



BromeliAdvisory

July 2010
BSSF Officers 2010

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| What | Who |
|-------------|------------------|
| Sales Table | Antonio Arbelaez |

JULY 6, 2010, 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: – Ray Lemieux – Terrestrials

RAFFLE TABLE: Sandy Roth

FOOD: usual suspects. (NOTE: if you bring in food, you are entitled to ticket for raffle for special plat - best deal in town)

LEMIEUX IS HOOKED ON PLANTS

Ray Lemieux is a Sarasota horticulturalist who lived in Sarasota, grew interested in *cryptanthus*, met Linda Cathart at Tropiflora and found himself “hooked.” The hobby grew into profession. He has worked at Tropiflora for years. Jim Irvin presented Ray Lemieuz with *Orthophytum lemei*. Hope he brings some terrestrials for our meeting along with the show.



Orthophytum lemei

Inside this edition:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE | 2 |
| SEED THE EASY WAY | 2-4 |
| THE BASICS OF FERTILIZING PLANTS | 4-6 |
| IN CASE YOU MISSED | 6 |
| FOSTER'S LIVING LEGACY | 6-7 |
| WHAT'S IN BLOOM | 7-8 |
| MURDER IN CORBIN A | 8-9 |

President's Message

by Robert Meyer

Time has come to reflect that the heat of the year means a few things – fertilizer and pollination. We are blessed to have Alan Herndon and Craig Morell deliver to the advisory articles which address these summer issues in complete detail, perhaps more than the average gardener could digest, but never more than our members could want.

The enrichment of their insight cannot be overlooked as each has decades of hands-on experience. Accompanied with their respective horticultural degrees, their respective knowledge is both honored and observed with great seriousness in the community(ies) of plants.

Alan will be lecturing at the upcoming World Conference in New Orleans. Craig has lectured extensively in Southern Florida where his broad expertise has been requested by almost all societies in our region – palms, orchids and bromeliads are but a few of the areas where he is acknowledged as a knowledgeable leader.

Alan has already delivered a second article on the issue of the pollination, and Craig, through implication of the title he delivered as “part 1” , assumingly will also bless this publication with a second article.

Seeds the Easy Way

by Alan Herndon (Part 1 of 2)

For the vast majority of cultivated bromeliads, cross pollination is required to obtain viable seeds. The crosses can be either between two separate clones of the same species or plants of two different species. In South Florida we get some non-discriminating pollinator service provided by various insects that visit bromeliad flowers for nectar and, especially, by hummingbirds in season, but you really need to carry out the crosses yourself if you want to ensure a particular result.

Several commonly cultivated species, however, produce massive amounts of viable seed without any effort on your part. These species are identified by the fact that all, or nearly all,

available fruits mature and produce viable seed and the seeds produce plants identical in appearance to the parent. These plants may actually be pollinated without any external help – the pollination just takes place within the flower. The structure of the flower is such that pollen is deposited on the stigma at the appropriate time whether a pollinator is present or not. It is worth noting that many bromeliads, particularly species in the genus *Aechmea* and *Neoregelia* have the stigma placed right in the middle of the ring of anthers. In the absence of self-incompatibility, these plants can hardly fail to pollinate themselves. In other species, it is not even necessary to have pollination within the flower. Cells within the ovary (more precisely – within the ovules) develop into fully functional seeds without the need for any pollen. There is no practical difference between seeds produced by the different possible methods, so I refer to them all as self-seed for simplicity.

Some plants regularly produce the mature fruit and viable seeds, but the seeds have a high probability of being hybrid and will usually produce seedlings that differ in several ways from the seed parent. Species of *Dyckia* are especially notorious in this respect – most of the fruits on a blooming plant produce viable seed, but much of it results from unplanned crosses with other blooming *Dyckia* plants in the neighborhood. Many species of *Aechmea* also show a great readiness to cross with other blooming plants. In our collections, the group of species close to *Aechmea blanchetiana* produce at least a few fruits with viable seed as a result of random cross-pollinations every year. Species of *Aechmea* subgenus *Orgiesia* also frequently produce a few to many fruits with viable seeds. I am going to ignore these for the time being and concentrate on plants that meet the definition for self-seeding given above.

