

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETYS CALOOSAHATCHEE MERISTEM 3836 Hidden Acres Circle N North Fort Myers F1 33903 (239) 997-2237

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Nov-Dec 2007



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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FALL SHOW Co-CHAIR	David Prall (PalmTreeGardens@hotmail.com)
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	Dolly Dalton, Eleanor Kinzie, etc.
RAFFLE COMMENTARY	Larry Giroux
GREETERS/ATTENDENCE	Betty Ann Prevatt, Dolly Dalton(dollyd@comcast.net),
	Luli Westra
SHOW & TELL	Dale Kammerlohr
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Front Cover: Poster for the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society's Show and Sale designed and produced by Larry Giroux.



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: <u>November Meeting:</u> SUNDAY November 18th, 2007 ST. JOHN the APOSTLE CHURCH 3049 McGREGOR Ave. FT. MYERS. DOORS WILL BE OPEN AT 12:30 FOR SETUP. Brian Weber, our November speaker <u>will be</u> bringing plants for sale; however, <u>MEMBERSHIP SALES WILL BE PERMITTED</u> at the November meeting. Friendship plants, Raffle items and Door Prizes are always welcome. (Please contact Barbara Johnson if you have a Door Prize to donate.) <u>November Workshop</u> "Preparing for the CBS Show Part III -Last Minute Helpful Hints and Entry Cards" By Betty Ann Prevatt and Eleanor Kinzie (Begins at 1:15 PM)

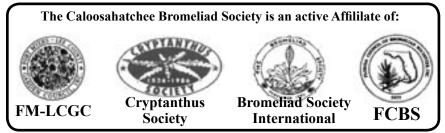
This Workshop will be held less than two weeks before our Show. Betty Ann and Eleanor and other experienced exhibitors will be in attendance at the Workshop to answer any additional questions not already covered in our previous two Workshops. Entry cards and Show Schedules will be available during this session for those who still want to participate in our Show. Remember, there are minimal restrictions to who can enter.

<u>November Program</u> "The Commercial Grower's View Point" By Brian Weber

(Begins following the refreshment break)

Although the number of plants a commercial nursery may grow may be many more times that of the average hobbyist, the problems with diseases and insects are the same. Brian Weber, chief grower at Tropiflora in Sarasota will discuss how he deals with these same problems from a grower's perspective.

> <u>The CBS Holiday Party</u> December 16th 2007 At the home of Betsy and Bill Burdette (See inside for additional information)



President's Message By Steve Hoppin

I was really pleased to see so many interested members attending and enjoying our October Workshop. Betty Ann Prevatt and Eleanor Kinzie staged a mock Bromeliad Show focusing on how to best prepare or improve a plant for entry in our show. In advance, members were encouraged to bring in a plant they thought worthy of judging. As time permitted, most plants were reviewed, judged by a panel of BSI Judges, which included Eleanor Kinzie, Betty Ann Prevatt, Vicky Chirnside, Dianne Molnar, Larry Giroux and myself. Some very good comments, simple key points and constructive criticisms were provided to enable enhancement and improvement of certain entries. I hope this positive experience has re-enforced your desire to enter plants in our show.

The Program for October, "Terrestrial Bromeliads by Ray Lemieux", was eagerly anticipated. Ray's "hands on approach", suggestions and recommendations on growing some of the heavier spined bromeliads was well received. He brought various Dyckia, Hechtia, Orthophytum, Encholirium and other genera for use and demonstration in his program. In addition, he supplied membership sales with a varied selection of high quality sale plants.

The November Workshop will be our last minute effort to answer or clear up any questions you may have about exhibiting plants in our Show, now less than three weeks away. The Program for November will be by Brian Weber . His topic is one not frequently addressed; however, it promises to be interesting, thought provoking and provide another perspective of the hobby.

CBS continues to seek members at the month's end to assist in the Show and Sale activities. Don't be shy, contact either Brian Weber or myself should you have interest and be able to help out.

