



June 2006

**CALOOSAHATCHEE
BROMELIAD
SOCIETYs
CALOOSAHATCHEE
MERISTEM**

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Deuterocohnia brevifolia

Is that Dave Prall at a Bromeliad Show ? - No, he's admiring a **Deuterocohnia brevifolia** at the Sonoran Conference Plant Show in Tucson, AZ. Dyckias were very popular there as well , but expensive in comparison to Florida prices. Photo by Geri Prall.

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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ALTERNATE FCBS Rep.	Dale Kammerlohr (tropdsk@strato.net)

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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
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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

June Meeting: SUNDAY June 18th, 2006

ST. JOHN the APOSTLE CHURCH 3049 MCGREGOR Ave. FORT MYERS.
DOORS WILL BE OPEN AT 12:30 FOR SETUP. Please bring FRIENDSHIP
plants to share with our members.

OUR SPEAKER WILL BE BRINGING MANY PLANTS FOR SALE.
SO...MEMBERSHIP SALES ARE NOT PERMITTED AT THIS
MEETING.

June Program

(Starting following the refreshment break)

“Growing Tillandsias”

Our Speaker will be: John Russell.

John and Jimye Russell, owners of Russell’s Tillandsias will be discussing the care required to grow tillandsias by hobbyist and commercial growers. John is currently participating in the propagation program of native tillandsias for the University of Florida. We will also hear about these efforts. (See article inside).

June Workshop

(Starting at 1:15PM)

“Epiphytes vs. Terrestrials”

As a precursor to the June Program, our Workshop will discuss the differences between the requirements of epiphytes and terrestrials. Please take some time to read any information you can find in your personal library or from the internet about these types of bromeliads and bring any questions about your plants to this discussion.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



FM-LCGC



Cryptanthus
Society



Bromeliad Society
International



FCBS

SOCIETY NOTES

The FCBS 2006 Extravaganza

Each year this event is hosted by a different member society of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. Last year it was held in Sarasota and although many from our society were there in spirit, it was held on the Saturday before Hurricane Wilma made her landfall in South Florida. So attendance was down. This year if all goes well, The Bromeliad Society of South Florida is hosting the Extravaganza at the Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center just West of Miami. Several activities are in the planning including a large bromeliad sale by both commercial and hobbyist growers throughout the state. A Rare Plant Auction will benefit the activities of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, which will follow the Banquet, Saturday evening. In addition, seminars and a tour of the Everglades are being considered. Cost have been negotiated by BSSF and a single or double room is \$95 plus tax and the multi-course dinner at the Banquet is \$30. The resort is about 160 miles from Fort Myers and with normal driving should take about 2 hours and 45 minutes by car or bus.

The CBS would like to see as many of its membership attend this special event so we are proposing different trip options, which CBS will consider paying for. We need your input ASAP to see if there is enough interest to pursue any of these alternatives. Please contact Tom Foley, CBS Secretary at 239-458-4656 or tefoley24@earthlink.net, if you are interested so we can finalize transportation plans very soon. The cost of the bus depends on when we return from Miami.

Option 1: Day trip. Leave about 7 AM Saturday from Fort Myers; shop, attend any scheduled seminars and return early evening.

Option 2: Day Trip. Leave about 7 AM Saturday, stay for sale, banquet and Auction. Probably not get back to Fort Myers until 12PM-1AM.

Option 3: Overnight. Leave about 7 AM Saturday, attend all activities, overnight at own expense at hotel, return Sunday morning.

Option 4: Car pool for day trip.

Option 5: Car pool for overnight trip.

Please think about enjoying a weekend with friends and plants. The date is September 30th, 2006. Contact Tom Foley ASAP.

