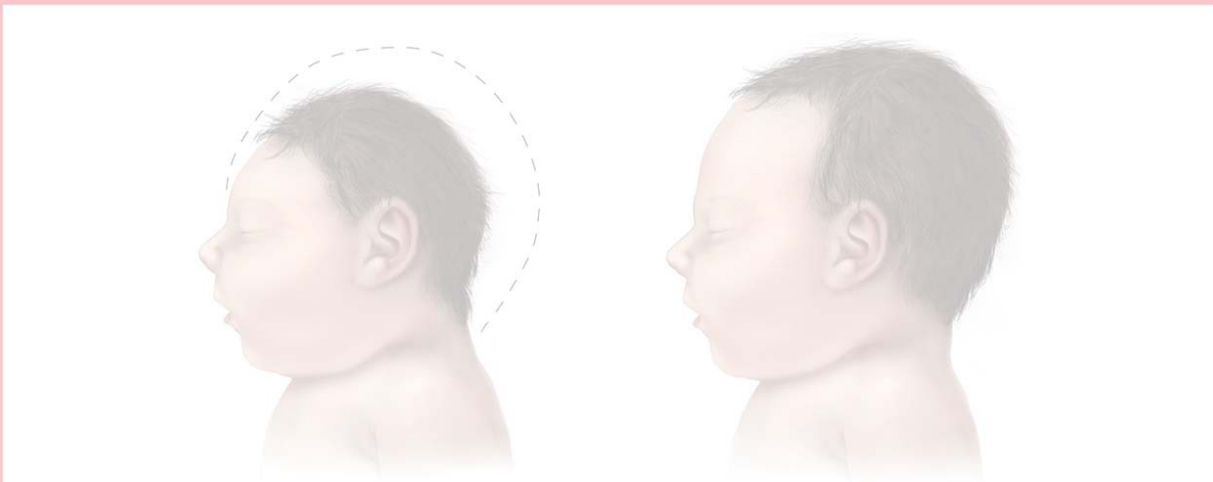
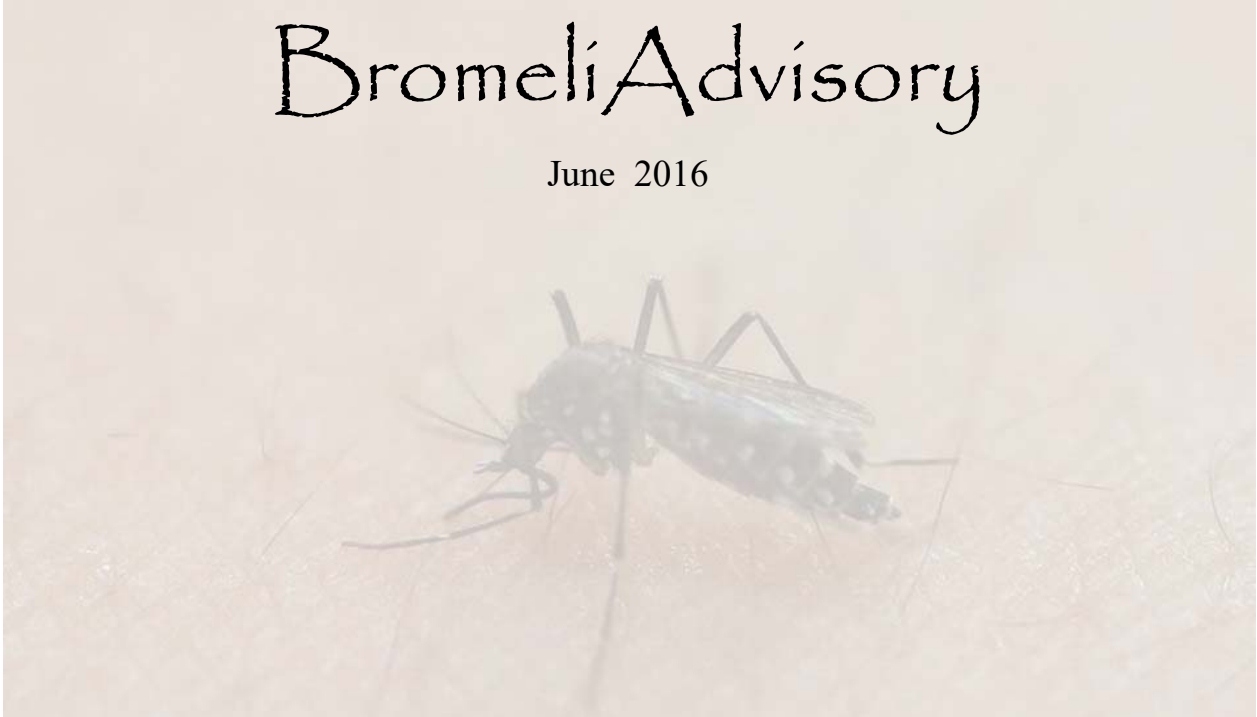


