

BromeliA dvisory

January 2013

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



http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida/84661684279?bookmark_t=page

http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSSF/?bookmark_t=group

Tillandsia pseudobaileyi



Bromeliadvisory

January 2013

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

 http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSF/?bookmark_t=group

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

President: Barbara Partagas
 VP: Lenny Goldstein
 Treasurer: Alan Herndon
 Secretary: Peggy Fisher

DIRECTORS

Past Pres.: Carl Bauer

Directors:

Urszula Dudek '12-'13
 Maureen Adelman '13-'14
 Joy Parrish '13-'14
 Lori Weyrick '13-'14

Editor

Robert C Meyer

Door Prize: Alan Herndon
Education: Nat DeLeon
Hospitality: Elaine Mills
Library: Skye Palmer
Membership: Melody Ray
Mem. Plant Sales: Antonio Arbelaez
Raffle: Mike Michalski
Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

JANUARY 15, 2013 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Lenny Goldstein with slide show of Spring Show

RAFFLE TABLE: Mike Michalski

FOOD: Usual Suspects

Meet the Speaker for Next Month

Dr. Terrie Bert is a longstanding member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society (SBS) and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and has held multiple offices in the SBS. She also served the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) as a representative and officer for eight years. For the Bromeliad Society International, she has been a Florida Director and chaired several international committees. She currently is an internationally accredited Master Judge. She's given over 100 presentations on bromeliads to numerous U.S. and international bromeliad societies and other groups. She has authored articles for the BSI Journal and the FCBS newsletter. She's won multiple top awards in local bromeliad shows and BSI world conferences and is a volunteer for and contributor to the BSI Bromeliad Identification Center. Terrie has a Ph.D. in marine biology and is a research scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. She also makes quilts and SCUBA dives



Inside this edition:

ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN 2
 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2
 GARDEN NOTES 2-4
 UPCOMING EVENTS 4-5
 MURDER IN CORBIN A 5-7

President's Message

by Barbara Partagas

Happy New Year to all of you! It's always great to turn the page on the old year and to get a fresh start on those "to dos" we didn't get to last year. I'd like to say a really big "Thank you" to Sandy Roth and her entire crew who did such a marvelous job coordinating and setting up our holiday party.

I would like to start my term as President by calling on each and every one of our members to become more active in the Society. Article IV Membership, Section 2 of the By-Laws states: "The active members of this Society shall be persons whose interest in bromeliads is such that they demonstrate their willingness to support the society by their attendance and participation in its activities". When you are asked this year to lend a hand at a meeting or a function, please say yes. If there is anything I have learned over the years I've belonged to this Society, it is that you always get more than you give out of volunteering.

We begin this year with a program on the beautiful photos of our 2012 show plants and sale. It's not too early to start thinking about which plants in our collections have potential. Our expert growers will give us tips month by month on what to look for in good specimens, what to do, and when to get them ready. Last year we inexplicably had fewer entries in our show than in the past. This year we will make it as easy as possible for everyone who wants to enter plants but may have difficulty getting them to registration.

Remember the suggestion box? We still have it at each meeting. This year let's add an e-suggestion box. Please feel free to email your officers and directors with suggestions and comments. All suggestions received are discussed at Board meetings. Your interests and concerns matter.

Happy Growing

Barbara Partagas

NOTE: Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm at the home of Barbara Partagas. Members are welcome to attend. Please notify Barbara prior to the meeting.

Garden Notes - Dec 2012

by Alan Herndon

Despite a few days with temperatures cool enough to make tender Floridians consider staying indoors, winter has hardly made an appearance. Daytime temperatures are thankfully down from their summer highs, but they still reach the 80's frequently _ and sometimes reach the mid-80's. This may not seem remarkable to those who have moved here relatively recently, but my memories of growing up in the area are of summer temperatures in the mid-80's, with upper 80's constituting a heat wave, and temperatures in the 90's almost unheard of. However, I have to say that temperatures in the low 80's now seem perfectly pleasant for outdoor work.

Despite the early indications of a wetter-than-usual dry season, we have entered the drought zone already. Rain associated with cold fronts, the source of what rain we typically have during the dry season, has not been seen with any frequency. In fact, we have not had significant rain at the nursery for several weeks now. Our lawns are starting to turn crispy, and we need to constantly monitor our bromeliads for signs of water stress.

