



# BromeliAdvisory

**October 2011**

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Past Pres.: Robert Meyer

Directors:

- Nat DeLeon '10-'11
- Rhonda Herndon '10-'11
- Sandy Roth '11-'12
- Craig Morrell '11-'12

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**Robert C Meyer**

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**Education:** Nat DeLeon  
**Hospitality:** Elaine Mills  
**Library:** Skye Palmer  
**Membership:** Moyna Prince  
**Member Plant Sales:** Antonio Arbelaez  
**Raffle:** Mike Michalski  
**Refreshments:** Patty Gonzalez

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

**OCTOBER 18, 2011 @ 7:30 PM**

**VIEWING AT 7:00 PM**

**SPEAKER: NONE THIS IS THE AUCTION.**

**RAFFLE TABLE: None**

**FOOD TABLE:** Ursula Dudek, Elaine Mills, Mary LaRusso, Alex Bello, Lynne Fieber, Barbara Partagas, Chien Manlee, Carl Bauer, Melody Ray, Lenny Goldstein

**ABOUT THE AUCTION**

This auction represents the largest deposit-making industry of the society. The auction is the needed annual transfusion for the society. To make it work, you merely need to deliver a few good plants to the sale, and also attend the sale. When attending, bring your wallet or checkbook and let it roll. If the auction meets previous years' expectations, the plants being provided will be extremely different from what the market delivers. Thus making your landscape, pool area, and trees to which you affix the lovelies, the talk of the town. And, don't forget – bring a friend.



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## President's Letter

In many ways the October meeting of our Society is the most important one. It is the annual auction, our primary fundraiser of the year. The Spring Show at Fairchild is the "Star In Our Crown", but the costs involved to produce it, judge it and feed our hungry volunteers make it a financial breakeven. Of course the Show is worth it but we do need a successful auction to support our year-round activities.

So bring your best plants for sale, bring your friends and your wallets. Your appetite, too, because there will be extra food available.

My particular delight each year at the auction is buying several bright, blooming Vrieseas. A bunch of these beauties placed about the house and the pool deck provide wonderful color throughout the entire winter holiday season.

Of course, now that the cooler weather is arriving, we have no more excuses. Like me, you need to get serious about your Fall cleanup. It will be worth the effort.

See you at the Auction!

**Carl Bauer**

## In Case You Missed It by Robert Meyer

Professor Lynn Fieber gave a very unique and exciting lecture about the Galapagos Islands and the indigenous flora and life contained on the atoll.

The lecture commenced with explanation of how the small group of islands are the creation of a unique environment resting upon black and brown lava'ed soils which are nourished by a combination of a cold torrent coming from the west, warm winds coming from Panama and Peruvian cool winds. The great environment has two seasons – summers from January through April, and winters from May through December.

The zones of the tiny islands were numerous: called litoral, arid, transition, humid, and pampa. The arid looked like Arizona, while the litoral appeared like the moon. The pampa reminded one of the Amazonic or South American highlands, and the humid zone reminds us of our lush landscapes. The transition, where elevations begin to rise, are

more akin to Brazilian foothills or California hills.

Pictures showed what Fieber described to be moonscapes, as red soils were blanketed by brown dusts and volcanic stones down by the shore. In contrast, the altitudinal pampas has green flora enriched by morning fogs, evening-induced dews and warm and brightly lit afternoons.

The rule of thumb on the island is to look for three things that make this venue the evolutionary mecca of the world: variability, heritability, and fecundity (progeny). In the isolated atmosphere of these islands located 1000 kilometers west of the Ecuador coastline, the creation of a new species have brilliantly evolved in amazingly quick time – biologically minded people see Galapagos as a relatively young island as it is *only* 5 million to 10 million years of age.

The speciation of the island is induced by reproductive isolation. Speciation is a long process which requires a slow change. Eventually, different species from the common creator (adaptive radiation) may differ from their distant cousins – and the individuals – although appearing similar – will not reproduce with one another and, in turn, become different species.

Interestingly, two individuals from different creators may evolve to be similar because of the habitat; and, in turn, reproduce with one another and become one of the same species. This evolutionary concept is coined, "convergence."

The greatest word of this island is endemic – where the existence of the species is nowhere else. All endemic species may be native – species which are indigenous to an area, but which may also exist elsewhere. The third, and unfortunately growing species at the laboratory called Galapagos, is the introduced species, which too often creates conflicts in the symbiosis. The result is ruination of the native comforts of the island's unique atmosphere for the endemic species.

