

BromeliAdvisory

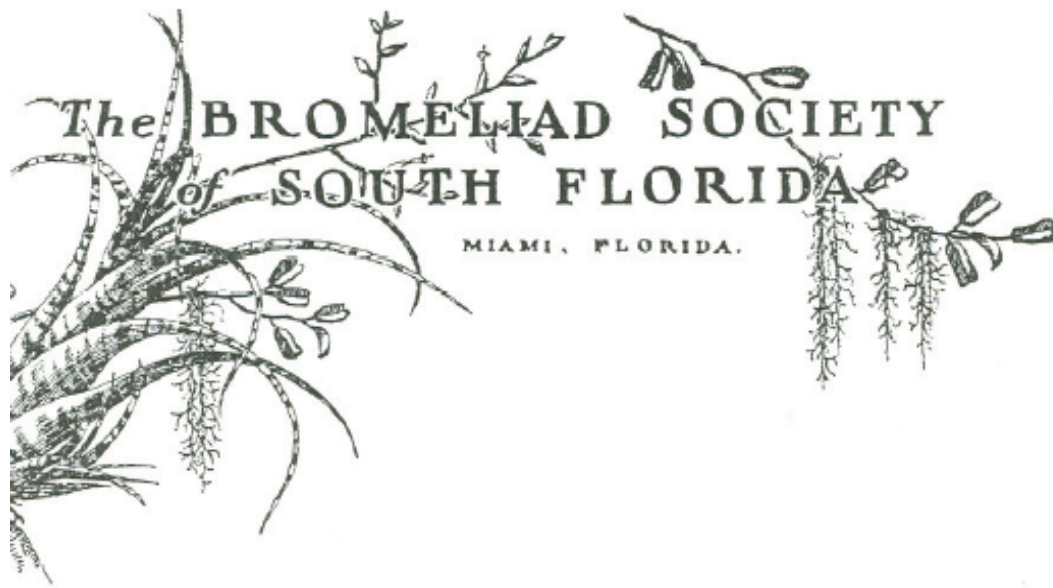
December 2013



Guzmania sanguinea
Photo by Robert Meyer

In this Issue

President's Message	2
Robert E Mills – in Memorium	2
Our Annual Show is Calling.....	2-3
Garden Notes.....	3-6
Upcoming Events	6
Murder in Corbin A	6-8
Membership Form	Appx



BromeliAdvisory

December 2013

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



http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSF/?bookmark_t=group



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

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Library: Barbara Partagas
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Mem. Plant Sales: Antonio Arbelaez
Raffle: Mike Michalski
Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

DECEMBER 17, 2013 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: NONE

RAFFLE TABLE: NONE

FOOD: Many – You and everyone else attending the Holiday Party

No Speakers, Just Holiday Party

Time to take a rest. Holiday Party.

In case you have not been to a Holiday Party before, here are a few rules.



Bring food. Coordinate with food leader – Sandy Roth.

Second, wrap a plant. Then bring the plant. You get to take another wrapped plant in exchange for your plant.

Third, bring drink. No need to coordinate this. We prefer well aged cognac, single malts and red wines from the 1980's – preferably French.

Lastly, enjoy.

The meeting will be held in the Garden Room – where our Show's plants are shown.



President's Message

by Barbara Partagas

Here we are about to have our 2013 holiday party. It has been an interesting year for me from in front of the room instead of from the audience. I've learned to project my voice so as to be heard at the back of the room. I've learned that BSSF members are extraordinarily generous with their time and advice. At the beginning of the year, I asked you all to volunteer when an opportunity arose. I am very gratified that so many of you have done so. Let's all enjoy a great evening, some great food, and the best of friends.

Happy new year to all
Barbara Partagas

Robert E. Mills - In Memorium

by Alan Herndon

Our friend Bob Mills passed away this month after a long and useful life.

Born in South Carolina, Bob served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He learned to fly and spent his war years in the old, slow, incredibly vulnerable bombers of that era. He retained his interest in flying after the war ended, and ended up in Miami in the late 1950's with a job at Eastern Air Lines. He worked at Eastern for 23 years, retiring in 1980. Early in his career at Eastern, he met his future wife, Elaine. The two forged a partnership that endured 63 years.



