



CALOOSAHATCHEE
BROMELIAD
SOCIETYs
CALOOSAHATCHEE
MERISTEM

3836 Hidden Acres Circle N
North Fort Myers Fl 33903
(239) 997-2237
DrLarry@COMCAST.NET

Jul-Aug 2010



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT Eleanor Kinzie 332-0210 (bprevattpcc@aol.com)
VICE-PRESIDENT John Cassani 239-633-7274 (jcassani@comcast.net)
SECRETARY Ross Griffith 239-731-7674
TREASURER Betty Ann Prevatt 334-0242 (bprevattpcc@aol.com)
PAST-PRESIDENT Donna Schneider 283-4874 (sgarydonna@aol.com)

STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Larry Giroux 997-2237 (DrLarry@comcast.net)
FALL SALES CHAIR Brian Weber
FALL SALES Co-CHAIR
PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON Bruce McAlpin (863) 674-0811
WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON Steve Hoppin 239-218-7378 (steve.hoppin@yahoo.com)
SPECIAL PROJECTS Gail Daneman 239-466-3531 (bob@fesq.net)
CBS FCBS Rep. Vicky Chirside 941-493-5825 (vickychirn@aol.com)
CBS FCBS Rep.

OTHER COMMITTEES

AUDIO/VISUAL SETUP Bob Lura, Terri Lazar and Vicki Chirside
DOOR PRIZE Terri Lazar (863) 675-2392 (terriLML@earthlink.net)
HOSPITALITY Mary McKenzie 939-5820; Sue Gordon
SPECIAL HOSPITALITY Betsy Burdette 694-4738 (betsy@burdetteinc.com)
RAFFLE TICKETS Greeter/Membership table volunteers - Dolly Dalton,
Luli Westra
RAFFLE COMMENTARY Larry Giroux
GREETERS/ATTENDENCE Betty Ann Prevatt, Dolly Dalton (dollyd@comcast.net),
Luli Westra
SHOW & TELL Dale Kammerlohr 863- 558-0647
(dzdase@mbrqmail.com)
FM-LEE GARDEN COUNCIL Mary McKenzie 939-5820
LIBRARIAN Kay Janssen 334-3782

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In 1998 Elton Leme published his second book, Canistropsis in which he continued to present his decades of work about the "Nidularioid Complex". Canistropsis billbergioides, previously call Nidularium billbergioides was one of the multitude of bromeliads, which were renamed and reclassified. Pictured on the front and back covers is the stellar variegated form of this previous nidularium. Today, both in habitat and in cultivation there are numerous color varieties of this hardy plant. Colors of the bracts range from pale yellow to green, to shades of red and orange, to purples. Note that the variegation in the pictures involve all portions of the plant. Photos by Larry Giroux.



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

TIME AND PLACE OF OUR JULY & AUGUST MEETINGS
ST. JOHN the APOSTLE CHURCH 3049 MCGREGOR Ave. FT. MYERS.
DOORS WILL BE OPEN AT 12:30 FOR SETUP.

Please come early and help with setup
Friendship plants, Raffle items are always welcome.
There will be a Door Prize and Show and Tell

July Meeting Sunday July 18th 2010

MEMBERSHIP SALES WILL BE PERMITTED

at the July Meeting.

July Program

(Will start after our refreshment break)

**“The Search for Additional Biocontrol Organisms of the
Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Part IV”**

By Dennis Giardina

Dr. Howard Frank, Timothy Andrus, Jose Monson and Dennis Giardina have made four trips to Guatemala to search for additional bromeliad weevil parasites since October 2005. Currently there is only one known parasite of bromeliad weevils, the fly *Lixadmontia franki*. After an extensive laboratory testing period, *Lixadmontia franki* was approved for release in Florida. Many releases of *Lixadmontia franki* have been made in South Central and South Florida since June 2007 but proof of their survival and reproduction has been documented only once. We remain optimistic about *Lixadmontia franki* but to hedge our bets, the search for additional bromeliad weevil parasites continues. In November, 2009, we concentrated our surveys along the bromeliad-laden shores of Lake Izabal, the Caribbean coast around Puerto Barrios and west of Guatemala City up to the El Salvador Border. This latest trip will be the focus of my presentation.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affililate of:



FM-LCGC



**Cryptanthus
Society**



**Bromeliad Society
International**



FCBS

July Workshop

(starts at 1:15PM)

By Bruce McAlpin

Continuing with the theme of basic horticultural techniques, Bruce McAlpin has agreed to share some of his knowledge and skills. Anyone who has been to Bruce's property and shadehouse, knows that exceptional talents are needed to grow the large variety of plants in Bruce's collection. Come prepared to take notes and add your two cents on the topic.

