

# BromeliAdvisory

June 2015



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Background is *Aechmea* 'Royal Burgundy' *linneata* (Photo by Robert Meyer)





# BromeliAdvisory

Stop and Smell the Bromeliads

**June 2015**

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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 Alex Bello, VP  
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**Refreshments:** Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Alex Bello

**JUNE 16, 2015**

**SPEAKER:** Bromeliad Bingo with Double M – Mike Michalski

**RAFFLE TABLE:** Alex Bello

**FOOD:** Pauline Hamian, Maria Almodovar, Stephanie LaRusso, Maria Amador, Rusty Brown, Ellis Brown.

## BINGO

In the respite known as the Florida summer, Mike Michalski will be the host with the most by vocally announcing the letters and numbers from Bromeliad Bingo. Winners receive something greater than cash. They receive plants provided by the society, or Mike, or Alex Bello – or whoever some s to the meeting with winning items. This has become an annual festival, to which many can never lose the urgency of excitement.





## President's Message

by Sandy Roth

Hello Everyone

Summer is here and it's vacation time !! I will be away on vacation soon and I'm aware of the heat and my plants. I have taken precautions but I'm still hopeful for rain.



I have changed locations of some plants because the sun has moved. So please think about it when you go away.

We also have to be aware of our next event . . . . The Extravaganza in September.... I'm really

excited about it....I love going to them !! We will need your help and co operation and ideas if you have any.

Enjoy your summer!

Hasta luego

*Sandy Roth*

## In Case You Missed It

by Robert Meyer

Jason Mellica, like a Greek hero, trekked from Sarasota to Miami to introduce the BSSF to the Neoregelia Tiger and other crosses with names like: Euterpe (daughter of Zeus), Metis (cunningness in ancient Greek), Artemis (daughter of Zeus and Leto), Apollo's Poetry, Poseidon's Poison, Bones of the Argonauts, and Quest for the Fleece.



Attired with casual floral short and well worn jeans, the bearded and

komao-inspired (Greek: to let hair grow) hybridizer gave a show and tell combined with a chart of heritage to allow the listeners to better comprehend how a plant's heritage often delivers unexpected hybrids.

Essentially laden with tiger striped and tiger toothed plants, the hybrids predominantly were deep green colored offspring with purple hints of stripes, each with different degrees of striping, and many with unique growth habits.

The unorthodox (another Greek derivative term) presentation was insightful and refreshing. Instead of handing out excel term sheets with the listing of the hybrids' parentage, the speaker did something which few of his generation do – he wrote out the list in longhand on typing papers in slanted fashion (see last page of this Advisory). The list, as accurate as the typed and lineated cousins of the 21<sup>st</sup> century charts, reflected the “home grown” inspired and characteristic of the Sarasota hybrids of the speaker's nursery named Level 21 NRG.

The homey concept continues in the 21<sup>st</sup> century web page where his Level 21 logo is hand made/ drawn – instead of being the product of computer-generated crispy lines and edged corners.

Photos on the speaker's web page indicate the grounds are tight and comfortable to the accustomed. With hardier plants affixed to the ceiling cross beams of the shade house, more delicate plants – Guzmania – lie beneath in increased shade and are provided enough protections from Florida's glaringly burning sun.

The plants to which the lecture focused upon were not timid or in need of shaded care. Poseidon's Poison, for example, is the ultimate border protector – its spikes can go in both directions. Thick leaved, and spiny, the plants are more a danger to the grower than the elements are to the plant. Many are drought tolerant, others are quick breeders, with such

characteristics filling some of the speaker's more important business enterprises. Mellica, whose business includes making large arrangements (sometime as tall as 7 feet), the drought tolerance is especially important. Alternatively, the quickly pupping hybrids [Tunisia, Apollo's Poetry, Tiger Shark, and Euterpe are examples of such plants] are a welcome plant to landscapers whose clients want ground or other space filled at an economically pleasing purchase.

Sometimes plants can be cutely surprising. Bones of the Argonauts has Angel Face parentage, hence when the plant matures, the center will redden like Angel Face and deviate from the otherwise green and dark purple world of the hybrids presented for display. Others have stoloniferous characteristics derived from small plant parentage – ampullacae. When hybridized with large neoregelias, the results can be mid-sized neoregelias with stoloniferous offshoots. Jaguar Cub, with punctissima parentage, looks like Tiger Shark with stolons. Solstice looks like a pauciflora on steroids. Dark Energy resembles Mo Peppa Please, but on a very much larger scale.