Bob was initially an orchid grower, but he followed Elaine into the Bromeliad Society of South Florida in 1981, and soon became an indispensable part of the organization. Eventually, he came to appreciate the superiority of bromeliads.

Bob served many years in a leadership role for BSSF. His contributions to our annual show were equally important and of even longer duration. For the past several years, he spent long hours helping at the Members Sales Table.

We will miss Bob, but also remember his kindness and grace. He leaves the world a better place.

Our Annual Show is Calling

by Alan Herndon

The 2014 Show and Sale will be here before we know it. There will be six fewer weeks for preparation after the holiday season ends, so please don't put off thinking about what you can contribute to the effort.

Since we have moved into the cool season, your plants will begin to take on their best colors. You can help this by avoiding the use of fertilizer from now until the time of the show. Blooming plants may be in short supply with the show starting at the end of February if we have temperatures fall to seasonal averages for several weeks between now and the show. If, however, our temperatures remain near their current levels through February (don't laugh, it happened last winter), many plants will bloom weeks ahead of their normal schedule. In any case, clones of *Aechmea nudicaulis*, *Aechmea weilbachii* and many *Billbergia* will be on their second or third round of blooming by showtime. Set a few pots of each aside and give them a preliminary cleaning (including careful scrutiny for any insect infestation). If one or more happens to be in bloom on the correct time, it will be ready to enter.

Keep an ear tuned to weather forecasts. Our greatest problems will arise if temperatures remain at relatively high levels until just before the super cold front that pushes temperatures to near freezing. If you hear about an imminent front with temperatures expected to dip below 40 F, you should take precautionary steps to protect the plants you are preparing to enter in the show. This would include moving them to an area protected from dry north winds, or moving them close to your house where the residual heat from the walls will keep the air temperature a few degrees higher. If you move any plants into the house, remember that the air

in your house will probably be extremely dry, especially when you have a heater on. If you need to keep the plants in the house more than 1 night, you should probably mist the leaves once a day to avoid damage due to the dryness. Of course, if you are grooming some pots of *Cryptanthus* for the show, you need to take the same action whenever the temperature threatens to fall below 55 F.

Many of you take photographs at the show, Robert Meyer has regularly exhorted you to send in your favorite photos for use on the BSSF web site and/or Facebook page. I would like to see some of these photos published in the Journal of the Bromeliad Society. Photos need to be higher resolution to look good when printed than when being presented on a computer monitor, so I ask that anyone taking photos to turn up the resolution on their favorite shots, at least. Specifically, jpeg image files should be at least 1 MB in size to print well in the Journal. If you are concerned about running out of memory before you finish photographing the show, you might consider going through the show taking photos at your normal resolution. Once finished, you could set your camera to its highest resolution and go back to take a few photos of the plants or displays that you think others would like to see. If you are taking pictures of specific plants, please also remember to take a clear picture of the entry tag so we don't have to guess who a particular entry belongs to.

This Annual Show is our best opportunity to interact with members of the public who are not yet bitten by the bromeliad bug. It requires more time and energy than any other event on our calendar. If you have a few hours to spare on any of the four days (Thursday 27 Feb 2014 through Sunday 2 Mar

2014) please let us know. There **will** be a job available.

Garden Notes for November 2013

by Alan Herndon

Strangely enough, the first part of November was distinctly warmer around sunrise than it was in the last half of October. There was no longer a hint of chill in the air during the early morning hours. Higher humidity was responsible for this increase in overnight

temperatures. In fact the temperature change was small from 72 F to 75 or 76 F, but the difference feels huge when you are outside at that time. Daytime high temperatures also stayed above the seasonal average until near the end of the month. In fact the highs were typically in the 80's throughout this period – frequently reaching the mid 80's. Here I must point out that such temperatures will be taken as a sign that summer has arrived a few months from now. If you happened to be outside when the sky was clear and the sun was beating down on you with no shade in



Aechmea chantinii

sight, you could be forgiven for thinking it was still summer. Of course, the sun's intensity at this time of year is much lower than during summer, so you find you can keep working, even in the sun, for hours rather than minutes. Only in the last days of the month did overnight temperatures fall below 60.

