



**CALOOSAHATCHEE
BROMELIAD
SOCIETYs
CALOOSAHATCHEE
MERISTEM**

3836 Hidden Acres Circle N
North Fort Myers FL 33903
(239) 997-2237

DrLarry@COMCAST.NET

May 2008



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Our front cover shows *Navia saxicola* photographed in the nursery at Marie Selby Botanical Garden. Many unusual bromeliads such as navias are now growing at Selby due to the efforts of Bruce Holst who has coauthored several books about and traveled to the less explored western Venezuela regions known for its tupuis (high plateaued mountains).



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

May Meeting: SUNDAY May 18th, 2008

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 May meeting.

Friendship plants, Raffle items are also welcome.

There will be a Door Prize and Show and Tell

May Program

(Program will start after our refreshment break)

Our May speaker will be Tom Wolfe from Lutz, Florida (north of Tampa). At the time of printing his topic was not available, but with his experience as landscaper, judge, organizational activist and excellent grower of plants, I'm sure we will not be disappointed regardless of the nature of his presentation.

May Workshop

(Will begin at 1:15PM)

“Pup Removal and Repotting of Terrestrials”

By Steve Hoppin

You will recall that several months ago Ray Lemieux demonstrated during a program for the CBS membership, how to separate and repot terrestrials, with emphasis on the genera of *Dyckia*, *Encholarium* and *Hechtia*. Steve Hoppin will continue the discussion and the demonstration of this topic at the May Workshop with the *Pitcairnia*s, *Cryptanthus* and *Orthophytum*. Steve will be providing plants of each of genera for the demonstration as well as the optimal potting media. Check out your own plants and see which need division or offset removal and come to this workshop to get your questions answered.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affililate of:



FM-LCGC



Cryptanthus
Society



Bromeliad Society
International



FCBS

President's Message By Donna Schneider

What a Great Birthday Party we had. We sure have some talented chef's in our Society. I would like to say THANK-YOU to our Special Hospitality Chairpersons Betsy and Bill Burdette, Mary McKenzie and her Staff for organizing, purchasing the deli platter and setting up the food as well as cleaning up. I would also like to say THANK-YOU to Ross Griffith for the Great Birthday decoration's he provided. Who knew that he was so creative. And what a Great program we had from Dr. Guillermo Rivera on Bromeliads from Northern Argentina. It was nice having a different speaker that we have not had before. So THANK-YOU Dr. Larry Giroux for arranging such a good program. I even saw a few bromeliads, which we have in our own collection.

I have to say that that probably was the most plants and gifts, I have seen being offered for the raffle and friendship give-away in a long time. So THANK-YOU to everyone who took time to share such nice items with us. I hope luck was on your side and you won something.

I know some of our membership was not able to attend due to other societies' Bromeliad Shows that were going on throughout the State. There was a show at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens (Sarasota Bromeliad Society) and at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens (Bromeliad Society of South Florida). Hopefully those of our membership who were working or entering these shows, were lucky enough to get up on the head table and had a fun time. I know it can be exciting when your plants win top awards. Keep checking in your newsletter for upcoming events. Try and pencil in some of the events into your schedule.. Some of them are only a couple of hours away. If you are not able to go to the World Bromeliad Conference in Australia try at least to plan on attending the Bromeliad Extravaganza in Tampa (information is printed in the back of your newsletter). This event includes presentations, raffles, auctions and one of the largest sales each year in Florida.

I would like to say THANK-YOU to Ross Griffith for accepting to take over the Vice President's position. I know he already does so much for the CBS and I know he will do a GREAT job in my place when I cannot preside at a meeting..

Rain, rain ... I wish we would get a little rainfall. I know this is our dry time and fortunately It hasn't been too hot to work in the gardens and the shade houses. At our nursery this is the time of year we do our spring cleaning. We have already sprayed for fungus, scale and I will have to put out snail bait. The plants grew pretty good (along with the weeds) due to our short winter this year. But I think the plants were a little confused. One day we were at 38 degrees and the next we were at 80 degrees. Heck I was even confused. With this extra growing

time, I will have a lot of repotting and removal of pups to do. Sometimes it seems overwhelming, but when you get to a certain point, it is rewarding to see how well your collection looks. And who knows, you might even have a special plant to enter in a show, or share with the Society for a raffle plant. For those of you who will have similar chores to do, don't miss the Workshop this month by Steve Hoppin.

Hope everyone has a Great growing season.

Donna Schneider, CBS President

Birthday Party Program



The gift to ourselves, having Guillermo Rivera from Argentina speak to us at our April Birthday Party, was obviously appreciated by all. Guillermo's presentation reviewed three natural and different habitats of Northern Argentina and the bromeliads as well as some of the other plant families that dwell there.

