The BROMELIAD SOCIETY of SOUTH FLORIDA

MIAMI, FLORIDA.

BromeliAdvisory

October 2009
BSSF Officers 2009
Webpage:
http://www.bssf-miami.org/

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Member Plant Sales: Antonio Arbelaez
Raffle: Peter & Clara Kouchalakos
Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

OCTOBER 6, 2009, 7:00 PM
SPEAKER: AnnualAuction – NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME
RAFFLE TABLE: NONE
FOOD TABLE: Enormous – this is show time.

Guzmania Denise variegated
Plants as unique and beautiful as this magically created Nat DeLeon special will be seen at the October 6, 2009 Annual Auction.
Preview is at 7:00 PM
Sales begin at 7:15 PM
Food will be there for all.
Bring your appetite.
Bring your wallet.
And – always, Bring a Friend.

In Case You Missed It
by Robert Meyer

The common and wonderful slide report by Lynne Fieber and Michael Schmale was received by the organization.

The details were exhaustively thorough, and after doing this feat for years, it is time for the remainder of the organization to take heed that this favor is not going to be received or delievred as usual. Anyone wishing to aid and eventually inherit the duties associated with photographing the show are urged to contact Lynne. The baton may not be transferred in total, and defnitaely not immediately, but the need for the process to begin has arrived.

NOTE: In attendance at the meeting were life members Tom and Nancy Steinmetz, whose names appear elsewhere in this BromeliAdvisory.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Robert Meyer

New membership is abound this year, and we welcome everyone. This organization is coming to the best few months of the calendar year and new members are given notice of the extremely beneficial aspects of the next few meetings.

In October, we have the annual auction in which the plants provided and sold are rare and not easily obtained in any market or nursery. The prices are always right and the event is catered by giving members. It is a good night in the world of bromeliads.

In December, we have the annual Christmas party. Food is brought pot luck, and plants are given to all members. If this is not enough, wrap a present (a plant) and bring it to the event and you may participate in the present exchange in which all basically reach blindly for "other" wrapped presents.

If you do not know your new members, get to know them. Here is a list:

Maureen Adelman, 11/08
Kenneth & Mary Barker 2/09
Alexander Bello 5/09
John Demott 4/09
Marina Esayag Tendler 4/09
Harry S. Ferguson 4/09
Paul Finlayson 4/09
Bill and Pat Gaetjens 5/09
Gary and Bunny Hendrix 12/08
Lynne and Bob Hudson 8/09 (Pd. By Juan)
Barbara Krantz 8/09
David Alan Lane 4/09
Keith & Susan Lane 4/09
John Leach & Kathleen Duffey, 8/09
Kevin Lennon & Susan J. Hamilton-smith 1/09
Miguel Nicolas 2/09
Skye Palmer 4/09
Raymar Rodriguez 7/09
Edward Ryan 7/09
John Samuels 3/09
Bill Shade 2/09
Nancy Westberry 11/08

Welcome to the following new members who have joined recently:
Barbara Krantz and Richard Fulford of Miami, and Francis B. Force (Force's Greenhouse) of Apopka.
New members who need name tags should contact Moyna by phone (305-251-5289) or email (moyna.prince@comcast.net). Note that this is a new email address.

JOIN the BSSF:
Friends or Family contact Moyna Prince at 305-251-5289
Download application sheet at:
http://www.bssf-miami.org/membership.htm

Field Trip – BROWARD COUNTY
by Robert Meyer

This time, it is Broward. We will visit three Broward nurseries, or two and one magnificent yard. Plants are to be seen and bought.
DATE: October 24, 2009

Here is the itinerary.
1st Stop (10am): Tim & Colleen Hendrix w/ Bud Hendrix also bringing plants for show and sale.
21 Holly Lane
Plantation, FL 33317

2nd Stop (Noonish) : Bill & Maureen Frazel
12500 Lake Road a/k/a/ SW 12th Street
Davie, FL 33325

3rd Stop (Anytime): Jorge Rodriguez & Josefa Leon (Sunshine Bromeliads)
14601 Old Sheridan Street
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330
Lunch to be provided
15% discount

Any questions – contact Jorge Rodriguez
jorge@sunshinebromeliads.com
Ph: 954.252.3330

MAPQUEST DIRECTIONS BETWEEN STOPS 1 AND 2:
1: Start out going SOUTH on HOLLY LN/NW 63RD AVE toward W BROWARD BLVD/FL-842 W.
2: Turn RIGHT onto W BROWARD BLVD/FL-842 W. 5.1 mi
3: Turn LEFT onto S FLAMINGO RD/SW 124TH AVE. 1.2 mi
4: Turn RIGHT onto SW 12TH ST/LAKE RD. 0.1 mi
5: 12500 SW 12TH ST is on the LEFT.