Winter-blooming species have taken over in our gardens. We can expect them to dominate for the next few months _ until the late-spring flowering *Neoregelia* species take over.

As usual, we start by noting that the occasional plant of *Aechmea chantinii* is still putting up a new bloom during the month. One clone of the closely related *Aechmea tillandsioides* was also seen in flower, although this species seems to bloom any time of year if it is large enough. In contrast, species in *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* have begun their typical mass flowerings. Earliest was *Aechmea calyculata* with bright yellow flowers packed into dense heads. *Aechmea comata* could be described similarly, but has much thicker, stiffer leaves and larger flowers. Also noteworthy, *Aechmea comata*

typically has a well-defined ‘thumbprint’ at the base of each leaf blade. Another species with bright yellow flowers, *Aechmea kertesziae*, also in bloom, is distinguished by well-developed branches in the lower section of the inflorescence. Species with violet flowers (the shade being lighter or darker depending upon the species) also bloomed. *Aechmea gamosepala* and *Aechmea gracilis* are notable examples. Other species belonging to this complex that flowered during the month are: *Aechmea winkleri*, *Aechmea organensis*, *Aechmea caudata* and *Aechmea recurvata benrathii*. You can expect multiple blooms out of these plants before their blooming season ends around April, especially if they are grown in clumps. Pups tend to form well before flowering, so they have some size when the mother plant flowers and reach blooming size themselves with another 6 or so additional weeks of growth. Several clones of *Aechmea weilbachii* were also seen in bloom. As in the previous complex, successive generations of pups on this species can flower before the blooming period is over in late spring. Another group of related species that tend to bloom at this time of year belong to the *Aechmea orlandiana* complex. . I had a few different clones of *Aechmea orlandiana* in flower during December along with *Aechmea milsteiniana*. Several more species were near blooming but did have open flowers by the end of the month. *Aechmea racinae*, *Aechmea bromeliifolia* and *Aechmea amicorum* also flowered. Two less commonly cultivated species were also seen with open flower: *Aechmea confusa* and *Aechmea germinyana*.



Aechmea confusa
Photo courtesy of FCBS

The same plant of *Alcantarea* (possibly) *mucilaginoso* still produced a few open flowers during December. Inflorescence branches on this plant are long relative to the size of the rosette,

so more flowers can be held on each branch. The later flowers come out extremely slowly.

Androlepis skinneri continued to flower, and provide a welcome buffet for our hummingbirds, during December.

Species of *Billbergia* finally started to bloom in December. You can expect them to flower periodically for the next few months. Most noticeable were several clones of *Billbergia amoena*. All plants from the same clone tended to bloom at the same time, but different clones usually flowered at slightly different times. Other species noted in bloom were *Billbergia euphemiae*, *Billbergia iridifolia*, *Billbergia leptopoda* and *Billbergia saundersii*. Given the short life of an individual inflorescence, I could well have missed other species during the month.

Canistropsis billbergioides (the clone with pink primary bracts) continued to flower through the month. It was joined by *Canistropsis seidelii*. Flowers are often well hidden on the *Canistropsis seidelii*, so it is somewhat

of a guess when I say the plant is still blooming at the end of the month.

December saw the final open flowers on *Catopsis berteroniana*. Another clone of this same species that looks large enough to bloom has shown no sign of making a bud, so I don't expect to see more flowers until late next summer.

Yet another plant of *Guzmania sanguinea* has produced flowers to keep the streak alive. Each plant only has _ at most _ 3 weeks in flower (although the plants are very nicely colored another week or two before flowers open), but the plants I have are spacing their blooms out

nicely this year.

More *Neoregelia* species were blooming than expected during December. For example, *Neoregelia guttata* and *Neoregelia smithii* were again in flower as some plants that missed the earlier flush of bloom attained the proper size. A single plant of *Neoregelia indecora* was also found in full flower towards the end of the month. Finally, two of the miniature *Neoregelia* species: *Neoregelia ampullacea* and *Neoregelia punctatissima* (red leaf form) continued their habit of blooming whenever a pup reached appropriate size.



Neoregelia guttata aka 'Freckles'
Photo courtesy of Bromeliads in Australia

Nidularium mangataribensis bloomed during the month. This is another species with a short-lived bloom that is easy to overlook.

