



**September 2009
BSSF Officers 2009**

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 Membership: Moyna Prince
 Member Plant Sales: Antonio
 Arbelaez
 Raffle: Peter & Clara
 Kouchalakos
 Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez**

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009, 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: PPS of the Annual Show – Lynne Fieber and Michael Schmale
RAFFLE TABLE: TBA
FOOD TABLE: Betty McQuale, Marilyn Gresh, Alex Bello, Chien Manlee, Barbara Sparling

Speakers Fieber and Schmale



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In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

There was nothing to miss as our speaker did not show, and apparently had car trouble which was information relayed during the early evening hours.

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Meyer

This microcosm of bromeliads – the BSSF – has been a pertinent and important part of the latest events which touched upon bromeliads on an international level. Below, there will be different articles outlining the events which have transpired over the past several weeks, if not months, which have greatly affected the bromeliad world. Members should be well aware of the same and understand that the volunteerism by many is not being fully appreciated by all.

Instead, a pale few of the societies' leaders have laid heavy hand on others who have delivered nothing but time-honored and caressing care to the benefit of bromeliads for an eternity.

Some volunteers' reactions have included the shut down of the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry on the web, a resignation from the BSI by one of our more pronounced and well admired members, and the delivery of another member to the unfortunate task of standing between two people whose respective agendas are leading them to make rash and very harsh decisions which have very much harmed the bromeliad world.

But, amid this gray cloud must exist a silver lining. What has happened in the past, is not irreparable – so long as curative action is sought in immediate fashion.

Probably, as will be explained in other articles below, stricter adherence to the rules of order will be required before committees, boards or

other democratically created organizations can yield appropriate results – most particularly results which do not appear to misrepresent the board's opinion or which do not reflect the opinion of the governing board.

Probably, the loss of some volunteers will be felt by all. And, as intake trays pile up and loss of replacements appears inevitable, the persons who delivered the bromeliad world to this situation will understand better to treat volunteers more like their peers and less like subordinates.

Probably, the leaders who created the problems will be told by their peers or subordinates that they will need to think about the communal good, as opposed to stubbornly stand absolute in their position, unwillingly to mediate because their personal emotions have been hurt to a point where no apology is accepted.

But, these silver linings do not live ad infinitum. The festering presently existing can only create deeper scars, and before the societies comprising the BSI become afflicted with keloid conditions, the remedies must be pursued and delivered.

If not, the BCR brouhaha embarrassment will become the legacy to those involved. The important accomplishments of those involved will be subordinate to the harm derived from this BCR issue. And, if allowed to grow out of proportion, this problem may be deserving to receive a scandal's greatest nomenclature, and be donned BCR-gate.

JOIN the BSSF:

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

Download application sheet at:

<http://www.bssf-miami.org/membership.htm>

What's in Bloom - August 2009

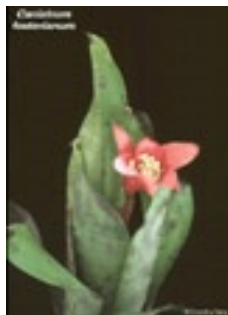
by Alan Herndon

This month, flowering spread throughout the *Aechmea fasciata* group and started in the *Aechmea fulgens* group. Many species in the *Gravisia* group of *Aechmea* are still in bloom, but all are

apparently approaching the end of their blooming period. There has been a new flush of bloom in *Aechmea chantinii*, although the number of plants coming in to bloom is much smaller than in spring.

I had much less opportunity to survey my collection for plants in bloom this month, so I certainly missed many blooming plants. Still, it appears that we are in the middle of a slow period for blooms. Of course, several plants, particularly in the genus *Vriesea*, will keep their colorful inflorescences for some time after the flowers have ceased to open.

Aechmea (*andersonii*, *angustifolia*, *aquilega*, *blanchetiana*, *caesia*, *chantinii*, *contracta*, *correia-aranjoi*, *discordiae*, *eurycorymbus*, *fasciata*, *flavorosea*, *fulgens discolor*, *fulgens fulgens*, *haltoni*, Little Harv, *miniata*, *moorei*, *mulfordii* (red leaf form), *retusa*, *rubens*, *tillandsioides*, *werdermannii*, *wittmackiana*)



Canistrum fosterianum
Photo by Dorothy Berg courtesy of FCBS.

Alcantarea (*imperialis*, *glazioniana*, *naboumii*, *odorata*)

Canistrum (*alagoanum*, *fosterianum*, *seidelianum*)

Catopsis (*morreniana*, *subulata*)

Edmundoa ambigua

Guzmania (*lingulata*, *minor* 'Orange Crush', *roezlii*)

Hobenbergia (*undulatifolia*, *vestita*)

Neoregelia (*angustifolia*, Bossa

Nova, *cathcartii*, *correia-aranjoi*, *dungsiana*, *eleutheropetala bicolor*, *guttata*, *macwilliamsii*, *marmorata*, *myrmecophila*, *pendula brevifolia*, *rosea*. Sheba, *smithii*, Ultima)

Nidularium (*bocainense*, *campos-portoi* var. *robusta*, *catarinensis*, *fradense*, *innocentii*, *krisgreeniae*, *procerum*, *rutilans*, *viridipetalum*)

Orthophytum (*compactum*, *disjuncta*, *duartei*, *grossiorum*, *harleyi*, *lymaniana*)

Pitcairnia (*angustifolia*, *imbricata*, *undulata*)

Portea (*petropolitana extensa*)

Quesnelia (*lateralis*)

Tillandsia (*albida*, *hondurensis*, *jalisco-monticola*, *mallemonitii*, *occulta*, *variabilis*)

Vriesea (*duvaliana*, *erythroductylon*, *flammea*, *gradata*, *inflata* (yellow), *rodigasiana*, *schwackeana*)

KARL AND KRIS GREEN

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Moyna Prince

NOTE: At the last Board of Directors' Meeting, a vote passed that Kris and Karl Green be named as Life Members.

