



# BromeliAdvisory

## February 2012

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

 [http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_188155814554155&ap=1](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_188155814554155&ap=1)

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

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What	Who
Sales Table	Tropiflora

## FEBRUARY 21, 2012 7:30 PM

Speaker: Dennis Cathcart on Wally Berg

RAFFLE TABLE: Robert Meyer

FOOD TABLE: Pat Tarkanish Joy Parrish, Maureen Adelman

### Speaker for the Month:

Dennis Cathcart – the man behind Tropiflora – something which he describes as, “. . . a bromeliad collecting hobby got out of hand.” Tropiflora registered in 1976 and now is BIG. He or his nursery can be seen at numerous shows throughout the year. He is one of the few featured speakers for Orlandiana '12 – the 20<sup>th</sup> World Conference



### Special Orders Anyone?

If you want Dennis to bring items to YOU at our meeting, email or call them and make your order. Deadline for the order is February 17, 2012. <http://www.tropiflora.com/> 1-800-613-7520, or [Sales@tropiflora.com](mailto:Sales@tropiflora.com)

**RENEW MEMBERSHIPS NOW – SEE LAST PAGE**

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## President's Message by Carl Bauer

Weather forecasters tell us that La Nina winters [like this year] in the Southeast are warm and dry. That has certainly been the case so far in 2012 with welcome rain finally arriving in early February for an extended period. It will mean back to mowing the lawn more often but good news for our plants in the garden.

Believe it or not, it is time to begin planning for our annual Show and Sale. The actual dates for public viewing are April 21 and 22, 2012 at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, but of course the hard work comes before that. Chairman Alan Herndon and his team need everyone of us involved. There is a lot to be done but if history is any judge we will have a lot of fun. There is a real sense of satisfaction in preparing and presenting this very special celebration of our beautiful bromeliads. I don't think there is anything else that matches it!

Please volunteer at the next two meetings for any of the various committees. There are a multitude of possibilities for your time and talents.

Finally, don't forget to pay your annual dues and ensure you are included in the 2012 Member Roster.

See you at the meeting.

*Carl Bauer*

## In Case You Missed It by Robert Meyer

Dr. Terry Bert came and delivered a lecture on a new topic entitled: *Sorting Out the Evolving Family: Bromeliad Identification Conundrums*.

The focus was on bromeliad species and genera, and the subfamilies of each. "Species is one of the basic units of biological classification and a taxonomic rank. A



species is often defined as a group of organisms capable of interbreeding and producing fertile offspring." Alternatively, "a genus (plural: genera) is a low-level taxonomic rank used in the biological classification of living and fossil organisms, which is an example of definition by genus and differentia. Genera and higher taxonomic levels such as families are used in biodiversity studies, particularly in fossil studies since species cannot always be confidently identified and genera and families typically have longer stratigraphic ranges than species." Sahney, S., Benton, M.J. and Ferry, P.A. (2010). "Links between global taxonomic diversity, ecological diversity and the expansion of vertebrates on land" (PDF). *Biology Letters* 6 (4): 544–547.

Every member of the society has handled genus and species for years. The bromeliad names are always binomial – a two part name. The first is the genus, and the second is the species. We always capitalize the genus, and species will always have a lower case. And, species will often use Greek or Latin for descriptive names, or will be honorific in which the name of a person will be attached to the plant for appreciation or acclaim for honorary work.

Dr. Bert explained how the evolutionary improvement of biological sciences delivered changes to many identifications, and effectively has made dramatic and potentially large changes in our often eventless and little world of bromeliads. DNA advancement has provided more thorough scientific rationale for sorting the Bromeliaceae beyond mere morphological similarities. Taxonomy (systematics) has become more of a genetic science. Now, rather than relying on keen senses of distinction, DNA sequences may deliver categories. This will often change the genus name, not necessarily the species; and, the result often rearranges different genera as similar-looking plants often do not share the same genetic background.

Led by University of Wisconsin's team of DNA experts, the truly hungry enthusiasts can obtain more than they would want by reading "PHYLOGENY, ADAPTIVE RADIATION, AND HISTORICAL BIOGEOGRAPHY OF BROMELIACEAE INFERRED FROM *ndhF* SEQUENCE DATA" as found at: <http://www.botany.wisc.edu/givnish/pdfs/Givnish%20Bromeliaceae.pdf>. Simply put, plants were put under the watchful eye of a DNA sequencer, and surprising results were found.

