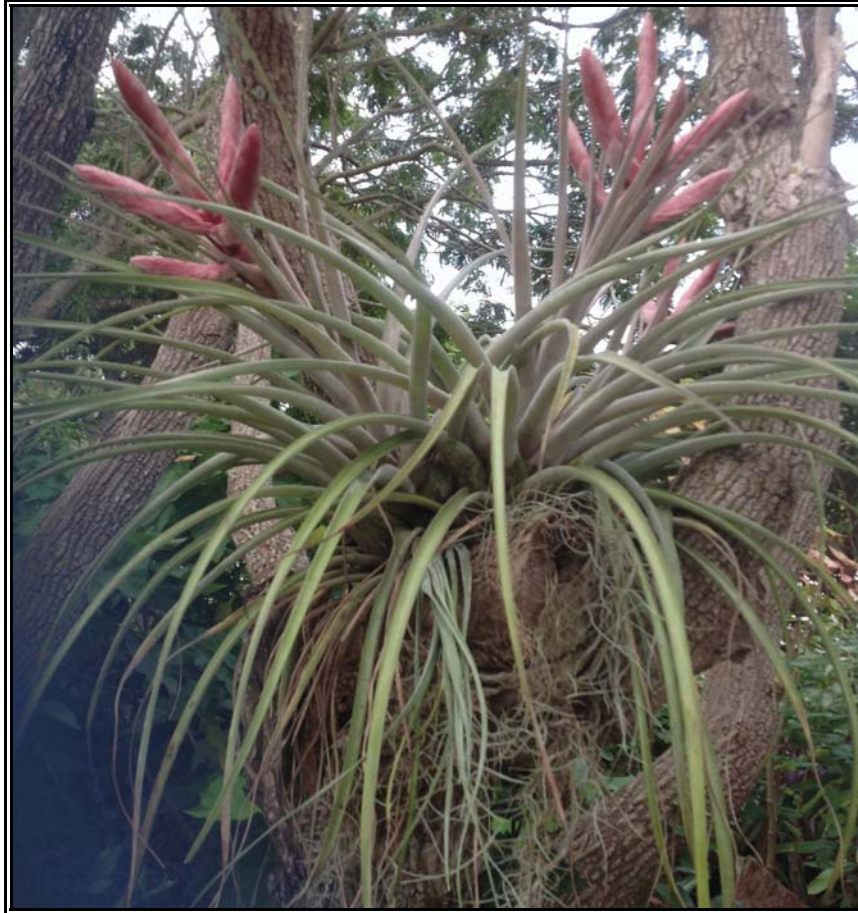


# Bromeli Advisory

July 2013



*Tillandsia fasciculata* var. Photo by Sandy Roth

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# BromeliAdvisory

**July 2013**

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>

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

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

**JULY 16, 2013 7:30 PM**

**SPEAKER:** Craig Morell

**RAFFLE TABLE:** Ellis Brown

**FOOD:** Barbara Sparling, Laura Coe, Betty McQuayle, Mary Ann LeRusso, Joy Parrish, Bobbie Dooley

## Speaker

Craig Morell will conduct a program for the July 16 meeting that will provide insights and recommendations for bromeliad growers at all levels of expertise. The presentation will be called "New Ways to Do Old Things and Rediscovering Old Ways for New Growers," a title which he has found useful in addressing plant societies in various disciplines concerning what everyone should know to be a successful grower.



Mr. Morell is the Horticulturist at Pinecrest Gardens. He's been renovating the Gardens since 2004, a year after the Village of Pinecrest bought the property from Parrot Jungle. A lifelong plant scrounger with a yen for epiphytes, he has a B.S. degree in Horticulture from UF-Gainesville. He previously worked as horticulturist at the Boca Raton Resort, and as manager at an orchid company in West Palm Beach prior to that. Craig is a career horticulturist, travels widely, and spends his free time orchid-gardening at home in S. Miami, scuba diving, photographing nature and visiting even more gardens.

He sometimes escapes from the Gardens and is occasionally seen in public masquerading as a normal person.