August Meeting Sunday August 15th 2010

MEMBERSHIP SALES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED

at the August Meeting.

August Program

(Will start after our refreshment break)

“An Expedition through Longwood Gardens”

By Tom Wolfe

Nursery owner, landscape architect and Master Judge, Tom Wolfe has finalized a special program and is now presenting it to garden societies. While highlighting the extraordinary Longwood Gardens in southern Pennsylvania, he characterizes its design architect, the late Roberto Burle Marx. Besides being a landscape architect, he was an artist, explorer and horticulturist. In his honor he has has numerous plants, including bromeliads named for him. Mark this date on your calendar and be sure to attend.

August Workshop

(starts at 1:15PM)

Topic to be announced

Society News

Our June Program

With the World Bromeliad Conference only weeks away, Master Judges Bill and Maureen Frazel discussed the basics of preparing your plants to achieve the highest ribbon award for your efforts. Hopefully several of our members will be attending the Show and Sale in New Orleans. Nevertheless, the tips the Frazels passed on to us can be useful for keeping our plants in good condition in our collections. And when the Spring Shows return to Florida or when we hold our own Show next year we will be prepared to enter plants. Thanks to Maureen and Bill for their demonstration.

Our June Workshop

Basic information such as what Eleanor Kinzie and Betty Ann Prevatt presented at the June Workshop is helpful to seasoned and new growers. Many articles are available on division of bromeliad clumps and offsets and their proper planting, but an on hands programs as we were treated to is always more instructive. Thank you to Eleanor and Betty Ann as well as to all those in the audience who contributed their expertise.

Sympathy Extended to One of Our Members

It is with sadness that I repeat information given to us by member, Rae Ann Wessel .

CBS Vice-President, John Cassani, lost his son, Dan Cassani in a car accident early Sunday morning, June 13th. Services were held on Saturday, June 19, at 3 pm at the National Cremation Society in North Fort Myers.

Dan was an avid snook fisherman and in lieu of flowers the family is asking friends to make a donation in Dan's memory to the Snook Foundation, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34236-1004.

Please join the CBS Board in wishing John and his family our heartfelt sympathy and prayers during their time of grief. If you wish to send John a personal message, his mailing address is Mr. John Cassani 12408 River Road Fort Myers, FL 33905.

Welcome to New Members of CBS

Please add New Members to your Roster.

William Spark
1707-2 Park Meadows Drive
Fort Myers, Fl 33907
xxx-xxx-xxxx
Wrsofclev@aol.com

Shana Nunn
11097 Longshore Way E
Naples, Fl 34119
xxx-xxx-xxxx
Shana900@comcast.net

George & Sylvia Walker
5280 Sabal Palm Lane
Punta Gorda, Fl 33982x
xxx-xxx-xxxx
Gatorfarmer@embarqmail.com

Harold & Betzabe Hussmann
2760 16 Avenue SE
Naples, Fl 34117
Hussmann57@gmail.com

Richard Ridge
507 E 3rd Street Lehigh Acres, Fl 33936
xxx-xxx-xxxx PAPARIDGE@Yahoo.com



Jim Irvin, a past member of CBS, produced and registered over 50 cryptanthus among dozens of other hybrids of exceptional color and beauty. Among his cryptanthus is this dark red colored plant that appears nearly black when grown in bright light called *Cryptanthus* 'Witch Brew'. It has the added characteristic of producing numerous long petalled flowers, which open at about the same time. It is a tricky plant to exhibit as a blooming plant because the timing has to be just right.



In contrast to the above cryptanthus is this bigeneric *Neophytum* 'Galactic Warrior'. Several of the lavender flowers bloom in sequence for about two weeks. Unfortunately, unless your show is during the summer or you treat the mature plant several weeks before the show with Florel, you won't have a blooming specimen. This variegated plant also has stable variegation, which makes it another good plant to exhibit.



If you are looking for an easy Award of Merit ribbon, try entering a single mini-neoregelia. As long as the few leaves are in good condition, the pot is clean, the plant is centered and buried to the proper depth, the judges are hard pressed to take off points. Remember, ribbon judging is by merit; while, major awards judging is highly competitive, since all plants in competition are Award of Merit winners already. Difficulty of cultivation plays high in the decision making for major awards by the Judges.



