

BromeliAdvisory

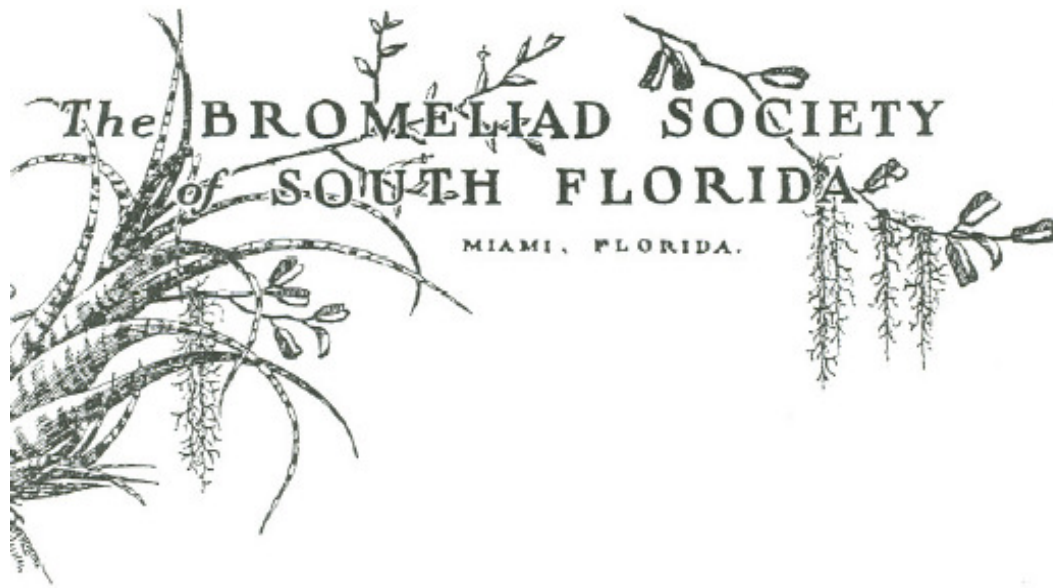
May 2014



Neoregelia flama

In this Issue

President's Message	2
In Case You Missed It.	2-3
Garden Notes.	3-5
Preparing for a Show in a Tent	5-6
Upcoming Events	6
Murder in Corbin A	6-8
Welcome New Members.	8
Thanks Doctor Green.	8



BromeliAdvisory

May 2014

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: Fred Sussenberger
 Secretary: Peggy Fisher

DIRECTORS

Past Pres.: Carl Bauer

Directors:

Maureen Adelman '13 –'14
 Joy Parrish '13 –'14
 Alex Bello '14 –'15
 Barbara Sparling '14 –'15

Editor

Robert C Meyer

Advertising: Robert Meyer
 Door Prize: Alan Herndon
 Education: Nat DeLeon
 Hospitality: Elaine Mills
 Library: Barbara Partagas
 Membership: Maureen Adelman/Melody Ray
 Mem. Plant Sales: Antonio Arbelaez
 Raffle: Melissa Brail
 Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

MAY 20, 2014 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Dennis Cathcart – Brazil Part 1

RAFFLE TABLE: Ellis Brown

FOOD: Fred and Martha Sussenberger, Barbara Sparling, Barbara Partagas, Joy Parrish and usual suspects

About the Speaker

Dennis Cathcart describes his Sarasota-based Tropiflora business as something which arose, "... after a bromeliad collecting hobby got out of hand." A wanderlust adventurer seeking venues where bromeliad species grow, Dennis has accumulated countless adventures of the roughneck areas where tourism requires more love of bivouac than of boulevard shopping. Now a serious blogger recounting his recent trips to south of the border, Dennis will discuss with us his Brazilian adventure – or Part 1. Photographs are always awing at a Cathcart presentation, so this is something to see and hear for all.



President's Message

by Barbara Partagas

There's a great saying: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. We've all tinkered with something that was working fine but would benefit with a little fine tuning only to have that refinement turn into a bigger project. Our Annual Show and Sale is a fine tuned event. We've been doing it so long, we've got it how we want it.

