

# BromeliAdvisory

January 2014



Unnamed Neo hybrid. Photo by Robert Meyer

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# BromeliAdvisory

**January 2014**

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

 [http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSF/?bookmark\\_t=group](http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSF/?bookmark_t=group)

 <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida/84661684279>

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- Joy Parrish '13 –'14
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**Refreshments: Sandy Roth**

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

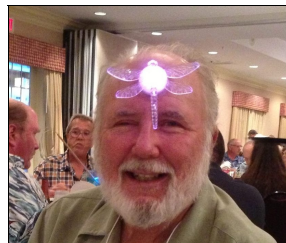
**JANUARY 21, 2014 7:30 PM**

**SPEAKER: Michael Michalski – Trip "Ecuador - Quito to Cotopaxi"**

**RAFFLE TABLE: Michael Michalski**

**FOOD: Usual suspects**

**Michael Michalski Will Show Us Quito**



Mike playing at World Conference

"From Quito to the Amazon," a visual tour conducted by Mike Michalski. His PowerPoint presentation will detail his eight-day trip through Ecuador in June 2013.

NOTE: Membership renewals are requested. Membership forms can be found in attachment to e-served copy of this Advisory.



## President's Message

by Barbara Partagas

Happy New Year to all!

We are off to a running start this year. Getting ready for an early show is like putting your shoes on the wrong feet. It just seems so early to be prepping plants, especially with the cold snaps we have been having. We just have two meetings left before the show, so protect those prospective entries from the elements.

In my President's Message last January, I asked for your help volunteering for various activities. We need member support if we are to accomplish anything in the Society. Thank you all so much for stepping up. This year I am asking each of you to get to know your fellow members, especially the new members, better. It is amazing how many people have asked me who a member is and when told, they say, "Oh, yes, they sit on the other side of the room." Maybe, we could mix it up a little?

The suggestion box will be making a reappearance in the room. Please use it at any time or send me or any Board member an e-suggestion.

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Wish list: Raffle table chairperson to make the phone calls to get donors for the raffle table.

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Empty gift baskets you don't need. Needed for the 2015 Extravaganza.

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*Barbara Partagas*

## Holiday Party 2013

by Alan Herndon

As is customary, our Holiday Party was held during the regular meeting time in December. A few minutes were grudgingly given over to a short business meeting where the new and returning officers and board members for 2014 were introduced. These formalities over, we settled into the real business of the evening – eating.

Dishes shared by members were varied and delicious. Sandy Roth and Mike Michalski coordinated these dishes to ensure balance in the end result. Special thanks must go to Josefa Leon and her daughter Maria Amador who brought in the superb pork, and to Kris Green who provided a wonderful roast turkey as well as a hugely popular chocolate mousse.

Fairchild asked us to use the Garden Room for this meeting, so we had a chance to spread out more than usual. We were also able to use round tables. Planning

and setup for this dinner was in the capable hands of Sandy Roth, who attended to every detail down to the centerpiece arrangements that graced each table. Sandy had help with the setup from Lori Weyrick, Barbara Partagas and Fred Sussenberger.

We were happy to see Patricia Bullis and two of her sons, Harvey IV and Tom (who are taking over operations at Bullis Bromeliads) attend the dinner. They generously donated some special plants for auction to benefit BSSF. Expect that auction to take place at the January meeting. Bring money and be prepared to bid.

Plants for distribution to members were supplied, as usual, by Karl Green. A wide variety of bromeliads were available to attendees. In addition, at the end of the evening, the plants in the centerpieces were distributed to one lucky attendee at each table.

As is customary, a plant exchange was held where members brought plants from their own gardens (hidden in a suitably sized bag) and exchanged their bag for the right to pick another bag containing a plant from another person's garden.

Sharon Biddex arranged for a musical accompaniment to the evening. We had the pleasure of listening to soothing guitar music as food was set up.

It was a fitting end to the year.

