



# BromeliA dvisory

**March 2012**

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

 [http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_188155814554155&ap=1](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_188155814554155&ap=1)

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

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**Raffle:** Mike Michalski  
**Refreshments:** Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

**MARCH 20, 2012 7:30 PM**

Speaker: Mike Michalski on Preparing Plants for the Show

RAFFLE TABLE: Mike Michalski

FOOD TABLE: Barbara Sparling, Sharon Maessen,

**Speaker for the Month: Mike Michalski  
 BRING IN PLANTS FOR MIKE TO  
 PREPARE FOR THE SHOW**

MIKE MICHALSKI. Mike will be showing us how to prepare plants for the April Show. But, this is NOT just a lecture. Bring in your plants and he will show us what and how to prepare the same. A FREE invitation to have an expert prepare your plant for the show. So come early and bring many plants.

Don't be bashful. Mike will work on ALL plants delivered

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## President's Message by Carl Bauer

Even in semi-tropical South Florida, where it is always green, when Spring arrives, it is impressive! New growth abounds and our annual battle for control of the garden has begun. Get after it now.

We had a wonderful lunch honoring our long time members at Sandy Roth's home on March 3rd. Nat DeLeon, Moyna Prince, Elaine and Bob Miles, Winnie Lynch, Kris and Karl Green were all in attendance. Thank you Sandy-Our "hostest with the mostest"!

Please be prepared to allocate some time to Society activities at the Show on April 19-22. We will be passing out volunteer sign-up sheets at the March meeting. While we do have our regular meeting on April 17 that is close to the show and will mostly be a "social". We will be taking an Evening tram tour of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and this year's artwork beginning at 7:30 PM. Getting volunteer commitments will be a little more difficult.

See you at the Meeting.

*Carl Bauer*

## In Case You Missed It by Robert Meyer

Dennis Cathcart came to our confines to give a speech entitled, "Remembering Wally Berg" but the majority of the show was an impressive photojournal of what one could call, "Dennis Cathcart's Travels with Wally Berg."

The brotherly love between Dennis Cathcart and Wally Berg commenced in a most peculiar way. Wally Berg, after selling an Ace Hardware Store business in Ohio, moved to Florida and soon learned about tropical zone's bromeliad. Not much later, Wally Berg found a local business called Tropiflora and visited daily to buy plants. Dennis Cathcart never knew what Wally Berg was doing, and Wally Berg told him that one day he would show him.

Wally Berg eventually showed Dennis Cathcart a yard that was impeccably gardened and divergent with species. Wally Berg had the "bug." But, he wanted more.

Wally Berg kept nudging Dennis Cathcart that he would carry his bags on one of Dennis Cathcart's trips to Latin America. One day, a person had to scratch his trip with Cathcart, and with only a week's notice Dennis Cathcart invited Wally Berg. Wally Berg took the opportunity. Several decades later, and more than 20 Wally Berg-accompanied trips, Dennis Cathcart had compiled significant photos of the two men in the woods of South America.

Wally Berg was not an immediate lover of the foreign cultural diet – the first few times he ate eggs only. But, Wally Berg was a camper – willing to accept the rugged terrain accompanying their adventures. Dennis Cathcart showed some amazing photos – trees falling in the middle of the roads, mud slides doing same, seismic moving of entire highways, mud roads many feet underwater with wet rains, rustic rafts for crossing creeks, narrow mountainside roads without strict engineering guidelines or guards, wood expansion bridges for cars that look like they would swing with a mild wind, and mud-swallowing glump in a typical dirt road that engulfs even the most tested Range Rovers.

At the end, Dennis Cathcart showed some almost poetically delivered goodbye photos to his dear friend – perhaps best friend. Dennis Cathcart's quivering voice at the meeting's conclusion showed that Dennis Cathcart's heartfelt emotions remain true today, more than a decade since Wally Berg's death. All in attendance were touched.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Wally Berg's adventure have grown into the Wally Berg Award. "Wally's high esteem was reflected in a number of bromeliads being named after him: the natural hybrid *Tillandsia x bergiana Takizawa & Koide*, *Pitcairnia bergii* Luther, *Guzmania bergii* Luther, *Neoregelia 'Wally Berg'* (hybridist Odean Head) and the Berg wild-collected form of *Aechmea blanchetiana*, named 'Wally Berg' by John Anderson" BSI web page. Photos of the "Berg Cage" can be found at <http://www.fcbs.org/pictures/bergcage.htm> and some of his travels at <http://www.fcbs.org/pictures/habitat/habitat.htm>.