The 1960's look of the speaker, combined with the 60's style presentation, made this a great retro-inspired speech about one of the oldest professions – mixing plants to make better products. Unfortunately, Level 21's sales are presently only at the markets in the Sarasota area. If a Sarasota trip is made in the future, visitors would be well encouraged to stop at this speaker's venue where passion and love are as much involved in the plants' creation as the profit motive demanded upon any grower who wishes to eat.

Curious internet surfers can read more about the Mellica work at <http://www.level21nrg.com/>.

## DONATIONS REQUESTED Extravaganza Help Wanted

Please help us with our Extravaganza. Everyone can do something.

We need Volunteers for Sept. 26th and 27th. Call Barbara Partagas or Maureen Adelman.

We need donations of new and gently used items to fill raffle baskets.

We need donations from merchants. Now is the time to ask them for their support. All donations will be recognized.

Bring donations to the next BSSF meeting.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 5 – 7, 2015**

### Ree Gardens Plant Sale

9:00 am – 5:00 pm 305 232-2257

7860 SW 124 St.

Miami, FL

**Friday June 26 - Saturday June 27**

### Tropiflora's Summer Blowout Sale

No frills, just plants. No food, no outside vendors, just bargains galore! Free parking and free admission.

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days!

<http://www.tropiflora.com/events.cfm>

**July 24-26, 2015**

### Caladium Festival

DeVane Park

Lake Placid, FL 33852

<http://www.lpfla.com/caladium.htm>



**September 12 & 13, 2015**

### Mounts Botanical Garden Orchid Sale & Shady Affair

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mounts Botanical Garden

559 N. Military Trail

West Palm Beach, FL

More Info: 561-233-1757

<http://mounts.org/>



**September 26, 2015**

**Bromeliad Extravaganza  
"Bromeliads in the Magic City"  
711 N.W. 72nd Avenue  
Miami, Florida, 33126**

For Any Info:

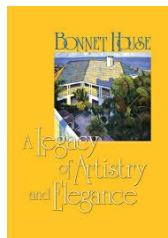
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/state-convention.htm>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Extravaganza-2015/680427458747123>

**Saturday, October 17, 2015 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**Sunday, October 18, 2015 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Broward County Plant Affair**  
Plantation Heritage Park  
1100 South Fig Tree Lane  
Plantation, FL  
More Info: 954-797-2722  
<http://www.broward.org/calendar/welcome.htm>

**November 14-16, 2015**  
**Fall Orchid Show at**  
**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens  
10901 Old Cutler Road  
Coral Gables, Florida  
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/events-community-outreach>

**December 5 & 6, 2015**  
**BONNET HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDEN**  
**9TH ANNUAL ORCHID, GARDEN &**  
**GOURMET FOOD FESTIVAL**  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
900 N. Birch Road just south of Sunrise  
Blvd. between A1A and the Intracoastal  
on Fort Lauderdale beach.  
(954) 563-5393 or (954)925-2021.  
<http://www.bonnethouse.org/news/orchid-festival/>



## **MURDER IN CORBIN A**

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

### **117.**

“Joshua,” the old man commenced, “Susie and I are onto something big, but not as big as others think.” And from that prefatory statement followed a long detailed accounting of bromeliads, hybridization, cross genera and more. The average human being, as suspected by Susie and her father, could neither understand nor fathom the discussion. And, most importantly, such a discussion would never enliven the curiosity of the layman – thereby making the conversation quickly forgotten and without value to the listener. Joshua was not a layman.

Absorbing the conversation like a sponge, Joshua took intricate mental notes, sometimes questioning the chemical and biological conclusions raised by the Gorts in their Joshua-specific lecture. But, the speed of conversation compelled these side thoughts to perish before either Susie or her father continued the conversation with another fascinating (to Joshua) explanation or revelation of their genera crossing. In the end, the two almost concluded like a well trained singing duet – ceasing at the very same moment. And, their collective eyes gazed upon Joshua expecting a time of silence while he would digest some of the heavily delivered information which no

one person could properly comprehend in a single sitting. After that silence, the two anticipated a slurry of questions from the novice about the matter.

Joshua, without hesitation, defied their expectations. He cranked out questions in machine gun manner. Starting with their preliminary statements and proceeding with each question on a chronological progression which paralleled their description. When such preliminary issues were resolved or agreed upon, Joshua leap-frogged the Gorts in the conclusory agenda and revealed to them what they already knew – but which was neither known or accepted by the bromeliad-loving miniature public which had received some of the broader concepts of the Gorts’ scientific strides.

