



July-Aug
2012

THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S CALOOSAHATCHEE MERISTEM



ORLANDIANA
2012



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT—Marsha Crawford (239) 472-2089 marshacrawford@embarqmail.com
VICE-PRESIDENT— Larry Giroux (239) 997-2237 DrLarry@comcast.net
SECRETARY—MaryLynn Murphy 239-593-8739 (MaryLynn100@me.com)
TREASURER—Betty Ann Prevatt 334-0242 (bprevattpec@aol.com)
PAST-PRESIDENT—Vicky Chirside 941-493-5825 (vickychir@aol.com)

STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR—Larry Giroux 997-2237 (DrLarry@comcast.net)
FALL SALES CHAIRS—Geri & Dave Prall 543-2245 (PalmTreeGardens@hotmail.com);
Brian Weber 941-256-4405 (brianweber1b@aol.com)
CBS Show Chair— No Show this year
PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON—Bruce McAlpin (863) 674-0811
WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON—Co-Chair: Pete Diamond (704) 213-7601
SPECIAL PROJECTS—Gail Daneman 239-466-3531 (bob@fesq.net)
CBS FCBS Rep.—Vicky Chirside 941-493-5825 (vickychir@aol.com)
CBS FCBS Rep.—Position available

OTHER COMMITTEES

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

The opinions expressed in the Meristem are those of the authors. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor or the official policy of CBS. Permission to reprint is granted with acknowledgement. Original art work remains the property of the artist and special permission may be needed for reproduction.



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

July Meeting– Sunday, July 15th 2012
August Meeting– Sunday, August 19th 2012
Covenant Presbyterian Church

The church facility is located near downtown Fort Myers, Florida, at 2439 McGregor Blvd., just one block south of the Edison Home parking lot and about 1 1/2 miles north of our previous meeting location— St. John the Apostle Church. The facility is approximately 2.5 miles north of the intersection of Colonial Blvd. and McGregor Blvd.

Doors open at 12:30PM for setup, Workshop starts at 1:15PM.

Everything stays the same...Bring food, raffle items, Friendship table items, Show and Tell plants.

Membership Sales are allowed at the July meeting

Membership Sales are not allowed at the August meeting

July Speaker and Program

“Everybody Loves Neos”

By Bruce McAlpin

Neoregelia is one of the genera of bromeliads with the most striking foliage. Seldom is an observer not awed by a neoregelias with wild variegation or a severely contrasting patterned leaves. Today’s hybridizers now cater to the neoregelias collector by producing miniature, medium or giant sized versions of abstract pieces of art imprinted on

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

the leaves of their cultivars.

Bruce McAlpin, the CBS Program Chair will be substituting for our scheduled speaker this month. He has a new program entitled, “Everyone Loves Neos”. Using from his collection he will discuss the qualities of this colorful group of bromeliads, which endears this genus with so many collectors.

August Speaker and Program

When we speak about the nearest, large bromeliad retailers in our area, Michael’s Bromeliads in Venice, Florida is on the list. In the last decade or so since Michael and Donna Kiehl bought Don Beadle’s nursery, major expansion and innovations have been taking place at the nursery on Fisrt Dirt Road. Today, Michael’s Bromeliads is a source of hard to find imported bromeliads for collectors around the world.

We are honored to have Michael Kiehl as our August speaker. The topic is still to be announced, but with the vast knowledge, which Michael has acquired from his many years of collecting, growing and hybridizing, I’m sure we are in for an informative and entertaining presentation.

July Workshop

Keeping with the basics theme, Pete Diamond our Co-Chair of the Workshop, with the help of the audience will demonstrate the proper way to remove and separate offsets and what to do with them after you separate them from their mothers. We ask that some of you bring in at least one pot of plants, which will need division. Many of the genera

are relatively easy to separate and repot; however, there are several such as dyckia, hechtia and pitcairnia that are more of a challenge. If you feel you are doing a pretty good job of separating these, please bring in a pot of these plants and your equipment and give us a lesson. So we won't have too many repeats, please call Pete and let him know.

