



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE
BROMELIAD
SOCIETY'S
CALOOSAHATCHEE
MERISTEM

September-October



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD

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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

September Meeting– Sunday, Sept. 18th October Meeting– Sunday, Oct. 16th 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 these meetings

September Program and Speaker

Into the Lost World

By Bruce Holst

Please join our speaker Bruce Holst for a photographic journey to the summit of Roraima-tepui, the most famous of Venezuela's Lost World table mountains, where Selby Gardens is working to conduct a botanical inventory.

Bruce Holst has studied and collected plants of the American tropics for 30 years. He specializes on the floras of Belize, Venezuela, and Florida. He is editor of the Gardens' research

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journal, Selbyana, and former editor of the Journal of the Bromeliad Society and the Flora of the Venezuelan Guayana. He has led or participated in more than 20 international expeditions, most recently to Belize, French Guiana, and Venezuela. He has participated in Conservation International's Rapid Assessment Program of critical tropical habitats and served in the Peace Corps in Honduras.

October Program and Speaker

Craig Morell, who has spoken to our group on two other occasions about pesticides and fertilizers will present "Cultural Tips from a So-called Expert". We have all been at sometime on the receiving end of suggestions and tips from people who are considered knowledgeable about a subject. Greg will help to sort out the value of this advice we are given about caring for our bromeliads.

Craig Morell is the chief horticulturist at Pinecrest Gardens (formerly Parrot Jungle) in East Miami. He is an experienced horticulturist in tropical gardening as well as the proper use of the various chemicals including fertilizers and pesticides, which are available in the marketplace. Be sure to attend this program for good practical advice about the a to z of bromeliad care.

September Workshop

Catherine Peterson is still hoping for photos of various members' gardens to assemble a slide show presentation for the September Workshop. If several members were able to send a few electronic jpg pictures to Catherine, we will all get to enjoy some of the various gardens.

October Workshop

The light requirements vary significantly between genera and even between species and hybrids within a genus. October's Workshop will look at how light affects the growth and appearance of bromeliads. For Catherine Peterson to assemble a powerpoint program on this topic she would appreciate contributions of pictures of bromeliads growing under various conditions. Please pass these on to our Workshop Chairperson maybe at the next meeting.

July 2011 Program



A thoroughly enjoyable photographic tour of several Brazilian states by Guillermo Rivera was experienced with his “Brazil– A Bromeliad Adventure” presentation. He combined photographs of several tours to the bromeliad rich regions of Brazil in this program. Thank you Guillermo for this fun and educational travel adventure.

What could be even more exciting is the chance to take one of these bromeliad habitat trips to South America. Guillermo is right now putting a trip to north and south Ecuador. This trip planned for this Winter (Summer in South America) has to be setup very early, so if you are interested please go to “Guillermo Rivera’s South American Nature Tours” website and check on availability and specifics.

Website is: www.southamericanaturetours.com or contact Guillermo directly at rivera@intecar.com.ar

August 2011 Program

Many thanks to Betty Ann Prevatt and Eleanor Kinzie for assembling nearly all the native Florida bromeliads and allowing us to see them up close.

There are many other sources for further study of Florida’s bromeliads including the book by Harry Luther and David Benzing– *Native Bromeliads of Florida*. The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies’ website also has several articles and photographic essays about our native bromeliads and local parks.

Also take advantage of all our state and national parks in our area where you can see these plants growing in their natural environments.

July Workshop

Catherine Peterson lead a discussion at the July Workshop on how to amend your yard soil. With the help of the audience we discussed the ideal medias for both epiphytic and terrestrial bromeliads when you decide to grow them in the ground. Of course mounting epiphytes is the usual way to go for most of these bromeliads, but many others, especially the larger plants like the large aechmeas and most neoregelias and of course, the terrestrials, do very well planted in the ground in the landscape. Thanks to all those who contributed to this discussion.

August Workshop

Donna Schneider returned to the Workshop to contribute her experiences on entering plants and artistic entries in the CBS 2009 Show. From filling out entry cards to repotting to trimming leaves, she reviewed specific details to get the highest ribbons your plant desires.

Seasoned Master Judges, Larry Giroux and Vicky Chirnside added their views on what judges are looking for when judging exhibits.

Thank you to all who contributed to this discussion and demonstration to help exhibitors of our December Show.

Front and Back Cover Photos

The front page photo is also taken in Lyle Bowen's yard. It demonstrates the use of layering of various sized plants to create a visually pleasing natural terraced garden, even on flat ground. The back page shows how the addition of other semi-tropical plants like crotons can add color to beds of generally green bromeliads. Photos by Larry Giroux.

