



**CALOOSAHATCHEE
BROMELIAD
SOCIETY's
CALOOSAHATCHEE
MERISTEM**

3836 Hidden Acres Circle N
North Fort Myers FL 33903
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March 2008



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|----------------|--|
| PRESIDENT | Tom Foley (tefoley24@gmail.com) |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | Donna Schneider (sgarydonna@aol.com) |
| SECRETARY | Luli Westra (lulidave@yahoo.com) |
| TREASURER | Betty Ann Prevatt (bprevattpc@aol.com) |
| PAST-PRESIDENT | Steve Hoppin (steveandlarry@comcast.net) |

STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| NEWSLETTER EDITOR | Larry Giroux (DrLarry@comcast.net) |
| FALL SALES CHAIR | Brian Weber (BrianWeber1b@aol.com) |
| FALL SALES Co-CHAIR | Dave & Geri Prall (PalmTreeGardens@hotmail.com) |
| PROGRAM CHAIRPERSONS | Deb Booker (malibudeb7280@embarqmail.com) |
| WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON | Steve Hoppin (steveandlarry@comcast.net) |
| SPECIAL PROJECTS | Deb Booker until replacement found |
| Senior CBS FCBS Rep. | Vicky Chirnside 9 (vickychirn@aol.com) |
| Co-Junior CBS FCBS Reps. | Debbie Booker & Tom Foley |

OTHER COMMITTEES

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| AUDIO/VISUAL SETUP | Tom Foley (tefoley24@earthlink.net); BobLura |
| DOOR PRIZE | Barbara Johnson (lion56@aol.com) |
| HOSPITALITY | Mary McKenzie (manytoes@aol.com); Martha Wolfe, Sue Gordon |
| SPECIAL HOSPITALITY | Betsy Burdette (betsy@burdetteinc.com) |
| RAFFLE TICKETS | Greeter/Membership table volunteers - Dolly Dalton, Eleanor Kinzie, etc. |
| RAFFLE COMMENTARY | Larry Giroux |
| GREETERS/ATTENDENCE | Betty Ann Prevatt, Dolly Dalton(dollyd@comcast.net), Luli Westra |
| SHOW & TELL | Dale Kammerlohr |
| FM-LEE GARDEN COUNCIL | Mary McKenzie |
| LIBRARIAN | Sue Gordon |
| ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN | Kay Janssen |

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Our front cover shows *Bromelia scarlatina* at the stage of maximal bloom, which occurred 3 days following the appearance of the first flower. Already there is browning of bracts. Read the article about this species and the genus *Bromelia* in this issue. Photo by Larry Giroux.



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

March Meeting: SUNDAY March 16th, 2008

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

DOORS WILL BE OPEN AT 12:30 FOR SETUP.

DUE TO OUR "EVIL WEEVIL" AUCTION

MEMBERSHIP SALES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED at the March meeting.

Friendship plants, Raffle items and Door Prizes are always welcome.

(Please contact Barbara Johnson if you have a Door Prize to donate.)

THERE WILL BE NO

March Workshop

In lieu of our March Program

we are having our

"EVIL WEEVIL" AUCTION

Please see details on how to participate
within this issue.

Our April Birthday Party will be at our normal
meeting place, the Church. We have a special speaker,
Guillermo Rivera, from Argentina. See details inside.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affililate of:



FM-LCGC



Cryptanthus
Society



Bromeliad Society
International



FCBS

President's News

By Tom Foley

The following e-mail message was received from Tom Foley on February 29th.

Fellow Members,

Please accept my resignation as President of the Club, I apologize for accepting the nomination, and I apologize for the inconvenience of this.

Respectfully,

Tom Foley

SOCIETY NOTES

Dues are over due. Rosters are ready.

Paid up members will be able to pick up their copy of the Pictorial 2008 Roster at the March meeting. As a courtesy to all our members only the information and photos of new members will be added to the 2008 Roster; no one will be removed this year. Those members who have not rejoined by the time of the mailing of this Newsletter will not be receiving their e-mail nor the printed copy of the Meristem. If dues are paid at a future time, their names will be added back to the mailing lists. Those unpaid members will be deleted from the 2009 Roster.

