



March 2007

**CALOOSAHATCHEE  
BROMELIAD  
SOCIETYs  
CALOOSAHATCHEE  
MERISTEM**

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**RAFFLE COMMENTARY** Larry Giroux  
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**Front cover:** This picture was taken by Larry Giroux several years ago at an Open House given by Lyle and Robin Bowen. It shows a recently created water feature. Plan on attending Lyle's April Open House to see how his extensive garden and patio plantings have changed and matured.



# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

March Meeting: SUNDAY March 18th, 2007

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

**DUE TO THE AUCTION, MEMBERSHIP SALES  
ARE NOT PERMITTED AT THE MARCH MEETING.**

There will be no RAFFLE or Show and Tell; however, Friendship plants and Door Prizes are welcome. (Please contact Barbara Johnson if you have a Door Prize to donate.)

In lieu of the March Program and Workshop

We will be having our Annual

## FCBS FUND-RAISING AUCTION

The proceeds of this event goes to benefit the ongoing program to eradicate the EVIL WEEVIL, an insect, which is destroying both native and cultivated bromeliads in much of our state.

This is always a fun time with many plants and plant related items donated by our membership, which are available in a SILENT AUCTION and a regular BIDDING AUCTION.

This year Dale Laird from Winter Park, Florida, has agreed to make the trip to Fort Myers to be our auctioneer. We encourage all our members to donate items; invite friends, relatives and members of other plant societies and to personally attend this anticipated and beneficial event.

(Please see additional information in this issue  
related to our AUCTION)

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affililate of:



FM-LCGC



Cryptanthus  
Society



Bromeliad Society  
International



FCBS

## **President's Message**    **By Steve Hoppin**

March is a busy month for many of you. Between family, social commitments and engagements, property and household repairs and tending to the garden, I hope you can afford some time this month to attend one or more of the bromeliad related events listed herein..

For the gardener interested in acquiring unusual, exciting, and one of a kind bromeliads for your home, patio or garden, he or she should strongly consider attending one of CBS's most important events taking place this month - the CBS Annual FCBS FUND-RAISING Auction. Hard to find bromeliad species and hybrids, along with other bromeliad and horticultural related items will be up for grabs to the highest bidders.

You as well as your family and friends are invited to support the Society in its endeavor to help raise funds to battle the progression and eradication of the "Evil Weevil", which is responsible for devastating hobbyists', commercial and most importantly, native Florida bromeliad populations. We ask each of you to please consider donating to the cause. All proceeds derived therefrom go directly to the FCBS, ear marked for the Evil Weevil Fund. If you were at the February meeting, you know we are making headway in finding a solution to this problem, important to all bromeliad growers. Please look elsewhere in this publication for complete auction details.

By the time you read this, Daylight Savings Time will have commenced and Spring is approaching fast. The time for drama in our gardens with various colors and patterns of the leaves and auspicious inflorescences is so very close as many bromeliads approach bloom. It is during these seasonal and physical changes that the grower should objectively evaluate his or her own gardening practices, take heed of your successes and failures and apply what you have learned from your membership in the CBS. One of the major benefits to belonging to such a group as the CBS, is the wealth of information and experience available to you just for the asking.

I hope you have been entertained and educated from your association with the CBS. Please continue to enjoy the hobby with us and I'm sure that Spring 2007 will bring you a bounty of pleasures from the bromeliads in your garden and patio.

Happy growing,  
Steve Hoppin, CBS President

## SOCIETY NOTES

### *The 2007 Roster and Yearbook*

Paid up members will have the opportunity to obtain the new 2007 Pictorial Roster and Yearbook. You can get your copy from the Hospitality Table at the next CBS meeting. Each member household is entitled to one copy free of charge; additional copies of the Roster are available for \$2.00 each. For those active members who are unable to attend the March meeting, they can obtain their copy at future meetings. You may request, with the payment of \$1, Betty Ann Prevatt our Treasurer to mail you your entitled copy.