The number of *Orthophytum* species with open flowers has dwindled. In a surprise, some new rosettes of *Orthophytum ophiuroides* came into bloom during the month. I had assumed these were finished until sometime in 2013. *Orthophytum alvimii* continued to produce new generations of stems steadily and never failed to have open flowers over the past several months. *Orthophytum lymannianum*, although producing few, slow-growing pups over the course of the year has stayed in bloom due to the very long-lived inflorescence on each stem. Finally, *Orthophytum disjunctum* reappeared in flower after a brief period of rest.

Two *Pitcairnia* species were in flower during the month *Pitcairnia flammea floccosa*, a small species that I have in a 5" pot, was in flower for about 2 weeks early in the month. *Pitcairnia smithiorum*, a much more substantial species,

continued to flower.

Portea alatisepala is in the middle of prime blooming season, with several clones in bud or flower. The plant we know as *Portea petropolitana petropolitana* was also seen in bloom.

Different clones of *Tillandsia ionantha*, including the caulescent *Tillandsia ionantha vanhyningi*, have been blooming _ as they should _ during December. If you have several clumps of this species, you can expect to see individual clumps redden up and flower for the next several months. *Tillandsia baileyi* was also in flower. All

plants from the same clump seem to be blooming at once. *Tillandsia chiapensis*, with its long-lasting inflorescence, remained in flower throughout the month. In contrast, a few clumps of *Tillandsia stricta* flowered out totally within two weeks. Fortunately, *Tillandsia stricta* grows into clumps readily, so you can easily have many clumps ready to flower throughout the next several months. *Tillandsia klausii* also continued to bloom, although these are new plants with new inflorescences, not the same plants reported previously. *Tillandsia juncea* also made an appearance with flowers during the month.

Only two *Vriesea* species were found in flower although many other species appear ready to bloom at any time. a *Vriesea* species (close to *Vriesea flava*) and *Vriesea carinata*.

We can only wait to see what the rest of the winter brings. So far, most bromeliads are still actively growing. Some species even act as if spring has arrived. Keep a close eye on your garden lest you miss an early bloom, or

something equally interesting, in what is turning out to be another interesting winter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 23-25, 2013

Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition
TPIE 2013 Show
1950 Eisenhower Blvd. at Port Everglades
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316-4205

January 26-27, 2013

Tamiami Orchid Show
Dade County Fair Expo Center
10901 Coral Way (SW 24th Street & 109th Ave.)
Miami, Florida 33165
<http://tamiamiorchidfestival.com/>

February 2-3, 2012

Gardenfest
Garden Club of Indian River County
3250 Riverside Park Drive
Vero Beach, Florida.
<http://www.gardenclubofirc.org/Gardenfest.html>

February 16-17, 2013

Gardenfest Coral Springs
Riverside Park
205 Coral Ridge Drive
Coral Springs, Florida
<http://gardenfestcoralsprings.com/>

February 23 - February 24

Plant & Garden Festival at Selby Gardens
811 South Palm Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 366-5731
www.selby.org/events/plant-garden-festival

March 8-10, 2012

Fairchild's 11th Annual International Orchid Festival
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=03-2013&eventID=746>

March 23-24, 2012

Gardenfest 2013
Volunteer Park
12050 W. Sunrise Blvd.
Plantation, FL 33232
<http://www.bromeliadsocietybc.com/calendar.htm>

March 30-31, 2013

Flamingo Gardens Orchid/Bromeliad Sale
3750 South Flamingo Road
Davie, FL 33330
<http://www.flamingogardens.org/>

April 5-7, 2013

Tropiflora Spring Festival
www.tropiflora.com

April 13-14, 2013

Bromeliad Show for BSSF
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=04-2013&eventID=740>

April 20-21, 2013

The Food and Garden Festival Featuring the 34th Annual Spring Plant Sale
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=04-2013&eventID=747>

April 27-28, 2013

Mounts Spring Sale
Mounts Botanical Garden
559 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL
<http://www.mounts.org/>

May 4-5, 2013

Broward County Plant Affair
Plantation Heritage Park
1100 South Fig Tree Lane
Plantation, FL
<http://www.broward.org/calendar/welcome.htm>

May 17-19, 2013

Redland International Orchid Festival
Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187th Ave
Miami, FL
<http://www.redlandorchidfestival.org/> (Hacked by extremists – so wait)

September 21st, 2013

Bromeliad Extravaganza – Hosted by the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Indian Rocks Beach, Clearwater
Holiday Inn Harborside. Free parking!
Contact Judy Lund at 727/439-7782
glund@Tampabay.rr.com

Why Enter Plants in a Judged Show?