August Workshop

Carol Sweat has volunteered to moderate the August Workshop. She will present a Powerpoint outline of "Bromeliad Problems". From there we will have a discussion concerning the problems we all face with our plants including such things as leaf damage, insect manifestations, rot and other annoying set backs. Among our membership we have all faced these problems and hopefully will come up with some solutions.

Peter Diamond has volunteered to help with the Workshops as Co-Chair. He is going to need help with organization, selection of topics and volunteers to give demonstrations or short programs.

Please call Pete and offer your assistance in any way possible.

Front and Back Covers

By Larry Giroux

The front cover of this issue of the Meristem demonstrates the logo for the upcoming BSI 20th WBC Bromeliad Show... entitled: "Kaleidoscope of Bromeliads". I designed this logo to represent bromeliads as seen through a kaleidoscope. The background was created in a computer program, which uses a photo and then rotates and distorts the picture. The use of the six neoregelia photos came naturally due to their pinwheel forms and colorful patterns. The center of the design is the untouched photograph of quite typical neoregelia flowers.



Although numerous species of *Neoregelia* have been discovered and brought into cultivation in the last 200 years, *Neoregelia concentrica* and closely related species are my and many other collectors favorites. By itself it is an outstanding specimen plant with its concentric markings, contrasting blotches, dark tips and borders. Hybridizers have also taken a liking to this group of neoregelias. Fortunately these plants' characteristics are dominant and when *concentrica* and other relatives have been used for hybridization, many of the progeny are impressive plants as well. Photo above by Don Woods, taken from JBS, Vol. 41, No. 2.



Another popular and beautifully marked neoregelia used as a parent of hundreds of cultivars, has been *Neoregelia melanodonta*. This species passes on broad squat leaves, heavily emarginated with bright, clear dark red. Similar colored cross bands and the upturned spines on the tips are the earmarks of this species.

In the photo above by Jimi R. Prinz, his cultivar produced by the crossing of *Neoregelia melanodonta* and *Neoregelia spectabilis* 'Pinkie' is featured. In the JBS, Vol.XXXIII, No. 2, he tells his story of the creation of this plant.

For many of the same reasons that neoregelias are favorites of bromeliad collectors and hybridizers, neoregelias have been the choice of artists for use in artistic designs, posters and exhibits for as long as these plants have been around.

The back cover picture is a drawing by the late Kiti Wenzel of *Neoregelia* 'Big Bands'. After Kiti created this drawing, it was used for the 1992 Tampa World Bromeliad Conference poster., which is also printed here.



For most of the 19 World Bromeliad Conferences sponsored by the Bromeliad Society International, posters such as this one created by Kiti, have been available for purchase. As a matter of fact, they have become collectors' items and draw attention and bids exceeding their original value at rare plant auctions held at WBCs and Affiliate Societies.

Another world renown horticultural artist, John Barbie, has been responsible for artwork depicting neoregelias. On the following page is a reproduction of the poster he designed for the 7th World Bromeliad Conference held in New Orleans in 1986. In Barbie's drawing he portrays neoregelias both in abstract and more life like. The artists who reproduce these plants no not have to stray far from the colors and patterns of the actual plants. Photo of Barbie's work by John P. Tuck.



Members- At our last meeting Marsha talked about a possible bus trip on Friday Sept 28th 2012 to the WBC 2012. Here is the offer... ONE DAY BUS TRIP TO ORLANDIANA

Kathleen Hecksher of the Pine Island Garden Club has arranged to co-sponsor a 1 day bus trip to Orlandiana on Friday, Sept 28. The bus holds 56 persons. She said if the bus is full it would be about \$25 per person; \$40 for half full. She indicated there could be 2 pick-up locations, but I do not yet know where. She was going to send messages out to several garden clubs. If you have any interest in participating in the bus trip, please contact me by phone or email before July 20. I have 3 signed up from last meeting. Anyone interested could contact me by phone or email before July 20- arbitrary cut off date. If you take the bus up on Friday you will be able to participate in the sale and see the show. Raffle items will be raffled off during the day. At present, unless you are registered, you will not have entrance to the speakers. By the time of the conference, there maybe a "pay as you see" seminar package for visitors for the day, but this is not possible at this time. If you would like to attend more of the conference and are looking for a roommate to share room expenses and possibly travel expenses, please let me know and I'll get you in touch with others who contact me. Contact Marsha at the number below if you want to sign up for the bus trip. Thanks, Larry Giroux 239-997-2237, 239-850-4048, drlarry@comcast.net Marsha Crawford, CBS President Home phone: 239 472 -2089 Email: marshacrawford@embarqmail.com

