



April 2007

**CALOOSAHATCHEE
BROMELIAD
SOCIETYs
CALOOSAHATCHEE
MERISTEM**

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Vriesea simplex var. rubra

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Front cover: My recollection is that this picture of *Vr. simplex* var. *rubra* was taken by Fred Ross at a Bromeliad Show in the 1980's. In this issue we discuss the Genus *Vriesea* and how to grow them. *Vr simplex* is a species, which has been in cultivation a long time and remains a favorite among growers.



**THE
CALOOSAHATCHEE
BROMELIAD SOCIETY**

**CBS's 27th Anniversary Party
Sunday April 15th 2007**

**(The third Sunday of April comes early this year; it is
the week after Easter)**

Place: Home of Betsy and Bill Burdette 4931 Shady River Lane
Buckingham, Ft. Myers 694-4738 (Map inside).

Time: Arrive after 12 noon; we'll eat about 1 PM.

What to bring: Food - Such things as salads, casseroles,
finger sandwiches, relish trays, and although we will provide
a birthday cake, your special deserts will not go uneaten.

Sitting - Folding tables and chairs. **Raffle items** - Nice clean
plants or bromeliad related items for our raffle. Our Birthday
and Christmas raffles are always an important part of our
celebration so try to provide something for other members
to enjoy. **Friendship Plants.** Cleaning up? Bring your extras
to share. **Contest**- You do not need to bring anything except
a little knowledge and luck. Rules will be explained at the
party.

**Friends, neighbors and relatives are always welcome to
our parties; so bring them along for a great time.**

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affililate of:



FM-LCGC



**Cryptanthus
Society**



**Bromeliad Society
International**



FCBS

President's Message

By Steve Hoppin

Here in SW Florida we are experiencing the transition of winter to spring and the quite noticeable changes in the bromeliads are occurring at a fast pace. The combination of extended daylight hours, warmer day temperatures and cool nights are resulting in new growth with bold, crisp colors and patterns; the blushing of maturing plants and for some, various stages of inflorescence.

Much of these characteristics were witnessed in the various flora donated to last month's CBS "Evil Weevil Fundraising Auction". An abundance of quality, blooming and non-blooming bromeliads lined the tables for the silent and regular auctions in addition to bromeliad related art and items. A sincere "Thank you" goes to all those that participated in the success of the auction. (Specific kudos are dished out elsewhere in this issue.) It was through all your intentional efforts and generosity that CBS was able to raise just over \$2,000.00 to benefit exclusively the FCBS weevil project.

This month is party time as we celebrate the twenty-seventh birthday of the CBS. We will not meet at the church; instead, we will gather at Bill and Betsy Burdette's home on the Orange River to feast, socialize and pay tribute to our founders and all the members who have contributed to our success as a society over the last 27 years. Between wandering the Burdettes' luscious gardens, canoeing the river, our raffle, a new game, good camaraderie and indulging, of course, in great food, you are bound to enjoy yourselves and have a memorable time. Please note party details elsewhere in this issue. Also note that since the 1st of the month fell on a Sunday, our party still scheduled for the third Sunday, seems a bit earlier. Don't get your dates mixed up and kick yourself for missing our anniversary celebration.

The next few months are bound to be dry prior to the summer rains. Watch for dehydration in your plants and yourself while outside tending your garden; practice and apply good gardening techniques to the chores of fertilizing and treating with chemicals and by all means, enjoy this beautiful time of the year as much as your plants do!
Steve

SOCIETY NOTES

Welcome to our New Member

Jason Mellica

2051 8th Street

Sarasota, Florida 34237

XXX-XXX-XXXX

theLoraxELF@hotmail.com

Website: www.LEVEL21nrg.com

The CBS ANNUAL FCBS EVIL WEEVIL AUCTION

Again we had an exceptionally successful Annual FCBS Evil Weevil Auction. The list of those who deserve thanks for our success is long: Steve Hoppin, the Chairman; Dale Laird for coming down from Winter Park to serve as our Auctioneer; Dale Kammerlohr, our commentator; Deb Booker, Tom Foley, Nick Mavrikas and Larry Giroux for entering and labeling all the items; Ross Griffith and Gary Nicholas for running the holding areas; Betty Ann Prevatt, Luli Westra and Dianne Molnar for record keeping and cashiers; all who helped with setup; the donors of over 80 unusual and desirable items and of course all who attended and bid on those items.

