



August 2006

**CALOOSAHATCHEE
BROMELIAD
SOCIETYs
CALOOSAHATCHEE
MERISTEM**

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



Aechmea ‘Tropic Torch’

Aechmea beeriana (formerly *Streptocalyx poeppigii*)
x *Aechmea chantinii*

Photo taken and submitted by Lyle Bowen. This cultivar is currently
in bloom in his yard in South Fort Myers.

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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HOSPITALITY Mary McKenzie (manytoes@aol.com);
Martha Wolfe
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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

August Meeting: SUNDAY August 20th, 2006

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

Our Speaker this month will be bringing plants for sale. As a courtesy to our speaker, **MEMBERSHIP SALES ARE NOT ALLOWED.** However, Friendship Plants, Raffle Plants and Extra Door Prizes are always welcome.

August Program

(Starting following the refreshment break)

“Growing Bromeliads on Almost Anything”

By Tom Wolfe

Our speaker this month is traveling from north of Tampa to demonstrate how to mount and successfully grow epiphytic bromeliads on a large variety of materials including driftwood, cork, grapevine, etc. In addition he will pass along his talents for matching and combining colors, textures and shapes into eye catching designs. Tom also has great tips on how to show off the unique characteristics of bromeliads by creating hanging baskets and mounting on plaques.

August Workshop

(Starting at 1:15PM)

“Preparing for the November Sale”

By the time of the next meeting, our Sale will be only 12 weeks away. Now is the time to decide what you would like to sell. We will review the rules and tell you how best to prepare for the big weekend. Copies of the Rules will be available. Brian Weber is our Chairman and David Prall is the Co-Chair this year. They will be ready to answer your questions.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affililate of:



FM-LCGC



**Cryptanthus
Society**



**Bromeliad Society
International**



FCBS

SOCIETY NOTES

There is still time to obtain the special rates for rooms at the Miccosukee Resort and Banquet Tickets for the FCBS 2006 Extravaganza.



2006 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Presented by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Special room rate is \$95.

Reservation deadline is August 29, 2006. For reservations call 305-925-2555 or 877-242-6464 or fax your request to 305-221-8309 or 305-925-2556. Mention the Bromeliad Society Convention and Exhibition when calling for reservations .

SALE: Saturday, Sept. 30th, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

BANQUET: Saturday night 7:00 p.m.

followed by the Rare Plant Auction.

Proceeds to FCBS.

Dinner Menu

Salad: Mesclum Mix with tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, and sweet onions.

Entrees: Baked Chicken Breast stuffed with Pesto and Smoked Gouda with Roasted Red Pepper Sauce or Vegetarian Plate.

Dessert: New York Style Cheesecake Coffee, iced and hot tea

\$30 per person Banquet reservations must be received by September 20th.

Reminder: Guests spending one night at the hotel and purchasing two dinners will receive a free copy of Bromeliads of the Atlantic Rainforest by Elton Leme.

For Dinner Reservations please make check or money order payable to BSSF and mail to: Moyna Prince, 11220 SW 107 Ct, Miami, Florida, 33176. Tel# 305-251-5289.

Please include your name, complete address, your Society, the number of dinners you are purchasing, the amount enclosed and the number of nights you will be staying at the host Hotel.

Request for Donations

Each of the affiliate's Societies of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, as in past years, has been asked to donate at least five desirable plants or items for the Rare Plant Auction to be held on Saturday, September 30th following the Banquet at the 2006 FCBS Extravaganza. Proceeds will benefit the FCBS. If you wish to donate something please contact -

**Steve Hoppin at 239-997-2237 or 480-766-1351
or e-mail him at SLHAZ@JUNO.COM
and get the items to him.**

At the request of some members, Marie Hoffman is providing the recipe for one of the June meeting treats.

Washington Apple Cake

Preparation time: 35 min. Oven temperature: 350°F Baking time. 1 hr.
This delicious cake makes a fine dessert for a group. Different from most apple cakes, you slice the apples and layer them on the bottom of the cake pan, then pour the batter over to cover. For I 13-by-9-inch cake you will need:

3 eggs
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans, optional
4 cups thinly sliced, pared apples (about 5 medium)

Preparation:

1. In a large bowl, beat eggs at high speed until thick and light. Combine sugar and oil. Beat into eggs.
2. Stir together flour, cinnamon, baking soda and salt. Add to egg mixture along with vanilla. Stir in walnuts.
3. Spread apples in buttered 13-by-9-by-2-inch pan. Pour batter over apples, spreading to cover.
4. Bake at 350°F for 1 hr. or until top is pale golden and apples are cooked. Remove from oven. Cool. Spread with Cream Cheese Icing if desired.