By Alan Herndon

The BSSF Annual Show will soon be upon us, and you can expect to hear the pleas to enter plants often in the coming months. Why should you do this? .

Entering plants in the show helps this society

fulfill its mission of promoting bromeliads to the general public. The annual show is our major opportunity to advertise both our plants and our society. Historically, BSSF attracts many new members through the annual show.

In order to take full advantage of the opportunity presented by the Annual Show, we need a wide range of entries. Given the rigid schedule for our show, species and hybrids of *Neoregelia* are the plants most readily available for entry. But, we need good representation of other genera.

Making the effort to grow plants for the show will turn you into a better bromeliad grower. Even if you pick plants from the garden two weeks before the show (that would put you firmly in the majority of exhibitors), you will learn to recognize when plants are growing well. You will become attuned to the form and color of plants. You will learn to recognize the superior plants in your collection. You will become more discriminating in obtaining new plants. This will lead to better-informed placements of plants, and, overall, a better looking garden

If these high-minded reasons are not sufficient, there is always the crass personal lure of the crystal awards and bragging rights. The crystal awards are not available in your corner store (not even your corner glass store), so even your non-bromeliad friends will recognize your uniqueness.

Most bromeliad growers will produce a spectacular plant or two every year – even if by accident. We ask that you keep an eye out for these specimens; and, please enter them into the show.

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

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

63.

Marlene's call to Boss was similar, but she at least informed him as to why he should come and what had transpired. It was an apparent murder, and related to the bromeliad group.

“Was it one of the members?” Boss asked.

“Not exactly.” Marlene's voice quivered evidencing how she was beginning to become nervous.

“Well, how is it related to the society?” Boss asked without any emotion.

“Well, it was of another person in Candy's home and we believe the murderer meant the victim to be Candy and not the person killed.” Marlene said in an attempt to be as vague but truthful as she could be.

“How did you find out? Was 911 called?” Boss asked, still in a calm demeanor.

“No 911 that I know of. Candy. She had my card, my number and called for me. I responded immediately and am calling you on my way over. I haven't reached her place yet. But, she told me what I've told you.”

“I'll call 911 and get Metro over there pronto. See you there.” Boss hung up, dialed 911, sent the message over for Metro for its immediate dispense.

In a few minutes, all arrived - almost 15 minutes after Marlene's own. When Marlene arrived, she saw the lingerie, alcohol, and other items which depressed her severely. But, she was loyal. And, things were picked up. Candy was sternly told to be prepared for the others' arrival. Candy did not have to be told that the corpse was to be left untouched. Just the incidentals could be forgotten. Wine glasses were emptied, but left in the kitchen as though the contents for that night were fully consumed. The open bottle was left half full – implying it was meant to be used for another night. With its bottle standing next to the sink was Candy's favorite wine. Treehugger from the Lost Vineyards, a simple red organically grown and certified organic.

As the flashing lights doused the home's walls, and sirens echoed throughout the neighborhood, alert and somnolent neighbors left their residences to observe the very uncommon occurrence of police invasion to one of the magnificent mansions. Munching words of gossip almost immediately provided a backdrop din to the flashing lights. Whispers grew, voices emerged, some becoming shouts in order to overcome the sirens' deafening arrival. Eventually, the sirens stopped, the neighborhood discussion quieted to civil tone, and Marlene waited in the living room with Candy seated across from her on the love sofa.

When Rodriguez arrived to discover that the rendezvous was only business, he slammed on his brakes, pounded his fist on the dashboard, slowly emerged from his seat and walked progressively quicker to the home as his left eye caught sight of small silhouette walking quickly to the door in short but strenuous steps.

Boss walked up to Candy, reached out his hand, and said to Candy what he would not ask of anyone in normal circumstance, “Okay Candy, you know and I

know that corpse is meant to be your body flayed on the ground. Now, tell me who and why would someone want you strewn across the bathroom floor in a pool of your own blood.”

Candy looked up, and without tears, and without any strain in her voice, uttered, “The Code.”

64.