Many thanks to Guillermo for persisting in his efforts to get to Fort Myers on time, in spite of the horrendous forest fires in the Buenos Aires region.

Anyone who wants to take advantage of the \$200 off of his Argentina trip this year or the

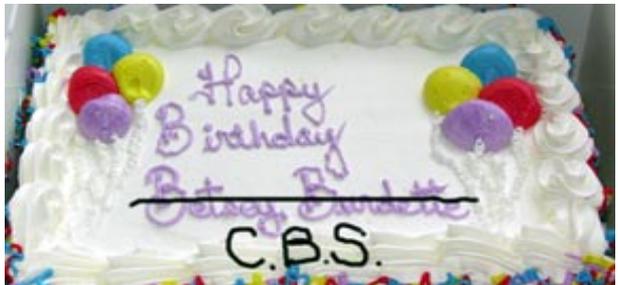
Brazil trip next year can contact Guillermo at www.cactusexpeditions.com.ar.

28th Annual Birthday Party

In spite of the lack of the Burdette's gardens as a backdrop, our annual Birthday Party went very well.

Special thanks to Mary McKenzie and Betsy Burdette for providing supplies, the meat platter and cake, Thanks to Ross Griffith for the festive decorations, to the members who brought in food and raffle items and to all the organizers and workers who made this event so special and enjoyable.

And No, it was not Betsy's birthday, but rather a mistake at the bakery.



Our May Speaker

There isn't much, which Tom Wolfe, our speaker for May, hasn't done when it comes to bromeliads. these past 40+ years.

As a young man he joined the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay in 1965. Over the years he has held many positions in the Guild including serving as President six times; from its inception he has been a representative of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and has served as Chairman several times. He served on the BSI Board of Directors for 14 years serving as Director, Secretary, and 6 years as Vice President and 6 years as President. Tom is the only BSI President that has completed two consecutive terms. While Vice President, Tom was General Chairman of the successful 1992 World Bromeliad Conference, "Bromeliad Safari", hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. Tom is presently Chair of the World Headquarters Committee, which is an effort to try and establish a permanent home for the Bromeliad Society International at The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida.

Tom became an accredited BSI Bromeliad Judge in 1982 and is now a Master Judge. There are few Bromeliad Shows in the U.S., at which Tom has not been a panel judge. I have, as a Student and Accredited Judge, worked with Tom and I can say from personal knowledge that it has always been a pleasure and learning experience judging with him.

Tom and his wife Carol live in Lutz and grow their bromeliads on their 2.5 acres of land and greenhouses. He has designed and installed many residential and commercial landscapes featuring bromeliads. He is in demand as a speaker throughout Florida and the United States presenting programs on bromeliads to Garden Clubs, Bromeliad Clubs, and at the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens. And when he is not judging or giving a program, you can find him selling his plants at society sales and plant events.

We are honored to have Tom return to Fort Myers to pass on a little bit of his vast volume of knowledge of bromeliads. Please welcome the return of Tom Wolfe to the CBS in May.

Bromeliad Expose By Larry Giroux

This month we finish with Herb Plever's 1985 article about the importance of knowing the habitat of the tillandsia species you grow. Last month we presented Herb's "encyclopedia" of tillandsias. I included select photos of various tillandsias. In the e-mail and online versions, which can be found at www.fcbs.org, I included a few additional tillandsias, which were not known in 1985. Again I have included additional photographs of species mentioned in parts I and II, printed in the April Meristem.

Again I thank Herb for the work and time he devoted to compiling this information,

TILLANDSIA HABITATS AND CULTURE - PART 3 By Herb Plever

This is the conclusion of the series of articles which appeared in the April, and May, 1985 issues of BROMELIANA surveying the habitats of the Tillandsias purchased by our members, to assist them in adopting effective cultural routines which can conform to the natural habitats of their plants.

CONCLUSION

We can make valid generalizations about the relationship of a plant's environment to its cultural needs. But because there may be important differences in conditions within an environment (whether natural or made-made) we must understand that our conclusions are tentative. They are subject to confirmation or modification after we examine closely each plant's specific growing conditions and test by trial and error.

When purchasing plants, we should choose those which are most likely to adapt to the particular and different micro-environments, which exist within our homes or greenhouses. Before we decide where to place a *Tillandsia* or mount or pot it, we should examine the different facets of its natural environment to see how we can approximate them. Is it a high or a low altitude plant? Will it need to be shaded or will it take full sun? Is it dry growing or does it need high humidity? Does it grow epiphytically and/or saxicolous on rocks, or will it do better in a pot? Can it take (or does it need) cold nights, or does it like it very hot?

