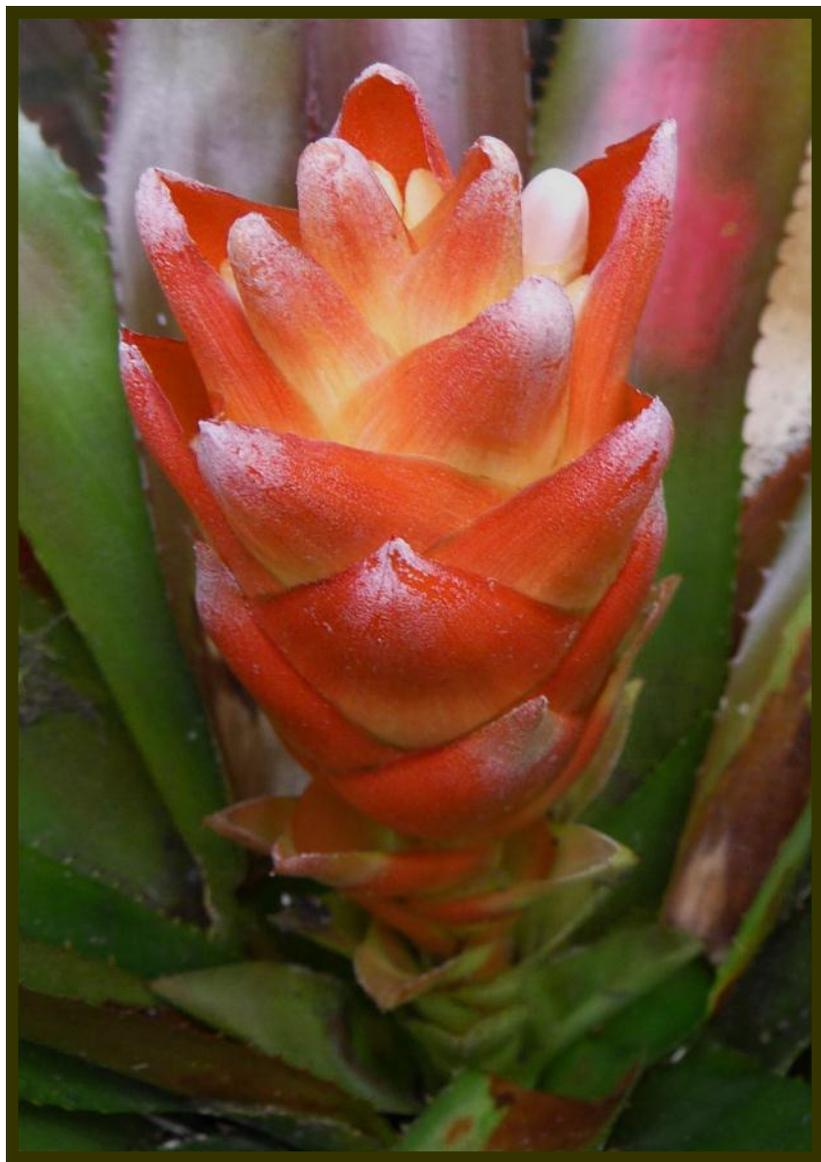




Jan-Feb

2013

THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S CALOOSAHATCHEE MERISTEM



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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TREASURER—Betty Ann Prevatt 334-0242 (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

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Brian Weber 941-256-4405 (brianweber1b@aol.com)

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WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON—Co-Chair: Pete Diamond (704) 213-7601

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CBS FCBS Rep.—Position available

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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

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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

January Meeting— Sunday, Jan 20th, 2013
February Meeting— Sunday, Feb 17th, 2013
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 not allowed at the January meeting

Membership Sales are allowed at the February meeting.

January Speaker and Program

“Why My Plant Did Not Make the Head Table in the Show.”

