



# BromeliAdvisory

**January 2012**  
**BSSF Officers 2012**

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

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**Raffle: Peter & Clara Kouchalakos**  
**Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez**

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

**JANUARY 17, 2012, 7:30 PM**

**SPEAKER:** – Terrie Bert  
**RAFFLE TABLE:** Alanand Rhonda Herndon  
**FOOD:** Ask Sandy Roth

**Meet the Speaker**

Dr. Terrie Bert is a longstanding member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society (SBS) and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and has held multiple offices in the SBS. She also served the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) as a representative and officer for eight years. For the Bromeliad Society International, she has been a Florida Director and chaired several international committees. She currently is Librarian, Curator of the Wally Berg Award of Excellence, and an internationally accredited Master Judge. She's given over 100 presentations on bromeliads to numerous U.S. and international bromeliad societies and other groups. She has authored articles for the BSI Journal and the FCBS newsletter. She cultivates approximately 2,500 different bromeliads in 24 genera. She's won multiple top awards in local bromeliad shows and BSI world conferences and is a volunteer for and contributor to the BSI Bromeliad Identification Center. Terrie has a Ph.D. in marine biology and is a research scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. She also makes quilts and SCUBA dives.

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## President of a Message

Here's wishing everyone a happy and healthy New year in 2012. It will be a very good one for our Society – lots of great meetings thanks to the hard work of our Vice president Barbara Partagas who puts it all together for us.

Of course we will have our Show and Sale in April, one of the best anywhere bromeliads are grown and once again under the direction of Alan Herndon.

Then on to the World Conference in Orlando this fall. We will have a display at the exhibition hall and hopefully a major presence in our attendance and participation. Make it a family vacation if you like!

Finally, thanks to Rhonda Herndon and Nat DeLeon as they finish their assignments on the Board of Directors of BSSF. Welcome to Urszula Dudek and Lenny Goldstein as our new directors. Their experience and knowledge will be a great help to your Board.

See you at the meeting.

*Carl Bauer*

## Terrie Bert Lecture

Take your choice:

Sorting Out an Evolving Family: Bromeliad Identification Conundrums".

She will look at some of the most interesting and puzzling broms in the Bromeliaceae family and then have fun deciding what some bromeliads should be named in an audience participation game show -- "Name that Bromeliad."

## BSSF Holiday Party - 2011

by Alan Herndon

We returned to our regular meeting room in December for our annual Holiday Party – a pot-luck dinner that took the place of our regular meeting.

Melody Ray was largely responsible for the smooth operation of our Holiday Party this year. She crafted and sent out the beautiful invitation to the party to those with email addresses, and kept track of the numbers attending. She also coordinated phone calls to



members who did not sign up at the November meeting or respond to the email invitation (or who didn't have email). In addition, she kept track of the food items brought in by attendees to avoid gross dietary imbalances in the meal.

Melody and Sandy set up the tables in the room. (Sandy will apparently have to be heavily sedated and/or placed in chains before she fully relinquishes her active role in the Holiday Party) Melody and Lori decorated the tables to enhance the festive atmosphere of the evening.

Approximately 70 people, members and their guests, showed up for the dinner. We were especially pleased that Eileen DeLeon, who we don't see as often as we would like, accompanied Nat at the event. We also had a rare opportunity to see Bruce McAlpin who, although a member, now lives too far away to attend meetings regularly. He traveled from his home in LaBelle – just south of Lake Okeechobee – to participate in the festivities. We were also pleased to have former member Martha Kent attend as a special guest. Judging from the number of lively conversations, people enjoyed their evening. Perhaps the congenial tone of evening will entice some of the guests will become members in the coming year.

The party also provided an opportunity for us to meet members Rafael and Maribel Toledo, who signed up earlier this year. In addition, we had an opportunity to welcome our most recent (returning) member – Larry Hartman – who rejoined in December after an absence of some 30 years.

Food, as usual, was plentiful. In particular, we need to thank Kris Green, who provided the turkey and ham, and Josefa Leon, who supplied her much sought-after pork. With the main dishes taken care of by these two, the only problem was that the variety of side dishes brought in by other members was so great that there was no

possibility of sampling more than a small fraction of the choices. Dessert choices

As in years past, there was a plant exchange

and a plant distribution. Members brought in wrapped or bagged plants from their collections and took home similarly packaged plants from other members. This ensured an element of suspense when each recipient opened the package they picked. Everyone in attendance received a package of *Tillandsia* species from the collection of Karl Green. We expect to see these plants again in coming years as they grow to maturity and are brought back for entry in our annual judged show.