I met Karl and Kris at the Sarasota Bromeliad Show in the mid-nineties. Ed and I were judging the show and stayed over for the society's annual Saturday night party. Wally Berg, the late, great bromeliad collector, came over and said "There are a couple of new members of your society over there." I recognized the name Karl Green from a recent membership application, but I'd never met him.

I soon learned why Karl was there. Never one to embrace a new hobby half way, in this case the world of Bromeliaceae, he had quickly determined that the best bromeliads in the state were at Wally Berg's home. And the Bromeliad Identification Center, with Harry Luther, its director, was located at nearby Selby Botanic Garden. Frequent trips to Sarasota meant he was on top of new discoveries.

Karl's scientific training as an orthopaedic surgeon made it easy for him to master the intricacies of plant identification. He quickly left most of us back-yard hobbyists way behind in acquiring and growing species. His enthusiasm led him to make the acquaintance of, and become friends with, the Brazilian collectors, notably Elton Leme. Karl undertook several collecting trips to Brazil with Leme, Roberto Menescal and Luis Felipe Navares de Carvalho in 1999, 2000, 2002 and 2006. This led to the Greens' underwriting sponsorship in 2000 of Leme's third book in the "Bromeliads of the Atlantic Forest" trilogy, "*Nidularium*".



Nidularium krisgreeniae
Photo courtesy of FCBS and Elton Leme

Subsequently Kris was honored with a new *Nidularium* species named after her, *Nidularium krisgreeniae*, which has unusual green and white petals and red bracts. You can see photos of this beauty on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website, fcbs.org.

The Greens' friendship with the Brazilian collectors allowed them to bring several new species into the US. As a result members of BSSF have been the lucky recipients of many plants unavailable elsewhere. An example would be the *Orthophytum conquistense* Karl distributed at the Holiday Dinner last year. Furthermore, he has consistently offered the first available pup of any new species to the Bromeliad Identification Center at Selby.

Karl and Kris regularly enter award-winning bromeliads in our annual shows and they've both walked away with major awards, including Sweepstakes. Among those winning plants are species rarely seen in private collections. As well as entering plants in the show, they have worked long hours, Karl in classification and Kris on the information table. The Greens have served on the board of BSSF and Karl has been vice president and president.

Members who would like to learn more about species should look for Karl at our meetings. He generally brings in plants for the Show and Tell table. So whether you're a long time member or joined recently, talk to Karl about the plants he's brought in to the monthly meetings. You'll be glad you did. And all of us at BSSF are glad we have Karl and Kris Green as members.

Special Thanks to Alan Herndon

Lucy Rosing and Alex Hawkes

by Alan Herndon

Only a handful of active and former BSSF members can still remember Lucy Rosing and Alex Hawkes. Although one of the founding members, Alex only belonged to BSSF for a very short period of time, and had essentially no influence on the development of the society. Nat DeLeon may well be the only person who still remembers Alex as a member of BSSF. Lucy was a member of the BSSF for the first 20 years. She was one of the committed, hard-working members who helped shape the society during those early years. However, she was one of the older founding members and died in 1983, before most current members joined.

Lucy Rosing was one of the pioneer bromeliad growers in the Miami area. She lived in North

Miami, and was a good friend of another pioneer, Ralph Davis. She was a charter member of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, being present at the first organizational meetings in May 1959. Ultimately, she served as the fifth President during the 1967-1968 club year (the fiscal year for BSSF ran from May to April during those years, and terms of the officers followed the same calendar). She also was the main auctioneer for BSSF during the late 1960's and early 1970's (a period when there were generally two regularly scheduled auctions each year.) In the 1974-1975 Roster she is listed as the head of the Research Committee.

By the time I first joined BSSF (1975), Lucy had largely withdrawn from active participation in the club. I was fortunate enough to visit her at her house a few times. Her bromeliad collection had been completely lost by that time (largely through unauthorized removal of plants by persons unknown), but her memories remained clear.

In addition to being a good friend of Ralph Davis, she was a good friend of Alex Hawkes. Alex Hawkes was an important, if evanescent, figure at the founding of the BSSF. He is in our rosters listed as the "Coordinator of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Inc., serving as Temporary Chairman of the Board" during 1959. He is in Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (where he was on staff during the 1950's and 1960's) in the form of the Alex Hawkes Laboratory. He certainly was an important catalyst for the formation of the BSSF the first organizational meeting for the society was held at his house but disappeared from the society almost at once. The best explanation for his disappearance is found in the letters from Julian Nally (bromeliad pioneer from the Orlando area) to William Morris of Australia that may be found on the FCBS website attached to the profile of Julian Nally by Derek Butcher.

