



**CALOOSAHATCHEE
BROMELIAD
SOCIETYs
CALOOSAHATCHEE
MERISTEM**

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Jun-Aug 2008



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Orthophytum 'Blaze' - Hybrid - vagans x navioides. This is a medium size plant, approximately 13" high. Likes bright light. Spray water once a week. Has small sharp spines lining leaves. Offsets start out green. They take on red tones as they mature and the plant blushes a bright red in the center at blooming. Caption by Patsy Worley and front and back cover photos by John Worley.



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

June Meeting: Sunday June 15th, 2008

July Meeting Sunday July 20th 2008

August Meeting Sunday August 17th 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
July or August Meetings.

Friendship plants, Raffle items are also welcome.
There will be a Door Prize and Show and Tell

June Program

”Bugging Out” By Dennis J. Giardina

July Program

**“My adventures in the Guyana and Venezuelan
Rainforest”** By Jason Mellica

August Program

“Growing the Jewels of the New World”
By Terrie Bert

Workshops

June: “Mounting” By Betty Ann Prevatt and Eleanor Kinzie

July: “How to Correctly Name and Label Your Bromeliads”
By Bruce McAlpin

August: “Interesting and New Cryptanthus” By Steve Hoppin

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affililate of:



FM-LCGC



Cryptanthus
Society



Bromeliad Society
International



FCBS

President's Message By Donna Schneider

I think that any one who had to miss last month's program missed out. It was nice to see the Bromeliads that Tom and Carol grow a little further north. They have a great collection in their landscape.

I would ask though that if you need to have a conversation with someone in the hall please remember that the sound travels into the meeting room. I think that we need to give our speaker our full attention. And if possible please turn off your cell phone's before the meeting starts.

I have started a suggestion box that our members can use to list the concerns or maybe programs or any changes that you think could better our society. It will be kept with our Library and suggestions will be reviewed regularly. That way if you are a little shy and you have something that you would like to express you can drop it in the suggestion box and remain anonymous.

I would like to say a big THANK-YOU to everyone who has taken a Chair or Co-Chair Committee position. These jobs play a big part in our society's success. We need to work as a team so we can all reach the same common goal. There is a lot of behind the scenes work that ever one does that is a large part of what makes our society a success. It is inevitable that from time to time that you might have to miss a meeting so if you have to address any issues with the membership, when you have to be absent, then please discuss the information with your Chair or CO-chair so they can be addressed at the meeting.

We are still in need of someone to help our Newsletter Editor Larry Giroux with the task of giving us a GREAT newsletter. And we still need someone to set up our Audio/Visual Set up. Hope you will be a part of our team for the Society.

It is getting HOTTER and HOTTER out in the gardens now. Be careful to keep yourself hydrated and the plants too.

I would ask also that if you bring any products (organic or non-organic) to share with the club that there is a product name and at least basic information listed on the container; we, of course, want to avoid improper use, sensitivity reactions or harm from these gifts.

I will be unable to attend the next 3 months of meeting so I ask that you also give Ross your support that you have given me.

Hope everyone has a great growing season.

Donna Schneider, CBS President

Punta Gorda Hibiscus Festival

June 13 & 14 will be the fifth annual Punta Gorda National Hibiscus Festival in Gilchrist Park on the Charlotte Harbor waterfront. Activities will start Friday night with live music on the stage from 6 – 10 pm. Festival goers can bring their own picnic or enjoy food and refreshments available in the park. Saturday morning will be the plant sale which will feature many varieties of hibiscus along with other tropical plants. The farmers market will have plenty of fruit and vegetables. At the Woman's Club there will be the fifth annual Lil Miss Hibiscus pageant and free

lunch for the kid's. Long and short bicycle rides around town will be organized for riders of varying capabilities. The Punta Gorda trolley will be offering free rides around the historic district. The Secret Garden tour will highlight five new yards previously not seen. The Punta Gorda Sailing Club will once again be holding its Hibiscus Regatta off Gilchrist Park with awards on stage. The bounce tent and rock climbing wall will be back to excite the kid's. The antique cars will also be on display and music will continue on the stage all day. There will be many vendors and plenty of food and refreshments to satisfy everyone's needs. Come on down and enjoy the activities put on just for you in Punta Gorda, the City of Hibiscus.