Although it is too late to have your picture in this year's roster, if I don't already have it, I encourage members to see me at future meetings and have a photo taken for inclusion in the 2008 Roster. If you have not paid your 2007 dues, your address may not have been included in this Roster. This means that you are no longer entitled to receive the monthly CBS Meristem, the Roster or the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' quarterly Newsletter. By paying your dues at a future meeting or by mailing your dues to Betty Ann Prevatt, our C.B.S. Treasurer, your contact information will be republished in the next Meristem and you'll be put back on the Meristem and FCBS Newsletter mailing lists. **Please rejoin... You nor we don't want to miss your participation.**

### February Workshop

I guess there is no beating the master! Did you see the size of the *Aechmea bracteata* var. *pacifica* seedling, which Betty Ann Prevatt has been growing this past year? You will recall that Brian Weber gave out a tray full of seedlings of these aechmeas (See the mailing cover of the February Meristem for a picture of the bloom of this species variety). At the workshop we had hoped to see how the plantlets had progressed under the care of some of our members. Unfortunately, they must have been so big or were so entrenched in the ground to be brought in.



Thank you Betty Ann for the cultural tips to get our bromeliads to grow better and for the mind teasing game you MC'ed.

**To the left is the grownup seedling of *Ae. bracteata* var. *pacifica* after about 1 year of care by Betty Ann Prevatt.**

### Welcome to our New Members

Mr. Homer Sosa  
905 Jasmine Street  
North Fort Myers, FL 33903  
xxx-xxx-xxxx  
HomerSosa1@aol.com

Dennis Giardina  
P.O. BOX 548  
Copeland, FL 34137  
xxx-xxx-xxxx  
Dennis.Giardina@dep.State.fl.us

## Our February Program

We had advertised that Dr. Howard Frank's presentation at our February meeting, was to be an update on the ongoing program to eradicate the Mexican Weevil from Florida. Dr. Frank's presentation was much more than that. He reviewed for us the complete history from the discovery of the infestation of the Weevil in Florida up to his current plans for releasing a cultivated parasitic fly, which has the potential for reducing the weevil's populations here in Florida .

It was appropriate that Dr. Frank returned to the CBS one month before our annual FCBS Evil Weevil Fund-raiser Auction. We all thank Dr. Frank for letting us know the whole story about what our bromeliads are facing and how our donations and contributions are helping to solve the problem.

Even if you were unable to attend the February meeting, please come to the March FCBS Fund raising Auction and help us make a difference in this important battle to save the bromeliads. For additional information about the weevil you can contact Dr. Frank, the FCBS Website or any of the additional websites which he mentioned during his program.

(Dr. Howard Frank's e-mail: <<mailto:jhf@IFAS.UFL.EDU>> Some of his additional websites: <<http://Molecricquets.ifas.ufl.edu>> <<http://BromeliadBiota.ifas.ufl.edu>> <<http://SaveBromeliads.ifas.ufl.edu>> and <<http://Tropent.ifas.ufl.edu>>.)

## Going Paperless!

**I want to thank the following people for agreeing to receive the CBS Meristem by E-mail or downloading it from the FCBS Website. If you were not at the February meeting or your name is not on this list, and you would still like to receive the expanded full color version of the Newsletter, please send me an e-mail to [DrLarry@comcast.net](mailto:DrLarry@comcast.net) from the e-mail address at which you wish to receive future issues .**

*Bill & Betsy Burdette*

*Vicky Chirnside*

*Gail Daneman*

*Holly Eash -Herb &*

*Eleanor Hagenwald*

*Maria Hallenbeck*

*Barbara Henderson*

*Susan Ilardo*

*Jeffery Joffe*

*Dale Kammerlohr*

*Barbara Johnson*

*Nick & Rosie Mavrikas*

*Gary Nicholas*

*Helen Novella*

*Bud & Barb Reimer*

*Donna & Gary Schneider*

*Mary Scofic*

*Homer Sosa*

# The CBS ANNUAL FCBS EVIL WEEVIL AUCTION

**MARCH 18th 2007**

**12:30PM - 2 PM**

We will be accepting donations such as bromeliads, other tropical plants, bromeliad and gardening related items, books and art. Bromeliads should be clean and healthy and appropriately labelled. If you are unsure ask other members for an ID. Certain items will be selected from donations for the SILENT AUCTION. All items will be numbered and labelled and will be displayed until the Auction begins. Please register for your bidding number at this time. **You can not bid in either Auction without a number.**

**2 PM**

Short CBS Business Meeting

**2:15 PM**

Refreshment Break

This is the time for review of auction items and submission of bids for Silent Auction items, which will be set up in the hall. Each item will have a bidding sheet for you to write your bidding number and an offer. Other bidders as well as you can continuously up the bid as you wish.