If you can't participate in the Show or Sale for whatever reasons, there's always various nourishment needed to feed CBS and other volunteers on Friday, Saturday & Sunday. This is where the calling of all cooks comes into play. We would appreciate and can accommodate all types of cold, warm and hot foods you offer. If possible, please coordinate your volunteering of foods items through Sue Gordon.

Since this is the last Meristem issue for the year, I need now mention the CBS Holiday festivities planned for December 16th at the home of Bill and Betsy Burdette. The Society's work for the year is done. Please come, relax and join us at our annual Holiday Party. Amidst Cheery Mood, Delicious Food and the festivities, your 2008 CBS Officers will be inaugurated.

And yes, although a bit premature and in advance, I would like to show appreciation to CBS Members and BSI Judges that participated in our show and sale, congratulate exhibitors on their achievements (especially to those earning Head Table Status), to all the generous donors to the Show Awards and especially, thank all members that contributed to another year of this Society's success.

Happy Holidays, Steve

SOCIETY NOTES

Nomination Committee Selection

At the October meeting, Eleanor Kinzie as Chair of the Nominating Committee, which consisted of members Dolly Dalton and Luli Westra announced the following nominations for CBS Officers for 2008.

President - Tom Foley

Secretary - Luli Westra

Vice-president - Donna Schnieder

Treasurer - Betty Ann Prevatt

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the November Meeting. Following a call for nominations, the election will be held. The newly elected Officers will be installed at the Holiday Party on December 16th.



October Program

With a supply of pots full of gnarly, blood thirsty dyckias, hectias, encholiriums and puyas, Ray Lemieux of Sarasota returned to CBS to discuss the "spiny" terrestrials and demonstrate his practical and efficient manner of separating and repotting these potentially injurious bromeliads.

Many thanks to Ray for his instructions and also for the great collection of unusual plants he brought for sale; many of which are hard to find.

November Speaker

Brian Weber has been a CBS Past Vice-president and President and our Sales Chair for many years. While working in Naples in the field of Herpetology (snakes and reptiles), ironically the same field as his current boss, Dennis Cathcart was first trained in, Brian started accumulating an extrordinary collection of tropical plants including Bromeliads. In 1997 he joined the CBS and became active in all aspects of the Society. Several years ago he moved to Sarasota to accept the position as Chief Grower and Manager of Tropiflora. Besides propagating and acquiring the stock of bromeliads for Tropiflora, over the last decade, Brian's own collection of plants has expanded to include the rare and unusual.

On Sunday, November 18th, Our CBS Sales Chair will enlighten us to the problems he has faced at Tropifora and within his personal collection of plants. Hopefully, we will leave with solutions we can use to care for our own

There will be <u>NO</u> separate December Meristem Please refer to this issue for information about the Holiday Party

Donations for Show Awards

The following individuals have pledged the indicated amounts for awards for the 2007 CBS Show. Please review the list and let me know if it is incorrect or changes should be made. Thank you to these individuals and if anyone else wishes to donate, please contact me or Betty Ann Prevatt. If you have not made payment, please send your contribution to Betty Ann Prevatt, CBS Treasurer. <u>Assignment of donations for specific awards have not been made for all contributions at this time.</u>