## Preparing Bromeliads for Show

from BSI

[http://www.bsi.org/webpages/sbba/Preparing\\_Bromeliads.htm](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/sbba/Preparing_Bromeliads.htm)

### Tools needed:

- ☑ Flat end surgical hemostat (pulls out large leaves and debris)
- ☑ Long needle nose hemostat (pulls out small leaves deep in the plant)
- ☑ Long tweezers (pulls out material deep in the plant)
- ☑ Artist brushes with long handles (various sizes, for finer cleanup)
- ☑ Scissors and Exacto knife (for trimming leaves)
- ☑ Pair of old calf-length cotton sports socks (poke holes in toes, wear like gloves to protect your arms from prickles)
- ☑ Bar of Ivory soap (to clean leaf surfaces)
- ☑ Safer's soap (to remove scale)
- ☑ Spray bottle (for pineapple/citrus juice or club soda)

### Cleaning:

Remove trapped large leaves and debris by hand. Use a hose with a nozzle that will give a good spray without too much pressure to wash out remaining dirt and debris. After the first wash, examine the deep parts of the plant for missed debris. Use hemostats to remove this material. Be careful not to dig around too harshly so you don't break or tear a leaf. Loosen stubborn dirt at the base of leaves with artist brushes. Wear gloves to avoid scratches.

Rinse the plant again to remove loosened material. Clean the surfaces of leaves individually. Cleaning intensity will depend on the delicacy of the leaves and amount of scurf. If scurf is present, be careful not to remove any of it because it will not regenerate, and the bare patches will be obvious to the judges. Suds each leaf with soap solution and a heavy artist's brush. If leaves aren't prickly, pull each leaf through your bare fingers to loosen any stubborn surface dirt. This should also remove any dead scale that might be attached to the leaf. If the scale doesn't rub off quickly, apply Safer's soap. Scale is a big no-no for a show plant. Rinse the plant with clean water using the hose and gentle spray.

Set the plant aside to dry and process the next one. You can't really tell whether some plants are really clean or not until they are dry. You may have to go back and touch up missed spots, and rinse again. Be sure to get all the soap out.

If you have salt deposits, sometimes another soaping of the salted area will do the job. Let the soap stay on for a little while and work on another plant. Then rub the salted area lightly being very careful not to damage the leaf. Pineapple juice or any citrus juice can be sprayed on leaves to remove salt deposits. Just be sure to rinse the juice off well or it may leave a sticky, shiny film on the plant that the judges will penalize. Try club soda. Some gardeners say it does not leave a film on leaves.

Some procedures may have to be repeated. It is almost impossible to completely remove the residue from some darker leaved plants, but you can take a chance and enter them if only faint traces are visible.

### Repotting:

It is usually easier to repot a plant than to clean the pot. This is a good time to select a pot size in proper proportion to the plant. A larger pot makes it easier to center the plant and cover any exposed caudex caused by leaf removal. Don't pot the plant too deeply unless you are trying to hide a flaw, because that is what the judges will assume. Be aware of the show rules about what constitutes a "standard" pot. A pretty or unusual

pot should be entered in the Artistic, Decorative Container division.

### Trimming:

Leaf damage is a common problem but judges will certainly notice where you have trimmed. But if you have done a good job they may not take off points unless they observe too many trims. Before you cut, analyze the effect the cut will have on the plant's overall appearance. Cutting a leaf too far back it could change the natural shape of the leaf and the plant's conformation. Trimming a plant with a brown/damaged fingernail tip is tricky. You may decide not to trim at all if it will do more harm than good. Cutting leaf edges very close to the base can be done where there are no spines, but try to keep a smooth leaf edge. Judges can usually see your dilemma and be lenient if there is little else wrong with the plant.

### Final evaluation before show entry:

View the plant from all sides and from the top. Straighten the plant if needed and firm the soil around it. Be sure the mix on top of the soil is neat. You can use a special top dressing, but this is optional. Neat appearance counts.