The problem is that starting in 2015 Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens will not allow us to do our show in the auditorium. They have unilaterally decided we must do the show in a tent, despite our concerns that there are major security issues, not to mention logistical problems in relocating the vendors, the artwork, the accessibility to kitchen facilities and dining space. We have been discussing this matter with them for at least six months. Other garden clubs have had to use the tent with unsatisfactory results. The Board has been discussing whether the new direction that Fairchild is taking is in the best interests of BSSF. We'd now like to have the members' opinions about whether to proceed with a show in a tent.

Barbara Partagas

In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

Bromeliad veteran Tom Wolf graced our society with a presentation of how to mount bromeliads of an array of materials or medium.

To warm the audience, he asked the faces of the society to respond to one statement, "If you like bromeliads, smile." The room immediately glowed from dental glare.

One tip he gave was use of oasis with a basket. Lining the basket with plastic to avoid water dripping when watering would be needed, he followed the with insertion of the oasis materials. Thereafter, he took 3" pups of various neoregelias and placed them firmly into the spongy oasis material. Covering the exterior with *tillandsia usenoides* he manages to make the basket look like it was merely adroit neoregelias saluting the eyes of the beholders. To add drama, he put a full grown pineapple in the middle. All done in a

matter of minutes before our witnessing eyes, the presentation caught the attention of all.

Tom also enjoys attaching bromeliads to wood. He prefers cedar as it lasts longer. First, after a Home Depot run, he takes a piece of the wire you get to top off a chain link fence – aluminum which bends easily but is strong – and makes one end hooked for hanging. After drilling a hole in the wood, he pushed the straight end of the wire (about 8"-24") into the hole and allows about 2" to remain. He pulls back the inserted end until it is parallel with the wood, and then uses channel locks to firmly assure the wire's permanence. Afterward, he puts a vinegar bath on the wood for acidic advantage – a plant friendly addition. And, then attaches the plant with zip ties which eventually are removed when the roots firmly attach themselves to the wood and make the ties unnecessary.

Christmas in Tom's house must be interesting. He has a wreath made with *tillandsia* which will only increase with vegetation or thickness as the years pass – a wreath his wife allows to be put onto the back door. He had a glass ornament in which he placed a cute *tillandsia* and some sand. He also had a pine cone in which the open eaves were small *tillandsia* which would make the ornament a live plant on the tree. An interesting potential Christmas piece was a cork attached to fishing line which also attached a *tillandsia*. He had a large cork with one small plant which he assured, "By the time they bury me, it'll look good."

Tom also has a vertical garden eye. Using many wooden or plastic plaques – the flat lathed items you see at orchid shows – he attaches many water fearing plants like *tillandsia tectorum*. After attaching and putting onto hooks, he places those plants *under the eave* where little rain touches these plants which come from environments where 6" of annual rain are average.

One questioner asked where he gets the great driftwood. In youth, Tom went wood hunting, but after telling a story about ripping britches – twice in a matter of minutes – coupled with ant bites, possible child neglect, and other unloving/unforgettable affiliated

circumstances, he chose to utilize a friendship with a 1000+ acre owner of a north central Florida “farm” to evolve into an annual exchange of money for harvested driftwood from the friend’s grounds.

Some tips: (1) make wood the size of the mature plant; (2) cedar is preferred because it lasts longer; (3) vinegar on the wood puts acid on the medium which is plant friendly; and (4) don’t go onto government lands for driftwood.

Photos at:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152309090184280.1073741851.84661684279&type=1>

Garden Notes April 2014

by Alan Herndon

April started with the first extended period where temperatures stayed at seasonal averages. Despite the fears that the excessive temperatures reached in March foreshadowed an inexorable increase _ the first two weeks of April brought temperatures with daytime highs below 80 F and nighttime lows in the 60's. This welcome respite from the approaching summer began to slip away about the middle of the month, and we are again reaching summer temperatures at the end of the month. In particular, the overnight lows finally began to consistently reach summertime levels (mid to upper 70's) during the final week of the month.

Along with the hot, dry winds of Spring, we have also seen further reduction in the amount of rainfall over the course of April. Dust Bowl conditions were more common than not through the month, although we had one heavy frontal rain near the middle of the month that knocked down the dust for nearly a week.

