

# BromeliAdvisory

August 2013



*Portea* "Candy" Photo by Robert Meyer

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## BromeliAdvisory

**August 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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**Refreshments: Sandy Roth**

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

**AUGUST 20, 2013 7:30 PM**

**SPEAKER: Don Beadle**

**RAFFLE TABLE: Robert Meyer**

**FOOD: Joy Parrish, Laura Coe, Sharon Maessen  
Doris Nicolas, The Sussenbergers, Josefa, Maria Amador**

### **Speaker**

**DON BEADLE**

Famed billbergia hybridizer Don Beadle will present the August 20 program. In his own words: "I'll talk about 40 minutes on the subject of my history and relationship with the billbergia over a span of 40 or so years in a humorous (hopefully) fashion....The show covers my first bromeliad thru my addiction for the billbergia thru learning to hybridize without learning how to quit, followed by my escape from the addiction to having it devour me all over again....It will be droll and unscientific and entertaining, I hope...."



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** You have not heard Mr. Beadle speak, make the effort. He is more than a *Billbergia* icon, he is one of the more colorful and enjoyable people to give lectures in the Bromeliad World.

The meeting will be held in the Visitor's Center, 2nd floor this month due to renovations being done to the Corbin Building.

## President's Message by Barbara Partagas

Thank you to everyone who worked on the restyling of the Ed Prince Memorial Garden at Miami Sunset Senior High School. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have known Ed shared stories while we cleaned up the plants. Students and teachers stopped by to talk to us about Ed. We were lucky to have cloud cover and breezes while we worked. Who does that kind of gardening in the middle of summer, anyway? We finished just as a thunder storm approached. I always take it as a good sign when it rains on a freshly planted garden. There will be pictures on display at the meeting.

Don't forget to make your reservations for the Extravaganza. it will be a great event with great speakers, a nice banquet, and plenty of plants to bring home.

*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

Craig Morell came to our society with a Lenny Goldstein unprecedented introduction in which a previous listener called him the most enjoyable speaker she had ever heard. His mother loves him as well.

The speech was about a bouillabaisse of "learned growers' wisdom." That bouillabaisse focused on two things, really centering on the first: (1) how to keep your plants alive; and (2) the maybe think of getting them to flower.

KISS = keep it simple stupid. A very simple motto of Morell. With the variety of plants in the bromeliaceae, you could easily created double-digit growing conditions. Morell prefers two. "Starting light", "slanting light" dappled light and more concepts basically described some light some part of the day. The alternative is shade all day, with some light filtered.

At the end of this column is a box in which you will see a box of wisdoms which many perceive to be rules. Of course, for each rule there are exceptions. Some of the exceptions follow.

Guzmania and Vrissea, with soft foliage, apparently can grow in bright light. *Vrissea opinae* grows very well under such circumstances.

*Aechmea ampla*, unlike general perspective of proper plant growing, dissuades fertilizer and other commonly perceived requisites. It wants what Morell coins "aggressive neglect."

*Aechmea nudicalis* follows with a request for less fertilizer and bright sun. How does Morell know this? He suggests that we follow his lead and ask the prior owner or members of plant societies. They know a lot.

*Billbergia stenopetala* follows the main concept of small pots, but actually thrives on a grotesquely overly small pot for a plant of its height. Combined with less water and less fertilizer, the plant thrives.



*Billbergia stenopetala*  
Photo courtesy of FCBS

Don't put a *Pitcairnia* next to the dry loving plants – as it will want water, fertilizer and strong light. In exchange for the watering servitude, you will receive a fast growing plant.

Medium is not always the godsend. Morell has played with clay pots and delivered plants into empty – medium free – pots and hung the same on trees. It seems to work.

If you must use medium, he has opinions. A peat/cypress mulch 50-50 is great, but will turn to mush quickly. So unless you constantly and consistently repot, you may be advised to avoid this mix. Same for Peat/Perlite – and each 50-50 peat mix is dangerous if dried: the peat strangles the roots.