## **The Winter That Almost Wasn't**

by Alan Herndon

Winter came in hard on the heels of the new year. Just a few days in, we were faced with a precipitous drop in temperature. This cold front was very atypical in its behavior. Normally, we see a steady decline in temperature throughout the night with any freezing temperatures coming in the early hours of the morning and the coldest readings just as the sun is beginning to show over the horizon. In this cold front, the temperature in the agricultural area near Homestead fell below 40 F about 8 PM. By the time I reached our nursery (10 PM), our thermometers were reading 34-35 F. At that point, I lit the heater in the greenhouse and turned on the water in the shade houses and went inside.

I did not have a thermometer that was not affected by our cold protection measures, so I could not keep track of temperature changes through the rest of the night; but, it never seemed quite as cold when I went out to check later. This impression matched what was happening with the temperatures recorded at the TREC (University of Florida agricultural research) station near Homestead. Temperatures there were in the 35-36 F range around 11 PM, but had 'warmed' up to 40 F by 5 AM. We had some ice on the windshield of the truck and a few small patches of frost in the yard. Despite this apparent moderation, it was cold enough to kill the cold-sensitive weeds in the lawn. Fortunately, most of you are in areas where the temperature did not reach such low levels, so most of our plants were only slightly affected.

Despite this brief incursion of cold, our winter has been remarkably warm. After about two weeks of seasonable temperature, we have consistently had temperatures several degrees in excess of normal averages for this time of year. In other words, it is more like spring than winter. Of course, we could still find ourselves facing a freeze during the month, but time is rapidly running out. By the middle of February, our native plants start to show rapid growth because freezes rarely occur so late.

Due to this warm spell, our plants have grown more actively than normal over winter. Of course, soil temperatures in our pots fell enough during the brief cold period to slow down root growth and (especially) root initiation. Our current air temperatures are still not high enough

to raise the soil temperature, so you can still anticipate a marked "spring flush" as the temperatures rise over the few more weeks.

## **Global Warming – Or Climate Change?**

By Robert Meyer

"There are lies, damn lies, and then there are statistics." Below are some statistics about this winter – some of which may influence our summer.

In our nation's capitol: Reagan National posted its 3rd warmest winter of all time. This is behind the 1931-32 and 1889-90 winters. Thurgood Marshall recorded its 7th warmest winter of all time and the warmest winter since 1949-50. Dulles Airport recorded 3.1 inches of snow this winter. The lowest snowfall recorded there was 0.3 inches in 1972-73. If no additional snowfall is measured, then it would be the 3rd least snowiest on record. The daily maximum temperature at Reagan National was above freezing on all but one day this winter.

Is this Global Warming as warnings persisted to tell us in newsprint and cinema for the past two to three decades? Maybe.

"With global warming as a trend, we've seen temperatures rise [over the past 50 years] ... so to a certain degree, global warming contributes," Arthur DeGaetano at the Northeast Regional Climate Center said."

In addition to Washington D.C.'s temperate winter weather, New York City's February 2012 was its warmest – tied with 1984 at 40.9 degrees average. In tundra-chilling Fargo, North Dakota, the January 4 high temperature of 55 established a new record for the warmest January day on record

Tornados in February were devastating and almost limitless. During those events, the exceptionally warm air set record high temperatures at 28 airports in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Georgia the afternoon of the tornado outbreak (March 2, 2012). Global warming? The experts are uncertain, and research is being done throughout the nation to see if the suspected Global Warming is the cause of the increasing tornados which we have witnessed in 2011 and already in 2012.

Other usual suspects for these weather idiosyncratic events include the sun. There are links between solar activity, sunspots, positive values and arctic sea ice loss. But, like the Global Warming hypothesis, this year's weather events' relationship to sunspots aren't clear.

