



**CALOOSA HATCHEE
BROMELIAD
SOCIETY's
CALOOSA HATCHEE
MERISTEM**

3836 Hidden Acres Circle N
North Fort Myers FL 33903
(239) 997-2237

DrLarry@COMCAST.NET

January 2009



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT Donna Schneider (sgarydonna@aol.com)
VICE-PRESIDENT Ross Griffith
SECRETARY Luli Westra (lulidave@yahoo.com)
TREASURER Betty Ann Prevatt (bprevattpcc@aol.com)
PAST-PRESIDENT Steve Hoppin (steveandlarry@comcast.net)

STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Larry Giroux (DrLarry@comcast.net)
FALL SALES CHAIR
FALL SHOW CHAIR
PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON Bruce McAlpin
WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON Steve Hoppin (steveandlarry@comcast.net)
SPECIAL PROJECTS
Senior CBS FCBS Rep. Vicky Chirnside (vickychirn@aol.com)
Co-Junior CBS FCBS Reps. Debbie Booker & Tom Foley

OTHER COMMITTEES

AUDIO/VISUAL SETUP Bob Lura, Terri Lazar and Vicki Chirnside
DOOR PRIZE Terri Lazar (terriLML@earthlink.net)

HOSPITALITY Mary McKenzie (manytoes@aol.com);
Martha Wolfe, Sue Gordon

SPECIAL HOSPITALITY Betsy Burdette (betsy@burdetteinc.com)
RAFFLE TICKETS Greeter/Membership table volunteers - Luli Westra,
Dolly Dalton, Eleanor Kinzie, etc.

RAFFLE COMMENTARY Larry Giroux
GREETERS/ATTENDENCE Betty Ann Prevatt, Dolly
Dalton(dollyd@comcast.net), Luli Westra

SHOW & TELL Dale Kammerlohr
FM-LEE GARDEN COUNCIL Mary McKenzie
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Although we did not have a Show this past year, there were plenty of quality plants adorning the sales' tables. Front cover- variegated *Guzmania* 'Optima'; the back cover- a *Guzmania ligulata* hybrid. Both plants were brought in by Magali Groves. Photos by Larry Giroux.



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

***January Meeting* Sunday January 18th 2009**

ST. JOHN the APOSTLE CHURCH 3049 McGREGOR Ave. FT. MYERS.
DOORS WILL BE OPEN AT 12:30 FOR SETUP.

MEMBERSHIP SALES WILL BE PERMITTED

at the **January Meeting**.

Friendship plants, Raffle items are always welcome.

There will be a Door Prize and Show and Tell

January Program

By Harry Luther

Harry Luther is the Director of the Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center (BIC) and the Curator of the Living Collection at Marie Selby Botanic Gardens. With over 140 published articles and as the leading specialist in the systemics of the Bromeliaceae, Harry presents programs, which provide up to date information about our plants. It has been several years since we have had Harry speak to us at our meeting, so please, all make an effort to come to the January meeting and welcome our special guest speaker.

(Due to logistical problems arranging this program, should Harry be unable to attend, Bruce Alpin will provide a substitute program.)

January Workshop

“The Bromeliad Garden Supplies and Equipment”

By Steve Hoppin

Each of us have special items, which help us to maintain, organize and grow our bromeliad a little better. Steve will reveal his favorite items and he encourages you to bring in your helpful “tools” of the hobby. and show us how they help.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affililate of:



FM-LCGC



Cryptanthus
Society



Bromeliad Society
International



FCBS

Society News

Editor's Plea

For health reasons I need to cut back on my volunteer work, particularly the CBS Newsletter. I have been unable to find someone with computer skills to take over the prep of the Meristem. I will no longer personally print the pages of the Newsletter, but rather send it to printer, who will also collate the pages, fold and stable the copies. Steve Hoppin and I will still need to seal, label and stamp the individual newsletters. I have appreciated the help from Deb Booker and Mary Scofic in the past, but it is seldom possible to know exactly when we can meet to take care of final mailing tasks. Nevertheless, I will still need to personally assemble and format the pages and prepare them in a form usable by the printers. Finding information is often difficult and I have been writing 90% of the information. This will be changing and I will be relying on articles from other Newsletters and Journals. There are a few things that CBS members can do to help me out.

