



July 2006

**CALOOSAHATCHEE
BROMELIAD
SOCIETYs
CALOOSAHATCHEE
MERISTEM**

3836 Hidden Acres Circle
North Fort Myers FL 33903
(239) 997-2237
DrLarry@COMCAST.NET



Billbergia alfonsi-johannis

Best of Show - Horticulture at the 2006 World Bromeliad Conference in San Diego. This bromeliad was exhibited by Joyce Brehm member of the San Diego Bromeliad Society, past member of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and current BSI President.

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Dianne Molnar (capebrom@aol.com)
VICE-PRESIDENT Larry Giroux- (DrLarry@comcast.net)
SECRETARY Tom Foley- (tefoley24@earthlink.net);
TREASURER Betty Ann Prevatt (bprevattpcc@aol.com)
PAST-PRESIDENT Steve Hoppin (SLHAZ@juno.com)

STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Larry Giroux- (DrLarry@comcast.net)
FALL SHOW CHAIR No Show in 2006
FALL SALES CHAIR Brian Weber (brianweber1b@aol.com)
FALL SALES Co-CHAIR David Prall (PalmTreeGardens@hotmail.com)
PROGRAM CHAIRPERSONS Debbie Booker/Tom Foley
(tefoley24@earthlink.net)
WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON Eleanor Kinzie
SPECIAL PROJECTS Deb Booker/Tom Foley
FLORIDA COUNCIL CHAIRMAN Vicky Chirnside-(vickychirn@aol.com)
FCBS REPRESENTATIVES Debbie Booker & Tom Foley
ALTERNATE FCBS Rep. sk@strato.net)

AUDIO/VISUAL SETUP Tom Foley- (tefoley24@earthlink.net); BobLura

DOOR PRIZE Barbara Johnson - (lion56@aol.com)
HOSPITALITY Mary McKenzie
(manytoes@aol.com); Martha Wolfe
SPECIAL HOSPITALITY Betsy Burdette (betsy@burdetteinc.com)
RAFFLE TICKETS Greeter/Membership table volunteers - Luli Westra,
Dolly Dalton, Eleanor Kinzie, etc.
RAFFLE COMMENTARY Larry Giroux
GREETERS/ATTENDANCE 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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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

July Meeting: SUNDAY July 16th, 2006

ST. JOHN the APOSTLE CHURCH 3049 McGREGOR Ave. FORT MYERS.
DOORS WILL BE OPEN AT 12:30 FOR SETUP. Please bring FRIENDSHIP
plants to share with our members.

Currently we do not know who our speaker will be for July. Membership
Sales are encouraged at this meeting.

July Program

(Starting following the refreshment break)

Deb Booker has been working on obtaining a speaker for
this month. Unfortunately the first three persons asked are
unavailable. Come to the July meeting and be surprised.
Have you ever been disappointed?

July Workshop

(Starting at 1:15PM)

“Growing Your Own Bromeliads from Seeds”

By popular demand Eleanor Kinzie, your Workshop
Chairperson, is organizing a discussion and demonstration
on growing both epiphytic and terrestrial bromeliads from
seeds. Various techniques have been mentioned in previous
Workshops and Programs. We will review tried and proven
methods of sowing seeds and raising them to adult size.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affililate of:



FM-LCGC



Cryptanthus
Society



Bromeliad Society
International



FCBS

SOCIETY NOTES

CBS MEMBERS

PLEASE READ THIS ANNOUNCEMENT

In the last issue of the Meristem we published possible options for our members to attend the FCBS Extravaganza in Miami on September 30th. As of our June meeting only two members have contacted Deb Booker or Tom Foley, the Special Projects Chairs, trying to coordinate this event. I'm not sure if this means that the options did not suit our members' needs or there is just no interest in the Society providing transportation. To offer a cost effective solution for a one day outing we would need at least 15 people to participate and for an overnight trip, many more. If we do not have this degree of interest, Deb and Tom have agreed to coordinate alternative transportation. If anyone is going to the Extravaganza and can accommodate passengers for either a one day or overnight stay, please contact Deb or Tom ASAP, but no later than the next meeting. Their contact information is on the inside front page.

This annual event is a great opportunity to meet other growers, add to your collection with plants from around the state and support the

The FCBS Newsletter

Karen Andreas is the Editor and Jay Thurrott and Betsy McCrory are the assistant editors of the FCBS Newsletter. This publication is provided on a quarterly basis to members of the Affiliate Societies. In the third issue each year is printed the Roster of members of all the Societies throughout Florida. It is your best source of information concerning events and sources of bromeliads in our state. If you are not receiving this booklet, please notify your editor or your Florida Council Reps.