Recently **Rosemary Fleming**, a member of our Society since 1982, experienced heart problems, which has forced her to move from her home. She has moved to Calusa Harbour Senior Living Community, where she can receive living assistance. She expects to return to CBS meetings in the future with assistance from friends. In the meantime, I'm sure that she would appreciate hearing from CBS members. Her new information is:

Ms. Rosemary Fleming
Calusa Harbour Senior Living Community
2525 E. First Street
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

CBS to be Host of FMLCGC Meeting

CBS has agreed to host the January meeting of the Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council at the Riverside Community Center. It will be CBS's responsibility to provide refreshments and table decorations on the serving table. Mary McKenzie is looking for help with the preparations. Please contact Mary at 936-5820, (manytoes@aol.com) to provide assistance when the time arises.

May Workshop

Chairperson, Eleanor Kinzie with panel members Dale Kammerlohr, Geri Prall and Larry Giroux answered questions, demonstrated techniques and reviewed duties for preparing your plants for Summer.

Included were some recommendations of chemicals and insecticides for treating and preventing problems that might arise. At the request of some members here is a list of the products mentioned at the meeting. Please remember to use necessary precautions to avoid bodily contact such as wearing gloves, masks, long sleeves and eye protection when mixing or using any potentially harmful chemical. Please follow recommended instructions of the manufacturers.

<u>Chemical</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Mixing dosage</u>
Captan	Fungi	2 tps of 50% powder/ gal
Imidacloprid	Scale, Mealy bugs, aphids	2 tps of 1.47% liq./ gal
Physan-20	Virus, Fungi, bacteria, algae	2 tbs of 10/10% liq/ gal

Imidacloprid can be purchased as Bayer's Tree & Scrub Insect Control or Merit. Active ingreds. in Physan are n-alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium and n-ethyl dimethyl ethyl benzel ammonium.

May Program



Many thanks to Ron Cave for discussing all aspects of the Weevil problem and the excellent slide show. And of course we wish him well on his research to combat the “Evil Weevil” with a natural predator specific to the weevil. We all hope the governmental agencies will grant the research team permission to release the fly, which may be the answer to control of this problem facing our native bromeliads.

June Program

RUSSELLS' BROMELIADS

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

We are a grower, importer, exporter and distributor of bromeliads specializing in tillandsias (the air plants of the bromeliad family). Our company is one of only six nurseries in the United States with a specialty in tillandsias. Our main focus is wholesale distribution, but we are open for retail sales on Thursday and Friday. We would appreciate a call to let us know you are coming.

John's interest in tillandsias began as a high school 'Future Farmer's project in the mid 1960's. Jack Russell, John's father owned Tropical Plant Products in Orlando and suggested importing *Tillandsia ionantha* from Mexico and mounting them on small tree fern plaques. John sold 10,000 plaques the first year.

The interest continued and in 1986 John and his wife, Jimye Kaye decided to focus on bromeliads and expand the selection of tillandsias. They are the largest genus of the bromeliad family, accounting for approximately 550 of the over 2,500 species of bromeliads.

We grow many of the tillandsias from reproductive off-sets and also by seed germination in our nursery in Sanford. Plants are also purchased from other commercial nursery operations in Guatemala,

Mexico and other Central and South American countries.

Russell's Bromeliads customer base covers the United States and many foreign countries, such as Canada, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Customers are comprised of small individual businesses, nurseries, garden centers, plant brokers, botanical gardens, bromeliad societies, private collectors and home gardeners. We offer the plants, grapewood mounts and all the necessary components for a customer to create finished products for sale or their own enjoyment.

Growing bromeliads and tillandsias certainly has been a learning experience with lots of trial and error, but we have gained the confidence of our customers with the best quality product we can provide.

Bromeliads and tillandsias are hardy and grow easily when the proper light, water and air circulation is provided. Fertilization with a dilute solution of a high quality liquid fertilizer will help them withstand stress and disease. They need to be protected from frost and freeze, but most can withstand temperatures as low as 36 degrees. Pests and diseases are not great problems. A regular spray program with a fungicide (during rainy conditions) and a mild insecticide for mites keeps them robust and healthy.

Florida is fortunate to have sixteen native *Tillandsia* species that grow mostly in the central and southern part of the state. Spanish Moss, *Til. usneoides*, is one of the fragrant species and Ball Moss, *Til. recurvata* is one that is plentiful in the southeast United States.