Ask: Does the plant appear healthy and properly grown? Does its foliage have the appropriate sheen and/or scurf? Are the colors rich? Are the markings clear? Is the symmetry appealing and appropriate? Is the size close to maturity? Is the leaf damage inconspicuous? Does the plant need more grooming?

Don't be overly critical. Fix what you can, but remember that there are very few, if any, perfect plants.

### Transporting plants:

Take extra time packing your plants to be sure they don't damage each other or topple over in transit. Take your tools and extra potting mix with you just in case there's a mishap along the way.

## **Show Preparations: Need for Speed**

by Alan Herndon

Our annual show is only **six** weeks away now. It is time to step up preparations so we are ready when the big day comes.

So far the weather is cooperating – our temperatures have not dropped low enough to harm most bromeliads (although the combination of temperatures below 50 F and brisk winds are

capable of burning leaves on most *Cryptanthus* species and hybrids.) You should have a plan ready so you know where you are going to shelter your show plants if we get another blast of even more polar air and see our temperatures drop to near or even below freezing.

Anyone who feels ready to get into the more technical aspects of the show is invited to help Thursday afternoon with classification and data entry. These require more than basic knowledge of the plants and the Show Schedule for classification or easy command of the computer for data entry. Both are vital to putting on the show, and we need new people learning these roles so they can take over in the future. Newcomers will work with experienced volunteers in those positions.

Before the show gets much closer, I could use help refurbishing the large lattice panels that hold most of the student art work. Also, if anyone has a truck that can accommodate these 4 by 8 foot panels easily and that could be used to move the panels to Fairchild Thursday morning for setup and/or move them away from Fairchild Sunday afternoon, please let me know.

Please decide what jobs you could fill at the show. Be prepared to sign up when asked by the appropriate committee chair, or, better yet, seek out the chair before being asked.

Committees needing volunteers during the hours the show is open to the public, and their chairs are:

Information Table – Joy Parrish (greet visitors to the show, answer basic questions concerning bromeliads, the show and BSSF)

Membership Sales Table – Carl Bauer (help sell plants at the table, act as cashier for sales)

Plant porters – vacant (bring 3 or 4 appropriately aged kids to Fairchild, provide general supervision while they haul plants to vehicles parked at a distance from the sales area. The kids keep any tips they receive.)

Plant holding – Antonio Arbelaez, if available (hold purchased plants for customers while they visit show room.)

In addition, Sharon Biddex can always use help setting up the Art show Thursday morning – in particular, hanging the student paintings on the lattice panels.

Thanks for all of the help and don't forget to get your plants ready for entry into the competition.

## Garden Notes Dec 2013

by Alan Herndon

A cold front at the very start of December ushered in another step towards winter.

Minimum overnight temperatures fell another few degrees, as did maximum daytime temperatures. Any sense of winter was soon dispelled, however, by a rapid return to warmer temperatures. So it has gone throughout the month. We have 2, maybe 3, days where there is a coolness in the morning air, then temperatures rise



*Nidularium angustifolium* Photo by Ian Hook

again.

It did appear that the dry season was becoming firmly established during the first 3/4 of the month, but the deluge that came right after Christmas erased any rainfall deficit that had built up. Our bromeliads have been taking full advantage of the extended heat and rainfall. They are still growing rapidly.

Our first member of the *Aechmea orlandiana* complex to produce open flowers was *Aechmea* 'Bert'. Several other species in the group had inflorescence buds visible by the end of the month, but had not yet produced open flowers. *Aechmea chantinii* continued to have open flowers throughout the month. It was accompanied by the closely related *Aechmea serrata* first reported last month.. *Aechmea farinosa conglomerata* (with green leaves) made a short-lived appearance in flower near the middle of the month, followed later by *Aechmea farinosa discolor* (with dull red leaves) presenting an equally brief floral display. Continuing to flower from November was *Aechmea kuntzeana*. Among the species of *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia*, one of the clones of *Aechmea gracilis* and the commonly grown clone of *Aechmea gamosepala* had open flowers. Both are similar in size and have well separated flowers with violet petals. The *Aechmea gracilis*, however, has stiffer leaves than *Aechmea gamosepala* and the inflorescence of the former produces a few