Growing out of the black lava soil of Galapagos appears to be an endemic bromeliad called *Raciniæa insularis*. In addition, a variety appears to be growing both terrestrially and epiphytically. Called *Raciniæa insularis* v.

*latilamina* it is unique in many ways. Visual proof of its oddity can be found at <http://fcbs.org/pictures.htm>.

Although the topic was not about bromeliad or bromeliad culture, the audience was extremely focused upon the decades of oratorical lecturing skills of the University of Miami's tenured Fieber, whose presentation was adorned by the wonderful photographs of she and husband Michael Schmale – the people who spoiled this organization with years of the photographic archival accounts of our annual shows.

## A Walk in the Neighborhood by Alan Herndon

Bromeliads have become quite common in the residential landscapes of the Miami area. Mostly, the plants seen belong to the same few cultivars, but surprises are not uncommon. Of course, we have to consider the effect of neighboring houses when assessing neighborhood bromeliad plantings. For example, I would expect, even if I had not already witnessed, that houses in the vicinity of Sandy Roth's home, would have yards full of varied bromeliads, some uncommon, due to Sandy's generous nature. Here, however, I would like to concentrate on bromeliads brought in by individual homeowners either singly or as part of an overall landscape. These remarks apply to our own neighborhood, where approximately 1 house out of every 10 features bromeliads in their landscaping..

Masses of *Aechmea blanchetiana* (more often *Aechmea blanchetiana* hybrids) are conspicuous in many yards. At this point, most are mainly small plants spaced out so they do not touch. Of course, once they start growing, the space between them will disappear in no time. The dark leaved form of *Aechmea mulfordii* called 'Malvo' is also commonly encountered. Again, they are most commonly seen as single rosettes at this time. Third most commonly seen are plants of *Aechmea* 'Little Harv'. Only the nonvariegated 'Little Harvs' are likely to be seen. People with the variegated clones presumably keep them in less conspicuous locations. All three of these plants are relatively susceptible to cold weather, the *Aechmea* 'blanchetiana' and *Aechmea* 'Little

Harv' suffering severe leaf burn as soon as the temperature approaches freezing. *Aechmea* 'Malvo' usually looks fine after a cold night, but is highly likely to suffer severely from secondary fungal infections in a few weeks.

There is also typically some poor misguided soul who plants *Guzmania* hybrids straight from a big box store out in the landscape, usually with minimal shade and without sufficient provision for water. The *Guzmania* reacts just as you would expect. Unfortunately, a bad experience such as this can discourage a potential bromeliad grower.

In our neighborhood, there are also less common species scattered around. *Aechmea bracteata* is found at one house. A dark *Neoregelia* hybrid growing in full sun, possibly *Neoregelia* 'Fosperior' serves as a low accent in another lawn. One garden has substantial clumps of *Neoregelia* 'Super Fireball' and of the albomarginated form of *Aechmea nudicaulis* growing in a bed alongside *Aechmea* 'Little Harv'. To these may be added *Hohenbergia stellata* at another house and *Neoregelia* 'Fireball' tied onto the trunk of a Gumbo Limbo tree a little further away. Until recently, we also had an *Aechmea* 'Bert' growing in a neighborhood oak. Within the past few weeks, a homeowner hung a large clump of *Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish Moss) in an oak tree by the road. Although *Tillandsia usneoides* is a bona fide native species throughout Florida, it will not grow everywhere without care. Our neighborhood is in an area once covered by pine forest. It is usually too dry during the winter months for this *Tillandsia* to survive without supplemental watering. If you would like to grow your own festoons of Spanish Moss, I would suggest that the clump(s) be watered every 3-4 days during our dry season.

The biggest surprise has to be the clump of an old Nat DeLeon hybrid between *Aechmea fasciata* and *Aechmea nudicaulis* that was in the yard of the house at the end of the street in 1993 when we took up residence. Not only has the clump survived to this day, it was also planted in the yard of the house across the street. This hybrid was pictured on the back cover of Journal of the Bromeliad Society, volume 20. Although a sturdy grower (obviously) with an interesting, architectural shape and silvery leaf surfaces, this plant was not considered worthy of a name by Nat. To be sure, the inflorescence

disappoints in that it favors the *Aechmea nudicaulis* parent in duration. However, if you use this hybrid the way you would a *Billbergia*, it deserves consideration for a place in our gardens.