Through their volunteering and generosity we raised over \$2000. The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and all its members should be very proud as we have been as a Society, a major contributor to the "Evil Weevil Fund" ever since the problem was identified.



Dale Laird, our auctioneer and his wife Eileen traveled from Winter Park on their "hog" for this event.



Our diligent record keepers and cashiers were Betty Ann Prevatt, Luli Westra and Dianne Molnar.



Dale Kammerlohr provided commentary on the 80 or so



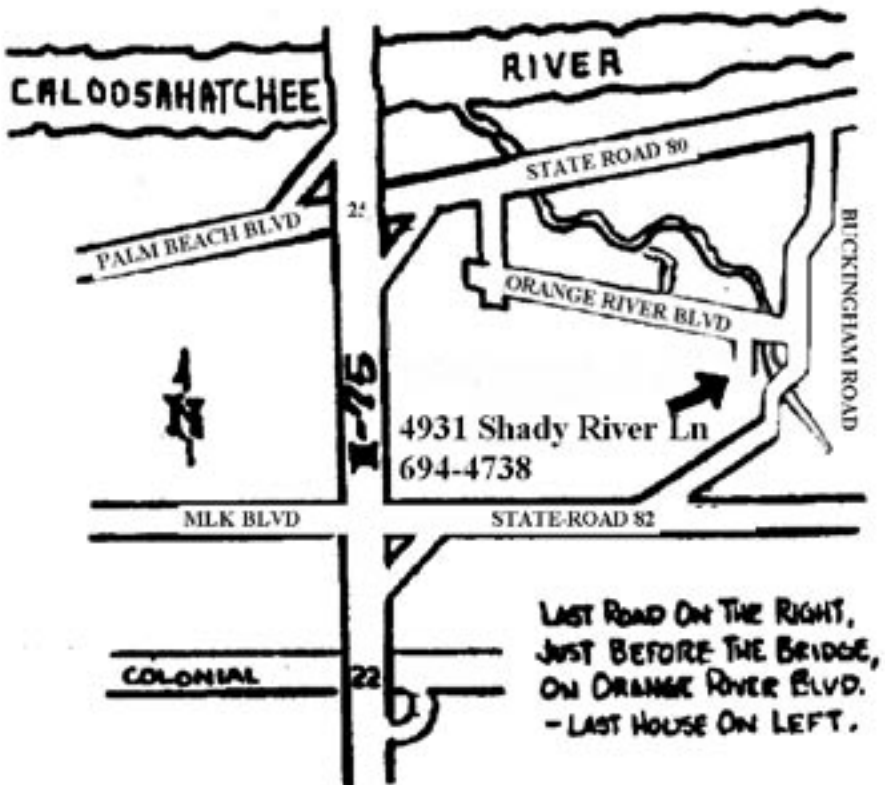
In record time all the items were identified and labeled by the team, which included Deb Booker and Tom Foley.

Riding shotgun on the items in the holding area were Gary Nicholas and Ross Griffith.

We owe much of the success to the attentive bidders of our audience. Members and guests, thank you.



Map to Betsy and Bill Burdette's Home



Bromeliad Expose By Larry Giroux

Vrieseas are some of the most striking of the bromeliads with their vibrantly colored inflorescences and with many having unique patterned leaves. The forms found in this genus are almost as diverse as those found in the genus *Aechmea* with pendulous inflorescences, stoloniferous offsets, plants resembling neoregelias, tillandsias and many other genera.

For a long time there was the misconception that to grow nice vrieseas you needed a greenhouse. Actually many vrieseas have been found to be tolerant of cold temperatures and stronger light intensity as previously believed. Color and patterns are often enhanced by brighter light exposure.

