



# BromeliA dvisory

**December 2012**

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

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

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

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

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Past Pres.: Carl Bauer

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

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**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

**DECEMBER 18, 2012 7:30 PM**  
 Speaker: NONE  
 RAFFLE TABLE: NONE  
 FOOD: Everyone  
**Holiday Party**

**HOLIDAY PARTY**



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## Election Results are In

Here are your new Officers and Board of Directors:

**YOUR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**  
PRES.: Barbara Partagas  
VP: Lenny Goldstein  
TREAS.: Alan Herndon  
SEC.: Peggy Fisher  
PAST PRES.: Carl Bauer  
BOARD –  
    Urszula Dudek [2012-2013]  
    Maureen Adelman [2013-2014]  
    Joy Parrish [2013-2014]  
    Lori Weyrick [2013-2014]

## President's Message

by Carl Bauer

Wow! After two surprisingly short years, this will be my l a s t President's Letter. I want to thank you for that honor since I believe t h e Bromeliad Society of S o u t h Florida is a g r e a t organization and its members a r e absolutely



the best people.

During those 2 years we continued our record of outstanding shows at Fairchild Garden, unmatched, in my opinion.

Last year we survived moving our meeting date from the 1st Tuesday to the 3rd Tuesday of each month to alleviate parking congestion. During this change, our membership topped 100.

There were a lot of field trips – local ones to member gardens and more distant ones to an Extravaganza at Daytona Beach and a World Conference at Orlando. The extent of our participation was an indication of BSSF's importance in the bromeliad world.

With the recent elections, I believe a strong leadership will be even stronger and our high level of performance will continue.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your President.

See you at the Holiday Party.

*Carl Bauer*

Soon-to-be-Past President

P.S. The home-made mango jam will not be going away. I will still bring one for a door prize each month.

## Be There for Group Photo



A group photo of the BSSF will be taken at the Holiday Party this December 18, 2012.

## Holiday Party Pot Luck

Call Sandy Roth 305-301-0306 or Mike Michalski 305-279-2416 to offer your culinary masterpiece that you elect or wish to deliver to the December 18, 2012 Holiday Party.

## Plant Exchange at Holiday Party

For those who forgot, or just have not heard, the Holiday Party on December 18, 2012 will include a plant exchange. It has simple rules. Wrap a bromeliad so that the naked eye cannot discern the plant within. When you arrive with such a plant, you receive a ticket – a la raffle style. The master ticket holder will call out numbers in an order – hence the first called will have the pick of one of the plants wrapped in Corbin B; and the second will have one pick of the remaining plants, and so forth. If you really want to engage, bring wrapped plants, or even more, and you will receive more tickets, which means you will have more wrapped plants to blindly pick up. Go for it.



## Garden Notes Nov 2012

by Alan Herndon

Our early winter weather has been mild. Nighttime temperatures have fallen, but not so drastically that the soil temperatures have dipped precipitously. The lowest temperatures recorded so far have been above the level where our most tender plants (*Cryptanthus* species and the clones of *Aechmea fulgens*) suffer cold damage. Daytime temperatures have also been cooler, but still much higher than what people in any other part of the country would consider to be proper 'winter' levels. Overall, conditions have been favorable for continued bromeliad growth.

The dry season, after a rather uncertain start at the beginning of the month has taken hold completely. Now we must provide our gardens with water artificially. With the cooler weather, plants tend to dry out more slowly than during summer, so you need less frequent watering in order to keep rot at bay. On the other hand, the frequently brisk winds we have been experiencing can quickly desiccate any plants grown as epiphytes (without any soil mix) regardless of the temperature. In other words, you need to pay close attention to your watering habits until we warm up again in spring..

Winter blooming species are beginning to take over. These species are obviously responding mostly to photoperiod (day length) since they bloom this time of year despite great variations from one year to the next in rainfall and temperature.

*Aechmea calyculata* and *Aechmea winkleri*, two members of the *Ortgiesia* subgenus were in flower during most of the month. A much briefer appearance was made by *Aechmea purpureo-rosea*. This species flowered near the beginning of the month and was well past bloom by the end. If I had more clumps of this species, I might have a longer flowering period. Continuing to bloom from earlier months were *Aechmea chantinii*, *Aechmea disjuncta* and *Aechmea ramosa*. The *Aechmea chantinii* are well past their late-summer-fall peak in flowering activity, but there were still a few individuals sending up the odd inflorescence during the month. I was actually surprised to see the giant clone of *Aechmea disjuncta* still in bloom. This individual has been blooming for several months now. The

inflorescence has hardly changed over the past two months, and petals only rarely emerge to show that flowering has not yet ceased. *Aechmea mexicana* has also continued to bloom. By this time, the inflorescences that appeared first are long past bloom, but new plants with new inflorescences have come in to replace them.