short branches near the base while the inflorescence of the latter is completely unbranched. *Aechmea weilbachii leodiensis* continued to bloom into December. *Aechmea azurea* began and finished blooming within the month, as did *Aechmea allenii*. On these two species, open flowers were present less than a week. On the other hand, *Aechmea ramosa* and *Aechmea fendleri* continued to flower throughout December. Finally, *Aechmea roberto-seidelii* made its appearance with flowers opening near the end of the month. The inflorescence on this species resembles that of *Aechmea pineliana* in size, color and shape. Flowers in both species are protected by an array of very sharp spines – each one attached to and sticking straight out from the tip of a floral bract or a sepal, but in *Aechmea pineliana* the spines from the floral bracts extend far beyond the open petals in a protective haze. The flowers of *Aechmea roberto-seidelii* are left virtually unprotected by the shorter spines on their floral bracts.

Staminate (male) plants of *Androlepis skinneri* continued to bloom throughout the month but no pistillate plants came into bloom.

Flowering began to pick up among *Billbergia* species. There were mass flowerings in the red leaf clone of *Billbergia amoena*, near both the beginning of the month and the end of the month. A few remnant flowers of *Billbergia nana* held on into the first few days of December. *Billbergia sandersii* had a mass bloom near the beginning of the month, while *Billbergia nutans* first had open flowers near the end of the month. *Billbergia euphemiae* and *Billbergia leptopoda* also flowered during December, but in a less coordinated fashion. *Billbergia kautskyi*, with striking white bracts subtending the flowers, bloomed in the middle of the month.

Among the species of *Canistropsis*, our old friend, *Canistropsis billbergioides* with pink bracts continued to claim a place on the list. At this point, the clone is represented by a single flowering plant and there are no obvious successors in place. *Canistropsis seideliana*, both the typical clone with yellow bracts and the clone with red bracts (formerly called *Canistropsis welteri*) also bloomed during December.

*Deuterocohnia lorentziana*, with pure green petals, is not the easiest plant to spot in flower. If you examine

the plant closely, you will find the petals are a lighter green than the leaves. Despite this, the flowers do not stand out when viewed from any distance.

There are several choices for the odd plant in bloom this month. The first was the *Deuterocohnia lorentziana* above. The second is *Fernseea bocainensis*, a plant that looks very much like a tuft of grass when not in bloom.



*Nidularium procerum* var. *kermensii*

Species of *Fosterella* are not widely grown by bromeliad hobbyists, but they are in bloom this time of year. The clone of *Fosterella micrantha* with red leaves has, as the name implies, small flowers, but it has a large number of them. It is, unfortunately, considered a delicacy (along with other *Fosterella* species having flat, fleshy

leaves) by the snails found in the vicinity of Miami. It is a constant challenge to slow the conversion from *Fosterella* biomass to snail biomass. *Fosterella spectabilis* is another snail-challenged species, but has relatively large flowers that are a light orange in color – a truly spectacular show compared to the other species. With *Fosterella petiolata*, the leaves are tougher, grow vertically and are not so attractive to snails, but we are back to large numbers of tiny white flowers. In any case, all three species were in bloom during December.

Yet another plant of *Guzmania sanguinea* was found in bloom during December.

A tiny plant growing in a 4" pot labeled *Hechtia guatamalensis* flowered during the month. The unbranched inflorescence rose straight up and produced about 5 normal looking flowers.

One plant from the red leaf clone of *Lymania corallina* (another of our odd plants this month) produced open flowers towards the end of December. This plant looks like a ‘normal’ bromeliad in shape, and was originally described as a member of the genus *Aechmea*. The stolons on the plant, however, can be exceptionally thin, and the ovary (the part of the flower that develops into the fruit) has distinct furrows. Furrowed ovaries are not unique to this genus – many species of *Billbergia*, in particular, also have prominent

furrows.