In the Vol. VI, No. 5.6 -March and April 1976 issues of the Corpus Christi Bromeliad Society's Newsletter, Sue Gardner (Sill) wrote a two part article about the care and types of vrieseas available at that time. I am reprinting that article here. Unfortunately all the accompanying pictures are B&W and don't reproduce very well. Where possible I have substituted other more colorful pictures. In addition I have added many more pictures in this published issue as well as the on-line edition.

After 30 years there may be a lot more vriesea cultivars, although not so many new vriesea species, but the information Sue presents, however, is still as pertinent as ever. Sue, when she wrote this, was living in Texas; so, most of her comments will pertain to vrieseas cultivated under South Florida's growing conditions.

VRIESEAS for Long Lasting Beauty and Versatility

—By SUE GARDNER (SILL)

One of the most beautiful and variable genera of bromeliads is the Vrieseas. Running the gamut from tiny xerophytes, resembling and often confused with tillandsias, to giants several feet in diameter.

Vrieseas are one of the most popular genera for hybridizing, with Belgium being a leader, but many well-known American growers also work in this field. Vriesea hybrids have also recently come out of Japan. Most of the hybridization is going on with the medium to medium-small varieties, with compact, full forms of many attractively glossy green leaves. While many of these plants are difficult or even impossible to distinguish as to variety when not in inflorescence, when flowering time comes they produce such an array of forms and brilliant colors that they must be classed among the most spectacular of bromeliads. The inflorescence may be simple (unbranched) or may have multiple branches with bracts that may range from yellow, through orange, to red, including such deep tones as to be nearly black. Others may be pink to violet. The floral bracts may be satin smooth or may be so glossy as to appear to be lacquered. The extremely long-lasting qualities make these plants even more desirable and is another reason that they have become so popular for commercial production.

One of the most popular of the genera for commercial production
(continued on Page 10)



Alcanterea imperialis is one of two plants moved to the genus *Alcanterea* in 1995, when taxonomists felt there were enough differences to distinguish them from vrieseas. Seen here is *A. imperialis* with its

growers, CBS members Shirley and Bud Evans. Above is a photo of one of its enormous flowers. Many people still wrongly refer to this as *Vr. imperialis*.



Vrieseas are variable in form. *Vr. corcovadensis* and *Vr. erthrodactylon*, seen here as the variegated form, demonstrate stoloniferous types. While *Vr. ospinae* var. *gruberi* grows on a lengthen stalk. Vrieseas can at first glance resemble plants of other genera such as *Tillandsia* with the thin leaved *Vr. poenulata* with a pendulous inflorescence or the gray leaved *Vr. espinosae*.





In the 30 years since Sue wrote the included article, exciting new varieties of species have been introduced such as this albomarginated *Vr. splendens* and variegated *Vr. phillippo-colburgii*.



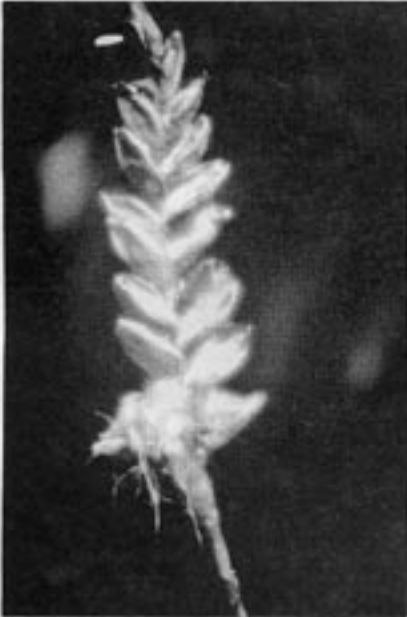
The genera of *Vriesea*, *Guzmania* and *Tillandsia* are closely related by being in the same Subfamily of the Family *Bromeliaceae*, called *Tillandsioideae*.