MAPQUEST DIRECTION FROM STOP 2 TO STOP 3:
1: Start out going EAST on SW 12TH ST/LAKE RD toward S FLAMINGO RD/SW 124TH AVE/FL-823 S. 0.1 mi
2: Turn RIGHT onto S FLAMINGO RD/SW 124TH AVE/FL-823 S. 5.2 mi
3: Turn RIGHT onto SHERIDAN ST/SW 72ND ST. 1.8 mi
4: 14601 SHERIDAN ST is on the RIGHT.

What's in Bloom - September 2009
by Alan Herndon

We still appear to be in a period of slow blooming although quite a few new species are making their appearance. The proportion of species newly flowering appears to be greater than in any other month during the year. In many cases, of course, this is the result of a new generation of offsets blooming in previously seen species (for example the newly listed *Neoregelia* are all repeats). Again, I have undoubtedly missed many blooming plants. In particular, I would not trust my records for *Cryptanthus*. Those plants undoubtedly bloom much more frequently than I see them.

Many *Tillandsia* species have developing buds, so we will have many new plants blooming in the coming months. .

Aechmea (*angustifolia*, *caesia*, *chantinii*, *contracta*, ***cucullata***, *discordiae*, ***distichantha glaziovii***, *eurycorymbus*, ***farinosa conglomerata***,***farinosa discolor***, *fasciata*, *flavo-rosea*, *fulgens fulgens*, Little Harv, *miniata*, *mulfordii* (red leaf form), ***pabstii***, ***phanerophlebia***, *tillandsioides*, Victoria, *wittmackiana*)
Alcantarea (*imperialis*, *nahoumii*, *odorata*)
Billbergia pyramidalis
Canistropsis ***billbergioides***
Catopsis (***compacta*** (=*berteroana*), *morreniana*, *subulata*)
Edmundoa ***lindenii***
Guzmania (***minor***)
Hechtia rosea
Hohenbergia (***distans***, ***edmundoi***)
Neoregelia (Bossa Nova, *cathcartii*, ***compacta***, ***caroliniana***, ***cruenta***, *eleutheropetala bicolor*, *guttata*, ***leprosa***, *macwilliamsii*, *myrmecophila*, *pendula brevifolia*, *rosea*, Sheba,Ultima)
Nidularium (*bocainense*, ***ferrugineum***, *fradense*, *innocentii*, *procerum*, *viridipetalum*)
Orthophytum (*compactum*, *disjuncta*, *duartei*, *harleyi*, *lymaniana*, ***magalhaesii***)
Pitcairnia (***armata***, ***flammea***, *imbricata*)
Quesnelia (***humilis***, *lateralis*)
Tillandsia (***aeranthos***, *albida*, ***extensa***, ***hammeri***, *jalisco-monticola*)

Vriesea (***correia-araujoi***, *duvaliana*, *erythrodactylon*, *gradata*, ***pinotii***, *rodigasiana,* ***triligulata***)

Miami Magic - the 1988 World Bromeliad Conference
by Alan Herndon

By far the largest single undertaking of the BSSF was hosting the 1988 World Bromeliad Conference (WBC). Many current members of our society remember weeks or months spent organizing and setting up this conference.

The conference was held at the Hotel Intercontinental in downtown Miami with show entries starting at 9 am on Wednesday, 18 May and official activities running through 5 pm Sunday, 22 May. The show was open to the public Friday through Sunday, although registered participants were given an opportunity to buy plants early and preview the show on Thursday. Tours of collections, nurseries and natural areas were scheduled both

before and after the conference.