**2:45 PM**

We take our seats and the Auction will begin as soon as we can. During the Auction, Silent Auction items will be randomly removed and the winner will be announced. Until an item is taken, you may continue to up your written offer.

## **Conclusion of Auctions**

After an item has been won it will be returned to a holding area. At the completion of the auction, you will need to pay the cashiers with **cash or check** and your claim stubs will be given to the workers in the holding area. Your items will be handed over to you. We ask that you help us to avoid any confusion. We want everybody to get exactly what they have won as quickly as possible without mistakes.

**Help ERADICATE the Mexican Weevil from Florida.  
Get Some Great PLANTS and Items for your home and  
garden and have a lot of FUN at the same time.**

# **Bromeliad Expose** By Larry Giroux

I was fortunate to spend the end of December 2005 and the beginning of January 2006 with friends in Texas. In spite of it being wintertime, I was able to convince my hosts, which wasn't a very difficult thing to do since there also are Bromeliad lovers, to take me around to see bromeliad collections. I gotta say that Texans are always eager to show off their plants, whether at a show, in the garden or while packed away for the winter in their greenhouses.

This article, however, is not about a Texan, but rather a true Southern lady from Louisiana. With the promise of a Cajun meal, lots of bromeliads to see and good old Southern hospitality, Carole and Rick Richtmyer and myself drove from Houston to Maurice, Louisiana to spend New Year's Eve with the Trahans.

In January, one year after my trip, Lou Trahan has passed away and the numerous memories and photographs of those two days we spent together have grown to mean so much more. This photographic essay is a tribute to an exceptional grower, exhibitor and beautiful lady.



## **In Memory of Lou Trahan** 1940-2007

By Carole Richtmyer

One of the Bromeliad Society/Houston's long time and most active members, Lou Ella Trahan, 66, passed away Wednesday, January 10th, 2007, at Oschner Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Lou was a native of Abbeville, Louisiana and a resident of Maurice. We all knew her as an excellent grower of bromeliads and a winner of many Best of

**A visit to the Trahan's home in Maurice would usually find Lou and Doug in their work clothes, busy in their yard or greenhouse.**



Show awards, a Master BSI Judge and a creative, talented floral designer. She and her husband, Doug, were charter members of the International Cryptanthus Society as well as members of the BSI.

Her favorite bromeliads included miniature neoregelias and cryptanthus, but many different genera grow beautifully in their greenhouse. Together with Doug, she was famous for her cajun cooking and they prepared many a feast for the BS/H after show parties as well as their fortunate friends.

In addition to her ardent interest in bromeliads, Lou was a member of the Lafayette Garden Club, Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research, and a N.G.C. Accredited Life Flower Show Judge.



Lou enjoyed her plants “southern style” - with good friends (here she is pictured with Carole Richtmyer) and with a glass of wine.



Lou was a judge and Doug helped out with sales at our 2005 CBS Show. Lou is seen here with other judges, Polly Pascal, Jay Thurrott and clerks, Holly Eash and Mary McKenzie

**The online version of the March Meristem contains an article and photographs by Alison Chabonais entitled “Bromeliad Saga”.**



In recognition of Lou Trahan's horticultural skills and of course her personal friendship with Carole Richtmyer, Carole named her hybrid, pictured here, *Cryptanthus* 'Lou Trahan'. Photo by C. Richtmyer.

Lou's Artistic Arrangements were the envy of many an exhibitor. Here are a few of her original designs.



The swamps of her home state of Louisiana were often the subjects of her arrangements.

**"Poling the Piroque Down the Bayou"**  
2003 ICS. Photo by L. Giroux

**"Floating Down the Bayou"** was the Best of Show - Artistic at the 2005 BS/H Show. Photo from BS/H Website.



**"Flight of the Shore Birds"** won her the Morris Henry Hobbs - Best of Show - Artistic at the Southwest Guild Show this past year, which was hosted by The Corpus Christi Bromeliad Society. Exhibitors for this regional show came from Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Photo from the BS/H Website.





With these arrangements entitled “Orangeaid - A Delicious Summer Treat”, which won the Best of Artistic Award at the 2004 BS/H and “A Timeless Beauty”, Best Artistic Arrangement at the 2003 ICS, Lou

demonstrated her talent of applying the principles of design to produce eye catching creations. Photo from BS/H Website and by L. Giroux.