By Jay Thurrott

Jay Thurrott is the current President of the Bromeliad Society International; he was elected to this position after serving 6 years as a Florida Regional BSI Director. Jay has been involved with bromeliads and many organizations, including his home town Society, the East Florida Bromeliad Society in Daytona Beach and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, where he has served in most of the Officer positions.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

Since becoming a Certified BSI Panel Judge, he has traveled throughout the United States and Australia to judge flower and bromeliad shows. He has also been a guest instructor at BSI Judges' Schools.

Jay is highly qualified to discuss the characteristics of entry plants for a BSI sanctioned bromeliad show....not only from the judge's point of view, but from his practical involvement based on his impressive number of winning plants and awards. Although our Show will not be until December, starting in March there are several Florida Societies within easy driving distance who are having their annual bromeliad shows, which are open to other societies.

Jay and his wife Calandra will be bring plants to sell at the meeting. Jay and Calandra have been collecting for many years and have amassed an unusual collection of plants of which hopefully you will be able to add to your own collection.

January Workshop

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies has been around for over 30 years. In the early days, Carol Johnson deseminated news through the quarterly Newsletter, which is still alive and well and being published by Karen Andreas. However, in the 1990's, Michael Andreas created a website for the FCBS, which has altered our access to and our understanding of bromeliads. This pathway has become the premier, preferred site for hobbyist, researchers and professional growers of bromeliads throughout the World.

At our January meeting, Peter Diamond, our Workshop Chair will give us an introductory course on how to use this invaluable source and what is available to those with internet access.

February Program

Craig Morell, who has spoken to our group on several other occasions will present at our February meeting a program entitled "Plant Clinic for Troubled Plants". Members are encouraged to bring to this meeting their plant problems for Craig to diagnose and suggest remedies. Craig is very familiar with the wide range of infestations and problems dealing with tropical plants and especially bromeliads from his work with these plants at Miami's Pinecrest Gardens. Please bring plants so we can have an on-hands, interactive discussion.

February Workshop

We are more fortunate than most of the growers in the rest of the US, in that our Spring comes somewhat earlier.

Peter Diamond, our Workshop Chair, will lead a discussion about preparing your collection for the upcoming growing season. Such topics as fertilizing, removing offsets and either potting them or mounting them, treating your collection for insects or preventing weevil infections will be touched upon. If you have specific concerns about your plants, please attend this Workshop and let our experts answer your questions.

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December Sale

For the last few years, since the managers of Terry Park have decided to cut off access to the rear of the Park from the Palm Beach Blvd entrance, our Bromeliad Sales have been less successful than we had hoped for. This year seems to have been an exception. Although we had a slow Sunday, Saturday sales were great. Financial details were touched on at the Holiday Party and additional statistics can be had from Betty Ann Prevatt, who did another excellent job of handling the finances and distributing the profits to the sellers. Both vendors and purchasers seemed happy during the two day event, which was blessed by perfect weather, a great variety of bromeliads and related items, food and beverages for the vendors and a hassle free sales area.

Special thanks to all who organized and advertised for this event and also kudos to vendors and our customers for making this a fun and profitable weekend.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Our Holiday Party on December 17th at the home of Dr. Jeff Joffe of Punta Gorda. Was a overwhelming success and everyone seemed to have a great time. There were more members and guests than I can remember at previous CBS parties and the food was too much. The raffle was overflowing with great plants and items, in part to the numerous donations of our host, Jeff. Many thanks to all who made this a memorable holiday event.



Photo above is of the participants and winners of our Holiday Party contest. Prizes were donated plants from Jeff Joffe, our host. In the lower picture are seen the treasures to be had at the raffle. Photos by Larry Giroux

Bromeliad Expose'

By Larry Giroux

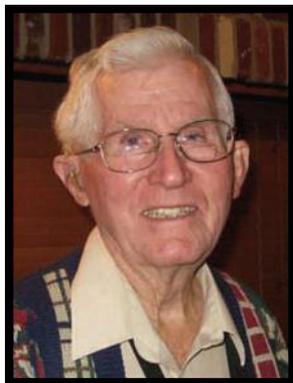
Odean Head of Houston Texas has been a "Culture" consultant and a Houston Bromeliad Society's Newsletter contributor for many years. Recently, Odean gave a program about Mini-neos to the membership of BS/H. He followed up with a written article for their Bulletin. I am reprinting his article, which first appeared in Vol 45 No 2 February, 2012 issue of the BS/H Bulletin. I have augmented the article with a few additional photos.

