



*October 2007*

**CALOOSAHATCHEE  
BROMELIAD  
SOCIETYs  
CALOOSAHATCHEE  
MERISTEM**

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# CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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**Co-Junior CBS FCBS Reps.** Debbie Booker & Tom Foley  
**Alternate CBS FCBS Rep.** Dale Kammerlohr (tropdsk@strato.net)

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**SPECIAL HOSPITALITY** Betsy Burdette (betsy@burdetteinc.com)  
**RAFFLE TICKETS** Greeter/Membership table volunteers - Luli Westra,  
Dolly Dalton, Eleanor Kinzie, etc.  
**RAFFLE COMMENTARY** Larry Giroux  
**GREETERS/ATTENDENCE** Betty Ann Prevatt, Dolly Dalton(dollyd@comcast.net),  
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**Billbergia 'Orthello'** is represented in this drawing by the late Kiti Wenzel. Kiti who had been a member of the CBS for over 22 years is honored in this issue; don't miss many more of her colorful horticultural drawings in the e-mail and on-line versions of the Meristem.



# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

October Meeting: SUNDAY October 21st, 2007

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

Ray Lemieux, our October speaker will be bringing a collection of unique terrestrial plants for sale. **MEMBERSHIP SALES ARE NOT PERMITTED** at the October meeting.

Friendship plants, Raffle items and Door Prizes are always welcome. (Please contact Barbara Johnson if you have a Door Prize to donate.)

## October Workshop

### “Selecting & Grooming for the CBS Show Part II - A Mini-Show”

By Betty Ann Prevatt and Eleanor Kinzie  
(Begins at 1:15 PM)

Time is very short before we will be having fun at our 2007 Show and Sale. As a continuation of the September Workshop, at the October Workshop, our resident judges, Betty Ann and Eleanor, will critically evaluate your entries in a mini-show. So for the October Workshop we ask that members practice what they learned at the September meeting and bring in entries for a “Mini-show”. Don’t be shy, bring a plant or two for review.

## October Program

### “Growing Terrestrial Bromeliads”

By Ray Lemieux  
(Begins following the refreshment break)

Cryptanthus, Dyckias, Hechtias, Pitcairnia, Puyas, Orthophytums, Deuterocohnias, Encholiriums and the less common Fascicularias are an unusual group of bromeliads that are nearly exclusively terrestrials. Ray Lemieux will discuss some of these and their special needs.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



FM-LCGC



Cryptanthus  
Society



Bromeliad Society  
International



FCBS

## President's Message

By Steve Hoppin

CBS Officers and Cryptanthus Society Officers Larry Giroux and myself have been on the road for what now seems to be "awhile". We drove out to Beaumont, Texas, the van packed to maximum capacity with show, sale and donated auction plants, to attend the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual SW Bromeliad Guild Show & 10<sup>th</sup> Int'l Cryptanthus Show on Sept. 7, 8 & 9, 2007. The societies shared two great shows and auction resulting in a huge success. There were many Bromeliad Genera represented, but especially that of varied Cryptanthus. And, the Texas hospitality was terrific!

Two weeks have passed, we're back in Florida and we have just attended the FCBS Extravaganza on Saturday, September 29, in Dania Beach, Fl. It is here we saw many CBS members and other bromeliad addicts from around the USA and World including as far away as Philippine, Hawaii, California, Michigan, Costa Rica and the Bahamas enjoying a varied slate of guest speakers (including our own Larry Giroux), brisk sales and a financially applaudable Auction. Amazingly, although a slightly soggy Sunday morning presented itself, garden tours persevered. It was more like a mini WBC. The Bromeliad Society of Broward County and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies has much to be proud of for the great job they did in bringing this off.

But, it's great to be back and revved up about our CBS October Meeting. Eleanor Kinzie & Betty Ann Prevatt will coordinate a mock Bromeliad Show at our next meeting. They are encouraging each member to bring at least one well-groomed bromeliad you think is in good condition, displays a healthy appearance and has good coloration and markings. Their workshop will review what they presented at the September Workshop, including the entering of plants, judging, and offer some constructive criticisms, if there is room for improvement, to achieve Award of Merit status with your entries. Although this time it is a mock show, you just may learn a lot to apply when you enter our up-coming Standard BSI Judged CBS Show on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. For those who are selling, it is a requirement to enter the Show. For all others it will be a time for fun and an opportunity to win some great prizes. Talking about prizes, if there are others out there who have not contributed to the Awards Fund, there is still time to make a contribution, as small or as large as you wish and you can do it in memory of a friend or relative. Contact Larry Giroux or Betty Ann Prevatt. (Please see the donation page in this issue to see if you are already listed and see if the information is correct.)