Dolly Dalton \$25 (Sweepstakes Award) Betty Ann Prevatt & Eleanor Kinzie \$25 (Judges Award) in memory of Marie Bessellieu Sue Gordon \$25 (Cut Inflorescence) in memory of Joan Mitchell **Terry Bert Specific Item Donation (Best Blooming Tillandsia)** Mary McKenzie \$25 Best Non-blooming Tillandsia in memory of Gene McKenzie **Carol Sweat \$25 Best Aechmea in memory of Katherine Dallas Peggy Bailey \$55 Best Neo in memory of Joe Bailey** Brian Weber \$25 Best Dyckia Ed Wenzlaff \$25 (Members Choice Award) Jeff Joffe \$25 **Rich Kosmacki \$20** Gary Nichols and Betty Wedeles \$100 In memory of Carol Snyder Deb Booker & Tom Foley \$25 in memory of Tom Seuss Luli Westra \$25 Polly Pascal \$25 In memory of Phillip 'Flip' Gray, Ed Prince & **Jim Schrenker** Larry Giroux \$25 **Steve Hoppin \$25** Sam and Hattie Lou Smith - Artwork and collectors book Dianne Molnar \$25 in memory of Louis Zulian (Best Pitcairnia) **Rosemary Fleming \$50 in memory of Walter Fleming** Karen Hay \$50 in memory of Kiti Wenzel Donna and Gary Schneider \$40 in memory of Kiti Wenzel

Bromeliad Expose By Larry Giroux

Participation in our Sale and Show is an opportunity for members both old and new, to help the Society and have a fun time doing so. There are many jobs and events all membership can join in on regardless of their experience at previous shows and sales or with Bromeliads. Below are a few of the ways you can become involved during our show and sale weekend.

Sales-Brian Weber is still looking for helpers' in the sales area. Although there's still time to sell your surplus bromeliads and bromeliad related items, space is at a premium. Besides packing in as many tables into the large tent as possible, we are planning on having a separate tent for the large sun loving yard plants. If you wish to sell at the sale, you need to get in touch with Brian Weber as soon as possible. Don't worry if you have only a few plans to sell we will find room. Besides being sales persons under the tents, there are still many positions including setup, cashiers, baggers, box makers, runners, etc., where help will be needed.

Show-Mainly we wish that all of our members exhibit plants in the Show. Categories include single and multiple plants (this would include your individual specimen plants, both blooming and non blooming as well as your interconnected Multiple plants, also of non blooming and blooming). Horticultural displays are entries, which you have been growing in their container for some time. That is, the plants appear to have permanence in the container. This would include single and multiple plants of the same or different types. These to not have to be interconnected and may have been started from separate individual plants. Hanging baskets and mounted plants including nearly all the bromeliads exhibited epiphytically are included here. You can express your Artistic side by entering the Decorative Container and Artistic Arrangement Division. Be creative, match a container and a plant or put together an arrangement of some of your blooming bromeliad flowers and leaves. This year we have a special Mini Artistic Arrangement section. Within a six inch cube you can experiment and create a miniature arrangement. Sections for Cut Inflorescences, shown in plain vases, a section for those

bromeliads of which you have lost their names and entries of artistic expression including photography, painting or drawings, quilting or any other artistic creation involving bromeliads as a subject matter, can earn the exhibitor ribbons and some of the 30 prizes offered this year. A Novice section is for those first comers to bromeliad shows. If you have never won a blue ribbon in a BSI Bromeliad Show, you are eligible to enter this section.

If it is truly a hardship for you to bring your entries on Friday morning before 12 noon, if you make arrangements with Entries and Classification, and complete your paper work appropriately, you can bring your plants Thursday night. They will be processed for you and entered in the show. Rrestrictions apply, so see Larry Giroux, Luli Westra or Steve Hoppin at the next meeting to make arrangements.

Thursday night volunteers are needed to set up the show-hall for Friday's judging. See Steve Hoppin at the next meeting and plan on helping with Setup.

Friday morning will be hectic. We need everyone we can get to help with Entries, Placement, Clerking and moving everything around before, during and after the judging.

Food providers and kitchen helpers for all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday are in demand. A lot of hungry and tired workers will be looking for nourishment and refreshment. We never can have too much. Any questions on what to bring, talk with Sue Gordon.

I'm sure I've left out other duties, which we will need help with, so please talk to organizers, come to the events and give a helping hand. Your Society will be grateful and you will have an enjoyable time.

Pick up your Show Schedule, Entry Cards, Sales Tags, Posters and Road Signs at the November Meeting.