In a letter dated 6 Oct 1961, Nally says "According to a Miami pal, Hawkes got tossed out of the local Miami chapter of the Bromeliad Society because, as its first President, pro tem, he instituted the rule that a member who did not show up for a certain number of meetings was to be dropped

forthwith. He forgot that this stricture applied to him, and so when he never showed up, they gave him the boot.”

The early members of BSSF were a serious group. Even in 1974, Article III, Section 4 of the Bylaws read “Any active members who has been absent for three consecutive regular meetings, without satisfactory explanation, can be dropped from membership by action of the Board.” I don’t believe the provision was actually enforced at this late date, but it clearly was during the early years.

By the time I met Lucy, Alex Hawkes was hosting a cooking show on TV in Jamaica. Lucy felt herself responsible for his departure from the Miami area. He had hosted a garden show on local TV, entitled ‘Garden Club of the Air’, starting in Oct 1960. As a loyal friend, Lucy regularly watched and/or listened to the show. One day (long after being dropped from the BSSF roster), Alex signed off with “Good Night, Lucy”.

Being slightly distracted and not concentrating on the TV at the time, she responded as if he were in the room speaking to her, only to realize a few seconds later that she was talking to the TV. She fired off an irate letter to Alex about the liberties he was taking to use her name on the air. She wasn’t mad at him for using her name; she just thought the incident required a strong response, and they were good enough friends that she knew he would not misinterpret the letter. She sent it to Alex care of the TV station unaware that station management considered it their duty to read all letters from the public. Not being in on the friendship, the managers promptly misinterpreted the letter. Alex lost his show, and before long, left the Miami area.

Alex Hawkes. was a prolific author throughout his life. The first of his publications I have found a record of (1950-1951) were ‘The major kinds of palms’ and ‘Studies in Antillian botany. A preliminary checklist of Cuban orchids.’ Palms and, especially, orchids remained the most important subjects for Alex through the 1960's.

He published two major, widely distributed, works on orchids: ‘Orchids – Their Botany and Culture’ (first published in 1961) and ‘Encyclopaedia of cultivated orchids _ an

illustrated descriptive manual’ (first published in 1965). At the same time, he was publishing a variety of periodicals, including ‘Orchid Weekly’, ‘Notes on Palms’ and ‘Notes on Bromeliads’, through his own company, Horticultural Publications, in Coconut Grove. These periodicals, although sold to plant enthusiasts throughout the United States, were mimeographed, but, during the same period, he also published at least two journals that were printed professionally. He must have maintained a strong interest in food during this same period because his first cookbook ‘South Florida Cookery _ unique recipes from the tropics and elsewhere’ was published in 1964.

After moving to Jamaica, Alex continued to write on food and botany, although his botanical writings were less voluminous and more general than in previous years. ‘Wildflowers of Jamaica’ (coauthored with Brenda Sutton) and ‘Illustrated plants of Jamaica’ both came out in the mid-1970's. Books on food became more frequent. There was actually a combination of food and botany in ‘A world of vegetable cookery - an encyclopedic treasury of recipes, botany, and lore of the vegetable kingdom’ (published in 1968 with a revised edition published in 1984), but the pure food books (including ‘Eating out in Jamaica _ a unique guide to good eating’ and ‘The rum cookbook’) predominated. All of these books were put out by commercial publishing houses. Alex may have continued self-publishing in Jamaica, but I have no record of this.

In all, Alex Hawkes is more interesting as a colorful character whose path briefly intersected that of the BSSF than as a student of bromeliads. Lucy Rosing, on the other hand, deserves to be recognized as one of the architects of the current BSSF. Her ability to command the friendship and respect of all early members (even those ex-members who had fallen out of favor) undoubtedly helped keep the early society together. We were fortunate to have her among the charter members of our society.

Acknowledgements: Lori Weyrick discovered the Nally-Morris correspondence, and relayed the information to me. Information on the published works of Alex Hawkes was obtained primarily from WorldCat.org.

Annual Auction is Just Around the Corner

Our primary fund-raiser for the year, the Annual Auction is approaching quickly. It will take place on our normal meeting day, Tuesday, 6 Oct 2009, but will start a half-hour earlier than our regular meeting. If possible be there at 6:30 PM to register as a bidder and set up your contributions. The auction will begin at 7 PM.

Please bring 1 or 2 high quality plants for auction to others. Other bromeliad related materials (books, prints, etc.) are also welcome. Remember to clean contributed plants so they have maximum appeal to potential bidders.

JOIN the BSSF:

Friends or Family

Contact Moyna Prince at 305-251-5289

Growing *Alcantarea* - the other species

by Alan Herndon

On page 27 of the Jan-Feb 2009 Journal of the Bromeliad Society, you can find a listing of the 28 currently recognized *Alcantarea* species. In addition, you will find descriptions of two new species and photographs of two additional previously described species.

Alcantarea imperialis, discussed in the previous two months, is by far the most widely grown species in Florida. This may change within a few years. Large numbers of a very attractive, very silver form of *Alcantarea odorata* are being grown by Bullis Bromeliads and, also, Grant's Farm Nursery in Broward. When these are fully distributed, we may well find *Alcantarea odorata* dominating the local landscape.

