




# BromeliAdvisory

**March 2013**

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What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

**MARCH 19, 2013 7:30 PM**

**SPEAKER:** No speaker – this is informative for the coming April Show.

**RAFFLE TABLE:** Alan Herndon

**FOOD:** Maureen Adelman, Joy Parrish, Barbara Sparling, Ofelia Sorzano

## Show Time

Time to get ready for the show!!

Help others. The last page of this Advisory is a worksheet. Fill it out and give to Alan Herndon BEFORE the show and you will save him a lot of trouble.

If you fill it out and it is less than your complete list – no problem. If you put in items which you may not have at the last minute – no problem. Adding and deleting a few items the last day are easy when contrasted to COMPLETE entry on the day of the event. For that reason send in your sheet – even if incomplete – BEFORE the show.

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## President's Message

by Barbara Partagas

(reprinted and edited from *The BromeliAdvisory*, April, 2003)

I probably started coming to the BSSF shows about ten years ago. I remember being awed by the inflorescences (which I thought were flowers). I thought these plants were nature at its best. I acquired a few bromeliads over the years. Wonder of wonder: they didn't die on me. I was never a gardener, you see. I hadn't inherited my parents' green thumbs. My dad grew prize-winning dahlias. My mom could make anything grow from a seed. I was only good at over-watering, under-watering, and generally neglecting every plant I was given. When I realized that I wasn't killing off the bromeliads.

I thought "Aha, maybe I could grow these plants!"

I took Connie Johnson's bromeliad course at Fairchild Gardens. Armed with "knowledge," I began to acquire some beautiful plants. I watched them for first signs of the inflorescences. It was always a great surprise when they appeared.

Thanks, Connie.

After attending the show about three years ago, I finally joined the BSSF. When it came time for the show again last May, I started looking at my bromeliads to see if I had anything I could enter just for the experience. No not in my opinion. Then some members gave me a few suggestions. Yes, there could be a few show worthy plants. I was inspired! I got to work sprucing up those plants.

When I arrived with my plants at the classification table, I saw other entries that made mine look insignificant. Why had I bothered? There were so many plants. Mine were going to get lost in the sea of beauty around them. Why had I bothered? I knew I could learn how to raise better plants from this effort.

After the judging was completed, I saw one of my plants on the awards table. It was quite a thrill. I encourage all of our new members, as well as the seasoned growers, to consider entering even one or two plants in this year's show. It really doesn't take very long to get a plant ready for show. All the help and advice you need is available from fellow BSSF members. Good luck and enjoy your participation in this very special event.

*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.

## In Case You Missed It

### The O and P Genera of Bromeliads

On February 12, frequent guest speaker Terrie Bert presented a program entitled "The Outstandingly Ostentatious and Particularly Picturesque O & P Bromeliad Genera, Part I." The topic referred to the eight species of bromeliad genera starting with the letters O or P which aren't commonly grown by hobbyists. They are Ochagavia, Orthophytum, Pepinia, Pseudaechmea, Pseudananas, Pitcairnia, Portea, and Puya. For this program, she addressed five of the genera, plus a bonus genus:

**Ochagavia** (4 species) is native to dry coastal areas of Chile, where it grows on rocks and can tolerate freezes. Plants in this genus resemble Dyckias or Hechtias. *O. elegans* is endemic only to Robinson Crusoe Island, 400 miles off the coast. It is the sole host to an ancient insect; this is an interesting comment on the interdependency of plant and animal species.

*O. andina* is native from Santiago south, at

an elevation from 2,200-2,800 ft. *O. carne* is native from Santiago south and requires more humidity than *O. andina*. It has become naturalized in Sicily. *O. litoralis* can be grown in California, but Florida's moist climate makes cultivation here difficult.

All species of *Ochagavia* are terrestrial and, as stated earlier, like rock. In container culture, use a coarse medium and grow in full sun.

The entire genus **Orthophytum** (55 species) is narrowly endemic to Brazil – Minas Gerais, Bahia and Mata Atlantica – and is saxicolous, i.e., it likes rocks. All species are on one sort or another of conservation list, and yet new species are still being discovered.



*Orthophytum burle-marxii*

All *Orthophytum*s have white flowers. There are two inflorescences: (1) Sessile, i.e., lying in the center of the plant, and (2) Caulescent, – growing on stalks emanating from the center of the plant.