Both species of *Acanthostachys* in our collections reliably produce self-seed. The seeds of *Acanthostachys pictairnioides* are particularly satisfying to work with (once you have extracted them from the rather dangerous tangle of spines at the base of the plant) due to their large size. The large seeds produce large seedlings that are able to tolerate less than ideal cultural conditions. This makes them an excellent choice for any person who would like to start a career growing bromeliads from seed.

Self-seeding species of *Aechmea* were among the most widely spread bromeliads in cultivation during the 1950's and 1960's. *Aechmea angustifolia* was one of these early species. The blue color displayed by mature , seed-bearing fruit was frequently noted in early ads. Since all of the fruit contained seeds, they all eventually turned blue. I have grown seeds from this species several times in the past. The resulting seedlings resemble the parents in all respects.

Aechmea bracteata produces flowers with very small sepals and petals _ frequently an indicator that pollinators are not needed and not welcome. All of the flowers produce seeds, and we occasionally have seedlings come up from seeds dispersed by birds. All of these seedlings, so far, have been of the large, bright green clone that was prevalent in cultivation during the 1970's. I don't know whether the other clones now in cultivation behave similarly, although *Aechmea bracteata pacifica* does produce seeds from all available flowers. If you are interested in trying your hand with this species, the fruits are very dark and shiny at maturity.

Aechmea castelnavii, *Aechmea pubescens* and *Aechmea tillandsioides* are three more of the self-seeding species that were grown widely. *Aechmea castelnavii* fruits remain some shade of white during and through maturity. You may not notice any changes until they are well past maturity and begin to turn brown. Seeds of this species are large and easy to grow. *Aechmea pubescens* and *Aechmea tillandsioides* have fruit that turn blue at maturity.

Aechmea brevicollis was first introduced into cultivation here during the mid-1970's. It turns out that the species is hard to maintain in southern Florida through normal vegetative propagation. However, it is quite easy to grow from the automatically produced seeds.

Aechmea egleriana is apparently still rare in cultivation despite the efforts of the gang at Tropiflora. When I got a blooming specimen last year, I unexpectedly found that all flowers appeared to produce seed-filled fruit. There was only a small change in the color of the fruits as they reached maturity. Seedlings from the plant are growing well and have the

appearance expected from self-seed, but are not yet large enough to confirm that they will replicate the original parent.

We cannot grow most species of *Billbergia* subgenus *Helicodea* in the Miami area without heroic efforts to provide a suitable environment, but one of the few species that do grow well for us also produces copious amounts of self-seed. *Billbergia kuhlmannii* produces brilliant, short-lived, pendant inflorescences. Fruits turn an orange-yellow at maturity and each contains dozens of large seeds. These, as is the case of all the large bromeliad seeds, are good for the beginner.

At least one clone of *Canistropsis billbergioides* seems to produce self-seeds readily. The fruits are largely concealed within the stiff bracts of the inflorescence, but you can still see their tops turn orange at maturity. Since I have not made a particular study of *Canistropsis* fruits, I may well be overlooking other clones or species that produce self-seed.

Most species of *Neoregelia* require cross-pollination to produce seeds. However, *Neoregelia pascoalina*, a rather large species, always produces viable seeds. I haven't grown any of these readily available seeds yet, so I can't verify that the seeds produce replicas of the parent. If any of you have grown the seeds out, please let us know the results.

We can only grow 2 species of *Puya* in southern Florida, but one of these, *Puya mirabilis*, produces thousands of self-replicating seeds every time it blooms. These are particularly rewarding seeds to grow because, even though they are small, the resulting seedlings grow extremely rapidly. Starting from seeds, you can get blooming plants in under a year.

Many species of *Tillandsia* produce seed without pollination. You cannot pass by a collection of plants without seeing a puff-ball of seeds recently erupted from an old inflorescence. In the cases where all flowers in the inflorescence appear to have produced capsules, these are probably self-seed. The following is a very incomplete list of self-seeding species: *Tillandsia balbisiana*, *Tillandsia fasciculata*, *Tillandsia festucoides*, *Tillandsia gardneri*, *Tillandsia pruinosa*, *Tillandsia setacea*, *Tillandsia streptocarpa* and

Tillandsia utriculata.

Ursulaea mcvaughii (and *Ursulaea tuitensis*) were moved from *Aechmea* to their own genus in 1994. The fruits from every flower of *Ursulaea mcvaughii* produce viable seeds. They turn yellow at maturity and are easy to grow.