Miniature Neos

By Odean Head

Pictures courtesy of Odean Head

Merrill O'Neal and I gave a program on miniature neos last month and this article is to document some of what we covered. It should benefit those who were unable to attend and those who may be developing a new interest in the minis. Responses that we received during the meeting indicate that there were several people planning to add excitement to their collection with the minis. I have been growing some small neos for many years and can relate both failures and successes. My resources have been very limited. I have



grown *ampullaceas*, *zonatas*, *lilliputianas*, *olens*, *paucifloras* and several other small neos. Now, all of a sudden it seems, a large number of pretty little miniature neo hybrids appear on the scene. Before I go any further, I want you to know that I still love my big beautiful neos. The emphasis toward the smaller plants is critical to my need to reduce the physical size of my collection. The minis also add some uniqueness to the ways we can display our bromeliads. My experiences indicate that some cultural changes need to be made for the minis. We discussed the culture changes and the enhanced display opportunities at the meeting.

Culture

Most of a plant's needs are related to its source and use of water. A mature neo growing in a pot will have three sources for water: the plant's

roots, cup and leaves. The leaves are the ultimate water storage and receive it from all sources for use of the plant as needed. When a leaf becomes completely dry, it dies. Most of the pups on miniature mothers are growing on short stolons extending them away from their mother. When they are half the size of their mother they still may not show any root development or sufficient leaves to form a cup. This eliminates two sources for their water which should be applied to the foliage more frequently without keeping them too wet. I prefer to let them stay on their mother a little longer and wait for more growth and warmer temperatures which will speed up root development and make them self-sufficient faster. I have also learned that if you grow the minis close together you can eliminate some neglect since as a general rule they need to be watered more often and are less likely to be overlooked.

Displays

And now, you might say, we get to the best roles that miniature neos can play. With all of the new hybrids, we can find most of the shapes, colors and markings that we have in the larger plants. We have minis with spots, stripes, marbling, banding and combinations thereof. Their small sizes give us the space to arrange multiple plants into our display designs.

Any references that I make to show entries do not mean that I just want you to build the display for the show. I think that you and your friends will get pleasure from your display whether it sits on your patio, deck, greenhouse or wherever you like it. Our show is the best means we have to show the public how beautiful our bromeliads can be. The trends of new housing developments seem to either eliminate the yard or reduce it to the size of a



patio. Bromeliad displays could help replace some of the lack of landscape plantings. I have never seen a single entry of a miniature neo on the head table at a show. Its lack of size is a big disadvantage. Its small size can be a big advantage in many of the other

categories. Entries into horticultural displays can be very unique and pleasing. Some of the best uses of the minis are probably in the Artistic Category. Our shows are really expanding in this area. Last year's show was the best we have ever had. However, the two classes that could benefit the