There are several other species of *Alcantarea* grown in Florida, although identification is still problematic in most cases. (I should explain that most of the problem with identification arises because the plants don't bloom very frequently. It is a lot easier to identify plants to species accurately when you have several related plants to compare with one another. When the plants tend to bloom only once every several years, and the plants are large enough that collections rarely contain more than a single specimen, it is very

hard to make proper comparisons.) There are a few key



Photo courtesy of FCBS,
Dorothy Berg
Alcantarea glaziouana

characteristics we can use to identify some of the species. *Alcantarea odorata* has narrow leaves that are much thinner than in most other *Alcantarea* species. The leaves may be very silvery due to a waxy coating on the leaves, as in the Bullis plants, but there are also clones with much less wax in cultivation locally.

Alcantarea glaziouana has medium size, unremarkable leaves. It is the only species currently widespread in the area with white flowers. *Alcantarea nahoumii* has bright green leaves that are as narrow as those on *A. odorata* but much thicker and stiffer; *A. nahoumii* is considerably smaller..

Since these other species usually have plain green leaves, it is unlikely they will ever be wildly popular among the public (or even collectors). Still, there is considerable variation among the available species to tempt those with a taste for botanicals. *Alcantarea vinicolor* looks like a smaller version of a red *Alcantarea imperialis* in terms of leaf shape and leaf color. Flowers of *Alcantarea glaziouana* have a pleasant fragrance – apparently more pronounced in some clones than others. Plants of *Alcantarea nevaesii* are small enough that they can be bloomed in 8" pots. Another advantage of the smaller species, is that they tend to bloom on a regular basis. This means you only have to wait 3 to 4 years between blooms rather than 10-20 years.

The general cultural conditions that suit *Alcantarea imperialis* are also good for other species. Of course, if you want to grow an *Alcantarea odorata* with perfect silver leaves you will need to provide it with lots of free space, so adjacent plants cannot rub off the waxy coating that gives the leaves their silver color. You also need to keep an eye out for snails that can eat the waxy coating. Finally, you need to avoid touching the leaves more than absolutely necessary. Needless to say, the plant should be protected from wind since the

leaves are thin and prone to damage.

Many of the *Alcantarea* species produce pups near the center of the rosette after flowering, in contrast to *Alcantarea imperialis*. Several of the species also produce hair pups near the base of the stem while still young. From my own experience, I can say that *Alcantarea glaziouana* and *A. odorata* produce both types of pups. *Alcantarea nahourmii* produces large numbers of hair pups, but I don't know whether it also produces central pups also. Unfortunately, I don't have enough experience with most of the species to list any more.

You, of course, will need to keep a close eye on your plants for pups. If your plants produce hair pups, you can ensure your continued relationship with the species by carefully removing the pups once they have started to produce roots and planting them in small pots. You will find that there is usually a tradeoff between pup size and the ease of removing it without damage. Of course, if you start with a larger pup, you will have a specimen plant quicker, but a damaged large pup will need a recovery period that may exceed the amount of time it takes a smaller pup to catch up. Plants that produce hair pups tend to produce them in quantity, so you will have ample opportunity to refine your technique and find the best size to harvest.

If your species produce central pups, you will get blooming size plants more quickly.

If your species produce central pups, you will get blooming size plants more quickly. Usually, a blooming plant will produce 2-3 pups. It is possible that giving blooming plants some extra fertilizer (as suggested by Terrie Bert for *Alcantarea imperialis*) will lead to a larger number of pups. Although these central pups grow faster than hair pups, they are still slow by the standards of, say, *Neoregelia* pups. The practical effect is that you will have an extended period (a full year or more) during which the mother plant looks worse and worse but the pups have not gotten large enough to take up the space on their own. You will have to decide how to cope during this period. All I can suggest is hiding the deteriorating mother behind a screen of other large bromeliads. Just remember to check on the *Alcantarea* periodically.

If you find yourself with extra room in your

garden, even after planting the obligatory *Alcantarea imperialis* and the soon to be obligatory *A. odorata*, give serious thought to adding another species or two. Then sit back and enjoy.

The BCR Issues of the Last Month

Editor's Note: Below are a series of articles which try to outline the events and interpret the same in an unbiased manner, so as to allow members to arrive at their respective opinions on the same.

Cultivar Background Explained

by Robert Meyer

The existence of cultivar registration is obvious, but the underlying events which make the same may not be as obvious. This article will attempt to explain the basics underlying the issue of registration and outline what is developing in regard to the same.

Plants delivered to the world can become a particular person's property by basically one of three events: (a) registration with the cultivar's agent; (b) development with name but not registered; or (c) proceeding through the patent process.

The latter is cost prohibitive and usually only can be implemented when the final plant's sale can recoup the underlying marginal cost associated with the not-so-cheap legal venture of owning rights to the plant (personal property) for a period of time as established under federal patent law.

The hybridizing of plants and not registering the same is most common – mainly because hobbyists are less concerned with market recognition of their claim to the same.

But, since the procedure for identifying and registering cultivars is relatively inexpensive, the procedure is often used. BSI is the designated agent for the same and in its web page specifically states, "The Bromeliad Society International is such an ICRA and therefore follows the rules set down under the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. The last publication was issued in 2004 (prepared and edited by C.D. Bricknell (Chairman) et al., members of the

Editorial Committee.”