Selection of a Theme and Name for the CBS Show

Included below are some of the themes, which we have not used in the past. If you have others or have a preference for one of the older suggestions please let Marsha Crawford or Larry Giroux know.

Bromeliad Peddler - Regressing to an Olde World Village, we can work with the traditional street flower sellers and their carts.

My Secret Garden of Bromeliads - This would not use the ideas (women's sexual fantasies) from the book: My Secret Garden by Nancy Friday, but rather the general theme of "the special, secluded and relaxing garden of contemplation".

Harry Potter and the Magic of Bromeliads - If we can legally use the name "Harry Potter", we can build our theme around Magic, Wizardry and images from the "Potter" movies. (An alternate name that would be safe would be **The Wizard and the Magic of Bromeliads or Wizardry and Magic of Bromeliads**.)

Temple of Bromeliads - Using either Mayan or Egyptian temple imagery for example, we can select interesting decorations and awards.

Bromeliad Castaways - Using a tropical island backdrop would allow the use of beach and tropical props, very apropos to bromeliads.

Rock n' Roll with Bromeliads - This will take us back to the memories of the '50s.

A Galaxy of Bromeliads - The stars, the planets, aliens, there is no end to it...

The Bromeliad Bowl - Our sale is in the middle of football season. We can incorporate bromeliad into the gridiron scene.

Bromeliad Exposé' By Larry Giroux

With our September Workshop spotlighting landscaping of your yard, I found a couple of articles written 50 and 40 years ago. The first was written by Victoria Padilla (JBS, 1963, Vol 13 (1), 16-17) and discusses briefly the creation of a Florida garden using bromeliads and the second is about a landscape project in Western Australia by Bernard Stoner (JBS, 1971, Vol 21 (2), 30-32). I have supplemented the articles with pictures of local garden designs, which many of us have seen before on garden tours.

LANDSCAPING WITH BROMELIADS — By VICTORIA PADILLA

Photo by V. Padilla



It is this writer's belief that to appreciate the full beauty of a plant one should see it in a setting that to some degree simulates its natural habitat. True, a bromeliad makes a handsome pot specimen, but its effectiveness is often enhanced when it is placed in a planting with other genera that could well be its companions in its native home.

With this in mind, the writer so designed her greenhouse that the central portion, a section of approximately six feet by twenty feet, would be jungle-like in appearance. The above photo shows a small area in which bromeliads are happily growing with an assortment of other greenhouse plants. It is interesting to note that Vrieseas, Aechmeas, Billbergias, Neoregelias, and Guzmanias all seem to thrive planted in this very rich, well-drained soil. Although close to the floor, the broms receive good light and air circulation and do not mind their lowly position under large limbs of trees on which grow Tillandsias and orchids and which also serve as supports for vines. A similar planting could easily be duplicated in a planter in a home.



Photos by Jack O. Holmes

Bromeliads in the Florida Garden

BROMELIADS IN THE GARDEN

By BERNARD STONER

I wonder how many times I have suggested to people that they should try growing a few bromeliads and have met with the reply that they have nowhere to grow them. It is hard to convince them that such exotic looking plants can be grown successfully in their flower beds and rockeries.

It would be difficult to provide a list of plants which are



Photo by Jack O. Holmes

suitable for growing in the open, as the climate differs widely in different areas. However, there are obvious requirements which are necessary for success, such as reasonable freedom from frost and adequate shade. Experience here suggests that many species will stand light frost without any damage, and while frosts may cause quite a lot of superficial injury to a plant, it is continuous cold, wet conditions for long periods that is the real killer. Every garden has its microclimates, and it is worth going to a little trouble to select a favorable position, sheltered as far as possible from the worst of the weather. Some degree of shade has proved necessary for practically all the species I have tried so far, with the exception of *Billbergia nutans*. Many varieties are said to grow in full sun, but sun in a hot, humid climate is by no means the same as sun in a very dry climate with the humidity down below 20%. The very dry conditions we experience locally can cause far more damage than full sun in the tropics. Most species seem to grow just as well, and flower as freely, in nearly full shade as they do in the sun.

It is also desirable to choose a well-drained position, especially for plants such as the *Dyckias*, which come from dry areas. A number of species have been growing here in soil

which is generally quite waterlogged for several weeks each winter, without showing any ill effects. This is not to say that they would not do better in a well-drained position. Another point to remember is that a plant growing in the open ground may look entirely different from the same plant growing in the glasshouse. I have several here that I am no longer able to identify until they flower. The amount of shade provided will also affect the shape and color to a marked degree.