# BromeliAdvisory

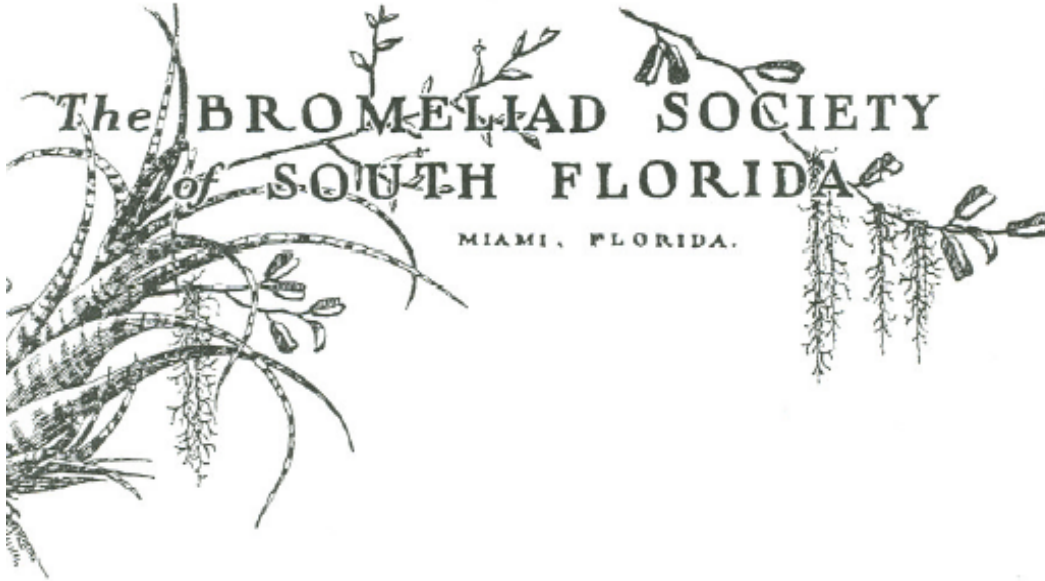
June 2016



**ZIKA VIRUS - BIRTH DEFECT**  
**HARMLESS BUT NOT FOR PREGNANCY**

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# BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

**June 2016**

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



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



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

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What	Who
Sales Table	Alex Bello

**MEETING: June 21, 2016**

**SPEAKER:** Robert Meyer – Showing off the Annual Show’s winners

**RAFFLE TABLE:** Alex Bello

**FOOD:** Usual Suspects

## About the Speaker

No one special. Robert Meyer will show pictures taken by Desiree Meyer at the Show, including *all* of the table winners. Can’t wait? Go onto our facebook page where the entire show already is on display.

Always an easy meeting, and for those returning from hellacious partying at the Houston’s World Conference, this meeting’s recital may be ennui well needed for catching up on some sleep missed because of the late night howling.

## If You Got’em, Donate’em Crystal or Give Donations for Awards

Anyone who has previously well deserved and won crystal from the Bromeliad Show is urged to recycle and give the same to Barbara Sparling who handles the awards for the show.