Aechmea chantinii is over its cold-season blues and back to blooming strongly. It was joined by near relatives *Aechmea zebrina* and *Aechmea tessmannii*. More distant relatives _ both also in

the subgenus *Platyaechmea* _ *Aechmea retusa* and *Aechmea serrata* continued in bloom from last month. In *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia*, we had *Aechmea organensis*, *Aechmea gamosepala* and *Aechmea cylindrata* flowering. All three of these species have very similar flowers in shape, size and petal color. In *Aechmea gamosepala* and *Aechmea cylindrata*, the inflorescence is a spike (individual flowers are all attached directly to the main axis without a pedicel. In the commonly grown clones, these two species are most easily distinguished by the tightly packed flowers of *Aechmea cylindrata* (there is no separation between flowers) and the widely spaced flowers in the *Aechmea gamosepala* inflorescence. *Aechmea organensis* has at least a few branches in the lower parts of the inflorescence. *Aechmea gurkeniana* continued to flower, and was joined by another species that also probably belongs to the *Aechmea orlandiana* complex: *Aechmea disjuncta* (formerly called *Hohenbergia disjuncta*). Although I have been overlooking *Aechmea nudicaulis* lately, individual plants of various clones have been sporadically producing new inflorescences. I have seen open flowers on at least two clones during April. *Aechmea capixabae* is a new addition to the flowering list while *Aechmea farinosa*



Billbergia seidelii

conglomerata is continuing from last month. Three more new species in bloom this month were *Aechmea alopecurus* and *Aechmea dactylina*. *Aechmea dactylina* is notable because the flowers are tiny. They are even smaller than the flowers on *Aechmea bracteata* – a species assumed to have small flowers because it does not require pollination to produce an abundance of seed. I will be interested in seeing whether *Aechmea dactylina* also produces seeds without pollination.

Stragglers from *Billbergia elegans* continued to bloom into April. A few plants of *Billbergia*

seidelii flowered much after their kin, as did a few plants of *Billbergia nana*. Both red-leaved and green-leaved clones of *Billbergia viridiflora* were seen in flower. Historically, *Billbergia viridiflora* flowering marks the end of the main *Billbergia* flowering season in my collection. Now, if you grow different species of *Billbergia* than I do (for example, if you grow mainly species in *Billbergia* subgenus *Helicoidea*), you are likely to find that your main flowering season is at a different time of year.

Three different clones of *Canistropsis billbergioides* flowered during April. *Canistropsis billbergioides azurea* has a short scape — the inflorescence sits at the mouth of the tank in the same manner as seen in most *Nidularium* species. The name comes from the slight hint of color in the petals. The clone with orange bracts has the inflorescence pushed out well above the tank. The primary bracts are, indeed, a bright orange and more stiff than in the other two clones. The clone with pink bracts has a scape intermediate in length between the previous two clones. It has primary bracts that are slightly more curved than the orange-bracted clone. Both the orange-bracted and pink-bracted clones have white petals.

The first *Canistrum seidelianum* came into bloom this month.

I have not been mentioning *Hohenbergia* species in bloom for the most part, since so few of them are grown for their beauty. In April, however, two widely grown species were in bloom. *Hohenbergia stellata* is the most commonly seen species in southern Florida, with the bright orange-red inflorescence (including clusters of small ‘cones’ at the tips of branches.) Starting to bloom this month, *Hohenbergia pennae* is not as pretty (the inflorescence is generally a dull green ‘ornamented’ with slightly darker spots), but the plant itself has an interesting shape. It is one of the ‘bottle-shaped’ or ‘vase-shaped’ bromeliads. The leaf sheaths are much wider than the leaf blades and create a water-holding tank that looks much

like a vase.

Among the species of *Neoregelia*, we are seeing a greater variety of species and more plants in each species flowering. *Neoregelia ampullacea* and the red leaf form of *Neoregelia punctatissima* came into flower sporadically — as they have done throughout the year. Plants in the *Neoregelia olens* complex: *Neoregelia eltoniana*, the red-leaved clone of *Neoregelia olens* (joined in flower by a green-leaved clone) and *Neoregelia camorimiana* continued to bloom throughout the month. *Neoregelia compacta* and *Neoregelia macwilliamsii* also continued to produce new inflorescences. The first open flowers appeared on a *Neoregelia carolinae* clone, while the late-blooming plant of *Neoregelia wilsoniana* reported last month managed to put up a final flower or two in April. In *Neoregelia* subgenus *Hylaeaicum*, *Neoregelia leviana* and *Neoregelia eleutheropetala bicolor* continued to put out open flowers throughout the month. In both species, flowers appear sporadically.