Letter from the Chairman of the FCBS Extravaganza

How many times have you said something that sounds like this? If I had only (fill in the blank) when (fill in the blank) was first available I would be a wealthy man/woman today. It's not too late! Well, it might be too late to become wealthy, but you certainly have time to make this year's Extravaganza just about cost free. It's really quite easy. Just select a dozen or so great looking bromeliads out of your vast collection and sell them at the Extravaganza. See "Rules of the Selling Game" in the May 2006 issue of the FCBS newsletter.

Registration date for securing your room at the Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center at the special rate of \$95.00 has been extended to August 29th. For reservations call 305-925-2555 or 877-242-6464 or fax your

request to 305-221-8309 or 305-925-2556. Make sure you mention to the Reservation Representative that you are attending the Bromeliad Society Convention and Exhibition.

The complimentary copies of Elton Leme's Bromeliads of the Atlantic Rainforest have arrived. We are indebted to Kerry's Bromeliads for their generosity and commitment to the FCBS. Get yours by spending one night at the hotel and buying two banquet tickets.

The DeRoose Nursery is donating 200 flowering miniature bromeliads for those attending the banquet.

Think about it! Neoregelia (your name, your wife's name, my name). Actually, any name you choose. Chester Skotak is donating a new hybrid to the Rare Plant Auction that will be named by the high bidder. Said plant will be registered and henceforth will be called ???.

To entice those folks who enter the Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center to visit our sales area, the DeLeon's Bromeliad nursery is putting in an elaborate display in the lobby area with appropriate signage. Nat DeLeon has also offered an additional potted plant to Banquet attendees.

All events are under one (albeit a very large one) roof.

Hope to see you there,
Ed Prince

Last month I listed the new address for Rosemary Fleming. I inadvertently left off her new telephone number. Her complete contact information is included below.

**Ms. Rosemary Fleming
Calusa Harbour Senior Living Community
2525 E. First Street Apt.1309
Fort Myers, Florida 33901 xxx-xxxx**

Welcome New Member

**Donna Brantley
15601 Briarcliff Lane
Ft. Myers, Fl 33912
xxx-xxxx
e-mail gemtoo@juno.com**

Welcome back

**Jeannine Steinmetz
3114 Golfside Drive
Naples, Fl 34110
xxx-xxxx
e-mail GESJS@comcast.net**

June Workshop

Brian Weber, recently back from San Diego, presented the Workshop on Epiphytes and Terrestrials. Brian is the chief grower at Tropiflora in Sarasota and was in San Diego representing Tropiflora in the Sales Area.

From personal knowledge, I know that Brian prefers some of the terrestrial species of the genera *Dyckia*, *Hechtia*, *Orthophytum* and *Cryptanthus*. Select plants of these genera from Brian's collection were well represented for the discussion. Brian's expertise, however, goes far beyond these plants. During his many years of collecting bromeliads and orchids, he has amassed and sold numerous epiphytes including tillandsias, neoregelias and hohenbergias, among others.

Thank you Brian for sharing your knowledge with the CBS membership. Brian generously donated several pots full of *Vrieseas* for the raffle table.

Thanks also to all who brought in plants, especially Betty Ann Prevatt who donated lots of her extra *cryptanthus* and *orthophytum* to plant hungry members..



Photo of a mutant of Orthophytum gurkenii presented at the June Workshop by Brian Weber. Hopefully offsets of this unique plant will result in a new cultivar of this already distinguished orthophytum. Photo by L. Giroux



A carving of Bill Burdette was donated to the raffle by Ross Griffith. Ironically it was won by Betsy Burdette.



CBS at the WBC



The opening event of the Conference was the all day Tuesday Board of Directors' Meeting. The Florida delegation was all present including 2nd from left, Larry Giroux; 6th from left, Terri Bert; 8th from left, Ken Marks; 13th from left, 1/2 hidden, Jay Thurrott and 14th from left, Michael Andreas. Implementation of several recommendations alighted from the all member survey from 2005 will be put into effect as a result of this meeting. Members are reminded to contact your BSI representatives with complaints and suggestions to help the BSI better serve you.



CBS members Eleanor Kinzie, Betty Ann Prevatt, Steve Hoppin and California CBS member, Bob Wright are seen here obviously having a good time.