Self-seed is not so common among the species of *Vriesea*, but it does seem to occur. A *Vriesea procera* that bloomed for me last summer appeared to produce seeds from every flower, and several of the seeds germinated on the plant. Some of the resulting seedlings are still alive, so I should have the opportunity to find out whether they replicate the parent eventually. If you have seen other species that appear to produce seeds from every flower, please let us know.

One note of warning before you rush out to plant seeds – the albomarginated form of *Aechmea tillandsioides* produces viable seeds as well as any other clone; the seedlings, however, are incapable of producing chlorophyll. Without chlorophyll, the seedlings are going to die as soon as the supply of food packed into the seed is exhausted. You can expect any other albomarginate bromeliad that produces seeds without pollination to act the same way. In fact, seeds from albomarginate bromeliads seem to always produce chlorophyllless seedlings, even when crossed with nonvariegated plants, so you had best resign yourself to producing pups for vegetative divisions as the only way of propagating such species.

The Basics of Fertilizing Plants

Part 1- Organics

by Craig Morell

Over the last several years as a career horticulturist, I've learned a great many things about fertilizers, some of which are confusing, some bad, and some revelations. I've found



that many people don't know much about fertilizer, and have even less interest to know. In speaking about the topic, I've seen the same

confusion on people's faces as I do when people talk about vitamins, diets, and nutrition. In both venues, everyone is right when he talks about which product works for him. In both venues there are "Miracle Cures !" and *organic-is-natural-and-green* versus *synthetic-is-better-and-more accurate*. Let me try to unwind some of the misconceptions about fertilizers, which I know better than I do diets. This is a complicated tale, with many answers and even more questions. It would be the same as trying to pen a single article about diets for people, with the same end results. Perhaps we can publish several pieces of this tome, one piece at a time. There are some basics to think about in both organic and synthetic fertilizers; there are slow-release and quick-release version of both venues.

Neither organic nor synthetic is "better" than the other. Your comfort level, bank account, interest in learning data about products, plant type, media type ,available time, and shopping abilities will all factor into which products you use. (see, I said fertilizer was like a diet)

Organic vs Synthetic. –With all the fuss about "going green", organic fertilizers would seem like a natural candidate for our fertilizer needs. One thing that organic products have in common overall is that they are slow-release fertilizers. there are, of course, some rapid-release products. Rose growers swear by organic products, as do many venues in horticulture. For bromeliad and orchid growers, however, the needs are different, given their often-epiphytic nature, or at least a fairly low-demand nature, as opposed to say, vegetables or roses. Organic fertilizers often have low analyses, such as dried blood, manures, sea kelp, or fish emulsion. All of these work, but there haven't been many clinical controlled trials of these products.

It would be terrific if a bromeliad grower with lots of plants and lots of spare time and space could conduct some trials as to how *Neoregelias* or *Aechmeas* react to sea weed fertilizer versus a synthetic product . (It's the lots of plants / space / time part that seems to be the holdup). Many organic products are nitrogen-rich, and not so much potassium-rich, which seems to have more importance in producing stronger leaves and roots.

Balanced rose fertilizers are effective when used

as a soil incorporation in bromeliads, yielding a solid plant that doesn't over-grow its potential. I speak from experience in saying that I often over-feed my plants every month, yielding gigantic starfish-shaped plants with few leaves, and measly blooms. Some local growers fertilize their plants on a leap-year program, and they have neat, circular plants with dazzling leaf numbers, and surreally colored inflorescences. Orchid growers have similar tales to tell, with a more-light, less-fertilizer regime yielding stronger plants.

To curb my penchant for over-feeding plants, I've experimented with several packaged rose fertilizers applied to the soil surface. All have worked well, and my rhizomatous begonias love the treatment. In fact, so do my ferns, terrestrial orchids, palms, and most everything else. But, as a man of science, with an inquisitive mind, I can't help but wonder what exactly the plants are getting from these shaman-mixes of fertilizers.

One thing that I've noticed quickly is that high-demand plants – like understory palms – run short on iron, magnesium, and manganese, which are often absent in organic blends. I know several strict vegetarians who have similar diet problems, with protein and some trace metals being in short supply. Some organic materials like sulphate-of-potash are quite potent and almost instant release products, and need to be used sparingly—very sparingly. I've killed many plants with SOP when it's used too strongly, or too often without adequate water to dissolve and distribute it.