Although we call our beloved plants bromeliads – the Bromeliaceae family is divided into three subfamilies: *Pitcairnioideae*, *Bromelioideae* and *Tillandsioideae*. Or was.

*Pitcairnioideae* had 14 genera; *Bromelioideae* had 32 genera; and *Tillandsioideae* had 9 genera – for a total of 55 genera. If you look to the FCBS website, you will notice that the list of photos for genera includes 58 genera, and all but three are highlighted in blue (those in blue have photographs). The BSI page lists 56. The FCBS includes some genera which BSI does not: *Pepina*. And BSI includes some genera which FCBS does not: *Eduandrea*, *Lapanthus*, and *Sequencia*. Confusing before, and now even more confusing.

The authors of the above-described article found that, “Given the ladderlike branching pattern in the *ndhF* bromeliad phylogeny, subfamily *Pitcairnioideae* must be recircumscribed and at least five new subfamilies erected if all resulting entities are to be monophyletic and the morphologically distinctive *Bromelioideae* and *Tillandsioideae* maintained. We therefore propose the following four new subfamilies of Bromeliaceae, and recircumscribe two others . . .”

The authors named four subfamilies **Brochhinioidae** TYPE: *Brochchinia*; **Lindmanioidae** TYPE *Lindmania* (also includes genera *Connellia*); **Hechtioidae** TYPE *Hechtia*; and **Puyoideae** TYPE *Puya*.

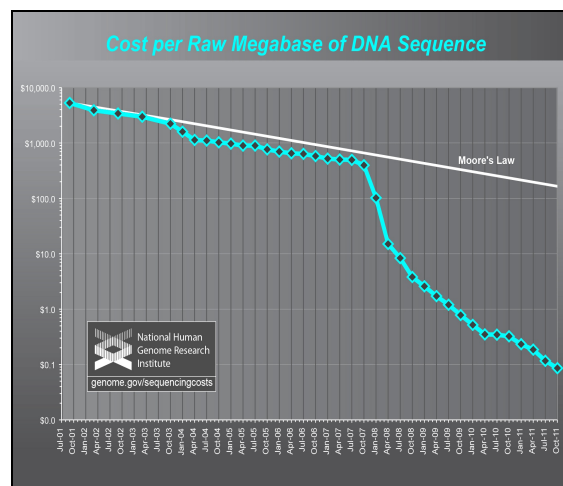
The recircumscribed were *Navioidae* (Genera *Brewcaria*, *Cottendorfia*, *Navia*, *Sequencia*, and *Steyerbromelia*) and *Pitcairnioideae* (Genera *Abromeitiella*, *Deuterocohnia*, *Dyckia*, *Encholirium*, *Fosterella*, and *Pitcairnia*)

Dr. Bert’s energetic voice brought this

subject, dryer than others perhaps, some enlightenment with metaphors and examples. Slides showing plants with familiar looks but very different genus id-factors made us understand the complexity of the situation. *Hechtia*, or what Dr. Bert described as the marsupial of bromeliads, is an “enigma.” *Puya* is a *Pitcairnioideae* gone amok. Many *Tillandsia* look like *Vriesea*, but they are not. And, even some *Guzmania* appeared to be anything but the what is classified as.

Dr. Bert also handled some of the common sensical day-to-day problems encountered by us weekend gardeners. What do you do with the plant whose tag was lost? She suggested moving a pup next to a plant that you think it is and when it blooms, you should know. If it does not match, walk it around others with tags, and hope you see what you are looking for.

Although few, if any, of the crowd would yearn to become a taxonomist in hobby or otherwise, those looking for more of this new subject can go online and read the University of Wisconsin article shown above or go to the Sprecht lab at <http://www.plantbiodiversity.org/publications.html>.