From a Judge's Perspective



Α multiple in the Horticultural Divisions, requires that all the plants in the pot are interconnected. This example of Cryptanthus 'Midnight' is a true multiple - at least two mature interconnected plants. The numerous pups, do not contribute to the classification of this entry.

Pitcairnias have become more popular as entries societies' in in the shows South where these larger terrestrials can be wintered easier than in greenhouses up north. Trimming of brown tipped leaves before the show is relatively the and easv



results are not as noticeable as with other spiny bromeliads. *Pitcairnia* 'Stephen Hoppin' is an example of this. A single specimen pitcairnia such as this species, *Pitcairnia burle-marxii* gets additional marks when up for major awards, because of its relatively greater degree of difficulty to grow. Its softer, fuller leaves are susceptible to insect and weather damage as well as scurf damage from neighboring spiny and pointed plants.



Single mounted Horticultural Display entries often earn their owners AM ribbons since there is technically not much that the judges can take off for. This *Tillandsia paucifolia* mounted on a piece of cork is a perfect example of a nearly flawless entry. It is the multiple plant or the mother, which has produced many generations that catches the judges eye when judging for



top awards.This was the case with this basket of *Vriesea erythrodactylon*, which went to the headtable.



A single blooming entry in the Horticultural Division, this *xQuesistrum* 'Claudia', may have had pups, as is common with bromeliads at this stage of bloom. To enter it, the pup was removed, dried lower leaves were removed and the plant sunk in the pot. Although this plant received an AM ribbon, I'm sure at least a point or two was deducted for being sunk too deep in the media.



For some reasons, Aechmeas are not as frequently entered as are bromeliads of other genera. *Aechmea* 'Black Marble' along with other patterned aechmeas like *Ae. orlandiana, Ae chantini* and their varieties and cultivar crosses can compete with the best of them. There is often a "Best Aechmea Award" in the shows, which I've judged, with few entries to compete for this award.

Photography by Larry Giroux



A Horticultural Display entry must show that the plant or plants have been growing in their non-standard container for a while. Judges use the general appearance of the container and plant as well as tell-tail signs like attachment of roots as seen with this entry of *Tillandsia tricolepsis*. In some cases as with *Tillandsia novakii* or *Tillandsia duratii* pictured above and to the right, which do not usually form roots, this is not possible. At the show where this plant was exhibited, this was entered free standing. In most instances, a "rootless" bromeliad can be entered in the Horticultural Display Division hanging with fishing line or sitting in a non-standard container such as a slatted box.

Judging of some blooming neoregelias has always been controversial. Since many points are assigned to the aspects of the inflorescence, the exhibitor should understand these aspects when entering a neoregelia in the blooming section. The flattening of the plant, the flushing of some neoregelias' central leaves, the formation of the "pin cushion" floral bracts in the center as well as flowers, all come into consideration when judging a blooming neoregelia. It is generally agreed that you do not have to have opened blooms on a blooming plant; however, the degree of development of the central "button" will often weigh

heavily whether a plant will get a blue ribbon or an AM ribbon. When in doubt, discuss the plant with Classification during Entry. The *Neoregelia morrisoniana* seen to the right had all the indications of a blooming neo, but had no flowers at time of judging. It still received an AM ribbon.





The cultural factors used to judge Horticultural Division entries is still important when judging Decorative Containers. A dirty, inappropriately trimmed or mis-centered plant will unlikely win a AM ribbon. Harmony and adherence to the Principles of Design will determine top award winning entries. The first picture of a *Dyckia* "Carlsbad' x *platyphylla*



demonstrates excellent harmony of size, shape, color and texture between the container and plant. In this case where the top of the media can be seen, care was given to provide a top dressing which eased the transition between the two elements. Several months before this entry was exhibited, I saw this same configuration with a 20 inch inflorescence. The added "line" gave the entry an additional dimension. The second picture shows another AM award winning entry. Here there is harmony of color and size, with contrast of shapes. This entry is a mere 3 1/2 inches tall.