For bromeliads, mixing some bone meal (about 11% phosphorous) into the soil, along with dried blood and a small amount of SOP will yield some handsome plants, and you won't need to fertilize plants for several months. A larger quantity of these materials, along with ground alfalfa is a marvelous combination for Angel's Trumpets or many other flowering plants. In this scenario, I've used about 30 pounds of this mix on mature Angel's trumpets (Brugmansia hybrids) and the results were impressive; the plants flowered shortly afterward, loaded with flowers. I've found little comparison in the synthetic products world.

It's possible that I stumbled on the old concept that organic fertilizers suppress nematodes which badly affect Brugmansias. Without the nematodes' pressure on the roots, the plants popped into flower. It's a fairly pricey fix, but the results were worth it. Many old-guard growers still use manure teas, worm castings, or compost. These all work, if you have the time to produce them. I speak for myself, but I'm not going to make manure tea here in Miami in a suburban area, with a police officer living next door. Worm castings and many Earth-based products are all good but to an unpredictable degree.

Given our nutritionally bankrupt soil, we can use all the organics we can get into the soil, but these are time consuming. Mulch works well for this ideal, and I highly recommend mulch as long as it isn't Ficus or one of the soft-wood weed species.

Making a balanced water-soluble organic fertilizer suitable for foliar application is a lot tougher than using a ground-application mix. Trying to find good sources of soluble phosphorous and potassium is a challenge. In my view, many bromeliads need some bit of phosphorous and potassium, and less nitrogen than many people think.

Many of the better controlled release bromeliad fertilizers (CRFs) have an analysis of 10-4-14, a bit different than the iconic 20-20-20 of the last 4 decades. This paradigm shift away from nitrogen is good for plants, but tough to enable with organics. This food-shift is also beneficial for orchid culture, where recent research has shown that lower nitrogen levels are better for orchid flowering than previously thought.

I have not found a good organic source for potassium, so I cheat and use potassium nitrate. Great stuff! Even used solo, it makes for good-looking plants, and when combined with equal amounts of Epsom Salt, it makes a really good foliar fertilizer (just not organic). Unfortunately, as so often the case, potassium nitrate is not readily available. OFE in West Kendall sells small bags of it, which I use at the same rate as "regular" water-soluble fertilizer.

There are numerous organic products, without the regimented testing that goes with the

synthetic stuff. The synthetic fertilizer information situation is somewhat better given the numerous nurseries in the state that grow the same plants we grow, with more predictable results. Your results at home may be fantastic with organics, but a nurseryman who grows a million *Guzmanias* may not be able to economically produce his plants with the more expensive and less predictable organic products. Try a few products in your garden and see what happens. It's fairly risk-free, green technology, and the results may surprise you.

In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

Marina Tendler delivered her photo-intensive show about how bromeliad shows are handled south of the border.

Among the photographs were amazing displays of interior and exterior landscapes of her home country, utilizing wood and rock and other natural materials. The plants, similar but not identical to what we have in our neck of the woods, are colorful paintings against the usually brown and grey pallets of the natural materials to which many are affixed.

The shows at her home country are more than just one arrangement and several sales tables. Like the orchid world shows, small booths are made by the participants in which both the plant's material and the purveyor's artistic talent merge to create beautiful adornments within small, but not tiny, settings. Often these arrangements were what appeared to be 8 X 8 foot rooms, or larger, and the number of plants used had to exceed hundreds to properly fill the space with the artistic talent of the participants.

If people get excited enough about this display, maybe we can ask Marina to provide such a setting in our annual show in the future, as some space will be available with the loss of the Nat DeLeon tables.

Foster's Living Legacy

by Alan Herndon

Mulford Foster was a prodigious collector and promoter of all things bromeliad. Starting

largely with his trip to Brazil in 1939, he brought many, many species to the attention of scientists for the first time. As such, he was in



a position to have his name bestowed on many very beautiful plants. More than a few of these have remained in cultivation over the years, and serve as a living legacy of Foster's efforts. Please note that I am concentrating on the plants with the specific epithet *fosteriana* (-um, -i).