Also, there is polar containment. What is that, you may ask. According to DeGaetano, the primary cause of these strange meteorological events may be due to a phenomenon called Positive Arctic Oscillation (PAO) affecting the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) – low air pressure in the Arctic region creates a jet stream that blocks cold air from leaving. Explained easily by DeGaetano, “The jet stream acts like a fence or wall that confines the air ... and doesn't allow the cold to come down over most of the [United States].” He added, “We can't say there's just one ingredient (Global Warming or PAO), but the oscillation is the primary one.”

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) cites Arctic Oscillation as a “wild card” influence that could result in large short-term swings in temperatures this winter. According to Mike Halpert of NOAA, “The erratic Arctic Oscillation can generate strong shifts in the climate patterns that could overwhelm or amplify La Niña's typical impacts.”

From July 2010 through May 2011, La Niña has largely influenced our weather. La Nina is represented by a cooling of the eastern equatorial and central Pacific Ocean. A typical La Niña influences the United States' weather by influencing dry conditions and above-average temperatures over the southern tier of the United States, and wet and cooler-than-average conditions rule over the Pacific Northwest – while above-average precipitation parks itself over the Ohio Valley.

The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) earlier this month reported that while all of the latest Niño index values were generally near average, therefore blame could be neither El Niño nor La Niña. The atmospheric patterns continue to reflect La Niña-like conditions – but not overwhelming La Niña conditions.

Surface sea temperatures also reflect the strengthening of the below-average temperatures at depth in the east-central Pacific Ocean, according to the CPC. Are we safe? No one

knows.

March is the meteorological Spring. Now that Winter is meteorologically behind us, what should we expect for this summer? Again, no one can answer. Even the experts cannot answer this question. Much more has to be learned. But, the statistics of the recent years show great changes which arouse the experts' suspicions.

## **Garden notes - Feb 2012**

by Alan Herndon

No sooner did I comment on the dry conditions in our gardens last month than we experienced about 5 days of rainy weather during the middle of the 'dry season' with rainfall totals above 10 inches in parts of southern Florida. Our rainfall totals at the nursery were closer to 6 inches. Although unusual, similar events have occurred during past La Nina cycles. About 10 years ago, we had an 'enhanced' version of this recent rainy period. That time, the rains lasted 7 days and were more frequent within that period, so we had over a week where nothing had any chance to dry out. However, I don't remember the rainfall totals being much higher.

In any case, the rain provided welcome relief to the many parched bromeliads in the landscape. Many plants with curled leaves sprang back to life and quickly regained normal color. If not for the plentiful remains of rosettes that did not survive to see the rain and the greater than normal number of dead leaves at the base of each surviving rosette, a visitor might not realize the extreme stress our plants were subjected to so recently.

Unfortunately, there is a lot more dry season remaining. In most years, summer rains would start to appear between the middle of May and the middle of June. The hardest part for our plants is the period we are in now with low humidities, increasing air temperatures and frequent windy conditions. A week without rain (or watering) under these conditions will deplete the water reserves of bromeliads grown as epiphytes. As we get closer to the onset of summer rains, the winds will die down. This is a less stressful period for plants even though the air temperature will still be rising, but it is a good idea to keep watching for signs of water stress among your plants until rains become

consistent.

Rain or no, spring has arrived for our plants. Winter blooming plants are often still flowering, and large numbers of new species are starting to bloom.

We start our enumeration, as usual, with *Aechmea chantinii*. Very few plants of this species are in bloom this month, but many are showing signs of impending flowers. *Aechmea araneosa* continued to bloom into February. Several members of *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* flowered during the month. One pot of *Aechmea comata* was flowering for the second time this blooming season while another pot was flowering for the first time. *Aechmea caudata* and *Aechmea recurvata recurvata* were both blooming for the first time this year. *Aechmea bracteata* finished blooming during February.

Two closely related species: *Aechmea bromeliifolia* and *Aechmea maculata* bloomed in February. Individual inflorescences on both are short-lived. Most clones of *Aechmea weilbachii* were also in bloom, in almost every case for the second time during this blooming season. It might be noted that it is not always easy to spot *Aechmea weilbachii penduliflora* in bloom since the inflorescences tend to be at, or even below, the level of the benchtop. Even though the bracts and flowers have good color in bloom, they are easy to miss amid the confusion of leaves and pots.