CBS Meeting Minutes June 17th, 2012

LOCATION: Covenant Presbyterian Church, Ft. Myers, FL.
ATTENDANCE: 33 members. WORKSHOP: “Back to Basics—Potting Mediums” presented by Workshop Co-Chair, Peter Diamond. Pete offered a Powerpoint presentation and handouts showing contents of a wide variety of potting mediums and discussed the pros and cons of each for potting bromeliads. Samples of amendments were shown.

PROGRAM: “What you will miss if you do not go to Orlandiana 2012” presented by Dr. Larry Giroux, Co-Chair for the World Bromeliad Conference Show in Orlando, FL September 24th-30th. A slide presentation of past World Bromeliad Conference Shows including visits to private gardens was viewed. Dr. Larry encouraged everyone to attend and participate in the Show. Please go to bsi.org/events/2012/Orlando2012 for a schedule of events. BREAK: A thirty minute break was enjoyed. Thank you to Mary McKenzie and volunteers for the refreshments. CALL TO ORDER: President Marsha Crawford called the meeting to order at 3:20p.m. MINUTES: The minutes were accepted as printed by Elizabeth Migliore and seconded by Mary McKenzie. COMMITTEE REPORTS: in the Meristem.

NEW BUSINESS: Kathleen Hecksher of the Pine Island Garden Club has arranged a one day bus trip to Orlandiana on Fri. Sept. 28th. Please contact Marsha Crawford if you're interested: marshacrawford@embarqmail.com 239-472-2089. DOOR PRIZE: *Neoregelia* ‘Eric’

Neo. ‘Eric’ was donated by Mary McKenzie and won by Dr. Larry Giroux. SHOW & TELL: Led by Dale Kammerlohr. RAFFLE: Conducted by Dr. Larry and assisted by Dolly Dalton and Terri Lazar. ADJOURNMENT: President Marsha Crawford adjourned the meeting at 3:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, MaryLynn Murphy, CBS Secretary



It is not too early to start scheduling your vacation and planning to attend the 2012 World Bromeliad Conference in Orlando Florida. This world-class event includes huge sales (with 1000's of hybrids and hard to find species.), a combined BSI and CS Rare Plant Auction featuring unusual and rare plants from the biggest and diverse collections of bromeliads in the World; there will be seminars by such world renown speakers such as Harry Luther, Francisco Oliva-Esteve, Paul Isley, Dennis Cathcart and your own Editor Dr. Larry Giroux. Already several tours are scheduled to some of the largest nurseries and private gardens in Central Florida. We haven't even mentioned the spectacular other activities and theme parks all within minutes of the elaborate host hotel, the Caribe Royale. Your hotel room rates are as low as \$119 + tax (these rooms can accommodate up to 6 people). Don't miss out on this dream vacation for the whole family. Go to fcbs.org for more info.

Hotel Information

Bromeliad Society

Caribe Royale
8101 World Center Drive
Orlando, FL 32821
US

Phone: 888-258-7501

The Caribe Royale is pleased to offer Bromeliad Society attendees the following:

Complimentary Self-parking
Complimentary InSuite Internet access
Complimentary Fitness Center access
No Resort Fees!

The Caribe Royale is an all-suite hotel. The standard suite is one-bedroom with two queen-sized beds and a connecting living room that has a full-sized sleeper sofa. The rate for the standard suite is \$119.00 per night plus tax (currently 12.5%).

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. 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



Dr. Larry Giroux, Editor
3836 Hidden Acres Circle N
North Fort Myers, FL 33903
(239) 997-2237
Drlarry@comcast.net

This is your July/ August Newsletter; it contains information about the next two months' CBS meetings.