Because of this relationship they have many genetic characteristics in common, which permit bigeneric interbreeding. Seen here are *Vrieslandsia* ‘Rocket’s Red Glare’ (left), an unregistered cultivar of a vriesea and tillandsia and *Guzvriesea* ‘Torch’, another bigeneric created by crossing a guzmania with a vriesea. Although a first cross of two different genera will produce viable seed, further crosses made with these bigenerics are sterile, meaning they will not produce seeds, which will sprout. Only by producing offsets can you reproduce these bigeneric cultivars. Pups are true clones of the parent bromeliad and will exactly resemble the bigeneric parent.

Photos by Larry Giroux
Additional photographs and information in the online version
of this issue at www.fcbs.org

is the “Flaming Sword”- *Vriesea splendens*. This plant not only is an attractive flowering plant but has attractive dark bands on the foliage making it interesting even when not in spike.

There are a great number of *Vrieseas* with attractively marked foliage. While some are moderate in size, many of this type are larger plants, with some being quite large. These markings may be in the form of banding, or may be hieroglyphics of green on green, green on yellow-green, brown on green or any number of other combinations. Others may be spotted with lavender. While the inflorescences produced by most of these foliage varieties are less colorful and spectacular than the more moderately sized, green-leaved varieties, they are none-the-less interesting and attractive. Many of these have floral bracts which repeat the interesting color patterns found in the foliage of the plant.



— Dried *Vriesea* spike dispersing plumose seeds.

Vrieseas are members of the tillandsioideae, and very closely related to the, more widely grown in this area, *Tillandsias*. They produce the same plumose seeds, much like those of the dandelion, and can be distinguished from *Tillandsias* by dissecting a blossom and observing the base of the petals, near where they join the stalk. *Tillandsias* have naked petals, that is, there are no petal scales, while a petal scale will always be present on the base of a *Vriesea* petal. A petal scale is a small piece of tissue which protrudes from the base of a petal. (See photo.)

The genus ***Vriesea*** contains some of the widest variety and the most strikingly beautiful varieties in the entire bromeliad family. The unusually attractive forms and flowering habits, coupled with an extremely long-lasting inflorescence,

make *Vrieseas* among the most desirable of the bromeliads — yet they are seldom grown by our local members. Could it be that one failure with an unadaptive variety, or the delicate appearance of the thin foliage, has struck fear into the hearts of growers who think of bromeliads as unkillable plants that will reward even the worst mistreatment

A distinguishing characteristic between plants of the genus *Tillandsia* and *Vriesea* is a “petal scale” on the base of each petal of *vriesea* flowers.



with beautiful foliage and blooms. Even some of the most experienced growers in this area have said, "I can't grow Vrieseas."

While there are a few varieties which seem to resent our heat and water, there are a great many others which can be grown here successfully. For success with any plant it is important to keep in mind their basic requirements.

Vrieseas need:

Filtered light — not heavy shade, but approximately 30 to 40% of natural sunlight. **Even moisture** — potting medium should be kept moist at all times. Cups should be kept full of fresh water. High humidity is important. Our natural relative humidity is often adequate, but wetting down of leaves, walls, benches and floors on hot, dry days is advantageous. **Good ventilation** — **Moving air** (not wind) paired with moisture in the atmosphere will help to keep your plants cool and prevent burning of delicate foliage. During cold winter weather, good movement of air is just as important as in the summer heat. When the weather is cool, the necessary moisture around your vrieseas makes a good place for bacterial and fungal growth if ventilation is not provided. This could lead to basal rot and loss of otherwise healthy-looking plants.

Good-quality water — Most Vrieseas are susceptible to leaf burn from the excessive salts in our water. Adjusting the pH to neutral or slightly acid will greatly help to alleviate this problem, though it will not eliminate it completely. Using rain water or water collected from air conditioner condensate is better yet, but may be difficult to accommodate if a large number of plants are involved. **Time** — Many Vrieseas take up to five years to mature and bloom from an offset though others may bloom in two. Tiny seedling-like offsets produced by some varieties such as *Vr. glutinosa* and *Vr. imperialis*, may take a decade or more to mature.