The Novice Section of our Show is for not for first time exhibitors, but rather any exhibitor who has never won at least a Blue ribbon in a Standard BSI Show. The entry seen here won the Novice Award at the SWBG Show this year. It is a Decorative Container. It had all the right stuff to win. From a judge's point of view, the base, in this case made of granite, which has been permitted along with stands due to a rule change several years ago, because of its size and "visual weight", tends to distract from the relationship of the container and plant; it could have done as well without it..



This basket full of *Neoregelia* 'Gene McKenzie' a cultivar made by Dr. Sam Smith of our Society to honor the passed founder of the CBS, is variable in its appearance depending on cultural conditions. This happens to be a well grown specimen and resembles what this cultivar should look like. It has had older mothers



removed as noted by the cut stolon in the lower foreground. It has several blooms, although, a plant in the Blooming Multiple Section such as this entry, only requires one of the multiple plants to be blooming. The entry tag got past Classification with the name 'Jean McKinsey'. Fortunately this error was caught by a judge and was corrected; however, with thousands of cultivars and many being registered all the time, judges are having a more difficult time determining what the "standard" of a specific cultivar should look like. A Show's Classification Committee has the responsibility of being sure a plant at least is correctly labelled as best as they can. From there, hopefully at least one of the multiple judges at the Show will be familiar with the plant and pass on this information.

For the last several years, Derek Butcher has been encouraging the registration of cultivars, both old and new. The rules of a standard BSI show were written many years ago, and in spite of revisions, plant entered a using a formula or parentage such as this Neoregelia mamorata x wilsoniana is still eligible for top awards. If you lose its tag and cannot give



the proper name to it, it loses its eligibility for the more prestigious awards. Derek Butcher once told me that if a plant is nice enough to win an award and impress judges, it deserves a formal cultivar name.



Night color. Aechmea 'Blue Tango' blooming in Jim Bixler's back yard. Photo by Jim Bixler

Daytime color. Colorful orchids growing next to patterned aechmeas such as *Ae. chantini* 'Shogun' and 'Samuri'. Photo by Jim Bixler.





No bromeliads on this tree, but rather a clump of mounted *Cattelaya* 'Little Suzie' created by John McKenzie, husband of the CBS founder Gene McKenzie. Photo by Larry Giroux



The 2007 CBS Holiday Party Sunday, December 16th

The holidays are fast approaching. We are fortunate enough to again be offered the venue of Betsy and Bill Burdette's home in Buckingham.

The only Society business will be to install our officers for the year 2008. Otherwise our time after 12 noon until we finish the raffle, usually about 4 PM, will be spent entertaining ourselves with games, our great holiday raffle, food and the company of our friends and fellow members.

Members are asked to bring a favorite holiday dish to share, such as casseroles, vegetables with dip, little sandwiches, cakes or cookies. CBS supplies the paper and plastic goods, iced tea and a meat entree. If you prefer other cold drinks, bring your own, there will be plenty of ice. <u>You should also bring a card table</u> or TV tray and folding chair just in case.

Try to arrive around noon with your goodies so that the kitchen can be arranged buffet style. For those of you that cannot get there early, remember that we do not start to eat at noon. That is the setup time. We will eat when the most folks have arrived and the

crowd starts to grumble. That is usually close to 1:00 PM.

After lunch there will be a raffle of bromeliad plants and items brought by members as Christmas gifts (no, you don't have to wrap and ribbon them). But, they should be nice, clean bromeliads or bromeliad related items that anyone would want to win. Tickets are still 3/\$1, so buy a lot. For those of you who attended the CBS Birthday party in April, Betsy is planning a twist to our normal raffle.

Yes we are planning games and our Holiday contest (see below).