Nat DeLeon was the driving force behind the conference. He was general chair of the Conference committee. To ensure the conference planning was carried out correctly, he assumed the BSSF presidency during 1987. Throughout the entire year, he used the presidential message in the Advisory to recruit workers, to suggest strategies and generally to guide preparations. Before that year, and since, the presidential message has been a short, general note to encourage member participation in the monthly meetings. In 1987, the message was frequently 2 full pages (in the 5.5 by 8.5 format of the time, corresponding to a full page in the current format) filled with detailed notes on what needed to be done to move preparations forward.

Nat was assisted by the usual suspects. Dean Fairchild, Connie Johnson, Bob and Elaine Mills, Ed and Moyna Prince, Jim and Virginia Schrenker and Tom and Nancy Steinmetz were familiar names in charge of major committees. Other important jobs were handled by people with less familiar names because they have not been active in BSSF for some years. Still, our older members will remember many of these: Joy Cornell, Linda Evans, Tricia Frank, Jerry Puittinen, Libby Putman, Frances Sanjurjo, Frank Sherman and Bob Work. Much help was provided by other bromeliad enthusiasts from out of town (under the auspices of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies). Al Muzzell and Ron Schoenau from Gainesville, Ed Hall and Geoffrey Johnson from Orlando and Jean Schnabel from Tampa all played major roles in organizing the conference and ensuring it operated without trouble.

Since this conference took place in the days before the internet made communications much simpler, correspondence regarding all aspects of the conference and show involved writing letters and preparing preprinted forms that would then be mailed. Connie Johnson took on the responsibility of assuring all of this correspondence was attended to properly. Correspondence concerning registration for the conference was handled by Winnie Lynch _ still a member of BSSF, although no longer active. Ultimately, there were 579 registrants from 17 countries.

One of the highlights of the conference was the strong contingent of bromeliad afficionados from Brazil. Elton Leme, making his first appearance in the United States, was a featured speaker.

As part of the conference, Nat DeLeon organized a rare plant auction to support the still new Bromeliad Identification Center at Marie Selby Botanic Gardens. This auction proved successful beyond imagination, raising over $11 ,000.

Nat elicited the support of many major bromeliad nurseries, including major European growers, for the conference and the show. European growers Corn. Bak (Holland), H. DeMeyer-De Rouck (Belgium) and Deroose (also Belgium) each provided large displays in the show.

Responsibility for organizing the competitive show within the World Conference fell on the shoulders of Tricia Frank. A staggering 725 entries had to be classified, tagged and placed in the proper location. Bob Work handled the bulk of the classification duties. Virginia Schrenker oversaw preparation of the official tags for each entry.

Staging of the show was different from anything seen before and probably since. Rather than placing show plants on tables, they were presented at floor level. Spaces were set off for each genus (much as we do today), but the entries were ‘planted’ in beds of mulch. Entries were allowed all Wednesday (from 9 am until 11 pm), with an additional hour for late entries on Thursday morning just prior to the commencement of judging. I have no idea how the placement committee (led by Jerry Puittinen) was able to handle the task.. They probably spent the entire night getting the arrangement of plants right, but they had the show ready for judging on Thursday morning.

Dr. Werner Rauh, from the University of Heidelberg, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Rauh was well known to long-time Bromeliad Society International members through a long series of articles he published in the Journal of the Bromeliad Society starting in 1966. Other familiar names among the speakers were Dennis Cathcart, Geoffrey Johnson, Elton Leme, Harry Luther, Chester Skotak and Ervin Wurthmann. Ulrich Baensch (author of the

much-desired book Blooming Bromeliads) and Don Beadle (remembered for his strong advocacy of the genus Billbergia in all of its forms) prepared slide shows (two hour-long shows each) that ran parallel to the seminars presented by the speakers. The schedule was full. On Friday and Saturday, there was a seminar or a slide show every hour from 9 am to noon and 1 pm through 5 pm. Most hours, there were seminars and slide shows running at the same time. Nat convinced Werner Rauh and Elton Leme to repeat their seminars so anyone who missed the opportunity to hear them speak on Friday had another chance on Saturday. The slide shows were run both days, and again on Sunday, in case there were still some people who had not had a chance to see them. Practical needs of the people attending the show were not neglected either. The first seminar offered advice on how to ship plants purchased at the conference back home.