With the old year passing, it only remains to wish all of our members and their families a 2012 filled with happiness and, especially, a plethora of bromeliads.

## Garden Notes - Dec 2011 by Alan Herndon

After the brief cool spell in October, we have consistently had temperatures well above the seasonal average until the end of this month. Even with the current dip, the daytime temperature reaches the expected average for this time of year. As a consequence, our bromeliads have continued growing at a good rate throughout the first month of winter. We have the best of both worlds because the slight slowdown in growth due to cooler temperatures and lowered sunlight has given our *Neoregelia*, in particular, vibrant colors.

This growth will certainly end sometime during this winter, but we should take advantage of as much growing season as we can. This means, in particular, keeping a close eye on the water needs of your plants. During periods of active growth, it is very important to keep your plants from drying out too much. Of course, when the plants do stop growing, and the primary problem can easily be overwatering. The important thing is to look at your plants frequently. If the soil mix in your pots is drying out, your plants need the occasional soaking to maintain root growth: if the soil mix is staying wet, the roots aren't growing and can't use any more water.



*Tillandsia ionantha*

*Aechmea orlandiana* and *Aechmea* 'Bert' are both nearing the end of their blooming cycles. They were joined during the month by the closely related *Aechmea milsteiniana*, with *Aechmea fosteriana* and *Aechmea gurkeniana* now in advanced bud. The various clones of *Aechmea weilbachii* also started, and finished, bloom during the month. We can expect the pups from these plants to bloom within the next month or so. Other plants blooming for the first time in a while include *Aechmea bromeliifolia*, *Aechmea dealbata*, *Aechmea ramosa* and *Aechmea woronowii*. Several species continued in bloom from last month. *Aechmea mexicana* is notable in this group because so many rosettes flowered during the month. In contrast, a lone plant of *Aechmea alopecurus* bloomed into December. The expected blooming of species in *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* continued with *Aechmea gracilis* as an example. Other groups with representatives blooming during the month were the *Gravisia* complex, represented by *Aechmea blanchetiana* and *Aechmea amicorum*, and the *Aechmea nudicaulis* complex. Finally, *Aechmea chantinii* has shown a resurgence in bloom intensity. This month, there are two notable clones: *Aechmea chantinii* 'DeLeon' and *Aechmea chantinii* 'Tarapoto' in bloom along with the expected assortment of seedlings.

*Androlepis skinneri* began to bloom near the beginning of the month. Both staminate ('male') plants and pistillate ('female') plants are in bloom. The inflorescence on an individual plant does not last much longer than a month, but, if you have several plants in your collection, these plants will not all bloom at the same time, so you get an extended flowering period for the species. If you have both staminate and pistillate plants (ovaries on the pistillate plants are 2 to 3 times as large as those on the staminate plants), you could cross-pollinate them to produce seeds.



**Tram Ride in April**

There will be a group tram ride this April in lieu of the monthly meeting. Carl Bauer will be our captain for the moonlight trip

*Billbergia* species and hybrids are putting out



their evanescent spikes. I have been seeing primarily different clones of *Billbergia amoena* in flowers.

*Canistropsis seidelii* finally began to flower in December. The inflorescence was up and fully colored through November.

Even though we are approaching the middle of winter, I noticed flowers on *Cryptanthus teretifolius* and *Cryptanthus warren-loosei*. As was the case last year, I believe we can expect to find a few examples in bloom throughout the winter even if the plants suffer terribly when our inevitable cold spell(s) make an appearance.

Plants of *Guzmania minor* are continuing to produce short-lived inflorescences as winter approaches. *Guzmania sanguinea* was also in flower near the beginning of the month, but now seems finished for the year.

The inflorescence on my final blooming *Hechtia rosea* faded away about a week before Christmas.

*Lymania coralina*, a somewhat uncommon species in cultivation, began to bloom during December.

Many plants of *Neoregelia compacta* are in bloom or bud. The closely related *Neoregelia macwilliamsii* is also producing blooms, although not in nearly the same proportion as *Neoregelia compacta*. *Neoregelia spectabilis* is also blooming this month. Among the smaller *Neoregelia* species, *Neoregelia ampullacea* 'Midget', *Neoregelia dungiana* and *Neoregelia punctatissima* (the red leaf form) were also seen with open flowers.