This graph from NHGRI [National Human Genome Research Institute] shows how the exponential drop (Moore’s Law) is far outpaced by the recent astronomical drops in prices for genome sequencing.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Full genome sequencing was expensive, labor-intensive, and reserved for serious issues – e.g. life-threatening diseases. But, Pacific Biosciences (a Menlo Park, Ca. corporation) and other corporations are making machines to handle the issues at a fraction of the cost. In 2009, it cost \$50,000.00 to \$100,000.00 for full genome sequencing. In 2010 it dropped to about \$39,500.00 at Knome (a Cambridge, Mass. corporation run by Harvard University faculty), and \$29,500.00 for researchers. Illumina (a San Diego, Ca. corporation) made breaking news in June of 2010 by reducing the price to \$19,500.00 from \$48,000.00. And, Illumina would discount the price to \$9,500.00 to the seriously ill, or \$14,500.00 per patient for parties of five or more. Complete Genomics (a Mountain View, Ca. corporation) announced in 2011 that it would charge as little as \$10,000.00. Life Technologies Group (a Carlsbad, Ca. corporation) then

announced a machine that practically performs the duty in the amount of time it takes to xerox a small manuscript. Pacific Biosciences responded. Pacific Biosciences stated that their second-generation machine, which is scheduled for release in 2015, will be capable of providing a full genome sequence for a person in just 15 minutes for less than US \$100. Universities are already receiving the first machine from Pacific Biosciences as well as others – and places like University of California Berkeley, where Dr. Spreti is a P.I., may deliver new plant tests with the use of these advanced and economically utile machines.

### Longtime Member Eve Tenant Dies

Eve Tenant who sat on the board as secretary under Karl's presidency has died. She was member for years, who was always at the events. Health issues recently interfered with her ability to appear and she was missed.

### AN ARTISTIC INTERLUDE

by Alan Herndon

An art exhibit featuring our own **Urszula Dudek** opened Feb 3 in the Gallery at Pinecrest Gardens. If you missed the opening that evening, you can still see the exhibit through the month of February.

This exhibit showcases 6 local artists. Jacqueline Carini is showing art photographs, but all remaining artists are showing paintings. The paintings are overwhelmingly realistic in style, and, with very few exceptions, feature the tropical plants we commonly grow. Of course, a wide range of realistic styles are present. Urszula stands at one end with the precise realism of her bromeliad paintings. Pauline Goldsmith offers a mixture of water color

styles: some in a precise, delicate style used in botanical illustration, others with closeup paintings of stylized orchid flowers, and a final group of paintings where the plant subjects are heavily stylized and are less important in themselves than as carriers for bold colors.

Ewa Grau's paintings featured softer edges in a more impressionistic style. However, her display also includes the only intentionally non-realistic painting in the show. This painting is dominated by bright yellow, highly stylized flower (probably based on a sunflower).

A majority of the others' featured plants, it must be admitted, are orchids. Bromeliads were prominent in Urszula's display and the display by Barbara Hesse. Aroids, flowering trees and foliage plants were also frequently featured.

Urszula completed 3 new paintings for this show. One represents a beautiful variegated *Cryptanthus* with silvery cross-bands done in her signature photorealistic style. This is based on a photo Urszula took of a plant at our Annual Show a few years ago. If you recognize this plant, please let Urszula know because she has lost the name. (It may be *Cryptanthus* 'Nivea', or another cultivar of similar appearance.) The second new painting is a landscape/seascape dominated by a leafless mangrove along the coast. This painting, still strongly realistic, is done in a slightly softer style with the observer at a much greater distance.

Finally, she has painted an early sunrise (assuming it is based on our east coast location) on a stormy morning. As the description implies, most of the canvas is dark, and the painting conveys more the mood of the scene than a detailed description. This marks a completely different style of painting than we have seen from Urszula before



*Canistropsis seidelii* var. *walteri* photo by D Butcher  
Canistropsis seidelii photo by (Uncle) Derek Butcher

Make time to visit this exhibit. It will be worth your while.

### Garden Notes - JAN 2012 By Alan Herndon

Although the winter has been abnormally mild despite the brief scare near the first of the month, it has also been abnormally dry. We did not have a heavy rainfall at our nursery for over two 2 months (including December through January), and only 2 relatively small rains within that period.

In a normal year, we can expect the occasional soaking rain associated with cold fronts moving through our area at least in the months of December and January.

Our plants have noticed the lack of water. Leaves on many of the *Aechmea chantinii* planted in the avocado trees outside the reach of our normal irrigation are curling, and the normal rainy season is still at least 4 months away. It is not just our nursery that is afflicted. Plantings of *Aechmea blanchetiana* seem especially susceptible, with curling leaves seen on insufficiently watered plants in several lawns and business plantings.