Anyone wanting to donate for awards needs to merely give Barbara an email or call.

Special thanks to Karl Green and Carl Bauer for their recycling efforts. Anyone want to join this group? Contact Barbara Sparling

## President's Message by Robert Meyer

### BROMELIADS GETTING A BAD RAP

[This column dovetails into issues concerning the speaker  
and related articles about what to do with mosquitoes]

Recently, someone had the brainstorming idea to attack Zika by literally attacking bromeliads. After all, Florida is one of several U.S. states now reporting a few isolated cases of people infected with the Zika virus. And so, Governor Scott has “declared a public health emergency in five counties in hopes of getting ahead of the virus's spread.”

That's good news.

The governor's preliminary attack: genetically modified mosquitoes. Breed with the Zika-carrying critters, and voila – mosquitoes which don't live to adulthood. Oxitec, a British company, manufactures such things.

But, problems exist. Oxitec is still waiting for the FDA to approve a trial release of the GMO mosquitoes. And, a vocal group of opponents exist in the Florida Keys where the GMO mosquitoes were to be spread among the mosquito community. In short, the critters are presently neither legal nor popular.



So, do what you can do. Experts tell us now that it is June, we should start wearing long-lasting insect repellent, long sleeves and long pants, even during the daytime. The carriers are daytime biting mosquitoes. Often, they enter peoples' homes and spread the problem within the confines of the seemingly safe walls of your abode.

For those of you younger and with better eyesight than myself, look for the culprit. *A. aegypti* mosquitoes have white stripes on their legs and a marking in the shape of a lyre on their backs. Learn to recognize them. And stay away.

Of course, with a serious health problem knocking at our southern doors, Congressional help is on the way. But, is it enough? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in April cut \$44 million from its fund that helps state and local governments in

preparing for public health emergencies. This slash came as part of the \$589 million the White House moved from other programs — mostly money allocated for domestic and international responses to the Ebola virus. Zika must stand in line and await action on Capitol Hill.

President Obama asked for \$1.9 billion. Congress passed a bill for \$622 million. And, all of this money deprives other programs. The Senate has sponsored a bill for \$1.1 billion. But, not to anyone's surprise, it remains as stagnant as the waters in which the critters breed.

Anyone – with any idea of what the nagging problem this Zika entails – knows this is not a one summer problem. It will be here to stay, unless some miracle walks onto Mother Nature's stage and eradicates the white-legged creature without governmental money nor scientific funding.

Some analogize Zika's emergency nature to those found after tornadoes or hurricanes. FEMA answers the call for immediate relief of the windstorms, but no equivalent to FEMA exists for the biological disaster.

It is so serious that even the New York Times chimed in. It wrote, “Risk lurks in rich neighborhoods, too, for example in bromeliad plants favored by landscapers. Their stiff fronds are perfect receptacles for rainwater. ‘Look at that!’ Mr. Vasquez said, pointing to a cluster of the plants, their spiky stalks sticking up like rock-star hair in front of a cream-colored ranch house. ‘Perfect *Aedes aegypti* habitat.’”

And, from such, emotional woes arise. After all, the New York Times quotation of Chalmers Vasquez, Miami-Dade County's mosquito control manager, surely establishes scientific truths. Why else would the NYT quote someone who has such a strong statement?

The Miami-Dade web page – maybe reacting to Mr. Vasquez’s assurances – states, “Aedes aegypti mosquitoes like to breed in containers filled with stagnant water and plants that hold water, such as bromeliads.” But, it only asks to drain the pants.

And, Miami-Dade concludes with these tips:

### Preventing Mosquito Breeding in Your Bromeliads

The disease-spreading Aedes aegypti mosquito takes about seven days to go from egg to adult—sometimes less, if the weather is particularly warm. That’s why it’s important to maintain your bromeliads on a weekly basis.