Susie and her father started to impress upon Joshua the facial expressions which they had expected to receive. Joshua, with a much more thorough science training and educational background, had unlocked many of the doors which they could not. Inside, the Gorts were independently decrying themselves for not having hired a mind of similar magnitude when handling the nursery in Australia. But, that was the past. And, with the Joshua and his astute mind, the future suddenly looked very bright and, in Mr. Gort’s perspective, profitable.

And, just when the conversation was concluding with valid conclusions about the scientific hybridization, Joshua turned to the father-daughter combo and asked the easiest question to which no simple answer could be given: “Why is this delivering murder and intrigue to the Bromeliad Society of South Florida?”

Susie and her father shrugged their shoulders, but then each, upon the other’s concluding their oral suppositive response, looked to Joshua and said, “We do not know, but think that our lives will also end from this matter. And, that is why we need you to learn what is happening so that the death of two people will not end the scientific research.”

Joshua nodded, and after hearing this statement, bowed his head under the firm realization that the first pretty girl to have made eyes upon him in his entire life was probably never going to live long enough for a relationship, or even for a friendship, to grow.

### **118.**

Boss got the hardwires to research deeper into Stitch’s background. Slowly, they found a name change, followed by three Social Security card changes, followed by a few more name changes, including a marriage, and four changes of addresses. Most of this was penny ante, and Boss ignored the



meaning. Then one of the computer crackers obtained something on a personal hunch. After tiptoeing into some federally protected sites, he discovered the little body was once a big military officer. A lieutenant – by the age of 26. In the army. And, nowhere else was any of this information known. The identity and associated federal numbers were under one of the pseudonyms discovered by the hardwires.

“Stitch was, believe it or not, a second lieutenant in the United States Army named Catherine Sosa. She received a bronze star, a purple heart in the middle east, and then an honorable discharge.” Boss told his Captain. “Upon returning home, she was unemployed, had requested treatment for PTSD. The same was denied. She then started to lose contact with the web. Like a television on the fritz, her identity started to go fuzzy and fuzzier until she disappeared. Catherine Sosa is no more. She took on a few identities, each tougher to track than the prior. In the end, when her identity was fully off the grid, she took up the stupid name Stitch, left a husband, joined the other team, and took on a simple daily grind job. Women treated her well, and from such her comforts of life were not on any credit card she used. That means food, clothes, rent and more. She was a superior officer in the world of hiding.”

Captain looked at the floor with his chin held firmly against his right hand’s vee, while the left arm cradled his right arm’s elbow. The Rodin-like pose caught the little Lieutenant’s attention, and he waited for a few seconds while the Captain inhaled this information, and then continued. “Her phone records are a cornucopia of calls with wealthy women. Candy is the last. The numbers before are even more impressive. Why she didn’t buy a burner and avoid this device is not consistent with other actions. One of the boys thinks this was intentional. She knew that her map for anyone to find would be the phone records. All of the other tracks were too well covered. Hence, she knew that if anyone went after her, the phone records would lead a trail.”

“Did they?” the Captain asked.

“Yes.” Boss said calmly. An eight lane wide trail. Her calls not only touched this Candy, but she has calls with Marin, the judge and more. She is a regular bromeliad gossip. But, never went to a meeting, and as far as we know, never was in the presence of one with any of the other’s about. Furthermore, one of the boys in hardwire has a theory.” Boss waited for Captain to acknowledge whether the theory should be relayed. A nod sufficed for Boss to finish. “The boy thinks Stitch, being so good in camouflaging her identity, met with them under different names. Heck, we already found four driver’s licenses with her photo – but each with a different hairstyle or hair color. She has probably

more names and accents and personalities than Sybil.”

Captain looked perplexed at that name. Boss the great reader had read the eponymously named book on numerous occasions. But, before he jumped into explaining the book or its issues, Boss amended and said “The USA of Tara.” Captain nodded and Boss continued.

“In short, Stitch was known by many, under different names, maybe different voices and looks, but in a one-woman espionage mission, had infiltrated the BSSF without anyone knowing the better – with one exception, the murderer.”

“Interesting theory.” Captain acknowledged.

“Do you want to hear the best part?” Boss asked. Captain slightly nodded, and Boss finished.

“The boys think the only person who could be the murderer would be doing the same – in short we are chasing after someone watching from the periphery. An outsider of the BSSF. Not a member. Someone who can shoot in and out without notice.”

“And who could that be?” Captain asked.

“We do not know, but the boys have a theory. Trace the calls from the phone, and the culprit has to be one of the other numbers.”

And then Captain said – “And, if the murderer does not want a trail, what would prevent him or her from using a burner? In short, we only can use phone records if the suspect was foolish enough to avoid using a burner. Correct?”

Boss nodded affirmatively to this statement, and nevertheless told the hardwires to continue.