There are many other plants (think of the genus *Fosterella* for starters) named in honor of both Mulford Foster and his wife, Racine.

To our great sorrow, some of the most beautiful plants named for Foster are not so easy to grow under our southern Florida conditions. *Vriesea fosteriana* is a case in point. One of the most beautiful *Vriesea* species in terms of foliage, this plant is distressingly easy to kill when given the same treatment as most other specimens in our collections. In particular, *Vriesea fosteriana* is very susceptible to root rot and stem rot when grown in pots. If you are able to protect the plant from the torrential downpours we can expect during the summer (growing it under cover, for instance), it does fine in pot culture. Unfortunately, the plant can become quite large (to at least 3 feet across in some clones), so a plant in a pot tends to stay where it was originally placed. That being so, you might as well plant your baby in the ground. Be absolutely sure your planting site is well drained. If you are unfortunate enough to have property where you might get standing water for a day or more _ even if only at intervals of several years _ build a hill of sand (or other quick-draining soil) and plant your *Vriesea fosteriana* on top. Or, if you happen to have raised planter beds around your house in a suitable location, fill them with the quick-draining soil and plant your *Vriesea* there. It is worth noting that you will actually have a better view of the foliage if it is raised above ground level.

Aechmea fosteriana is another instructive case. I have at least 3 separate clones. They grow perfectly well if they are put immediately into trees. Attempts to grow them in pots, however,

are not uniformly successful. Again, this species is susceptible to root rot and stem rot in pot culture. In addition, offsets of this species are attached to the parent by large, strong stolons. As often as not, these stolons will head down into your pot and dislodge the parent before you are ready. In some cases, it is advantageous to have these plants in pots because you can grow them more quickly if they can feed through the roots, but they look good on trees and grow rapidly enough without soil for most purposes. You can also grow them easily in hanging baskets with little or no soil.

Cryptanthus fosterianus shares the same aversion to cool, dry winds that virtually all *Cryptanthus* do. Unless you can grow them in a sheltered area that is heated (or more-or-less attached to your house), the only way to keep them looking good during the winter months is to move them inside whenever the temperature threatens to approach 40F.

Some species named for Foster are easy to grow in southern Florida, and are widespread in local collections. *Canistrum fosterianum*, a species with dark cross-bands (similar in overall appearance to *Aechmea fosteriana*), is easily grown either in pots or on trees. It must be said, however, that the more recently described *Canistrum seidelii* is more attractive than *Canistrum fosterianum*. *Dyckia fosteriana*, with its very silvery leaves and impressive leaf spines also grows well.

Orthophytum fosterianum is a special case in many ways. First, it was not more attractive in any respect than already described species in the genus. Second, this species was described on an incorrect basis (an almost complete lack of flowers) due to misunderstanding the patterns of variation possible in the *Orthophytum disjunctum* complex. Anyway, all of the similar members of the complex grow well here. It is hard to claim, however, that we can identify what plants in our collections should be called *Orthophytum fosterianum*.

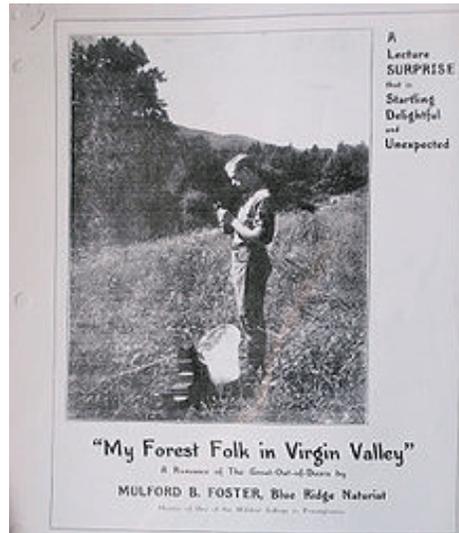
None of the other species that falls under consideration here is grown to any extent in southern Florida. Karl Green has a plant labeled *Portea fosteriana*, but it has not shown much interest in growing over the years, and it will be impossible to verify the identity before it flowers.

From published information on natural habitat, it appears that *Guzmania fosteriana* from Ecuador and *Pitcairnia fosteriana* from Columbia might be able to grow in the Miami area, but I am not aware of any plants in local collections. *Hechtia fosteriana* from Mexico, *Puya fosteriana* from Bolivia and *Tillandsia fosteri* from Ecuador (possibly just a form of *Tillandsia demissa*) all come from high elevations, and would be unlikely to survive more than a short time in southern Florida.