Here are a few things you can do to keep your plants from breeding these mosquitoes:

Flush the water—and the mosquito larvae and eggs—out of your bromeliads. A good strong hosing will flush the water with larvae out of your bromeliads. But be sure to do this at least once a week to disrupt the mosquitoes’ life cycle.

Coat the water in the bromeliads with a small amount of food-grade oil. Either quickly spray the surface of any water in the plant with non-stick cooking spray, or place a few drops of cooking oil in the water. The oil will cover the surface of the water and keep any mosquito larvae present from breathing.

Treat the water in your bromeliads with a safe larvicide. Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis, or Bti, and methoprene, are commercially available larvicides which are safe for use with plants and around people and pets, when used as directed. You can find them in pellet or granule form at hardware stores, as well as online. They should be applied about every two weeks or so for maximum effectiveness.

And, more importantly, the page tells the reader, “The good news is *you can keep your bromeliads from breeding mosquitoes with just a little effort.*”

But, just when the county delivers methods to keep your beloved bromeliads, the Miami Herald writes “Mosquito breeding sites can be in the most simple and smallest of places at the average home, and bromeliads are often a hidden danger zone.” Affiliating bromeliads with the term “danger zone” makes the plant less attractive in any sane person’s eye.

Heck, the above-described mosquito guru – Miami-Dade’s Vasquez – has told the Miami Herald that in his perfect world, he would dig up every bromeliad. But, he says little about destroying every bird bath, shredding every tire, crushing every water-containing convex-molded yard item, or more. Bromeliads, it appears, implanted a fear culminating into a phobia to Mr. Vasquez. Vasquez probably fears clowns with balloons as well – for reasons which we dare not to ask.

Natural plants decoratively adorning large masses of South Florida deserve better treatment. But, by the same token, the county is right in asking that there by some “prevention” by removing water from plants.

This publication, this month as well as ensuing months, will direct more attention to this issue by discussing how to comply with the county’s mandate. What oils should we use? What

other products can we use? What do these products offer – and most importantly will they affect the problem mosquito – the Aedis Aegypti.

Robert

### Preliminary Treatment – Dunks

by Robert Meyer

The largest manufacturer of these products, Summit, states, “These products attack mosquitoes in development stages, more specifically in larvae stage, killing them in short amount of time. Summit

Chemical have two types of products – Mosquito Dunks and Mosquito Bits, Mosquito Dunks offer long term protection and kills larvae for 30 days, so won’t be effective on mosquitoes in late larvae development stage, however Mosquito Bits kills larvae instantly, but offers only up to week long protection.”

And conclude, “Mosquito larvae control is very effective, especially if there are certain number of breeding grounds around your house and yard. As you know, mosquitoes need a source of standing water for breeding, and mosquito dunks are very effective in destroying mosquito larvae before it



Baby affected by Zika



hatches into an adult mosquito. When a Dunk is put into water it releases larvicide and provides a biological mosquito control, as these Mosquito Dunks are safe both for the environment and animals as well as humans, but are deadly to mosquitoes. With just a single dunk you can clear up to 100 square feet (9.2 square meters) of surface water from mosquito larvae. This product is also labeled for Organic Gardening. Summit Chemical sells these products in 3 packages – with 2, 6 and 20 dunks for different sized area treatment.”

My major initial concern is harm to the plant or pets. Summit asserts the chemical in the dunks are “. . . deemed organic by the USEPA. Dunks are harmless to beneficial insects, pets, birds, fish or wildlife.” At least the manufacturer claims that the product will not harm the surroundings – save the mosquito.

## In Case You Missed It

Robert Meyer

Chip Jones and gave us a look into terrestrial and xeric bromeliads – code word for bleeders. If you are on blood thinning medications, stay away from these creatures.



With delicate affectionate terms given to the many spiny plants, Chip told us secrets about how the plants live or thrive with or without water, and with or without sun.

Adding to the entertainment was the removal of some of the cactus-like hard and spiny plants, and repotting the pups into new environs.

Showing off some elderly and very well fed adult specimens, Chip manages to awe us and saw our faces rapt in focus of his table, where some of the seemingly small and curious plants quickly grew to become robust and even intimidating 10-gallon plants. And, only in a few years.