Cream Cheese Icing - optional (recipe follows)

Cream Cheese Icing: Beat 2 pkgs (3 oz each) cream cheese until fluffy. Beat in 1/4 cup melted butter or margarine. Stir in 1 3/4 cups powdered sugar and 1 tsp lemon juice. Spread over cooled cake.

Tips: You may serve squares of uniced cake, topped with slightly sweetened whipped cream and flavored with vanilla.

EXTRAVAGANZA 2006 - Rules of the Selling Game

Sell a few plants, and you could pay your expenses of attending the Extravaganza.

1. Vendors must be a member of a society affiliated with the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.
2. You must have an Extravaganza ID number. Call Peter Kouchalakos (305) 461-2367 or email at cpkouch@cs.com to obtain an ID number. Please use the word "Extravaganza" in the subject line when addressing email. Whenever possible, previously used numbers will be assigned to vendors who have sold in prior years.
3. Plants must be clean and free from disease, insects, etc. Only bromeliads can be sold. Potting material should be clean and weed free.
4. All plants, including bare root specimens, **MUST** have two tags. One must have the plant name (this stays with the plant); the other must have the price on the top portion of the tag (whole dollar amounts only) and the vendor number below it. **Please do not put the price on one side of the tag and the vendor number on the other - use one side of the tag only!** The exception to this rule is for vendors that have pre-printed commercial labels that include plant name, price and vendor's name/number.
5. Vendor space will be allocated depending on the number of vendors participating in the sale. Additional plants can be brought into the sales room as space becomes available.
6. Plants will be received Friday, September 29, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., or before 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 30.
7. You can be present in the sales area or just leave your plants to fend for themselves. It's your call.
8. Sales hours will be Saturday, September 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
9. The BSSF shall retain 25% of the gross sales of each vendor. Sales tax will be collected as patrons check out. Patrons will be able to pay with a credit card.
10. Bromeliad related items (art, t-shirts, crafts, etc.) might be offered for sale, subject to the preceding rules. These items should be labeled the same as plants. See rule #4.
11. All unsold plants must be removed between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Plants remaining in the sales area after 5:00 p.m. will be considered as a donation to the BSSF.
12. FCBS and the BSSF will not be responsible for loss of plants or craft items. However, all reasonable precautions will be taken to insure their safety. Hotel security is present 24 hours a day.

Bromeliad Expose by Larry Giroux

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society has had its fair share of hybridizers who have been or are currently members of our Society. Of course we are luckier than many other locations in that we have nearly ideal environmental conditions to permit growing bromeliads from seed to blooming. My photographic essay this month will present some of the hybrids of our members, past and present .

I really want to encourage our members to try their hand at this fun and albeit challenging way to add to your collection of plants. So I'm reprinting another article about growing bromeliads from seed. This article was taken from the **BSI website**, where there are many other great articles about growing techniques and the cultivation of bromeliads. If you have a computer or access to a computer at a local library or a friend's home and can connect to the internet, I encourage you to go to www.BSI.org and read some of the available literature.

Growing Bromeliads from Seed

By John Atlee

Growing Bromeliads from seed can be a rewarding experience. It is also a good way to acquire many plants that are the same. It is relative simple if the basic precautions are followed. Seeds are available from many sources, including the Bromeliad Society Seed Exchange, or other Bromeliad growers in your local area.

It is generally accepted that the viability of Bromeliad seeds are limited. The seeds from the Family of Tillandsioideae probably has the shortest viability, about 4-6 weeks. The other two Families, Bromelioideae, and Pitcairnioideae will last much longer, 8 weeks to 3 months. The viability is obviously determined and lengthened with proper storage. They should be stored in clean containers or paper, stored at moderately low temperatures, and at low humidity.

I use a very simple technique to germinate my seeds. I use the bottom of a 2 liter soda bottle; the clear ones with the black bottoms. You can remove these black bottoms by adding hot tap water to the container and waiting a few minutes. The glue will soften and the bottom comes off. The bottoms already have the drain holes in them. I then cut off the tops of the bottles, saving the screw top, about 4-5 inches from the top, and these will be used to cover the seed in a mini-greenhouse type of environment. Other people use a simple clear or semi-opaque box, much like you would use to store food in the refrigerator. These have good tight fitting lids and will let the light pass through easily. Unfortunately, they do not have drain holes and are subject to over watering; you can add some drain holes with a hot nail or a drill. Either of these containers can be used with equal success.