*Aechmea warasii* is another plant with pendulous inflorescences that may be tough to spot when growing in crowded conditions, but it was also blooming in February. Two members of the *Aechmea orlandiana* complex: *Aechmea fosteriana* and *Aechmea milsteiniana* were still in bloom near the end of the month, although they appear nearing the end.

Two of the species blooming for the first time this month, *Aechmea pineliana* and *Aechmea alopecurus* belong to *Aechmea* subgenus *Pothuava* with *Aechmea roberto-anselmoi* and *Aechmea nudicaulis*. The inflorescences on the two former species look very much like elongated pincushions. Flowers are tightly packed and long, stiff, sharp spines from the tips of the floral bracts stick straight out, forming a phalanx of spears defending the

flowers. *Aechmea roberto-anselmoi* also has the tightly packed flowers, but lack significant armament. In *Aechmea nudicaulis*, some clones have tightly packed flowers, others have flowers widely separated from one another, but none have the spear-tipped floral bracts. To be fair, *Aechmea nudicaulis* largely makes up for this by the especially ferocious spines set along the edges of the leaves. At any rate, several clones of *Aechmea nudicaulis* bloomed during the month. Usually, all plants of the same clone bloomed within a short period of each other. .

*Androlepis skinneri*, both the pistillate and staminate plants, continued to bloom throughout February, but new inflorescences to replace those already present are no longer appearing.

Many more plants of *Billbergia* species and hybrids are blooming now than in January. Among species, the various clones of *Billbergia amoena* are still the most commonly seen in flower. Most of the hybrids have been blooming in groups. All blooming size plants of a given hybrid bloom within a short period.. *Billbergia* 'Hallelujah', however, has continued the pattern established during the last several months. Among dozens of appropriately sized rosettes, only one produces an inflorescence each month.

*Canistropsis seidelii* continued to bloom in February. *Canistrum sandrae* was also found in flower this month.

I was fortunate to spot *Cryptanthus warasii* in bloom during the month. The flowers of this species are small and white, They don't stand out much against the silvery leaves.

*Deuterocohnia lorentziana* is less frequently grown than most of the other plants discussed here. It is a true succulent with shiny green leaves. The flowers, green in color, do not stand out from the leaves. You have to look for them.

*Edmundoa lindenii* (in this case, the clone with green petals) was also found in bloom. We can expect this plant to stay on the list for several months. *Guzmania ronhoffiana* began to bloom this month. It joined various clones of *Guzmania minor* in flower.

*Neoregelia compacta* and the closely related *Neoregelia macwilliamsii* have both started to bloom heavily. Among the miniature *Neoregelia* species, the plant we know as the red form of *Neoregelia punctatissima* was also spotted in flower.

Among the species of *Orthoephytum*, most of the blooming plants have been in flower for months already. *Orthoephytum lymaniana* and the similar *Orthoephytum horridum* are good examples. A single rosette can remain in flower for well over six months. Within that period, offsets of the original rosette usually reach blooming size and flower themselves. *Orthoephytum alvimii* also boasts a long period of flower production. In this species, the offsets seem to grow faster, so you usually have two generations of plants in flower within the same pot. Among the more typical examples of the *Orthoephytum disjunctum* group, *Orthoephytum disjunctum* and *Orthoephytum leprosum*, the mother plants do not have the same longevity, but the offsets grow more rapidly, so you can still have overlapping generations in bloom. *Orthoephytum saxicola* only began blooming last month. The flowers present now are on blooming size pups growing from the base of the original plant. For this year, the first plant of *Orthoephytum lemei* has produced open flowers in February, along with several plants of *Orthoephytum magalhaesii*

*Pitcairnia smithiorum* continued to bloom through the end of the month, although it appears to be nearing the end.

Yet another clump of *Portea 'petropolitana petropolitana'* has been blooming during this month. In the meantime, clones of *Portea alatisepala* have continued to bloom heavily. Individual rosettes of *Portea alatisepala* do not have long-lived blooms, but in clumps, the rosettes tend to bloom at slightly different times. Three less common species were also in bloom this month; *Portea kermesina* (the type species of the genus), *Portea nana* and, right at the end of the month, *Portea grandiflora*.