Our *Alcantarea* sp (possibly *mucilaginosa*) continues to bloom long after the species it started to flower with have finished.

*Androlepis skinneri*, both staminate (male) and pistillate (female) plants started to bloom during November with more plants joining the party towards the end of the month. This group of plants provides an excellent foraging ground for our visiting hummingbirds.

Among the few types of *Billbergia* that I grow, *Billbergia* 'Hallelujah' is still able to produce at least 1 inflorescence every month, although the I didn't see more than a single inflorescence produced in November. *Billbergia nana* is the first species I have had in bloom this season, but many others are sure to follow.

Two species of *Canistropsis* flowered in November. *Canistropsis billbergioides* (a clone with pink bracts) had open flowers during the mid part of the month. *Canistropsis seidelii* probably had open flowers throughout the month, but the flowers are surprisingly well concealed in the large primary bracts. Unless you look for them specifically, they can be missed.

Flowers on the large *Catopsis berteroniana* opened during the month. Of course, the bright yellow inflorescence was full size for most of October as well.

Another plant of *Guzmania sanguinea* came into bloom during the month. These plants demonstrate the opposite of synchronous blooming. If you have two pups from the same mother growing in the same pot (both still connected to the maternal rootstock,) it is almost certain that they will bloom in different months.

Most *Neoregelia* species and hybrids are in a quiescent period this time of year. However, the occasional rosette of *Neoregelia ampullacea* and *Neoregelia punctatissima* (red leaf form) still manage to produce flowers. In addition,

*Neoregelia crispata* was in flower. These three species are all small, and, in clumps, can be expected to flower several times in a year as successive generations of offsets reach blooming size. *Neoregelia guttata*, on the other hand, grows more slowly and only flowers once during the year. This species was also seen in bloom during November.

Flowering has slowed among the *Orthophytum* species, although several remained in bloom throughout the month. *Orthophytum alvimii* continues to add new 'trunks' to the forest it has produced. *Orthophytum sucrei* continues to add new generations to the terminal ends of branches that now mostly trail along the benchtop. Only the newest generation still makes any pretense of erect growth. *Orthophytum benzingii*, like *Orthophytum alvimii*, is busy growing a dense forest in its pot. It appears that *Orthophytum lymaniana* is no longer producing new blooming stems, but the cones on the existing stems could still continue to grow and flower for a long time. Likewise, flowering appears near an end for *Orthophytum conquistense*. The only new entry on the flowering list, *Orthophytum vagans* bloomed briefly towards the end of the month. Flowering lasted scarcely over a week for this species.

Among the terrestrials, *Pitcairnia smithiorum* started to flower during November.

As expected, some clumps of *Tillandsia ionantha* flowered during November, but hardly on the massive scale we expect near Christmas. *Tillandsia Xcorrealii* also bloomed during November. A rosette or two of this natural hybrid has been in flower during many months of this year. Since the flowering period for a single rosette is only about 2 weeks, this means several different rosettes have flowered. *Tillandsia chiapensis*, a species with a very long-lived inflorescence, remains in flower. *Tillandsia klausii* was also seen in flower during the month, but it appears that a new, smaller crop of rosettes has replaced the rosettes that, earlier this year, were in bloom for so long. *Tillandsia harrissii* is another species that has shown up repeatedly in the list of flowering bromeliads this year. Again, this is a species with a relatively short bloom life and relatively show-growing offsets, so several different rosettes that flowered at different times were involved.

*Vriesea carinata*, after nearly two months of slowly putting the paddle-shaped inflorescence up and appearing to ready to flower any day, finally produced an open flower on the first day of November.

Take advantage of this brief respite from the tropical oven we endured all through summer. Spend more time in your garden this time of year. It will do you \_ and your plants \_ good.

## 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, 2013**

Road Trip to Bruce McAlpin's

### **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/>

### **March 8-10, 2012**

Fairchild's 11<sup>th</sup> 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.fairchildgarden.org/Events>

### **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  
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)

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## MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

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

### 61.

When exiting the car, the wet humid air slapped her senses. The warmth accentuated the dank odors which lingered in closeted and protected areas, devoid of fresh or fanned air. Candy's enclave, an artificial oasis intentionally made to heighten the heat and humidity for the sake of her plants' collective appreciation for heightened warmth and humidity needs, was one place where the airs lingered almost mercilessly. Breeding in the cups of the bromeliads were flotillas of

mosquitoes in famished state which awaited the arrival of Candy's latest guest. The fertilizers or other false growth enablers appeared to make the bugs bigger, and rumor in the community was that some of the mosquitoes in Candy's yard wouldn't leave with less than a pint.

