



# BromeliA dvisory

**November 2012**

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

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

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

President      Carl Bauer  
 VP:             Barbara Partagas  
 Treasurer:     Alan Herndon  
 Secretary:     Lori Weyrick

## DIRECTORS

Past Pres.: Robert Meyer

Directors:

    Urszula Dudek '12-'13  
     Lenny Goldstein '12-'13  
     Sandy Roth '11-'12

## Editor

Robert C Meyer

**Door Prize:** Alan Herndon

**Education:** Nat DeLeon

**Hospitality:** Elaine Mills

**Library:** Skye Palmer

**Membership:** Melody Ray

**Mem. Plant Sales:** Antonio Arbelaez

**Raffle:** Mike Michalski

**Refreshments:** Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

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

Speaker: Learn about your Bromeliad ancillaries – BSI (Alan Herndon), FCBS (Pepe Donayre), and www of Bromeliads (Robert Meyer)

RAFFLE TABLE: Pepe Donayre

FOOD: Usual Suspects – No one signed up, so volunteers will be greatly appreciated

## ELECTION TIME, AGAIN?

Usually this spot is a biography of the speakers, but the people speaking are well known to the society and have disclosed far too much already. So, let us use this place for valuable information: a contested election. You have six people vying for three spots on the Director's slate. Secret ballots will be handed out. You **MUST BE PRESENT** in order to vote. The By-laws prohibit proxy voting. Hopefully three obtain a majority vote of those present (another By-law requirement) at the first casting. If not, we will need to send a second ballot. Do not let your BSSF democratic rights go to waste. Attend the meeting to cast your rights.

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## President's Message

by Carl Bauer

Our auction results were great! At my last count we deposited \$3844 to our bank account.

Many thanks to all. SANDY and crew delivered first class food [which was quickly devoured], the "runners" kept up only by extraordinary effort and only ROBERT remained unflappable as the sales slips poured in and then the payments. Never a hitch.

And then, our auctioneer - PETER. His was an amazing performance. Thank you, Peter!

This month we will be voting for a new slate of officers for BSSF. Further nominations will be accepted at the meeting and we will then have a secret ballot election. A majority vote of the members present at the meeting shall constitute a valid election. Please attend the meeting and vote!

Our annual Holiday Party will be held at Fairchild on December 18th. As usual we can expect great food and some lovely plants to take home.

Make sure you mark this Gala Event on your calendar.

See you at the meeting,  
*Carl Bauer*

## This Election Season is Not Over Yet

We have a contested election in the BSSF. That means your vote will count. This year, we have one last chance to nominate a party at the November meeting.

You can add names to this slate, if you feel inclined. This will be true for November as well [Article VII, Section 1]– but the formal ballots are better made if the names are on by October's nomination.

The actual ballot is at the "Annual Meeting." Article VII, section 2. The Annual Meeting is the regular meeting of November. Article VI, section 3. Because the ballot already has more names than slots, there will be a secret ballot. Article

VII, section 2.

THE PRESENT SLATE IS:

### ELECTION SLATE

Pres.: Barbara Partagas

VP: Lenny Goldstein

Treas.: Alan Herndon

Sec.: Peggy Fisher

Past Pres.: Carl Bauer (not election)

Board

Renewed:

Urszula Dudek [2012-2014]

New (Vote for 3)

Maureen Adelman

Laura Coe

John Lazarus

Sharon Maessen

Joy Parrish

Lori Weyrick

## Garden Notes - Oct 2012

by Alan Herndon

Temperatures have fallen drastically from their summer peaks, although sunny afternoons can still reach the 80's. By the last week of the month, we had a few days that might even be considered chilly (apologies to those living in climates where temperatures are truly chilly; but our bodies are still anticipating oppressive heat.). This change in temperature has sparked a notable change in the foliage color of most bromeliads. Plants that have been green during a period of rapid growth throughout the summer are beginning to take on their true colors, and almost all species grown for foliage color look brighter.

The start of our dry season, normally coming with the cooler weather, was delayed by the rains of Hurricane Sandy near the end of the month. This late rainfall was a major help to our plants, but, with the dry conditions, temperatures still reaching the eighties and elevated winds we can expect henceforth, you need to pay close attention to watering. Keep watch on the soil and water before it gets too dry. Watch for any signs of water stress in your

garden. Temperatures have not yet fallen to the point where plant growth has stopped, so you can get some extra growth by making sure they have enough water now. Of course, we will eventually reach a point where plant growth stops during this 'winter' season. Then you will need to cut back drastically on water. Unfortunately, we can't predict when this will happen, so you need to keep an eye on your own plants.

Our fall and winter bloomers are beginning to assert themselves. First, let me say that, *as expected*, one clone of *Tillandsia ionantha* (!) was seen in bloom. Aside from that, the first few members of *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* are flowering to mark the start of their season. Developing inflorescences on species of *Canistropsis* and *Nidularium* presage their blooming in coming weeks.