Problems Analyzed:

Rotting off at the base of otherwise healthy looking plant a. Poor air circulation; b. Soil kept constantly wet (not just moist); c. Crown set too deep in mix Leaf die back, (bottom up—more than the normal browning of a few of the lower leaves) a. inadequate moisture or line water.

3. Center leaves rot or pull out easily, a. too strong fertilizer solution — burning tender new



— *Vriesea imperialis* — approximately six feet in diameter at blooming — certainly not for the small lath house, but if you have plenty of space, try this one.

(Ed. note: In 1995 when the subgenus *Alcantarea* was elevated to genus level, *Vr. imperialis* and *Vr. regina* were switched into the new genus.)

leaves; b. accumulation of salts allowed to build up from evaporation — also burning tender new leaves — flush cups regularly and refill with fresh water.

Vrieseas will grow well under the same or similar conditions as the following: Most Nidulariums, African violets, Cattleya or Phalenopsis orchids, Anthuriums, and many ferns. If you grow any of these well, you can also grow Vrieseas. Don't miss out on one of the most beautiful and rewarding members of the bromeliad family.

The following plants are recommended for the novice grower in our climate:

Marked Foliage Varieties: Vr. glutinosa, V. fosteriana (several varieties), V. fenestralis, and Vr. Nova.

Slick, Green-Leafed Varieties: commercial hybrid

OPEN HOUSE at MICHAEL'S BROMELIADS

By Carol Sweat



Chuck & Sara Ray, my husband Ellis and I attended Michael's Open House March 10th and had a wonderful day. Michael had his nursery looking so nice and he and Donna were most accommodating. I bought several new bromeliads that I had been wanting and learned so much walking around and talking with Michael. We took their advice, brought lunch while Michael provided beverages and snacks. We all enjoyed our meal at our lakeside table watching the fish and wildlife.

We were there for over 3 hours and unfortunately, we did not see anyone from the CBS. Hopefully others arrived after we left. For those who did not get there, you missed a rare opportunity to tour Michael's green houses, which as you can see from at least one of the pictures, were packed with wonderful and exotic bromeliads. We thank him for his time and sharing his extensive bromeliad knowledge so freely with us..

Carol and Ellis Sweat

Pictures of the author with Chuck and Sara Ray, and Donna and Michael Kiehl. Photos by Ellis Sweat.



Although the classical sword shape inflorescence is associated with vrieseas, some 'spikes' may look more like the more typical guzmania tubular inflorescence of this *Vr. malzinei*.

The patterned leafed vrieseas such as *Vr. heiroglyphica* and *Vr. fosteriana* have simple or branched modified sword or paddle shapes. Here is a *Vr. heiroglyphica* hybrid inflorescence with its typical rather large easily identifiable calyxes.



Probably due to the long lasting, vibrant, colored inflorescence, vrieseas were some of the first bromeliads to be hybridized and sold commercially. On the left is a drawing from 1907 of *Vr. x Rex* and on the right is the plant by the same name 100 years later. This particular cross was first made in Europe in 1894.

Today hybridizers are trying to produce more colorful leaves and showier inflorescences like those of this unnamed cultivar and Vriesea 'Inferno'





There are many hybridizers who are trying their hand at vrieseas. In California, John Arden has become renown for his work with creating beautifully colored and multi-branched inflorescences as seen here with a complex cross of *Vriesea*. ((“Sunspot” x (*saundersii* X *bituminosa*) X *platynema* “Variegated”) x *delicatula*). At the 2000 WBC he won Best in Show with this outstanding cultivar.



In Hawaii, Sharon Peterson, already an award winning hybridizer is also working with patterned vrieseas. Seen here is an unnamed hybrid from her numerous collection she is growing to maturity.



Also in Hawaii, on the big island, lives the best known patterned vriesea hybridizer (probably in the world) , David Shigii. This very humble grower has thousands of vrieseas at different stages growing at any time. One of his creations, which he felt worthy of a name is pictured here - *Vriesea* ‘Leinaala’.