Society News

There will be no printed or electronic newsletters for July or August. Please refer to this issue for information about the July and August meetings. If you have any questions about upcoming events please contact a CBS Officer. Have a Nice Summer.

May Program



Tom Wolfe is to be thanked for showing us the many uses of bromeliads in our landscape projects. His years of experience working with the various plants and especially bromeliads certainly will help us with selecting the best plants for the micro-environments we have here in southwest Florida. Thank you, Tom and Carol for returning to the CBS it is always great to see you both..

May Workshop

Loaded down with lots of plants, Steve Hoppin presented the proper way of dividing your terrestrials, including cryptanthus, pitcairnia and orthophytums among others. Many thanks to Steve for showing us the tricks to making caring for our plants a bit easier.

The Summer Programs

June: Our own member, *Dennis Giardina* returns to give us a program entitled "Bugging Out". It is about the first trip Howard Frank, Tim Andrus and he made to Guatemala in 2005 to look for parasites of the Mexican bromeliad weevil. This took place in the Peten Region, including Tikal, Yaxja and Jaguar Lagoon National Park. This trip was cut short by Hurricane Wilma which followed him home.

Dennis recently left his position as park manager of the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and accepted a position with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as a regional biologist. He is now focused on exotic plant and animal issues in all of the counties south of Lake Okeechobee.

July: This will be the third program given by our member, Jason Mellica. It is entitled “My adventures in the Guyana and Venezuelan Rainforest”.

Jason is a Botany Graduate of the University of Florida and has been in business since 1995. He has studied Bromeliads in the wild in Northeastern South America with over 20 trips to Venezuela and Guyana. He also supports many environmental groups working to preserve natural forest systems throughout the tropics.

August: “Growing the Jewels of the New World” will be Terrie Bert’s program. Terrie tells us - “In this presentation, I talk about the types of plants in 8 commonly grown bromeliad genera (*Aechmea*, *Billbergia*, *Cryptanthus*, *Dyckia*, *Guzmania*, *Neoregelia*, *Tillandsia*, *Vriesea*). For each genus, I review their natural distributions and habitats and growing conditions. Then I describe how they can be grown outdoors, give tips on their propagation, and provide information on how to deal with common bromeliad pests.

Terrie is an accomplished research scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. She has been an active member of the CBS since 1997, the SBS since 1988 and the FCBS, where she has held all executive offices. Besides being a Director of the BSI she has served on BSI Standing Committees and is currently the Affiliates Show Chair. She is a Master BSI Accredited Judge as well as an excellent grower and exhibitor of her vast collection of plants, of which she favors the species plants.

Bromeliad Expose By Larry Giroux

From June 1992 to June 1994, Pat and John Worley published “Backyard Bromeliads” from their home in Bradenton, Florida. This exclusively bromeliad magazine’s format consisted of cultural information, home and garden visits and interviews, genera reviews and specific plant synopses. Pat wrote the articles and John provided black and white pictures which were xeroxed along with the text. However, it was the use of 4-5 actual 4” x 6” color photographs attached to the pages of each issue, which made this publication so unique. I’m including one of their articles “Small Species for Small Spaces” in this Meristem. I have included several of the pictures they used in their journals along with original captions. I hope to reprint some of their other interesting articles including interviews with premiere growers throughout Florida and their first hand accounts of the devastation to South Florida’s bromeliad growers’ yards from Hurricane Andrew.



BILLBERGIA PIXIE Hybrid
- saudersii x nutans.
This is a small size
plant, approximately 10"
high. It likes medium
light. Spray with water
once a week. Has small
spines. Is frequently
misidentified as one
of its parent plants,
Billbergia saudersii,
but it is smaller in
size.