Among the many species of *Aechmea* in bloom during the month, *Aechmea chantinii*, *Aechmea bracteata* and *Aechmea mexicana* are all holdovers from Dec (or months even further back). Species in the *Aechmea orlandiana* complex continue to bloom, with *Aechmea milsteiniana*, *Aechmea fosteriana* and *Aechmea gurkeniana* all in flower throughout the month. Of course, the species with short-lived blooms that flower at short intervals during their season, including several clones of *Aechmea nudicaulis*, clones of *Aechmea weilbachii* and at least two representatives of *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia*, *Aechmea recurvata recurvata* and *Aechmea comata*, made brief appearances throughout the month. *Aechmea bromeliifolia* is another species with a short-lived bloom in flower this time of year. A single clump of this species will frequently have different rosettes bloom on different schedules, so the blooming period seems more spread out. *Aechmea warasii* has also been in bloom. Unless correctly display, you may never notice the bloom since it is pendant. It hangs down the side of the plant with the flowers usually well below the base. If you grow this species on a bench, the flowers could easily be out of sight and out of mind underneath the pots. Flowering of *Aechmea roberto-anselmou* started and ended during the month. Two more long lived inflorescences were seen on *Aechmea*

*araneosa* and *Aechmea woronowii*. A final note, Nat DeLeon's hybrid *Aechmea* 'David Barry' is in full bloom this time of year.

*Androlepis skinneri* continued to bloom through the month. We still have both staminate (male) and pistillate (female) plants in bloom.

Various clones of *Billbergia amoena* are still blooming frequently. A single rosette of *Billbergia* 'Hallelujah' also put up a spike. *Billbergia* 'Poquito Mas', unfortunately, was one of the few victims of the near freeze at the beginning of the month. The plants were within a few days of open flowers when the cold came through. Afterward, for about a week, the inflorescences retained their color and seemed to be in suspended animation. That was, of course, just false hope, and the buds that were so near maturity eventually began to shrivel without further development.



*Portea petropolitana*  
*var. petropolitana* Photo Courtesy of  
Dave's Garden

*Canistropsis seidelii* continues to flower.

*Canistrum sandrae*, a species not common in cultivation also produced flowers.

*Edmundoa lindenii* (the form with green petals) began to flower. From past experience, I know this inflorescence will last for months. Flowers may not be present every day, but they will keep coming.

*Neoregelia compacta* and the closely related *Neoregelia macwilliamsii* have a few plants in bloom with many more in bud.

Likewise, a few plants in the *Neoregelia olens* complex are in late bud. Other *Neoregelia* species are taking their winter break, although many are showing early signs of the coming spring flowers.

Two new species of *Orthophytum* began to flower this month: *Orthophytum lemei* and *Orthophytum saxicola*. Species continuing to bloom from months past are: *Orthophytum alvimii*, *Orthophytum horridum*, *Orthophytum lymaniana*, *Orthophytum magalhaesii* and *Orthophytum disjunctum*. Several other species are in bud.

*Pitcairnia smithiorum* continued to bloom through the end of the month, and the inflorescence still seems to be actively growing.

Yet another clump of *Portea* 'petropolitana' var. *petropolitana* has been blooming during this month. In the meantime, clones of *Portea alatisepala* have continued to bloom heavily. Individual rosettes of *Portea alatisepala* do not have long-lived blooms, but not all rosettes in a clump bloom at the same time, so the effective blooming season is more spread out. Three less common species were also in bloom this month; *Portea kermesina* (the type species of the genus), *Portea nana* and, right at the end of the month, *Portea grandiflora*. All three of these species have short-lived blooms with open flowers for 1-3 weeks at best.

*Quesnelia strobilospica* came into bloom, and went out, so quickly, it was easy to miss. Fortunately, the densely packed bracts of the inflorescence retain color for several weeks.

*Ronnbergia brasiliensis*, a species not as commonly grown, was also in bloom.

Five representatives of *Tillandsia* subgenus *Anoplophytum*: *Tillandsia araujei*, *Tillandsia stricta*, *Tillandsia tenuifolia*, *Tillandsia polzii* and *Tillandsia didisticha* had open flowers this month. With the exception of *Tillandsia didisticha*, these all have short-lived blooms, but they are usually grown in clumps so you can have displays with many rosettes in flower at once and an extended flowering period as different rosettes in the clump bloom. *Tillandsia chiapensis* has continued to bloom throughout the month. It produces flowers slowly \_ often separated by several days.