1. Messages, Meeting Minutes and information about people or events need to be sent to me by the Monday before the first Sunday of the month. I use to ask for the information by the 1st of the month, however this will not give me sufficient time to prepare the newsletter, to have the printer make copies (they need 3-4 days to make the colored copies from the computer disk I submit to them) and mail it out or e-mail it before the second Saturday of the month. For example - for the months of February and March, I need to get the information by January 26th and February 23rd, respectively.

So you might say, if I don't get the information by those dates, just don't put it in!!! That doesn't help me at all, then I still need to find something to fill in the pages. I could cut down on the number of pages, but the way the newsletter is printed, I have to eliminate either 4 or 8 pages.

2. I am requesting printable information in the form of articles, anecdotes, pictures, etc. from members or non-members to keep our Newsletter original and educational.

Some societies have resorted to sending out postcard notices or simple and truly a "newsletter" with little or no educational or

entertaining value. Gene McKenzie and I always felt that the Meristem was an important benefit of membership and a critical educational tool in fulfilling our objective as a Society. Please help me provide a great Newsletter.

Notice of Dues

Each year Betty Ann Prevatt our treasurer, who also performs as our membership secretary during the year, tediously waits for our membership to send in their applications and dues for the following year. As your Editor I need to coordinate the incoming memberships and mail out copies of the Meristem, our monthly newsletter.

Within the first couple months of the year I need to compose a roster and yearbook with the most current addresses and contact information of our members. Once this is completed I send this information to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Treasurer and FCBS Newsletter Editor along with \$3.00 per member (Betty Ann send the money) so that our members can receive their quarterly issues of the FCBS newsletter.

This year we were pleasantly surprised by the number of members who submitted their dues ahead of the January meeting. There still are many members who have not done so. Please be prepared to pay your dues at the January meeting in person or mail your dues as soon as possible to Betty Ann Prevatt. We do not want you to miss out on any of the benefits of belonging to the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society.

(Please note that new members who joined at the October or November meetings in 2008, do not have to pay dues for 2009. Their next renewal will be in January 2010.)

Thanks for the Holiday Memories

The December CBS Christmas party was the first one I have missed in the many years I have been a member of the CBS. I was told that attendance was somewhat lower than that of our previous parties. This did not prevent those who did attend from enjoying each other's company, the beautiful surroundings of Betsy and Bill Burdette's home and the great food. Many thanks to our hosts for their generosity and hospitality.

By the way, if anyone has pictures from the party, I'll be glad to post them in next issue of the Meristem.

New Program Chairman



Bruce McAlpin

Our new Program Chairman is Bruce McAlpin. Bruce comes to us from the Miami area where he is still a member of the South Florida Bromeliad Society. A few years ago he finally moved to Alva and a new home and nursery. He is acquainted with many of the taxonomists, horticulturists and serious growers of bromeliads throughout Florida; some of which he has worked with on a professional basis. For many years Bruce has been involved with the study and propagation of plants of a variety of botanical

Families. Thank-you Bruce for volunteering to be our Program Chairman

Ever since he volunteered for this position, he has been working to bring us interesting and knowledgeable speakers for 2009. Bruce has been in contact with Harry Luther of Marie Selby Botanic Gardens. Bruce was unable to confirm Harry's program prior to the publication of this newsletter. Nevertheless we feel confident, that Harry will be available to give a program at our January meeting. In case this is not possible, Bruce has assured us that he will give a substitute program.

Submit a Theme Name for Our 2009 Show

I know that it seems that the 2009 CBS Show and Sale is a long time away, but now is the time for us to be thinking about certain things and making important decisions. One of those decisions is choosing a name for our Fall event. We need a name, which will be suggestive of a theme; which the organizers can incorporate into decorations, head table, awards and advertisements.