Among species of *Neoregelia*, it is mainly the miniatures that are flowering. *Neoregelia ampullacea*, *Neoregelia zaslowskyi*, *Neoregelia tristis* and *Neoregelia pauciflora* were all seen in bloom at various times during the month. For larger species, only *Neoregelia macwilliamsii*, and its smaller cousin, *Neoregelia compacta* typically bloom this time of year.

A pair of species that are hard to tell apart without tearing open an inflorescence and closely examining the parts within were blooming in *Nidularium*. Both *Nidularium angustifolium* and *Nidularium angustibracteatum* have narrow leaves that gradually taper to a sharp tip, and long, narrowly-triangular involucre bracts surrounding the flowers. They belong in a group of species closely related to *Nidularium procerum*.

Flowering is reaching a low ebb in *Orthophytum*. There are still enough new *Orthophytum ophiuroides* coming into flower, to ensure at least one flowering plant each month, but *Orthophytum alvimii* and *Orthophytum lymanianum* are headed for a stretch where all of the old plants have finished blooming and no young plants are available to replace them. *Orthophytum rubiginosum* is only large species with a relatively new plant flowering in place of the plants that bloomed over the summer. *Orthophytum grossiorum*, a medium size species, also has several new plants ready to bloom in the coming weeks.

*Portea* ‘petropolitana petropolitana’ continued to bloom through December, and frequently we still have a plant or two of *Portea alatisepala* in bloom.

A large clone of *Tillandsia juncea* continued to flower throughout the month. Only a single plant has flowered out of this group even though several of the remaining plants also look large enough. Two clumps of a small, brightly colored *Tillandsia bulbosa* clone also flowered, but they did not last through the month. Similarly, *Tillandsia ehlersiana* bloomed but did not last through the end of the month. A single plant of *Tillandsia baileyi* bloomed during December although developing inflorescences were seen on many other plants. A few plants of *Tillandsia stricta* were also seen in bloom – they should become more common in the coming months. Once again, *Tillandsia ionantha* was represented by only a few small flowering clumps. A single plant of *Tillandsia flexuosa* came into bloom right at the end of the month while *Tillandsia fasciculata clavispica* continued to bloom from last month.

*Vriesea fluminensis* produced flowers well into December, but was finished by the end of the month. A pot of *Vriesea glutinosa* from the collection of Bob

Grayson began to flower this month. This species has a branched, red inflorescence and produces copious numbers of ‘hair’ pups around the base of the parent. The branches of the inflorescence are narrower than the single spike in *Vriesea splendens*, but the color of the bracts is equally bright. Flowers are much harder to see on *Vriesea glutinosa* because the petals are essentially the same color as the bracts. The ‘hair’ pups are quite easy to detach from the mother. They grow relatively slowly, but do not require much attention and are extremely hardy. A pot or two of *Vriesea carinata* managed to produce flowers during the month. *Vriesea malzinii disticha* continued in bloom, although the originally reported plant has ceased blooming. Its place has been taken by another plant potted at the same time. *Vriesea procera* was still producing flowers in the lower half of the spike at the end of the month. A single plant of *Vriesea correia-araujoi* – one that did not participate in the mass blooms earlier this year – bloomed during December.

Warm weather and available moisture spur weed growth as well as – usually much better than – bromeliad growth, so don’t neglect your garden this time of year. Also, the colors on your *Neoregelia* species and hybrids are better now than they will be when summer approaches again. Take time to work in your gardens and enjoy your plants.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **January 17-19, 2014**

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show  
War Memorial Auditorium  
Fort Lauderdale, FL.