Canistrum seidelianum

Orthophytum rafaellii finished flowering and was beginning to fade by the end of the month, but it was quickly replaced by *Orthophytum roseum*. The two species have very different appearances in full bloom. In *Orthophytum rafaellii*, there is a broad outer ring of color formed by red leaf blades, a narrower inner ring that appears white (at least when it first appears) due to dense layers of light-reflecting trichomes covering these regions of the leaf surface, and an inflorescence that is largely green. For *Orthophytum roseum*, the broad red outer ring is also present, but it is replaced by a narrow inner ring of a lighter red color, and the inflorescence is largely red. Elsewhere in the genus, *Orthophytum benzingii* continued to flower, along with *Orthophytum magalhaesii*. *Orthophytum harleyi* also continued in flower, but no pups have appeared that could take the place of the flowering moms once they finish their bloom cycle. Young plants of *Orthophytum alvimii*, *Orthophytum*

rubiginosum and *Orthophytum lymanianum* are now in bloom, and promise to keep these names on the list throughout the summer months. Plants of *Orthophytum grossiorum* are also still flowering. This plant has the same basic growth pattern as *Orthophytum sucrei*. Each inflorescence is topped by a rapidly-growing pup that soon forms a new inflorescence. These generations of plants form chains that stretch from the mom outward. At each generation, you might also have pups formed at the base of a terminal pup grow and produce its own inflorescence. You can see the pattern much more clearly in *Orthophytum sucrei* because distances are greater, branching is sparse and the individual rosettes do not change much in size from generation to generation.. If you follow the stem from an inflorescence of *Orthophytum grossiorum*, you will see exactly the same pattern, but from a larger distance, the pattern is obscured by the number of rosettes laying atop one another in a tangled mass.



Vriesea carinata

Portea alatisepala continued to bloom into April, but *Portea grandiflora* also began and finished flowering within the month.

Our unusual flowering plant of the month is *Ronnbergia carvalhoi*. This species, from Brazil has an inflorescence that remains concealed in the tank of the rosette. Accordingly, it is quite easy to overlook.

A clone of *Tillandsia stricta* with white flowers bloomed this month as did the clone of *Tillandsia ionantha* with white flowers (*Tillandsia ionantha* 'Druid'). These were joined by *Tillandsia schatzlii*, a Mexican species with very succulent leaves. Species continuing to flower from past months were *Tillandsia hammeri*, *Tillandsia*

pueblensis, *Tillandsia juncea stolonifera* and *Tillandsia rodrigueziana*.

Vriesea poenulata flowered in large numbers during the month while a single plant of *Vriesea pinottii* began to flower. *Vriesea brusquensis* and *Vriesea pseudoatra* also began to flower. *Vriesea erythroductylon* and *Vriesea carinata* continued to flower from last month. Finally, *Vriesea barclayana* was discovered in flower near the middle of the month. It may have been in flower already during March.

We still have a few weeks before our rainy season normally appears. You will need to keep up your guard for signs of water stress in your bromeliads until we are having rains every few days. It is a good excuse to get out and enjoy your garden and all of the wonderful color we are getting in the *Neoregelia* hybrids now.

Preparing for a Show in a Tent

by Alan Herndon

Our next Annual show is scheduled for the middle of April in 2015 at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. According to policies adopted by Fairchild this year, all plant shows in 2015 and beyond will be held in a large tent set up near the Visitors Center Building (the new entrance). We have been assured that every effort will be made to find a suitable indoor room for displaying the Art Show.

We will have to consider a whole array of new potential problems when planning for a show in a tent. Most of these problems are caused by difficulty in controlling access to the show area. With the show in the Garden Room, we could simply have a single door open and put the Information Table right by that door. With a tent in April, we will likely have to keep the sides up to prevent overheating of the area. This will allow public access from all directions, with the potential loss of security, unless we design the layout carefully and have a large number of volunteers watching over the show area. Even if we can provide adequate control during the day, a tent will still be very insecure overnight. This will require more far reaching changes to the show. For instance, we will not be able to display the crystal awards

with the plants on the head table. We would also have to discourage anyone from bringing in really rare, irreplaceable plants.

Another major required change will be the separation of the plant show from the Art show. I really like having the plants and art displayed in the same space, but we cannot ask either students or professional artists to submit their work to the uncontrolled environment of the tent over a four day period.. Of course, we can only hope that an indoor space for the Art Show will be found close to the plant show.

