



CALOOSAHATCHEE
BROMELIAD
SOCIETYs
CALOOSAHATCHEE
MERISTEM

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February 2010



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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Neoregelia 'Linda Cathcart' is one of a long line of variegated neoregelias created by Chester Skotak of Costa Rica using a special clone of *Neoregelia carolinae*, which transmits a "variegation gene". This cross of *Neo. (carolinae x concentrica) x (concentrica x 'Takemura Princeps')* was made in 2002 by Chester, then grown, introduced into cultivation and named for his wife, Linda, co-owner of Tropiflora in Sarasota, FL. by Dennis Cathcart. Photo by Larry Giroux.



THE CALOOSA HATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

February Meeting Sunday February 21st, 2010

ST. JOHN the APOSTLE CHURCH 3049 MCGREGOR AVE. FT. MYERS.

DOORS WILL BE OPEN AT 12:30 FOR SETUP.

MEMBERSHIP SALES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED

at the February Meeting as Terrie will be bringing plants for sale.

Friendship plants, Raffle items are always welcome.

There will be a Door Prize and Show and Tell

February Workshop

(starts at 1:15PM)

“Cold Damage in Paradise”

By Steve Hoppin

Few of us who grow bromeliads and other tropical plants were unaffected by the repeated onslaught of cold temperatures last month. **Steve would like to expand on Eleanor’s request to write down the name of plants, which succumbed to the cold and those that fared well, and ask members to bring in some of the damaged items and be ready to discuss what we did right and what we did wrong.** If we don’t have another spell like this last one this year, we know it will happen some day. Lets learn from our losses and be better prepared next time.

February Program

(starts after the break)

**“Bromeliad Evolution: From Tepuis and Highlands to
Lowlands, Seashores, Mountains, and Deserts”**

By Dr. Terrie Bert

Terrie writes: “In this presentation, I talk about the development of bromeliad genera from the earliest bromeliads to now and about their spread throughout Western Hemisphere warm regions and adaptation to different climates. To tell this story, I use bromeliad shape and form (morphology), genetics, distribution, and ecology and Western Hemisphere climatic and geographic history.”

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affililate of:



FM-LCGC



**Cryptanthus
Society**



**Bromeliad Society
International**



FCBS

Society News

Message from the President

If you weren't at the January meeting, you missed a great start to the New Year! Thank you to everyone for the support you gave me and help in setting up and breaking down the meeting rooms.

Dennis Cathcart presented a wonderful program and brought plenty of great bromeliads to sell. (See Larry's write-up.)

Boy! The cold damage is really showing up now. Please make a list of your plants that were hurt and those that didn't get hurt. We will compile a list to share, which would be very helpful to all of us. Steve is scheduling this month's Workshop also around our recent cold spell. Hopefully we will not have to use any of the information we will learn from this meeting, but it will be nice to know.

In order for our Hospitality Committee to also enjoy the meeting, I am asking everyone to bring their refreshments ready to serve, or prepare it yourself when you get there; tables will be set up and ready to use. Also, after our social time is over and before we reconvene, please collect your plates or containers. You can put leftovers in the refrigerator until you are ready to leave, if necessary. In the past, Mary and her helpers missed out on Show & Tell and part of the program due to preparation and cleaning up. In addition I have rearranged the agenda a little bit so that they can participate in Show & Tell. They will not be washing your dishes anymore either.

Our Annual auction is in March, so please be searching for a pretty bromeliad(s) (or a bromeliad related item) to donate. There will be much more about the Auction in the March issue of the Meristem.

I look forward to seeing you at the February meeting.

Eleanor

January Program



We are always appreciative when Dennis and Linda Cathcart come to visit us at the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. Besides the great selection of plants they bring for sale, the donations to our raffles and the interesting discussions during the breaks, we can always count on an educational and entertaining program. This meeting was no exception. Starting from the Southern United States through to the southern countries of South America, Dennis followed the progression of terrestrial bromeliads in their natural habitat. Unable to have every plant he talked about, there was nevertheless, a great representation of terrestrials for sale. Many thanks to this generous couple for giving of their friendship and time.