## President's Message by Barbara Partagas

We don't usually start talking about the annual show so soon, but we need to begin to gear up early for 2014. Our show will be March 1st & 2<sup>nd</sup>. This brings some exciting challenges to us. We will have different plants available to exhibit. The weather will probably be cooler. Maybe we can avoid the rain showers. We will have to start choosing show worthy plants soon. In a month we will start preshow plans. Stay tuned.

*Barbara Partagas*

### Put on Thinking Caps

The board would like to propose a once a year field trip, on a minibus (a 25-30 passenger vehicle that someone at the board meeting thought you are familiar with). This is for a day trip only. They seek to poll the membership at meeting for suggestions of places to visit. You are hereby being given the opportunity to think about it for a couple of days in advance of meeting. Put on your thinking caps.

## In Case You Missed It by Robert Meyer

Chuck McCartney, a fourth generation Floridian, came to enlighten our crowd about the 16 native bromeliads which he has seen over the years with visits to swamps and similarly enchanting venues in the Sunshine State. Each had a picture – Chuck is a relic slide machine man whose use of the slides proved the age of some of the pictures. At least he used a carousel machine as opposed to the straight line 50-slide holder which preceded its use.

Most of the native Florida Bromeliads can be found in the Fahkahatchee Strand – 84,000 acres of swamp made up of multiple sloughs and ponds.

This environment, located about 30 miles east of Naples, Florida, is accessible off of Alligator Alley on Highway 29. T

A long trough cut into the limestone, through which water runs slowly north to south, finally emptying into the Gulf of Mexico in the Ten Thousand Islands

area, this environment offers a great opportunity to see native bromeliads

*Tillandsia fasciculata* led off the lecture showing off a red inflorescence, followed by *Tillandsia balbisiana*, *Tillandsia xsmalliana* (cross of *fasciculata* and *balbisiana*), *Tillandsia variabilis*, *Tillandsia simulata* (a skinny *fasciculata*), *Tillandsia bartramii* (similar to *setacea*), *Tillandsia paucifolia* (Key Largo favorite), *Tillandsia flexuosa* (the zig zag of inflorescence), *Tillandsia recurvata*, *Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish Moss), *Tillandsia utriculata* (That thing growing high in the oaks), and *Tillandsia mystery*.

*Catopsis* followed with slides of *Catopsis berteroniana*, *Catopsis floribunda*, and *Catopsis nutans*.

*Guzmania* shown included *Guzmania monostachia* (a/k/a monostachya).

If interested in seeing these natives, make a trip to Fahkahatchee Strand.

## Garden notes June 2013

by Alan Herndon

Rain and more rain was the predominant mood during the first week of the month. According to the calendar, we should be in our rainy season now, but, although we are having plenty of rain, this is not our typical rainy season. Several days we had rains morning, noon and night, and the rains came at us from the south. This is more like the weather we get when a tropical disturbance passes over us during the summer than our typical convective rains that slowly build up over the Everglades and move into the more populated areas during the afternoon and evening hours. A reminder of the anomalous nature of this 'wet' season came at the middle of the month, when the rains abruptly stopped. Five days without rain in the sweltering heat, and we were right back into drought conditions.

*Aechmea chantinii* is near its peak flowering season now. Plants of all clones and all sizes are pushing up new inflorescences daily. They have also been joined by their near relatives *Aechmea retusa* and *Aechmea tillandsioides*. One of the many clones of *Aechmea bracteata* came into bloom for the first



time this year during June. *Aechmea tillandsioides* and *Aechmea bracteata* are two of the bromeliads that produce seed without any need for an external pollinator.. The very small flowers on *Aechmea bracteata* suggest this tendency towards self-seedling, but the flowers on *Aechmea tillandsioides* are as large as in its near relative, and obligate cross-pollinator, *Aechmea chantinii*. *Aechmea bromeliifolia* started to flower near the end of the month. This the clone grown commercially by Bullis Bromeliads. Remaining in bloom from months past are *Aechmea lactifera* and *Aechmea disjuncta*. *Aechmea disjuncta* continued to flower throughout the month and seems headed for a very long bloom cycle.. *Aechmea capixabae* flowered for the first, and probably only, time this year near the end of the month. At the very end of the month, we saw the first open flowers on *Aechmea correia-araujoii*, a member of the *Aechmea orlandiana* complex that blooms in summer rather than winter or spring.