Although usually associated with Christmas, we still have occasional clumps of *Tillandsia ionantha* coloring up and flowering. Other species continuing in bloom from months past are *Tillandsia fasciculata* and *Tillandsia dodsonii*. Two of the species with pseudobulbs, *Tillandsia bulbosa* and *Tillandsia pseudo-baileyi*, began to bloom early in the month and *Tillandsia festucoides*

began to bloom at the end of the month.

I have noticed a few species of *Vriesea* in bloom this month. *Vriesea carinata*, *Vriesea agostiniana* and *Vriesea barilettii*. Also, in bloom is *Vriesea* 'Splendrit', the only cultivar of *Vriesea splendens* we can grow well in the Miami area.

Despite the low temperatures, this first real cold front did not eliminate either our butterflies or our dragonflies. Both were evident a few days later, although their numbers are clearly reduced.

## All Hail Our Long-Term Members

by Alan Herndon

The Bromeliad Society of South Florida has been blessed with many long-serving, highly dedicated members over the years. As a small token of appreciation, the club is holding an afternoon party to honor these special people on **Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the home and garden of **Sandy Roth** – 12670 SW 102 Ave, Miami, FL 33176 at 12:00 PM. All members are welcome (please tell Sandy if you plan to come so she knows how many to prepare for).

This brief rundown of the longest-term members is provided as an inspiration for the rest of us. May our own tenures be so rewarding for BSSF.

We are fortunate to still have Nat DeLeon as an active participant in our organization. He has been with BSSF from the beginning of time – being present at the first organizational meetings that eventually produced our society. He was also the inaugural president of BSSF and, over the years, has been the member most active in the Bromeliad Society International (where his service was recognized by being named an Honorary Trustee in 2000).

Next in our list of long-term members is Bob Work. Bob was not present at the birth of the society, but joined within a few years (early 1960's) and has been with us since. The next four in seniority joined in a period when our records are weak, but Steve Correale believably joined slightly before Dean Fairchild during the mid 1970's. Tom and Nancy Steinmetz may have joined slightly before either or slightly after Correale or Fairchild. It is uncertain whether Fairchild and Nancy Steinmetz graduated together from the first set of BSI Judges Schools held in Florida (1978-1980).

Moyna Prince was next in line, joining with Ed in 1980. Soon thereafter, Bob and Elaine Mills joined. After these, the number becomes too large to handle in any way other than a simple listing. We thank them all for their service.

Members of lesser longevity will be welcome, and we hope a number of them will volunteer to help with the setup and cleanup for the party.

**OVER 25 YEARS**  
(joined before 1987)  
Jeff Block  
Bob Grayson  
Josefa Leon  
Winifred Lynch  
Carol Quigley Barrus  
Virginia Schrenker

**20 - 25 YEARS**  
(joined 1987-1991)  
Lavinia Acton  
Doris Boisen  
Joy Parrish  
Jacqueline Smith

**15-20 YEARS**  
(joined 1992-1996)  
Richard Cohen  
Angela Dowling  
Lynne Fieber  
Karl & Kris Green

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** If you belong to the select group who have been BSSF members for 15 years or more, and do not find your name in the accompanying list, please let us know. And, to all who belong to this group, many thanks for your continued support.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 18, 2012**  
Gardenfest Coral Springs  
Riverside Park  
205 Coral Ridge Drive  
Coral Springs, Florida  
9:30-5PM  
<http://gardenfestcoralsprings.com/>

**February 25, 2012**  
Selby's Garden Plant & Garden Festival  
900 South Palm Ave.  
Sarasota, FL  
<http://www.selby.org/events/plant-garden-festival-2011>

**March 2-3, 2012**  
Searle Brothers Nursery Sale  
6640 SW 17 Ave  
Southwest Ranches, FL  
985.658.4317 8AM -5PM except Sunday 9 AM - 4PM

**March 3, 2012**  
**BSSF** afternoon honorary for 25+-year members  
12670 SW 102 Ave, Miami, FL 33176

**March 3, 2012**  
Amelia Island Garden Show  
<http://www.ameliaislandgardenshow.com/>

**March 9-11, 2012**  
International Orchid Festival  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden  
March 9-11, 2012 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.  
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events>

**March 9-11, 2012**  
Searle Brothers Nursery Sale II  
(See March 2-4 for information)  
[www.rainforestcollection.com](http://www.rainforestcollection.com)