Eyes filled with sleepy mud, corners crusted with aged man’s crystalline accumulation of the same, Marin was blind when awakened by a telephone call at 2:00 AM. Receiving any call was rare, and always unwelcome. Marin, often received calls for business relations at awkward moments regarding unique product. In such instances, he was not surprised to receive a potential lead at an awkward time. He easily answered the phone in the dark. Use of light would be valueless under the circumstances. Before he could say hello as the phone’s receiver slowly crept toward his head, he heard a familiar voice.

“Hope I had reason not to wake you, but big reason exists now. Do you hear me?” Boss asked hoping to hear a response.

Marin had to respond. “First, know that I never was asleep – sleep interferes with my constant marches to and from the loo each night to handle my oversized and overly mature prostate. And, as to hearing you, I may be old, may be bruised, and may be less of a man than I once was – but I can still hear.”

“Good to hear about the auditory, sorry to hear about the lavatory.” Boss said with sincere tone. “But, we have a new murder of someone accidentally mixed up with Ms. Candy Albertson, who when asked what would deliver someone to try to murder her, she gave a one word response – ‘Code.’ Now, we have a problem Marin. You said no one but you knew about the Code. But, people in the bromeliad society are dropping like flies because of this allegedly unknown Code. But. . . motive often accompanies murder. And, Candy – a trained lawyer coming from a judicial family – knows about motive and murder. And, she knows the motive to murder her would be the Code. So, I ask you – in your solitary knowledge of the Code – what about it would lead some lunatic to kill innocent tree huggers in Miami, Florida?”

Understanding that the reality of someone killing for the Code would accelerate the arrival of his own life’s end, Marin suddenly opened his seemingly closed shut eyes, inhaled some of the brilliant moon light creeping through the window treatments, and absorbed the bitter reality of the Code being his demise. “I guess this old man is the person the

murderer should be aiming for. And, why the lunatic is aiming for others baffles me. But, I have something more to offer you. I want to tell you about the Code, so that when I die, the secret does not potentially remain with whoever is believing bromeliad member deaths will expunge it from the earth.” And, it occurred to Marin that death from the Code was not a matter of question, it had morphed to become a matter of time – more particularly: when.

“Listen here old man. You are not going to die over this Code. I am sending some Metro people over to watch your residence. At 9:00 AM they will escort you over to Central. An interrogation room will be reserved in your honor. And, when you come in, please sing like a canary and educate us all about the Code and what it is about the Code that would lead some idiot to kill an elderly woman, an elderly judge, and a hot young lingerie salesperson.” Boss sternly instructed Marin.

Marin was too tired to understand what Boss meant by a “lingerie salesperson.” So the comment floated over his consciousness without notice. And, when he awoke in the morning, he wondered to himself whether it was in the conversation with Boss, or part of one of his less than desirable dreams whether a lingerie clerk was somehow tied into the murders which had terrorized the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. “Old age.” thought Marin. “Leaves me questioning events about or within me every day. As the two blend together, and as consciousness becomes more a derivative of subconsciousness, age erodes the magic of youth’s crisply acute mind. And, with this thought, he cried while striding to the shower, where he wet what little hair remained atop his head, and prepared for another day at the police station.

Membership Renewal Time

Your membership is due now. In order to be in the annual book, you need to deliver within the next few weeks.

Maureen Adelman will be at the meeting to receive your applications/renewals. The adjoining page of this advisory is the form. If possible, fill it out before the Meeting and deliver to Maureen with the fee.

If unable to appear at the meeting, prepare the application and mail to Maureen with the fee.

Addresses, mail and email, are on the attached form for your convenience.

**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
2013 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME(S) _____

(Couples - please include BOTH first names)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

ADD'L. TEL. _____

Year Joined BSSF: _____

Referred by: _____

Include e-mail address in the roster? (Y/N) G Yes G No

E-mail BromeliA dvisory? (Y/N) G Yes G No (You will not receive a hard copy)

EMAIL _____

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR, PLEASE
HIGHLIGHT OR UNDERLINE

Please renew my(our) membership in the BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA for the period of March 1, 2013 to February 28, 2014.

Check the category: G Single membership \$25.00
 G Dual membership \$35.00

Dual members enjoy all the privileges of active membership, but receive only one copy of the BromeliA dvisory.

DUES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2013, IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2013 ROSTER

Please mail completed form and check to:

Maureen Adelman
9421 SW 134 Street
Miami, FL 33176

Or E-Mail this form to:

mhadelman@comcast.net