The *Alcantarea glaziouana* reported last month continued to bloom throughout June.

Most *Billbergia* species have finished blooming until the return of cooler weather next fall, but a few more rosettes of *Billbergia* 'brasiliensis' produced flowers during the month. Similarly, two rosettes of *Billbergia nana* flowered, and a single rosette of the *Billbergia pyramidalis* collected by Karl Green also put up an inflorescence.

A plant of *Guzmania sanguinea* colored up and bloomed during the month. This was one of the Grant Groves seedlings distributed by Mike Michalski after the Auction last October. This plant has flowered at least twice since I have had it. The central pups may discourage propagation, but they grow quickly enough to reach blooming size in less than 6 months.

Although flowering activity never fell to the low levels expected during this past winter, *Neoregelia* species have been flowering in greater numbers during this warm part of the year. The smaller species come into flower multiple times each year if they are growing rapidly, and much of the list comes from such plants. One of the major divisions within the genus is between those species where the bases of inner leaves change color to form a ring around the inflorescence and those that don't. Among the species in flower this month that display extra color

*Neoregelia smithii* is distinct in having a more violet color to the ring. When grown under starvation conditions, the leaves are covered with dots and blotches of the same color, but, even then, the color is slightly brighter and more intense right around the inflorescence. *Neoregelia tristis* is also differentiated by the dark violet color in the ring that seems less than attractive to human eyes, but undoubtedly drives some pollinator to distraction. *Neoregelia magdalena* has a bright pink ring around the inflorescence. Other species in bloom this month with central color produce red rings. *Neoregelia* 'Fireball', seems to be closely related to the *Neoregelia compacta* complex, and like other members, produces a red ring. If the plant is grown, as usual, under conditions where the leaves are already red, this ring is inconspicuous, but still visible as a slight intensification of color. All members of the *Neoregelia olens* complex, including the *Neoregelia indecora* seen in bloom this month, produce orange-red rings around the inflorescence. Another character they share is the light red color of the sepals. In most species belonging to this complex, the colored ring contrasts sharply with the leaf color. There is, however, a red-leaved form of *Neoregelia olens*, typically (and incorrectly) called *Neoregelia fluminensis* in the trade, where the contrast is much lower. Of course, the plant you most likely think about when asked to name *Neoregelia* species with colored rings around the inflorescence is the very commonly grown *Neoregelia carolinae*. This month a miniature clone collected by Karl Green in Brazil flowered. *Neoregelia angustifolia* is another species that produces a red ring around the flowers. This is a mid-size plant with narrow leaves that will turn red when starved. In that case, the colored ring will only show up as a slightly different color than the remainder of the leaf. Another group of plants in bloom this month do not show any sign of intensified color around the inflorescence. *Neoregelia guttata* provides an excellent example. The leaves on this species are commonly spotted, but there is no sign of any change in color or intensity surrounding the flowers. *Neoregelia 'oligantha'* likewise shows no color. I have put the species epithet in quotes because I have received what seems to be the same plant under 3 different names, and don't have any good way of picking the correct name. Large *Neoregelia* species without added color include *Neoregelia correia-araujoii* and the closely related *Neoregelia johannis*. The various clones of *Neoregelia carcharodon* also lack

central color, although these plants only bloom sporadically for me. This month, I have the same single plant of *Neoregelia carcharodon* 'Tiger' in flower as last month. Among the smaller species of *Neoregelia*, the lack of central color is more common. In many cases, the flowers in these species are white, as in *Neoregelia pauciflora*, *Neoregelia crispata* although the very tips of the flowers can be blue in some cases, *Neoregelia maculata*, the red leaf clone of *Neoregelia sarmentosa*, and *Neoregelia martinellii*. These last two plants are exceedingly similar, and may be the same. I have not yet had the opportunity to compare them closely with each other or with the green leaf form of *Neoregelia sarmentosa*. Other small species lacking central color, such as *Neoregelia ampullacea* and *Neoregelia dungsiana* have flowers with white centers and broad violet bands along the edges.