Most of the BSI rules for entering a cultivar can be obtained online at http://www.bsi.org/brom_info/cultivar/geninfo.html.

About 10 years ago, when the world wide web hit our desktops, the BSI discussed handling the BCR online. Pepe Donayre, the BSSF vice president and BSI board member (former – explanation later) stated in a letter, "Building on the work of several previous authors, Don Beadle took on the task of compiling a definitive Bromeliad Cultivar Registry (BCR) for the Bromeliad Society International (BSI). When he completed his work (1998), he turned the job of maintaining and updating the BCR to Derek Butcher. Derek oversaw the transition of the BCR from paper files to electronic media. Derek also wanted a web-based version of the BCR to allow users access to more frequent updates than possible with paper publication. After the BSI declined to develop such a website, Derek entered into a partnership with Michael Andreas, webmaster of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS). With encouragement from the BSI, Michael developed a database structure for the BCR and incorporated links to photos for a user-friendly web site. Derek shipped new registrations to Michael in order to keep the database up-to-date. Over 10 years, this collaboration resulted in a frequently consulted website."

FCBS became the de facto provider of the on-line version of the BCR.

FCBS became the de facto provider of the on-line version of the BCR. And after being such for 10 years, many people could not remember or even know how the FCBS became the provider of such an invaluable service.

In June, the BSI had its annual meeting. The agenda had a faint mention of the issue of the BCR. The issue of removing the FCBS from being the de facto on line BCR was not appropriately tabled, discussed, or voted upon. In a matter of minutes a pronouncement was made, and after adjournment, Joyce Brehm or her agents relayed the new BCR position (now to be handled by the BSI's new webmaster) and that the FCBS was to be "left out of the loop."

Until recently, the BSI page had a place where you hit the enter key for the Bromeliad Registry on line. That hyperlinked the web surfer to an FCBS site, which had been maintained for over one decade by Michael Andreas – at no cost.

The FCBS, upon receipt of instructions by the BSI that only the BSI shall receive future cultivar information, decided to block decades of work from its site. That elimination of public access to the BCR has quaked the bromeliad world and shaken members of many of the bromeliad societies.

The FCBS, upon receipt of instructions by the BSI that only the BSI shall receive future cultivar information, decided to block decades of work from its site.

If you go to that same site today, you get a different response than accomplished only weeks or months ago. From that hyperlink <http://fcbs.org/cgi-bin/dbman/db.cgi?db=bcr&uid=default> you now receive the following message, "DBMan encountered an internal error. Please enable debugging to view." If one goes instead to <http://fcbs.org/index.html> where the most recently added items are listed, it appears the list is already many weeks out of date. In short, these sites with the alleged complete online database have apparently been unplugged. Hence, the question becomes: Do we have an accessible online database for the cultivars as of the time of this article?

Upon return to the BSI site, one discovers that there was a listing of Members Services which included, "Cultivar Registry" and "Cultivar Registry List." Upon hyperlinking either of those services, I was required to give my name and password – which ". . . you can find the username and password for accessing the Members-Only section printed inside the back cover of each journal published (starting with the 2009 journals)." Still a problem.

Even the members cannot presently access the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry ("BCR") site. Why? Because the FCBS, not the BSI, controls the internet server for said information.

I have never witnessed a more destruction action than this within the organization.

Tom Wolfe, whose accomplishments include

being a member of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay since 1966, President in 1969, General Chairman of the 1992 World Bromeliad Conference in Tampa, Chairman of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (three times), a BSI master judge, and former Director and Secretary of the BSI responded to the actions with the following paragraph. "As a member of the Bromeliad Society International for over forty years, I have never witnessed a more destruction action than this within the organization. Should the BSI Board continue on this pathway of inflexibility and being unsympathetic to the efforts of its membership, and making difficult demands to get its way, the BSI's future as a viable organization will become more problematic in growing and retaining its present membership."

At present, the BCR is working in print, but not on line. The internet problem shall persist until resolution between the BSI and FCBS can be made. The problem will not just walk away. And, Joyce Brehm, the leader of the BSI, has received significant comments – mostly bad – about the recent events and has called numerous parties to see what can be done to get out of this bromeliad "pickle."

The BromeliAdvisory wrote to Joyce Brehm and requested a response as to one simple question: has there been communication to the FCBS to assure that they reopen the BCR on line site and allow them to continue with the same until the board meets again in 2010 when the issue can be tables, discussed, voted upon and determined? The response was silence by she.

An interesting response came from the editor of the BSI, Andrew Flower, who copied the BromeliAdvisory on August 18, 2009 with the following letter that he had delivered to Michael Andreas, "Would the FCBS be willing to accept the following proposal (I have Joyce Brehm's commitment to agree if FCBS does - and if she renegs I will resign as Editor immediately). My own knowledge of how the online database system was set up and operated is very limited, so please feel free to put me straight if I have misunderstood anything!"

Four days later, the BromeliAdvisory received a copy of Michael Andreas's response which stated, "My terms are as follows:

"First and foremost, the BSI must resolve the legalities of their actions. In other words, saying "never mind" is not legal Parliamentary procedure. This is an internal issue for the BSI - and certainly needs to be handled internally. The actions that lead us to this point are sufficiently murky - and therefore must be cleared up. I am not willing to proceed without clear, unambiguous BSI board action - otherwise the Council is pulled into the murky fray.