Our Guest speaker for October, Ray Lemieux, will be presenting an informative presentation on a group of plants he is passionate about. Ray's work with terrestrial bromeliads continues to be quite interesting to say the least! In addition to sharing his knowledge, he will be bringing some very interesting and hard to find plants to be offered for sale. For obvious reasons, Dyckia, Pitcairnia and other ground dwelling bromeliad lover's should not miss this program.

Remember, CBS can only be as good as its members make it. The officers do their best to provide you with not only an entertaining, but also informative and educational schedule of events. I encourage you all to participate where you can in this month's club functions i.e.: Workshop, Show & Tell, Social and/or Raffle. Be sure to make time to attend the program provided and give your officers feedback both good and bad about our activities, for as we all know there's always room for improvement and there is always a need for more participation. It is just possible you may go away from this meeting with shared knowledge that, when put to good use, will ultimately benefit you in your hobby or business.

# SOCIETY NOTES

## Nomination Committee Selection

At the September meeting, Eleanor Kinzie accepted the Chair of the Nominating Committee; Dolly Dalton and Luli Westra were elected from the membership to serve with Eleanor. At the October meeting their selection of nominees for the 2008 CBS Officers will be announced. Election of Officers will occur at the November meeting.

## September & October Workshops

With the Show and Sale only a couple of months away, Betty Ann Prevatt and Eleanor Kinzie are devoting the September and October Workshops to preparations for exhibitors of our Show. Both Betty Ann and Eleanor are Master BSI Judges and are highly qualified to help our members in readying their plants for judging. On Friday November 30th, about 12 BSI Judges from around the country have been invited to evaluate the exhibits in our Show. At the September Workshop, Eleanor and Betty Ann pointed out the correct way to exhibit your plants with regard to selecting, potting and grooming.

The October Workshop as a staged mini-Show with Betty Ann and Eleanor as Judges, will help you fine tune the skills you learned at the September class. This is a perfect opportunity to learn more about what Judges are looking for as they make their decisions for top awards. Great prizes are planned for our Fall Show again, so plan on entering the maximum number of entries. Please bring 1 or 2 groomed plants for this mini-Show.

Many thanks to Betty Ann and Eleanor for their instructions to our members.

## September Program

Betsy McCrory brought over 33 years experience to her presentation at the September Meeting. Many of us who are more experienced with the care of bromeliads, often forget that many of our members are new to or less familiar with the selection and care of these plants. Betsy's program provided the basic information to allow these hobbyists as well as the rest of us, a great review of the fundamentals.

CBS wishes to thank Betsy for traveling the distance and passing on some

## October Speaker

Our older members will recall that Ray Lemieux presented a program in June of 2001. Around that time Tropiflora was expanding their terrestrial collection with increased importations of pitcairnias, dyckias and hectias. Ray is returning to Fort Myers to talk again about the terrestrial bromeliads.

Ray has been part of Tropiflora's Staff for many years and has accompanied Dennis Cathcart, the owner of Tropiflora, on several collecting trips; as a matter of fact, he just returned from Africa. Ray has been a member and office holder of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and has competed in their Shows with some of his unusual bromeliads. Plan on attending this program to welcome back Ray. He plans on bringing plants for sale, so all the more incentive to be at the October meeting.

## **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. Assignment of donations for specific awards have not been made for all contributions at this time.

**Dolly Dalton \$25 (Sweepstates 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 Suess**

**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**

**Dianne Molnar \$25 in memory of Louis Zulian (Best  
Pitcairnia)**

**PLEASE SPONSOR A SHOW AWARD**

# Bromeliad Expose By Larry Giroux



## In Memoriam

Kiti Wenzel

1908-2007

By Larry Giroux

Kiti Wenzel was an extraordinary woman, teacher and artist. On Friday, September 14th, 2007 she was taken from us, 4 months shy of her 100th birthday.