February Workshop

The February Workshop was a review of "Florida's Native Bromeliads": a group of sixteen species and two natural hybrids. Steve Hoppin moderated the presentation, which included review of many impressive, live plants, nearly all in various stage of inflorescence. 15 of the 18 native Florida bromeliads were represented and on display. Discussion, sharing of knowledge and participation of the membership was encouraged. Major Thanks to Eleanor Kinzie, also Betty Ann Prevatt, Terrie Lazar and Bob Lura for sharing their Native Florida Bromeliads at the workshop. And a warm Thank You to Ms. Rosemary Fleming for sharing with our group, her and her late husband's passion for these plants, her volunteer work at Six Mile Cypress Slough & Preserve and encouraging everyone to visit this and other locations to enjoy some of these plants in the wild.

February Program



Dr. Ronald D. Cave, an Associate Professor of Entomology at the University of Florida's Indian River Research & Education Center in Ft. Pierce presented an excellent overview of the history of the Mexican Weevil problem our Florida native and cultivated bromeliads are currently facing.

Ron's research has focused on the biological control of invasive arthropods, specifically the importation of exotic insects as candidate biological control agents. At the February CBS meeting he reviewed the long process, which lead up to the release of a parasitic fly, *Lixadmontia franki*, at various State and National Parks throughout Florida.

Many thanks to Ron for bringing us up to date prior to our "Evil Weevil" Auction. He also thanked the CBS for their financial help and encouraged us to continue in all ways possible.

Announcements from Members

Geri Prall - Tropical Plant Bazaar at Four Mile Cove/ EcoPreserve (directly South of Veterans Memorial Parkway on the River). March 15th, 2008 9AM-2PM. There will be palms, orchids, fruit trees, heliconias, bamboo, ginger, hibiscus, bromeliads as well as many other exotic plants. Free admission and parking.

Terri Lazar - A Concert to benefit CREW (Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed) is being held March 29 at Estero Community Park with entertainment from Kat Epple (composer and flautist), Andy Wahlberg (harp guitarist), and the McIttrot Brothers (traditional bluegrass music).

The "Night with nature for a 'note' worthy cause" will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the park's Amphitheater. Musical performances will include world flutes, harp guitar and bluegrass. Bring lawn chairs, picnic blankets, eats and drinks (no alcohol or pets please). Tickets are \$20 with children 12 and under free. Tickets can be purchased at the gate or ahead of time by calling Brenda Brooks at 239-657-2253 or emailing her at crewtrust@earthlink.net. To learn more about CREW visit www.crewtrust.org.

Your Editor is recruiting Feature Writers from all counties in which our members reside. Please volunteer to send in information and articles for publication.

Annual “Evil Weevil” Fund-raising Auction

It was nice to hear from Ron Cave at the February Meeting that our donations of thousands of dollars to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies to be used for the eradication of the Mexican Weevil here in Florida has been put to good use and that there is hope of success. It is still important that we continue our support. At the March meeting, CBS will host its 2008 Fund-raising Evil Weevil Auction.

We have done this each year for many years and we hope we can improve on our past events. The following are the mechanics, which we will be using to try to make it go as smoothly as possible. We want to make it easy for the volunteers and allow all to have a good fun-packed time.

1. For those who were at the February meeting, DONATION CARDS were passed out; if you did not get them at that time, the CARDS will be available at the March Auction. Please complete the DESCRIPTION and DONOR portions. If there is something you would like us to know about the item, such as why it is unusual or who first introduced it or what the inflorescence looks like, please use the right half of the back of the CARD to provide this information. If you wish to submit a photo with the item, “a picture can tell a thousand words”.