*Aechmea chantinii* has continued to bloom along with *Aechmea ramosa*. I was premature in dropping *Aechmea disjuncta* from the flowering list last month. The very large form is still producing flowers – never more than one at a time – and I simply missed it in September. *Aechmea mexicana* was first seen in flower recently, although it could easily have been overlooked in flower last month. Other newly flowering species were *Aechmea gracilis* and *Aechmea winkleri* (both from *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia*), joined by *Aechmea purpureo-rosea*. *Aechmea purpureo-rosea* grows in the shape of a tall, thin vase with shiny, dark green leaves. The plant is strongly stoloniferous, and is best displayed growing on wood or in a hanging basket. *Aechmea corymbosa* also began and finished flowering within the month.

There has been a decided increase in the number of *Billbergia* 'Hallelujah' coming into flower this month. I don't have all of the plants coming into bloom, but probably 30% of the flowering size plants were in flower during the month. I expect the offsets of these blooming plants to flower

themselves within 3 months. So far, I have not seen other *Billbergia* species flower in my collection, but many species have already bloomed for Karl Green.

The plant of *Guzmania sanguinea* reported for September continued to flower briefly into October. Another plant of this species also flowered in October.

Two miniature species of *Neoregelia* were seen in bloom during the month. *Neoregelia crispata*, a largely green clone that shows no color associated with the inflorescence, and *Neoregelia smithii*, a species marked by purple spots over most of the leaves. The colors on *Neoregelia smithii* intensify during the bloom, especially in a ring surrounding the inflorescence.



*Aechmea chantinii* v. special  
hummingbird attractor  
Photo By Alan Herndon

A final rosette of *Orthophytum ophiuroides* was in bloom this month. Also in flower were *Orthophytum gurkenii*, *Orthophytum lymaniana*, *Orthophytum conquistense*, *Orthophytum alvimii* and *Orthophytum sucrei*.

*Tillandsia harrissii* continued to produce a few flowers during the month, and, as noted above, a single clone of *Tillandsia ionantha* was seen in flower. *Tillandsia vernicosa* also continued to bloom. I have not actually seen flowers on *Tillandsia klausii* this month, but there are several fresh, growing inflorescences on the plants,

so, if it didn't bloom this month, it will soon.

Several plants of *Vriesea correia-araujoii* that did not participate in the flowering back in July came into bloom this month. The clone of *Vriesea rodigasiana* collected by Karl Green in Brazil, also continued to bloom.

Hummingbirds have returned to our area. I had the privilege of watching three of these little demons fighting over access to a particular

flowering *Aechmea chantinii*. The *Aechmea chantinii* (possibly the cultivar Albright's Red, but I got it without name) stood out in comparison to nearby smaller, non-blooming plants, although the trio of hummers did not seem to notice several other larger, flowering *chantinii*'s just a few steps away. They faced off near this particular plant. They would hover (sometimes in pairs, sometimes all three), facing each other, several feet apart for several seconds. Then one would make a quick dash towards another. At closest approach, the humming sounds of their wings changed for an instant, as if their wings actually touched. After several minutes of this, first one, then another combatant abandoned the field, leaving the victor in full control of the prize.



*Cryptanthus Bivittatus*

Enjoy your bromeliads for the next few months while they have their best foliage colors. It is also a good time to be out in the garden, cleaning up around your plants. If you are growing *Cryptanthus*, it would be a good time to start planning how to protect them during cold spells. Just remember that a cool, dry wind will burn the leaves of these plants overnight, even if the temperatures are well above freezing. But, no matter what the winter brings, we should enjoy our plants now and look forward to new growth in spring.

## BSSF Auction Roundup

by Alan Herndon

With a small, but enthusiastic crowd of bidders and some splendid plants to bid on, our annual auction was a welcome success.

As usual, many volunteers helped make the evenings a success. Peter Kouchalakos must be mentioned first due to his heroic performance as auctioneer. The small crowd displayed the customary resistance to bidding freely at the start, but Peter kept working on them, and once bidding had reached reasonable levels, kept the pace up through the entire auction. Even Peter

could not keep Mike Michalski out the action for the entire evening. Mike auctioned his own plants in his own way.

This year, his way meant including a *Guzmania sanguinea* seedling (starting to develop color) as extra incentive to bid on a selection of his hybrids. Sandy Roth and several generous donors provided sustenance to keep up bidder's strength. Carl Bauer and Robert Meyer handled the registration of bidders and collection of money. Antonio Arbelaez, Desiree Meyer and Barbara Sparling kept the auctioned plants organized in coherent groups for easy retrieval within the Holding Room, and were able to connect the

successful bidders with the plants efficiently. Peggy Fisher and Rhonda Herndon recorded bids, making sure the successful bidders, the plant headed for the Holding Room and the money men in back (Carl and Robert) each received the correct tickets.