This account is evidence that bromeliads have seeped deeply into the consciousness of homeowners in southern Florida. Surely, some of these first-time users could be tempted to stray further into the bromeliad world. All members of BSSF are encouraged to support these neighborhood novices. If they seem to be likely to develop further interest in bromeliads, bring them to meetings. Even if their interest never reaches beyond the three most popular bromeliad clones and they never join BSSF, you may still find good friends for yourselves.

## Garden Notes by Alan Herndon

Summer has officially ended and we are welcoming the onslaught of cooler Autumn weather. Okay, so daytime temperatures were still in the low 90's and upper 80's at the end of September, but if you happened to be out just before sunrise on a regular basis, you would have noticed a 5-10 F drop in temperature from the beginning of the month to the end. Not coincidentally, you would also have noticed a much clearer sky towards the end of the month as the atmosphere dried out.

We undoubtedly still have some summertime weather awaiting us in October. Historically, October has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest average rainfall of any month, and the temperature is highly unlikely to dip into the 70's during the day. However, periods of rain become less frequent as we go through the month, and by the beginning of November, we are into the dry season.

*Aechmea chantinii* continues to produce blooms at a steady, slow pace.. *Aechmea kunteana*, a species that forms a 'bottle-shaped' rosette with stiff leaves that reach between 2 and three feet long began to bloom early in the month. The yellow flowers of this species are quite large. Another striking feature of the inflorescence is the halo of stiff spines originating at the tips of the floral bracts. You attempt cross-pollinations on this plant at grave risk to the continued use of your fingers. The

much smaller, delicate species *Aechmea corymbosa* also bloomed. This species has a flowering period, unfortunately, of only two weeks. However, I have had two separate plants flower in succession, so I have been able to enjoy a more extended blooming season. Several *Aechmea* species of the *Gravisia* complex were in bloom, including those commonly seen standbys: *Aechmea blanchetiana* and *Aechmea rubens*. My stock of *Aechmea nudicaulis* 'Telephone Hill' was split up and repotted earlier this year. I have had at least one blooming rosette within this group for the past three months. Plants of other *Aechmea nudicaulis* clones given the same treatment at the same time have not shown such a willingness to bloom.

A few *Billbergia* species bloomed this month. These included *Billbergia amoena* clones and *Billbergia pyramidalis*. The group of *Billbergia* 'Hallelujah' that was repotted earlier this year has also had at least one rosette in bloom during each of the past 3 months. Again, several other *Billbergia* hybrids were repotted at the same time under the same conditions, but have not shown the same propensity to bloom outside of their regular season.

*Catopsis berteroniana* was still flowering, joined by *Catopsis nutans* with its yellow flower petals. Unfortunately, everything about the inflorescence of the latter species except the petals is green.. *Catopsis nutans*, a much smaller plant than the *Catopsis berteroniana*, and with an inflorescence that droops from the rosette rather than growing upwards is found growing wild in southern Florida, and I originally thought this might be the native clone. However, with the new inflorescences this year much larger than the previous inflorescences, I now believe this is a clone from Central America.

*Cryptanthus correia-araujoi*, *Cryptanthus delicatus* *Cryptanthus* ??? 'Menescal' and *Cryptanthus acaulis* 'Grace' were all noted in bloom during the month. I undoubtedly missed many other species \_ after all, the generic name refers to 'hidden flowers'.

*Guzmania minor* managed to put out a full inflorescence for me this month. Usually, snails find the plants before I do, and fatten themselves on the tender, fast growing flower buds.

*Hohenbergia penna* was still holding on with a few flowers.

Among the smaller species of *Neoregelia*, I noted flowers in *Neoregelia dungsiana*, *Neoregelia* ‘Fireball’ and *Neoregelia smithii*. In the midsize species, *Neoregelia guttata* and *Neoregelia compacta* from subgenus *Neoregelia* bloomed along with *Neoregelia rosea* from subgenus *Hylaeicum*. Large species were represented by *Neoregelia cruenta*, *Neoregelia macwilliamsii* and *Neoregelia marmorata*. Actually, the blooming rosettes on the latter species were all relatively small pups still attached to the mother plants.