2. Depending on the number of items donated, there will actually be two auctions. A regular auction where everyone has a numbered plate, items are auctioned by an auctioneer and the highest bid wins the item. The other is a SILENT AUCTION. A group of items are selected and displayed on tables during the REGULAR AUCTION. Bidders are encouraged to review bids and up the bid by writing down your number and newest offering on sheets of paper positioned with each item. During the REGULAR AUCTION, without notice, items will be selected and bidding will be closed. Until an item is removed from the table and a winner is announced, you may up your bid.

3. The most common complaint we’ve heard with previous auctions is that you can’t checkout early or that there was too much confusion at the conclusion of the Auction. We will provide early checkout; however, we want our volunteers to be able to participate in the fun of the auction and not have to be stuck in a back room the entire time. We also wish to avoid any disruption during the ongoing auction. Specific details as to how to checkout will be announced at the Auction.

4. Unfortunately we can only accept CHECKS and CASH as payment, so please come prepared.

Have questions about what you can donate?

This AUCTION is a benefit to raise as much money as we can. All nice, clean, healthy bromeliads are welcome. Bromeliad and garden related items such as tools, quilts, drawings, paintings, decorative pots and hangers, shirts, antiques, etc. are all desirable. Many members enjoy other families of plants, so orchids, ferns and other exotic plants are also welcome. Even an attractive clump of a commoner bromeliad to you, could be just what someone else would want. If you just can’t find something to donate, please still come to the AUCTION and buy something to support the effort. Donors and Buyers are equally appreciated.

Bromeliad Expose

By Larry Giroux

The photograph on the front cover is a plant of the *Genus – Bromelia*. It is unique as far as *Bromelias* go, being the only *Bromelia* found in the Peruvian and Ecuadorian Amazonia. As a matter of fact although it was described and pictures were drawn from live plants in the latter half of the 19th century, it was lost to cultivation for many years because it was felt to be a native of Amazonia Brazil. In an attempt to rediscover this gem, collectors were looking for it in all the wrong places. It was Dr. Tim Plowman, of *Quesnelia* ‘Tim Plowman’ and *Cryptanthus* ‘Tim Plowman’ fame, in 1977, who reintroduced it into cultivation during his collecting trips to Peru by depositing specimens at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.

It grows relatively easily as a terrestrial; preferring warmer weather, bright diffuse light and moist media. It can become pot-bound quickly so give it extra room for its roots. Removal of offsets at a decent size of 1/3 to 1/2 the adult size (the mature plant is about 24 inches tall) will stimulate additional offsets, which develop from short stolons. This is another difference *Bromelia scarlatina* has from other better known *Bromelia* such as *balansae*, *penguin* and *humilis*, which have offsets on stolons, which sometimes extend long distances from the parent plant before erupting from the ground surface. The spines of *Bromelia* are classically curved and vicious; while although the spines of the distinct petiole leaf stems of *Bromelia scarlatina* are noticeable, the spines along the broad lanceolate leaves are much less obnoxious. The overall size of this species as well as the sparseness of leaves bordered by smaller spines, does not recommend these plants for use as “living fences”. However, long leaves bordered by sharp, prominent spines, quick growth and their spreading nature of other species like *Bromelia penguin* and *balansae* has been taken advantage of by ranchers in South and Central American countries where these plants grow to deter domesticated and wild animals from free movement within farms and gardens.

Seeing a plant of *Bromelia* Pictured to the right are the cherry-sized fruit of *Bromelia balansae*. The product from the fermentation of these fruits is very similar to tequila from the agave plant. Photo by Larry Giroux





*Bromelia
scarlatina*



Drawings by
C. JACQUES
EDOUARD
MORREN, a 19th
century botanist,
horticulturist, artist,
professor, and writer
who has drawn over
200 horticultural
painting in his
career. Photos
of drawings by
L.B.Smith.

*Bromelia
antiacantha*
(Native to eastern
Brazil and
Uruguay.)