AECHMEA NUDICAULIS
VAR. CAPITATA Species.
This is a medium size
plant, approximately 13"
high. Likes bright
light. Spray with water

once a week. Has sharp, dark spines. Can grow mounted or potted. Very variable in appearance, but in my opinion the prettiest of the nudicaulis.

B I L L B E R G I A
VIRIDIFLORA Species.

This is a medium size plant, approximately 19" high. Likes medium light. Spray with water once a week. Has small, sharp spines. It comes from a wet forest habitat. The color and shape of the inflorescence is quite different from most billbergias.



NEOREGELIA CHLOROSTICTA 'MARBLE THROAT' Species. This is a small size plant, approximately 7" high. Likes bright light. Spray once a week. Has small spines on the leaves. Good stoloniferous variety, which when allowed to multiply, makes a very nice hanging basket. The bloom is fragrant.

Text, captions and photos by Patsy and John Worley.

SMALL SPECIES FOR SMALL SPACES

"Backyard Bromeliads" Issue #11 April 1993

By Patsy and John Worley

We received a note from one of our subscribers in New York a while back, asking if I could do an article regarding small bromeliads that are available for those with a limited amount of growing space. I had to stop and think about that for a while, because, since I'm blessed with about 3 acres to play with, the size of the plants were seldom a consideration.

My husband will undoubtedly dispute that statement. He swears I only want a bromeliad if it's huge and has wicked spines. He says that because he's usually the one who has to wrestle the plant in the van to bring it home and in to the greenhouse if we get a cold spell.

There are a number of bromeliads for those of you with a limited amount of space. The Cryptanthus genus has a couple of little guys 5" or 6" across. Cryptanthus 'Marian Oppenheimer' is a pretty hybrid of soft gray-green with bright pink tinges. Cryptanthus 'Cafe Au Lait', as the name implies is creamy coffee color. Cryptanthus 'Ruby' is a beautiful little plant of varying shades of ruby red. Remember Cryptanthus are terrestrials and even though they may look cute mounted, or stuck in sea shells, they're not going to last long that way.

The Neoregelia genus has a number of small plants but most of them are stoloniferous which means they are going to spread out as they offset and take up a lot of bench space. The solution to that could be: (1) put them in baskets and hang them up; (2) remove the offsets as they go beyond the edge of your pots and share them with friends; or, (3) take one of your empty pots and turn it upside down on the bench and place your potted plant on top of it, thereby elevating it above the others so that it can spread a little without touching the other plants. The bottom pot should be at least one size larger than the top pot so that it can support the other without letting it wobble around.

One of the smallest is Neoregelia lilliputiana, a tiny 4" tall plant, green with some banding. I also have Neoregelia ampullacea cv. Freckles, which I don't find in the Cultivars Listing, but I have had for years, and Neoregelia ampullacea cv Tigrina, both of which are about 5" tall. The names on the ampullacea cultivars have apparently been con-fused from the start and over the last 20 or 30 years things haven't improved. Regardless of the name problem, most ampullaceas are nice little

plants to add to your collection.

My personal favorite is Neoregelia Pauciflora which is a pretty little 6" plant, green with purple spots (shown below). There are two Neoregelia punctatissima that are about 6" tall. The green and the 'Rubra' or



red, both of which have dark banding. One other of these neoregelias deserves mention Neoregelia chlorosticta 'Marble Throat'

(pictured in Issue #3, August 1992, of Backyard Bromeliads) which happens to be fragrant.

The well known Neoregelia 'Fireball' and Neoregelia olens cv. 'Vulcan' are both pretty plants about 6 high, but they are about as wide as they are high and therefore take up quite a bit of space when they begin to multiply.

You might want a couple of green bromeliads to help break up that riot of color, spots and stripes. Aechmea recurvata var. benrathii is a nice 4" green plant with purple at the base of the leaves. There are a number of recurvata cultivars that have been made but most of them are larger than the benrathii, maybe 10 or 12" high. I guess you would just have to inquire about their size should you come across them in a catalog.

Vriesea simplex is about 6" high, green, but would have to be placed on the edge of your growing area since it puts out a lovely pendent bloom that hangs down about 4" below the pot.