Fortunately for the rest of us who don’t have the time or space to grow vrieseas from seed, there are growers willing to do so. Very often,



however, since it is not commercially feasible to grow offsets of a particular vriesea for mass sale, 1/2-3/4 grown seedlings of random crosses are sold to the public. As the picture below shows, this makes for a lot of different looking cultivars with no names other than “heiroglyphica hybrid” or such which can come from just one cross.

According to BSI rules, these plants would not be eligible for major awards in a BSI Standard Show. The exhibitor has three choices - lie about its parentage, remain ineligible for top awards or register his plant with its own unique name. If your plant is special and you plan on showing, selling or distributing pups to other collectors or exhibitors, then I encourage you to do the latter prior to a show or sale. There will be some people who will say that this is not right, but it is permitted and really there will not be that many people who will take this simple step to make life easier for everyone



New Website to Explore

You might recall our newest member, Jason Mellica, when he presented a program on his hybridization results, last year. Jason now has a created a new website featuring information, photographs and links of interest to bromeliad growers. Besides photos of his own garden, which he has named “Lorax Garden” he has individual professional quality pictures of many of the species, cultivars and his own hybrids he’s been working with these past years. For those looking for ideas about landscaping, he has an section devoted to photos of Nick and Rosalee Mavrikas’ impeccably manicured yard and pool areas. I encourage those with internet access to visit Jason site and enjoy its content.



More Spring Color in South Florida

Jim Bixler recently sent me more pictures of the colorful bromeliads in his Naples yard.

Photography by Jim Bixler

Aechmea 'Shell Dancer'



xAndrolaechmea 'O'Rourke'



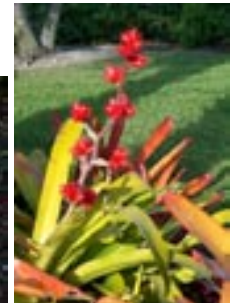
Collection of *Porteas*

Variegated *Ananas comosus*



The boundary of Jim's property is bordered by large aechmeas including *Aechmea blanchetiana* and a low border of clumps of stoloniferous neoregelias, deep red from growing in full sun.

Below are -
Aechmea blanchetiana
Neoregelia johannis
Hohenbergia stellata



CBS MARCH MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Sunday, March 18, 2007. **LOCATION:** St. John the Apostle's Metropolitan Community Church 3409 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers, FL. **ATTENDANCE:** Approximately 50 members and guests. **WORKSHOP:** None. **CALL TO ORDER:** 2:00 pm By President Steve Hoppin. Introduction of New Members: JASON MELLICA. Welcome Jason.. Guests: Jim Conyers. Bob and Diane Nicastro, Jim Whittaker, Robert Bowers. Welcome to our Society!

Discussion of benefits of CBS Membership by Steve: Meristem, Yearbook/Roster, CBS Workshops, Presentation/Programs, Gene McKenzie Memorial Library, Show and Tell, Special Events, Friendship Table, generous FREE raffles and of course the great refreshments at breaktime. Steve encourages participation of members in Show and Tell, Friendship and Raffle Tables. He also reminds us that fellowship starts at 12:30 PM and encourages members to help set up and assist in breakdown after meeting.

Minutes from February 2007 General Meeting were published in CBS March newsletter. Call for corrections, deletions, additions; None made. Motion to Approve by Vicky Chirnside; Second by Larry Giroux. Minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None. **NEW BUSINESS:** None. **ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1.** Dr. Larry (Giroux) has started to send the online expanded issue of the Meristem to those who subscribed to it at the last meeting. Any paid-up member may contact him and be added to the online only subscription to receive the expanded issue directly by e-mail. Anyone can read an edited version of the Meristem online at www.FCBS.org. **2.** Dr. Larry also explained the 2007 Roster distribution process at meetings and by mail. Contact Betty Ann Prevatt to obtain your copy. **3.** Pres. Steve pointed out the recognition of CBS in the Spring / Summer edition of "In Good Company", pg 35. **4.** Deborah Jalbert invites all CBS members to participate in "The Festival of Flora, a Botanical Bazaar", March 24, 9-12. Contact Deborah at keysey@earthlink.net. **5.** FCBS May Newsletter to publish bromeliad sources in Florida; they seek information on state inspected nurseries for inclusion. If you qualify or know of one, contact Karen@fcbs.org, or at 351-453-0366. **6.** CBS Birthday party announced for April 15 at Bill and Betsy Burdette's lovely home. Gathering around 12:00, lunch about 1:00. Bring FOOD! **7.** Theresa Bert announced the Sarasota Bromeliad Society Show and Sale at Selby Gardens, April 20-22, 2007. **8.** Six Mile Slough membership by CBS announced by Steve.