Our Speaker for the February Program

Dr. Terrie Bert is a longstanding member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society (SBS) and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and has held multiple offices in the SBS. She also served the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) as a representative and officer for eight years, holding all offices in that organization. For the Bromeliad Society International, she has been a Florida Director, Nominations Committee Chair, and Affiliate Programs Committee Chair. She currently is Librarian, Curator of the Wally Berg Award of Excellence, and an internationally accredited BSI Master Judge.

She's given over 100 presentations on bromeliads to numerous bromeliad societies and other groups, including societies in New Zealand, Louisiana, and California, and has authored 12 articles for the BSI Journal and the FCBS website and newsletter.

She cultivates approximately 1,200 different bromeliads in 24 genera. She's won multiple top awards in local bromeliad shows and BSI world conferences and is a volunteer for and contributor to the BSI Bromeliad Identification Center.

In Terrie's "other life", she has a Ph.D. in marine biology and is a research scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. In her spare time, she makes quilts and SCUBA dives.

February Workshop

Please take a few minutes and walk around your yard and enclosures writing down which plants were damaged during January's freeze as well as the names of those that seemed to tolerate the low temperatures. Also, write down the temps and hourly durations your area experienced. We would also like to see up close what kind of damage occurred, so please bring in a sampling of the damage.

March Auction

Just a heads-up about our March Annual Auction. Again this year we are asking our members to donate plants or plant related items. As we did last year we will be accepting donations such as bromeliads, other tropical plants, bromeliad and

Great opportunity to pick up replacement plants.

Lyle Bowen as part of the Eagle Ridge Annual Yard Sale, will be offering 100's of mature bromeliads and offsets for \$4 each or 3 for \$10. Anyone who has been to his Open Houses in the past know of his vast assortment of Neoregelias, Aechmeas and other bromeliads. Date for this event is **Saturday February 13th**, Lyle's address is 7460 Twin Eagle Ln. Ft. Myers. #239-768-0550. BTW I attended the Yard Sale last year and it is worth the drive.

The Friends of the Fakahatchee are sponsoring a special fund raising event at the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve. Please pass this information on to anyone who might be interested in supporting the Preserve and the educational work they do.

Fakahatchee Discovery Series

Sponsored by the Friends of Fakahatchee

THE SAFARI

Join us to explore nature and enjoy the wonders of the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve, home of the Ghost Orchid.

Saturday, February 27

from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. (gates open at noon)

Janes Scenic Drive, Copeland, Florida

- Guest Appearance by Clyde Butcher
- Scenic Tram Rides
- Naturalist-Guided Swamp Walks
- Nature Walks at an Easy Level
- Birding Walks
- Wildlife Exhibits
- "Answer Man" Biologist's Info Booth
- Demonstrations of Prescribed Burn
- Florida Photo Gallery
- Professional Photography Hands-On Class
- Swamp Buggy Rides (optional)
- Sunset Bonfire
- "Cracker Dinner" with spit-roasted whole hog unusual Olde Florida delicacies
Complimentary Wine courtesy of Redwood Creek

Cost \$125 per person, includes donation and annual membership in the Friends.

Friends of Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.

Consult your financial advisor about how part of your contribution could be tax-deductible.

Places are limited!

Book online at www.friendsoffakahatchee.org or phone (239) 695-2905.

Bromeliad Expose By Larry Giroux

I have a reprieve from writing an article for this month's Meristem. Derek Butcher, who most of us know as the former BSI Bromeliad Cultivar Registrar and "Uncle Derek", who writes for the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Website, graciously offered me an article clarifying two 1800's *Nidularium* hybrids and proposing that these are in truth bigenerics, as suggested by other taxonomists. Thanks to Derek for all the good work he does for bromeliad enthusiasts.

Two New Bigenerics from the Past

By Derek Butcher, Dec 2009

This all started when Mike Andreas said he was growing *Nidularium* 'Degeneum' that he had obtained from Pineapple Place Nursery in Florida some years ago. This got me wondering because Elton Leme mentioned it in his book *Nidularium Bromeliads of the Atlantic Forest*. p183. 2000', see below:

"38. *Nidularium X digeneum* Beck, Wien. Ill. Gartenzeit. 43:121, pl. 1. 1893; "*Nidularium digeneum*".