Billbergias have proved excellent subjects for planting out; there are a number of hardy species which seem to grow almost anywhere. *B. distachia* may not be as spectacular as some of the other varieties, but I still consider it a most useful and ornamental plant, almost as hardy as *nutans* but needing some shade. On at least one occasion I have found it with leaves white with frost, which did not cause any damage. In my conditions it is one of the first of the Billbergias to flower towards the end of winter. It is a very variable species, and it is worth going to some trouble to find a good clone. As so often happens, the plants with the best foliage generally have fewer flowers than the plain ones. My preference is for a variety which has the leaves very densely silver scaled, with the flowers having the sepals only blue-tipped, the petals being all green. In full shade the whole flower may be green. This may be the variety *bakeri*, and its main attractions are the large pink bracts and the number of flowers produced, averaging 20 to each spike. The forms with purple tinted leaves, some with pale spots, may be nice foliage plants but often produce only about 6 flowers on a spike. *B. vittata* is another species which has withstood frost and also flowers in winter. Plants growing in nearly full shade flowered last winter earlier than plants in a sheltered spot on a verandah which received far more light.

There are, of course, species which require warm, sheltered conditions, or which are too valuable to risk in the open. I have not yet tried growing *B. × 'Muriel Waterman'* in this manner, although it grows so well in a cold glasshouse that it might prove to be at home in the open. During the past year or two I have been trying to discover whether *B. × 'Fantasia'* can be grown successfully in the garden. It is generally agreed that this

hybrid is a glasshouse plant needing fairly warm conditions, at least for successful flowering. An offset was planted out in the garden, in a position sheltered from the worst of the wind and rain and has survived two winters. The temperature at times must have been very close to freezing point but I don't think the plant has actually been subjected to frost. Another plant was sent to a garden near Perth, and the first year it produced a spike, but this was spoilt by heavy rain. It was then moved to a sheltered spot where it would be comparatively dry and it flowered successfully last July, the showy inflorescence being admired by a number of people. Another species which is growing in the open is *B. sanderiana*, and no doubt there are many more.

Some Neoregelias are also suitable for this type of culture, the only ones tried here being some hybrids of *N. caroliniae*, which are doing very well. A few *N. carcharodon* will be added as soon as the seedlings are large enough. It is rather risky to plant out small seedlings, even if they survive they seem to take a long time to become established. I prefer larger plants, removed from their pots.

Quesnelia liboniana was planted in a shady, sheltered position and is growing well, not forming a clump, but rather a chain of plants as the rhizome wanders over the surface. It has not flowered yet, but plants of the same clone, grown in small pots, flowered regularly although the plants are only half the size of those growing in the open.

Dyckias are usually regarded as plants for the open air, and plenty of sun, but even these hardy plants need the right conditions. A plant of *D. brevifolia* failed in my garden, either from too much rain or possibly damage to the leaves from hail, causing the plant to rot. Another variety is doing well in the same conditions and I hope to try a few more. For those who have plenty of room there are plants such as Bromelias and Puyas. I have seedlings of *Puya berteroniana* (alpestris) which look healthy whatever the weather is like—it is a pity they are so slow growing.

Another way in which bromeliads can be used in the garden is to place the plants, in their pots, at any suitable position during the warm weather. There are odd corners in most gardens

which would be improved by a plant or two; the pots can be concealed or perhaps buried in the ground, being taken inside again when the cold weather starts. Plants growing on pieces of tree fern, etc., might also prove useful for temporary plantings. —*Western Australia*. (Reprinted from *Bromeletter*, the official journal of the Bromeliad Society of Australia.)



Water features such as this pond surrounded by colorful foliage bromeliads can greatly enhance your garden. This is a picture of Lyle and Robyn Bowen's backyard, taken several years ago. Photo by Larry Giroux



Here Lyle has created a “sea” of color in a partially shaded area with the use of many plants of the same kind. The low lying bromeliads, that flatten such as neoregelias, many of the nidulariums and cryptanthus do well as ground cover. Photo by Larry Giroux.

When Lyle first started his landscaping project, he had several native palms to deal with. In the picture below you can see that simply placing epiphytic bromeliads into the space between the trunk and the older fronds provide a great way of displaying your broms, especially aechmeas with showy inflorescences. Here Lyle has used several varieties of the patterned aechmeas such as *Aechmea chantinii*, *Aechmea* ‘Ensign’ and *Aechmea correia-araujoii*.



varieties of the patterned aechmeas such as *Aechmea chantinii*, *Aechmea* ‘Ensign’ and *Aechmea correia-araujoii*.

Your patio and lanai areas are an extension of your garden. The 70% or so of light permitted by your patio screening is perfect for most bromeliads. You also have the advantage of protection from insects and leaves and debris falling into the plant cups. With less air flow and no creatures to eat the scale insects, you will need to set up a spraying schedule. Photos by Larry Giroux.