New members or anyone that needs more information, call your Editor (Larry Giroux) at (239) 997-2237/239-850-4048 or Betsy at (239) 694-4738. Check out the map below for directions.

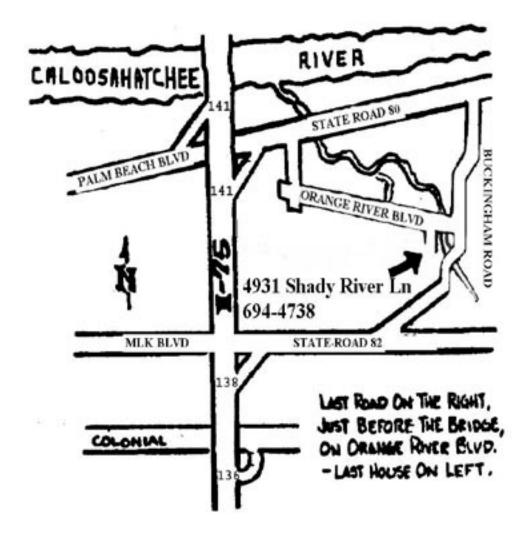
Bring your "better half" and/or others and expose them to our hobby, while enjoying the hospitality of our terrific hosts and their home.

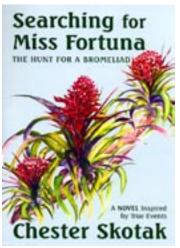
Holiday Contest

Again this year we are asking our members to become creative and produce a tree ornament, a tree-top decoration, a wreath or door decoration and a tabletop arrangement. Of course, bromeliads must be predominant in the objects. You can enter one or as many of any number of the items.

Our judges will select the best three creations and these will receive prizes. As with last year, if you wish to offer the items for sale, please include a price. Since the contest will take place before the raffle, you may also chose to give the items to the raffle. You can take the designs home to decorate your home for the holidays also.

During the Sale at Terry Park, think about what you might need for your entries at the Holiday Party.





An intriguing novel inspired by true events is rocking the Bromeliad World. People are talking about "Searching for Miss Fortuna... The Hunt for a Bromeliad" introduced by world renowned hybridizer Chester Skotak at the Bromeliad Extravaganza in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on September 29th. This bizarre adventure laced with offbeat humor, odd characters, and incredibly vivid descriptions, chronicles an obsession with collecting a rare plant. Readers are being pulled into the vortex of craziness. Experience this phenomenon for yourself. \$19.95 plus shipping. Call 1-877-311-5100 or visit Amazon.com. A great gift! Limited edition signed hardcover \$39.95. Reserve at www Chesterskotak.com.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society has a limited number of copies for sale at \$18 each.

Please see Betty Ann Prevatt for details and to purchase.

Request from Advertising Chair - Betsy Burdette

To realize a greater successful Sale, we need to promote our Event by all means possible.

At the November meeting Road Signs, generously provided by Buddy and Judy Singleton at a reduced rate, will be available to members to post on roadsides throughout Charlotte, Lee and Collier Counties. Cape Coral no longer permits signs on right of ways, so we need to post signs at the town exits and entrances in North Fort Myers and Fort Myers and display posters in businesses and car windows in lieu of road signs. Elsewhere please post signs where ever you can on regularly travelled route, in your car and home windows and where buyers will see them.

They can be placed Wednesday and Thursday before the Sale and should be removed on Sunday or by the latest Monday. The earlier you put them out and longer you leave them up, we have found, thief becomes a problem. Please return the signs at the next meeting you attend. We do reprint and reuse them for future Sales.

There will be additional posters available at the November meeting.

Larry has sent an electronic poster to those who are on his e-mail list. If there are others who need one electronically, please contact him. It is in small enough format so you can send it to anyone regardless of their e-mail service.

Talk about the event to your friends, fellow workers and relatives. Tell them about the great aspects of bromeliads, how easy they are to care for and how there are plants for all situations.

