Entering plants (and more) in WBC 2012

With the 2012 World Bromeliad Conference being held in Orlando, easy driving distance from many prime bromeliad growing areas, we expect to have a large crop of entries in the judged show. As an exhibitor, you will be asked to fill out an entry form and present this form to the Classification table along with your plants and other entries. (This form will be made available to you months before the Show on various websites including the BSI.org website.) Classification will check your entries for conformance with the show rules and further check the information on the forms for completeness and accuracy. They will then assign your entry to the proper Division, Section and Class according to the Show Schedule, if you have not already done so. If you have entered bromeliad shows before, then you probably know already how to complete the entry form using the Show Schedule, which will also be available to you online or from the Show Chairman, before you arrive at Classification. You can make this process easier on yourself and everyone else by following a few basic tips.

First, fill out the form as completely as possible before you get to the Classification Table only using pencil to complete the form.   This means filling out exhibitor information and the plant name(s) along with, if needed, a description and title. If you are entering a bromeliad for judging, make every effort to determine the correct name of the plant before going to the World Conference. Use all available local resources. If you have an awesome plant, and have had no luck determining the correct name, the volunteers at the Classification table will gladly attempt to provide the correct name. Just remember, this will take time, and slow down the entry process and it is possible that they may not have an identification for the plant.

Second, have pity on the people entering the data. Fill out the requested information on the entry form in a manner that makes it absolutely clear what should be on the official entry card. In short, avoid abbreviations (no matter how clear they may seem), leave extra space between entries if needed for clarity and use extra lines on the entry form to ensure a lengthy description is easy to read. If Classification determines that the name of the plant needs to be changed, make sure the change is done cleanly. Also, it is a good idea to totally

avoid notes written to yourself on the entry sheet. These notes may end up on the on the entry card. If you need to write notes to yourself, please prepare a separate entry form without these notes for use by Data Entry.

Third, the main job of Classification is to determine for both Hobbyist and Commercial exhibitors, where your entry belongs according to the Show Schedule. You may be asked questions about your entry, such as 'How long have the plants been growing in this setting? or How long have you own this plant?', in trying to determine the correct classification. Please review the Show Schedule to see what kinds of questions may be asked, and have your answers prepared.

Finally, if, as expected, we use printed labels (entry cards) generated by the data entry program, we ask that you remain with your plants until the labels (entry cards) are attached. This will speed up the process of preparing plants for Placement. After all, no one can identify your plants and insure that the labels (entry cards) are correct and placed on the corresponding entries as quickly as you.