Hybridizers of the CBS

Sam and Hattie Lou Smith had both been involved with the bromeliad hobby as organizational officers, growers, and hybridizers for decades. Pictured here is *Neoregelia* 'Gene McKenzie', named to honor the founder of the CBS. It is one of the many miniature stoloniferous neoregelias produced by Sam Smith. Sam also created several *Pitcairnia* hybrids among others. *Pitcairnia* 'Hattie', named for his wife, is a cross of *Pit.* 'Beaujolais' and *Pit. smithiorum*, which happens to be a bromeliad which was named after Sam and Hattie Lou following their discovery of the plant in Peru.



Photo by
H.L.Smith



Jim Irvin is one of the most versatile hybridizers I know. Starting in the late 1980's he has created numerous cultivars using many of the genera of bromeliads. Although probably most well known for his cryptanthus hybrids, he has numerous billbergia, neoregelia, tillandsia and pitcairnia crosses among others to his credit. Pictured here is *Cryptanthus* 'Betty Ann Prevatt' and *Neoregelia* 'Carol Johnson', two of Jim's creations named for people who have been important in this life.



Photo by J.Irvin



Photo by
J.Irvin

Michael Kiehl has become much more prolific in producing new hybrids since 1990 when he produced this bigeneric *xNeophytum* 'Lisanne Kiehl', named in memory of his youngest sister.



Named for the Egyptian Sun God, *Cryptanthus* 'Aten' is one of the first registered hybrids from Larry Giroux since he started hybridizing about 6 years ago.

Responsible hybridizers are selective about what they register. Although Dale Kammerlohr has produced numerous exceptional hybrids by anyone's standards, such as this *Neoregelia* 'Eleanor', they remain unregistered.



Don Beadle has retired from hybridizing. This *Billbergia* 'Marie Bessellieu' named in memory of Eleanor Kinzie's daughter, Betty Ann Prevatt's sister, and CBS member, was released by Don prior to his retirement. His hybrids are now being sold by Michael's Bromeliads.

Nearly 20 years ago Grant Groves produced this F2 cross of *Neoregelia* 'Grace' and named it to honor Peggy Bailey. It is registered as *Neo.* 'Peggy's Peach'. Grant has since produced hundreds of colorful new cultivars.



Fill the containers, a little over half way full of a sterile, soilless potting mix. Dampen the mix until it is moist but not dripping. Sprinkle the seeds on the surface of the mix; they require light for germination. Then thoroughly water the seeds and the mix with water containing a fungicide. Please follow directions carefully on the fungicide container. The fungicide prevents “damping-off” which is a most common reason for failure.

The technique of using finely ground sphagnum moss to prevent “damping-off” also works well. Sprinkle a layer over the potting mix, then add your seeds, and then water (without fungicide). This a chemical-free means to prevent disease.

After your seeds are watered into the surface of your potting mix, place the lid on the container and place it in very bright, but indirect light, where it will stay warm, about 70-80 degrees F. If you get too much direct sunlight you can cook your seedlings, but they do need very bright light. You should be able to see the young plantlets in about 10 days to two weeks. Do not be discouraged if it takes longer. I have waited up to 6 weeks, but that was very unusual.

Don’t remove the lid until you see the seedlings emerge. Don’t let the potting mix dry out. If you need to add water to the mix, place the whole container in a bowl of water so it will absorb what it needs and drain the excess.

Tillandsia seeds are a little different but still simple. The seeds of the plants that belong to the Family Tillandsioideae have tails and are generally airborne in nature. They require air circulation along with the strong light, warmth, and water to sprout.

A nursery flat, or even a plastic berry basket can be lined with window screen wire. It must not be copper screening, this is poisonous, but it can be plastic screening. The plastic is very inexpensive and easily manipulated. The seeds are spread as thinly and evenly as possible across the screening. They will tend to stick together, tweezers or a stiff paint brush are helpful tools. The seeds can be moistened with a spray bottle or an automatic misting system. They must always be kept moist with good air circulation.

Another simple technique is to place a block of tree fern, or other absorbent material, in a shallow container. The seeds are then distributed on the upper surface and the container partially filled with water. The bottom of the tree fern should always be sitting in water. Refill the container as needed.

Either of these methods are successful. It is also a wise decision to treat the seed with a fungicide to prevent disease from attacking the young plantlets.

After your seedlings are growing strongly you can begin to harden them off, but do it slowly. Try not to stress them by withholding water, but expose them to more air circulation and temperature differences. If the plants you are growing require more light, or less, you can change their location to suit their cultural needs and comforts.

When they are fully adapted to their environment and are showing strong signs of normal healthy growth, you can separate them into their own individual containers, or pots. It will be at least 2-3 years before the plants are fully mature and ready to bloom. It will have been worth all of the attention and care you have given them to be able say, “I grew that plant from seed.”