T. caput-medusa and *T. ionantha* will do well under a broad range of conditions. The other *Tillandsias* listed can be separated into a number of loosely distinct cultural groups:

DRY GROWING AND SUN LOVING

This broad group includes epiphytes and/or saxicoles which are found in dry areas. They should be mounted epiphytically and are well suited for indoor culture either hung in a window or under lights (the highest light you can give them). In the greenhouse you must take care not to oversoak them, and they should be hung high and clear of any shade.

In this group are *T. achyrostachys*, *T. aizoides*, *T. argentina*, *T. atroviridipetala*, *T. baileyi*, *T. cacticola*, *T. chiapensis*, *T. circinnatoides*, *T. concolor*, *T. crocata*, *T. didisticha*, *T. disticha*, *T. duratii*, *T. edithae*, *T. erubescens*, *T. floribunda*, *T. humilis*, *T. ignesia*, *T. ionantha* v. *vanhyningii*, *T. karwinskyana*, *T. latifolia*, *T. loliacea*, *T. lorentziana*, *T. maureyana*, *T. mitlaensis*, *T. myosura*, *T. ortgesiana*, *T. paleacea*, *T. plumosa*, *T. pohliana*, *T. pueblensis*, *T. peiranoi*, *T. purpurea*, *T. recurvata*, *T. reichenbachii*, *T. rodrigueziana*, *T. socialis*, *T. spheroccephala*, *T. streptocarpa*, *T. tectorum*, *T. vernicosa*, *T. xiphioides* and *T. xerographica*.



T. streptophylla - Epiphytic from near sea level to 2,700 feet, from Mexico to Honduras. (Note how these plants grow sometimes horizontally to prevent water accumulation between leaves.)



T. rοδοcephala - Epiphytic at 1500 m, from Mexico. In 2008 this is still an uncommon plant in cultivation. Looks like a scurfy *capitata*, grows 24-30 in. and has a dark pink to red inflorescence.)

T. flabellata - Epiphytic on trees near sea level to 1,500 ft. in Mexico, Guatemala, Salvador.



T. paleacea - Saxicolous on rocks and desert sands, or on trees in dry areas from sea-level to 9,000 feet up in Columbia, Bolivia and Chile. (Fragrant violet flowers are produced on long thin stalks. Prominent hair-like trichomes).



T. juncea - Found growing epiphytic from about sea level to 6,500 ft. in Mexico, Greater Antilles to Bolivia.

T. capitata -Grows in direct sun but at lower elevations from sea level to 1,500 feet in Mexico and Central America. (There are many color forms available in cultivation. This is T. capitata 'Mayan Gold' developed at Nat DeLeon's nursery.)



(T hondurensis- Grows at 1800m in Honduras. This small showy plant with a succulernnt rosette of leaves was introduced in 1993.)

T. tectorum -Saxicolous, 3000 to 8,000 feet in Ecuador and Peru. (I still recall the photographs by Dennis Cathcart of entire hillside in Ecuador covered with millions of these plants. The small head of the inflorescence produce lavender petalled flowers.)



(Vr. espinosae- This tillandsia look-alike grows in Peru and Ecuador at 200-1000 m. A tiny petal flap at the base of the petals distinguishes this as a vrieesea.)

T. kegeliana - Epiphytic in low, moist forests, Panama to Brazil.. I've got one in a south window, but growing in a small pot with a very loose mix on a capillary mat. It is doing fine now that it has rooted. I've got one doing even better in moderate light, sitting loose on the leaf axil of a big Guzmania. (Grown in bright light, the leaves turn a maroon color.)



On how much humidity you can give them. They all need good humidity but those with the green leaves should be grown in a pot, but with a very loose, well draining mix.

In this group are T. cyanea, T. deppeana, T. dodsonii, T. dyeriana, T. flabellata, T. guatemalensis, T. hameleana, T. ionochroma, T. kalmbacheri, T. kegeliana, T. lampropoda, T. leiboldiana, T. lindenii, T. monodelpha, T. multicaulis, T. orogenes, T. ponderosa, T. prodigiosa, T. standleyi, T. venusta and T. yunckeri.

Those in this group which should be grown epiphytically include: T. acosta-solisii, T. aeranthos, T. andrieuxii, T. brachycaulos, T. bulbosa, T. butzii, T. circinnata, T. filifolia, T. geminiflora, T. ixioides, T. linearis, T. macdougallii, T. magnusiana, T. mallemonii, T. montana, T. oaxacana, T. paraensis, T. polystachya, T. punctulata, T. seleriana, T. streptaphylla, T. stricta, T. subulifera, T. tenuifolia, T. tricholepis, T. tricolor, T. triglochinos and T. valenzuelana.