Lou made many of her own decorative containers such as these two prize winners. To the left is a matching set of *Cryptanthus* ‘Menescal’ and on the right is the hybrid of *C.* (‘Monte’ x *beuckeri*) x (‘Diverse’ x ‘Lirico’), which was shown in a ceramic “bag”, and hybridized by Carole Richtmyer. Following the 2003 ICS at which these were exhibited, Carole decided to call her cross *C.* ‘Bag of Tricks’. Photos by L. Giroux.



At the same BS/H 2004 Show where Lou won the Morris Henry Hobb’s Best Artistic Award, she captured the Mulford B. Foster’s Best of Horticultural Award with this enormous hanging multiple of *Neoregelia pauciflora*. Besides cryptanthus, Lou had accumulated a massive collection of the mini-neos. Photo from BS/H Website.





Nearly half of the floor space of Lou and Doug's greenhouse, which was designed by the late John Anderson, was devoted to Lou's mini- neo collection. Notice the old hand pump and whiskey barrel, which was functional and decorative. Photo by L. Giroux.

The aerial space in the big greenhouse is occupied by hanging plants including this *Billbergia leptopoda*. It was a *Billbergia saundersii*, which Lou was not initially very impressed with, that got her interested in bromeliads. Photo by L. Giroux.



I don't recall that aechmeas were numerous in her growing area, but obviously she grew this *Aechmea recurvata* "Red Form" well enough to win the John Anderson - Best Aechmea Award at a BS/H Show. Photo from BS/H Website.

Besides her artistic abilities and horticultural excellence with such genera as the neoregelias, aechmeas, billbergias and tillandsias as evident by her show winners, cryptanthus were high among her favorites.

During my visit to growers in the Texas and Louisiana area, I was on a quest to find some of the older hybrids. Lou and Doug were very generous in filling in my collection with some of the "oldies, but goodies" such as original clones of C. 'Red Tide', 'Seven Veils' and 'Hawaiian Sunrise' as pictured here. Photos by Larry Giroux.



Growers of cryptanthus know how difficult it is to produce a “clump” of plants. It is truly an art to maintain an old mother with one or two generations of offsets still attached and blemish free. Well Lou obvious had that talent. Growing on the ground in her greenhouse in the middle of winter were pot after pot of show ready bouquets of cryptanthus. Seen here are (1) C. ‘Thema O’Reilly, (2) ‘Chickadee’ and (3) ‘Earth Angel’. Photos by Larry Giroux.



A serious cryptanthus hybridizer may produce dozens of crosses with each grex containing 6-20 seedlings. The hard part comes when you have to grow each of these to a stage where a cut, based on individual attributes, can be made. It is so great to have someone who has your same passion for growing cryptanthus to help you with space and effort in this culling process. Carole Richtmyer had such a buddy in Lou Trahan. Pictured here are just three of Carole’s crosses grown to their full potential by Lou. (4) C. ‘Frosted One’ x ‘Pink Frost’, (5) C. ‘It’ x ‘Cascade’ and (6) C. ‘Tsunami’ x ‘Candy Apple’. None or all may make the cut, but it is still nice to know that they had Lou to to give them a chance. We are all going to miss the talented, generous and thoughtful Lou Trahan of Maurice, Louisiana. Photos by Larry Giroux.

*Novice CBS member Alison Chabonais offers the following essay “as a heartfelt, if chagrined, thank-you” to the kind crew of experienced members who, knowingly or not, contributed to her unprecedented gardening adventure this past year.”*

## **Bromeliad Saga**

By S. Alison Chabonais

Caught up in a new project, inspired by a circle of new acquaintances ready to lend advice and discounted materials, this past year I answered an inner call to launch a backyard bromeliad garden. The annual CBS Christmas party introduced me to this brave new world. Trowel in hand I sallied forth.

A host of friendly growers shoveled plants, pots and peat moss my way. Tours of area nurseries presented a panorama of colorful specimens available. One-on-one Q&A yielded tips on dealing with pests.

Information in hand, I cajoled a friend to construct four wood-and-wire benches beneath a Boy Scout shade house of malaleuca striplings lashed to living pine poles. A neighbor located some extra shade cloth. Irrigation rigged from an existing backyard spigot.

After two months of dedicated weekends, I had a garden retreat replete with bouldered entrance tucked into the woods down a pinestraw path. It nicely complemented a nearby gazebo on a duck pond slated for rechristening as “the potting shed.”

I anticipated reaping ongoing delight from all this bucolic beauty. “Easy care” was what I’d been promised.