"When Beck (1893) described *Nidularium digeneum*, he considered it to be a hybrid of *N. innocentii* and *N. fulgens* (*Bromelia nitens*). However, the morphological traits revealed by the plate that is part of the protologue, that is, slender inflorescence with few flowers (the basal fascicle has only two flowers), spineless floral bracts, flowers long-pedicellate, petals not cucullate and stigma exceeding corolla length, suggest that this is a bigeneric hybrid."

The decision that *Bromelia nitens* was a synonym of *Nidularium fulgens* was made by Mez but all the citations he gave, lead nowhere and it appears that *B. nitens* was a nurseryman's name and never described. Leme's findings suggest that one of the parents was another genus and one that fits the bill is what was known then as *Aregelia* with its pedicellate flowers.

Luck? Coincidence? I don't know but let us look to see what Mez in *Das Pflanzenreich* 1935 had to say on a different bigeneric.

"***Nidularium Chantrieri*** Ed. Andre in Rev. Hortic. LXVII. (1895) 452, c. tab.

Nidularium innocentii x fulgens is declared there as a hybrid; the form of the flower does not seem to agree with this interpretation and



Painting of *Nidularium X digeneum* published by G. Beck in 1983. According to Elton Leme the flower traits indicate a possible bigenetic hybrid involving *Nidularium*. (See discussion in this article.)

On the top of the opposite page is a drawing made in the late 1800's of *Nidularium* 'Chantrieri'. This hybrid was originally described as a cross of two *Nidularium*s. Below opposite page (left) is a photo of typical open neoregelia flowers and (right) a drawing of *Nidularium innocentii* demonstrating the typical elongated closed flowers. If the drawing of *N. 'Chantrieri'* is correct, the appearance of the open flowers cast some doubt as to the true parentage of this hybrid. (See discussion in this article.)

Revue Horticole



L. Decamps-Dubouché, del.

Chromolaëla odorata, Brongn.

Nidularium Chantleri.



Hyacinthus orientalis

reminds one that one parent is *Aregelia*. The one of the parents of the plant is likely *A. carolinae*; as the other is likely to be *Nidularium innocentii*. - I cultivate this form; it has not yet flowered up to now.”

I have had the illustration of ‘Chantrieri’ for many years and just considered the open flowers artistic licence but only recently Leo Dijkgraaf has been able to supply me with the actual protologue. This was period when the Nidularioids were in turmoil but the description certainly puts a different light as to what this hybrid was all about. Andre did not do the hybrid and only saw a painting of it. The hybrid was actually done for the Chantrier brothers so the true identity of either parent could easily be in doubt. Also the seed parent was *N. fulgens*! The description easily fits what we know today as *xNiduregelia*.

The bad boy here is *Nidularium fulgens* and in the market place could there have been two forms with the same name, one an *Aregelia* and the other a *Nidularium*. We will never find out but the evidence is strong that both these old hybrids are *xNiduregelia*

Bigenerics or nothogenera have only been a recent innovation with the first one coined in 1931 a *xVrieslandsia* which Mez ignored in his work in 1935. It was only with the formation of the BSI in 1950 that more were seen. The pedant in me suggests that the *xNiduregelia* ‘Degeneum’ could well have a nothogenus name including *Bromelia* and yet *Bromelia* has not, as yet, featured in a bigeneric hybrid! But common sense prevails!

AND now for the crunch. What do we do with plants being grown under these names especially when then don’t flower like a *xNiduregelia*? Clearly they were given these names when hybridists thought they were doing a remake using the ‘same’ parentage as quoted! The only solution is to treat them as being *Nidularium* ‘Madame Robert Morobe’ which we already know is a dog’s breakfast! Why? Because it is the only one left with a quoted parentage of *N. innocentii* and *N. fulgens*!!

(Editor’s note: Accompanying this article, Derek Butcher provided several pages of notes, including his translations of descriptions and articles from the original French and German scripts. The published article is a condensation of his researched information. Should anyone wish to read Derek’s more detailed notes, with his permission, I will be glad to send a copy to you.)