As in years past, local commercial nurseries donated plants to help support BSSF. We also need to thank the BSSF members who solicited the donations and delivered the plants to the Auction. Karl Green brought in the donation from Bullis Bromeliads. Peter Kouchalakos brought in plants from Plants in Design. Mike Michalski delivered plants from County Garden Nursery (Leo and Maricela Castro).

Several BSSF members with large collections also donated many plants. Steve Correalle, although unable to attend in person, sent a significant collection of his *Tillandsia* hybrids via Robert Meyer. Karl Green brought in a diverse array of unusual species.

Dr. Jeff Block donated some of his spectacular plants (delivered by Carl Bauer). Miguel Nicolas donated what were, by far, the two largest plants in the auction. A red clone of *Alcantarea imperialis*, and the Wally Berg clone of *Alcantarea extensa*. Suffice it to say, that these were not plants you wanted to hold up for

the audience to see during the bidding.

In the end, the plants were all sent to new, loving homes and the BSSF treasury increased by a little over \$3,800. This was more than \$1,000 above last years result.

Many thanks to all those who participated by donating plants and/or food, helping the Auction run smoothly, and/or bidding on the offered plants. As mentioned many times before, the auction is our primary annual fund-raising event, and a successful auction allows our society to engage in bigger projects aimed at helping more people discover the joys of bromeliads.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 9-11, 2012**

RAMBLE

FTBG

9:30 - 4:30

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=11-2012&eventID=701>

**November 17, 2012**

Naples Botanical Garden

4820 Bayshore Dr.

Naples, FL 34112

[www.naplesgarden.org/](http://www.naplesgarden.org/)

**December 1-2, 2012**

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad

Society Sale

Terry Park

3451 Marion Street

Fort Myers, FL

**December 1-2, 2012**

Key West Garden Sale

Where White Street meets  
the Atlantic Ocean

[www.keywestgardenclub.com/index.html](http://www.keywestgardenclub.com/index.html)

**December 1-2, 2012**

Bonnet House Museum &  
Garden Orchid

900 N. Birch Road

Fort Lauderdale, FL

<http://www.bonnethouse.org/news/orchid-festival/>

**January 23-25, 2013**

Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition

TPIE 2013 Show

1950 Eisenhower Blvd. at Port Everglades

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316-4205

**January 26, 2013**

Road Trip to Bruce McAlpin's

**January 26-27, 2013**

Tamiami Ordchid Show

Dade County Fair Expo Center

10901 Coral Way (SW 24th Street & 109th Ave.)

Miami, Florida 33165

<http://tamiamiorchidfestival.com/>

**February 2-3, 2012**

Gardenfest

Garden Club of Indian River County

3250 Riverside Park Drive

Vero Beach, Florida.

<http://www.gardenclubofirc.org/Gardenfest.html>

**February 16-17, 2013**

Gardenfest Coral Springs

Riverside Park

205 Coral Ridge Drive

Coral Springs, Florida

<http://gardenfestcoralsprings.com/>

**March 8-10, 2012**

Fairchild's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Orchid Festival

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=03-2013&eventID=746>

**March 23-24, 2012**

Gardenfest 2013

Volunteer Park

12050 W. Sunrise Blvd.

Plantation, FL 33232

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events>

**March 30-31, 2013**

Flamingo Gardens

Orchid/Bromeliad Sale

3750 South Flamingo Road

Davie, FL 33330

<http://www.flamingogardens.org/>

**April 5-7, 2013**

Tropiflora Spring Festival

[www.tropiflora.com](http://www.tropiflora.com)

**April 13-14, 2013**

Bromeliad Show

Fairchild Tropical Botanic  
Garden

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=04-2013&eventID=740>

**April 20-21, 2013**

The Food and Garden Festival Featuring the 34th  
Annual Spring Plant Sale

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=04-2013&eventID=747>

**April 27-28, 2013**

Mounts Spring Sale

Mounts Botanical Garden

559 N. Military Trail



New Bullis Hybrid – Neo Patches

West Palm Beach, FL  
<http://www.mounts.org/>

**May 4-5, 2013**

Broward County Plant Affair  
Plantation Heritage Park  
1100 South Fig Tree Lane  
Plantation, FL  
<http://www.broward.org/calendar/welcome.htm>

**May 17-19, 2013**

Redland International Orchid Festival  
Fruit and Spice Park  
24801 SW 187th Ave  
Miami, FL  
<http://www.redlandorchidfestival.org/> (Hacked by extremists – so wait)

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**MURDER IN CORBIN A**

© by Robert Meyer

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

**59.**

While Marlene questioned the witness, Boss walked around Corbin and saw, for the first time, that a storage unit existed next to Corbin A. He asked one of the Metro Dade officers to get the keys from Paul, and when the officer returned, they opened the door to discover a cleanly and well organized facility for the garden. There were tables, chairs, carts and metal shelving replete with items needed for kitchens or gardens. Boss noticed something at the back. But, because of his stature, he could not assuredly ascertain what he saw – or what he believed the items to be. He walked to the rear where numerous fertilizers and other items were placed on the ground in large 50-pound bags. Among the items were thousands of pounds of Florel.