A blooming *Bromelia goeldiana* on display at the Selby Botanical Gardens. This is a native of Amazonian Brazil as well as Southern Venezuela. Although this species was first discovered in 1913, it was not appropriately described until 1958 by L.B.Smith. Photo by Larry Giroux

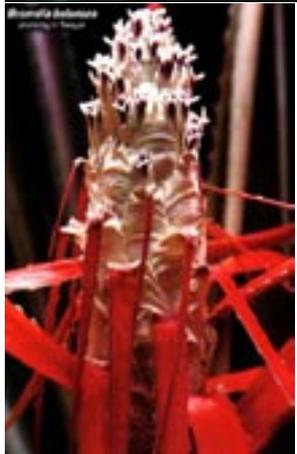


Enjoy it while you can! From left to right is the short life of a *Bromelia scarlatina* inflorescence. (Photo 1) It was Saturday, the day before the CBS meeting and we decided to bring in this beautifully coloring *B. scarlatina* in spite of the small button development of the inflorescence. The primary bracts were colored and fresh. (Photo 2) Sunday at the CBS meeting all enjoyed the intense color and the white floral bracts, unfortunately no flowers. Monday (not shown in a photo) there was 1 lavender flower and lots of scurfy floral bracts. (Front cover photo) Thursday, the peak of flower blooming, unfortunately the primary red bracts are losing color and drying up in spite of appropriate moisture. (Photo 3) Taken one week after the plant was brought to the meeting, this photo shows many of the primary bracts and floral bracts are desiccated and only two new flowers remain. Photos by Steve Hoppin and Larry Giroux.



Bromelia humilis, one of the earliest *Bromelia* to be described (1784), has the distinction of being described by taxonomists as a *Puya*, *Nidularium* and 2 other Genera, which no longer are recognized. Surprisingly, it was never considered an *Ananas*, as were other *Bromelias*. This species is relatively small compared to many other *Bromelias*; they seldom exceed 36 inches in width. By way of 18-24 inch long stolons, a colony of these plants can cover a large area rather quickly. They have a limited natural habitat extending from northern Venezuela through the Windward Islands of the Caribbean. Until this past winter I would have said *B. humilis* was cold hardy; however, as the picture to the lower left attests to, these plants, which grow on the south side of the house, growing in full sun, 10 days following being sprinkled with the irrigation system for 20 minutes while the temperature remained at 28-29 degrees for 4 hours, were nearly completely destroyed. We have cleaned them up and are waiting to see if they will develop stolons. Photos by Larry Giroux

The picture to the right was taken by Fred Ross about 25 years ago; I don't know where he took the picture, but in one of the photos I received, there is a yard stick next to the plant and the top of the bloom reaches 3 feet in height. I initially thought it was *Bromelia balansae*. I planted a similar looking plant in my yard 15 years ago; 12 years ago I spent a bloody summer hacking the 20 or so 5 foot tall progeny from my garden and their borrowing stolons. Today for sentimental reasons, I kept one plant (which is actually three now) in a large cement pot, on top of concrete. Another reason I keep these obnoxious plants is to enjoy the explosion of color and textures during blooming.



Derek Butcher wrote an article for the FCBS web site concerning the various *Bromelias* growing in Florida. He said the following about *Bromelia balansae*.

“Several bromelias are common in Florida gardens, but it appears that their identities are open to question. The first example is the plant that everyone KNOWS is *Bromelia balansae* but may be *B. sylvicola* (see above picture) (I suggest you change your label to *B. aff sylvicola* - Uncle Derek) This plant in flower is a metre or so tall and the leaf rosette is 1 to 2 metres in diameter. The petals are maroon with white margins. The true *Bromelia balansae* is much larger, nearly 2 metres tall with leaves 4 to 7 metres long! The petals are violet with white margin.”

If Derek is correct about the size of the true *Bromelia balansae*, then I shouldn't complain about my brush with my 5 foot tall spiny “midgets”.