We have also been having a rather wet 'dry season' so far. This month, the final two weeks were downright rainy. The sky was largely overcast during this period, and most

areas of the county had rainfall measurable in inches. Oddly enough, in the areas I was in during this period, an overwhelming majority of the rainfall fell at night

Given the warm, wet conditions, our bromeliads have kept on growing at a rapid rate. Although this extra growth is welcome, we also hope that when the inevitable cool-down comes, it will be gradual. A slow decline in temperature to the low 40's gives our plants a chance to adjust to the changing conditions. An overnight drop of the same magnitude would weaken not just those plants that are more susceptible to cold, but the great majority of rapidly growing plants, enough to give the ever-present fungi an opportunity to invade.

There has been a substantial increase in the proportion of *Aechmea chantinii* rosettes blooming this month although it is mostly smaller plants that produce small inflorescences now in bloom. *Aechmea nudicaulis* 'Telephone Hill' was the first clone of that species to flower en masse this season. This is a clone with relatively short and wide red leaves. Despite the name, it is a wild collected clone that just happened to be collected on a hill crossed by a number of conspicuous utility poles and wires. *Aechmea weilbachii* is still near to beginning of its blooming period. *Aechmea weilbachii viridisepala* continued to flower from last month and was joined at the end of the month by *Aechmea weilbachii leodiensis*.

Aechmea fasciata continued to flower into the first few days of November, but has since been entirely quiet. Among the cool-season blooming species of *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia*, *Aechmea calyculata* and *Aechmea gracilis* continued to flower. *Aechmea mexicana* continued to bloom throughout the month with new rosettes coming into flower as older inflorescences fade. *Aechmea ramosa* and *Aechmea fendleri* began to bloom during the first half of the month and continued through the end.

Aechmea serrata was found in bloom towards the end of the month along with *Aechmea kuntzeana*. *Aechmea drakeana* bloomed during November, but I never saw the open flowers. I saw it in late bud, and again after the petals were long closed and losing color.

A few plants of *Androlepis skinneri* _ both the staminate and pistillate forms _ came into bloom this month.

Confirming that we have indeed entered *Billbergia*-blooming season, several species produced flowers in November. *Billbergia morelii* flowered early in the month. One clone

of *Billbergia nana* flowered both early in the month and during the last quarter of the month. A single rosette of *Billbergia saundersii* bloomed during November, but several other rosettes in the same group have visible buds at the end of the month. Although the largest rosettes of *Billbergia pyramidalis lutea* bloomed as recently as October, some of



Nidularium rutilans cv. 'Sao Paolo'

the largest (pre-existing) pups from these rosettes flowered in the middle of November. These pups were roughly half the size of the mother plants.

Among *Canistropsis* species, we again had a blooming plant of the *Canistropsis billbergioides* clone with pink bracts. It was joined by *Canistropsis seidelii* var. *welteri*. This variety looks quite different from the typical *Canistropsis seidelii*. It has small primary bracts (subtending clusters of flowers) with pointy apices (opposed to the larger, rounded bracts of the typical variety) and these bracts are a pale red rather than the yellow of the typical variety.

The single plant of *Canistrum seidelianum* noted in bloom last month continued to flower into November.

Catopsis berteriana (the large form previously called *Catopsis compacta*) Also remained in bloom through November.

Another plant of *Guzmania sanguinea* – this time a representative of the typical variety – bloomed during the month.

Flowering rosette of *Neoregelia* are becoming harder to find, but a few did show up during the month. A few pots of *Neoregelia compacta* are in flower or bud. A few plants of *Neoregelia ampullacea* were spotted in flower. The single plant of *Neoregelia rosea* that has been noted in recent months is still flowering. An extended flowering period is normal for this species. *Neoregelia smithii*, on the other hand, has a short blooming period, but a pup can – and frequently seems to – come into flower as soon as it reaches blooming size. Since several of the pups produced after the blooms last summer are now reaching the proper size, I am not surprised to see them in flower.

Nidularium campos-portoi robustum continued to flower shortly into November. Also seen in bloom during the month were *Nidularium angustifolium* and *Nidularium longiflorum*. This last species looks exceedingly like *Nidularium innocentii* in the vegetative state. In bloom, it is easily distinguished by what is called a uniutriculate inflorescence. As is usual in *Nidularium*, the inflorescence of this species sits at the top of the rosette when flowers are open and is composed of showy bracts surrounding white flowers. In *Nidularium longiflorum*, all of the flowers are found in the central cup created by the bracts. In *Nidularium innocentii*, flowers are found in both the central cup and between lower bracts.