Sponge rock, humus or anything that does not break down are Morell favorites. Favorite medium for this year: shale rock. Bernie's rock and garden – 14650 SW 177 Ave. Miami, Florida 33196

phone:786.242.4443 – sells the same under the name “PermaTill.”

Fertilizer choice is also important. You know what they are by the three numbers: N-P-K = Nitrogen – Phosphorous – Potassium. N means big plants. P means root growth. K means cell growth and overall health. Stores often sell 30-10-10. Morell wants smaller plants, and tries to keep growth to a minimum. And, rooting is not the quest for most bromeliads. Morell believes that an ideal mix for bromeliads would be 10-0-40. He has found 13-0-44 which is labeled as Potassium Nitrate. Potassium Nitrate may be depicted as KNO<sub>3</sub>. I found a 3-pound bag on amazon.com for \$14.00. Others may be available at the larger chemical and fertilizer vendors in the homestead area.

Alternatively, if you have to use the soluble blue fertilizer, he recommends to use 20-20-20, and no other.

The long forgotten bonemeal is also a favorite of Morell. He has a bone meal/Milorganite/Osmocote mix that he spoke favorably about. And, one trick. Plant the stuff below the ground. Why? Several reasons. Milorganite (a product of Wisconsin’s finest sewage) does not smell great. Top leveled fertilizer can breed great weeds. And, animals’ less discerning tastes buds tend to find favor in sniffing and then eating items sprinkled with such “stuff.”

#### **Some pearls of wisdom:**

If the leaves are hard, the the plant wants hard sun

If the leaves are soft, the plant wants soft sun.

If you give the plant too much light, the leaves ar short and the pant is stressed.

If you give the plant too little light, the leaves are too long and the plant may not color.

Less is more: less fertilizer mean more color – not less money means more happiness.

### **New Life Member**

Joy Parrish’s letter nomination for Sharon Biddix-Maessen to be a life member in acknowledgment for her services as to the annual show’s art exhibit was approved by the attending membership July 16, 2013. Congratulations to Sharon.

### **New Show Date**

Concepts for the Annual Show take a slight turn. Instead of the middle of April, the Show will be held March 1 and 2, with setup being February 27 and 28. Plants in bloom that time of year are not the same as others. Wondering wht plants may be best? Go to our website – BSSF-MIAMI.ORG. On the left side there is a tab for “BromeliAdvisory.” Double click that tab and you will see issues dating as far back as 2007. Many of the issues for the most recent three or four years include a column by Alan Herndon describing what is in bloom [Garden Notes] for that month. Those articles will be immensely helpful to anyone wondering what will be most spectacular that time of year.

### **Preparing for an Early Show**

by Alan Herndon

Next year, our Annual Show and Sale will be held in early Spring. Setup will be Feb 27, judging will be Feb 28 and the show and sale will be open Mar 1 and 2. This early date means we have to start work on the show before 2013 ends. It also means you will have to plan ahead because different plants will be in bloom during this early spring period than we have been used to in our April (late spring) shows.

We can’t predict whether we will have a winter with prolonged cool spells through January and February (as in 2011) or a much warmer winter as in 2013. The number of blooming plants available for display will depend on those details of temperature, but you can count on your non-blooming *Neoregelia* to be in great color under either scenario. You should also think about preparing plants for the show that you did not consider in past years because they bloomed too early. This would include such plants as members of the *Aechmea orlandiana* complex, the various forms of *Aechmea weilbachii* and *Aechmea nudicaulis*. Don’t overlook the many species and hybrids of *Billbergia*. With all of these groups, you are much more likely to have plants in bloom during a March show than an April show. This is particularly true for *Billbergia*. If you have a few different pots prepared, you are much more likely to have one in bloom just when you need it for the show.

General rules in preparing plants for the show remain the same. Set aside the plants you would like to prepare for the show now. Give each plant sufficient space to grow. You can maintain your normal fertilizer schedule for the next month, but you should begin to taper off during September.



Keep fertilizer away from the show plants entirely from December on.