A state-wide project has begun between the University of Florida Institute of Agriculture Sciences and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies to try to save native tillandsia and bromeliad species under attack by "The Evil Weevil" (*Metamasius callizona*). The weevil lays eggs in the center of the plants and the developing larvae kill the plants. John Russell is one of two people in Florida who have agreed to grow seeds harvested from endangered areas. Once the danger from the weevil has passed, which may be years, the plan is to return the plants to the areas they came from originally. So a caution to all no to transport native tillandsias from their locations and encourage the spread of the weevil.

For more information about tillandsias and bromeliads go to www.fcbs.org.

John and Jimye Kaye Russell

Carole Johnson was the Editor of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Newsletter until her death in 1998. Reprinted here is an article she wrote for Volume XIII, Issue I, February 1993. In this article she discusses how she had to re-think her ideas about growing terrestrials after her many successful years growing epiphytes. This may help prepare members for the CBS June Workshop.

TROUBLESOME TERRESTRIALS

By Carol Johnson

There was a time when I considered all bromeliads to be of epiphytic origin. Since so many of these epiphytes have been put into pots and forced to become terrestrial, it is no doubt difficult for a new grower to know that there are really some bromeliads which are strictly terrestrial and survive only in pots.

The *Orthophytum* genus presents the greatest cultural problem to me. Even the experts disagree on the proper treatment of the various *Orthophytum* species. All *Orthophytum* are native to Brazil (Bahia, Esperito Santo, Minas Gerais), and from generally arid or semi-arid locations. They are mainly low altitude plants, classified as semi-terrestrial (xerophytic, saxicolous). In the greenhouse, grown in pots, these plants do not respond to conditions similar to their habitat. My first specific failure many years ago was an attempt to grow *Orthophytum saxicola* on feather rock. That is what *saxicola* means, growing on rocks. Well, they didn't grow and they didn't die, but the leaf tips burned and the plants did not bloom. Over the years it has become clear that *Orthophytum* grown in pots must have a stable, moist mix and never be allowed to desiccate. Why is this? Any sensible theory would be most welcome.

I have this same trouble with all the *Araecoccus* and the *Abrometiella*, so consequently strive to keep them not too wet nor too dry. Being small plants, the temptation is to pot them in small pots where they dry out fast.

Cryptanthus are strictly terrestrial plants. It really hurts to see them entered in shows as mounted specimens. They require rich, moist soil and fairly low light. *Cryptanthus* culture has become a whole new "religion" and that is good. They should not be grown with other bromeliads as they need special treatment.

Catopsis, a genus of the *Tillandsioideae*, is completely epiphytic in the wild, but can be grown in pots and soil. However, specimens which are large in habitat will become progressively smaller, both bloom and plant size, in the greenhouse. Even as epiphytes, the plants do not readily respond to civilization.

Nearly all the *Pitcairnioideae* are terrestrial plants. However, it is very difficult to simulate their habitat and soil preferences in the greenhouse. The subgenus includes *Pitcairnia*, *Dyckia*, *Hechtia* and *Puya*. I gave up on *Puya* many 1 years ago. They belong on high, cold mountainsides and that is the only place they are beautiful. *Pitcairnia*, *Dyckia* and *Hechtia* have massive root systems. They really want to be

grown outdoors in the ground, but when container grown they must have good-sized pots, plenty of food and water. I have experimented with various fertilizers over the years and believe they like a sweeter soil than other bromeliads, and it is also obvious that they require a dormant, dry spell which forces them into bloom when feeding is resumed. This works especially with the Pitcairnia. A six-week fairly dry spell in February-March, then plenty of water and the plants will come into bloom.

I have been growing these troublesome plants for at least 20 years, and have yet to solve many of their problems, but the good years make up for the bad. Last years I vowed to give up on Pitcairnia tabuliformis. Now, this year, they are beautiful and coming into bloom.

If anyone has answers to the growing of these troublesome plants, please share them with us.



Orthophytum saxicola.