Chip, who has a plant pedigree and education – studied horticulture at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville. – thankfully evaded plant-speak and kept the lecture at a layman’s level. All in all it was very entertaining.

Appetites into these gnarly plants grew and Chip sold many at the meeting. Maybe the organization will have the membership’s vehicles rally to Chip’s nursery on a future weekend to see Davie and Chip’s palms, cycads, bromeliads, and other plant interests.

## NEW MASTER GARDENER in SOCIETY

Every so often, the University-of-Florida affiliated organization entitled “Master Gardeners” delivers certificates to graduates of the program.

According to its web page, “Master Gardener is a title granted by the University of Florida to individuals who complete both the Master Gardener training and their volunteer hours. They are individuals who are interested in: horticulture; educating and helping others; and making civic contributions through volunteer work.”

Our own **Karen Bradley** became a member joining fellow BSSF Master Gardeners Carl Bauer, Maureen Adelman and Jeff Block.

Interested in joining them? It takes some time, but you merely need to attend the Master Gardener training program and complete an internship at the Homestead office for a minimum of 60 hours during weekdays. Classroom training takes one full day per week (M-F) for 10-12 weeks and is usually held at the Miami-Dade County Extension office in Homestead, Florida. Volunteering opportunities are at selected sites throughout the county after completion of the internship in Homestead.

## MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

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

137.

“Mad cows and Englishmen.” Boss said to Captain.

“What are you talking about?” Captain responded.

“I am talking about this. What is requiring us to be here. What brings us to this event. What brings the BSSF people to this event. Who the select people are.” Boss responded.

“Okay. May I say that your apparently very acute perception has lost me entirely. Do you want to explain, or should we let it go?” Captain said hoping for the latter.

“We’ll let it go. Look across the hall, it appears that Susan has a friend. And, maybe that will be the beginning of a long and beautiful relationship.”

“You are really beginning to become too mysterious for my taste. Slice off the comments, be precise and do what you are paid to do, okay.” Captain said to his friend.

“Okay.” And, just as the bizarre conversation came to a close the two saw that Susan was walking out the door with the person who approached her. Boss and Captain each communicated to the outside force of the outdoor excursion and requested a running play-by-play review of the outdoor rendezvous.

“Did you see who it is?” Captain asked Boss.

“Yes and no.” Boss responded. “It was quick, I missed the precise person. But I know that it is one of two people.”

“How is that?” Captain asked.

“The haircut. Bowl cut. The cut which should be the cause to put the barber into barber jail, The worse hair cut of anyone alive, yet two people in one house have the same haircut. It is, Captain, the parent of our duly retired attorney, Candy.”

“Outside . . . is the person with Susan someone with a bad hairdo?” Captain demanded.

“Yes sir. Horrible cut. Bowl cut. Atrocious. But, the chick is otherwise a looker, if I may say so.”

“A what?” Captain asked. “How old are you officer?”

“Twenty-nine sir.” The officer said with a somewhat quivering voice.

“Are you a sick dog looking for a cougar, officer?” Captain asked.

“Hell now.” the officer was confused. He thought a bit. “Heck, this woman isn't a day older than I am.”

When that statement was made, Captain looked at Boss and asked how old Candy's parents were.

“Fifty. Sixty. Maybe a little less, maybe a little more.” Boss answered.

“Well, the bowl cut out there is 29. What does that mean to you?” Captain asked.

“Candy's rap singing sister would be my guess.” Boss responded. “Young at heart, Acts young. Dresses young. Probably still young. May 35, maybe less. Look less than 30. But, has long hair. Or did.” Boss said.

“Anyone else know what she looks like?” Captain asked.

“Martinez was with me.” Boss replied.

“Martinez, you there?” Captain demanded.

“Yes sir.” Martinez promptly responded.

“Go check the north side of the building's exterior. A young lady with a bowl cut is there with Candy. See if you can identify her. Keep you distance. You cannot be seen.” Captain ordered.