Guzmania sanguinea

Flowering is still commonly seen in *Orthophytum* species, although not as abundantly as a few months ago. The same plant of *Orthophytum zanonii* has been flowering for the past few months even though all other plants of the species finished months earlier. *Orthophytum ophiuroides* continued to bloom throughout the month only because many different plants are in different stages of bloom. *Orthophytum alvimii* continues to flower, as do *Orthophytum gurkenii*, *Orthophytum lymanianum*, and *Orthophytum benzingii*. A new plant of *Orthophytum rubiginosum* came into bloom near the end of the month.

Different plants of *Portea alatisepala* have come into flower sporadically throughout the month. The *Portea* species we historically called *Portea petropolitana petropolitana* was also found in flower. Since blooms on this plant are long-lived, we can expect the species to remain on the list for awhile.

Quesnelia seidelii, a species in subgenus *Billbergiopsis*, flowered early in the month. As the subgeneric name implies, this species looks very much like a *Billbergia* species, although the flowers and inflorescence bracts are smaller than we expect in *Billbergia*. Unfortunately, the species also resembles

Billbergia in having a very short-lived inflorescence.

My red-leaved *Tillandsia capitata* continued to bloom for the first part of November. *Tillandsia fasciculata clavispica* came into bloom early in the month. *Tillandsia juncea* began to flower towards the end of the month. After all the trouble *Tillandsia ionantha* caused me last year by stubbornly blooming during summer months, I was beginning to despair of finding any blooming plants now that the season when the species should be starting to flower has arrived. Fortunately, I found two

blooming clumps during the last week of November so the crisis was averted.. *Tillandsia vernicosa* was also seen in flower during the month, but it appears to have been in bloom since October.

Four species of *Vriesea* were in bloom during the month with *Vriesea carinata* continuing to produce new flowering rosettes as the old inflorescences fade. *Vriesea paraibica* began to bloom toward the beginning of the month. The young inflorescence on this species has an unusual appearance with the tips of young bracts bending to one side of the spike. By the time flowers start to open, the bracts have flattened out into a typical feather shape, but you can still see the tips of the younger bracts on the same side of the inflorescence axis. *Vriesea malzinii disticha*, as the name implies, has an inflorescence with the flowers on opposite sides of the spike. This distinguishes it immediately from *Vriesea malzinii malzinii* where the flowers appear to be in three rows around the axis. *Vriesea fluminensis* _ a medium size species with a feather-type yellow inflorescence _ began to flower early in the month.

Even though the afternoon sun may make it feel like summer is still here, much of the morning is comfortable for outdoor work. Enjoy it while it lasts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 17-19, 2014

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show
War Memorial Auditorium
Fort Lauderdale, Fl.

January 25-26, 2014

Tamiami International Orchid Show
Sunshine Pavilion at the Fair and Expo Center
10901 S.W. 24th St.
Miami, Fl 33165
10 AM to 8 PM on the 25th and 10AM to 6PM
on the 17th.
www.miamiorchidfestival.com

February 27-March 2, 2014

Bromeliad Annual Show
FTBG, 10901 Old Cutler Road

Coral Gables, FL 33156
Phone: 305.667.1651

March 14-15, 2014

Tropical Plant Fair
Pride Center at Equality Park
2040 N Dixie Hwy
Wilton Manors, FL 33305
<http://www.orchidsamore.com/Calendarofevents/calendar.htm>

March 7-9, 2014

Fairchild's 12th Annual International
Orchid Festival
FTBG, 10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=03-2014&eventID=898>

March 22-23, 2014

Garden Fest
12050 W Sunrise Blvd.
Plantation, FL 33323
354-530-0076
<http://www.bromeliadsocietybc.com/garden-fest.html>

April 19-20, 2014

33rd International Orchid & Bromeliad
Show
3750 S Flamingo Road
Davie, Florida 33330-1614
<http://www.flamingogardens.org/Events.html>

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

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

85.

The Captain and Boss were standing in the hallway of the precinct while Marlene and Ronaldo walked toward them with numerous papers in their respective hands, each was anticipating what they respectively hoped would be the breaking facts which would lead to the whereabouts of the prime

suspect, leading to the eventual arrest of Susie Gore. They held out their respective arms, with Captain's about one foot above and one foot closer to the oncoming dynamic duo. Captain, with such size advantage – coupled with rank – received the handouts and began to read the same when Joshua entered the premises with disheveled hair and wrinkled clothing. Boss, seeing the entrance of his likeable tech, walked toward the entrant while the Captain very thoroughly read the facts of the reports.