July Program



In 4 short years, Jason Mellica has created over 100 neoregelia cultivars. Using choice hybrids from Grant Groves, Chester Skotak and Jim Irvin, Jason has concentrated on producing stoloniferous plants with the colors and patterns of cultivars from these hybridizers. He admits he has a ways to go before he is completely satisfied with his results, but he remains persistent in having a fun time in his efforts.

Many thanks to Jason for bringing down so many plants and showing us his success to date.

July Workshop

There is a lot to say for creating new hybrids or raising species from seeds. Besides the obvious benefits of producing a unique plant, which will forever be your creation in the annals of botanical history,

you can get a lot of plants for very little expense. There is also great satisfaction with the success of your skills and efforts in the actual tasks in the new plants' formation from seed to blooming.

Seeds are available from many sources, so get involved even more so in your hobby and plant a few today.

Thanks to Eleanor Kinzie, Betty Ann Prevatt, Brian Weber, Dale Kammerlohr and all the others who taught us how to procreate in the botanical way.

This still unnamed cross of *Pitcairnia imbricata* and *Pitcairnia* 'Bud Curtis' (Jim Irvin's cultivar) was a first attempt for Steve Hoppin to produce a hybrid better than its parents. I think he may have succeeded. Photo by Larry Giroux



Our August Speaker

It is a gross understatement to simply say that Tom Wolfe has been involved with the bromeliad hobby these past 40+ years.

As a young man he joined the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay in 1965. Over the years he has held many positions in the Guild including serving as President six times; from its inception he has been a representative of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and has served as Chairman several times. He served on the BSI Board of Directors for 14 years serving as Director, Secretary, and 6 years as Vice President and 6 years as President. Tom is the only BSI President that has served two consecutive terms. While Vice President, Tom was General Chairman of the successful 1992 World Bromeliad Conference, "Bromeliad Safari", hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. Tom is presently Chair of the World Headquarters Committee which is an effort to try and establish a permanent home for the Bromeliad Society International at The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida.

Tom became an accredited BSI Bromeliad Judge in 1982 and is now a Master Judge. There are few Bromeliad Shows in the U.S., at which Tom has not been a panel judge. I have, as a Student and Accredited Judge, worked with Tom and I can say from personal knowledge that it has always been a pleasure and learning experience judging with him.

Tom and his wife Carol live in Lutz and grow their bromeliads on their 2.5 acres of land and greenhouses. He has designed and installed many residential and commercial landscapes featuring bromeliads. He is in demand as a speaker throughout Florida and the United States presenting programs on bromeliads to Garden Clubs, Bromeliad Clubs, and at the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens.

We are honored to have Tom return to Fort Myers to pass on a little bit of his vast volume of knowledge of bromeliads. You need to be there at our August meeting to enjoy "Growing Bromeliads on Almost Anything" by Tom Wolfe.

Our Naples member, Jim Bixler has taken on a new job this year. Although he has been involved with bromeliads for a long time, his new position deals with other genera of plants. The included article was sent to me by Florence Weiss and is reprinted from the Fort Myers Newspress. Pictures are by Jim Bixler.

THIRD STREET STROLL

Gardener keeps plants lush, colorful

BY EVELYN LONGA Special to The News-Press

Look up at the hanging baskets or down at the large pots, color is everywhere on Third Street. There are some 200 pots and baskets lining the streets with geraniums, petunias, begonias and sweet potato vine.

Ever wonder who has the Green Thumb on Third Street? Since January the gardening job has been Jim Bixler's. He's the guy who makes sure the gardens look lush, tropical and colorful. Bixler became Third Street's gardener when

Desiree Foard retired. He said Foard is hanging up her gardening gloves for a couple of years to cruise the Caribbean.

“My job is to make it an inviting environment,” said Bixler. “I keep it beautiful and maintained.”

Bixler has been playing with dirt since he was 5 years old. He went pro 12 years ago. No stranger to gardening in our sub-tropical climate, he specializes in bromeliads and orchids.

The landscaping on Third Street achieves the tropical look with vines and climbers. The plants are watered each morning at 4:30 am. with a 100-foot hose and watering buckets to reach every plant.

When Bixler took over, he went for dramatic color. “This year we wanted to do a big splash with the hanging baskets,” he said. “We did a lot of color and used a variety of plantings.”

Right now, he is in the process of transitioning the gardens into summertime. He says about 75 percent of the plants span the seasons, but the rest are semi-permanent plants. For instance, impatiens like the cooler winter and sweet potato vine thrives in the summer heat.

“It’s a pretty good size area and something always needs replacing,” said Bixler.