Clone Preservation Project - January 2010 By Alan Heardon

Greetings,

This month's update is the first in a 2-3 part series. Other duties keep me from spending as much time on these updates as in the past, so I have decided to separate it into smaller pieces. Unfortunately, I could not think of an elegant way to transition from this month's piece to next month's, so I just truncated it at what seemed to be a reasonable stopping point.

I am taking on (reluctantly) the *Aechmea orlandiana* - *Ae fosteriana* group. There are undoubtedly growers out there who know much more about this group than I could ever hope to learn. If such growers happen upon this offering, I only hope my feeble efforts will inspire them to prepare proper treatments.

The rather wicked cold spell we just went through provided another reminder why we need an active clone preservation project. There were undoubtedly many plants that have withstood many a winter but succumbed this year. If we have clones distributed to different growing regions, we have a much better chance that they will survive somewhere.

Thank you for your attention.

Alan

Aechmea orlandiana and *Aechmea fosteriana* were two of the more spectacular plants collected by Mulford and Racine Foster during their trip to Brazil in 1939. Both had prominent dark brown (usually irregular, often incomplete) cross bands on their leaves and interesting shapes. They have commanded the interest of bromeliad collectors since their introduction.

The species were crossed to form the hybrid *Aechmea* 'Bert', named after Mulford Foster's son, that was also widely grown. As a bonus, the species were more cold tolerant than many other species of *Aechmea*.

Plants in this group are in bud and/or flower at this time of year, making a review particularly appropriate. I first want to point out that the two species appear to be closely related. Characters they share in common include long, thick stolons that grow in an apparently random pattern (perfectly adapted to life in the



Left is a small clump of *Aechmea orlandiana*, which has been grown in high light. To the right is *Aechmea fosteriana*. Photos by Larry Giroux



Aechmea 'Bert' is the hybrid made by M.B. Foster and named for his son. It is a cross of the two species *Ae. orlandiana* and *Ae. fosteriana*, which Foster brought back from Brazil in 1939.

Below is an inflorescence of *Aechmea orlandiana* demonstrating its color scheme as described by Alan. Photos by Larry Giroux

trees, but making long-term pot culture near impossible), an ovary (the part of the flower that matures into the fruit) with a compressed and often irregular shape, petals with tips that never spread, and filaments (the normally slender stalks that hold the pollen-bearing anthers) compressed and wider than the anthers themselves. The appearance of the filaments and their relationship with the

flower petals set these two species apart from all other species I have examined, although I have not studied nearly enough species to do more than suggest a possible relationship.

Living plants of both species were successfully transported from Brazil to Orlando (not a given during the days when shipping was carried out primarily by boat) where Foster and friends grew and distributed them. *Aechmea orlandiana* was much more widely grown than *Aechmea fosteriana* during the early days of the BSI, showing up in the catalogs of Alberts and Merkle, Roehrs and California Jungle Gardens by the early 1960's. This was apparently due to the greater ease of producing viable seeds and

raising the resulting seedlings in bulk for the former species. *Aechmea orlandiana* forms a relatively small rosette, usually under 1 foot (30 cm) tall. Leaves are thin with a shiny surface and have very long, dark marginal spines. These spines, despite their prominence, are quite soft, making it a relatively safe plant to work around, even without gloves. At the junction between the leaf blade and sheath, the leaf margins are usually wavy. As far as I am aware, the dark cross bands are only found on the lower surface of the leaves. The species also is notable for its tightly packed, orange-red inflorescence. Individual branches of flowers are largely covered by wide primary bracts. These branches are tightly pressed together, and individual flowers are tightly pressed to their branches. A floral bract is tightly wrapped around each flower. This bract reaches nearly the tip of the sepals. The sepals are very thick, especially at their base (it is quite difficult to remove them). All visible parts of the inflorescence, other than the petals, have the same color. Petals are white or a light yellow with white margins.