“Hey, man, where have you been?” was asked of Joshua by a seemingly unison chorus of belabored co-workers who had been working the past two days attempting to gather information to do what Joshua apparently did on his own – his return.

Joshua looked up to his admiring peers, seeing smiling faces unanimously shining toward him, and in an embarrassed state dropped his head and replied “At a woman’s place after being drugged.” The tilt of the head made the apparent statement difficult to understand, but the swelling of his tongue created by the seizure a few days ago compounded the incoherence of his speech. Everyone’s smiling face suddenly became an expression of concern and the one bold person, who thought he understood what was said, reached out to escort Joshua to a chair and walked him to Room A and nodded toward Rodriguez and Boss to join him in there. While walking to the room, the good Samaritan said, “Joshua we know you were with a girl. What we need to know now is where is the girl. But, first sit down and have something to eat or drink.” And, as they entered the room, they shut the door behind Boss and Rodriguez.

Joshua looked up and said “1465 SE 125 Street, Apartment G-103.” Boss wrote this address on a piece of paper, and walked out of the room, handed the paper to the Captain whose ensuing hand movements to numerous people indicated emergency response was being attended to while Joshua was being softly questioned by Boss and Rodriguez in Room A.

“Do you remember the girl’s name?” Boss asked in a very soft almost muffled tone.

“Yes. Her name is Susie Gort. And I even have her phone number.” At that time, Joshua reached into his pocket and pulled out the paper that Susie had placed in there and opened it for reading. When the paper was opened he saw no numbers. Instead, there were two short sentences. “Sorry for all I put you through. I really liked you.” No goodbye. No “Love Susie.” No nothing else. But, the statement that she really liked him meant a lot to him. And, for that reason, he sat back upset to have lost his chance to have her number which seemed less offensive. He had written acknowledgment that a good-looking girl liked him –

something never before received in writing, or even in conversation. When these emotions finished streaming through his consciousness, he said, “She told me this paper had her number, but it seems to be more of a goodbye note.”

At that time, a young cadet entered the room with three café cubanos and three tostadas for the people of Room A. Boss asked that all questioning cease while they experienced the religious experience of awakening their spirits with Cuba’s greatest gift to Miami-Dade County, and perhaps the world. When finishing their sips of compacted caffeine, the men chewed the butter-dripping flattened bread and licked their fingers dry to catch the last tastes of butter and bread crust which seemed to have latched onto all five fingers of each hand.

Boss rose from his chair and looked at Joshua and said, “If you don’t feel right after that meal, go home and rest. We can discuss this matter tomorrow.” Boss knew all they needed was the address which they had within moments of Joshua’s arrival, and at this moment the only matter of interest was her arrival, something which would be less problematic if Joshua was elsewhere – somewhere where he would not be a distraction. Joshua nodded, and thereafter put his hands on his forehead as a reaction to the continued headache he suffered from the few nights before. And then he said, “I think I will go to the lab and have blood drawn for a tox test. I was drugged and my head still hurts. I want to know what the toxin was.”

All rose as he parted Room A, and Boss signaled to Rodriguez to escort the day’s hero to the lab. Obliging, Rodriguez passed down the hall, each silent for the entire walk.

86.

As Boss returned to the precinct’s aorta, he saw Candy had come to the office. He expected nothing significant from her as past meetings had been either confusing or without much reward. Candy stood at the outside of Marlene’s carrel and when Boss entered their vision, Marlene stood and asked Boss if he could join Candy and she to Room A. Nodding without verbal response, Boss allowed the other two to enter the room, and he closed the door behind him as they sat down in front of the metallic putty-colored table before which numerous confessions had been made. Boss thought to himself, “Could this be another confession, and can this confession close this case?”