Photo bottom left - *Bromelia balansae* by Vern Sawyer, courtesy of fcbs.org

Photo bottom right - *Bromelia aff sylvicola* by K. Tan, courtesy of fcbs.org



In the photo of *Bromelia pinguin* by Marc Turner (courtesy of fcbs.org) is seen the incredible beauty, which prompted European explorers to bring back these plants for ornamental uses. *Bromelia pinguin* was brought back along with *Ananas comosus* (the pineapple plant) as early as 1690. And in 1755, three other *Bromelias* were included in a shipment destined for an Austrian Botanical Garden.

B. pinguin is a moderate sized *Bromelia* (leaves reach 3-5 feet tall) and although it is less spectacular than some of the other *Bromelia*, its smaller size and typical *Bromelia* red scape bracts and violet and white flowers has encouraged its place in Florida gardens. Just as with all the others, care must be taken to avoid the wide spreading by stolons (see picture below) throughout your yard.

In the picture to the left by Larry Giroux, is a large clump of *Bromelia pinguin* found growing on a garden slope overlooking a lake in Guatemala. When grown in full sun, the leaves, even when the plant is not blooming, can turn a bright dark red color. With control this can make a great landscape plant for a low traffic area of the garden. It is easy to see how farmers can create living fences by planting rows of these spiny plants to control intrusion of unwanted livestock.



It is very difficult when not in bloom to distinguish this albo-marginated form of *Bromelia pinguin* from the variegated form of *Ananas*. Below and center is a picture of the typical habitat in Bahia, Brazil where *Bromelias* were found growing among cactus and other bromeliads such as *Neoglaziovia variegata* and *Hohenbergia*. In this location were found large clumps of the *Bromelia* pictured below. To the right is the clump formed by their spreading stolons. To the left is a fruiting inflorescence. Based



on its location and a drawing by Morren, I suspect this is *Bromelia antiacantha*. Although this species was felt to be restricted to Southern Brazil, Elton Leme has documented it throughout the northern portions as well. All photos by Larry Giroux.



scarlatina prior to blooming and following anthesis, you would think that with its long unusual solidly green colored shaped leaves it is not a Bromelia. Once in bloom, however, the flattening of the plant, the red color changes of the leaf stems and primary bracts, its floral bracts covered with woolly tan to brown scales and white and purple petals characterize the plant as a definite Bromelia. It also forms berries; these are black and although these are smaller than some of the other berries of bromelias, they are also favored by birds who distribute them in their droppings. I would imagine if you can collect enough of these fruits they can be fermented as those from other species of this Genus. The liquor produced is like tequila. Bromelias with longer leaves are also used to make rope by striping lengths of fiber from the leaves. Related closer to the Pineapple (*Ananas*) than other bromeliads, Bromelia also have high concentrations of the chemical bromelain, which has had anti-infectious, anti-tussive, anti-inflammatory and appetite stimulating properties attributed to it.

The beautiful and colorful inflorescences are typically disappointing in that from the time that the central primary bracts turn red until the last flower opens is extremely short. Accompanying pictures show that the development of the floral bracts to the bloomed out flowers lasted about 7 days. And in spite of sufficient moisture, the colorful primary bracts immediately began drying up and turning brown. In Florida this process occurs December through early March; all too late or too early to exhibit in a bromeliad show. Several years ago I purchased instead of a poinsettia for the Holidays, a Bromelia scarlatina in mid December whose primary bracts were already changing. To my surprise it bloomed out before Christmas and as typical of Bromelia prior to developing fruit, the center of the plant turned into a clump of dirty looking, decaying floral parts.

Most Bromelia are not house or patio plants due to their prominent spines, their size and growth patterns. Bromelia scarlatina is an exception to this rule. The unusual shaped leaves and rosette, which are characteristic of this species, makes this an attractive foliage plant. Add the two to three weeks during which the bracts explode with color, and the plant earns a visually prominent place in your collection. With minimal care it will continue to reward you with a supply of new plants and a seasonal display of color.

Bibliography

Bromelia scarlatina by Harry Luther. Journal of the Bromeliad Society, Vol.XXXII, Nov-Dec 1982, No.6.

Bromeliads by Francisco Oliva-Esteve. Armitano Editores, C.A., Caracas, Venezuela - 2000.