BSI Purpose: The purposes of this society are to promote and maintain public and scientific interest in the research, development, preservation, and distribution of bromeliads, both natural and hybrid, throughout the world, and to promote fellowship.

"There must be a three party agreement in writing between the BSI, FCBS and me. Everyone seems to assume that FCBS owns the data base that drives the BCR. In reality, the intellectual property rights for that database belong to me. The Council does not have the authority to order me to reinstate it. This agreement will spell out how long the Council is to host the BCR; how the transition to the new BCR will occur; and the responsibilities of all parties. The BSI webmaster will need to be involved.

"A link from the Council site to the BCR on the BSI site is no gift and no incentive to me. Especially if the link is to a BCR posted in the Members Only section of the BSI site. Therefore the BCR must be in the BSI public section and available to all in perpetuity. I frankly do not need permission to link to the public section but I am concerned about the BSI making people pay (through membership dues) for the ability to access the BCR.

"Finally, Joyce will provide a written apology to me. This point is not negotiable at all."

Understandably, this response can only be read as harsh. The first point is factually correct. The above-recited errors in the parliamentary procedure, most particularly a lack of motion or vote, made the edict improper.

The second part is construed by many as including one party too many. Some have stated that Michael Andreas's request to be a

party is deemed excessive. And the focus of this issue is between FCBS and BSI. No one doubts that Andreas can be there for FCBS, but his demand for his approval makes him *ultra vires* in his capacity with FCBS.

The third request is perfect and parallels the “Goose” article by Alan Herndon below.

And, the last request, as simple and inexpensive as it may appear, could be the deal breaker. For many people engaged in a dispute, obtaining money is easier than a written apology. We can only hope our internet version of the BCR is not censored because of the lack of holographic instrument which is worth no more than the paper it is written on.

So what is presently available? Using the magic of google, I asked for “FCBS BCR” and discovered a 209-page cultivar list which downloaded into Adobe at: http://www.bsi.org/brom_info/cultivar/BCR_Control_List_Dec2008.pdf.

Although it lacks the pretty pictures or descriptions, the list is long and seems relatively complete. But, before you attempt to download this matter, understand that 209-page Adobe documents take minutes, which like a watched boiling pot of water, seems to last an eternity.

One may wonder if the placement of the BCR in the “members only” section of the BSI page would inevitably privatize access to the cultivar registry – an act which any reasonable mind could find to be contradictory to the purpose of BSI: “The purposes of this society are to promote and maintain public and scientific interest in the research, development, preservation, and distribution of bromeliads, both natural and hybrid, throughout the world, and to promote fellowship.” By Laws Art II.

The By-laws of BSI further include the duty to “[P]ublish list of cultivars from time to time.” Standing Rule 6.4(f)(ii).

But, like most laws, all by-laws cannot foresee all contingencies and may appear incomplete. So, not surprisingly, nothing in the By-Laws addresses whether the publications and cultivar lists can or cannot be limited to members only. Quite simply, this may mean information for the BCR may come to a cost for all parties. And,

after years of free access on the FCBS site, the potential to create restricted access is both inconvenient and inconsistent with previous bromeliad protocol.

Other cultivar registries grant access freely to the public. Hostas (http://www.hostaregistrar.org/hosta_registration_lists.html); American Violets (http://www.americanyioletssociety.org/Registry/Cultivar_Registry_Classification.htm); Water Lilies (http://www.victoria-adventure.org/waterlilies/names/wgi_names_main.html); Xeric Plants (http://www.victoria-adventure.org/waterlilies/names/wgi_names_main.html) and more. More disturbing, is that when I went to google search the Bromeliad cultivar registry, it always delivered me to <http://fcbs.org/cgi-bin/> which delivered the error message: “DBMan encountered an internal error. Please enable debugging to view.” This is both embarrassing and saddening.

As constant public access via the internet delivers untold numbers to the FCBS site which announces the “internal error” message – and tells the world that someone unplugged the public’s access to the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry – valuable goodwill and image declines.

If the activity of the past few weeks proves to be representative of events of the future, much more may occur. But, hopefully the respective personalities of FCBS and BSI can curtail personal or other disagreements to provide a necessary service. Hopefully the silence of the BCR ends.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Included in this edition will be other articles by people describing their posture on this event

Why Kill the Goose That Lays the Golden Egg?

By Alan Herndon

Recently the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) Board passed a resolution requiring the Cultivar Registrar to cease sending information on newly registered cultivars to Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS)

website where an online version of the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry (BCR) has been developed over the past several years. The FCBS webmaster, not unreasonably, saw this as a rejection of his efforts over years and cut access to the online BCR. At this point, we are in a losing position for all parties. Worse, all bromeliad societies are now in a position of failing to promote bromeliads, because they fail to make information freely available to the public.

No one denies that BSI has a right to the name Bromeliad Cultivar Registry or that the BSI has been designated the official registration agent for bromeliads. If the BSI feels it could design and implement a superior online BCR, there is nothing to stop them from doing so. However, there is no reason why an official BSI implementation of the BCR could not coexist with the FCBS implementation. Given that it will take a considerable number of months, if not years, for BSI to design and create a new format for the BCR, having a fully updated FCBS version would ensure that people needing to access the BCR during the interim period would not be denied. Even when a BSI version is fully operational, there is a great advantage to having two distinct BCR implementations online. Some people will undoubtedly find one version best suited to their individual needs and others will find the other version better. Having both versions available would, in fact, further the BSI aim of public outreach since it provides twice the internet presence without extra expense to the BSI.