Quesnelia humilis is the great little 9" green plant on the previous page. It has the "thumbprint" indentation usually associated with the Aechmea Nudicaulis. As you can see, the bloom is pretty large considering the size

of the plant and it is the most beautiful bright red you've ever seen. You heard of "hot pink", well this is "hot red". It's almost impossible to capture the intense color of this bloom in a photo.

Aechmea apocalyptica is a 9" green plant which doesn't have much going for it, just a green tube, until it blooms. The bloom is interesting in that the scape (stalk) extends 7" above the plant. The first time you see the plant begin to bloom is rather exciting because this inflorescence just keeps coming and coming, almost straight up, and you can't wait to see what it's going to do next. Unfortunately the final flower does not live up to the anticipation, but it is still amazing such a small plant can produce such a long inflorescence.

The Billbergia genus has a few small plants such as Billbergia lietzei, 10" high, which has the interesting characteristic of the leaves recurving or curling up slightly.

If your growing area does not have height restrictions, then you can grow many of the billbergias. The plants are quite tubular and although they may reach 36" in height, they do not require much width. Plants you might consider in this category are as follows.

Billbergia viridiflora a green bromeliad about 20"; Billbergia rosea large to 32", brownish-rubra coloration with heavy banding; Billbergia Pink Champagne, in appearance, a larger version, about 12", of Pixie; Billbergia brasiliensis a tall, 29", skinny gray-green plant with a lot of gray banding. There are any number of billbergias, species and hybrids, that you can choose from if height is not a problem. When you read the description just be sure the plant shape is referred to as tubular rather than rosette.

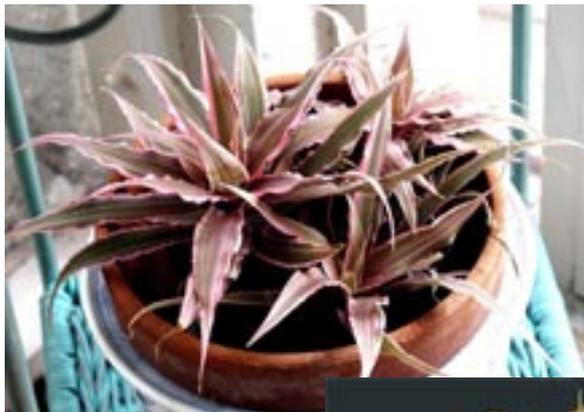
I have tried to list plants in this article that would be compatible in their care requirements.

You will probably not find most of these plants at your local garden centers.

It will be necessary for you to contact a bromeliad nursery. Another source for unusual plants is your local bromeliad societies.



Other photos of bromeliads mentioned in article.



*Cryptanthus
acaulis*
'Marion
Oppenheimer'

*Cryptanthus
acaulis*
'Cafe au Lait'



*Cryptanthus
bivittatus* 'Ruby'

Neoregelia lilliputiana





*Neoregelia
ampulacea*
'Variegata'

Colored pencil
drawing of
*Neoregelia
pauciflora*
by Kiti Wenzel



*Aechmea
recurvata*



Neoregelia olens



Neoregelia 'Fireball'



Billbergia lietzei

Photo by Derek Butcher
Courtesy of fcbs.org



Vriesea simplex 'Rubra'

Photo by Fred Ross

Unless otherwise noted photos
by Larry Giroux

The Blooming Gardens of Steve Seal Photos by Steve Seal

Aechmea blanchetiana
hybrid presumably
from Robert Read.



Aechmea fendleri

Aechmea
'Flamingo'



Aechmea
'Pink Flamingo'



Portea silverae



Androlepsis skinneri

EVENTS CALENDER

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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For info on Hotel, Sales and Schedule contact Tom Wolfe

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Orthophytum 'Blaze'

(See inside front cover for description)

This is your June, July & August Newsletter
Save for future reference

New Members

Dave and Judy Brzoska

2740 Island Pond Lane

Naples, Florida 34119

XXX-XXX-XXXX

davebrzoska@tigerbeetles.com