Strutting to the front door with little protection for her exposed legs and arms, Candy's guest was worried less about the bitty biters' attack than the sexual impression she wanted to deliver upon Candy.

"Well, how do you do." Candy said with broad smile, glistening eyes and extended arms to her newly bitten guest. "Come right in, tell me what you want to drink, and we can start with our little show." And, as she escorted the half naked model into her home, her guest first realized that more than twenty bites had accumulated on her legs and she was breaking out in such a profound manner that the bites had the appearance of a rash.

Candy, accustomed to situations like this, spiked her guest's drink with benadryl to alleviate the itch and swelling, sat next to her, and spread the fine line of apparel limply across her well sized coffee table.

"Well, you are certainly timely, and certainly welcome, but before you try anything on, please do tell me your name." Candy started the conversation with some mastery of steering the helm.

"Just call me Stitch. It is the name I grew up with."

"Stitch? Certainly a strange name for someone who is as feminine and dainty as you are. How did you inherit this name?"

"Don't really know." Stitch said. "Maybe it is all about being part of the south, y'know."

But Candy did not know. Even though Miami was south of most of the deep south, it was not the south. Florida, unlike the deep south, was well known for being the one state in the south which had no reasonable recipe for barbeque. And, Miami, more than the state, was known as being anything but southern. Many referred to it as the other borough. "I don't know what you mean." Candy said with sincere tone.

“Ya know. Like how all your people all have nicknames. In the south, all people are known by nicknames. I got an uncle Inky, aunt Misty, grandfather Turkey and grandmother Tick. Each has a story about the name. As to mine, heck, I got no idea what started it all. But, mom tells me that when uncle Inky tickled me, I woodn’t laugh, but would make twitch motions, and I would end up all tight like I was sewn closed, sewn tight with stitches – so came my name.”

At this point, Candy reached over and tickled her new friend, and no smile or laugh emanated, but Stitch’s body began to contort, and Candy was beginning to understand and like this characteristic of her new friend. At this time, her phone rang, and Candy answered.

“Hello.”

“Candy. At last I’m alone. I’ll be over in a few minutes.” And before Candy could respond, the phone hung up.

## 62.

Poker night with the bromeliad members was becoming more enjoyable each week. Rodriguez began to like the stakes and had taken a liking to the *Guzmania*. He would rarely leave without one *Guzmania* and was happiest the night he returned with a *Guzmania lingulata v. minor*. Its red inflorescence hidden among thick and very green leaves, made it brilliant. The others told him to attach it to a tree with northern exposure, and it would likely clump on the bark and make a strong red ring around that trunk within a few short years.

The red leaf of *Guzmania sanguinea* also caught his attention. Contrasted to the green leafed, red-flowered *lingulata*, the *sanguinea* was pronouncedly different – in a good manner.

On this eerily bright evening beneath the full moon, he saw that one member was trying to assert great fortune to his *lingulata*. Almost double the value of a normal night. Rodriguez was not pleased.

“Hey, no padding the numbers with *lingulata* inflation here.” Rodriguez asserted hoping it would be enough to make the plant less worthwhile and ultimately easier to obtain.

“Rodriguez, this ain’t no *lingulata*. This is *xAechopsis* Beacon. It is a bigeneric beauty with the green leaves and red flower. But, look carefully at it and think of the three *lingulatas* you won off me over the past few months. They are not the same. And, this baby here is rarer. No one else I know has one. Hey, anyone at this table have one of these?” Martinez chipped in.



Photo by Derek Butcher, courtesy of FCBS.

All the heads nodded side to side.

“Better yet, anyone here ever own one of these *xAechopsis*?” Martinez asked with little questioned intone.

Again, all the heads turned side to side.

“Anyone here ever know anyone who ever owned one of these plants?” Martinez said, knowing that

when he finished that sentence Bosker would jump all over him.

“Yea. Some two-bit, penny-ante, cheap son-of-bitch, wetback Miami Havana boy named Martinez.”

Everyone laughed at Bosker’s comment, and while they munched on their sandwiches and drank another swig of their respective beers, Rodriguez’s phone rang.

“Rodriguez, this is Marlene. I texted an address to you. Need you there now.” And, she hung up.

Knowing this meant losing his chances to get the *xAechopsis*, Rodriguez still jumped out of his seat and ran to the car. His immediate response was not derived from his devotion to his work. Instead, he responded in such brevity because he believed that Marlene’s voice conveyed the fact that finally – after all these months – Marlene had broken down and succumbed to his numerous sexual requests.