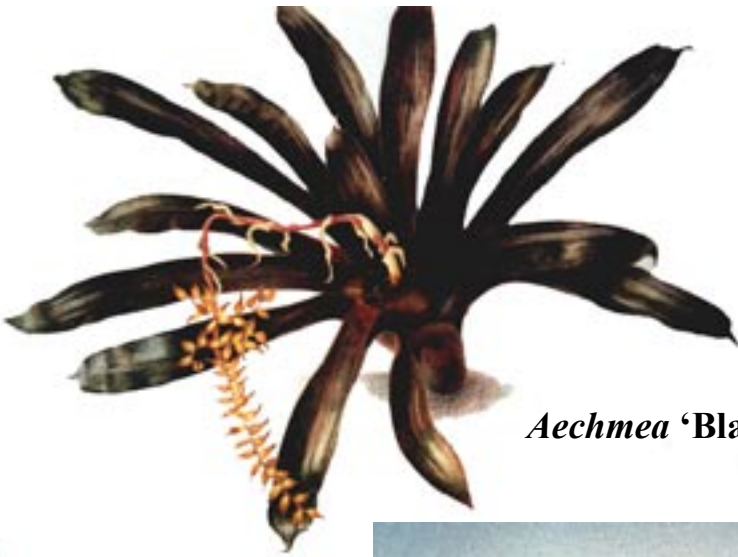
Kiti was already demonstrating her artistic talents in high school; and it was a series of drawings in her high school paper that earned her a full scholarship to the Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Here she started her artistic career after graduation. Much of her time was spent educating children in the principles of art. Kiti moved from Philadelphia to Florida in 1956; during the 1960's she and her husband owned and operated a restaurant, art studios and gallery on Fort Myers Beach, while still teaching art to a limited number of students. After a move to Sarasota, where

she continued her career as a professional artist, she moved back to Fort Myers.



The photo to the left is of Neoregelia 'Kiti Wenzel'. This is one of two plants selected from the grex of Neoregelia johannis 'Fairchild' X Neoregelia 'Vulkan' hybridized by Dean Fairchild and named to honor Kiti. The

other plant of the Grex is named Neoregelia 'Magic Palette', which has mottling of the leaves and a coral coloration of the center. Dean Fairchild has been an admirer of Kiti and her work for over 25 years and owns more than 20 pieces of her art.)



*Aechmea* 'Black Magic'

*Aechmea  
nudicaulis*



*Billbergia  
chlorostricta*





*Cryptanthus* 'Silver Star' and *Cryptanthus* 'Pink Starlite'

*Neoregelia*  
 'Magic Palette'  
 is from the  
 same Grex as  
*Neoregelia*  
 Kiti Wenzel'



*Neoregelia*  
*olens*



Billbergia pyramidalis (left) - This was one of Kiti's first horticultural drawings. It was a commercial success, when she sold it in quantities as a large framed poster. Neoregelia

'Big Bands' (bottom) - Neos were appealing to Kiti; she drew many during her career. Tillandsia cyanea (top, right)- This is one of several drawing where the inflorescence is emphasized.





(Top) Aechmea orlandiana 'Hayward' - This is a good example of the detail that Kiti employed in her drawings. Cryptanthus 'Windsong' & 'Black Mystic' (bottom) - Cryptanthus were a favorite subject for Kiti. Until her death she grew several at the entrance to her home. Tillandsia streptophylla (right) - Kiti's earliest pictures were more abstract and although nearly all her horticultural drawings were life like, with this plant she reverted to an earlier style.





'Garden'

Kiti



de castelnavii

Kiti



As mentioned earlier, Kiti would pains-takenly cut out the plants in her drawings and reassemble them in collages. Here are a collection of some of the recycled bromeliad pictures.



Tillandsia

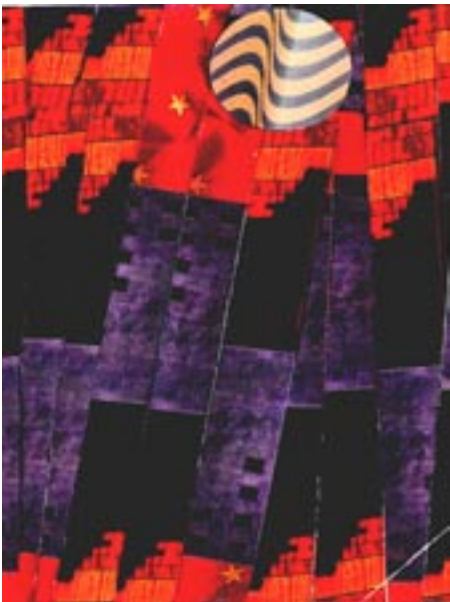
Kiti

## “Lilies”

was one of many non-bromeliad drawings created by Kiti. She was interested in the shape, color and markings of all types of flowers and leaves.