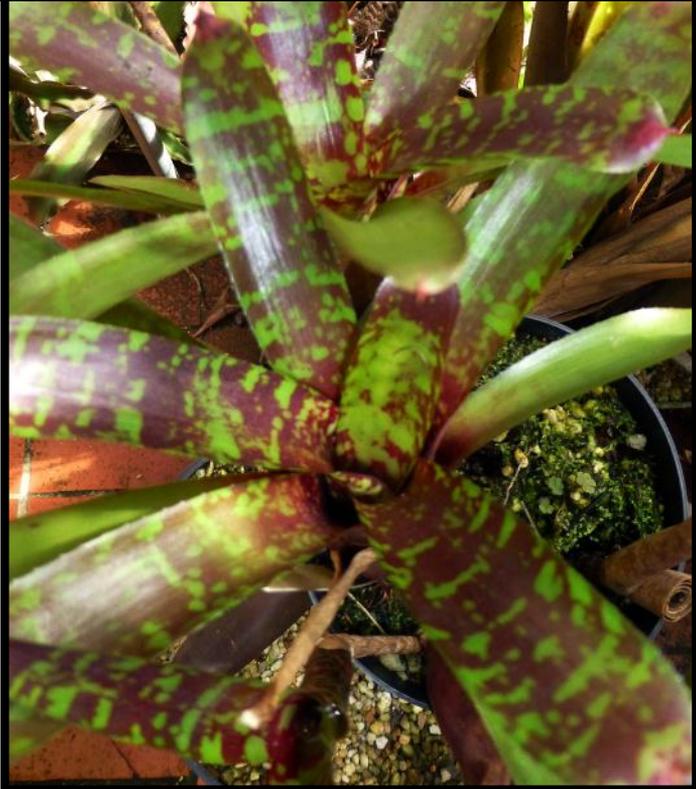


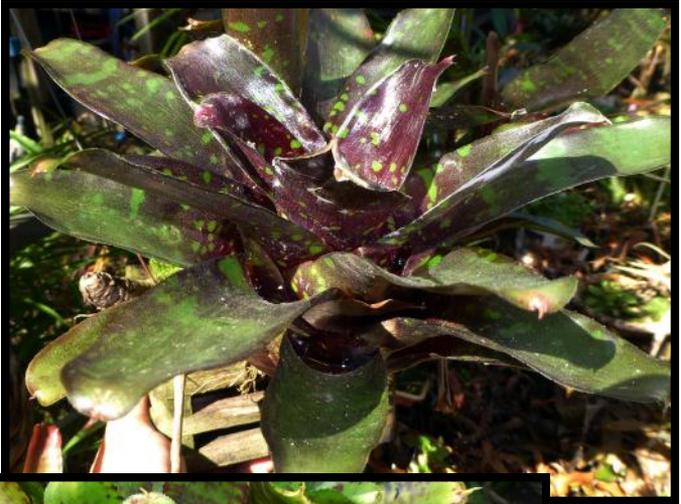
most with the new minis have not really surfaced yet. These classes are Dish Gardens and Terrariums. I do not have the experience or expertise to tell you how to build these displays. However, we have the expertise in the society that can, after they see what is available with the minis. They can build something of real beauty and then tell the rest of us how they did it. I enjoyed talking to you about my mini neos but I got myself into some deep trouble with my plants. Some even filed complaints that they were discriminated against. They could not understand why I picked January to show them



off instead of waiting until they had their prettiest faces on. I thought they looked pretty good. That just goes to show you that it is hard to please everyone. Houston, Texas

Photos by Odean Head







Front and Back Covers

By Larry Giroux

On the front cover is one of my more spectacular bromeliads in my collection, the hybrid *Aechmea nidularioides* X *Aechmea biflora*. On the back cover are photos of the parents *Ae. nidularioides* (lower picture by Sathitvong Chayangsu, courtesy of the FCBS Website) and *Ae. biflora* (upper picture by Elvira Gross, courtesy of the FCBS Website). With hybrids you don't always know what a cross will look like; nevertheless, often, especially with the crossing of species, dominant characteristics from the parents are notable in the hybrid. Color determination of the inflorescences is usually a much more complex process than simply expression of dominant genes. In this hybrid the yellow/gold and the dark rose of the parents seem to have been blended in the color of the progeny's bloom.

CBS Meeting Minutes November 17th, 2012

1:15 PM - President Marsha Crawford called the meeting to order at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Ft. Myers, FL. ATTENDANCE: 51 members and three guests: John & Alice Thorne and Marco Sequeiro. **WORKSHOP:** Pete Diamond conducted a very informative workshop on growing *Pitcairnia*, drawing on experience shared by Steve Hoppin; i.e., feeding schedule end March/beginning April; high water requirements – wet with well-drained soil; use of saucers; growing medium; cold tolerance down to mid-30's; their offsets from roots of the plants, etc. Pete suggested logging onto FCBS Website for information.