Sessile-flowering species include *O. vagans*, *O. albopictum* and *O. hatenbachii*, all of which have large red centers upon reaching maturity. *O. burle-marxii* and *O. heleniceae* are also attractive, but have comparatively smaller red centers. On the other hand, *O. navioides* and *O. rosea* feature totally red centers. All the aforementioned species are grown in Florida.

There are many types of rocky habitats in Brazil that are hosts to *Orthophytum*s, which often grow in the company of other genera. Moisture is found deep inside the rocks. One habitat, the cerrado, covers 72,000 sq. mi.

and has the richest biodiversity of any savanna in the world: 10,000 plant species. Another habitat is the Chapada Diamantina, where sandstone plateaus reach 4,300 ft. above sea level. *Orthophytum* likes to live next to streams and waterfalls. The sessile-flowering types, in particular, love to grow beside waterfalls.

(2) *Orthophytum* species with stalked types of inflorescences are variable in their flowering habits. Some may be green and some yellow. Some have red bracts and green leaves, while others – such as *O. glabrum*, which grows in Florida – feature the reverse pattern.

There is also a bronze form, *O. saxicola*, which grows in Florida. *O. biozengii*,

featuring an elongated inflorescence, is also cultivated in this state. *O. gurkeni* may be the nicest of the *Orthophytum* species; it, too, can be grown in Florida. Another possibility is *O. 'Warren Luke'*, a striped cultivar.

To grow these *Orthophytum*s in your yard, use large pots which incorporate a light mix that includes an orchid-type mix emphasizing perlite and charcoal. Fertilize with a time-release formula, and place in full sun.

**Pepinia** (57 species) is a genus greatly in need of botanical work. It was split from *Pitcairnia* in 1988, but returned to that genus in 1999 except in the view of Harry Luther and Bruce Holst. Differences, if any, in the genera appear to be confined to seed configuration and distribution. The range of

Pepinia is from northern South America to Central America. *P. holstii* is a very odd-looking species in flower. It will grow in Florida. Some flower yellow, but many flower red. Two of the latter, *P. sprucei* and *P. sanguinea*, can be grown in Florida. *P. leopoldii* may have the only sessile inflorescence in the genus. Some species, such as *P. harrylutheri*, lie on the ground.

Pepinias are easy to grow. To cultivate them at your home, use large pots, mixing soil and perlite in a ratio of about 60:40. Pepinia species are shade- and moisture-loving and respond to lots of time-release fertilizer. Please note that many species are deciduous, so don't give up on specimens that appear to be slipping. Pepinias can take some cool temperatures, but nothing prolonged.

**Pseudaechmea** (1 species). The only known representative of this genus is poor *P. ambigua*, which resides not in the tropics, but at Harvard University – as an herbarium specimen! In fact, it may actually be a *Billbergia*!!

The final genus covered is **Pseudananas** (1 species). This monotypic Brazilian genus resembles the pineapple and was, in fact, separated from *Ananas* on the basis of RFLP markers [restriction fragment length polymorphoism]. It has the ability to cover a seasonally-dry tropical forest floor – that is to say, it is a weed. It can grow in Florida. *Pseudananas* is native to the Pantanal, a swamp much larger than the Everglades and the home of Iguassu Falls.

To cultivate this genus, use large pots mixing soil and perlite in a ratio of about 60:40. Use a time-release fertilizer, and provide the plant a bit of shade.

**Lapa (Lapanthus)** (2 species) is the evening's bonus genus. It lives in humid habitats on rock outcroppings. The genus is closely related to *Cryptanthus* and *Orthophytum*, but has mostly *Cryptanthus* characters, such as the need for some shade. *L. desertis* is cultivated in Florida, but is

touchy. Do not fertilize it very much.

A final note: Some claim as many as 50% of the world's bromeliad species are native to Brazil. All bromeliads are native to the Americas.

#### CRYSTAL THANK YOU

Thanks to Barbara Partagas for her crystal donation and to every one else if you have any you would like to donate please call me or bring it to the meeting. Thank you. Barbara Sparling  
305-235-6477

#### Garden Notes - Feb 2013

by Alan Herndon

Warm weather held up to the end of February, but the rainfall during the last few days of the month did not match forecasts. We did get meaningful rain on one day, but none of the soakings that would have helped so much. In short, we are still very dry, and will probably remain so several more weeks.

For most of the month, nighttime temperatures have remained in the low 70's. This is almost warm enough for active growth in most tropical species. A few degrees higher and we will see the new spring growth spurt. Since we are likely to have dry weather through April and part of May, keep an eye on your garden. Look for any signs of incipient water stress.