“On it.” and Martinez took long strides out the south side so as to be able to walk around the building without being exposed.

When he was able to look around the corner and see the person, Martinez retreated to an edge too far to be heard by the women, and contacted the Captain by saying, “It's the rapper daughter who has the bowl cut. She used to have long hair. But, it's her. Can hear the voice. Want me to tail them?”

“No.” Captain told him and then instructed Martinez back into the hall, after which Captain ordered a review of the until then relatively anonymous sister of Candy who was now on many bulls eyes of many members of Miami-Dade's finest.

Joshua, when seeing the request, contacted the wires, and within minutes the newly found information became the break which he, Boss, Captain and the others had been seeking for weeks.

When the call came to Captain with the information, he put his phone in his pocket and said to Boss, “Mad dogs, Englishmen, and one locita for a sister.”

### 138.

Gort thought about what it was that made him the person contributing to society with the new plant. Was he a thief or was he an inventor.

Was he someone displaying genius or was his claim to genius the product of gall.?

When traversing this thought, Gorttrief to distance his perspectives from his obvious bias, Stan knew that he was really neither. But, were the others so sure? Each musician is influenced by another and usually takes chord sequences or other objects from the deep subconscious synapses which have welded memories of others' tunes. Is there anyone in computing who really designs something not forwarded from the previous computing breakthrough's frame? In science, was anyone other than Einstein really not working off what others had already platted? Is not the genius of one a derivative of others, if not countless others' efforts?

After reading about the 1950's experiments with apes, Stan mused about the ability to do the same with something simpler, something holding simpler genes and more. One experiment, by perhaps a mad scientist, became the foundation for Gort's sane and meticulous endeavor. When reading about how one scientist removed a brain from one ape to implant in another ape, Gort understood that the symbiosis between man to confront and, in some fashion, what seemed an exclusive providence of nature. How can something as unique and precise as a mind be swapped between two mammals, he thought. How could someone think of swapping the brains from two mammals, he also thought. How could one persevere and succeed in swapping the brains between two mammals, he thought was the lesser genius. The thought of such a scientific task was the greater display of great thought. After that, came the laboratory, the success, and then the message received by hundreds of thousands of others – man can do something which man otherwise thought could not be done outside of science fiction novels written by fertile futuristic thinkers. But, that mastery of the bizarre thought became the incubator for transplant surgery, which evolved to heart transplants, which now include daily procedures where people's organs are harvested for recycling into others' bodies.

Monkey brain transfers were the cornerstone for great things happening to everyday people in today's common world. “How about what I am doing?” Gort thought. “What is the future that I am staring at? Will it be transcribed to future – like using of animal parts, lime cloning with

human parts to make better parts?” Building things through biological sorcery could become the foundation of tomorrow's preventative medicine. Gore was giddy with thoughts about how his money-making horticultural hobby could evolve into something for the “better good.” “That was is so important,” he thought. And, assuring that some murderous BSSF member would not deprive him of his money, or the world of a potential scientific breakthrough about hybridizing different species, was now of greater importance than when this whirlwind adventure commenced.

“I wish I could meet the murdering devil.” he thought. “I am sure that I could convince that person of the problems which he is cultivating when eradicating the BSSF membership. The “greater good” needs to be treated with greater respect. The murderer, if spoken to, would be able to distinguish the trees from the forest. Distinguish the importance of other uses of this presently plant-only science. “How do I meet this person?” Gort queried. And, after much thought, he languished without an answer and laid himself down on a couch on which he quickly fell into a deep sleep of quiet refuge from the seemingly inevitable result of an early death procured by a stubborn opponent who sought to take Gort's science away from Gort and any possible positive use which Gort dreamed so adamantly to see in his lifetime.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 29-31, 2016**  
**Caladium Festival**  
Stuart Park  
Lake Placid, Florida



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

**August 20th - 21st**  
**Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale**  
The Garden Club of Sanford  
(on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd)  
9:00 - 4:00