2:10 PM PROGRAM - Dr. Terrie Bert's "Bromeliads from O to P" was a lively and educational program while working through the alphabet for the meeting attendees- *Orthophytum* with 55 species which enjoy full sun all day and *Pepinia* and *Pitcairnia*, an unresolved genus containing 57 species. Dr. Bert spent some time explaining the background and history and contributions made by Roberto Burle Marx born in 1909, an architect whose extensive work exists today – in museums, botanical gardens, parks, etc. in as much as many bromeliads have been named for him. At the end of her presentation a quiz

was conducted where numerous members won a bromeliad grown by Dr. Bert.

3:10 PM - Refreshment and social break. Thank you to Mary McKenzie and all the volunteers supplying refreshments, set-up and breakdown

3:45 PM - BUSINESS MEETING. 2012 Show & Sale. Betsy Burdette stated that advertising has been done for the Show & Sale, flyers are available for distribution; the road signs are here ready to be picked up for placing along roadways leading to Terry Park on December 1st and, which must be picked up Dec. 2nd. Dr. Larry stated he would e-mail flyers and maps to members for forwarding to their email lists. Betty Ann Prevatt asked all workers at the Sale to bring food contributions in coolers in as much as kitchen facilities are unavailable this year. Members were also reminded to bring boxes. **Holiday Party.** Dr. Larry reminded members that the Holiday Party will be at the home of Dr. Jeff Joffe in Punta Gorda, refer to the Nov-Dec Newsletter for details. Betsy Burdette will conduct games and competitions for using bromeliads for Christmas wreaths, hats and ornaments. Members were reminded to bring bromeliads and related items for a raffle. **Election of Officers.** Carol Sweat, Nominating Committee Chairman, stated that the current officers have agreed to serve another term with the exception of Recording Secretary, that Carley Sushil and Sharalee Diaz have agreed to co-chair the Office position. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously moved that Marsha Crawford, President; Larry Giroux, Vice-President; Carley Sushil and Sharalee Diaz, Co-Secretaries and Betty Ann Prevatt, Treasurer are our officers for 2013. President, Marsha Crawford requested someone to become a Co-chair with Pete Diamond for the Workshop Committee. Contact Marsha or Pete about details.

Vicky Chirnside and Larry Giroux suggested that members hold off making donations in the memory of Harry E. Luther (1952-2012) former Director of the Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center, to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens until the new "Bromeliad Research Center" is finalized by the Directors of the BSI and Selby Botanic Gardens.

DOOR PRIZE: George Walker won the *Aechmea fendleri* donated by Terri Bert.

4:00 PM - SHOW & TELL: Conducted by Dale Kammerlohr.

RAFFLE: Conducted by Larry Giroux assisted by Betsy Burdette. Otto Kristen won 3 poinsettias! **ADJOURNMENT:** Upon motion and second the meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Terri Lazar, Acting Secretary

Calendar of Bromeliad Events

March 23-24

Bromeliad Society of Broward County ... “Gone Wild with Bromeliads” Show and Sale.

April 20-21

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale

The Garden Club of Sanford (on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd) 9:00AM—4:00PM.

August 17-18

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale

The Garden Club of Sanford (on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd) 9:00AM—4:00PM.

September 21

Bromeliad Extravaganza

Hosted by Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

Holiday Inn Harborside, 401 2nd Street, Indian Rocks Beach, 33785, 727-595-9484. Info contacts: Susan Sousa (susansousa1@yahoo.com) and Judy Lund (glund@tampabay.rr.com)

December 6-8 (Tentative)

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society’s Show and Sale

Back of Terry Park, Fort Myers, Fl. Judged Show– Friday, Dec 6th; Sale Saturday, Dec 7th, 9AM-4PM and Dec 8th 10AM-3PM. For additional information contact Betty Ann Prevatt (bprevatt@aol.com).

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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