Several species of *Orthophytum* are in bloom now. *Orthophytum zanonii* and *Orthophytum saxicola* (green form) are just starting. On the other hand, *Orthophytum alvimii*, *Orthophytum disjunctum* (purple leaf form) and *Orthophytum lymaniana* are continuing to bloom. The *Orthophytum zanonii* in bloom is something of a puzzle since other plants of this species flowered within a short period several months ago.

*Pitcairnia flammea floccosa*, a species that blooms with leaves barely 1 foot tall, produced its bright red flowers during the month. We also had *Pitcairnia smithiorum* in bloom throughout the month.

*Portea alatisepala* has been flowering en masse throughout the month. This includes several

different clones. We have also had a single clone of *Portea petropolitana petropolitana* in flower throughout the month. With the latter species, we have had different collections blooming at different times of the year..

Much blooming activity should be evident in your *Tillandsia* collection. Several clones of *Tillandsia ionantha* (including the *Tillandsia ionantha* 'Tall Velvet' and *Tillandsia ionantha vanhuyningii* mentioned in previous months) were in full color for the holiday season. Blooming also picked up in *Tillandsia* subgenus *Anoplophytum* with flowers continuing to appear on *Tillandsia didisticha* and *Tillandsia vernicosa* in addition to blooms (at least sporadically) on *Tillandsia araujei*, *Tillandsia tenuifolia* and *Tillandsia stricta*. *Tillandsia brachycaulos* (the particularly beautiful burgundy leaf form) bloomed during the month. Two species with swollen bases ('pseudobulbs'), *Tillandsia bulbosa* and *Tillandsia*

*pseudobaileyi*, also began to flower during December. In the meantime, *Tillandsia chiapensis* continued to produce flowers, along with *Tillandsia dodsonii* and *Tillandsia fasciculata*.

The only *Vriesea* species I can verify with open flowers during the month is *Vriesea carinata*. There could well be other species that bloomed, but I missed them.

Take advantage of the warm weather while it lasts, but prepare yourself for the inevitable onslaught of cold weather. At least prepare an emergency plan so you know what plants to save if we end up with an arctic front threatening a freeze on short notice. Just remind yourself we only have about two months where freezing weather is at all likely. Once we get towards the end of February, we can again let down our guard and dream the pleasant dreams of lush new growth on fabulous bromeliads \_ it is only a few weeks away.

## Scholarship Winner

The BSSF has the distinguished and proud announcement of naming Natalia Lopez as the first



*Vriesea carinata*

scholarship recipient from the BSSF. She will receive a \$500.00 stipend for her academic ventures at Miami-Dade College where she is studying Landscaping Architecture.

Natalia will hopefully appear this Tuesday at the meeting and all members are encouraged to greet her and congratulate her for this accomplishment.

Craig Morrell, the scholarship's chair, has been so impressed with her, that he has enlisted her for student work study at Pinecrest Gardens.

## **New Years Resolutions** by Alan Herndon

With the start of 2012, we need to look ahead to our obligations and opportunities in the coming months.

Our first obligation is to begin preparing for our Annual Show and Sale in April (Setup 19 April, Judging 20 April, Show and sale open to public 21-22 April). This show represents our primary opportunity to introduce bromeliads to members of the public interested in plants but not yet bromeliad fanatics. It is a large show requiring much work, and we ask all BSSF members who are able to volunteer some of their time during that period to consider helping.

If you are ready to chair one of the committees that run the show, please let me know as soon as possible. If you aren't ready for that level of commitment, we need help in many different areas. We have need for people both inside the show room and outside in the sales area. We need people to help with the food. More details will follow next month, but please start thinking about what duties you would like to take on.

We also need more BSSF members to grow plants for the judged show. A spectacular display of great plants is the best advertisement for our society. Besides, you can't help becoming a better bromeliad grower once you get into the habit of looking at your plants carefully when preparing them for a judged show.

As soon as our local show is completed, we need to start working on the World Bromeliad Conference to be held in Orlando (September 26-30).. We would like a strong showing of plants from the Miami area in the judged show. Those of you who typically exhibit in the local show should set aside some summer-blooming plants.

If you would like to attend the World Conference, you can get a discount on the registration fee by sending in your registration before February 28. You can get a further discount by sending your registration through BSSF. Please note that you have to be a member of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) to register for the World Conference. You can send your membership fee to BSI with your conference registration, if you wish. If you are a couple, you will find it cheaper to sign up for BSI dual membership first (at [www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org)) then send in your conference registration. BSI membership forms will also be available at the January BSSF meeting.