Crystal awards were presented to 70 entries. These awards, like those used in our annual show, had images of bromeliads etched on the surface. In all photographs I have seen, it appears that the line drawing of *Alcantarea imperialis* in bloom by Craig Allen was used as the official image for the WBC awards. The crystal also bore an inscription indicating it was from the 1988 World Conference. Joy Cornell was in charge of acquiring the crystal, selecting the appropriate crystal for each major award winner and arranging the display on the head table.

The *Cryptanthus* Society encouraged all of their members to attend the world conference, ensuring an outstanding representation of their favorite plants in the competitive show. They also held a separate board meeting and a separate auction on Sunday. Local BSSF members, John and Cindy LaRoche installed a display dedicated to *Cryptanthus* in the conference on behalf of the *Cryptanthus* Society.

To fully appreciate the amount of work that went into the WBC, you need to know that the conference was open and active from 9 in the morning to 11 in the evening for three full days (Thursday, Friday and Saturday). It was open from 9 to 5 on Sunday. Compare this to our annual show and you will see how many volunteers were needed just to cover all of the hours. In addition, a WBC encompasses many more activities than our local show. There were hourly raffles, plant sales (both commercial and society), two auctions, sales of bromeliad related items (the image of *Alcantarea imperialis* featured on the crystal awards was also featured on the t-shirts sold by BSSF at the conference) and, of course, the seminar and slide-show series. Every one of these activities required volunteers.

Even after such a stupendous effort, BSSF held the rest of its regular monthly meetings throughout 1988 (although I suspect some people took much longer than a few days to recover.) All we can do is look back in awe at their accomplishment, and pay deserved tribute to those members whose dedication and sacrifice gave Miami a great World Conference.

Banking on Multiples

by Alan Herdon

As you were watching Lynne Fieber and Michael Schmale present their annual slide show of major winners from our annual show in September, you might have noticed the number of winners that featured not a single rosette, but multiple rosettes. Even in the blooming plant and non-blooming plant divisions, entries with multiple plants were common.

You might consider this strategy in your race for the gold at next year's BSSF show. This can be a particularly good strategy in our show because multiple plants and single plants are judged against each other as opposed to being in separate categories, but it is not necessarily an easy road to victory. Each plant in a multiple has to meet the same standards as a single, but, in addition, the plants in a multiple have to look good as a group. Of course, it is more likely that, given the greater number of leaves on an entry with multiple rosettes, you will have more blemished leaves to lose points on or spend time trimming. Once you can meet the standards for an Award of Merit, judges are likely to give you an edge over singles (equal in all other respects) because they appreciate the extra difficulty in producing a multiple.

If you are going to enter multiples, you need to be aware of the rules. First, a multiple plant is defined as 'two or more full-sized plants or pups from a single stem', meaning the rosettes

are expected to be joined by a solid run of stem. This is easily achieved by letting one of your prized plants put all of its energy into the first set of pups formed, and repotting these pups as a group after trimming out the old mother plant. A well nourished *Neoregelia* will typically produce 2-4 pups at once after blooming. Of course, by leaving these initial pups on the mother, you will limit the number of pups you can ultimately harvest. The increase in trade value of each pup from a major award winner should help compensate.

If your entry has 2 or 3 rosettes, they should be matched in size, color and blooming stage. With 3 rosettes, they should be, in addition, be evenly spaced around the pot. (You can center the clump during repotting, so you are primarily concerned with finding rosettes that are positioned at the same angle relative to one another.) This means you need to look for plants that are producing matching pups. If a plant has 2 or 3 well matched pups and a small sibling, you can trim out the small pup before it begins to interfere with the growth of the others and the judges will never know.

If your entry has more than 5 or so rosettes (common with the miniature *Neoregelia* species and hybrids), the overall appearance of the clump is more important than matching of individual rosettes. You will want a clump that is 'compact' and has little evidence of missing rosettes. Ideally, you will want to start with plants that grow rapidly but do not bloom too frequently (or show little evidence of past blooms). Alternatively, you can trust to blind luck, and just examine all clumps in your possession as the show nears to see if any look promising. Clumps of miniature *Vriesea* may be a more promising for the beginner. These plants do not bloom as promiscuously as most other genera.