SUNNY BUT HUMID

These plants may grow epiphytically or saxicolous, but they get high light and good humidity at low altitudes or in the higher cloud forests: T. araujei, T. aurea, T. balbisiana, T. bartramii, T. exserta, T. flexuosa, T. funckiana, T. gardneri, T. gilliesii, T. macbrideana, T. meridionalis, T. rectangula, T. remota; F. roland-gosselinii, T. rothii, T. schiediana and T. umbellata. T. imperialis fits in this group, but with its green leaves it really does best in a pot.

TERRESTRIALS

T. rhomboidea's stiff, grey leaves belie its habit because it grows terrestrially in semi-shade. While it can be grown epiphytically, it seems to do best in a well-drained pot. I've got one growing well under lights in a 2" pot of a very loose mix (mostly cork bits) on a capillary mat.

I repeat my admonition that you can only find out what works best under your conditions by trial and error. Please refer to the specific habitat descriptions and cultural comments under each species name.

Spring Beauty

This is a great time of the year to enjoy the inflorescences and changing leaf colors of the bromeliads on your patio and in the yard here in southwest Florida. Here is a sampling of some of my favorites.



Acanthostachys strobilacea



Aechmea tillandsioides

**Patriotic Red, White
and Blue display of
Aechmea DelMar**



**The bronze
and yellow
leaves and red
inflorescences
of *Aechmea
blanchetiana*
at Fairchild
Gardens.**



First time blooming of this relatively recently described species. *Canistrum alagoanus* has interesting leaves and very waxy bracts.

Not all that in the trees that are red are bromeliads.



Three spikes of *Hohenbergia stellata* erupted this year to greet us in the garden.



Hohenbergia rosea is much more shy than *H. stellata*, showing its colors but every two or three years in our garden.



Nidulariums are among some of my favorite bromeliads. Here is a really nice cultivar of *N. innocentii* and *N. rutilans*. It probably has a cultivar name, but it really doesn't



Our collection of pitcairnias, both species and hybrids have grown over the years. This was labelled simply as a *Pitcairnia undulata* hybrid when we acquired it.



Steve Hoppin gave me this picture of *Tillandsia dyeriana*.

I can't tell you how many of these plants are RIPing in my past growing experience, but finally this year this clone is giving us two spikes and I'm for one counting my blessings.



Several years ago we acquired this hybrid from the late Robert Read's collection. He was well known for making crosses with several of the large aechmeas such as *Ae. rubens* and *Ae. eurycorymbus*. Any suggestions for a name?



We have visited David Shigii several times in Hawaii and I am in awe every time I see his vast collection of patterned vrieseas, which he has created. In March several of them have sent up

spikes, but it's the patterns and markings of the leaves that fascinate me most. From top to bottom are *Vr.* 'Leinaala', 'Snows of Mauna Kea' and 'Sherlette



Shigii'. Although the colors are nice, when these three bloom, they will be at their peak of "Spring Beauty".

Photos and captions by Larry Giroux

EVENTS CALENDER

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.

June 24-30 2008

Bromeliads Down Under 18th World Bromeliad Conference

For additional info link to <http://www.bromeliadsdownunder.com>

August 29th, 30th & 31st, 2008

Bromeliad Rainforest Fantasy - The 2008 FCBS Extravaganza. Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport, Hotel # 1-800-325-3535. For more information contact Tom Wolfe at 813-961-1475.

2008 FCBS EXTRAVAGANZA August 29th, 30th & 31st 2008



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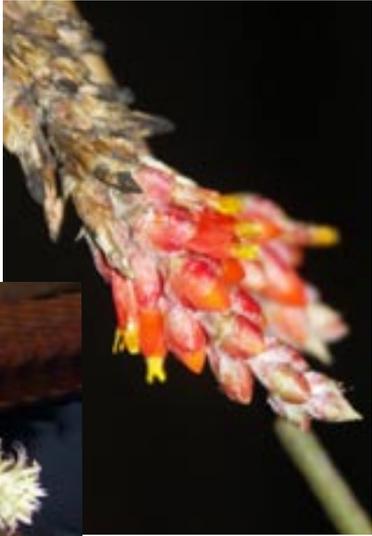
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E-MAIL - DRLARRY@COMCAST.NET



Attending bromeliad events often allows you to see the unusual. These two pictures were taken at the Bromeliad Society of South Florida's Show. Above is the last stage of blooming of *Dyckia beatae*; the inflorescence and arrangement of the flowers is somewhat different for plants of this genus. To the right is the recently described *Orthophytum hazleyi*. The color of the leaves and its compact form makes it unique among orthophytums.

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