Two years ago several very appropriate names were submitted by our membership. As you will recall the winning name was "**Color My World with Bromeliads**". Included below are some of the runner-ups and their explanations. We encourage all members to give this some thought and submit their suggestions for a theme name for our 2009 Show and Sale. Please write them down and bring them to the January meeting.

Bromeliad Peddler - Regressing to an Olde World Village, we can work with the traditional street flower sellers and their carts.

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Bromeliad Expose By Larry Giroux

For whatever reasons---the downward spiraling economy, decreased attendees, etc, our Sale this year was not as financially rewarding to the sellers or CBS as in recent history. At the January meeting, Betty Ann Prevatt, our Treasurer will give us the details and statistics.

With the guidance of our Sales Chair, Brian Weber and Co-chairs, David and Geri Prall, everything seemed to move very smoothly. And from my perspective everyone appeared to have a pleasant weekend selling and talking bromeliads. We all deserve a big congratulations for our personal and collective success.

On Sunday I took some pictures of some of the plants and people that contributed to the Sale. I hope you enjoy this recap of the event through pictures.

Our Sales Chairman, Brian Weber (R) posing with member and seller, Magali Groves and Michael's Bromeliads' associate grower, David Sand.



CBS Treasurer, Betty Ann Prevatt and Luli Westramanning the check-out table.



A beautiful and very large *XAndrolaechmea* 'Dean' on display. This is a bigeneric cross of the species *Androlepsis skinneri* and *Aechmea marie-regina*. Photo by L. Giroux.

The inflorescence of *XAndrolaechmea* 'Dean'. Photo from Bromeliad Photo Index-FCBS. Photo by Shirley Grills-Konefal.



Bruce McAlpin (R) promoting a mini-neo to a prospective new member.

Donna Schneider, CBS President, holding up a wall during a lull.



Dale Kammerlohr and Gary Schneider eye-to-eye.

There was a nice selection of Dyckias at the Sale. This grouping was from Brian Weber's collection. The novice may have difficulties separating dyckias, hechtias, certain cryptanthus and orthophytums from each other, but the distinctive spike of colorful bell shaped flowers distinguishes this genus in most cases.



Dr. Ed Wenzlaff guards someone's box of bromeliads.



Smiling for the camera are Becky Singleton, daughter of members Judy and Buddy Singleton; Eleanor and Herb Hagenwald.



The flashy guzmanias including *Guzmania* 'Kapoho Fire' and 'Orangeade' seen here and the guzmanias on our covers, were as expected hot items again this year.



Member Dr. Jeff Joffe made it down from Punta Gorda to help out at the Sale. Jeff, whose major interest just a few years ago was palms, now boasts an impressive collection of bromeliads of many genera.

Lynne Echlin and her husband Pat, have joined our Society in spite of living in Michigan. They coincide their twice a year visits to Florida with bromeliad events such as our Sale and Show and the FCBS Extravaganza. Another Winter like this one and maybe we can get them to move here. One of Lynne's passions is collecting cryptanthus. She already has advanced to hybridizing them.





The CBS is a secondary Society for Jason Mellica; nevertheless, he is one of our more involved members. He has given us programs about his travels and

hybrids (some of which he is standing behind in the picture). To the left is one of Jason's trademark tree creations, which he sells. Buyers get an entire bromeliad garden to enjoy.

Michael Kiehl, owner of Michael's Bromeliads, just like all the sellers, contributes 25% of receipts back to the CBS. This Sale is CBS's major fund raiser for the year. Michael always brings a unique assortment of bromeliads. The *Neoregelia* 'de Rolf' he is standing behind is one of my favorites. When in bloom its inflorescence resembles a lotus flower floating in a pool.



Buddy Singleton, one of our best neoregelia growers, provides a large variety of older and new cultivars at the Sale like this Neo. *Neoregelia* 'Pablito' may have inconsistent variegation, but its potential for different and unique "sports" would entice me to want to own and grow it.



