the prestigious Coral Gables seriously lessened the likelihood of criminals seeking the items at the garden. Crime there was next to none. Only the occasional art show at the premises would attract attention for the larcenist mind. But, even then the thief was usually dissuaded by the fact that the size and uniqueness of the artwork made the effort far too arduous for something of so little marketability – no antique store or other common fence would be able to relieve anyone from the stolen boot without a great discount being provided for the favor. And, after the last and only robbery of art occurred, an all points bulletin was effectively placed on the front page of the Miami Herald. The art became too hot and the thieves knew the effort far exceeded the financial results. The art work was returned a few days later – very anonymously and very secretly.

This particular night was one of the magnificent gifts by God to a Miamian. The moon was full, the sky was clear, each making Paul's ambulant employment so much easier. Without need of flashlight or other lighting device, he could walk about the garden with full view of everything thirty feet away. The coolness of the still night, contrasted to the natural light from the sky, seduced his spirit. He wished others could experience the serenity of the still of the night that he saw on such special occasions. Few did. Less knew what was missed.

As usual, Paul walked from room to room to do his usual check. Get the door, twist the door knob, see that it was locked, open the lock with his key, turn on the light, look about with his blurred eyes, turn off the light, and lock the door before passing to the next threshold. When entering the Corbin Building's Room A, he performed his routine in all normal fashion, and upon switching on the lights, and almost immediately turning them off as habit had allowed, he froze.

With lights still on, he used the back of his left hand to rub his left eye, and followed doing the same with his right hand on his right eye. Then he rubbed both eyes with both hands. He had to acknowledge that what he saw was real. There, in the room which had held the Bromeliad Society for South Florida's meeting between 7:30 and 10:00 PM laid a body. A woman. Not young, but not elderly. Prostrate at the back of the room. Beneath her awkwardly twisted head was a red glow. Atop the linoleum floor was nothing but the red item. Paul walked over, knelt in a catcher's stance, touched the red mix, and discovered that it was still wet and warm.

Running to the telephone in the adjoining building, Paul called 911 and the operator answer "911 Emergency, may I help you?"

"Yes. Yes Ma'am. My name is Paul. I am the night watchman at Fairchild. I found a body of a woman. I think she is dead. There is blood. We need an ambulance here immediately."

"Sir, can you tell me where exactly you are?"

"I am at the old entrance of Fairchild. By the Corbin Building. I'll turn on all of the outdoor lights and put a torch by Old Cutler. You gotta come immediately." Without thinking, and knowing that his next and immediate task was to gather the torch and turn on the lights, Paul hung up, and ran to the storage building, took out some tiki lamps, lit them and placed them on the roadside.

Paul ran back and switched on every light there was. After completing that task, he sat down, looked at his watch and saw the time was 3:14 AM. And, at that time he waited anxiously, and only sighed a breath of relief when his ears heard the distant cries of the sirens.