There will be other challenges. During setup, we already have a number of Fairchild visitors who need to be gently chased out of the show area. This problem is especially bad when our setup day happens to be on a day when Fairchild opens its gates to visitors during the evening. The lights in the show area attract everyone who is in the garden. We can also foresee similar challenges during Judging (on Friday). Since the tent is near the Visitor Center entrance, it will be the first thing seen by visitors. We will have to strongly discourage visitors from dropping in to see what is going on.

Many details remain to be worked out. We don't yet know how Catering can be set up to provide food for both the judges and the volunteers working the show. We need to ensure that the plant vendors are not a great distance from the plant show. We need to know about parking for the volunteers. This is just a preliminary warning. We will undoubtedly need even more volunteer hours to keep the show running smoothly under the changed circumstances.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 16-18, 2014

Redland International Orchid Show
FRUIT and SPICE PARK
24801 SW 187 Ave
Miami, FL 33031

http://www.fruitandspicepark.org/index.php?option=com_rsevents&view=calendar&layout=day&date=05/16/2014&Itemid=65

July 25-27, 2014

Caladium Festival
Stuart Park
Lake Placid, FL

<http://www.lpfla.com/caladium.htm>

September 8-14, 2014

21st World Bromeliad Conference
Honolulu, HI

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

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

October 21, 2014 – 7:00 PM

Annual BSSF Auction
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

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

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

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

93.

When they arrived to the surprise dinner date at Miami River's Garcia's Seafood Grille & Fish Market, Joshua did not know what to think – is this elegant or relaxed. The prices certainly were not as ambiguous.

Susan understood that conversation was not something which Joshua excelled in. So she took the helm and asked, “Well, now is your time. Ask me anything. You are entitled to endless questioning. What do you want to know about me?”

Joshua was reluctant to speak as he had millions of things to ask, and simultaneously his mouth had no questions to ask. Finally, he felt comfortable in allowing the following words to run off his tongue, “What do you want to eat this evening?”

“My Joshua, you really are the curious cat. You start up the conversation by stealing the waiter's line. Come on, there has to be something more you want to know. Isn't there?”

“Well.” Joshua said and then hesitated for what seemed to be an eternity. “Yes. There is. But, before you are asked, I request one thing from you. Ground rules. Okay?”

“Well, unless you tell me the ground rules, I can't agree. So, tell me the ground rules, and if they are reasonable, believe me, I will agree.”

Susan said with confident tone.

“Okay. No matter what happens here and now. It ends civilly. No embarrassing conversation with others. No telling others about the awkwardness of Joshua or how Joshua was a bore. Or such talk that girls are known to do – in short this is just something between you and me. Okay?” Joshua looked at her with utmost seriousness when finishing the last sentence waiting for a response – not knowing whether she would agree or not.

Susan had no problem with the ground rules, which were nothing to her as she was not a gossip like some other women he apparently thought he knew. But, before she could make him feel at ease, she had to ask one question, “Did someone hurt you recently, Joshua? That is just between you and me?”

He looked at her and did not know what to do. He knew her, but not that well. But, the code of secrecy made answering an easier task, and so he responded, “I was quadded a few weeks ago. That is all.”

“Quadded?”

“Yea. You know – dumped four ways in one miserable moment. My beautiful ex-girlfriend texted me, then e-mailed me, then put ‘single’ on her facebook and then called me to tell me she was dumping me. All while I waited to meet her at a Starbucks for a rendezvous that she set up. She stood across the street and looked at my face as I read the text, then e-mail and got the call. She reminded me about the facebook. Thank God, I do not tweet. On one smart phone, she dumped me four ways in almost one set of key strokes.”

Susan thought, “Some say the rich are different. The geeks are really the different ones. The horror of the torture they endure.” She knew she had to speak before her silence was misinterpreted. “Oh, that is horrible. Cowardly. Not having the nerve to meet you, and then stab you repeatedly like that. She did you a favor. That would be how I would look at it. You are lucky to have learned that about her.”

“Yeah, you are probably right. You got a good point there. Hey. I have a question for you. You brought up a good point – there was a hidden part of that woman, which she never revealed to me. If

someone asked you what part of your personality may be poisonous to others, that most do not know, what would you tell them?”