Cashiers Carol Sweat and Dolly Dalton are seen here either pulling tags or pulling out spines from their fingers.



Geri and David Prall are admiring another old time bigeneric hybrid - *xCanmea* 'Galaxy' (marginated). The Pralls were our Co-chairs for the Sale this year.

Recently, Jack Kramer (R), Naples resident and author of several horticultural books, including "Bromeliads", has joined our Society. Next to him is Bob Alonzo and John Banta, both members with exception knowledge of a variety of plant families. John will be giving us a program in February. CBS is very fortunate to have such a great pool of information within our membership. What could be better than being surrounded by bromeliads, good food and good friends. No wonder Terri Bert and Steve Hoppin appear to be ecstatic.



All photos unless noted are by Dr. Larry Giroux.

November Program



“Larry Giroux introduced Dennis Cathcart who presented a wonderful program covering his month-long trip to South Africa. *Part I - “A Visit with Lyn Wegner”* in East London on the Indian Ocean. Her whole yard was bromeliads! NO GRASS! All the bromeliads were potted and set in little islands. *Part II - “Succulent Encounters in South Africa”*.”

It was easy to see he was enamored with the beautiful country and peoples and animals. To name a few, there were giraffes, warthogs grazing on portulaca, red harte-beest, zebras, leopard tortoise, elephants, ostriches and a national symbol, springbok snakes. That’s a few?! Also a dung beetle crossing sign! Of course, there were numerous bizarre, exotic, unusual, almost indescribable succulents, down to a “smiling termite hill” at the end. Great program. Thank you again, Dennis.”

By Luli Westra

November Workshop

Knock on wood, we are half way through the our Winter and only minor damage so far to our bromeliads. Knowing the potential is the best prevention again the cold.. With information in the November Meristem, online articles and Steve Hoppin’s program at the November Workshop, we should have a better handle on winter care for our plants. I encourage you to look at the references Steve suggested on the internet or search “Bromeliads, cold sensitivity” for additional information specific to your plants and growing habits.

Thank you Steve for your timely discussion and information.

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My Secret Garden of Bromeliads - This would not use the ideas (women’s sexual fantasies) from the book: *My Secret Garden* by Nancy Friday, but rather the general theme of “the special, secluded and relaxing garden of contemplation.

Harry Potter and the Magic of Bromeliads - If we can legally use the name “Harry Potter”, we can build our theme around Magic, Wizardry and images from the “Potter” movies. (An alternate name that would be safe would be **The Wizard and the Magic of Bromeliads or Wizardry and Magic of Bromeliads.**

Temple of Bromeliads - Using either Mayan or Egyptian temple imagery for example, we can select interesting decorations and awards.

Bromeliad Castaways - Using a tropical island backdrop would allow the use of beach and tropical props, very apropos to bromeliads.

Rock n’ Roll with Bromeliads - This will take us back to the memories of the ‘50s.

A Galaxy of Bromeliads - The stars, the planets, aliens, there is no end to it...

The Bromeliad Bowl - Our sale is in the middle of football season. We can incorporate bromeliad into the gridiron scene.

CBS November Meeting Minutes

DATE: Sunday, November 16, 2008. **LOCATION:** St. John the Apostle Metropolitan Church, Fort Myers, Florida. **ATTENDANCE:** 54 members and guests. **WORKSHOP:** Steve Hoppin's program on preparing for cold was just in time as several cold nights are ahead! Good job, Steve!

CALL TO ORDER: By Donna Schneider, at 2:25, with an introduction of guests, Vicky Arnold and Janice Webb. Motion for minutes as printed in the newsletter were accepted and seconded. A volunteer was requested to help Larry with the newsletter and Craig Curtis responded to help as needed. An audio visual set-up person was also requested to help Bob Lura, with Vicky Chirnside and Carol Sweat responding.