Candy, without any opening words from Boss, took charge of the discussion and commenced talking before Boss could be seated. “I came here as I think

there is something you need to know.” She paused, caught some breath, and then continued, “I am not the average person. I proudly claim to be a tree hugger. When I was a child, I first showed such arboric love when I went beneath father’s great southern oak, raked up all its leaves, and gathered them together and I wet them with the hose. I then put a ladder to the side of the tree and slowly put those leaves in a large clump within a crotch of the large tree, so that it could have its leaves returned. The otherwise bare tree sat there with a large ball, a miniature mountain of leaves, in the middle of its first expanse, all because of my endeavor to return the leaves to the parent. When father returned, he looked at the peculiar sight, entered the home, and gave me a big hug. He knew I was like he – a true lover of trees and nature.” She paused, looking down at her feet, and continued, “I am not one to hurt things. I could not bear seeing a tree lose its leaves, and even more so cannot think about one even killing a pet, let alone a person. I am stitched up with the recent events. This is mayhem. Yet, somehow it centers upon me. First my father, and now a visitor. And, you need to know why. I do not know why, but I have some ideas.”



Southern Oak

At this juncture, Boss and everyone in the force was willing to receive something which may aid in the discovery of facts about the case. They needed to know what, if anything, tied the mysterious Gort family to the more mysterious Code. And, Boss, through instinct and years of experience, felt that Candy was the person who could tie the two together. So he delivered the magic words to see if she could deliver the goods, “Please, give us anything which you believe may aid in this investigation.”

“Well, I know the Code is about the Nat Strong, who you have met as Stan Gort. And, I believe that if you look further, you will discover there is a daughter to Gort, who now goes by the name of Susie Gort. And, if you look further, you will discover that Susie Gort and I had been friends for years, and that we have been friendly even after the Code was created. And, if you go further, you may learn that Marin, who found out about the Code through his shenanigans and his need-to-know belief about my relationship with Susie. He snooped and that led him to extort and swindle money, a lot of money, from Stan. And, Marin knows that I know about the Gort relation to Strong. But, he was never dumb enough to attempt to extort me.”

So far, Candy was good. She confirmed what Boss had believed to be true. And, he sat quietly hoping that this revelation would lead to more motive or more facts which would bring Susie closer to the investigation.

“And, Susie is not an angel.” Candy offered with a tone of a scorned woman. “She looks cute and naive, but she is the brains behind the Gort insurance scam. And, never think otherwise. If you, for one moment, believe she is anything less than totally onto and involved with the parents’ scheme, find yourself led astray.” Just as Candy swallowed a little air to gain breath for her next sentence, she coughed. She covered her mouth with her hand, and when the coughing ended, she felt a thick mucous on her hand. Her response to the moist and thick liquid on her hand was to reach for the Kleenex box, and grab one tissue. When wiping her hand, she swiped a bit

around her mouth. When she finished, she looked at the frozen visages of Boss and Marlene who each stood from their chairs before she saw the contents on her tissue. The thick red and bloodied tissue was something totally surprising to Candy who wondered what was happening. She had not had any colds, and no ailments. She knew she was weak. She had lost her appetite recently because of the frightening events within her family and within her home. She was only capable of eating chicken soup, and had lost 10 pounds in a few weeks. But, she knew she was not sick.

“Candy, sit down.” Boss ordered. And, as she sat down, her energies were suddenly sapped, her knees buckled, and while her eyes rolled back to her forehead, she fainted; only to avoid a crash onto the linoleum floor because of the fleet-footed Marlene who caught her friend’s torso with strong grip before it was even inches below her sitting position. Within moments an ambulance was called, and Marlene handed her friend’s body and medical needs to the ET’s who cruised her to the hospital where Marlene too would soon be.

Crystal Donations Wanted

Anyone with Crystal from previous shows who wish to donate to the BSSF, please contact Barbara Spalding.

**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
2014 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME(S) _____

(Couples - please include BOTH first names)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

ADD'L. TEL. _____

Year Joined BSSF: _____

Referred by: _____

Include e-mail address in the roster? (Y/N) Yes No

E-mail BromeliAdvisory? (Y/N) Yes No (You will not receive a hard copy)

EMAIL _____

**IF ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR, PLEASE
HIGHLIGHT OR UNDERLINE**

Please renew my(our) membership in the BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA for the period of March 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015.

Check the category: Single membership. \$25.00
 Dual membership. \$35.00

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

DUES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2014, IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2014 ROSTER

Please mail completed form and check

(Payable to BSSF) to:

Maureen Adelman
9421 SW 134 Street
Miami, FL 33176

Or E-Mail this form to:

hadelman@comcast.net