Judges have been instructed not to use “rarity” as a criteria during major awards. This was in part to reduce the advantage of exhibitors who had the financial way with all to acquire new species or hybrids. However, “rarity” can be considered when it is synonymous with difficulty of cultivation. The numbers of a plant may be limited in cultivation because it is so hard to grow into a blooming specimen capable of giving offsets. *Lapa duartei* (formerly known as *Cryptanthus duartei* and *Orthophytum supthutii*) with succulent like leaves, which are very easily damaged, is one of those plants. It is seldom seen in bloom, especially with numerous flowers as seen here grown by Steve Hoppin. Fortunately for exhibitors who want to take the effort to grow this plant, it blooms during the Spring, in time for exhibition. Photos by Larry Giroux.

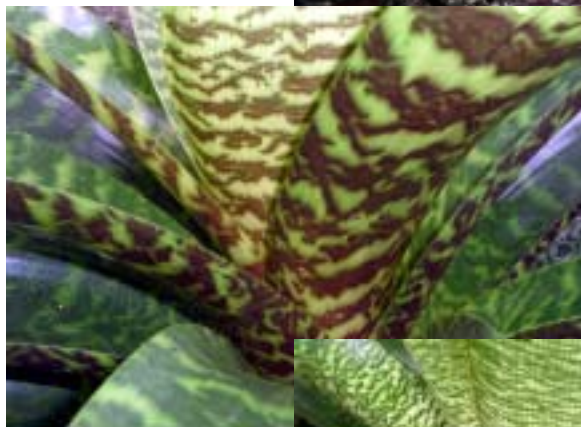


Steve Seal sent me the following message and the two pictures seen to the left...

“A couple pictures from my garden this month. Four different *Ae. blanchetiana* hybrids in one plot and a 10’x 10’ plot containing 30 blooming *Portea petropolitana* var. *extensa* and 10 blooming *Ae. rubrolilacina* (very similar inflorescence). Steve”

The following pages contain close-ups of some of the vriesea in the collection of Dean Fairchild and Craig Allen of Apopka Florida. Most are *Vriesea hieroglyphica* crosses. Although their collection is impressive and growing larger all the time, it does not compare with hawaiian vriesea hybridizer David Shigii’s collection.. Honestly, I took picture after picture of his massive collection, changing storage cards and batteries twice. Many of these hybrids seen here are probably from his collection. Study the pictures and notice the patterns and colors. Photos by Larry Giroux







CBS May 16th, 2010 Meeting Minutes

DATE: May 16, 2010 **LOCATION:** St. John the Apostle Church, Ft. Myers, FL
ATTENDANCE: 48 members & guests **WORKSHOP:** in lieu of a hands-on workshop, CBS members Dave and Geri Prall who recently traveled to South America presented a photo review of “Bromeliads – from Brazil back to Cape Coral”
CALL TO ORDER: President Eleanor Kinzie opened the meeting at 2:00p.m. She welcomed everyone, introduced guests Sylvia & George Walker as well as new members Shana Nunn, Will Spark and Harold & Betsy Hussmann. Eleanor informed members of the change in today’s meeting format and had Program Chair Bruce McAlpin introduce our guest speaker. **PROGRAM:** “Fertilizers: The Old, the New and into the Future” by Craig Morell. Interested members and guests listened carefully and took notes as Craig discussed the importance, benefits and use of various fertilizers including but not limited to water-soluble, time release and organic varieties. Following his talk he provided answers to those having questions. **DOOR PRIZE:** a Jim Irvin hybrid, Billbergia ‘Cherry Bomb’ donated by Luli Westra was won by a lucky CBS member. **BREAK:** provided members social and snack opportunity. **REFRESHMENT SET-UP:** provided by Mary McKenzie. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** FCBS: Vicky Chirnside – 1. FCBS seeking host for 2010 Extravaganza. 2. FCBS has offered to host the 2012 WBC. Review and decision to be made at 2010 BSI Board Meeting. 3. CBS continues seeking volunteer as FCBS Rep to attend quarterly meetings and vote prn. The next meeting is June 12th. If interested, please notify Eleanor Kinzie. FM/LC Garden Council: Mary McKenzie reported on the success of the recent CBS Birthday party held @ Garden Council building. She thanked everyone that attended and participated. **OLD BUSINESS:** None. **NEW BUSINESS:** Treasurer’s Report – Betty Ann Prevatt reported that CBS made \$1,188.00 at our March fund-raising auction. Half of the proceeds, a total of \$594.00 was donated to the FCBS ear-marked for the Evil Weevil Project. BAP reported a hard copy Treasurer’s Report will be made available to the membership for review at the June CBS Meeting. **SHOW & TELL:** Dale Kammerlohr provided an informative review of assorted blooming and non-blooming bromeliad genera including Acanthostachys, Aechmea, Neoglaziovia, Neoregelia, Tillandsia and Vriesea. **RAFFLE:** Thank you to both the generous CBS members who donated many nice, clean and well-grown plants and to raffle conductors Larry Giroux, Dolly Dalton and Terri Lazar for a job well done. Many smiling faces were seen upon exiting this meeting. **ADJOURNMENT:** 4:35p.m. A huge thank you to all the individuals that helped clean and set-up the rooms following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hoppin (filling in for CBS Secretary)