OLD BUSINESS: None. **NEW BUSINESS:** Regarding the upcoming SALE, Sue Gordon said that coolers will be used for refrigerated items as we can no longer use the stove and refrigerator in the kitchen. Steve Hoppin brought up that the Garden Council reminded us that they have allocated space for a Bromeliad Garden at the new Garden Council Building on Virginia Ave. He indicated to us that we will not be using the new building for meetings as it is not big enough for us, for that matter most of the various Garden Clubs, which make up the Garden Council. Volunteers to help to landscape the grounds would also be welcome. David Prall said he has lots of plants to donate. The area is a 16' x 8' to work with. Mary McKenzie volunteered to chair the committee to help in this endeavor. ECHO sent a Thank You note for the Kay Cude memorial donation. Remember to renew your membership now to be included in this 2009 Yearbook Roster! A new chairperson is needed to make phone calls to get DOOR PRIZES. Barb Johnson has done it for 3 years. Terri Lazar stepped up as volunteer. Vicky Chirnside gave a report for FCBS. The CBS is on the rotation list to host the January 11th 2009 FCBS meeting here in Fort Myers. Volunteers were asked for and Larry Giroux and Steve Hoppin offered their home for the meeting. Vicky will notify the FCBS of its location. ASPECIAL PROJECTS Chairman is needed to take Deb Booker's position. That entails arranging for parties, open houses, bus trips, etc. Bruce McAlpin expressed interest. Brian Weber spoke about the upcoming SALE. He has tags as needed. Signs are available to be put out Friday and picked up Sunday after the sale. Plants can be brought in Friday evening starting at 7 PM. Set-up will begin at 5 PM. Many volunteers are needed! **NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:** Larry Giroux brought up that Grace Community Center in North Fort Myers has meeting rooms available with lots of parking. That would be a possibility for future meetings. He will look into it further. The Christmas Party will be on December 14th at Betsy and Bill Burdette's. Arrive at noon, eating to commence at 1 PM. I can't wait! Bring

folding chairs and FOOD! The theme is TBA! **DOOR PRIZE:** Won by guest, Vicky Arnold. How lucky can you get? The plant was a *Neoregelia*. 'New Orleans' x *carolinae*. **SHOW AND TELL:** Conducted by Dale Kammerlohr. **REFRESHMENTS:** The table was set with a beautiful CORNUCOPIA for a centerpiece designed by some creative member. There was a cornucopia of delicious treats covering the table, too. **PROGRAM:** Larry Giroux introduced Dennis Cathcart who presented a wonderful program covering his month-long trip to South Africa. *Part I - "A Visit with Lyn Wegner"* in East London on the Indian Ocean. Her whole yard was bromeliads! NO GRASS! All the bromeliads were potted and set in little islands. *Part II - "Succulent Encounters in South Africa"*. It was easy to see he was enamored with the beautiful country and peoples and animals. To name a few, there were giraffes, warthogs grazing on portulaca, red harte-beest, zebras, leopard tortoise, elephants, ostriches and a national symbol, springbok snakes. That's a few?! Also a dung beetle crossing sign! Of course, there were numerous bizarre, exotic, unusual, almost indescribable succulents, down to a "smiling termite hill" at the end. Great program. **RAFFLE:** Wonderful raffle as usual. **ADJOURNMENT:** Donna adjourned the meeting at 5 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Luli Westra, CBS Secretary

Calendar of Bromeliad Events

April 4, 5, 2009

Broward County Bromeliad Society annual show and sale at the Plantations Women's Club – more details to follow as available.

April 19, 2009

The 29th CBS Birthday Party

May 2-3, 2009

Greater New Orleans Show and Sale

December 20, 2009

The CBS Holiday Party

July 26-August 1, 2010

The BSI World Bromeliad Conference - Bromeliads in the Big Easy (Astor Crowne Plaza - New Orleans). "Catch the Fun".



Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society
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Our January Speaker is
Harry Luther
from Marie Selby Botanic Gardens

*Please get your dues to Betty Ann
Prevatt before by mail or at the
January meeting, Thanks.*

**Tell others about the e-mail form of
the Meristem and get more to switch.
We all make out ahead.**