CBS Meeting Minutes July 18th, 2011

LOCATION: Covenant Presbyterian Church, Ft. Myers, FL. ATTENDANCE: 47; including the following new members: Ken and Elizabeth Rapple, Victor Camp and Debbie Hughes; and guests: Judith Dugan, Christian Jalbert, Judy Brzoska. WORKSHOP: "How to amend your yard soil—what works, what doesn't" led by Catherine Peterson. The key to success in planting bromeliads in the ground depends on well-drained soil. It was suggested that adding 3 to 6 inches of natural compost to the soil helps with drainage. PROGRAM: "Brazil- A Bromeliad Adventure" by Guillermo Rivera. Our speaker brought us through the states of: Minas, Gerais and Bahia on a bromeliad expedition. Brazil has over 1000 species of bromeliads as well as huge biodiversity. Many areas in the country are unexplored and several new species were discovered on this trip. BREAK: A twenty minute break was enjoyed. Thank you to Mary McKenzie and volunteers for the delicious refreshments. CALL TO ORDER: President, Vicky Chirnside called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm. MINUTES: Deborah Jalbert accepted the minutes of May and June as printed and Betty Ann Prevatt seconded the motion. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Reports and announcements will appear on the bulletin board or printed in the newsletter for the membership to read. NEW BUSINESS: CBS has been asked to donate five quality bromeliads for the 2011 Extravaganza auction; monies raised will go to FCBS. Registration forms are available on the FCBS website for the Bromeliad World Conference 2012. In addition to Dr. Larry Giroux, Eloise Beach will also be a speaker at the World Conference. DOOR PRIZE: *Neoregelia* "Red Tiger" was donated by Barbara Johnson and won by a lucky new member. SHOW & TELL: Conducted by Dr. Larry Giroux. RAFFLE: Conducted by Dr. Larry Giroux and assisted by Dolly Dalton and Terri Lazar. ADJOURNMENT: President, Vicky Chirnside adjourned the meeting at 4:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by, MaryLynn Murphy, CBS Secretary

CBS MEETING Minutes August 21st, 2011

LOCATION: Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers, FL
ATTENDANCE: 36 members. Our guest was Pete Quasius. WORKSHOP: Donna Schneider gave a presentation on exhibiting bromeliads at our upcoming show in December and Dr. Larry Giroux discussed what judges will look for in plants exhibited. PROGRAM: Betty Ann Prevatt talked about our Native Florida Bromeliads and showed us live species of all but one of our eighteen Florida Bromeliads. BREAK: We had a thirty minutes break and enjoyed all the delicacies brought by members and extend our thanks to Mary McKenzie and the volunteers for bringing, setting up and presenting the refreshments. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Vicky Chirnside at 3:25 PM. There were no old or new business reports. A discussion followed about our show and sale on December 2, 3 and

4, 2011. Marsha Crawford is the co-chair for the show, we still need a chair person to start the committees. Also needed are recommendations for the show's Theme and members are asked to submit their ideas to Dr. Larry Giroux. The BSI Journal has a new Editor and his first issue has been sent to BSI subscribers. The Editor vows to catch up with issues owed to the BSI membership. Also discussed was the Extravaganza in Daytona, "The Art of Bromeliads 2011" on November 4 to 6, 2011. Now is the time to make reservations and make plans to enter the International Cryptanthus Show and attend all the events. DOOR PRIZE: A beautiful *Alcanterea imperialis* was won by Ken Repple. SHOW AND TELL: Conducted by Brian Weber. RAFFLE: Conducted by Dr. Larry Giroux and Dolly Dalton. ADJOURNMENT: President Vicky Chirnside adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Migliore, acting Secretary.

Holiday Party Date Change

Just a heads up—**The CBS Holiday Party** will be held on the **SECOND** Sunday of December at Laura Cordell's home in Buckingham. Please reserve that date change.

Calendar of Bromeliad Events

November 4th—5th, 2011

2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza & The 12th Biennial International Cryptanthus Show. A judged Show will be held on the 4th, with Sales, Seminars, Banquet, Rare Plant Auction. The Plaza Resort and Spa, Dayton Beach, Florida.

December 2nd-4th, 2011

The CBS Bromeliad Show and Sale. Terry Park. Entries and Judging Friday, Show and Sale open to the public - Saturday 9AM-5PM and Sunday 10AM-4PM

December 10th, 2011

The CBS Holiday Party has been moved to the second Sunday of December. It will be held at the Buckingham home of Laura Cordell. Details to follow as the date gets closer.

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



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This is your September/October Newsletter