Canistrum triangulare is typically entered as a clump, usually in the non-blooming division because it flowers so infrequently in our area. This, in common with other *Canistrum* species, requires less light than most *Neoregelia* species. Still, you need to find a spot where the light is high enough to ensure the leaves on your plants remain stiff because the attractiveness of the plant, as either a single or a multiple, depends on having the leaf blades stick out stiffly from the rosette.

Most smaller, non-stoloniferous species and hybrids of *Billbergia* lend themselves to display in clump format. With their rapid growth rate and tubular rosettes, they form attractive little forests in pots. Massing of the rosettes will also make the leaf color and markings stand out. You should concentrate on finding plants with particularly attractive leaves to start these clumps. *Billbergia*, no matter what size the clump, will almost always be entered under the non-blooming division. If you do happen to have a plant in bloom at just the right time for the show, you are way ahead of the game.

Stoloniferous species and hybrids of *Neoregelia* and *Vriesea*, particularly the smaller species are also well adapted to display in clump format. The stolons on these plants usually stick straight out from the parent plant (unless the parent falls over _ then the stolons bend to reorient themselves so the pups will be facing directly upward), so these plants can be displayed in regular pots. You want to look for plants where the stolons are long enough to keep the individual rosettes slightly separated or slightly overlapping. As mentioned above, plants that bloom less frequently are best because an old *Neoregelia* inflorescence can quickly spoil an otherwise delightful clump. Of course, a large stoloniferous species, such as *Neoregelia* 'Bossa Nova', takes up a significant amount of real estate in short order, so most exhibitors prefer to use the *Neo*. 'Fireball' sized species and hybrids.

Interestingly, the *Neoregelia* species with the longest stolons, *Neo. hoehneana*, *Neo. pendula* and *Neo. wilsoniana* are the hardest to display successfully as multiples because the rosettes are so separated that it is hard to see the 'shape' of the overall clump. Still, a large group of rosettes with good leaves is worth entering.

Stoloniferous species of *Aechmea* also work well as multiples, but members of the *Aechmea chantinii* and *Aechmea orlandiana* groups should be mounted and grown on wood. In these groups, the stolons are only rarely straight. They are really adapted to crawling along tree branches, so they look absolutely natural on a wooden mount. In a pot this same growth usually leads to an untidy appearance. In addition, these plants rarely produce

matching pups.

Quesnelia marmorata can be equally effective when displayed as a single rosette or as a multiple. When entering this species as a multiple, you should concentrate on finding a clump with an interesting pattern of pups.

Quesnelia marmorata
Photo by Michael Andreas
Shown on FCBS page

In passing, I would like to note that plants with small rosettes (roughly less than 2 inches across) are always shown as multiples. In our area, this essentially means species of the terrestrial genus, *Deuterocohnia*. Generally, the goal with these plants is to produce the largest, densest possible clump with individual rosettes that still look good. We cannot, with our outdoor growing conditions compete with growers from California; impossibly massive clumps of these plants are regularly shown out west.

Species of *Tillandsia*, especially the species in the atmospheric group, are also usually shown as multiples (smaller species invariably so). These are typically mounted on wood. Again, the largest , densest clumps are likely to garner the most prizes if the leaves are good. You will find that large, dense clumps are fickle. They can fall apart without notice, so, if you find yourself in possession of such a clump, enter it in a show as soon as possible. Don't assume it will be bigger and better the following year. Also, don't despair if you don't have any large clumps on hand, a small clump of a rarely exhibited species is likely to attract more favor from the judges than larger clumps of common species.

In summary, entries with multiple rosettes are challenging, but worth the effort. Clumps provide new opportunities for showing off the unique characteristics of our favorite plants. Concentrate on cases where the presence of multiple rosettes will enhance desirable characteristics (such as, leaf color pattern, branching pattern or growth habit) and you will do well.

Clone preservation project update - Sept 2009

by Alan Herndon

I would like to start by acknowledging some people who have aided the clone preservation project. David Williams of Fort Pierce has a bromeliad collection with several plants that can be traced back to the 1940's. He has already contributed two plants from his collection to the clone preservation project (they are being propagated for distribution). We expect he has other plants of interest for the project and look forward to continued interaction with him. In Sarasota, Linda Sheetz and Helga Tarver have actively supported the project. Linda has already carried out some independent projects in her local society.