Several species of *Nidularium* were seen in bloom during the month. *Nidularium kris-greeniae*, 3 different clones of *Nidularium rutilans* (including the 'Sao Paulo' and 'leprosa' clones), *Nidularium kautskyanum*, *Nidularium angustibracteatum* and *Nidularium schermetiewii* all made an appearance.

The numbers of *Orthophytum* species in bloom has dropped greatly during June as many of the plants blooming over the past several months finally finished flowering without an offset large enough to take over. *Orthophytum rubiginosum*, *Orthophytum sucrei*, *Orthophytum harleyi*, *Orthophytum maracasense* and *Orthophytum alvimii* continued in bloom. Yet another plant of *Orthophytum roseum* also flowered during the month.

*Quesnelia edmundoi* has remained on the flowering list for a few months now. The bloom from an individual rosette lasts more than a month, but not that long. I have had a succession of plants in flower. With, *Quesnelia testudo* and *Quesnelia marmorata*, blooming is a very short-lived affair \_ about a week between the time the first flower opens and the last flower closes, but both species were caught in bloom during the month. *Quesnelia marmorata* just started to bloom at the very end of the month, so it will also show up in the July listing.

We should start off by noting that at least one clump of *Tillandsia ionantha* was in bloom this month. It was joined by *Tillandsia mallemonii*, one of the smaller species in subgenus *Phytarrhiza* with fragrant

flowers, and by *Tillandsia remota*, a species with needle-like leaves and a small green and white inflorescence. *Tillandsia hondurensis* put up a short-lived but very colorful inflorescence during the month. Two species blooming in June, *Tillandsia buchlohii* and *Tillandsia nowackii*, are quite similar vegetatively, meaning they have the same shape rosette with leaves of similar size and curvature. Both have an inflorescence with several narrow, ascending branches of similar color and size. The flowers of the two species, however, could not be more different. Those of *Tillandsia buchlohii* have white petals with the anthers safely tucked inside and the petals of *Tillandsia nowackii* are a dark violet with the anthers and pistil exerted. With practice, you can tell them apart on the basis of slightly different leaf color and surface texture. Also, the branches of the *Tillandsia buchlohii* inflorescence are straighter than those on *Tillandsia nowackii*. However, until you have sufficient practice, you will be hard put to distinguish between the two.

In the genus *Vriesea* most species have flowers arrayed on opposite sides of the inflorescence axis. When the flowers are close together and the floral bracts are overlapping enough at their bases to hide most of the flower, this is called a 'feather'. In June, *Vriesea carinata* and *Vriesea* 'Splendide' with a large, branched inflorescence where the branches have the 'normal' feather pattern remained in flower. In length, the terminal feather of *Vriesea* 'Splendide' is at least 10 times longer than that of *Vriesea carinata*, but amazingly, the feathers of the two plants are close to the same width. *Vriesea malzinii*, just starting to bloom at the end of the month, is different from most other species in the genus in that the flowers are arranged in a spiral around the axis of the inflorescence. In this case, the spiral has just the right properties that the flowers almost always look like they are arranged in five straight rows going up the sides of the axis. There is also a form of *Vriesea malzinii*, however, that has flowers taking a more typical appearance in two lines on opposite sites of the axis. *Vriesea triangularis*, as noted last month, is even more out of step with the majority of the genus. Flowers are generally arrayed in two more-or-less straight lines on opposite sides of the inflorescence axis in this species, suggesting it follows the normal *Vriesea* pattern. However, there is often a slight twisting of the lines, suggesting a very lazy spiral, and hinting

at the relationship to the *Vriesea corcovadensis* complex where the flowers are normally arranged in a spiral around the axis. Finally, *Vriesea warmingii*, continuing to bloom \_ with an inflorescence even larger than that seen on any one feather of *Vriesea* ‘Splendide’ \_ displays a ‘ladder’ inflorescence. The flowers are strictly on opposite sides of the axis, but they are well separated from each other, and, in this species, stick out at right angles from the axis.

One of the more delightful happenings this month was the explosion of butterflies. I have not been seeing more species than usual, but the number of individuals of the species present seems much higher than during the past few years. To be sure, I am not talking about clouds of butterflies, but where, in past years, I would see a handful of individuals fluttering around, now I see dozens.

Enjoy the warm weather while it lasts. Only 3 months left until Fall.