For the summer, Bixler is adding more color with lantana, coleus, periwinkle, begonias and some herbs.

Blue morning glory is already creeping up the obelisk. The large ficus tree that fell during Hurricane Wilma will be replaced. Once the new tree is in he will create a raised flowerbed all around it.

A Mano supplies many of the gorgeous pots lining Third Street. The green and tangerine glazed pots are imported by the store from Italy.



Some of the 200 planters created and cared for by Jim Bixler in Naples.

**Remember you can see this issue
in full color at www.fcbs.org!**

Minutes of the May CBS Meeting

DATE: 7/16/2006

LOCATION: St. John the Apostle Metropolitan Community Church

ATTENDANCE: 35 members.

Workshop- started 1:15 pm; end time 1:50 pm . Topic - “Seed Sowing”

Hosted by Eleanor Kinzie, Betty Ann Prevatt, Brian Weber and Dale Kammerlohr

CALL TO ORDER: Pres. Dianne Molnar at 2:09 PM

June Meeting MINUTES: Correction made to a new member’s name Donna Brantley mentioned in the minutes. Motion to be approved by Marlene Long and Vicky Chirnside.

DOOR PRIZE- conducted by Luli Westra, Donated by- Barbara Johnson, Won by Larry Giroux and Holly Eash. Name of Plant- *Aechmea* ‘Blue Tango’ and *Neoregelia* ‘One and Only’

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Sign-up sheet for members going to Extravaganza remains available at Hospitality Table.

FCBS REP: Vicky Chirnside Seed project transferred from John Russell to Central Fl. Zoo. The Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Society will not be hosting the BSI WBC in 2008. The Queensland Bromeliad Society has agreed to host the 2008 WBC in Cairns, Australia (June 2008). Weevil research received a new team member. FCBS is requesting Societies to look at dates of future events and let the FCBS coordinate these events to avoid conflicts. Before committing to specific dates, please notify the Chairman of the FCBS. Although little can be done for this year, events of 2007 can be better scheduled. FCBS is asking each affiliated societies to donate and bring five plants for the Rare Plant Auction at this year’s Extravaganza in Miami. Please contact Steve Hoppin, who has volunteered to coordinate donations from CBS members.

MERISTEM: Larry Giroux -Newsletter is now on FCBS website in full color.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Betty Ann Prevatt reminded members that this is the time of year the weevil flourishes. “So watch your plants a lot closer to avoid more serious problems later.”

BREAK: 25 minutes to eat and visit.

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

PROGRAM: By Jason Mellica on Hybridizing Neoregelias with a great selection of sale plants. He was very interesting and informative.

RAFFLE: Commentary by Larry Giroux. Runners – Bob Lura and Vicky Chirnside.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 4:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Foley
Secretary

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www.fcbs.org!**

EVENTS CALENDER

September 30, 2006

2006 FCBS Extravaganza

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

Hotel reservations deadline Aug 29th for \$95 rooms

Call 305-925-2555 or 877-242-6464

Saturday Night Banquet Tickets \$30 @

Choice of Baked Chicken or Smoked Gouda or Veg. Plate

Send check or money order payable to BSSF to

Ms. Moyna Prince

11220 SW 107 Ct.

Miami, Florida 33176

Reservations must be received by September 20th.

November 17, 2006

Useppa Island Tropical Garden Tour -Explore the beauty of this private, old-Florida tropical island. This is a guided walking tour around the island where you will see many fascinating plants and trees. Dress appropriately & wear close-toed shoes. Limited tour size and at least 10 days advance registration is required. Friday, Nov.17th from 10AM to 2:30PM. Boat leaves Bocilla Island Club at 10AM sharp! Cost \$60, Cape Coral Resident; \$65 for non-CCR. Includes tour boat, walking tour and lunch. Payment is due at registration.

Mail checks and your information to:

Rotary Park 5505 Rose Garden Road Cape Coral, FL 33914

Phone - 549-4606, FAX - 549-4903 E-mail - kalockli@capecoral.net

To All Our Members: Enjoy your hobby more

Join the Bromeliad Society International

for less than \$0.60 per week

Join the Cryptanthus Society

for less than \$0.40 per week

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.



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY
3836 HIDDEN ACRES CIRCLE N
NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33903
E-MAIL - DLARRY@COMCAST.NET



Photo by L.Giroux

This is the time of year for many of the large Aechmeas to bloom. Pictured here to the (R) is a hybrid of *Ae. blanchetiana* X *rubens* 'Peaches 'N Cream' with three *Ae. eurycorymbus* bloom spikes (L). If you don't have any in your yard, visit someone who does ... soon.