(Above) Barbara Johnson and her husband, who have relatives in California made an appearance at the Conference. Winning the Best Novice Award at our Show last year must have exacerbated her



“Bromeliad Fever”. (Right) Brian Weber and Rich Kosmacki set up and manned the sales tables for Tropiflora Nursery of Sarasota, one of the major vendors at the WBC.



“Beneath the Bay” was the name of this Artistic Arrangement, exhibited by Larry Giroux at the 2006 WBC. It won the Best Artistic Arrangement using predominantly cryptanthus. The Cryptanthus Society provides 8 special awards at every WBC. Unfortunately, primarily due to the low number of cryptanthus entries in all Divisions, only 6 awards were given. C. ‘Pink Starlight’ of varying sizes were mounted on wood and coral to create this design.

This multiple of Billbergia ‘Hallelujah’ won Michael’s Bromeliads the Commercial Division IV Award - Best Non-Blooming Multiple Bromeliad. This widely grown billbergia is an early creation (1988) of Don Beadle using B. ‘Domingos Martins’ and amoena ‘Ed McWilliams’.



CBS member Grant Groves won the Commercial Division II -Best Individual Non-blooming Specimen Award with Neoregelia ‘Magali’. Grant made this cultivar from N. ‘Lila’ X ‘Meyendorffii’ and named it to honor his partner in his life and their business, Magali Groves.

Cryptanthus ‘Wild Cherry’ was the judges’ favorite for the Cryptanthus Society Award - The Warren Loose Best Hybrid Award. This award was won by Larry Giroux. This relatively new cultivar was produced by Carole Richtmyer from the cross of C. ‘Rita Padden’ and ‘Red Baron’.



In cultivation, where hundreds and often thousands of a plant are grown, the discovery of a variegated “sport” of a species is becoming more common; however, this variegated form of Quesnelia marmorata was actually discovered in the habitat of the Rio de Janeiro State in 1998 by Raphael Olivera, a much more rare event (info. provided by Chester Skotak). This rare plant was initially propagated by Chester Skotak and currently by a limited number of other growers. Michael’s Bromeliads won Division II Section A - Best Individual

Non-blooming Specimen and the Commercial Best New Cultivar Awards with this quesnelia. This second award is a new offering from the BSI at World Bromeliad Conferences.



Larry Giroux took home both the CS Award - Best Decorative Container and the Michael Young Award for Best Artistic Division Entry with this Bicycle Cart filled with C. ‘Ruby’.

All Photos by Larry Giroux

Grant and Magali Groves are busy at work keeping their sales tables filled for the feeding frenzy, which occurred when the doors of the Sales Area was opened on Thursday night to registrants. In addition to the Groves, Tropiflora (Brian Weber), Larry Giroux who brought cryptanthus to sell on the Members' Sales table, and Michael and Donna Kiehl representing Michael's



Bromeliads brought numerous plants including several special new releases such as the variegated Neoregelia 'Hannibal Lector' crosses. Unfortunately, this photographer never had his finger on the shutter button when in Michael's and Donna's presence.



Pictured to the left is Terri Bert with her sister Patti Rein. Both are seen here in good spirits. Unfortunately, soon after this photograph was taken, Terri had to file for bankruptcy following her astronomical bids for several of the items in the BSI Rare Plant Auction held Friday night at the WBC. Although she had friends and relatives there to console her, in reality it appeared that

they were the cause of her Chapter 13.

The CBS attendees of this year's World Bromeliad Conference remained busy at various duties the entire week. Although Betty Ann Prevatt and Eleanor Kinzie were able to get away for the tour to Mexico, come Thursday morning Betty Ann, as Judges' Chairperson, with the assistance of Eleanor, were responsible for guiding the judges through nearly 7 hours of decision making. All day Wednesday took up Betty Ann's time at the Judges' School. Steve Hoppin also had time for trip taking, but volunteered to be a Panel Judge on Thursday. Larry Giroux, with fellow Floridians, Jay Thurrott and Michael Andreas handled Classification; with Karen and Michael Andreas, flashed pictures as the official photographers; with Steve Hoppin, Carole and Rick Richtmyer from Texas and Jennie Wisley of California, organized and setup the Head Table and with Steve Hoppin and a crew from the San Diego Bromeliad Society, broke down the Show. With meetings, seminars and presentations, luncheons, banquets, auctions and the Show and exhibits to see there was always plenty to do and enjoy. We all arrived home exhausted, but with good feelings of accomplishment and unforgettable memories.

All Photos by Larry Giroux

June Program

As a prelude to John Russell's presentation about tillandsias, John and his wife Jimye Kaye brought a large selection of tillandsia species and cultivars for sale. The condition of the sale plants was testimony to the care and attention this couple gives to the plants at their nursery.