BREAK: Announced at 2:17; for 20 minutes. **PROGRAM:** none today due to Evil Weevil Auction. **"EVIL WEEVIL" Auction:** Thanks to Steve Hoppin, the Chairman; Dale Laird, who came down from Winter Park to serve as our Auctioneer; Dale Kammerlohr, our commentator; Deb Booker, Tom Foley, Nick Mavrikas and Larry Giroux for entering and labeling all the items; Ross Griffith and Gary Nicholas for running the holding areas; Betty Ann Prevatt, Luli Westra and Dianne Molnar for record keeping and cashiers. Auction resulted in over \$2000!

RAFFLE: None due to auction

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by Chuck Ray, CBS Secretary.

Special Events in April and May

Sat. April 28th

Cape Coral Home & Garden Show 9am – 4pm At the Jaycee Park at the end of Beach Parkway (off Del Prado Blvd in Cape Coral) Bromeliads & Tropical Plants as well as other home & garden vendors will be present. For more info. contact T. Hart at Cape Coral Parks & Recreation office.

Don't forget all the Bromeliad Shows coming up in April and May just short drives from our area. (See EVENTS CALENDER) They all are having associated sales with their shows. My experience is that besides beautiful and varied entries each local show is known for entries in specific categories. The Broward County Show is known for their exceptional artistic arrangements; while Sarasota has rarely seen species as well as a greater number of cryptanthus than other shows (their sales area also have these oddities available); Miami's Show is packed with art work and exhibits from Nat DeLeon; the Mother's Day Show in Orlando is also well worth attending for their entries from a multi-county area as well as great sale plants at great prices. So make a pick or go to several, you will definitely have a fun time.

ATTENTION - Owners of State Inspected Nurseries

In the May issue of the Council's Newsletter, we will run a list of **bromeliad sources** in the state of Florida.

If you own state-inspected bromeliad nursery in Florida and would like to be listed in the May 2007 issue of the newsletter of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, please email or call Karen Andreas, newsletter editor (karen@fcbs.org, 321-453-0366) by April 28th. Please provide the name of the nursery, address, phone number, email address, hours of operation (include if it is necessary to make an appointment), web site address (if applicable) and any other information you want included. You can also include a description of the nursery and the bromeliads offered.

Sincerely,

Karen Andreas, FCBS Newsletter Editor



Did you know that... after the first few meetings at Gene McKenzie's home in 1980, the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society required to meet at the larger facility of the First Federal Savings & Loan, North Fort Myers due to the increase in membership... they have met on the third Sunday ever since. ...the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society logo was designed by Luli Westra. It is Florida's Tillandsia fasciculata circled by the Caloosahatchee River...by the time the CBS joined the FCBS in 1982 it was one of the larger and more active societies in Florida.

EVENTS CALENDER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY
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Vriesea fosteriana

Just one of the many photos you can see at our newest member, Jason Mellica's website- www.LEVEL21NRG.com



Vriesea ospinae var. *gruberi* 'Rubra'

If it wasn't for the yellow multi-branching inflorescence, at first glance, this could be mistaken for a neoregelia.



There has been such an increased demand for the patterned vrieseas in the past years, that commercial nurseries are producing and selling seedlings and partially grown plants with disregard for parentage. This cultivar was labeled simply "heiroglyphica hybrid". Without parentage or a cultivar name, this would be ineligible for major awards at a BSI Standard Show.