*Quesnelia strobilospica* and *Quesnelia humilis* made brief appearances in the blooming roster. *Ronnbergia brasiliensis* finished blooming in February.

Several species in *Tillandsia* subgenus

*Anoplophytum*: including clones of *Tillandsia araujei*, *Tillandsia polzii*, *Tillandsia stricta*, *Tillandsia tenuifolia* and *Tillandsia didisticha* bloomed during the month. A few clumps of *Tillandsia ionantha* were seen in bloom near the beginning of the month, but seem to have since gotten the message that their blooming period has past. *Tillandsia chiapensis* continued to bloom throughout the month. Flowers were also seen on *Tillandsia fasciculata*, *Tillandsia leonamiana*, *Tillandsia rodriguezii* and *Tillandsia dodsonii* during February. *Tillandsia festucoides*, *Tillandsia bulbosa* and *Tillandsia pseudo-baileyi*, also continued to bloom.

All of the species of *Vriesea* in bloom last month, continued through February. *Vriesea carinata*, *Vriesea agostiniana*, *Vriesea barilettii* and *Vriesea 'Splendore'* show every sign of blooming into and possibly through March.

Keep your garden hoses ready, and prepare for some great growing weather over the next several months.

### Garage Sale Reminder

We are collecting household goods, books, furniture, plants, antiques, jewelry, that old car or boat (one can only hope) for a garage sale. The date of the sale is to be determined. Call Barbara Partagas in Roster – or email her at [bpartagas@bellsouth.net](mailto:bpartagas@bellsouth.net). to pledge items. Do not bring items in just yet. ALL proceeds go to the Society.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March 16-18, 2012

Metropolitan Miami Flower Show, Inc.  
10301 Sunset Drive (Elk's Club)

Free Admission

Design Exhibits permitted – call Gloria Meeks at 305.264.8054

Friday 3-8PM

Sat: 10 AM to 8PM

Sun: 10 AM to 4PM

Classes offered – info at [Ebmill9@aol.com](mailto:Ebmill9@aol.com)

### March 17, 2012

Leu Gardens Show  
1920 N Forest Ave  
Orlando, FL

**March 24-25, 2012**

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens Spring Garden Festival.  
4700 SW 58th Dr.  
Gainesville  
Admission - \$8 for adults.  
<http://www.kanapaha.org/calendar.htm>

**March 24, 2012**

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Fest 2012  
Free parking and admission.  
Volunteer Park in Plantation  
12050 W. Sunrise Blvd.  
Plantation, FL 33232  
<http://www.bromeliadsocietybc.com/>  
OR  
<http://www.garden-share.com/events/garden-fest-of-broward-county>

**March 24, 2012**

Greenfest at University of Tampa  
<http://www.greenfest.org/>

**March 30 – April 1, 2012**

Tropiflora Spring Festival.  
3530 Tallevast Rd.  
Sarasota.  
<http://www.tropiflora.com/>

**April 7-8, 2012**

Flamingo Gardens Orchid & Bromeliad Expo & Sale  
3750 South Flamingo Road  
Davie, FL 33330  
<http://www.flamingogardens.org/>

**April 14 – 15, 2012**

The Food and Garden Festival Featuring the 33rd Annual  
Spring Plant Sale – Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden  
9:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
<http://ftbg.org/Events/?date=04-2012&eventID=575>

**April 14 – 15, 2012**

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society plant sale  
Sanford Garden Club

**April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

ECBS Garden Ramble

**April 21-22, 2012**

**BSSF Annual Sale**

10901 Old Cutler Rd.  
Miami, FL 33156.  
9:30 am - 4:30 pm.  
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=2012-04&eventid=636>  
OR  
<http://bssf-miami.org/>

**NOTE:***The Annual Show will be upon us less than two months from now. At the February meeting, many of the show committee chairs will be ready to start enrolling volunteers. There are*

*abundant jobs available in the sales area (outside), the show room (inside), plant holding and catering.*