We have already seen a spurt in flowering. Among species of *Aechmea*, we still have some *Aechmea fosteriana* and *Aechmea milsteiniana* in flower at the end of the month, but *Aechmea orlandiana* finished blooming early in the month. Among the species of *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* we had *Aechmea caudata* and *Aechmea winkleri* in flower. There are several clones of *Aechmea caudata*. The one in bloom with

month fits into the tall, slender group. Interestingly, the inflorescence on this plant is quite similar to the inflorescence on the *Aechmea winkleri* blooming right beside it. The most obvious difference was in the flower colors. *Aechmea winkleri* had green sepals when the flowers are open. However, the ovary and sepals on *Aechmea winkleri* both redden as the inflorescence matures. New plants from various clones of *Aechmea weilbachii* have also come into bloom to replace plants that flowered earlier. *Aechmea germinyana*, with a long-lived bloom, is still in flower and appears to have 2 or more months to go. The albomarginate form of *Aechmea mexicana* also continued to flower but, in this case, it is different plant blooming at different times that have stretched out the blooming season. *Aechmea warasii intermedia*, in flower this month, is a different clone than the *Aechmea warasii* reported in bloom last month. All clones of this species have short-lived blooms - perhaps 3 weeks from the first flower to the last.



*Deuterocohnia lorentziana* flower  
Photo courtesy of culturesheet.org

Finally, some new species seen in bloom for the first time this year are *Aechmea pineliana minuta* (the smallest clone in the species), *Aechmea alopecuroidea* and *Aechmea maculata*. Of these, only *Aechmea alopecuroidea* has a bloom with any duration. Finally, I don't want to forget that at least one *Aechmea chantinii* flowered during the month.

We haven't seen the last of *Androlepis skinneri* in flower yet. At this point, only a few new plants put up a bloom spike during the month, but there were fresh young inflorescences at the end of the month.

*Billbergia* species are still actively blooming. I had *Billbergia amoena* 'Ed McWilliams' flower along with *Billbergia lymanii* and a second group of blooming *Billbergia nutans*. Other clones of *Billbergia amoena* were also seen in flower. The silvery *Billbergia pyramidalis* continued in flower for a few days at the beginning of the month.

*Deuterocohnia lorentziana* once again produced its green flowers. These flowers are surprisingly hard to spot unless you are looking for them.

The inflorescence on *Fosterella micrantha* reported last month keeps producing new flowers despite the very delicate branches and fragile appearance. By the end of the month, the small, delicate flowers were transformed into small, delicate seed pods. When these seed pods mature, they will spread small, exceedingly delicate seeds that will scatter throughout any nearby pot. In a year or two, I can expect many *Fosterella* seedlings in these pots, competing

with the rightful inhabitants for water and nutrients.

We are still waiting for the arrival of the spring-blooming species of *Neoregelia*. *Neoregelia eleutheropetala bicolor*, one of those odd looking, spiny species from the western regions of Brazil - a species that detests cold weather - bloomed during winter. Among the more familiar species from the eastern forest of Brazil, *Neoregelia compacta* and *Neoregelia* 'Devine Brown' continued blooming from last month. *Neoregelia smithii* joined them in flower.

Flowering is again rampant among the

species of *Orthophytum* after a brief winter depression. A clone of *Orthophytum benzingii* with longer, shinier leaves than the commonly seen clone, has been flowering continuously for the past two months, along with *Orthophytum lymanianum*, *Orthophytum maracasensis* and *Orthophytum alvimii*. *Orthophytum sucrei* has continued to flower sporadically. The 'terminal' pups (pups forming at or near the tip of the stem from the previous generations) take more than a month to start producing flowers, so there is an occasional month without any plants recorded in bloom, but they never stopped growing this winter and most months had at least one plant in flower.

Blooming in *Orthophytum rubiginosum* took a drastic dip for a few months off during the winter. Now any plant with size is either in flower or in late bud. *Orthophytum magalaesii* has shown the same pattern. Number of flowering plants fell precipitously during winter, but most plants are starting to bloom anew. In contrast, *Orthophytum grossiorum* began blooming heavily about 2 months ago, and has continued to do so throughout the winter. *Orthophytum lemei* is the only commonly blooming species I have that seems to have a relatively short bloom period.