## **Events of Interest:**

January 21-22, 2012

### **Fruit and Spice Park**

Redland Heritage Festival  
24801 S.W. 187th Avenue  
Homestead, Florida 33031

January 21, 2012

### **Block Botanical Gardens**

Bromeliad Society of Broward County Tour  
10:00 AM  
7299 SW 79 Ct  
RSVP: [timbo-169@comcast.net](mailto:timbo-169@comcast.net)

March 3, 2012

### **Sandy Roth's Home**

Honor to 15+ year members of BSSF  
12:00 PM  
R S V P : M e l o d y R a y -  
[melodyluna@hotmail.com](mailto:melodyluna@hotmail.com)

April 17, 2012

### **FTBG**

7:30 PM  
Moonlight tour of Fairchild on a tram will be our treat with guide Carl Bauer at the wheel. Instead of a regular meeting prior to the Spring Show, we will rest our soon-to-be-weary souls by with moonlit serenity.

April 20, 2012

### **Sandy's Roth Home**

Judge's Dinner  
7:30 PM for judges and Show workers

April 18-22, 2012

### **FTBG**

Spring Show

April 21-22, 2012

**FTBG**

9:30 AM -4:00 PM

Show Sales

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WORLD CONFERENCE

Although it is about one year away, the World Conference is still a large task which will require your efforts. Interested parties may contact Alan Herndon at [Alanherndon@aol.com](mailto:Alanherndon@aol.com) or Mike Michalski at [pgonza7782@aol.com](mailto:pgonza7782@aol.com).

Want to know what the schedule looks like? Go to:

<http://fcbs.org/WBC12ScheduleofEvents.pdf>

### SPRING SHOW

This matter is coming to use rapidly and much will be demanded of the society. Interested parties may contact Alan Herndon at [Alanherndon@aol.com](mailto:Alanherndon@aol.com).

### Ideas for the Speakers

Barbara Partagas invites anyone for suggestions for speakers for the 2012 year. Contact her at [bpartagas@bellsouth.net](mailto:bpartagas@bellsouth.net) or just walk up to her with a friendly suggestion.

### Time to Renew BSSF Membership

See last page of this bulletin and mail or hand deliver form to Melody Ray – she'll be there Tuesday.

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### Murder in Corbin A

© by Robert Meyer

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

38.

“What do you mean by a Code?” Boss asked.

“You have to understand, the Code is not something a decoder ring can identify or decipher. It is his unique method of communicating. He was a child of the 1960's who moved to South America in the 1970's, was pretty much involved with the cocaine trafficking in the 1980's and recreated with other

items from that point forward. So, sometimes when he communicates it is with the Code . . . or his Code. Anyway, he knows way too much about plants, even more about bromeliads, to make an error in identifying a plant. So, when he delivers something which his pride would never allow to be anything but what he represents it to be – it is a Code. He is attempting to communicate to someone or something about something or someone. I know it.”

Having been a bookworm for decades, Boss was pretty adept at handling Codes. He believed the Zodiac Killer could have been broken had he or someone like him been on the task as it erupted onto the front pages. And, just as he thought about this, he realized that the concept of a code intermingled with murder would include the concept of serial killer. This was beyond disturbing, and made him think to himself whether or not this matter was evolving into a matter for the FBI. And, then he had to get immediate answers to pertinent questions. “Let us start again, what kind of code?”

“Usually by clue. For instance, he sold *Alcanterea albomarginated princeps* in place of *Alcanterea albomarginated cantinii*. To the average person this may mean little, to others it may mean something. I cannot explain. But, I know to him it has a purpose.”

“Okay. I understand. And now I need an answer from him.”

“What do you need from Marin?”

“Nothing more than a deciphering of his cutesy code.” Boss said this with a glare. He needed an answer immediately. And, if Marin would not deliver, Boss would make a call that would deliver certain people to Marin's door within 15 minutes who would then deliver a more convincing argument without having to utter one word.

“And, what am I to do?”

“Easy. Call your ex-husband with whom you have kept an impressive and mature relationship with, and tell him that the lieutenant of the Miami-Dade police will want an answer as to what the purpose and meaning of his code is. And, if he does not answer, then ask him to come to the office of Miami-Dade Metro tomorrow as they will need him to write a document asserting that there is no code, even though you believe there is a code.” Boss felt assured of himself now. “Is that a fair request?”

Linares speed-dialed her former spouse and he answered relatively quickly. They spoke about

little things for about 5 minutes when Linares felt at ease, at which time she snuck in a small question about why he had used code. And what does it mean to have a *Alcanterea* albomarginated *princeps* in place of *Alcanterea* albomarginated *cantinii*?