Please promote Bromeliads and our Show and Sale.

Update on the Fly Release

Last month several members saw an article in a local newspaper concerning the release of the fly, *Lixadmontia franki*, which is being grown by researchers at the University of Florida. Their intent has been to release this parasitic fly, which will prey on the "Evil Weevil" in its larvae form.

Debbie Booker sent a letter to Teresa Cooper at the University of Florida to find out more information. Both Debbie's letter and Teresa's response is printed here for the benefit of our members.

Hi Teresa,

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society was wondering if you could provide a list of dates for the Fly release and if some of our member could come to watch these events happening.

Thank you so much and keep up the great work.

Deb Booker

Hi Deb:

I am maintaining a calendar that shows the fly schedule at the following link:

http://savebromeliads.ifas.ufl.edu/field/fly-release-chronology/flyschedule-2007-2008.htm

There are links to images from the various trips on the dates that the trips happened, if you'd like to see how the release sites look. I update the fly schedule every few trips and send out an email (fly update) to a list; I'll include your email on the list.

Just back today from Lake Rogers, where we put out sentinel pineapple tops. We'll be heading backing two weeks from today. We will be putting pineapple tops out at Loxahatchee NWR in a couple of weeks (date isn't set yet); and will be making a second fly release at Big Cypress on 21 November.

You are welcome to attend the events; please let me know which one(s) you are interested in, and I'll let you know when and where to be. Teresa

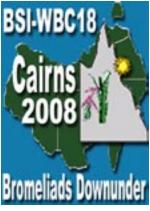


To the left is the parasitic fly, *Lixadmontia franki* and right is the "Evil Weevil", *M e t a m a s i u s callizona*. Photos by Barbara Larson.

EVENTS CALENDER

<u>November 9-10th</u> - Bonsai Society of SW Florida will host their Show and Sale at St. John the Apostle Church, 3049 McGregor Blvd, Exhibits, Sales, Raffles, Demonstrations & Workshops. Friday 10AM-7PM, Sat. 10AM-5PM. For more info e-mail marthagoff50@comcast.net or go to www.thebonsaisswfl.com.

<u>November 30th, December 1st & 2nd</u> - The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society's 2007 Sale and Show. Judged Show-"Color My World With Bromeliads", Friday, November 30th with Sale and Show open to the public 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.



Bromeliads Down Under 18th World Bromeliad Conference 24-30 June 2008

The Plant Show will be judged on Thursday, Sales will open on Thursday night, the Rare Plant Auction on Friday night and Banquet on Sunday night. There will be local garden tours and optional discounted Reef and Rainforest tours. Both International and Australian Speakers will present the Seminars on Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Each Delegate is invited to enter plants and artistic entries in both the competitive Show and Sales section.

<u>For additional info link to http://www.bromeliadsdownunder.com/ Inquiries</u> can also be sent to Lynne Hudson, WBC Chair 47 Boden Street, Edge Hill QLD 4870 or LynnHudson@BromeliadsDownUnder.com

http://www.qantas.com.au/regions/dyn/us/specials/webDeals217

Joyce Brehm has provided me with the above Internet address to help those who are planning on going to Australia for the World Bromeliad Conference. For a basic cost of \$1599, (this does not include taxes and airport fees) you can fly from San Francisco or Los Angeles to Sydney Australia. Included in this charge are three domestic segments, i.e., Sydney to Cairns, Cairns to Darwin, Darwin to Sydney, which permits you to see other places in Australia. The airfare from Fort Myers to Los Angeles would be additional. Since American Airlines and Qantas are Frequent Flyers partners, the 25,000 miles earned on the trip to Australia could actually pay for your trip from Fort Myers to Los Angeles.

To All Our Members: Enjoy your hobby more Join the Bromeliad Society International <u>for less than \$0.60 per week</u> Join the Cryptanthus Society <u>for less than \$0.40 per week</u> 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.