*Nidularium procerum* bloomed during the month, but other species seem to be on break right now.

*Orthophytum* species in the disjunctum complex continue to bloom regularly, although the numbers are far lower than they were earlier this year. Still, *Orthophytum disjunctum* was in bloom along with *Orthophytum alvimii*, *Orthophytum lymaniana*, *Orthophytum harleyi*, and *Orthophytum rubiginosum*.

*Puya laxa* managed to bloom throughout the entire month and still had unopened buds at the end. The tip of the inflorescence has continued to elongate throughout the entire period.

*Tillandsia filifolia* was in flower early in the month. *Tillandsia vernicosa*, and *Tillandsia duratii* continued to bloom through the end. I should note that the bloom on an individual rosette of *Tillandsia vernicosa* did not last through the month, but another bloom from another rosette replaced it. *Tillandsia ionantha* ‘Ron’ put in a brief flowering appearance early in the month. *Tillandsia chiapensis* also began to bloom after a long period of waiting while the full size, fully colored inflorescence stubbornly refused to release the flowers..

*Vriesea taritubensis* continued to flower throughout the month, but the inflorescence was beginning to lose some of its luster by the middle of the month. The prolonged period between the time the inflorescence reached its full

We seem to be having a very good year for spiders in the garden. In particular, for the first time in many years, we have had a mature

Golden Orb Weaver (*Nephila clavipes*) set up a home in the nursery and stay for an extended period. The hardwood forest at Castellow Hammock (about 2 miles away) is typically full of these spiders, and 9-10 years ago, our shadehouses were also replete with their webs. I have no idea why they disappeared then and have been so scarce since.

Aside from the fact that the *Nephila* commands attention by being one of the largest and most conspicuous spiders in our area, the web of the *Nephila* amply repays close inspection. It is a large web and plays host to an entire community of opportunistic species and hangers-on. An Orchard Spider (*Leucauge venusta*), one of the most common spiders in our area, spun its own web between the strong silk cables at the edge of the *Nephila* web well away from the much larger owner. Several tiny spiders spun almost invisible webs towards the outer reaches of the large web. However, the most interesting web sharers are the small spiders of the genus *Conopistha*. These spiders are strongly associated with the webs *Nephila*. I rarely see them anywhere except in a *Nephila* web and never see a *Nephila* web that does not contain at least a few *Conopistha*. Apparently, *Conopistha* never spin webs of their own, but scavenge the smaller bugs unfortunate to be entrapped in the *Nephila* web. If you want to look for *Conopistha* on a *Nephila* web, position yourself so the sun reflects off the web. What look like small drops of silver scattered throughout the web are individuals of *Conopistha*

## A Splendid Field Trip

by Alan Herndon

At the last general BSSF meeting, long-time member DR. ROBERT GRAYSON announced that he was getting rid of his collection of bromeliads and invited BSSF members to come help themselves. Not so long ago, he invited BSSF members to help thin out his collection, but he has now decided to forego the pleasure of working in the midday summer sun, so the plants had to go.

A group of us (SANDY ROTH, JUDY PAGLIARULO, LORI WEYRICK, CARL BAUER, BARBARA PARTAGAS, CRAIG MORELL, RHONDA HERDON and myself) gathered together on the following Saturday morning to form car pools for the trip to the northern area of Miami Beach – the town of Sunny Isles – and take advantage

of his generous offer. We were not the first group to visit. Dr. Grayson informed us that three other people/groups had already taken plants.

Car pools were determined more by the need to have enough storage space for bringing back plants than gas efficiency. In other words, the three largest available vehicles were used for the trip.

Dr. Grayson's house is on what appears to be a standard size lot. However, he had put up shade structures and benches over the years and packed an enormous number of bromeliads into his back yard. You certainly could not tell that



President Carl Bauer scores at Dr. Grayson's giveaway.

three other groups had been there ahead of us. Most of his plants were relatively small in size and grown in pots. In several cases, he planted three or more different bromeliads in a single large, shallow pot.

As it turned out, Dr. Grayson was not entirely disposing of his bromeliads. He still retains his *Tillandsia* collection and two benches worth of his favorite potted plants. When done, his collection will take far less time to care for.

Dr. Grayson's favorite genera were clearly *Neoregelia* and *Vriesea*. Unfortunately, most plants were untagged thanks to the taste some birds had apparently developed for plastic tags. This is not so much of a problem with *Neoregelia* where there is often a recognizable foliage pattern (assuming one has , but many *Vriesea* species and hybrids look essentially identical without flowers.