Within weeks my newly fraught oasis was hit by a multi-month drought. Twice a week I traipsed up and down stairs to turn on the sprinkler system, meanwhile hand-watering a quarantined bench and special plants I’d pulled up to enjoy on my southern porch. Watering three to four times a week would have been better. But I’m not a full-time gardener.

Then repeated frost-warnings struck. Evenings and mornings were spent spreading damp blankets and towels to protect my \$1,000 investment. Were we having fun yet?



Once the weather shifted to softer climes, the ill-fated garden plot was attacked by an animal onslaught. Parched raccoons,

**A portion of the varied collection of neoregelias and aechmeas selected to landscape the author’s yard. Photo by author.**

we eventually learned, were dipping into the bromeliads' sweet water tanks, their gourmand palette shunning the alternative of fresh pondwater. Daily inspection revealed disemboweled plants strewn over the underlying ground cloth.

Advisors suggested littering the grounds with human hair, urine, red pepper and a bobble-headed owl. Nothing worked. Plants continued falling left and right.

After hours of online research and trials of every environmentally sound tactic suggested, we determined that nothing short of wiring the area for motion detector waterjets had a prayer of having effect. But these were costly, and we were losing heart.

Another round of research located a humane trap for legal relocation of said raccoon. But budding bromeliad flowers still were being mysteriously snapped off. Two weeks later we relocated a pubescent male opossum. Denuding this native growth property of mammals was antithetical to every ecological bone in my body. I refused to do more.

Thankfully, the animal invasion suddenly stopped. But the insect invasion was just beginning. Recurring bouts of scale seemed somewhat controllable through douses of rubbing alcohol. But during the second round—horror of horrors—I actually spotted the “dreaded weevil” disappearing into the cushiony core of one of my 200 prized plants, all sitting side-by-side, all dangerously vulnerable. Bottled Seven came to the rescue. As five alien creatures staggered up for air, I learned these devil weevils must be physically split open with a dandelion digger to die. Crush them underfoot, and these slippery little suckers disappear into the dirt.

By this time I'd had enough new chemicals introduced into my life. I'd spent enough Saturdays bleaching donated pots for reuse. My garage was filling up with toxins.

Now, 14 months later, I weekly watch these perennial annuals fade and process away as they shoot off new-growth “pups.” Beauty renews. But repotting is a plague. So I've decided to let others more experienced and worthy than I keep the thousands of noble, often endangered, bromeliad species viable.

Today I'm back to growing hardy native plants designed to last in a low-maintenance xeriscape. And hoping against hope that this garden in the woods may one day become more joy than job.

Stick a fork in me.  
I'm done.



**In spite of the trials and tribulations, the bromeliads just keep doing their thing. Photo by author.**



## Tillandsia butzii by Jay Thurrott

This is a curious little *Tillandsia* with a slightly inflated, bulbous base and slender twisted leaves, similar to *T. baileyi*, but much smaller. Overall, the plant is an olive-drab color with dark red striping. The base is covered in red speckles and the bloom spike has tubular purple flowers (no surprises here) and bracts of pink to lavender. Found in the wild from Southern Mexico to Panama this plant is sometimes described as preferring shade (50%) and dampness.

My first attempt at growing *T. butzii* involved mounting a single plant upright on cork and misting the plant frequently until it attached itself to the cork. It never did and in fact, fell to pieces in a relatively short time. Attempt #2 involved attaching a new plant to a piece of driftwood and misting it more frequently – the book said ‘shade and dampness’ so I resolved to provide more of each! Plant number two lived slightly longer than #1 before it also disintegrated. At this point I had decided that I really didn’t need to have *T. butzii* in my collection after all, but then I heard from a club member of a bromeliad society in the west coast of FL. that this plant is really quite easy to grow...if you mount it either horizontally or upside down! As it turns out, this is one of those plants that doesn’t really care which direction it’s pointed in. There’s a word for this (of course) and it is *ageotropic*, which David Benzing defines as where “growth is random in direction”. I took this advice to heart, obtained still another *T. butzii*, mounted it upside down and, lo and behold, 4 years later I have a nice little clump of plants. that rewards me with a bloom each year. No fuss, no bother – you just have to learn the trick!



The photo to the left of a clump of *Tillandsia butzii* was taken in the vicinity of Antigua, Guatemala. The drawing above demonstrates the bulbous base of this species and the characteristic spotting, completely covering the exterior of the plant. Photo by L. Giroux; drawing by Craig Allen.