### **January 25-26, 2014**

Tamiami International Orchid Show  
Sunshine Pavilion at the Fair and Expo Center  
10901 S.W. 24th St.  
Miami, FL 33165  
10 AM to 8 PM on the 25th and 10AM to 6PM on the 17th.  
[www.miamiorchidfestival.com](http://www.miamiorchidfestival.com)

### **February 27-March 2, 2014**

Bromeliad Annual Show  
FTBG, 10901 Old Cutler Road  
Coral Gables, FL 33156  
Phone: 305.667.1651

### **March 14-15, 2014**

Tropical Plant Fair  
Pride Center at Equality Park  
2040 N Dixie Hwy

Wilton Manors, FL 33305

<http://www.orchidsamore.com/Calendarofevents/calendar.htm>

**March 7-9, 2014**

Fairchild's 12th Annual International Orchid Festival  
FTBG, 10901 Old Cutler Road  
Coral Gables, FL 33156

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=03-2014&eventID=898>

**March 22-23, 2014**

Garden Fest  
12050 W Sunrise Blvd.  
Plantation, FL 33323  
354-530-0076

<http://www.bromeliadsocietybc.com/garden-fest.html>

**March 29-30, 2014**

Tropiflora Spring Festival  
3530 Tallavast Rd  
Sarasota, FL

<http://www.tropiflora.com>

**April 19-20, 2014**

33rd International Orchid & Bromeliad Show  
3750 S Flamingo Road  
Davie, Florida 33330-1614

<http://www.flamingogardens.org/Events.html>

**September 8-14, 2014**

21<sup>st</sup> World Bromeliad Conference  
Honolulu, HI

<http://www.bsi.org/new/wbc-2014-registration-and-info/>

<http://www.bsi.org/new/wbc-2014-event-schedule/>

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**MURDER IN CORBIN A**

© by Robert Meyer

PREVIOUS CHAPTERS MAY BE SEEN IN  
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

**87.**

“Okay, Lieutenant, tell me what I need to know, so I can go to the superiors and tell them that the fainting woman in my office revealed the entire plot. Can you do that little favor for your Captain?”

Boss could not. He slowly nodded side-to-side, and began to look down to the floor when his ear forced his head and eyes to suddenly lift to look at Captain.

“What in tarnation is the matter with you?” The Captain’s voice was beyond loud. “You know that woman with the high heels and low ethics would do

most anything for the God Almighty American dollar. And, same goes for her friends. She, or someone with her, is at fault. She is a lawyer, for crying out loud, doesn’t that merit a warrant all by itself? Of course not to the law, but to us in the force, we know that there is nothing honorable about those in the profession who call their referee ‘your honor.’ This is about getting the final evidence on a crooked person who we can kindly call an ambulance chaser. Got it?”

Boss got it, but knew Captain’s path was wrong. But, telling a superior of their mistakes or faults was as welcomed as ice would be for an Eskimo’s house-warming gift. He had to conjure a slant. And, do it well. So he moved his mind through his best resource and filtered out the perfect line, “So I awoke, and behold, it was a Dream.”

“What in the heck did you just say to me?” Captain was not going to let this strange sentence slide.

“A line from an great novel, I read, many years ago. The ‘Great Divorce.’ About how people. As the narrator gets closer, he learns they become more grey, less distinct, almost become invisible when contrasted to the background. The more you know, the less you know. The people are less, when you know more. Great conceptually. Something I really did not understand until this tree-hugger case came to me. As I get closer to the botanical buffs, I learn they are less likely the culprit and more likely a clan of gushing liberals who stand idly as patsies to any professional, and even amateur, killer. Heck, I think that girl you love to hate is as much a victim as the deceased, including her father. We found that all of the deceased had been poisoned with fertilizer and were on their way out even if not stabbed. And, that coughing up of blood in Room A may be very likely a sign that she was poisoned like the others. She goes to eat every day, and every day she slowly tightens the noose around her neck as her sugar or salt or flour or whatever is sprinkled with fertilizer poisons seems to act at a lightning pace – arsenic on steroids. The question that we have to ask is: who has access to the deceased people’s kitchens? Who is their friend. Who would they invite into their home?” Boss then stopped.