Although she seemed to prefer colored pencils as the medium for many of her horticultural drawings, she also used watercolors as with this collection of orchids and *Tillandsia streptophylla* seen on a previous page.



Kiti loved color, patterns and shapes and applied them to her abstract style during her early years. She would find a pattern or shape and construct a collage of these objects. To the left is one of Kiti's earlier collages called "Sky Hi" demonstrating her unique technics. Although there is the large rendition of this drawing, this is a copy of a note card. Kiti had most of her artwork made into note cards, which she personally sold at various events.



Kiti was fascinated with the forms and patterns of neoregelias. Above is Kiti's rendition of Neoregelia 'Takemura Princeps'. It was likely that this was drawn from a plant given to her by Dean Fairchild, who commissioned Kiti to create many horticultural drawing currently hanging in his home. Below is a collage of two Aechmea brevicollis. Kiti was known for cutting up her drawings then reassembling them into collages. In the on-line version of this issue is a series of her "collections".

It was in 1981 that Kiti did her first drawing of a bromeliad, Billbergia pyramidalis, which was given to her by a friend. In 1985 she joined the CBS and was intrigued by the wonderful and varied forms of bromeliads and other botanicals. Her switch from impressionistic and abstract painting to the realism of growing plants was fueled by the various plants she intentionally grew for the purpose of using for study and as models. Kiti once wrote “the surprise of each different and individual inflorescence is enough excitement to inspire drawing to record the many varieties nature produces”.

There are hundreds of her original watercolors and colored pencil drawings of bromeliads adorning homes throughout the World; Kiti’s collection of horticultural print greeting cards remain cherished gifts when sent by a friend; and her numerous Art Exhibitions held over the last 4 decades here in Florida were memorable events. Her generosity is well documented by her contributions of her works to many auctions of local and international organizations as well as providing posters and original designs for World Bromeliad Conferences’ publications.



**Kiti did numerous black ink drawings of bromeliads. Many eventually were reproduced in color. Right after Kiti joined the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society in 1985, Gene McKenzie convinced Kiti to provide many cover drawing for the CBS Newsletter. Of course at that time the Meristem was only a few mimeographed pages, but Kiti’s drawing added an elegance to the relatively new publication. A very detailed rendering of *Aechmea fasciata* was one of the drawings used on the Meristem cover.**

Although we will never see her picture surrounded by the Shmucker's logo on the "Today Show" with Willard Scott... announcing to the world her 100th birthday, Kiti has still left her own unique label on canvases, cards, tee-shirts and most importantly on the hearts of all who knew and admired her. For over 75 years, she constructed a legacy as a teacher and creator of beauty. The diversity of Kiti's work has distinguished her as a truly exceptional artist and especially as a master of "botanical art". She captured nature with pencils, ink and paint so that many others could enjoy it; and in so doing, Kiti Wenzel, in spite of her passing, allows us to keep her creativity and inspirations close to us for a long time to come.



Later used as notecards, the drawings of T. ehlersiana, T. streptophylla, T. xerographica and C. 'Black Magic', were first seen on the cover pages of the Meristem.



# The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

PRESENTS

## **COLOR MY WORLD WITH BROMELIADS**

(The CBS 2007 SHOW & SALE)



100's of Show plants on exhibit

1000's of bromeliads for sale as yard and patio plants, house and gift plants, decorations and arrangements.

## **Terry Park**

3410 Palm Beach Blvd (SR80)

Fort Myers, Florida

Saturday Dec. 1st 2007 9AM-5PM

Sunday Dec. 2nd 2007 10AM-4PM

For information contact Steve Hoppin at 239-997-2237

### **Please Come Join Us**

Enter Plants in the Friday, November 30th Show and be eligible to win over 30 Award Prizes!

In October request your Show Schedule and Entry Cards!

Sell plants Dec. 1st & 2nd under the tent.

Contact Brian Weber to reserve your free table space and obtain your seller ID!

Come, bring your relatives and friends and BUY.

With thousands of plants, supplies and mounting materials, everyone is bound to find something for your home & garden!