In order to cast the expedition in a better light than an exercise in pure gluttony, Sandy selected several plants that will be sold at our auction this month. These plants are currently under the care of Barbara Partagas, but you will have the opportunity to bid on them soon. Think of this as our way of allowing you to share in a splendid field trip.

### Events of Interest:

#### REE GARDENS SALE

**Oct. 15-16, 22-23 & 29-30** – 9:00 – 5:00  
7860 SW 124 St., Miami, FL  
305 232-2257

#### BROWARD COUNTY PLANT AFFAIR

Where: Plantation Heritage Park - Plantation, FL  
When: **October 22, 2011** Saturday 9:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**October 23, 2011** Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Phone: Plantation Historical Museum 954-797-2722  
Admission : Only \$2.00 fee to enter the Park

#### EXTRAVANGANZA & ART SHOW

Where: Daytona's Plaza Reort & Spa  
600 N Atlantic Ave., Daytona, FL 32118  
386-255-4471  
When: **Nov 4-6, 2011**  
Registration:  
<http://theartofbromeliads.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/registration.pdf>

#### RAMBLE

Where: FTBG  
10901 Old Cutler Road Coral Gables, FL 33156 •  
Phone: 305.667.1651 • Fax 305.661.8953  
When: **Nov. 11-12, 2011** 9:30 AM - 4:40 PM

#### CALOOSAHATCHEE SHOW AND SALE

**December 2nd, 3rd and 4th**  
Caloosahatchee Show and Sale  
Terry Park, Fort Myers  
For information, contact Dr. Larry Giroux at  
[DrLarry@comcast.net](mailto:DrLarry@comcast.net)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### New Member

Barbara Pareira, 12440 SW 63 Ave, Pincecrest, FL 33156 is a new member. Her phone number is 786-877-6078. We are adding her to the email group of Advisory members. Welcome Barbara.

#### IDEAS

Every meeting we attempt to put an idea box in the front of the room. Please feel free to

make your anonymous suggestion a reality with a simple legibly written document in the box.

### 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).



### SPRING SHOW

This mater 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).

### HOLIDAY PARTY

The Holiday Party is only a few months away. Although it may seem to run on autopilot, many things are required for the delivery of food, liquor and more. Interested parties may contact chairman Melody Ray at [melodyluna@hotmail.com](mailto:melodyluna@hotmail.com), or Sandy Roth at [sandyr53@aol.com](mailto:sandyr53@aol.com).



### Murder in Corbin A

© by Robert Meyer

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

### 32.

Boss and Marlene called Candy who was available to meet her purchase as soon as possible. Boss could not arrive, as he was the cop she knew.

Marlene could arrive, because she was the fellow member who brokered the deal. Boss was a cop to Candy. Marlene was not a cop. Each had to remember how to approach this situation. And, so they coordinated delivery of the beloved plant at Candy's home. When Marlene excused herself for a stop at the girl's room, she would reach into her pocket and text Boss that it would be a fine time to make a stop.

Following their script, Marlene delivered the plant, had a glass of water as offered by Candy, excused herself a moment for a potty break, made her text from the toilet, returned to the couch, made small talk, heard a door bell sound about ten minutes later, looked surprised when Boss arrived, asked to excuse herself when Boss walked in, obeyed Candy's request to stay as Boss entered, heard Boss talk about a lead that Candy received a Happy Gram which included an *Alcanterea* albomarginated *chantinii*, heard him promise Candy that he cared nothing about the plant's arrival – but asked her if it was the one her father had, and heard Candy answer in the negative to that question.

“Well. Seems like your father's unique plant lost its rarity. Didn't you tell me that no one else in the states had one.”

“Not quite. I said no one in the county, and no one in the state, and *probably* no one in the states. But, I was apparently wrong about the third representation.”

“Third representation.’ You sound like a lawyer. Ever attend law school? Lawyer?”

“Yes and yes. Guilty as charged. Don't practice now. Had enough of the rat race. But, I must say that you are very observant. Are you always this observant?”

“Actually. No.” he said with a smirk on his face. “You lawyers just do not know how to morph with your surroundings like a chameleon or any other simple and basic creature of the wild.” And he smirked some more.