This is a terrestrial, which as its name indicates grows in semi-arid conditions in nature and flourishes on rocks. The author has determined that true terrestrial conditions are necessary for optimal growth in cultivation. Photo by Dutch Vandervort.

Pitcairnia tabuliformis is a unique member of this terrestrial genus. The author is not alone in having problems growing and blooming this plant. There appears to be a critical balance of water, fertilizer and light necessary to produce a blooming plant. Photo by Michael Andreas.



Minutes of the May CBS Meeting

DATE: May 21st, 2006 **LOCATION:** St. John the Apostle Metropolitan Community Church **ATTENDANCE:** 39

Workshop: start time 1:15 pm **end time** 2:00 PM

Pre Summer Question and Answer session with Eleanor Kinzie, Geri Prall, Dale Kammerlohr, Larry Giroux. This was one of the better workshops to be hosted ever; it covered mounting, roots, insecticide, scale, fertilizer and many questions to our distinguished panel.

CALL TO ORDER: Pres. Dianne Molnar at 2:10 PM

Old business: reminder plant sellers 10% to be paid at the end of the day to CBS please see Betty Ann Prevatt.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FCBS REP:

FMLCGC DELEGATE: Mary McKenzie-**In January we will be hosting the Garden council meeting.** Larry Giroux attended the May meeting at the Riverside Community Center. He stated that the Burroughs home was not going to happen; instead, progress will continue on the Virginia Street Property with occupancy expected in early 2007.

MERISTEM: Larry Giroux inquired about members not getting their newsletter and to check and see if they have paid their dues. He is still accepting articles and pictures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Hibiscus show, June 10th. Poster available. BSI has a new editor Andrew Flower of New Zealand. He has promised major changes making it more hobbyist friendly.

San Diego World Conference, last chance to consider attending.

Thank you letters from Harry Luther, Director of the BIC and from Carole Richtmyer of the Cryptanthus Society for our donations.

May 31 LaBelle Garden Club hosting a pot luck dinner at Bob Mason Park, contact Terri Lazar 863-675-2392 for more info.

Extravaganza bus trip Sept 30, Tom Foley is working up proposal. Rosemary Fleming a long time member is sick and her health is forcing her to leave her home and going to assisted care at Calusa Harbour in downtown Ft Myers.

Door Prize conducted by Luli Westra

Donated by Nick Mavrikos and Dale Kammerlohr

Won by Dianne Molnar and Holly Eash

Show and Tell: conducted by: Dale Kammerlohr This was one of

the largest and most beautiful Show and Tell ever conducted by the Society. Thanks to everyone that brought in all these beautiful plants to share.

BREAK: 25 minutes to eat and visit.

REFRESHMENTS SET-UP: Thank you to Mary McKenzie and Sue Gordon.

PROGRAM: topic Mexican Bromeliad Weevil by Dr. Ronald Cave, this was an extensive look into the research and development of a fly to alleviate this weevil. Dr. Cave did a wonderful presentation explaining his work.

Raffle: Commentary by Larry Giroux and the runners were Bob Lura and Bob Suthlman. A nice selection of raffle plants- Thank you everyone!

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 4:37 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Foley, Secretary

EVENTS CALENDER

September 30, 2006

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Bromeliad Extravaganza Presented by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center, Miami

Got something of interest?

If any of you have special events other members would be interested in, please submit them to your editor. Please provide by the 1st of the month, prior to publication.

To All Our Members: Enjoy your hobby more

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and as a first time subscriber the CBS will pay for

1/2 of the first year. So for \$0.50 per week you can get 2 great colorful

Journals and be part of the bigger picture.

See Betty Ann Prevatt for more information.

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3836 HIDDEN ACRES CIRCLE
NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33903



A close-up of a pair of mature *Deuterocohnia brevifolia* showing the characteristics, which make it attractive to succulent and cactus growers. The clump on the front cover is made up of hundreds of these slightly greater than 1 inch individual plants. Photo by Derek Butcher.

Courtesy of www.fcbs.org.