## CBS FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Sunday, February 18, 2007. **LOCATION:** St. John the Apostle Metropolitan Community Church, 3049 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers, FL. **ATTENDANCE:** approx. 45 members & guests.

**WORKSHOP: 1:15 – 1:45pm;** “From Seed to Shining Sea” by Betty Ann Prevatt. An interesting and informative tracking of bromeliad development from seed to maturity, with cultural notes. Only 2 of the seedling of *Aechmea* ‘Pacifica’ previously distributed by Brian Weber were available for viewing, it is hoped that others will be brought to Show and Tell in the future.

**CALL TO ORDER:** By President Steve Hoppin at 1:50 PM New members Homer Sosa and Dennis Giardina and guest Joe Pace introduced. **Minutes from January 2007 General Meeting** were published in CBS February Newsletter. No corrections, deletions or additions were proposed. Motion to accept by Vicky Chirnside, Second by Robert Fesq. Minutes accepted as printed. **OLD BUSINESS:** Treasury audit was completed by Dianne Molnar and Eleanor Kinzie, per Board policy. Written report is available from Secretary. Steve thanked the committee for their efforts. **NEW BUSINESS:** FCBS Representative Vicky Chirnside announced that new book from Australia might not be available for three months due to type of shipping. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Members were encouraged to complete and submit the Workshop Questionnaire handed out at the January meeting. Going Paperless! - Larry Giroux discussed in some depth the on-line Meristem. Signup sheet was passed around for volunteers to receive only the on-line version. Larry also indicated that dues are now due, and photography for roster will be continued during meeting. Anniversaries were recognized; Dianne Molnar and Larry Giroux both members for **15 years**. Donna Schneider was thanked for donating proceeds generated by her Christmas Floral Arrangement sold at the Holiday Party. CBS and members are invited to participate in The Festival of Flora – A Botanical Bazaar, March 24<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM to 2:00 PM. Contact Deborah Jalbert at [keysey@earthlink.net](mailto:keysey@earthlink.net). Garden Council will hold Flower Show March 15 & 16. Designers and horticulturists invited to participate; call Suzy Valentine 992-0113. Dianne Molnar was unable to attend, but sends thanks for the gift as outgoing President. CBS Annual Evil Weevil Auction will be March 18<sup>th</sup>. CBS has secured an auctioneer. Members are urged to participate and donate. Larry Giroux described donation process. He and committee will provide auction rules in the Meristem and on day of the event. **DOOR PRIZE:** Donated and presented by Barbara Johnson. The plant was a *Neoregelia* ‘Sunday Best’. **SHOW AND TELL:** Conducted by Dale Kammerlohr, a beautiful selection including some unusual hohenbergias, tillandsias, aechmeas and many dazzling guzmanias described by Grant Groves were discussed. **BREAK:** 20 minutes. **REFRESHMENT SETUP:** Provided by Mary McKenzie and Martha Wolfe, assisted by Sue Gordon and Dianne Wilson. Our grateful thanks go to them and all who brought in food.

**PROGRAM:** “The Saga of the Evil Weevil” by **Dr. J. Howard Frank**, University of Fl. Dr. Howard detailed facts about the evil weevil and its intended predator; the life history; the trials and permitting problems of locating and importing a potential predator. He estimates release of the predator fly within months. This work is essential to the well being of both our cultivated and native bromeliads. **RAFFLE:** Raffle commentator Larry Giroux assisted by Luli Westra, Bob Lura and Ross Griffith **ADJOURNED** at 4:05 PM. **BREAKDOWN** generously assisted by many members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Ray, CBS Secretary

## Special Events in March and April

### Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup>

Each year Michael & Donna Kiehl, owners of **Michael's Bromeliads** open up their home and gardens to specific societies for a special day of visiting and shopping at their state of the art nursery, about an hour drive from Fort Myers. Michael has many exclusive cultivars such as Vrieseas, Neoregelias, Cryptanthus and Billbergias, to name a few, from hybridizers from around the world like David Shigii, Sharon Peterson, Lisa Vinzant, Don Beadle, Grace Goode and Chester Skotak. Bring a sandwich or such for lunch and Michael and Donna will provide beverages and desert. Time 9AM – 4PM; 973 First Dirt Rd. Venice, FL 34292 (941) 488-4011 or contact them at [info@michaelsbromeliads.com](mailto:info@michaelsbromeliads.com).

### Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup>

The Semi-annual **Cape Coral Tropical Plant Bazaar**. Vendors with all types of plants will be selling from 9-2pm @ Eco Park in Cape Coral. The Park is parallel and north to Veteran's Parkway by the Midpoint Bridge) Bromeliads as well as other plants will be on sale for very reasonable prices. Contact Katie at Parks & Rec 549-4606 for additional information.

### Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

“**The Festival of Flora - A Botanical Bazaar**”. Jim Bixler and Deborah Jalbert, members of CBS, are organizing this event to benefit the Art and Music Program of St. Mary's Episcopal Church at 9801 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs. Plant and Art vendors are being solicited to sell. If any CBS members would like to sell at a booth, a donation of \$25 is requested for a 10ft X 10ft space. The Bazaar will run on March 24th from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. in the Church's parking lot. Admission is free. Contact Jim at 239-598-2304 or [socwoods@aol.com](mailto:socwoods@aol.com) or Deborah Jalbert at 239-352-1251 or [keysey@earthlink.net](mailto:keysey@earthlink.net).

### Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

Place: **Lyle and Robin Bowen's Home** ; Address: 7460 Twin Eagle Lane, (South) Ft. Myers, Fl 33912; Date: April 1st ; Time: 11:00am - 3:00pm. On the front cover is a photo of Lyle's pond, which he created several years ago. With each Open House, which Lyle and Robin have generously hosted, his garden has become more developed and interesting. Call or e-mail Lyle for directions to his home off Daniels Parkway, if you haven't been there before.

## Selection of a NAME for our Fall event!

We now and have a name and a theme for our November 30th, December 1st & 2nd, 2007 Show and Sale.

## “Color My World With Bromeliads”

We'll keep you all posted about our Show and Sale with announcements, Workshops and Programs in the upcoming months.

# EVENTS CALENDER

March 15th -18th, 2007 - Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society, "Everybody's Flower Show", Ocean Center in Daytona Beach.. Standard judged flower show, horticultural displays. Many vendors selling garden related items.

April 13th, 14th & 15th, 2007 - Bromeliad Society of Broward County's Show and Sale. "Everything's Coming Up Bromeliads", Trinity Luthern Church Hall, 11 SW 11thSt., Fort Lauderdale, Fl. Judged Show - Friday, April 13th with Sale Saturday, April 14th and Sunday April 15th. For additional information contact Ann Schandelnayer at 954-583-1124 or by mail at 5520 SW 5th St. Plantation, Fl.

April 20th, 21st & 22nd - Sarasota Bromeliad Society's Sale and Show. "Pirated Bromeliads". Judged Show and Sale area open on Friday April 20th with Sale and Show open to public Saturday, April 21st and Sunday April 22nd from 10AM-4PM. Marie Selby Botanic Gardens, 811 S. Palm Ave., Sarasota. Show and Sale included in general admission \$12 to Gardens For additional information contact Terrie Bert at 941-795-6012 or at Theresa.Bert@MyFWC.com or Rob Branch at 941-358-4953.

April 20th, 21st & 22nd - Bromeliad Society of South Florida's Annual Show. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden., 10901 Old Cutler Rd, Miami, Fl. For additional information call 305-667-1651.

May 11th-13th - Central Florida Bromeliad Society's Annual Mother's Day Show and Sale. Orlando Fashion Square, 3201 East Colonial Drive (SR 50), Orlando.

August 18 & 19, 2007 - Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society and the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society Judged Plant Show A standard judged plant show to include bromeliads and other tropical plants. Sanford Garden Club Building, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford, FL . 9 AM - 4 PM both days. There will be plant sales and plant displays. Admission is free, and is open to the general public. If you have questions, please call 321-363-7351.

November 30th, December 1st & 2nd - The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society's 2007 Sale and Show Judged Show- Friday, November 30th with Sale and Show Saturday, December 1st and Sunday December 2nd. Terry Park, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd (SR80) Fort Myers, Fl. You can contact Steve Hoppin at steveandlarry@comcast.net or 239-997-2237 for information.

June 2008 - BSI World Conference in Cairns, Australia. Inquiries to Lynne Hudson 47 Boden Street, Edge Hill QLD 4870 or Lynnie@Ledanet.com.au.



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Go to [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org) to see an expanded special edition of this issue with an additional article and color pictures.

Invite all to this month's

# “EVIL WEEVIL” AUCTION