**April 21, 2012**

Master Gardener's Sale  
Volusia County Fairgrounds  
Deland

**April 21-22, 2012**

The Sarasota Bromeliad Society  
30th Annual Show  
Manatee Convention and Civic Center  
1 Haben Blvd., Palmetto, FL 3422  
\$2 admission  
9-5 Saturday, 10-4 Sunday.  
Call 941-538-2174 for information

**April 21<sup>st</sup>-April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012**

Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Show  
Fairchild Gardens, Coral Gables  
<http://bssf-miami.org/>

**April 21-22 2012**

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Show  
Tampa

**April 28-29, 2012**

Mounts Botanical Garden Spring Plant Sale  
Mounts Botanical Garden  
559 N. Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL  
<http://www.mounts.org/>  
<http://www.mounts.org/calendar.asp?month=4&year=2012>

**May 12-13, 2012**

Central Florida Bromeliad Society Mother's Day  
Fashion Square Mall, Orlando  
<http://mybscf.org/>

**May 12-14, 2012**

Redland International Orchid Show  
24801 S.W. 187th Avenue  
Homestead, FL  
<http://www.redlandorchidfestival.org>

**September 24th-30th**

**20th World Conference – Orlandiana '12**

The Caribe Royal,  
8101 World Center,  
Orlando, FL 32821  
Check out the BSI website  
<http://www.bsi.org/events/2012/Orlando2012.html>

or the Florida Council Website for the latest information.

<http://fcbs.org/>

## MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

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

### 42.

Rodriguez too had a night out with his favorite mistress – a game of poker. This night was again with the bromeliads,. Although the game was not for good money, the food spread was always first rate and the beers were unlimited and cold.

Rodriguez had played well that night. Some advantages to luck and when ahead he splurged hoping to lose so that others could stay in the game long enough for him to legitimately swallow down 10 beers without looking like a pig.

He had won some rare *Vrissea*, some idyllic *Alcantera*, and even a few bright red *Neoregelias* which the losers delivered to him with sorrow in the parting. Eventually, the bets were devoid of plants and things like tool belts, clippers, fertilizers and other chemicals were included. And, irrespective of the bets being for different loot, the results continued to be in favor of Rodriguez who knew little about some his earnings, and even less than he knew about the plants.

Eventually, the game was resolved. And, Rodrgiueuz asked a few to help him understand the application of the chemicals. How to avoid a burn. How to avoid killing a plant with what he thought would be otherwise a good thing for the plant.

“Watch out for that one in the white bottle.” said Smith.

“Why?” asked Rodriguez not knowing a thing.

“Stuff is toxic. May even be carcinogenic. Tough to work with. And, some people say you need a license to use it.”

“Thanks, you bet my plant against a bottle of cancer causing liquid. You lose, now I get the cancer causing liquid. Something seems wrong with that bet.”

“No, it was a great bet. Stuff ain’t cheap. Just not my cup of tea. I got it from someone else who uses it a lot. I am too chicken to play with the stuff – I

Rates to attend the World Conference increase as time elapses. Before March 1, 2012 – \$160.00; March 1, 2012-August 24, 2012: \$175.00, and \$200.00 at the door

am like that kid who won’t play with firecrackers as they can be harmful. You got something of value, just be careful when you use it.”

“Know anyone who can help me in not hurting myself with the stuff?”

“Sure.” Said Stan Gorts as he collected the chips and other items. “Talk to me tomorrow or another day. I am getting too tired and need to clean up or there will be divorce papers on the bed in the morning for the irresponsible behavior of me and friends over the simple task of cleaning up our plates and cans.”

At this time, Rodriguez saw the mountain of aluminum next to his chair, blushed lightly, and found an excuse for a quick departure with plants and cancer-causing liquids in tow.

### 43.

“Okay Whiz Kid, whatchya got for me?” Boss asked Joshua in his attempted charming manenr.

“Florel.” Joshua said.

“And in English, what does that mean?” Boss asked. At this time he was feeling like this discussion would digress to name calling for use by the knowledgeable only – akin to what he experience the first time he met the bromeliad folk.