Closely inspect the plants you are setting aside for insects or other pests. If there is a problem such as the beginnings of a scale infestation, it will be much easier to control with treatment now when the pests are more active than during the winter when they are likely to be dormant.

The earlier show date for 2014 will basically have its largest impact on the number of flowering plants available.. The number and quality of non-blooming plants will be as great as in previous years. You should also remember, if we have a winter as mild as last year, we will have plenty of blooming *Neoregelia* to show despite the early date.

Your challenge is to plan for the show with your mind open to the new possibilities presented by next year's date. Include contingencies in your plan. What would you enter in the event of a long, cold winter? How would that change if the winter was short and warm? You can only learn more about your plants by considering such questions.

Start your preparations now, and you will see how we can put on a splendid show any time of year.

## About the Speaker

*Biography – from materials prepared by Karen Andreas – Compiled by Leonard Goldstein*

Don Beadle was born in Lafayette, Louisiana, but left at age 19 because "I couldn't play the banjo and I couldn't talk Cajun." Following four years in the Air Force, he attended college and became a petroleum engineer. Eventually he formed his own company in Corpus Christi, Texas.



He became so fascinated with the quantity of bromeliad varieties that he wanted to collect each of them. Upon realizing that his goal was too ambitious,

Don began to focus on billbergias and found that only 20 or so species were available. Just a handful of cultivars existed, so Don decided to develop billbergia hybrids. His efforts yielded only green plants at first, but eventually he was able to obtain the striking spotted cultivar 'Domingos

Martins' and cross it with 'Ed McWilliams' to create the spectacular Billbergia 'Hallelujah.'

Don traveled to Florida to visit Harry Luther and Wally Berg, but they had gone to South America on a collecting trip. Undaunted, and with an appreciation of the warmer winters of Sarasota County, Don made inquiries about property for sale, and in 1986 he moved to Venice to assume the ownership and operation of Los Milagros Nursery. Between his time in Corpus Christi and his 14 years at Los Milagros, he created well over 140 billbergia named cultivars, as well as others that still await naming.

Two years prior to selling his property in 2000, Don compiled the last published Bromeliad Cultivar Registry for the Bromeliad Society International (BSI). It was he who first suggested that the BSI make his files available on compact disc, and in a format that could respond quickly to rapid changes in information. Toward that end, he offered the files to Michael Andreas, webmaster of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS). The Cultivar Registry is now available to users worldwide and comprises more than 10,000 registered cultivars!

Don's passion for disseminating information about bromeliads is complemented by his photographic skills. In another collaboration with Michael Andreas, Don's extensive photo collection is now available on the website of the FCBS at <http://fcbs.org/pictures.htm>.

## Garden Notes -July 2013

By Alan Herndon

The summer solstice is behind us and the sun is beginning to sink, ever so slowly, in the sky. Despite the slightly lower and decreasing intensity of radiation received from the sun, the full heat of summer will remain with us through August and, probably, September. Since our rains have continued to come in concentrated bursts, the periods of rain often separated by several days of dry heat, our plants still tend to dry out excessively without timely supplemental watering. Constant vigilance is still called for to protect your prized plants from water stress.

*Aechmea chantinii* is still at the peak of the summer bloom season. Most rosettes have flowering inflorescences, or newly emerging inflorescence without open flowers yet, or slightly older inflorescences with flowers already past bloom. The closely related *Aechmea tillandsioides* is also blooming heavily right now as the pups

formed after the first period of bloom have reached flowering size. Two more species belonging to the subgenus *Platyachmea* were also in bloom during the month. *Aechmea retusa* remained in flower during the first part of the month as it reached the end of its normal blooming season. A single plant of *Aechmea serrata* was also in bloom during July, long after most of its brethren were long past flowering. Moving to different groups within *Aechmea*, *Aechmea correia-araujo* continued to bloom this month. One clone of *Aechmea fasciata* has been in flower throughout the month \_ and was probably in flower during June. The *Aechmea bracteata* reported last month was still in flower towards the end of the month, although few flower buds remain. *Aechmea miniata* \_ the discolor clone with green on the upper leaf surface and dark red on the lower \_ also made a brief appearance on the flowering list during the month. Occasionally, plants from one of the many *Aechmea nudicaulis* clones will send up their brief blossoms, but it is only individuals doing so this time of year. There are no episodes of mass blooming like we saw during the spring months.