Boss told the officer to bring Paul and Marlene to him immediately. When they arrived, Paul again felt a shudder pass through his spine, and resolved himself to pain. Boss pointed to the bags and asked Paul, “Who uses this stuff?”

“The crew. Volunteers. Most anyone who goes out in the garden.”

“Who orders this stuff?”

“That would be Miss Harden, sir. She handles all

items doing with the maintenance of the garden. All fertilizers, pipes, sprinkler heads, etc. She knows more about those things than anyone but maybe the Ph.D.’s who work here.”

“Ph.D.’s? Who are the doctors who work here?” Boss wondered. He was amazed the garden had a few doctors.

“The garden has 7 or 8 professor types on its staff. They research palms on this sanctuary. They are at the lab all day and sometimes at night.”

Boss could not believe it. Seven or eight doctors who specialize in palm trees under one roof, paid by a garden which charges \$25 a visit, and \$5 a burger. But, they were smart people who he had to meet. They would know about Florel and its effects, and maybe they know something about it seeping into the lives of the BSSF members. “You ever touch this stuff?” Boss asked Paul.

“No. My job is to bring the chairs, tables and stuff to rooms for when people rent them. I have nothing to do with the garden, but of course I enjoy it when I see it at night.”

“Like on a full moon night like tonight, right partner?” Then Boss smiled a warm smile to Paul.



Paul could not believe the man who so frightened him was now calling him partner, and smiling his way. “Yes sir.” he said. Knowing now that this night visit with Boss would be much shorter than when Irene Standish died.

As Boss was about to leave, he turned back to Paul and said. “Hey, I’ve got something for you.” He then reached into his jacket and pulled out a bumper sticker. It read. “Miami: Nice Weather, Mean People.” Paul read it and nodded up and down. Five words perfectly spelled out his feelings of the past few months.

**60.**

Marlene could attest from personal experience, there is no greater demise than leaving a woman scorned. To leave a female lover scorned was perhaps worse. And, to leave a female lover who was a type-A personality scorned was perhaps suicidal. When she and Boss left the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, she realized for the first time in hours that

she had missed her appointment with Candy. And, because she was in the confines of a car with Boss, she could not call Candy. And, because she was driving the car, she could not text Candy. Realizing her predicament, she immediately told Boss that she needed to make a pit stop.

They pulled into a local restaurant, and she ran to the lavatory to text Candy and followed up with a call. No answer from the call, and unknown to her was the receipt of the text. But, she had delivered proof of attempt to communicate, and could rest easier.



Group photo will be December 18, 2012

As they reentered the vehicle, Marlene's phone rang. She smiled and whispered a hello, hoping Candy had received the message. It was not Candy, it was Paul.

"I was thinking and something came up which I thought you might like to know." Before he could continue, Marlene already had her cell on speaker phone so that Boss could hear. "We have one worker who touches the Florel each day. He drives the jeep around every day and drops a bag or two at the spots where Miss Harden instructs him to."

"What is this man's name?" Marlene softly asked.

"Jack. Jack Dorset." Paul answered.

Boss interrupted, "Any relation to the Dorsets who live in the big mansion and are members of the Bromeliad Society?"

"Why, yes. He is their son. He probably only got the job here because of his parents. Mom is a board member and dad donates a lot of money to the garden each year."

Boss then asked, "Is he a nice kid, clean kid?"

"Nice is not the word I would use. He is not clean. Troubled past with cocaine and other drugs. And, he has this hairdo with a bowl cut that is weird and sometimes frightening. But, he works hard and whatever bad things he done in the past with drugs or whatever do not appear to be an issue with his work today."

Boss thought about the hair cut. "My God", he thought, "that barber has got to be put under arrest immediately before committing that crime again." He then thanked Paul and wished him good night and

turned off Marlene's phone.

As he was returning the phone to her, it rang again. But, before Boss could answer, Marlene deftly swept it out of his hands, and answered and soon thereafter smiled. She told the person that she was still at work, but would be free in ten minutes and then would call back and immediately hung up.

"Who was that?" Boss asked.

"A girl needs to keep her private life, private? Right?" And when Marlene winked at Boss, he withdrew his question, sat back and awaited arrival in ten minutes.

### Be There for Group Photo

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

### Holiday Party Pot Luck

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

### Plant Exchange at Holiday Party

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