Aechmea fasciata and its allies are now blooming or recently past bloom, so it seems like a good time for a review of the group.
First, with respect to taxonomically recognized taxa, *Aechmea fasciata* has 4 recognized varieties (var. *fasciata*, var. *flavivittata*, var. *pruinosa* and var. *purpurea*). *Aechmea dealbata* is not considered to vary enough to warrant the recognition of separate subspecific taxa. In fact, *Ae. dealbata* is very similar to *Ae. fasciata* in appearance. It has a smaller, paler inflorescence and leaves with a pale red-purple to purple tint. The leaf color overlaps the range of colors found in the leaves of *Aechmea fasciata* var. *purpurea*.
Aechmea caesia and *Aechmea flavo-rosea* are distinguished from *Aechmea fasciata* by their shorter bracts and greater separation between the lower branches of the inflorescence. The density of trichomes on their bracts is also less, so the inflorescence appears more orange-red than pink. Growth form of both is more tubular than in *Aechmea fasciata*. Leaves have a large 'fingerprint' at the base of each blade and a scattering of white bars (that do not extend across the entire leaf width) on the lower surface. No subspecific taxa have been proposed for either species. In fact, there is still some question whether the latter two are actually distinct species. They are clearly separated by flower color (*caesia* having blue-violet flowers, *flavo-rosea* having bright yellow flowers), but are otherwise exceedingly similar.
There are a few different clones of *Aechmea dealbata* in cultivation, although none have received official cultivar names as far as I can tell. *Aechmea caesia* seems to be very rare in cultivation, at least in Florida, and presumably

represents a single clone.
Aechmea flavo-rosea is widespread in cultivation, but I am not sure there is more than a single clone available, and know of no cultivar names applied to the species.

Since *Aechmea fasciata* has been grown in large numbers for commercial markets over the course of several decades, several named cultivars have been developed, although it is surprising how few cultivars have been named. This is partly due to the fairly limited number

of variations you could expect from the plant. The leaves are moreor-less covered by trichomes in the wild. Areas of the leaf surface with these trichomes densely packed (to the point of overlapping) appear white or silver when dry. These trichomes may have some banding structure or be evenly spread over the leaves. Under cultivation, the only changes you can expect are variegation, an increase in evenness and density of trichomes or stronger definition of banding, an increase in leaf width or an increase in inflorescence size.

In Europe, the early hybridizers produced many different clones. This can be seen in the pictures in early editions of Exotica, and an article by Victoria Padilla (Bromeliad Society Bulletin 7(6): 83-84. 1967). Nat DeLeon recalls that every major producer of *Aechmea fasciata* in Europe had a distinct clone. However, they never bothered to assign clone names because they had stable relationships with their customers, and did not need to develop brands. On the other hand, the buyers did not need names because they knew what kind of plant to expect from each grower. Two cultivar names (from the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry) that originated in Europe were Aton and Auslese (although the latter may have been used as a descriptive term rather than a true cultivar name). It is also noteworthy that variegated and albomarginated cultivars were available in Europe early on. These plants likewise never received proper cultivar names.

After growers in the United States began growing large numbers of *Aechmea fasciata*, and the market expanded internationally, branding became common and cultivar names proliferated. *Aechmea* 'Silver King' was a cultivar of *Ae. fasciata* with leaves having a silvery appearance due to uniform trichome coverage. It was the dominant cultivar during the early stages of mass market development. Nat believes this cultivar was developed and named by one of the California growers. It was replaced in the market by the cultivar *Ae.* 'Morgana' from the European grower Corn. Bak. Later, several spineless clones were developed. These now dominate the mass market. The spineless clones include *Ae. fasciata* 'DeLeon', *Ae. fasciata* 'Grey Ghost' and *Ae. fasciata* 'Superb', all developed by Nat DeLeon. The other major spineless clone is *Ae. fasciata* 'Primera' by Corn. Bak. Ae. fasciata 'Frost' is a spineless offering from Chester Skotak. More recently, a variegated cultivar of 'Morgana' called *Ae.* 'Lauren' has been developed and patented by Kent's Bromeliad Nursery. Bucking recent trends, this cultivar retains a full set of marginal spines.