Once again *Alcantarea glaziouana* continued to bloom throughout the month.

Two plants of *Billbergia rosea* put on a spectacular, if too brief, display during the month.

A clone of *Canistropsis billbergioides* with pink primary bracts showed open flowers during July. This is the same clone reported in flower earlier in the year, in yet another case where pups present during the earlier flowering period have themselves reached flowering size

*Edmundoa lindenii rosea* is again in flower, but this is a different clone that the one reported previously. Where the earlier flowering clone had the inflorescence raised substantially above the leaves, in this clone the inflorescence is nestled in the cup formed by the inner leaves. In addition, this clone has green petals in distinct contrast to the normal white petals in more common clones.

Several species of *Neoregelia* were blooming during July. A new set of *Neoregelia angustifolia* plants began to flower during the month. Most of these are smaller than the plants that bloomed earlier in the year. Much the same can be said for *Neoregelia guttata*. A new group of plants has come into bloom recently. With *Neoregelia*

*magdalena*, in contrast, the same plant has been blooming for the past two months. Among the other species blooming this month were *Neoregelia martinellii* and *Neoregelia wilsoniana*. The latter species was introduced into cultivation in this country by Robert and Catherine Wilson, the original proprietors of Fantastic Gardens in South Miami. It proved to be an undescribed species that was formally described and named Mulford Foster, but not before it was in cultivation long enough to produce a large pool of clonotype plants. It is still readily available, and traceable to the original introduction from the Wilsons. *Neoregelia zaslowskii* was described more recently. It is a small species similar to *Neoregelia tristis* (also in bloom this month). As usual, a few plants of *Neoregelia ampullacea* were also seen with open flowers. Finally, *Neoregelia laevis* was accidentally spotted in bloom. I say accidentally because the flowers are hidden in the rather deep well created by the leaves. In most of the larger *Neoregelia* species, the rosette flattens out as the inflorescence develops even when the leaves are stiffly erect during the early stages of growth. In some smaller species, leaves grow erect and form a tube that remains erect in bloom. If the inflorescence in such a species is high relative to any tube formed by the leaves, it is still easy to spot. If, as is the case in *Neoregelia laevis*, the flowers are sunk deep in a tube and there is no color change to announce blooming, you only see flowers if you are deliberately looking for them or if you just happen to glance along the correct direction.

Only two species of *Nidularium* appear on my list for the month, although I probably overlooked a

few plants. At least two clones of *Nidularium rutilans*, a commonly grown species with 'red' flowers continued in bloom from last month. The 'leprosum' clone is characterized by narrow leaves with small, but very conspicuous, dark dots scattered throughout the blade. *Nidularium rutilans* 'Sao Paulo', a clone imported from Brazil by Nat DeLeon

around 1960 produces many more leaves on each plant. These leaves are wider than in any other clone I know, and have a particularly graceful arch when given room to grow. The leaf blades contain



*Nidularium krisgreeniae*  
Photo courtesy of Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

photo by Elton Leme  
JBS 2002 p196

a mixture of light and dark spots, although the 'dark' spots on this clone are smaller, paler and much less conspicuous than the are on the 'leprosa' clone. The red-leaved clone of *Nidularium kris-greeniae* also remained in flower from the previous month.

Several species of *Orthophytum* were in flower this month, although still far below the number blooming a few months ago. *Orthophytum harleyi*, *Orthophytum sucrei*, *Orthophytum rubiginosum*, *Orthophytum lymanianum* and *Orthophytum alvimii* continued to bloom. They were joined by and *Orthophytum ophiuroides*. Another plant of *Orthophytum roseum* came into flower in July also.