Plants were in flower, the past two months, but seem to have finished well before the end of February. The new offsets do not grow nearly so rapidly as in most other species. I don't really expect to see more flowers on this species until next winter. This slow growth may be a result of my cultural conditions, so I will try some experiments this year.

Among the species of the *Orthophytum amoenum* complex, several more plants of *Orthophytum ophiuroides* have come into bloom this month. Still, only a minority of plants have bloomed over the past few months, suggesting you could have plants in bloom for at least half the year. One plant of *Orthophytum roseum* also flowered during February. I have several other plants of this

species that appear to be flowering size. Perhaps they are waiting for April and the show. Finally, one plant of *Orthophytum burle-marxii sebrae*, a miniature form of the species, bloomed this month.

Among the species of *Portea*, the occasional *Portea alatisepala* still came into flower during the month. *Portea* 'petropolitana' also remained in flower.

*Tillandsia ionantha* was much in evidence during the month, blooming clumps advertising themselves with gaudy displays of red. *Tillandsia ionantha* 'Peanut' was the only clone whose name I know to bloom. A natural hybrid *Tillandsia Xrectifolia* (*T. ionantha* x *T. schiediana*) was first noted in flower during the month. Other species that continued in bloom from January were *Tillandsia baileyi*, *Tillandsia bulbosa* and *Tillandsia jucunda*. By this time, the original blooming rosettes of *Tillandsia baileyi* have long past the stage with open flowers. Pups from these original rosettes, some much smaller than the originals, are now responsible for the flowers that we see.

Even among the species of *Vriesea*, flowering has been brisk. *Vriesea colnagoi*, with a salmon colored, paddle-shaped inflorescence and bright yellow flowers made a brief appearance during the month. Two species that are similar in overall appearance, *Vriesea rodigasiana* and *Vriesea triligulata* were also in flower this month. Both are small plants, although, with the clones I have, *Vriesea triligulata* is a little larger and has much better foliage color — with the underside of the leaves a shiny dark maroon throughout the life of the rosette. The upper leaf surfaces also develop some of the dark hue as they age.. One of the less frequently grown species, *Vriesea botafogensis* also bloomed during the month. This species has a well-branched inflorescence that is entirely yellow. It is grown for the interesting color of the foliage as well as a rather formal shape. This is a species that grows quite well in our climate, but it is far too slow growing to produce

commercial quantities through pups. Historically, the European growers would produce seedling batches on a regular basis that would be available to collectors in this country, but that source seems to have disappeared in recent years. One of the species of the *Vriesea corcovadensis* complex that regularly blooms for us, *Vriesea poenulata* came into flower towards the end of the month. Many more species are in bud with promise of plentiful flowers in the coming months \_ if I can keep the hoards of snails (now awakening from their winter rest with the intent to convert every possible bit of tender bromeliad tissue into more snails) at bay.

Take advantage of the moderate weather that remains before summer arrives. Get your plants ready for the show. Enjoy your garden.

## **Our Annual Show Reminders**

by Alan Herndon

The Show is only a few weeks away and we encourage all members to participate in the event by both entering plants in the judged show, and by volunteering some time to help us run the show. Not coincidentally, our program for this month is a tutorial given by some of our successful exhibitors on how to prepare your plants for judging. It takes some time to learn the best way to present plants on the show table, so don't be shy about bringing in plants that you might like to exhibit. We will try to provide expert advice on how to display them to best your best advantage.

Volunteers are needed to help with setup on Thursday. Sharon is typically overwhelmed by the mass of student art that needs to be hung for display during the show. If you can help, let her know.

Sandy needs help with Catering every day of the show. Since the duties of Catering include keeping the show volunteers fed, the

importance of helping Sandy cannot be overstated.

If you can schedule time on Friday, Lynne Fieber needs volunteers to act as Judge's Clerks. Contact Lynne at the meeting next week, or even before.

Hospitality always needs volunteers. If you prefer a sedentary job, you can work at the Information Table (by the entrance to the show room). If you would prefer a more active position, we would also like to have volunteers circulating among the visitors, either in the Show Room or out in the Sales Area, to offer a helping hand when needed. Please contact our esteemed President, Barbara Partagas for more information and to sign up.

If you like even more interaction with the public, consider helping with sales at the Membership Sales Table. You don't have to be selling your own plants to be welcome at the Table. If interested, however, any BSSF member is allowed to sell plants at the Membership Sales Table. The only requirement is that you have a vendor number assigned by Carl Bauer. Talk to him soon if you plan to sell at the Table, or if you just want to sign up for a few hours.