Bromeliads in the Brazilian Wilderness by E.M.C.Leme and L.C.Marigo. Marigo Comunicacao Visual, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1993.



April Program

This year we are doing something different for our Birthday Party in April. The Party will be held at our normal meeting place, St. John the Apostle Church. In addition to our normal activities we have hired Guillermo Rivera, owner of South American Cactus Expeditions to give us a program. Guillermo will be on a talking tour from Argentina, in April and will be available on April 20th to speak to our group.

Guillermo has a B.S. degree in Biology, and a Doctorate degree in Botany. His company has organized botanical tours to see cactus and bromeliads in their habitat in

Argentina, Chile, Brazil, and Bolivia for the past several years with himself as chief guide. He tailors his presentations to his audiences so they can be either very scientific (taxonomic if you wish), more generalist, with many habitat photos, or a combination of both approaches. The two programs already prepared are -

“Bromeliads from Argentina: a habitat approach”

“Central Brazil: a trip through the states of Minas Gerais and Bahia”

There will be more information in the April Newsletter

Guillermo’s website is - www.cactusexpeditions.com.ar

Feel free to invite friends and family to join us at the Party and enjoy Guillermo’s presentation.

Welcome to New Members

Lee Behrhorst

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Beverly Moore

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239-xxx-xxxx e-mail - BMOORE@LANSET.COM

Dayle Westover

5891 Star Grass Lane Naples, Fl 34116

239-xxx-xxxx e-mail - ddwestover@comcast.net

Origin of the Weevil - *Metamasius callizona*

By Dr. Howard Frank

Metamasius callizona was described from the state of Veracruz, Mexico in 1883, with subsequent records from the department of Alta Verapaz, Guatemala and the province of Chiriqui, Panama. Its host plants were not identified to genus, though there is a questionable record from pineapple (Vaune 1966).

In June 1994, Howard Frank and Al Muzzell visited Panama, and were unable to find *M. callizona* in bromeliads in Chiriqui; further, though many specimens of *Metamasius* were housed in insect collections at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, none was of *M. callizona* (Frank, unpublished). For these reasons, we believe that the early record of *M. callizona* from Panama is questionable, and that its natural range may be restricted to southern Mexico and Guatemala.

Recent host-plant records are from the following Mexican states: Veracruz: *Aechmea mexicana* (Zaragoza 1974), *Tillandsia depeana*, *T. ehiersiana*, *T. heterophylla*, *T. streptophylla*, and *T. utriculata* (Frank & Thomas 1994b), *Catopsis* sp. and *Tillandsia limbata* (Frank, unpublished), Oaxaca: *Tillandsia roland-gosselinii* (letter and specimen from Dennis Cathcart to Howard Frank), Puebla: *Vriesia* sp. (Zaragoza 1974).

Enormous numbers of insects are intercepted annually by USDA-APHIS inspectors at US ports and airports in shipments of plant material (Frank & McCoy 1992). Between 1973 and 1987 specimens of *M. callizona* were intercepted 14 times by the inspectors, on all but one occasion on *Tillandsia* spp., and all from Mexico (Frank & Thomas 1994b). Because inspection is made of fewer than 2% of shipments, the probability is very high that living *M. callizona* escaped detection and were forwarded to importers within the USA. Indeed, importers have told us of having found living specimens in shipping containers from Mexico. This evidence alone provides a very high probability that the *M. callizona* population which is now established in Florida came from Mexico in shipments of *Tillandsia* spp. One of the USDA-APHIS records identified *Tillandsia tricolor* as the plant in the shipping container, but most of the interception records do not identify the plants to species (Frank & Thomas 1994b).

Two ways could be used to prevent importation of such pest weevils: (1) immersion of all imported plants in appropriate chemical pesticides before shipment (though susceptibility of weevil eggs to such chemicals is unknown); (2) restriction of imported bromeliads to seed. We urge that anyone who imports bromeliads use one of these methods. Although tremendous damage is now being done in Florida by *M. callizona*, the situation could be worsened if yet other species of bromeliad-eating weevils arrive. In our opinion, anyone who does not use one of these methods is irresponsible and should be liable to legal action.