There are several clones of *Aechmea fasciata* of interest primarily to collectors. The easiest to identify it *Ae.* 'Ivory', a *fasciata* with white bracts. Two other named cultivars that presumably look the same are 'White Head' and 'White Bouquet'. I especially hope someone still has one or both of those cultivars so we can compare them directly to 'Ivory'. 'Pink Fasci' and 'Red Fasci' were names use by the early grower and hybridizer Hubble. These presumably refer to clones of fasciata, but we could certainly use plants or, at least, pictures to verify this assumption. 'Big Mama' from Herb Hill was conspicuous for its size. ' Checkers' reportedly had a ribbed leaf surface that combined with white bars to form a checkerboard appearance. I see ribbed leaves frequently enough, but can't say I have ever known the trait to pass to a second generation. I hope someone knows the plant and can give us more information. 'Kiwi' reportedly has a consistent red-brown striping on the leaves. 'Sangria' and 'Silver Queen' are cultivars of *Aechmea fasciata* var. *purpurea*. Another cultivar name in *Aechmea fasciata* is 'Leucadia'. I have no information about this plant beyond the name.

Aechmea fasciata var. purpurea
Photo by Peter Franklin
As shown on FCBS page

As usual, please look at your own collections to

see if you have any of the species or cultivars mentioned above. Any information you can share, especially on the plants with unresolved questions, would be very helpful. Better yet, if you can write a review of this group (or any part of it) from a more informed standpoint, I would gladly attach your work to a future update.

Lately, there has been some uncertainty expressed about the future of the bromeliad collection at Selby Botanical Gardens. I have no idea whether the collection is in any danger, but would like to take advantage of the uncertainty to point out that we should never assume any important collection is safe. In the particular case of Selby, a single well-placed major hurricane would obliterate the collection even if it is perfectly safe at this time, so the clone preservation project should have a plan in place to cope with any disaster. We should try to put together a database of all living plants from Selby (with the associated Selby accession number) currently found in private collections. A quick review of my own collection shows I have more than 60 plants with Selby numbers. I undoubtedly have more species, but received them with other collector numbers (primarily BAB and Elton Leme numbers) and have yet to correlate these numbers with Selby numbers. By the way, if you have not been in the habit of keeping such identifying numbers, you need to start.

A very simple set of data for each plant should suffice: Genus, Species, Selby number, Owner, Availability, Privacy. We can correlate Genus and Species with Selby number as a simple check for potential mismatches. The Owner field will allow us to judge how widely cultivated a given plant is. Availability is a voluntary field. Yes means the plant grows well enough that you typically produce an excess over your needs on a regular basis. If you have only had the plant a short time, or haven't examined it in some time, you may not know whether to answer Yes or No. You can leave to field blank to denote uncertainty. Yes in Privacy means you do not want your ownership of the individual plant made public. We would use these records only in summaries. A copy of the preliminary data from my collection is attached as an example.

Please be sure to include only plants that you originally received with the Selby number in your listings. Do not assume that a plant you received from Selby with the same genus and species as a plant on my list has the same number. Many of the plants distributed by Selby are seedlings, and must be assumed to represent clones different from the parents. Also, do not use my list to correct your plant names. Eventually we should be able to produce a list of verified names corresponding to each Selby number, but, at this point, there could be more than one name associated with some of the Selby numbers.

Once we have some idea how many plants from the Selby collection are already available in collections, we can put together a plan to ensure the plants are grown over a extended geographical area to protect against potential disasters.

Coming Events

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3
Members' Day Plant Sale @ Fairchild
When: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Where: Next to the Cycad Circle

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009
Annual BSSF Auction
FTBG
7:15 PM - 9:00 PM
Free food for all

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2009
Field Trip (including Lunch) to Broward
10AM- 2PM or later
Free!!! And free lunch.
See article on p 2 outlining itinerary and outlining the Mapquest directions from place to place.

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

AUCTION NOTE:
If you bring a plant, please try to bring a 3x5 card identifying the plant and maybe adding some unknown extra to allow potential bidders to have more knowledge about the plant