Plants originally described as *Aechmea orlandiana* in 1941 had the dark cross banding we typically associate with the species. The photograph used as the frontispiece of 'Brazil Orchid of the Tropics' by Mulford and Racine Foster shows this clearly (a print of this photograph is also on the type specimen of *Aechmea*

Pictured here is *Ae. orlandiana* ‘Ensign’, which is albo-margined, ‘Reverse Ensign’, with green margins and dark splotches and the albino form of ‘Ensign’ with no green coloration. You will only see the albino form of ‘Ensign’ thriving while still attached to its mother; once removed it is very short lived. It is extremely rare to see it in bloom. Photos by Larry Giroux.

orlandiana).

In 1986, Edmundo Pereira and Elton Leme described a plant without any cross banding, but otherwise indistinguishable, as *Aechmea chantinii* subspecies *belloi* (Bradea 4(34): 266).

Despite the long history of cultivation and the enduring popularity of *Aechmea orlandiana* (and, especially, the long history of propagation by seed) relatively few cultivars have been recorded. The first, and still the best in terms of color, was *Aechmea orlandiana* ‘Ensign’. This albomarginated form was found among seedlings grown by Edgar W Ensign, who grew many plants from seeds provided by Foster. For brightness of coloration, this cultivar is still unmatched.

Plants grown in lower light levels with lots of fertilizer have an extremely strong contrast between the dark green leaf center and the white margins with the typical brown splotching. In higher light levels with less food, the margins take on a brilliant pink color. The pink color is heightened where the brown splotches of the crossbands intersect with the chlorophyll-free margin of the leaf. Unfortunately, the variegation is unstable. The white margins tend to increase in width for pups later than the first. Once started along this path, the plants inexorably lose more of the chlorophyll-bearing tissue until they produce too little food to survive. Sometimes, even the first pup comes out with widening margins, so it is not always possible to get even one well-variegated pup.

The only safe way to grow this cultivar is to keep a group of perhaps 10 plants. Then you can be reasonably confident of harvesting 10 well-variegated pups. There is also a decent chance that you could produce a small surplus of well-variegated pups for sale or trade.

Aechmea orlandiana ‘Reverse Ensign’ apparently arose from the same source. It has a much more stable variegation than ‘Ensign’, but the colors never spill into the pink tones, so the plant is never as spectacular.

Another variegated form *Aechmea orlandiana* ‘Gold Tone’ was introduced by Dennis Cathcart (under *Tropiflora* number 2324). In this plant, the variegation is stable, but much less distinct, even hard to see at certain times, but giving a modified color to the plant.

to be continued ...



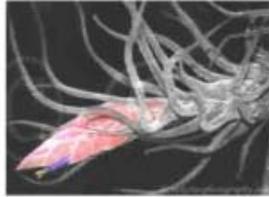
FUZZY WUZZY DECLINE

by Jack Berninger

Tillandsia pruinosa (fuzzy wuzzy air plant) numbers have declined from previous years. Elaine and I conducted a population count on January 11, 2010 in the Fakahatchee Strand and found only eleven of these plants along an approximate 1000-meter section of the tram we have surveyed over the past five years. Six of the plants were on the south side and five on the north side of the tram.

Comparisons over five years:

	South	North
2006	17	1
2007	32	2
2008	21	31
2009	26	8
2010	6	5



This is the first year we have found none of the plants in bloom. We found eight of the plants high (3.8-8 meters above the ground) in *Myrsine froidana* trees. The other three plants were lower (1 to 1.5 meters) in *Myrsine*. What has happened to all the plants close to eye level that we were able to photograph in past years? We also noticed an increase of low vegetation along the tram causing more shading of edges (1 to 2 meters above ground) along the tram. Has this decrease in light exposure caused the decline of lower growing *pruinosa*? OR – formed a great habitat for the Bromeliad weevil?

Jack & Elaine Berninger visit us every winter from Ohio to lead walks, conduct surveys, and give lectures. Thanks to them for this article and to Rick Cruz for the photo.