### **New Website by Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society**

Another peer has launched a website. Go trolling at [floridabromeliads.org](http://floridabromeliads.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **August 10,**

Bromeliad Sale

University of South Florida Botanical Gardens,  
Tampa, FL [cas.usf.edu/garden](http://cas.usf.edu/garden)

### **August 17th - 18th**

Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society Sale  
The Garden Club of Sanford  
(on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd)  
9:00 - 4:00

### **September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

Bromeliad Extravaganza – Hosted by the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society  
Indian Rocks Beach, Clearwater  
401 2nd Street, Indian Rocks Beach 33785.  
Phone 727-595-948  
Holiday Inn Harborside. Free parking!

Contact Judy Lund at 727/439-7782  
[glund@Tampabay.rr.com](mailto:glund@Tampabay.rr.com)

### **September 27-29**

Sarasota Bromeliad Society Show and Sale  
(details pending)

### **October 5**

Members’ Day Plant Sale

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

9:00-1:00

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=10-2013&eventID=750>

### **December 6th - 8th**

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale  
Terrie Park  
3451 Marion Street,  
Fort Myers

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## **MURDER IN CORBIN A**

© by Robert Meyer

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

### **75.**

When Captain went through the roster and noticed the boy wonder from the morgue had not shown today after an exemplary record of being on time and on site a consecutive 782 days, including holidays, he called out for Boss.

“What is the mystery today, Lieutenant? My one cadet with acne and a Leave-it-to-Beaver smile comes here everyday and on time. I can count on him like the sun’s rising. Heck, I even enjoy seeing his puss once in a while. But, today the sun rose and my boy did not come. Is there anything about this extraordinary event that should concern me?”

Boss really did not know, but recited Newcome’s story about Joshua’s conquest at Duffy’s the previous evening.

“Heck,” the Captain spat back, “anyone with two eyes and two arms can gather the attention of a woman in that joint. Heck, I visited that cave myself when I was young, but having been married since I was in second grade, I never had to take home any of the catch. But, the precinct has made

more relations with the town in that establishment than any other place within three miles of here. Now, what is wrong with little Joshua getting a little from that Gort girl. Is there anything I should be concerned about?"

Boss then recited the story he obtained from Cyber about the insurance policy by people with the name of Stan Gort or Nat Strong. How the names were anagrams, and how Gort and Rodriguez were becoming friendly, but how Gort or Strong had suddenly disappeared when the investigation of the murders was picking up steam and better leads.

"So, you are telling me that your card-counting Cuban friend was shoulder to shoulder with someone who is a suspect, and that some hot babe with this suspect's name coincidentally struck up a conversation with our morgue's nerd, and then this hottie swift-boated our nerd to a private place, from which experience we know one thing – our boy wonder now has a never-previously-existing-in-his-career absenteeism, and we sit here with thumbs up our you-know-whats and do not have people searching all streets, alleys and gutters for the kid? Do I have this right?" All of this delivered in rationale tone, Boss looked up and nodded affirmatively.

Captain picked up his phone and called Cyber. "Get me a full background report on a Susie Gort in five minutes. Yes, I said five minutes, and I mean in my hands in five minutes." The phone was hung up. Then he picked it up again and called the morgue, "Every one of you necrophiliacs, in my office now." And, hung up again. Then Captain picked up the phone a third time, and called his superior and stated, "Can I have permission to call the feds as I believe a recent case we have touches upon their issue?" After a few head nods and no more discussion from Captain, he hung up. "Knew they would say 'no' but you have witnessed my asking for permission and that is all I can do about that."

"Now, Lieutenant, when I was young, I dabbled in insurance fraud. And, I know people in the business of insurance fraud. So in five minutes bring into Room A your best three people, as I will give a primer." And as Boss was leaving the office, Captain called out "If you believe this is related to the murders of the tree-huggers, make sure at least one tree-hugging investigator is put on the list of three. See you in five."

76.

The poker game that night was less boisterous than it had been in the past. Rodriguez was not able to come in good spirits, as he was drained after spending all afternoon in Room A with the Captain, Boss and some others to learn about insurance fraud and the basic mechanisms to produce such a scam in the 21st century. Gort's usual chuckling nature was now gone for months, and even more missed. Bea had been out for months, as were the plants she would always bring which would enliven the beginning of the night. In short, it was boring unless the food was good. That night the food was not good.