## CBS SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Sunday, September 16, 2007. **LOCATION:** St. John the Apostle's Metropolitan Community Church; 3409 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers, FL. **ATTENDANCE:** Approximately 40 members and nine guests. **WORKSHOP:** Eleanor Kinzie and Betty and Prevatt; "Preparing your Bromeliads for Shows". Betty Ann assisted by Eleanor gave detailed instructions and demonstrations on how to prepare ones plants for judging at shows. They discussed leaf removal and treatment, centering in pot for symmetry, and other details that judges evaluate and grade. Thanks Betty Ann and Eleanor for the interesting and informative presentation.

**Program:** Vice President Tom Foley, presiding in the absence of President Steve Hoppin, announced a change in meeting order to accommodate Guest Speaker Betsy McCrory who faced a long drive home. Ms. McCrory spoke on the basics of growing bromeliads, including potting, water and fertilizer requirements, scale control and other fundamentals. A great presentation for novice growers; Thanks Betsy.

**Break time** was announced by VP Tom. Bountiful snacks were provided by members and presented by Mary McKenzie, Sue Gordon and assistants.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Betsy Broadley; Wanda Schmoyer; Barry and Arlene Thomson; Jane McNeese; Kim Kerrigan; Bill McCrory; Kathy Pheeny Roanne McMurtry; and Janet Russel. Thanks for joining us, and please consider joining our enjoyable group. **DOOR PRIZES** were provided by Barbara Johnson, Sue Gordon and Brian Weber. **MINUTES** of the August 2007 CBS General Meeting were published in the CBS September Newsletter. There were no corrections, additions or deletions. Motion to approve the minutes as published was made by Vicky Chirnside, second by Gail Daneman **OLD BUSINESS:** None was discussed. **NEW BUSINESS:** None was discussed. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Vicky Chirnside gave details of FCBS Extravaganza to be held Sept 29 at Airport Hilton, Ft. Lauderdale; 1870 Griffin Rd, Dania Beach, FL 33004. Tel 954-920-3300. Room rates are \$89 single or double. There will be sales, seminars and other events. For details see August/September CBS newsletters, also available at [fcb.org](http://fcb.org); click on "Societies you can Join" and toggle down to CBS. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Donna Schneider announced a number of events including sales and shows of various societies of interest to CBS members. Chuck Ray announced the **Annual Yard and Garden Show** to be held at Collier County extension Office October 27 & 28. Event to include speakers on a variety of gardening subjects, vendors will supply every imaginable plant and gardening accessories. Flyers available. **SHOW AND TELL:** Brian Weber displayed and narrated the taxonomy and cultural details of dozens of spectacular bromeliads that were brought for display by Brian and other members. **RAFFLE** was conducted by Brian Weber, assisted by Gary Schneider and Dolly Dalton. Dozens of Beautiful Bromeliads donated by CBS members were raffled to the audience. **NOMINATION OF 2007 OFFICERS:** President Steve Hoppin nominated Eleanor Kinzie to head the Nomination Committee. Seconded by Vicky Chirnside. Betty Ann nominated Dolly Dalton and Luli Westra as members of the Nominating Committee. Second was unanimous by applause. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 PM.

Minutes submitted by

Chuck Ray, CBS Secretary

# EVENTS CALENDER

October 20th - Tropical Plant Bazaar at Four Mile Cove/Eco Preserve. 9A.M.-2P.M. A semi-annual event. You never know what you will find - palms, fruit trees, heliconias, bamboos, orchids, bromeliads, ginger, hibiscus and more. Free admission and parking. It is at the foot of the Veterans Parkway Bridge. For additional information call 549-4606.

October 27 - 28th - S.W. Fl. Yard and Garden Show. Collier County University Extension Office . 14700 Immokalee Road Naples. (10 miles east of I75). 239-353-4244. If you need more info about either of these events call Donna at Pine Island Tropicals 239-283-4874.

November 9-10th - 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.thebonsaiswfl.com](http://www.thebonsaiswfl.com).

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](mailto:steveandlarry@comcast.net) or 239-997-2237 for information.

## Bromeliads Down Under 18th World Bromeliad Conference



The Plant Show will be judged on Thursday, Sales will open on Thursday night, the Rare Plant Auction on Friday night and Banquet on Saturday 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 in both the competitive Show and Sales section.

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

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Join the Bromeliad Society International

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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.



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*Tillandsia tricolor* by Kiti Wenzel

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