(Editor's note: *Tillandsia pruinosa* is one of the 16 bromeliad species and 2 natural bromeliad hybrids native to Florida. Besides "fuzzy-wuzzy airplant, other common names include "hoary airplant" and "tropical airplant". Its habitat is shady, humid hammocks and strand swamp. This endangered Florida



bromeliad is rather small, growing only about 8-10 inches tall in bloom. The simple flower spike emerges from a pseudobulb shaped rosette of leaves, which are covered with silvery-white scales giving the plant its fuzzy appearance. The primary bracts are pink and the flowers are violet. This rare plant here in Florida can be seen blooming all year long, especially in the Spring.)

Minutes of the November 15th 2009 CBS Meeting

DATE: November 15th, 2009

LOCATION: St. John the Apostle Metropolitan Church, Fort Myers, FL

ATTENDANCE: 23 members

WORKSHOP: 1:15 PM. Betty Ann Prevatt explained how to prepare entries for the upcoming 2009 show and sale at Terry Park.

CALL TO ORDER: 2:00 P.M. Ross Griffith called the meeting to order and thanked Betty Ann for the workshop.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2010: Carol Sweat made a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented, it was seconded by Betsy Burdette, and the positions for the 2010 CBS officers were approved unanimously as follows:

President: Eleanor Kinzie

Vice-President: John Cassani

Secretary: Ross Griffith

Treasurer: Betty Ann Prevatt

OLD BUSINESS: A brief discussion followed about the 2009 CBS Show and Sale. Betsy Burdette announced that the signs should be placed on street corners on Thursday or Friday before the sale. The signs are to be returned at the next meeting. A discussion followed about the Christmas Party on December 13th, 2009. Mary McKenzie asked the members to bring food and snacks.

NEW BUSINESS: The dues for 2010 are due. Betty Ann Prevatt reported on the Extravaganza in Orlando and that it was very nice.

Elizabeth Migliore announced the release of her Christmas children's book, Stanley. Carol Sweat handed out pamphlets for the 2010 Master Garden workshop in Collier County.

DOOR PRIZE: Mary Lynn Murphy won the Billbergia hybrid.

REFRESHMENT BREAK:

PROGRAM: Bruce McAlpin gave a presentation on basic botany and discussed the five kingdoms of life on earth.

RAFFLE: Conducted by Ross Griffith and Dolly Dalton.

ADJOURNMENT: 4:00 P.M. by Ross Griffith

Submitted by Elizabeth Migliore, Acting CBS Secretary

Minutes of the January 17th 2010 CBS Meeting

For January 17, 2010 held at St. John the Apostle MCC, 3049 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers FL

There were approximately 48 people in attendance including guests Marge Keller, Gary Signs,

Ginny Hulock, Pam & John Macabio and new members Frank & Nancy Armour.

WORKSHOP: The workshop was a slide show recap of the CBS Show and Sale conducted by Larry Giroux. Excellent slides and commentary, thank you Larry.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:08 P.M. by our President Eleanor Kinzie. Guest and new members were introduced. Everyone was encouraged to participate in Show and Tell (bringing in plants for all to learn about), Friendship Table (free plants you may have to share with others, need not be bromeliads). Only plants that are in good condition and free of any pests should be considered. Also consider bringing in plants for the Raffle table and be sure to buy Raffle tickets. Reminder: Fellowship starts at 12:30 P.M. Members are encouraged to come early for socializing and helping to set up. Also encourage everyone to bring food to share and help set up the kitchen area. We always appreciate those who can stay and help with breakdown and putting away the library.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented quarterly; Jan./Apr./July/Oct. Secretary retains a copy that can be read by members at any meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FCBS Rep. Vicky Chirnside: discussed the need to make a new cold tolerant plant list and she promised to write an article about the old cultivar preservation program. The 2010 Extravaganza and World Bromeliad Conference will need all FCBS affiliates to help sponsor both events.

SALE CHAIR Brian Weber: Reported that we sold \$23,164.00 which is one thousand dollars more than the sale last year.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Motion by Vicky Chirnside to donate \$200 to the BSI, \$200 to the BIC at Selby Gardens, and \$200 to the Cryptanthus Society. Robert Fesq seconded the motion and it passed. \$100 will be donated to the Six Mile Cypress Preserve and \$100 donated to the Fakahatchee Strand. (no motion required for \$100 or less donation) Motion by Kay Janssen to donate \$200 to the WBC and buy one-half page in their program. Motion seconded by Vicki Chirnside and the motion carried.