“Florel. A poison.” Joshua said with a grin. Upon seeing the blank stare from Boss, he continued. “Not just any poison. A tree hugger’s poison.” At this point Joshua was attempting to speak a language the Boss would understand. “According to its label Florel is ‘For Inducing Flowering of Ornamental Bromeliads.’ Its active ingredient is Ethephon (2-chloroethyl) phosphonic acid. It is harmful if absorbed through skin. It is known to cause moderate eye irritation. Users are told to avoid contact with skin, eyes or clothing. And users are told to discard clothing and other absorbent materials that have been drenched or heavily contaminated with this product’s concentrate. If drunk, you could burn the esophagus. But not here. If in the blood, other bad things can happen. And, that is a positive here. Not, a life-and-death bad thing, but evidence of something bad happening. I saw the wound area had plant material, and it came the same for each – *Aechmea stricta*. A plant not to hug – like the cactus of the bromeliad family. Leaves wounds just in touching it. Has spurs as sharp as cat claws. Nasty thing, and not something I want in my back – and maybe the actual object that did the stabbing. But, this plant also has Florel. As did the Judge’s plant. That is the discovery.”

“Let me get this straight. Two people are dead with some over-the-counter agent called Florel which any

Tom, Dick or Harry the treehugger could buy and apply to his freakin bromeliads so they grow bigger and better than his freakin neighbor and which produce the biggest plant to win the big ribbon at the county fair. That makes news to you?" Boss was not happy.

"No. No. This is not a poison for the masses. It is not sold anywhere. It is restricted. And, if you go to your bromeliad brothers and ask who uses this stuff, many do not as rumors are out there that this stuff is a carcinogen. This is not pig poop from the Iowa farms. This is used in moderation; if overused by any village idiot, his garden will light up at night like Times Square – only a man made product could be so wondrous. And, if they tell you to chuck the clothes, think about the problems with the stuff in the skin, especially after repeated use. I would not touch the stuff."

### MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR WORLD CONFERENCE NOW

You can gatehr the information readily from the internet – go to <http://www.bsi.org/events/2012/Orlando2012.html> #HOTEL%20INFORMATION

It is at the Caribe Royale Hotel, 407-238-8000. Reservations can be made on-line at <http://www.thecaribeorlando.com/caribe-royale/>

### Memoriam List Needed

This World Conference will include a memoriam by many societies of past members of the BSI or your society (which is a memebr of the BSI) who contributed to the world of bromeliads.

If you can think of any deceased members who valuably contributed to the BSSF – please contact Robert Meyer at [meyerrobertc@cs.com](mailto:meyerrobertc@cs.com). Give him the name of the person you think should be remembered, and what accomplishments you remember having been performed by that person.

### Crystal Crystal Little Doll

Anyone who can donate crystal to the show would be a blessed soul. A need for crystal for this year's show is greater than usual and any of those who are tired of the troublesome dusting required for your past events' trophies may rest assured that the BSSF will relieve you of that duty by merely donating your crystal to Barbara Sparling. Contact Barbara – who is in the book – or walk up to her at the meeting, and say, "Save me from the dusting."

### Join The BSI for Greatedned Benefits

The BSI's web page has greatly grown.

As a member you can reach into its web=page banks and read past BSI Journals, obtain detailed taxonomy items, purchase goodies at the BSI store, obtain seed from its seed bank, and more. A full list can be found at [http://www.bsi.org/bsi\\_info/benefits.html](http://www.bsi.org/bsi_info/benefits.html)



### Bad Bromeliad Jokes Are there Good Ones?

Benny the Bromeliad: "When Bromeliads die, why don't they bury them in graves?"

Bonnie the Bromeliad: "Why, because they put them in Cryptanthus!"

.....

"Did you hear about the argument between a Tillandsia and a Bromeliad over the best seat on the branch?... (no) ...one jumped on the other and it turned into an epiphyte."

.....



**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
2012 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)    G Yes    G No  
E-mail BromeliA dvisory? (Y/N)            G Yes    G 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, 2012 to February 28, 2013.

Check the category:

- G Single membership ..... \$25.00
- G Dual membership ..... \$35.00

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

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

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

**Or E-Mail this form to:**  
melodyluna@hotmail.com