“Well you just seem to reinforce my good reasoning for leaving the practice. Don't you?” She countered.

“Yes to that fact. But you must still ask yourself, was it worth the three years of law school and four plus years of learning the ropes thereafter?”

“Detective, I think you are jumping to some conclusions about me. First, I did not make mincemeat of cops. I was not chasing ambulances. I did not represent major insurance carriers fighting people with black lungs, cancers from products, or

other nonsense. I did not buy off judges, and never had a case in front of someone who sat with my father or owed a favor to my father. I lived in New York. Practiced tax law in New York. And, by the way, it was five years of law school – one extra year for an LL.M in taxation and another for a J.S.D. in taxation – NYU and Harvard respectively.”

“A real bookworm. I am impressed. If I may confess – a little in love. I like you more each time I see you – for real. Can I see the plant everyone is talking about? I apologize. And in all humility, I ask. . .” But, before he could finish, she had left the room.

She led them to the back, where the plant sat. And he asked her how she knew it was not her father’s plant.

“Easy. This is not an *Alcanterea chantinii* albomarginated . This is an *Alcanterea princeps* albomarginated . Also worth a hoot. And, looks like dad’s love. But, almost no one can decipher the difference. When it pups a few, I’ll bring a few to the World Conference. Get some kudos, and become Queen for the Day. And, get enough money to pay for the trip. Satisfied?”

Like always, he left her home with more questions than he had when entering.

### 33.

“You know Boss,” Marlene said as they walked out of Candy’s home, “I have seen an *Alcanterea princeps* albomarginated before – and not too long ago.”

“Where?” he countered expecting to here about a show she had been to, or a nursery in the Redlands or some other event which only a few people in the million-person metropolitan area would have experienced.

“At Bea’s place. She had a wonderful screened enclosure in the back. In it she had three tiers of pots – much like the tables used by orchid people. But, without table and standing alone was one plant: *Alcanterea princeps* albomarginated. It was large and I would have guessed within months of blooming. She had a very impressive collection.”

Boss, who had not brought Marlene into the picture until she blurted out her knowledge at the precinct, wondered what she had been doing snooping into the deceased’s garden and shade house. He was a bit perplexed. And, already tired of having to ask suspects about the cases, he didn’t wish to add Marlene into the world of Q & A. But, he asked, “What were you doing at Bea’s place?”

“Oh that. The BSSF invited everyone to the home to buy the plants that she had left behind and the proceeds went to her estate. She received thousands of dollars. The prize as the *Alcanterea princeps* albomarginated . I did not have that kind of money on me – even though they only asked \$500 for it. She had other collectibles as well. *Guzmania* purple haze, a few unique *Vriesea* and assorted *Neoregelias* which I had not seen in years – maybe decades.”

Boss, not knowing about the sale, knew she would have the answer to his next question which would be an important answer: “Who handled the sale and might know who bought the *Alcanterea princeps* albomarginated?”

“The same person who does most the work for the organization. Your girlfriend. Linares.”

Hearing her name had been as welcomed as a full frontal lobe shot to his head by a two-by-four. In some respects, her grieving over the judge posed a problem to him as their opinion of the white haired justice drastically differed; but, more importantly her past with Marin was most disturbing. The guy was a creep. He sold plants on the sly. And, after pocketing thousands for one plant, he had pulled the bait-and-switch with the buyer as the delivery wasn’t even of the plant the buyer asked for. He was cheap and devoid of integrity. And, as far as Boss was concerned, anyone affiliated with him was also a creep. And, even more accusatorial, any former spouse, a person who slept and confided with a creature who belonged under a rock, was someone he did not want to know – ever. But, Linares had charmed him. She was someone who seemed to have a valid and truthful adoration for him, and he was having similar feelings for her grow. She confused him. And that confusion led to headaches. Two-by-four headaches.

Upon such head-hurting reflection ending, and to avoid compounding the pain of the same, Boss picked up his cell and called Linares, asked if she had already eaten dinner or made plans, and finished with plans to dine with her that evening.

#### **BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL**

*Conference information:*

General –  
<http://www.bsi.org/events/2012/Orlando2012.html#GENERAL%20INFO>

Hotel information –  
<http://www.thecaribeorlando.com/>

Registration information –  
<http://www.bsi.org/events/2012/Orlando2012.html#REGISTRATION%20RATES>