“Well, don’t stop there. You are on a roll, man. Finish off the thoughts.” Captain said impulsively.

“Well that is where I end up with that feeling – ‘So I awoke, and behold, it was a Dream.’ I can’t put my finger on it. These people are eclectic. They are not easy to pin down like the normal victims. Heck, the first one has an army of haters. But, we kept thinking plant people. That was our fault.”



At this point, Boss was getting excited as the dream seemed to be surrendering to logic and rational thought. “They are not victims of one another, not in the mortal sense. We need to know who they know but who they don’t know is a known killer. Understand?”

Captain understood nothing, and nodded affirmatively.

“Who do they know would hurt someone? We know one person – Susie Gort. We got to get that Gort girl.”

**88.**

The twenty-first century meant blind speed. Information could be obtained at speeds which could not be fathomed only decades before. While Boss and Captain were making requests to find Susie Gort, they received information from various sources which led their professional instincts appear to be valid conclusions. The judge at the Australian show was a man named William McIntyre. One phone call to him led them to get the name of the other judge who had been with Bea and the Judge – Stan Gort. A few minutes later, the hospital’s blood tests confirmed Boss’s hypothesis – Candy had been fed lethal doses of Florel. By understanding this to be the cause of her problems, they checked her internal organs, and began a cleansing regimen in hope of avoiding the sought after demise.

Book records of Bea, whose large deposits were well known, showed numerous large checks going out to a depositor in Fort Lauderdale. A trace of the account’s name revealed a business, which the corporate records for the state of Florida showed as being owned by a person named Nat Strong, whose address was identical to the recently foreclosed home of Stan Gort. Deposits by Gort kept coming in, and the money traveled out to places all around the country as well as to accounts in the Cayman Islands.

Occasionally, there were smaller checks, but each of reasonable size, going out of Bea’s account, the Judge’s account, Gort’s account, and even Candy’s account to a person with the same name and account number. The amounts from each was identical. The dates for each were identical. Never on the first or fifth or tenth of a months, but at odd dates throughout the year – but each payment coming in tandem with the other payments.

Boss, upon seeing the name and account, began to know what was happening amid this cacophony of characters. One person was amid all their lives. And, that one person was in Boss’s life. It was a constant in an otherwise very inconsistent world of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida.

Boss yelled out, “Rodriguez. Get your gun, get your keys, and gather a few of Miami Metro’s finest. We

have an arrest to make. In the car in 60 seconds.”

Rodriguez threw on his jacket and holstered his gun in one movement, then pivoted to find a couple of cops, reached out and grabbed two with his vice grip and gave them an order, a stare, and a shove to get into their car and follow him within the next 45 seconds “or else.”

As the cars screeched out of the garage, Boss turned to Rodriguez, and said, “You know what bro?”

“No man, I know nothing right now, I am just moving as instructed. Heck, I do not know even whether to take a right or left out of the garage, man.”

“Take a left, my fine soldier. We are going to take the day out to the fresh air, and meet someone. And, this time, the interview will be tough. And, I want you to put that nasty scarface look on while I deliver the agonizing questions. Nothing more. Can you handle that, my soldier man?”

“Si. And, if you want, Boss, I can hit the guy for fun too.”

“Si.” And, then Boss leaned back and felt like the dream was no more.

### **Crystal Donations Wanted**

Anyone with Crystal from previous shows who wish to donate to the BSSF, please contact Barbara Spalding.

### **The Show This Feb/March**

Feb. 27, 2014 – Bring Plants to FTBG 1-5PM

Feb. 28, 2014 – Judging

Feb. 28, 2014 – Judges Dinner at Sandy’s

March 1, 2014 – Show 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

March 1, 2014 – Afternoon Auction

March 2, 2014 – Show 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

March 2, 2014 – Afternoon Auction

March 2, 2014 – 4:30 PM pick up plants

Form for entry of plants is attached at end of this Advisory. If you have questions, bring to meeting and someone will help you prepare this form.