"Hey, Rodriguez, how much are you going to win tonight? Tell me now and I can write a check and save myself a few hours of misery." Michael Cruz then chuckled and knew that the satire of his comments ringed true on his financial woes of these meetings.

"Don't feel defeated Cruz, anything could happen."

"Yeah," Cruz said. "I am as likely to win tonight as there being a crusader against masturbation running for the Senate, or a swastika-loving creep who plays dress up with his son on weekends in SS uniforms running for . . ." but before he could continue Rodriguez chipped in.

"I guess where he comes from, father-son weekend bonding sessions with the Boy Scouts of America are deemed taboo." All laughed.

"Heck, BSA wears brown shirts too." Cruz said, and more laughter erupted.

"Heck," Cruz continued, "I love Republicans and I love the warm weather. But, if I moved to Arizona or Nevada right now, I would be stopped almost every day, and would hear about my wetback relatives ruining this country. I have good reason to feel defeated."

"Yo, bro. . ." Rodriguez responded, "No es el único hispano en esta casa."

"Si" said all of the others in unison who were either fully or partially Cuban, Venezuelan or Colombian.

"Okay, I hear you." Cruz acknowledged. "Now,



which one of you wetbacks is dealing the first hand this night?" All laughed.

Then Rodriguez walked toward the liquor cabinet and found a bottle of Pisco – is a liquor distilled from grapes. "Hey, look what I found in Cruz's liquor cabinet." He proclaimed with the bottle held high.

"Oh man, that turpentine can deliver a two-day hangover." Fuentes obviously was not a fan of the hard liquor.

"Great idea." Cruz said with eyes all aglow. "Pisco sours for everyone." And, he walked to the edge and picked up a mixer, and started the night on a hard hit to their senses. Rodriguez, already aware of their abilities to play were severely hampered when intoxicated, looked about the room and wondered what goodies he could take home this evening. But, better yet, their loose minds led to loose lips and he could inquire more about Gort and see if they remember when he first came on the scene and what else they may know about his character.

"To Peruvian Pisco." Cruz toasted. All knowing the Peruvian battle of Pisco with Chile was a territorial and deeply personal dilemma which would last for many more generations.

Rodriguez dealt the first hand, and won. When raking in his chips, he smiled very mildly, and looked at the eyes of his peers, most all already glazed from the 40 plus proof liquor.

Rodriguez, feeling lucky that questions may be answered by his bromeliad buddies in their inebriated state, asked, "Has anyone here heard that Gort may have a daughter?"

"Sure. We've all met her. Quite a looker. Sweet as pie." Cruz then wondered why Rodriguez would ask about her. "Why do you ask?"

"I just heard that she was a looker. And, as a single man, I tend to pay attention to gossip when it includes good looking women." Rodriguez smiled outside to Cruz and inside to himself for having retorted so deftly.

"Why, of course, bro. I should have known that you would care about her. I got her number and address

in my Blackberry. Want the information? It's yours if you want it."

Nodding and smiling, Rodriguez said, "Oh, I will gladly take that information." Upon receipt of that information, he excused himself to the men's room and relayed the information to Boss by text message. "Heck," he thought when this mission was accomplished, "I won the pot already this evening, I think I'll lose the chips this evening to pay for this tidbit."

## ROAD TRIP/FIELD TRIP

Saturday July 13, 2013

### Stop 1 – 10:00 AM

JESSE DURKO TROPICAL GARDEN & NURSERY

(954) 792-2297  
5151 SW 70 Ave.  
Davie, FL 33314

### Stop 2 – Lunch

Some ideas:

1. The Groves Coffee House  
(954) 736-7117  
5660 Griffin Road  
Davie, FL

2. Flamingo Road Nursery (see next entry for address)

### Stop 3 – Choices again

EITHER

FLAMINGO GARDEN (954) 473-2955  
3750 S. Flamingo Road  
Davie, FL

or

JOSEFA LEON (SUNSHINE BROMELIADS)  
(954) 249-2205  
14601 Old Sheridan Street  
SW Ranches, FL