A single stray plant of *Quesnelia marmorata* flowered during the first few days of the month.

Our novelty plant in bloom this month is *Ronnbergia neoregeloides*.



Figure 3. Close up of the type-specimen of *Ronnbergia neoregeloides* in bloom (photo E. Leme).

Photo courtesy of Florida Counsel of Bromeliad Societies

*Tillandsia abdita*, a species that could easily be mistaken for *Tillandsia brachycaulis* without careful scrutiny, sped through its short bloom during the month. We also saw the continued flowering of *Tillandsia buchlohii* and *Tillandsia nowackii*, although both had finished by the end of the month. It is perhaps interesting that only a single rosette each of these species flowered, although I probably have 10 or more rosettes of each that are equal in size to those in flower. Those rosettes remained in a state of vegetative peace. *Tillandsia*

*mallemonitii* also continued to flower during the month. Flowers first appeared on *Tillandsia vernicosa* around the middle of the month. There was also a brief, but colorful appearance by *Tillandsia arequitae* around the middle of the month.

In a repeat of the drama played out last year, *Vriesea taratubensis* finally began to produce flowers after months of inflorescence growth and color. *Vriesea rodigasiana* also came into flower during the month, but with a much briefer buildup. *Vriesea inflata* continued to flower as did *Vriesea carinata*. Inflorescences on individual plants of *Vriesea inflata* continue to flower for 2-3 months. Inflorescences on *Vriesea carinata*, in contrast, last 2-3 weeks. However, I have many more pots of *Vriesea carinata*, and they come into bloom at different times so I frequently have at least one pot in bloom.

It is time to start selecting the plants that you intend to enter into our show early next year. Take full advantage of the next two months while we still have prime growing weather to get your plants to size. It is a good reason to spend more time in your garden.

### Badges are In

Notices: Badges are in. Anyone who doesn't have a badge, please check with Maureen Adelman at the meeting.

### Garage Sale II

Garage Sale: We are scheduling a garage sale for November. In order to go forward, we need commitments from members for donations. Please contact your president if you have a donation.

### 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/>

77.

Thrashing rains and violent lightening often torment even Miami's deepest sleepers. Somnambulists may become dangerously aroused during their nighttime trots by the deafening thunder. Minute holes in roofing become harbors to torrents, while eddies flow through and down into the normally dry confines of a home's interior. The greatest aspect of such events is that they usually pass quickly, and most often are followed by clear skies and morning sunrises which dry off the freshly washed surfaces before the commuter wars begin.

After the poker evening, Rodriguez's attempt to sleep off the beer and beef he ingested became nearly impossible by such a Miami storm. In the morning, he trudged through the door after realizing the fourth morning cup of coffee failed to awaken his mind. "I'll walk to the back and hide a few hours," Rodriguez confided with himself with his strategy. "After all, I was working late last night." Rodriguez always was attempting to legitimize his personal drudgery.

"Rodriguez, in my office now." When Rodriguez heard this demand, his mind conceived that he heard in stereo and in harmony. He looked to Boss's office and saw him looking at him, and then looked at the Captain's office and saw him looking at him. The Captain and Boss looked at each other, and then Captain instructed both to come into his office with a simple hand gesture.

"Rodriguez. Great work on that address. We had Metro Dade go there last night, and found the place furnished, used, and full of a young woman's attire and photos. We have had DNA tests made of the hairs found in the brush, and have delivered numerous other tests to Joshua's group. Cyber has the computer – all with proper warrant – and everything looks good – except wonder boy Joshua is still missing. So, we thought maybe he was at his place. And, we went there, and found blood. Lots of blood. So we sent that to the DNA labs, and are awaiting results. In the meantime, I received Cyber's report given to Vazquez regarding the mystery of Susie Gort. Now, that you are current, is there anything else we should know?"

Rodriguez thought, "Know?" Heck, all night as the others talked, he texted his e-mail address with notes of the Pisco-induced representations. And, so he walked over to his computer, turned it on, and opened his e-mail. Over 12 messages from himself were unopened.