February CBS Meeting Minutes

DATE: Sunday, February 17, 2008. **LOCATION:** St. John the Apostle's Metropolitan Community Church, 3049 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers, FL

ATTENDANCE: approx 49 members & guests

WORKSHOP: Review of "Florida's Native Bromeliads" Steve Hoppin moderated the presentation. Major Thanks to Eleanor Kinzie, also Betty Ann Prevatt, Terrie Lazar and Bob Lura for sharing their Native Florida Bromeliads. And a warm Thank You to Mrs. Rosemary Fleming for her discussion of the sights at the Six Mile Cypress Slough.

CALL TO ORDER: (2:00PM) by Vice President Donna Schneider
Introduction of New members: Lee Behrhorst, Beverly Moore and Dayle Westover and Guests: Joyce Commins & Chris Luke.

MINUTES from the January CBS meeting were published in the February 2008 CBS newsletter. Any corrections, deletions or additions? None.

OLD BUSINESS: None. **NEW BUSINESS:** None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: FCBS – none. Special Programs – none
Garden Council – none. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** 1. Membership dues are due. 2. Consider sharing your extra bromeliads with fellow members. Donations of clean and healthy plants for Friendship and Raffle are always appreciated. 3. **March 2008 CBS Auction;**– Our annual fund-raiser to demonstrate support and raise money for the FCBS "Evil Weevil Project". We are pleased to report the monies raised at this event will be donated specifically to this fund. Steve Hoppin encouraged donations and Larry Giroux passed out in advance, donation forms which can be completed prior to the event. Complete Auction and important information to be published in the March CBS Meristem. 4. Acknowledgment and Thank You Card received from Harry Luther and the Bromeliad Identification Center for CBS' recent monetary contribution. 5. Acknowledgment and Thank You Card received from Joyce Brehm, BSI President, for CBS' recent monetary contribution. 6. Info & Flyer - Pine Island Garden Gala, February 23, 2008. Inquiries contact Donna Schneider. 7. Info & Flyer – Marie Selby Gardens Plant Sale, March 8 & 9, 2008. 8. Info & Flyer - Bonsai at the Grove, March 1 & 2, 2008. 9. Info & Flyer – Tropical Plant Bazaar, March 15, 2008. Location- 4 Mile Cove/Eco Preserve. For info contact 239-549-4606. 10. **NOTICES - CBS April Birthday Party to be held at the church.** Typical birthday celebration for CBS, no business and all play. Special treat provided by your Society at the party will be a program by special guest speaker Guillermo Rivera of Cactus Expeditions and Nature, Argentina. More information to be published in March and April 2008 CBS Meristem. Door Prize: *Neoregelia* 'Las Vegas' donated by Donna Schneider and won by Sanda Bishop. **SHOW & TELL:** conducted

by Dale Kammerlohr. Today the tables were filled to overflowing with electrifying and very impressive Aechmea, Quesnelia, Tillandsia, Vriesea, Guzmania, Dyckia, Cryptanthus, Orthophytum species, hybrids and even a few bi-generics. Many plants were in various stages of inflorescence. It was truly an entertaining, interest holding and educational session. Special plants of interest: hybrids by fellow CBS hybridizers Jim Irvin and Dale Kammerlohr. **BREAK: REFRESHMENT SET-UP:** Thanks Mary McKenzie and assistant Sue Gordon.

PROGRAM: “Biological Control of the Mexican Weevil” by Ron Cave.

Ron spoke to our group on the status of Florida’s Native Bromeliads, the threatening weevil and biological methods being used today to reduce spread and population of this infestation.

RAFFLE: conducted by Larry Giroux and assisted by Dolly Dalton and Ross Griffith.