**March 16-18, 2012**  
Metropolitan Miami Flower Show, Inc.  
10301 Sunset Drive (Elk's Club)  
Free Admission  
Design Exhibits permitted – call Gloria Meeks at 305.264.8054  
Friday 3-8PM  
Sat: 10 AM to 8PM  
Sun: 10 AM to 4PM  
Classes offered – info at [Ebmills9@aol.com](mailto:Ebmills9@aol.com)

**March 17, 2012**  
Leu Gardens Show  
1920 N Forest Ave  
Orlando, FL

**March 24-25, 2012**  
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens Spring Garden Festival. 4700 SW 58th Dr. Gainesville  
Admission - \$8 for adults.  
<http://www.kanapaha.org/calendar.htm>

**March 24, 2012**  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Fest 2012  
Free parking and admission.  
Volunteer Park in Plantation  
12050 W. Sunrise Blvd.  
Plantation, FL 33232  
<http://www.bromeliadsocietybc.com/>  
OR  
<http://www.garden-share.com/events/garden-fest-of-broward-county>

**March 24, 2012**  
Greenfest at University of Tampa  
<http://www.greenfest.org/>

**March 30 – April 1, 2012**

Tropiflora Spring Festival.  
3530 Tallevast Rd.  
Sarasota.  
<http://www.tropiflora.com/>

**April 7-8, 2012**

Flamingo Gardens Orchid & Bromeliad Expo & Sale  
3750 South Flamingo Road  
Davie, FL 33330  
<http://www.flamingogardens.org/>

**April 14 – 15, 2012**

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society plant sale  
Sanford Garden Club

**April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

ECBS Garden Ramble

**April 21-22, 2012**

**BSSF Annual Sale**

10901 Old Cutler Rd.  
Miami, FL 33156.  
9:30 am - 4:30 pm.

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=2012-04&eventid=636>

**OR**

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

**NOTE:** *The Annual Show will be upon us less than two months from now. At the February meeting, many of the show committee chairs will be ready to start enrolling volunteers. There are abundant jobs available in the sales area (outside), the show room (inside), plant holding and catering.*

**April 21, 2012**

Master Gardener's Sale  
Volusia County Fairgrounds  
Deland

**April 21-22, 2012**

The Sarasota Bromeliad Society  
30th Annual Show  
Manatee Convention and Civic Center  
1 Haben Blvd., Palmetto, FL 3422  
\$2 admission  
9-5 Saturday, 10-4 Sunday.  
Call 941-538-2174 for information

**April 21<sup>st</sup>-April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012**

Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Show  
Fairchild Gardens, Coral Gables  
<http://bssf-miami.org/>

**April 21-22 2012**

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Show  
Tampa

**April 28-29, 2012**

Mounds Botanical Garden Spring Plant Sale  
Mounds Botanical Garden

559 N. Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL  
<http://www.mounts.org/>

<http://www.mounts.org/calendar.asp?month=4&year=2012>

**May 12-13, 2012**

Central Florida Bromeliad Society Mother's Day  
Fashion Square Mall, Orlando  
<http://mybscf.org/>

**May 12-14, 2012**

Redland International Orchid Show  
24801 S.W. 187th Avenue  
Homestead, FL  
<http://www.redlandorchidfestival.org>

**September 24th-30th**

20th World Conference – Orlandiana '12

The Caribe Royal,  
8101 World Center,  
Orlando, FL 32821

Check out the BSI website  
(<http://www.bsi.org/events/2012/Orlando2012.html>)  
or the Florida Council Website for the latest information.  
<http://fcbs.org/>

**NOTE:** *The end of this month is the deadline to register for the upcoming World Bromeliad Conference in Orlando at the lowest rate. If you register as part of a group through BSSF, you will be able to take advantage of an additional \$10.00 discount. You are welcome to register after the deadline above, but the rate will be higher.*

Rates to attend the World Conference increase as time elapses. Before March 1, 2012 – \$160.00; March 1, 2012-August 24, 2012: \$175.00, and \$200.00 at the door
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**PROPOSAL: MAKE MONEY FOR SOCIETY**

Donate goods to Barbara Partagas and we may have a yard sale at *her* place. All proceeds to go the BSSF. If interested, give Barbara a call – in Roster – or email her at [bpartagas@bellsouth.net](mailto:bpartagas@bellsouth.net).