Highlights of his discussion were examples of plants, which he brought of some of the unusual species and cultivars that they has discovered in their years exploring and growing. Although some of the examples he displayed are only now ready for sale after producing sufficient quantities, many others are already available.

A major topic in John's program was the criteria he employs to select which plants are commercially saleable. Important factors discussed included the final appearance of the grown plant, the quantity of offsets in order to supply the 10,000+ plants of each type necessary for sale and the rate of growth of plants from seeds.

An additional treat for the members was the distribution of their colorful catalog. John emphasized that the beautiful pictures and listings of his plants in the brochure only represents a small percentage of the specimens available from his nursery. A cultural sheet included in the handout was reviewed in depth as well as their techniques for growing tillandsias from seed.

Many thanks to John and Jimye for spending Father's Day with us and providing us the program and plants for purchase.

For further information, if you did not get a catalog, contact Russell's Bromeliads at www.russellsairplants.com or 407-322-0864.



(Above) John and Jimye Kaye Russell, owners of Russell's Bromeliads in Sanford, FL. (To the right) Tillandsia utriculata 'Pringeli', one of the unusual bromeliads brought for sale by the Russells.

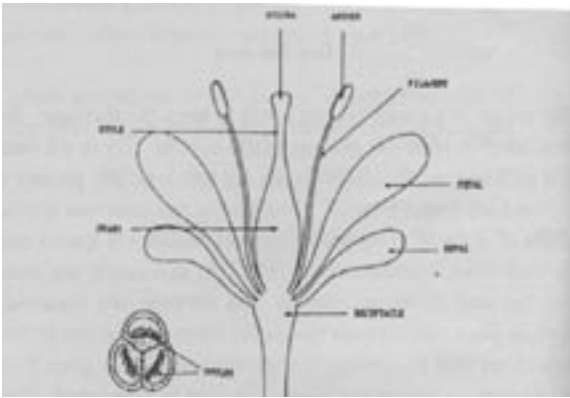


Cultural Tips: Growing From Seed

By Don Garrison

(This is an article reprinted from Vol 31, No 9, Sept. 1998 of The Newsletter of the Houston Bromeliad Society, written by another of the Texan "Gurus" of Bromeliads. At the July Workshop we will be discussing other techniques for growing from seed.)

All bromeliad flowers have three petals, six anthers and one stigma. The anther and filament together is called the stamen. The stigma, style, and ovary together is called the pistil (that's your biology lesson for today). The pollen grains mature on the anthers and are ready for crossing when they easily fall off or segregate into the individual grains like dust. The pollen is placed on the stigma using an artist's brush, or tweezers, or a pipette.



Now let me talk about a few details. The easiest way to make seeds is by self-pollination. Just put a paint brush into a flower (sometimes you can flick it with your finger) and put pollen on the stigma. If the plant is a species you'll get seeds that should all grow up to be identical. If it is a hybrid, a dog from every village.

All intergeneric bromeliads are sterile, so don't waste your time using them. A lot of species bromeliads are self-sterile. You need two plants from different origins to cross-pollinate to create fertile seeds. If two plants from the same mother are crossed the seeds will *not* be viable. *Some crosses* will produce *no* seeds and others sterile seeds. Most *Dyckia* are self-sterile.

If you use a paint brush, or whatever, to remove and place pollen, be sure to clean and sterilize it before using it for a different pollen. Use soap and water and a little alcohol.

It could be that two plants you'd like to cross don't bloom at the same time. Pollen can be sealed (*Ziploc* bag) and stored in the freezer for 18 months or so, and still be viable.

The plant whose flowers have been pollinated should be quarantined so that no humming birds or bees or insects can bring any pollen from another plant. To ensure that your cross is not self-pollinated, the flower should be picked open a day early and the anthers, with unripe pollen, removed (I cut the filaments with cuticle scissors). With a little experience and observations you'll soon be able to

recognize what a flower looks like the day before it opens.

Please keep meticulous, written records of your efforts in some form of a log (the seed parent is listed first in identifying the cross). The actual cross can be physically marked by writing on a leaf using an indelible ink pen or by placing a small, numbered sliver of plastic tag between the pistil and the sepal.

Seeds mature in a period of several months to a year. If you can see the ovary swell in a couple of months you'll know you were successful. *Cryptanthus* can take up to nine months and *Tillandsia* up to a year.