Remember, as a volunteer for the show, you are given free entrance to Fairchild during the period of the show. Be sure to sign up with the chair of a committee so your name can be put on the list of volunteers.

Another benefit of volunteering is an invitation to the dinner/party at Sandy's house on Friday evening. This is an affair you dare not miss.

Hope to see you all at the Show.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March 23, 2013**

Native Plant Day at Bill Sadowski Park

17555 SW 79 Avenue  
(Enter off of Old Cutler Rd.) (Free)  
8-4PM

**March 23-24, 2013**

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](http://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 14, 2013**

BALI HA'I at The Kampong  
Celebrates fine wine, spirits, and cuisine.  
Connects guests with The Kampong's unique collection of tropical plants.  
<http://balihai.brownpapertickets.com/g/e/189880-250.gif>

**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**

Mounds Spring Sale  
Mounds Botanical Garden  
559 N. Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL  
<http://www.mounds.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 21<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto:glund@Tampabay.rr.com)

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**MURDER IN CORBIN A**

© by Robert Meyer

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

67.

As Marin was scribing in Room A, Rodriguez escorted Linares into Room B, delivered the essay request required by Boss, and left the room. Marin had been in his room for more than two hours, and the more time would only lead to better and more important information. Boss approached Marlene and Rodriguez and requested that they leave with him for an early donut break. After instructing a uniformed officer to watch over the guests in Rooms A and B, they left and arrived at Boss's favorite bodega which poured the best café Cubano south of Calle Ocho.

"I called this meeting to deliver a more positive note than what Captain relayed this morning." Boss was about to deliver another of his speeches to his staff, so they sat back with their respective coffee cups, and listened politely with eyes fixated on Boss. "Murder investigations are too often like boxing matches. Many. And, I mean many, are over in the first round. We catch the culprit, put him in the room and before he can ask for a restroom break or a lawyer, he delivers the confession to us and we send the same to legal who seals the deal. Others are a little harder, as the bastard will dummy up or even lawyer up, but we spar a few rounds, and by the fifth round, we have worn them down, and strike a right hook, and land the S.O.B. on the mat. And, then there are the bad ones. Those that go the distance. Those that go to the end are the fault of Metro Dade. They are caused by lack of ability to find the bad guy, who then floats around and dances with no one able to make the call. The other ones that go the distance are our fault as well as legal's. We delay the delivery of the criminal, and they have to go to trial to obtain a decision from the



judges. And, if anyone has watched boxing matches, or a court of law, what the judges or our peers think, remains one of the great mysteries of the world. And, right now, it looks like it is our fault alone. So I called this meeting to open the forum. Give me ideas of how to learn more about the case.” Boss upon conclusion, picked up his demitasse cup, sipped its contents quietly, and returned the tiny cup to the table and waited for Marlene or Rodriguez to speak.

Rodriguez wanted to speak, but when he saw Boss return the cup, he thought to himself, “Wow, that little cup seems normal sized when in front of Boss. I never thought of his proportions being café Cubano before.” But, before he could let his thoughts wander too far in the matter, Rodriguez heard, “I see you thinking to yourself, Rodriguez. Please share your thoughts.”

Hearing Boss’s voice accompanied with his decision not to do as instructed, Rodriguez knew that he had to lie. He knew Boss was desperate to receive anything new. So, he swallowed quickly, and opened his mouth, and said, “I think Candy can help us. She is smart. The daughter of one victim. Apparently was another victim. And, is capable of putting the pieces of this puzzle together better than anyone I know.” When he finished, Rodriguez was proud of his lie – as before that moment he had not thought of Candy being of significant help or anything to this case.

“Do you agree Marlene?” Boss asked.

“Well, I agree she is smart. I agree she has a tie to two of the three murders. And, I think she can be useful. So, I guess, yes, I agree.”

When Marlene finished, Boss signaled to the waiter for another café, and then returned his vision to his audience of two. “Well, I would have agreed with you a few hours ago. But, Joshua this last hour called me and told me that the girl named Stitch has Florel poisoning like the others. And, he tells me that it was something that could only be derived from prolonged exposure. So, Stitch has been the target of a crime for months. Like Bea and the Judge. Now, I ask the question – what is the relationship between Stitch and the other two?”