Based on the information available to me, it is not clear whether *Billbergia fosteriana* (possibly just a form of *Billbergia saundersii*) and *Bromelia fosteriana* are worth trying to grow in the Miami area. In any case, I don't know any plants in cultivation.

Despite the number of plants that are unsuitable for growth around Miami (and these could well be growing in other areas of the country), it

is clear that a number of these living legacies will be in our collections, and keep the name of Foster in our thoughts, for a long time to come.



What's in Bloom - Jun 2010

by Alan Herndon

Plants have responded to the coming of summer with the usual flurry of growth and bloom. Note especially the number of *Vriesea* species that are now in bloom.

Species *Aechmea* subgenus *Platyaechmea* (near relatives to *Aechmea chantinii*) are coming into bloom in numbers now. Species of *Aechmea*

subgenus *Ortgiesii*, in contrast are nearing the end of their primary blooming period. Also on the way out are the different clones of *Aechmea nudicaulis*. In coming months, we can expect to see many more species of *Nidularium* on the list.

Somehow, *Aechmea disjuncta* (formerly known as *Hohenbergia disjuncta*) was included in last month's list as *Aechmea distans*. The latter, of course, is an entirely unwarranted (and unintended) reassignment of *Hohenbergia distans* to the genus *Aechmea*.

Aechmea (*alopecurus*, *angustifolia*, *bracteata*, ***calyculata*** 'Alaya', *chantinii*, *cylindrata*, ***dichlamydia dichlamydia***, *disjuncta* (formerly *Hohenbergia disjuncta*), ***fasciata***, *germinyana*, Little Harv, *luddemanniana*, *milsteiniana*, ***miniata***, ***mollis***, ***mulfordii*** (red leaf form, also known as 'Malvo') *nudicaulis* (some different clones), *racinae*, ***retusa***, ***seidellii***, ***tessmannii***, ***tillandsioides***, *wittmackiana*)

Ananas nanus

Billbergia (***lymanii angustifolia***)

Canistropsis (***burchellii***, *microps*, ***simulans***)

Canistrum (*seidelii*, *triangulare*)

Cryptanthus (***delicatus***, *warasii*)

Guzmania (*lingulata*, *wittmackii*)

Hohenbergia (***correia-araujoi***, ***edmundoi***, ***lanata***, *leopoldo-horstii*, ***pennae***, *stellata*, *undulatifolia*)

Lymania alvimii

Neoregelia (***amandae***, ***ampullacea***, ***angustifolia***, Annick, *bahiana*, Bossa Nova, ***burle-marxii*** ssp. ***burle-marxii***, *burle-marxii* ssp. *meeanum*, *camorimiana*, ***carcharodon***, *carolinae* (several clones), *chlorosticta*, *compacta*, *correia-araujoi*, *johannis* 'Fairchild', ***kerryi***, *laevis maculata*, ***liliputiana***, *macwilliamsii*, ***macrosepala***, *magdalena*, *marmorata*, ***nivea***, *olens* ("fluminensis"), *olens* cv. 'Marie', *oligantha*, ***rubrovittata***, *sanguineum*, ***sarmentosa***, Sheba, ***tristis***)

Nidularium (*innocentii*, ***kautskyianum***, ***krisgreeniae***, *longiflorum*, ***meeanum***, ***rutilans***)

Orthophytum (*disjunctum*, *duartei*, *fosterianum*, ***grossiorum***, *harleyi*, *lemei*, *lymaniana*, *magalhaesii*,

maracasense, *rubiginosum*)

Pitcairnia (***domingensis***, *recurvata*, ***undulata***)

Portea (*petropolitana* var. *extensa*)

Quesnelia (***edmundoi***, ***testudo***)

Tillandsia (***baileyi proliferata***, ***concolor***, ***copanensis***, *correallii*, ***ionantha***, *pueblensis*, *stricta*)

Vriesea (***brusquensis***, ***declinata***, *ensiformis*, ***flammea***, *incurvata*, ***inflata***, Mariae, ***muelleri***, ***pardalina***, *poenulata*, ***procera***, *schwackeana*, ***scalaris***, *simplex*)

Murder in Corbin A

Part 3

© Robert Meyer

Speaking to Paul, while eyes were focused on the Florida driver's license provided by the night watchman, the small stature of the detective was not of any relative importance. He was the party in charge, and he had wished for control of the discussion with the cool deep utterances emanating from his cigar-stained voice.