ADJOURNMENT and BREAKDOWN 4:45pm

Respectfully submitted, Steve Hoppin (filling in for Luli Westra, CBS Secretary)

It not too early to plan for the 2008 FCBS EXTRAVAGANZA August 29th, 30th & 31st 2008



SHERATON SUITES TAMPA AIRPORT

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(813) 873-8675 Toll Free: 1-800-325-3535 Fax (813) 879-7196

All accommodations are room suites. Room Rate \$99.00 Double or single.

Airport shuttle complimentary 24/7 on the hour

Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

For info on Hotel, Sales and Schedule contact Tom Wolfe

(813) 961-1475 / Fax (813) 962-5743

Email: Bromeliadsociety@juno.com

EVENTS CALENDER

March 15th, 2008 - Tropical Plant Bazaar at Four Mile Cove/ EcoPreserve (directly South of Veterans Memorial Parkway on the River). 9AM-2PM. For details contact Geri Prall.

March 29th, 2008 - A Concert to Benefit CREW (Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed) is being held March 29 at Estero Community Park from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the park's Amphitheater. Tickets are \$20 with children 12 and under free. Tickets can be purchased at the gate or ahead of time by calling Brenda Brooks at 239-657-2253 or emailing her at crewtrust@earthlink.net.

April 19th and 20th, 2008 - Annual Bromeliad Society of South Florida Show and Sale at Fairchild Tropical Gardens. Miami, Florida. Judging on Friday April; 18th.

April 19th and 20th, 2008

Annual Sarasota Bromeliad Society Show and Sale at Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, Florida. Judging on Friday April, 18th.

May 3rd and May 4th, 2008

Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Society Show and Sale. Lakeside Mall, Metairie, LA. Contact Tim Calamari at 504-362-6809 or lara57@cox.net.

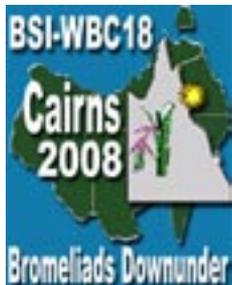
June 7th and 8th, 2008

River Ridge Bromeliad Society Show and Sale, New Orleans, LA, For additional information contact Bryan Wyndham at brykool69@yahoo.com.

Bromeliads Down Under

18th World Bromeliad Conference

24-30 June 2008



The Plant Show will be judged on Thursday, Sales will open on Thursday night, the Rare Plant Auction on Friday night and Banquet on Sunday 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 and artistic entries in both the competitive Show Categories.

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

To All Our Members: Enjoy your hobby more

Join the Bromeliad Society International

for less than \$0.60 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 \$0.50 per week you can get 2 great colorful Journals and be part of the bigger picture.

See Betty Ann Prevatt for more information.

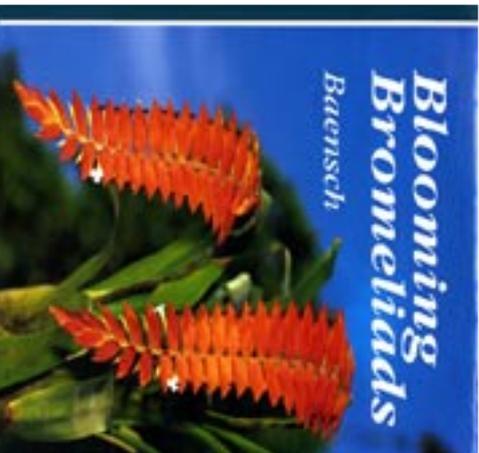


CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33903

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Sam and Hattie Lou Smith have donated a mint condition (still in its cellophane wrapper) copy of the original English edition of Blooming Bromeliads by Baensch. We will soon be selling it on E-bay or Amazon.com for as much as we can. Currently there are 5 copies (used) selling at Amazon for \$291-1999.00 with an average price of \$760. We are giving a CBS member a chance to acquire the book for personal use only for \$400. If you are interested contact Betty Ann Prevatt. If more than one member is interested, it will go to the highest offer.

If other members complain to you that they did not receive their Newsletter, tell them they need to renew.