The seeds of the *Tillandsioideae* and *Pitcairnioideae* don't need cleaning except to remove some chaff. The *Bromelioideae* are usually the berry type and require several washings in a mild liquid soap to remove all the jelly, then thorough drying with paper towels. I store all seeds in small, sealable plastic bags with a very small amount of corn starch.

Bromeliad seeds germinate on top of the mix in sun light. The mix can be anything you want to use. I prefer milled sphagnum moss (*Scotts* has some on the market, but be sure to wear latex exam gloves and, probably, a disposable respirator if you use milled moss). I fill a six inch plastic pot to two inches from the top. I soak the moss thoroughly with fungicide (I use *Daconil*). Then I place the seeds on top of the moss and seal the top of the pot with a clear sheet of polyethylene (*GLAD Cling Wrap* or *Saran Wrap*) and secure it with a rubber band. I place the pot in a saucer of water then under florescent lights with the spectral characteristics of natural light. The top is about nine inches from the tubes. The seeds should be kept continuously moist. I leave the lights on 16 hours a day and keep a fan blowing to keep the reduce the heat from the florescent tubes. You could use natural sun light, but I wouldn't recommend the harsh, direct summer sun. The germination time varies with the genus, from a couple of weeks to several months.

As the seedlings grow I water from the saucer and use a balanced water soluble fertilizer about one-half strength. When the seedling start to hit the cover I begin to slowly expose them to the outside world First by making a few holes in the cover. This is the most critical time for the seedlings, preventing damp off. Some genera are more susceptible than others with *Dyckia* being very sensitive. Most of the *Tillandsioideae* do better when grown in the air and subjected to wetting and drying several times a day. Press the seed onto a fibrous material like a tree fern root, a hemp rope, or a fiber glass screen and suspend it with monofilament fishing line. Mist several times a day with a balanced, diluted, water soluble fertilizer. Be sure to let them dry between mistings.

If you aren't ready to generate your own seeds, but would like to grow some species plants, just send a self addressed stamped envelope to the following address and Harvey (*the BSI Seed Bank Chair*) will send you a price list of what's available.

Mr. Harvey Beltz
6327 South Inwood Road
Shreveport, LA 71119-7260

Minutes of the May CBS Meeting

DATE: June 18, 2006

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

ATTENDANCE: 42 with 1 guests Evelyn Pierson and a new
member Donna Wesley.

WORKSHOP: Start time: 1:08 pm Who: Brian Weber - Title:
Differences between Epiphytes and Terrestrials

PROGRAM: Topic Growing Tillandsias by John Russell. Giving
great tips to care for our Tillandsias plants. John and Jimye
had loads of beautiful Tillandsias for purchase, that sold
fast.

BREAK: 25 minutes to eat & visit.

REFRESHMENTS SET-UP: Thank you to Mary Mc Kenzie and
Sue Gordon.

Business meeting CALL TO ORDER: Pres. Dianne Molnar at
3:10pm

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

FCBS REP: Vicki Chirnside-: None

Lee County Ft. Myers Garden Council Delegate: None

MERISTEM: Larry Giroux- None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Reminder to contact Tom Foley or Deb
Booker if interested as to going to the Miami Extravaganza
September 30, 2006.

DOOR PRIZE: conducted by- Luli Westra, Name of Item- Art
carving and Cryptanthus warasii; donated by Ross Griffith
and Brian Weber; won by Betsy Burdette and Nolan

SHOW & TELL: Conducted by Dale Kammerlohr - a very nice
selection of plants.

RAFFLE: Commentary by: Larry Giroux ; runner: Bob Lura

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at – 3:50pm

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Foley, Secretary

2006 FCBS Extravaganza

Hotel reservations deadline Aug 29th for \$95 rooms
Call 305-925-2555 or 877-242-6464

Saturday Night Banquet Tickets \$30 @
Choice of Baked Chicken or Smoked Gouda or Veg. Plate
Send check or money order payable to BSSF to
Ms. Moyna Prince
11220 SW 107 Ct.
Miami, Florida 33176
Reservations must be received by September 20th.

EVENTS CALENDER

September 30, 2006

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Bromeliad Extravaganza Presented by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center, Miami

Got something of interest?

If any of you have special events other members would be interested in, please submit them to your editor. Please provide by the 1st of the month, prior to publication.

**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
3836 HIDDEN ACRES CIRCLE
NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33903



Photo by L.Giroux

Neomea 'Pernumbra' was the Commercial Best in Show winner at the WBC for exhibitor Michael Kiehl representing Michael's Bromeliads in Venice, Fl. Michael and wife Donna are members of our Society.