Boss could not hear the response, but he knew what it was. Linares' face changed dramatically from chit chat grin to wide-eyed, shocked soul with mouth agape and face frozen while the phone was held at a distance of approximately six inches from her ear. The call, to say the least, was over.

Boss texted his friends for an immediate visit to Marin's and gave them complete details of what to do when they got there. The clue was for real, and Linares' shock was evidence of the code's existence.

Upon completion of the texting, he remembered that his potential girlfriend or even possible lover was in the next room crying. He jumped up and went after her for consoling. She responded to his hug and pets. She became increasingly responsive. Within minutes, the lights were out, and the two were in an embrace. Boss began to like his visit, and there was cold champagne in the refrigerator if either party was capable of a second wind.

### 39.

Boss was not the only person in the squad with a plans for the evening. Marlene was young, attractive, and very much single. At the precinct, most of the guys had attempted to take her out. Some had actually gone out with her, but none was able to come to the cooler to announce his conquest of the precinct's beauty. She was too smart to allow one of the boys tell the other boys that the only good looking girl in the place was his for a night.

Marlene was also becoming something of a mystery to the squad as the members had seen her date, but never heard of her having an intimate relationship. Occasionally, a rude comment about her choice of women over men would be uttered in her presence, leaving her with a demand for a response. She either would have to knock out the guy with her fists or tell him off. But, Marlene did not always play by the old rules. The last time some incriminating and unsubstantiated statement about her sexuality was said, she walked slowly in cat step fashion toward the slanderer, embraced him, gave him a kiss that lasted a minute and was long on the tongue, drew him out of the embrace with a sly and lascivious look, and asked, "Would any girl who did that be a lesbian?" To which the reply, although breathy and deferred by winded passion, was in the negative. And upon that response, she slung a roundhouse on the man's chin that landed him five inches in the air and flat on his back. After which she said, "Then remember to never say such filth in my presence in again, maggot." At the completion of this escapade, a raucous cheer came from all the men and women in attendance. She was the talk of the cooler that day and many days after for that momentous occasion.

Marlene went to Miami Beach that night to "slug a few cold ones" at an Irish Pub called Quinn's. This place was on Ocean Drive, in an art deco hotel, and showed class. No cops would be seen there unless some felony had happened. But, this place was too classy for the seedy life of the Beach which seemed to concentrate west on Washington Avenue and further north than Quinn's South Beach venue.

After having several black and tans, and having to turn down a few requests – one from one young man who seemed too gay to be serious and one from an old man who seemed too anxious as his viagra's time was running up – she relaxed by the bar where the ocean smells and current's noises massaged her mind's knotted thoughts about murders and mayhem.

As she was falling into a deeper tranquil state in this pristine site which she had discovered only months earlier, she heard light steps walk up behind her and a voice say, "Do you mind if I sit next to the most beautiful and radiant woman of South Beach this evening or any other evening?"

Marlene recognized the voice immediately, and a rush of happiness warmed her spirits and enlivened her soul. She turned around and heartily embraced and kissed her expected date in a manner which would impress even the most mature in any audience. The love between the two was no secret to any witness of this moment.

When they finished their respective hellos, Marlene said, "Please, sit down next to me and stay there all night. And, may I ask you what you are drinking?"

"Vodka martini." Candy answered.

### **World Conference = BSI Membership**

Joining is easy – go to [http://www.bsi.org/bsi\\_info/join.html](http://www.bsi.org/bsi_info/join.html) and follow the instructions. The reason membership is an aid is that many of the amenities and provided services for the World Conference requires membership. With the membership comes: Subscription to the BSI Journal (published bimonthly - 6 issues/year); Listing in the BSI Roster; Access to member services (seed bank, program rental, etc.); Discounts for the next World Bromeliad Conference; Premium access to the Members-Only section of the website. For \$45 – the discounts for the World Conference alone will pay for it.



**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
2011 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Couples - please include BOTH first names)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADD'L. TEL. \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR JOINED BSSF: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please renew my(our) membership in the BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA for the period of March 1, 2011 to February 28, 2012.

Check the category:

- Single membership ..... \$20.00
- Dual membership ..... \$30.00

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

**DUES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2012, IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2011 ROSTER**

Please mail completed form and check to: Alan Herndon  
Treasurer  
19361 SW 128 Ave.  
Miami, Fla. 33177-4216

You can also email form to: Melody Ray – [melodyluna@hotmail.com](mailto:melodyluna@hotmail.com).