“Wow, Joshua, you really know how to go from simple to complex, from shallow to very deep, from superficial to very personal. In less than a few minutes, you ask perhaps the most personal and surprising question anyone, ANYONE, ever asked me.” Her eyes widened when she said “anyone” the second time.

“I’m sorry.” Joshua interjected not wanting to spoil the evening. “I . . .”

But before he could finish, she interrupted him. “No. I owe it to you. And, that is a tough question, which requires a thorough answer. You sure you want the answer? This could take a long time.”

“Yeah. I can take it. But, let me go to the bathroom first. Can you wait a few seconds. I’ll be right back.”

In the bathroom he called Jose and told him to gather recording equipment for his call, he then maximized the volume for his mouthpiece, and sat down next to Susan again with a fully replenished phone battery inside the phone inside his pant’s pocket.

94.

After putting together the sound package, and assuring of its accuracy for digital taping of the conversation, Jose called a Lieutenant Vazquez as he was instructed to do by a text message sent by Joshua just prior to the phone call with the subsequent instructions for handling the recording.

“Hello, is this a Lieutenant Vazquez?”

“Yes, may I help you?”

“Well, I am Jose. I know Joshua. And, he presently is on a date with a Susan Gort. She is being taped right now by me with my equipment, and is answering a question posed by Joshua which asks basically tell me everything bad about you. And, she warned him it would take a long time to answer. And, right now we are . . .”

Boss interrupted, “Your more than ten minutes in, right?”

“Yeah. Wow. You know this girl? Anyway, he texted me to call you and inform you about the taping.”

“Great. Where are you?”

“I’m in Kendall, 87th Avenue and Southwest 84th Street. Number 8415, the pink house on the right.” Jose then wondered if he should have told a stranger where he is.

“Okay Jose, follow my lead. Keep that discussion on tape or digital or whatever you guys call it. I will be there in ten minutes. In the meantime, we need to get more information from Joshua, like where is he?”

“Oh, I know that. I have his whole date book for the evening.” Jose was a little excited as his friend usually did not have such entertaining evenings. They usually fought warlocks and other dungeon masters online.

“Date book? Joshua and a date book?” Boss was fully confused.

“Well, he and this girl are first eating dinner at Garcia’s, then they go to South Beach to a place called Reynold’s Rose. I googled it and it has a good reputation. Even a Zagat rating over 23. Not just a watering hole, if you catch my drift? Joshua is going all out tonight.”

“Yes he is.” Boss affirmed. “And in this date book, did Joshua give you times for the places he was going?”

“Sure did.” Jose responded. “Supposed to be at Reynold’s Rose around 11 PM this evening.

“Well, thank you Jose. I’ll be right over. You are doing a great job.”

As soon as Jose’s call ended, Boss called the Captain. The Captain was eager to tell Boss about the conversation he had with Australia that afternoon and immediately tried to embellish his conversation with witty remarks.

Boss could not handle the Australian conversation

and interrupted his superior and said, “Captain, I have an emergency and cannot wait for your story. We’ll go over the Australian matter tomorrow. I need undercover right now to hit Reynold’s Rose. I need people here as I or Joshua are about to be ambushed there at 11 PM. I was supposed to meet Gort there alone. But, his daughter Susan is going to be there with Joshua as well. Each thinking Joshua knows nothing about my rendezvous and the they think the same about me knowing about his. But, we do now. And, I think we can nab the two suspects with one hit. But, if Mr. Strong or Gort – or whatever his name is – sees any monkey business, he may be gone. For good. Any ideas?”

“Yeah. My lesbian undercover. Remember that operation? It’s still on. My girl is only a few blocks away. She can handle it. I’ll bring her up to speed and you go in alone. Okay?”

“Absolutely sir. I await your next call.”

Welcome New Members

This year the following people have joined the BSSF:

John Farrar
Melissa Brail
Jacqueline Aranha
Patricia Arnett
Nery Francisco
Laura Romanguera
Victoria Wiltsie
Terri Pearson
Peter Morgan
Ellis and Elizabeth Brown
Sue Nichols

Welcome all – and if you have not received your complimentary plant, merely ask Mike Michalski for the “new member plant.”

Thanks Doctor Green

A call to anyone to match Karl Green who delivered crystal –recycled from previous victories – to the BSSF. This gesture will save the organization substantial amount of money. Thanks Doctor Green.