The BSI is a volunteer organization, and will be dependent on volunteers for the foreseeable future.

The BSI is a volunteer organization, and will be dependent on volunteers for the foreseeable future. Given this, the BSI would be wise to encourage innovation from all possible sources. Conversely, the biggest mistake the BSI could make would be to start deciding what potential volunteers can and cannot do. You can never know where important ideas will arise. As an example, the FCBS version of the BCR was developed through collaboration of Derek Butcher in Australia and Michael Andreas in Florida. It is fair to say that both parties have profited from this collaboration.

Michael Andreas was given a 'shovel-ready' project for the FCBS website and Derek Butcher

was given a well-visited forum for his writings. In the future, if someone from Australia or Brazil or Germany (or someplace no one would ever think of in association with bromeliads) has an idea for an even better version of the BCR, and is willing to develop the idea with their own time and money, the BSI should support the effort wholeheartedly.

To thrive in coming years, the BSI will need access to the creative efforts of as many volunteers as possible

To thrive in coming years, the BSI will need access to the creative efforts of as many volunteers as possible. To ensure this access, the BSI board will need to monitor their own actions carefully to avoid discouraging volunteers through rules that quash innovation (even inadvertently) or by taking actions that may be seen as dismissive of others work.

The Horrible Demise

by Robert Meyer

Since the events described above commenced, and even after warp speed attempts to reconcile appeared to work, they failed.

Tom Wolfe's letter contained many other paragraphs, many of which are less complimentary than that above.

Juan Espinoza, our member and the president of the FCBS, has been placed between Joyce and Michael – perhaps seen as between a rock and a hard place. With ultimatums requiring written apologies, mediation or reconciliation will commence with the parties far apart. And, Juan – whether he wants to be involved or not – is involved and has sent a position paper of his own.

Pepe Donayre, ever the humble and even-tempered man, showed his frustration of these events and resigned from the BSI board. If the problem is not remedied soon, more resignations or losses may come. And, even the BSI editor may resign – read his quotation to Michael Andreas above.

Credibility standing on the shoulders of the respective society's hierarchy may cascade quickly into the mire of one simple issue: allow the FCBS to temporarily handle the BCR this

year, re-table the issue for the July meeting, actually have discussion and vote; and, let the cards fall where they may.

One bromeliad observer, who wishes to remain anonymous, stated that his review of these events leads him to believe that "Extreme emotional regional patriotism leads to brain cell convulsion which destroys all ability to think logically, and a blind attitude of self-righteous indignation that lashes out at anyone not an ally that is oblivious to the destruction it causes. Juan, not Joyce is taking the brunt of the nastiness - she is probably quite happy watching Florida commit public hari kari, no doubt saying I told you what they are like. It would be good if some Floridians would contact Juan with a show of support."

But, under the conditions recited by Michael Andreas to the BSI in the above-quoted e-mail, it is best to reason that only Michael can put a stop to all of this.

Let us hope that he and Juan can do this extremely large and difficult task, and in all due haste.

Jose Donayre Resigns from BSI

Letter by Donayre to BSI's President

Ms. Joyce Brehms
President
Bromeliad Society International
50898 Dawne St.
San Diego, CA 92117-1252

Dear Joyce:

Thank you for your e-mail received yesterday.

I had been waiting for a statement from you rescinding the action proposed by you to have the BSI Registrar send cultivar information exclusively to the BSI Webmaster, that is, to cease sending it to the FCBS Webmaster. The net effect has been the interruption of a system that has worked near perfection for almost ten years and the absurd mistreatment inflicted upon Michael Andreas who has had an exemplary record in developing and maintaining the BCR in the FCBS website.

In the meantime, a number of other interested people have called your attention to the flaws

incurred in the procedure followed by the Board. Besides not having informed the Board on the matter 90 days prior to the meeting, the subject was not in the official agenda and no vote was taken. All these are in serious contradiction to the BSI By-laws.

Under the circumstances, I thought it was reasonable for you to simply rescind the action. I thought that would have been the right and the courageous thing to do. Instead, your e-mail proposes only to defer the action.

I also thought that, acknowledging the procedural errors in which we were all involved, if not unanimously at least a majority of the Board members would press for rescission. There is no evidence of this happening

As a participant at the Board meeting in question it is impossible for me to disregard the observations made to the way the issue was taken by the Board. I am therefore tendering my resignation as Florida Director in the BSI Board effective immediately.

Yours sincerely,
Jose Donayre MD.

New Members

Add this entry to your roster:
John Leach & Kathleen Duffey
2290 SW 36 Ave
Coral Gables, FL 33145
305-444-6046

Clone Preservation Project

by Alan Herndon

TOPIC: *Neoregelia olens* complex

As currently recognized, members of the *Neoregelia olens* complex are easily recognized by their small, stoloniferous growth habit with relatively wide leaves having conspicuous spines. Overlapping leaf sheaths form a more-or-less tubular rosette. The maximum number of



Neoregelia olens Marie
Photo courtesy of
gnobromeliads.com

leaves is around 20, but blooming plants usually have fewer leaves and plants can bloom with ca. 10 leaves. Leaves frequently have small red dots scattered over the surface. Portions of the inner leaves color up during bloom, forming an orange-red circle around the inflorescence. The sepals are frequently red, while the petals are predominantly a dark violet-blue.