SHOW AND TELL: Dale Kammerlohr showed us cold damage done to several bromeliads as well as many very good looking plants, some of which were in bloom.

DOOR PRIZE: Aechmea 'Valencia' donated by Eleanor Kinzie and won by

Johanna Parkes.

BREAK: Special thanks to Kay Janssen who made a special trip to get us soft drinks and thanks to all who brought food and cleaned up the kitchen area.

PROGRAM: Bruce McAlpin our Program Chairperson introduced Dennis and Linda Cathcart from TROPIFLORA. Dennis' program was entitled Terrestrial Bromeliads and was well received by all present.

RAFFLE: Larry Giroux is our raffle commentator and he was assisted by Luli Westra and Ross G.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:18 P.M.

BREAKDOWN: THANK-YOU to everyone who stayed to help break down and clean up.

Respectfully submitted
Ross Griffith
Secretary CBS

**Harry Luther- Floridian Botanist and Horticulturist
Accepts Position at The Gardens by the Bay, Singapore
By Dr. Larry Giroux**



It is with mixed emotions that I announce the departure of Harry Luther as BIC Director at MSBG. In the February Issue of the FCBS Newsletter, which each member should get, I have written a tribute to Harry. Included here are excerpts of that article.

In 1978 Harry Luther was hired by the first MSBG Director, Dr. Calaway H. Dodson to develop the Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center. In 1980, he was named Curator of Living Collections. After 32 years at the Gardens, his contributions and leadership to the Gardens' growth and prestige can be seen everywhere at MSBG.

Since those early years, the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society has claimed him as one of their own. Harry graduated from school with Victor Yingst, who became the chief horticulturist for the Agricultural Extension Office in Lee County. In 1980, Gene McKenzie and Victor along with a hand full of bromeliad enthusiasts started the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. It was Harry, who contributed his expertise and knowledge during those early years to give credibility to the budding Fort Myers society by providing programs and consultations with Gene and Victor.

We all want to thank Harry Luther for his contributions these past 32 years and wish him good fortune in his future endeavors.

BROMELIADS
in the

Big Easy

Catch the Fun.... July 26-August 1, 2010

19th World Bromeliad Conference

Hosted by BSI & GNOBS

Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel

New Orleans, LA USA

For Conference Schedule and Registration Information
visit our website: GNOBromeliads.com

For Hotel reservations contact the Astor Crowne Plaza
at (504) 962-0500 or visit www.astorneworleans.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 mainly because they have dial-up internet service, they can still go to www.fcbs.org and read the expanded Meristem directly online. The February issue has an article about *Tillandsia pruinosa* in the Fakahatchee and the Preservation Program Update from Alan Herndon. 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

Calendar of Bromeliad Events

February 27 The Safari at the Fakahatchee Preserve for additional information see flyer in this issue or contact FOF at www.friendsoffakahatchee.org or 239-695-2905.

March 21 The CBS Annual Rare Plant Auction, St. John the Apostle Church, McGregor Blvd. Watch for more information in the Feb and Mar Meristem.

April 10-11 USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

April 16-18 Judged Bromeliad Show and Sale, Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Tampa Bay Garden Center, Tampa, FL

April 17-18 Sarasota Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL

April 17-18 Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Bromeliad Show and Sale, Fairchild Botanical Gardens, Miami, FL.

July 26-August 1, 2010

The BSI World Bromeliad Conference - Bromeliads in the Big Easy (Astor Crowne Plaza - New Orleans). "Catch the Fun".

To all of our of our readers

Join the Bromeliad Society International

for less than \$0.80 per week

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 \$0.60 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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Dating Dennis Cathcart's involvement in bromeliads, is this species, described by C.F.Reed and R.W.Reed in 1981, from a specimen collected by Dennis in Venezuela in 1976. *Aechmea cathcartii* is a *Aechmea nudicaulis* look-alike, but is much more scarce probably in part due to its cold intolerance. Photo by Larry Giroux.

Membership Dues are overdue
(\$15/single, \$20/dual) please forward your dues to Betty Ann Prevatt