CBS June 20th, 2010 Meeting Minutes

DATE: Sunday, June 20, 2010. **LOCATION:** St John the Apostle Metropolitan Church, Fort Myers, Florida. **ATTENDANCE:** 38 members. **1:15 pm Workshop:** Eleanor Kinzie and Betty Ann Prevatt presented a very informative program with questions, answers and suggestions from the membership on separating various genera of bromeliads for pup propagation. **CALL TO ORDER:** Eleanor Kinzie welcomed everyone to the meeting. **MINUTES:** Upon motion by Steve Hoppin, seconded by Kay Janssen(?), it was unanimously passed that May Minutes would be accepted as presented. Kinzie stated that copies of the Treasurer's Report were on the table for review. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.** Door Prize for July. Buddy Singleton volunteered to supply for our next meeting. **LIBRARY:** Kay Janssen stated that books are available to take out for a month at a time and encouraged members to do so. **ANNUAL SALE:** Brian Weber reported that 2010 Sale will be at Terry Park, 12/4 and 12/5 and will be held in the new large outside pavilion; kitchen facilities have to be worked out. **GARDEN COUNCIL:** Mary McKenzie encouraged members to visit the gardens at the Council facility. **OLD BUSINESS:** Larry Giroux stated that time is running out for making reservations to attend the "Bromeliads in the Big Easy World Conference" July 26-August 1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Steve Hoppin stated that he would be moving to Fort Lauderdale to continue his working career as part of a hospital surgical staff; he explained that he would like to return to Fort Myers to judge CBS Shows and would remain a member of our society. Hoppin encouraged a member to chair the Workshop; that the responsibility is to schedule people to do the workshops, not to do them personally. **DOOR PRIZE:** Ed Wenzlaff won the plant donated by Terri Lazar. **SHOW & TELL:** Conducted by Dale Kammerlohr. **BREAK:** Provided by Mary McKenzie and Kay Janssen. **PROGRAM:** "A Great Show from a Judge's Point of View" presented by Maureen and Bill Frazel. Maureen Frazel led a lively discussion utilizing numerous bromeliads from their private collection to demonstrate appropriate submissions, displaying, typing, etc. for entries in judged shows. Mrs. Frazel suggested that all members submit entries into shows and stated all successful shows are well planned in advance and that invitations to judges be sent well in advance of show dates. **RAFFLE:** Conducted by Larry Giroux, Mary Scofic, Lyle Bowen and Terri Lazar. **ADJOURNMENT:** Eleanor Kinzie adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Lazar, Acting Secretary

BROMELIADS
in the

Big Easy

Catch the Fun... July 26-August 1, 2010

19th World Bromeliad Conference

Hosted by BSI & GNOBS

Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel

New Orleans, LA USA

For Conference Schedule and Registration Information
visit our website: GNOBromeliads.com

For Hotel reservations contact the Astor Crowne Plaza
at (504) 962-0500 or visit www.astorneworleans.com



Read the Expanded Newsletter

I have been asking members who have e-mail, if they can start receiving the Meristem exclusively by e-mail and I have gotten a good response from the membership. I want to remind the members that even if they can not receive the e-mail version, because they have dial-up internet service, they can still go to www.fcbs.org and read the expanded Meristem directly online. The July-August issue has some great photos from some of our members. Go to www.fcbs.org to view this expanded electronic issue, if you are not already opting to receive it or let me know if you want me to send it to you. Editor

Calendar of Bromeliad Events

July 26-August 1, 2010

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

**NEW EDITOR IS NEEDED FOR THE
CBS MERISTEM. Please contact Dr.
Larry Giroux at DrLarry@comcast.net**

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and be part of the bigger picture.**

See Betty Ann Prevatt for more information.



Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society
3836 Hidden Acres Circle N
North Fort Myers, FL 33903
E-mail - DrLarry@comcast.net

Our July Speaker is Dennis Giardina
Our August Speaker is Tom Wolfe

This is both your July and August Newsletters. Please refer to this publication for information concerning the July and August meetings.