Neoregelia olens was introduced to collections in southern Florida around 1978. It was apparently introduced into other areas of the country at the same time, and in a variety of forms. It was available in at least 3 forms in southern Florida. *Neo olens* var *olens* was the largest. *Neo olens* cv. '696' was the smallest and darkest form.



Neoregelia olens x cruenta
Photo courtesy of FCBS by Michael Andreas

Neo olens cv. 'Marie' was intermediate in size.

Prior to the introduction of *Neo olens* to North American collections, there were three mentions of the species in the pages of the Journal of the Bromeliad Society. Two of these dealt with the fact that the specific epithet *olens* suggests the plant is fragrant. (In the original description, W. J. Hooker explicitly states that *olens* refers to the odor produced by the decomposing inflorescence.) The third is a picture on the back cover of vol 25, number 3 that is labeled *Neo olens* from the collection of Rolf Rawe. The pictured plant has far longer leaves than other plants currently placed in the *Neo olens* complex.

After the plant was introduced, it was identified by Robert Read as *Neoregelia olens*. Since the early introductions included several different clones, much confusion was generated. This called forth a review of the species in the Journal of the Bromeliad Society 37(4): 167-170. 1986, as well as a reproduction of the original color plate on page 152 of the same issue.



Neoregelia camorimiana
Photo courtesy of Tropiflora

Three other species closely related to the plants we call *Neo olens* have been described. *Neoregelia camorimiana* E. Pereira and I. A. Penna, *Neo. eltoniana* W. Weber and *Neo. indecora* (Mez)L. B. Smith. Plants we grow as

Neo. eltoniana have distinctly wider leaves, and a different appearance, than other entities in the *olens* complex, but the other two species are not as clearly distinct and could be treated as extreme expressions of a variable *Neo. olens*.

In *Neo camorimiana*, there are usually a larger number of leaves on each plant, and the leaves are longer, relatively narrower and stiffer. In *Neo indecora*, there are fewer leaves, the leaves are shorter and relatively wider. More information on the distribution of these forms in the wild would help us decide the proper taxonomic treatment.

Neo 'fluminensis' is a trade name for what appears to be a very nice clone of *Neo olens* introduced in the 1990's. The leaves take on a uniform red color when grown hard.



Neoregelia fluminensis
Photo courtesy of FCBS

When the plants are growing rapidly, a scattering of red spots is evident on the leaves. Karl Green has in his collection a plant of this type collected by Wally Berg. It is labeled *Neo* aff. *sapiatabensis*. Aside from being at the larger end of the size range and the leaf color, it appears to fit well with the *Neo olens* forms introduced in the 1970's.

There is still clearly no consensus on how to identify the different members of this complex. Harry Luther (in the Journal of the Bromeliad Society 47(4). 1997.) published photos he labeled *Neo indecora* and *Neo* cf. *eltoniana*. His *Neo* cf. *eltoniana* looks much more like the plants we grow as *Neo camorimiana* than the plants we grow as *Neo eltoniana*. In the Photo Index on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS)



Neoregelia eltoniana
Photo courtesy of Tropiflora

website, the photo by Bromelario Imperialis under *Neo camorimiana* looks more like the plant we grow as *Neo eltoniana*. The photo labeled *Neo indecora* by Derek Butcher has way too many leaves for the plants we grow under that name.

The most important question surrounding the *Neoregelia olens*



Photo courtesy of
Tropiflora

complex is: how many distinct clones are currently in cultivation? From what I know so far, *Neo olens* cv '696' (left) and *Neo olens* cv 'Marie' are well-defined clones. It also appears that the *Neo camorimiana*, *Neo* 'fluminensis' and *Neo indecora* in this country are each single clones. Many more distinct clones of *Neo olens* that never received names may have been imported during the late 1970's and early 1980's.

What is in your collections? Do you have a single form, several distinct forms, or several plants labeled as distinct species? If you have any plants in the complex that can be traced back to wild-collected plants (regardless of whether you have a name on the plant), please let us know.

If you made the identification based on a specific picture on the internet, please let us know what picture your plant most closely matches.

Try sending photos of plants if you are unsure of the name and cannot match it to any of the available pictures.

Coming Events

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2009

Adopt-A-Tree
J.C. Bermudez Park - 3100 NW 87th Avenue

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

Annual Auction Bromeliad Society Broward County

Auction preview 6:30pm, bidding begins promptly at 7:00pm

Further info contact Maureen Frazel at frazelbroms@bellsouth.net

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

Dog Day of Summer at Fairchild
Sunday, September 27, 2009 from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009

Annual BSSF Auction
FTBG
7:15 to PM-9:00

NOVEMBER 13TH - 15TH, 2009

FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza
Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Renaissance Orlando Hotel Airport
5445 Forbes Place, Orlando
Extravaganza Sales Rules
Extravaganza Registration Form

PHOTOS at SPECIAL EVENTS



Two Life Members – Nat DeLeon (and wife Eileen) with new life member, Karl Green (right)



One year ago at the VA – those people remember just how hot it was.