Marlene and Rodriguez were stumped. Neither knew her, neither heard her name mentioned at their bromeliad affairs, and neither even knew someone who knew of her. Until Boss told them the latest issue, each assumed that she was a mistaken murder, being the classic person in the wrong place at the wrong time.

After the two sat at the table without statement, Boss quipped, “Me too.” And then he looked at Marlene and said, “Bring Candy in and ask her everything about this girl called Stitch. I want her to tell me everything she knows about the girl – including why she wore a negligee in the house that night. Every detail. And Rodriguez, when we get back, I want you to talk to Cyber and direct them to bring everything they can on Stitch. We need everything and now. This is top priority.”

When they returned, Marlene speed-dialed Candy for the sequestration. As she was speaking, Rodriguez walked down the hall and into the offices of the computer geeks who did background checks on everyone –the department everyone called Cyber.

## 68.

When Boss walked toward his desk, a uniformed officer approached him and said, “The old guy says he is done.”

Boss walked to Room A, and saw the yellow pad, picked it up and read the 14 pages of legible pages in a few minutes, dropped the yellow pad onto the table, and looked at Marin and said “Insurance fraud?” He thought to himself, “This old coot has misappropriated Colombian art, stolen plants from the two continents, taken things from CIA operatives during the Nicaraguan and other conflicts south of the border, and basically done other bad things which were imaginative. I admired he and his crimes as they were imaginative crimes which harmed no one but bad banditos outside of my jurisdiction. And, now he stoops to insurance fraud.”

“What the heck are you doing? Why are you slumming with insurance fraud? You are not that level of a criminal.” Boss blurted.

“Well, in my own way, I thank you for that

compliment. Even if it was meant to be a back-handed compliment, I accept it as a compliment nonetheless.” Marin responded.

“Please do.” Boss interrupted.

“But, as you see, I was not the initial fraud. I only got involved when I stepped in it. And, being someone who was old and not as capable of sneaking product into the United States, I used the opportunity for economic gain. I am not proud. And you know that. My proof of that fact is that no one knows about the Code but me. Heck, I told everyone about the art thefts, the plant thefts and other thefts. And, probably I dug myself a few graves with my boasting to others. But, this crime has not been revealed to anyone. No one.” He paused and looked at Boss, and then concluded, “That’s how you know that I am telling you the truth that this is a crime which I am ashamed to have been part of.”

Boss nodded his head. Gave a look to Marin showing acknowledgment of the representation. He walked out the door without any comment, and opened Room B where Linares was. She sat there before a nearly empty yellow pad with tears in her eyes, and raw cheeks.

“I told you that this Code is something I know of, but know nothing about.” Linares then squelched her last words with choking breaths responding to tears draining down her throat and attempting to sneak into her trachea.

“I now know that you are exactly right. Just a few hours ago, I needed to know more. Candy’s home was the place of yet another murder, and the Code was part of the murder. So we called you in, as anyone who knows anything must help. You have. And, now you are free to leave.” Boss brushed her hair gently and kissed her forehead before she rose from her seat. She looked at him with a thankful glare. And, after visiting the lady’s room parted without further word.

Boss then walked into Candy’s room in which he witnessed both women – tear-stained. They were hugging and sobbing, and Boss was wondering why they would be so emotional considering that Candy left her home untouched and not even threatened by the murderer. He told

Marlene to leave and lifted himself onto a chair and asked, “That cute girl being in your home in a negligé is not my or anyone’s concern – unless her being half naked in your home, or her sexual preferences, or her knowledge of you or anything about that negligé relates to the murder. Do you understand?”

She nodded and kept sobbing.

“Now, you need to straighten up. I am giving you five minutes to do so. Then I am coming back in here. And when I do return, I am going to ask you about the Code, about insurance fraud and how you, your father and Bea are related to the fraud. Understand me?”

She nodded and before he could turn, she said “I want a lawyer.” Boss was upset, looked at her sternly, rose from his chair and landed on the floor, stepped quickly out the door, and thought, “Oh my. This looks like a decision after 15 rounds.”

### **Membership Renewal Time**

Your membership is due now.

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.

### **The Show This April**

- April 11, 2013 – Bring Plants to FTBG 1-5PM
- April 12, 2013 – Judging
- April 12, 2013 – Judges Dinner at Sandy’s
- April 13, 2013 – Show 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
- April 13, 2013 – Afternoon Auction
- April 14, 2013 – Show 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
- April 14, 2013 – Afternoon Auction
- April 14, 2013 – 4:30 PM pick up show plants