**MURDER IN CORBIN A**

© by Robert Meyer

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

**40.**

At exactly the fifteenth minute after Marin had hung up on Linares, four men arrived at Marin's door. Two scurried to the backyard in quiet fashion while the other two were at the front door. Each checked their



guns, and the leader then knocked on the door. Although surprised at someone visiting at this hour, Marin was not suspicious as his years of handling stolen goods often led to late night encounters with new proposals.

When he arrived at the door, Marin saw a larger middle-aged man and his younger aid standing there with police badges in their respective hands and asking to be allowed in for some questioning. Marin let them in, as he felt there would not be any choice.

Marin offered them nothing to drink nor even a seat. Instead, he asked them what they wanted at such an hour and what was it that could not wait until the next day.

The older man took control, and responded very curtly. "I came for you to tell me about the Code. I will not ask again. But, I will impress upon you to answer if you choose not to answer."

Marin thought highly of his self and gave the wrong answer, "I have no idea what you are talking about."

At this time, the old man nodded to the young man who punched Marin in the mouth with such force that no less than four or five teeth were loosened.

"Shame for that to be your answer. Now, you will know what it is like to put your teeth in from a glass next to you each morning. Second chance."

Still hurting from the first punch, Marin shrugged his shoulders and before he knew it, a right cross hit his left eye which immediately shut for a five-day closing.

"Marin, I know this treatment is not like that from where you came. And, I know you have no idea of what real pain is. Third chance."

At this time, Marin motioned with his hands for a pen. His mouth was so swollen that he could not open it. He could only communicate in writing. A pad and pen were given to him, upon which he wrote, "Bring the midget here, and I will tell you everything. Otherwise, one more punch and I am dead. I am over 70 now, and this body has been through a lot of pain. This body does know real pain. And, I know that I am now only fractions away from death. You are the man in charge. Do as I say or explain the corpse to the midget."

"I do not know any midgets." said the leader. Upon which he nodded to the young man who shut the other eye.

At this time, they picked up the old man, threw him into their trunk and drove him out to the Everglades for repair or disappearance.

#### 41.

Growing up as a nerd in any environment is difficult. Living in high school is difficult. Being the nerd in high schools is difficult. Being a nerd in a high school located in Miami Beach is axiomatically preposterous.

Joshua was the genius with little ambition in his life. He was an underachieving Mensa-membered, perfect-SAT-scoring maniac. He spent countless hours playing World of Warcraft in 2006 and sold his characters points to buyers on Ebay. He was among the best on internet games, better than his Indian competitors who worked countless hours each day to compete with him for the Ebay profits received from gaming before a computer screen for endless hours or days.

His mother accepted his place in society. His father had wished for something more known in his world – like chasing broads and getting into fights and having car accidents. But, Joshua did not date, did not fight, and did not even have a license in Miami – a place where cars are not a luxury but are a necessity. But, Joshua always was able to get rides. As they drove with Joshua, he would hack into the Miami-Dade grid and touch the lights so that the driver would be almost never stopped as the green lights always were in the direction to which Joshua was traveling.

When he got out of college, Joshua went to get a Masters in computer engineering, then a Master's in Biology and then focused his studies on forensics. At the age of 24, he had four degrees and no work experience, so Miami-Dade hired the boy wonder. At 25, he asked if he could attend school while employed. They allowed it as all employees of the county received such a benefit. He got three more degrees in three years and was practically more knowledgeable about forensic sciences than anyone twice his age in the nation. At the morgue, doctors performed the autopsies, and Joshua analyzed the results. Although the doctors were the captains of the table, Joshua was captain of forensics.

Bea's case was perplexing as the cause of death kept arriving as trauma from a stabbing. But, Joshua saw something more. He reviewed the foliage found in the wound and wondered what that could mean. And when the Judge has similar plant life around his wound, he felt that his suspicions were right. After weeks of analyzing results from various labs, Joshua obtained something which he had not witnessed before – but which he had read about in one of his journals.

He called Boss, and told him he had great news. Boss responded he would be there right away for the report.

**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
2012 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 BromeliA dvisory? (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, 2012 to February 28, 2013.

Check the category:     Single membership ..... \$20.00  
                                   Dual membership ..... \$30.00

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

**DUES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2012, IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2012 ROSTER**

**Take Note: DUES *after* March 1, 2012 shall be \$25 per single membership and \$35 for dual membership.**

**Please mail completed form and check to:**

Alan Herndon  
Treasurer  
19361 SW 128 Ave.  
Miami, Fla. 33177-4216

**Or E-Mail this form to:**

melodyluna@hotmail.com