He opened them all and printed them out and handed them to the Captain.

"Impressive. Rodriguez, Vazquez has taught you well." The Captain began reading more. "Good. Hmmmm. Good. Ahhhh. Hmmmm. Good. Yes." And then he closed the pages, and went into his office and prepared the notes for second review.

When Captain had closed the door to his office, Boss looked at Rodriguez and asked, "What is in the notes which caught his attention?" Rodriguez, in a bit of anguish, opened the fifth message, and handed it to Boss. It read, "Cruz and others all agree that Susie Gort is the bane of heterosexual society. As beautiful as she is, she is a lesbian who will never be attracted to men. Such a pity."

78.

Having been awakened for a good deal of the night from the same thunderous roars as most everyone in Miami-Dade County, Linares was puzzling over her experience a few days earlier about the Code and the importance of the matter with the police. Like so many other things, like bad choices for boyfriends or awful choices for matinees, she would focus on anything but those errant decisions. And, within a few days the horrible memories would magically disappear and become vaporized. Efforts to vaporize the Code failed. And, so in the middle of a morning haze created by a lack of evening sleep, Linares lifted her phone from its set and dialed her former spouse.

"Hello."

"Hello Marin. It's me, Linares. I had to call you. Hope I am not bothering you. Am I?" She asked anticipating the answer to be in the negative unless something dreadful was happening at Marin's side of the call.

"Of course not, babe. This old man will always have time and heart for you. What's the matter?"

"It's that damn Code. I was whisked to the police a few days ago about the Code. I know nothing about the Code. But, I saw you there and know they probably had you answer the question I was asked– which was about the Code. I just gotta . . . you know . . . know what is the Code. Is it all right for me to know?" She did not know what Marin's response would be.

"Yes, babe. It is all right now. It is now out in the open. I gave them everything I know. And, I may



say that this may be the entrance fee for my last visit to federal. I have enough strikes against me to forbid parole, and the numbers in this matter are big. I stumbled upon a scam a few years ago. It was a big scam. Retirement sized. And, there was enough in it for me and few others, even families, to all benefit and be happily fed. So, I went ahead and dipped into the bag. Felonious? Yes. Hurtful? No. Did I take anything from the good guys? No. Did the bad guys pay my dues? Yes. So after answering questions like those, I felt entitlement and indifference. I was entitled to a share and was indifferent to the law as the harmed party was the thief not the cashier. Understand?"

Linares was more than thoroughly confused. She understood that her less-than-angelic ex-husband had done what he always did – violated the law. And, that this violation was a felony – something not extraordinary in his behavioral past. "So, what made this Code any different from the bad acts of the past?" she wondered.

"Okay. Let me get this straight. You committed another felony. So what. And, this felony involves taking money or property from someone. Again, so what else is new. So, I have to ask, what is so special about the Code when contrasted to your less-than-pristine past?"

"Well, this time, unlike the other times, I did not violate importation laws, or make false identifications. Instead, someone else committed insurance fraud, which I later learned about, and then had my knowledge conveniently muted by a promised allowance which assured me of more than Social Security could provide. Understand?" He really did not want to get much farther into this.

"Okay." Linares said, wanting to think this through so that she could conceive how to delicately ask the next question. "You decided not to tell me details, even though I know many details about many of your other pernicious acts." At this time she was impressed to have used the term pernicious. "Why did you decide to hold this back and not tell me about it."

"Oh, how many reasons can there be, when only one would suffice? Babe, I did not want you to be committing a crime yourself. I did not want you to see the people involved. After all, you know these people." Just as he said that, Marin realized he said something that he should never have said.

"Who?" she asked before he could even attempt to retract or make small talk to veer the discussion away from her need-to-know inquiry of this morning.

"Well, it was . . ." And as he was about to continue, he heard her speak to him.

"Someone is at the door. Hold tight while I answer it." And she scrambled out of her seat and to the door where she was happily surprised to see her old friend, Stan Gort.

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### Ed Prince Garden Work Completed