"If you do not know her well, who do you think does know her well?"

Knowing that the membership of the BSSF was full of persons he knew by name, he was unsure who in the society could actually be described as someone to whom the question would beckon their name. "I can't tell you of anyone in particular?"

As this discussion of unknowns and lack of response grew from some knowledge of the deceased to a growing lack of knowledge about the deceased on almost any level, a knock on the door was made by the firm and apparently nerve-free knuckles of a subordinate. "Boss, I have something to show you."

"Wait right here." the two men of pronounced different heights stated in unison to Paul. And then the lead detective waddled to Corbin A, looked at the sheet, lifted it without straining too hard and very little bending of the waist or knee, and the subordinate pointed to the name badge of the deceased. Her name was 'Irene Standish.' And, then the subordinate pointed to her forearm, where numerous small cuts dotted it from wrist to elbow. Similar marks on the other

elbow. Scabs apparently formed on top of the smallest and strangely setting cuts, all of which brought rise to the otherwise furtive brow of the Boss. “What are these marks?” he asked of the chief emergency medical technician.

“No one knows. But, I am sure the answers will be delivered ever so soon by pathology.” And, at that time, each thought the same thing, hurry up with the evidentiary gathering procedure, finish the photographs, end all of the locations’ markings, send the body to the morgue, have it reviewed by the forensic members of the department, pray for a clue hidden in the deceased’s fingernails or elsewhere of the culprit’s DNA, and then proceed to the home of the DNA-defenseless felon – for the soft spoken delivery of Miranda rights accompanied by firm and intentionally aggressive cuffing of the DNA-chosen one.

While pensively going through the possibilities of those bizarre markings, the detective noticed something else – lying below the woman was plant material. It was brown in color on most levels, serrated at the edge, and about 4 inches in length. It was thick and flat, having been pressed for hours beneath the deceased’s weight, but was still strong and almost totally resilient to human force. It was almost nature’s perfect shank. Hard, sharp and serrated, it was capable of slicing, although with rough result, flesh or softer meat. A plastic bag was quickly summoned, delivered, opened with rubber glove, whereupon the object was picked up by another set of latex gloves, gently dropped into the plastic bag, closed and sealed, and marked by a sharpie wrote on the white siding – giving information of place, date and time the object was retrieved and placed into its baggie. “Give this to the coroner together with the body.”

A subordinate’s nod and retrieval of the baggie from his superior’s small hand affirmed the demand was understood, and the diminutive detective walked back to the other structure to see if he could obtain more information than a personal lack of knowledge from Paul. After all, until a suspect was retrieved, the case would be actionless, he would be incapable of making anyone squirm or even mildly suffer. He wanted to get some of his suffering quota out for the day. It would lower his blood pressure, make him happier, and even relax

him to a certain degree. As he re-entered the room, he said to Paul, “So I forgot what we were talking about. Why don’t we just start from the top.”

Get on (the) Board

Soon, there will be a gathering of the nomination committee as to next year’s Board and other officers. Show interest, and get your name on the slate.



The World Conference is Coming

WHAT: 19th World Conference

WHEN: July 26, 2010 - August 1, 2010

WHERE: New Orleans

Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel, 39 Canal St. in downtown New Orleans. The Astor Crown Plaza Hotel is conveniently located at the corner of Bourbon & Canal Streets

WHY: This is history, and maybe party too

INFO:

http://www.gnobromeliads.com/GNOBS_WBC2010.htm

Volunteer for Raffle Table

Contact Mike Michalski to be the party who delivers the plants for the raffle. Why? Two reasons – helps you clean out the yard, and you get to keep a piece of the pie. If you wish, you can donate your portion to the BSSF

Want to Write an Article

Write about anything that tickles your fancy. This is not a scientific journal, although Alan Herndon’s pieces are well worthy of publication in the same. Articles over the years have included humor and more. The common denominator has always been one simple item: bromeliads. Give it a whirl.

