

*Jul-Aug  
2015*



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE  
BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S  
CALOOSAHATCHEE MERISTEM

# CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD

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# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

**July Meeting– Sunday, July 19th, 2015**  
**Aug Meeting– Sunday, Aug 16th, 2015**

## **Covenant Presbyterian Church**

**The church facility is located near downtown Fort Myers, Florida, at 2439 McGregor Blvd., just one block south of the Edison Home parking lot and about 1 1/2 miles north of our previous meeting location—**

**St. John the Apostle Church. The facility is approximately 2.5 miles north of the intersection of Colonial Blvd. and McGregor Blvd.**

**Doors open at 12:30PM for Meeting Setup**

**The Combined Workshop & Program begins at  
1:15PM**

**Please bring food, Raffle and Show and Tell Plants**

**Membership Sales are not permitted at the July meeting**

**Membership Sales are permitted at the Aug meeting**

**The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:**



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

## **July Workshop & Program**

### **“Mounting 101”**

**By Brian Weber**

**Brian Weber, chief grower at Tropiflora will give a hands on combined Workshop and Program on mounting our bromeliads. Brian will show you which bromeliads can be mounted, the different kinds of mounts and simple and effective ways to mount them. He will also demonstrate ways to mount non-epiphytes by providing niches in mounts to provide growing media.**

### **August Workshop**

**Cate Peterson has agreed to return in August to give us another Workshop. I will update you on the topic as the time draws near.**

**BTW—We are still looking for a Workshop Chair to organize a set schedule for our Workshops for the rest of 2015 and 2016.. In the meantime, we are asking members to please volunteer to give a brief presentation. Contact Dale Kammerlohr if you have an idea or wish to discuss one of the topics we received from polling the membership.**

### **The 2015 CBS Show and Sale???**

**Your Board of Directors and Committee Chairs will be deciding whether we will have a Biennial Show in conjunction with the Sale in December.**

**Since 1981 we have had a judged Bromeliad Show. In the past our Shows were major events with 300+ entries and a celebration costume party appropriate to the theme held**

on Saturday night. For the last several years, the number of entries have dwindled and the enthusiasm has declined.

Whether we have a Bromeliad Show really depends on the strength of support from our membership, an effort on their part to enter exhibits in the Show and their willingness to help with the various committees. Please give us your opinion on whether you want to have a Show this year. Discuss it with other members, talk to the long time members and let your officers know if we have your support... soon. It does take some time to organize the Show.

Remember the Show dates are less than 5 months away.

## **Mounted Bromeliads**

**By Dr. Larry Giroux**

More than half of all bromeliad genera are epiphytes, which means they may have roots, but get the majority of their nutritional needs and water from specialty organs, called trichomes, on their leaf surfaces. Roots may contribute some of these needs, but for the most part roots are used to stabilize the plants and attach the growing plant to a surface.

In nature these surfaces can be tree bark, the ground, rocks and even electrical wires.

We often find the remaining bromeliad genera: the terrestrial species, growing in locations where we would imagine only epiphytic plants could survive. Closer examination would reveal that these root-dependent bromeliads are actually growing in pockets of media in the crotch or fork of a tree or cracks or spaces of rocks or even in the cups of other bromeliads.

The following is a pictorial essay about mounted bromeliads.



We can take a lesson from Nature by examining how bromeliads are mounted in their natural habitat. This *Tillandsia fasciculata* is growing on a broken lateral limb in the Everglades. Its roots are wrapped around both the lateral limb and vertical trunk. Since it most likely started growing here as a seedling, it did not need any early support as we would have to give a mature or partially grown plant when first mounted to allow the roots a chance to attach. Photo by Larry Giroux

The picture on the front cover demonstrates how the trimmed palm fronds make great “boots” to insert bromeliads. There is a constant source of moisture and the roots are protected from the sun. If you can’t find “drift wood” to mount your plants, two of these boots tied together can make a suitable, inexpensive hanger for your plants. Photo by L. Giroux



The displays at Nong Nooch Garden in Thailand are a magnificent feat of mounting. They grow acres and acres of both terrestrial and epiphytic bromeliads behind the scenes; then, build topiaries, hanging gardens and massive artistically crafted walls of plants, which are constantly changing. Photos by Larry Giroux.

There are certain bromeliads that really should not be mounted such as this collection of xneophytums of Bryan Windham of Kenner, LA. Although these bigenerics are from the cross of an epiphytic neoregelia parent, it prefers to be treated as you would its terrestrial orthophytum parent. To take advantage of space, which few of us have enough of, these pole ring were devised in the 1970's to hold large number of plants in just 16 sq ft of floor space. It is like a 3D mounting system. Photo by Larry Giroux.



Most Tillandsias prefer to be mounted. From L to R, top to bottom– Seedlings of *T. hammeri* were started on a slated tray and let to grow to maturity. This clump of *T. funckiana* is growing on vinyl shelving; it supplies the needed support. Regardless of the way you initially mount this bulbous shaped *T. ehlersiana*, they often grow downward to prevent rot from accumulation of water between their leaves. A mature *T.*

*streptophylla* is harder to establish and a younger specimen should be selected to mount. Photos by Larry Giroux



There is a small group of tillandsias like this *Tillandsia novakii*, which do not develop roots to provide attachment to its mount. This doesn't mean you can't mount it, but expect that you will not be able to remove its temporary restraints. Usually these types are just hung by fishing line or left in a basket. Photo by Larry Giroux.



The miniature and small neoregelias and aechmeas make great mounted bromeliads. Many neos produce their offsets on stolons, such as this *Neoregelia liliputiana* growing on a piece of volcanic rock. Although a beautiful Horticultural Display for a show entry, some judges would subtract points for the non-bromeliad companion plant...i.e. moss, which is technically not allowed in this show category. Aechmeas, do well attached to nearly any surface. Some grow very large and can hold large volume of water, so care must be taken when mounting these plants to be sure they are secure when they get large. Here is seen a Horticultural Display show entry of *Aechmea nudicaulis* mounted to a stump. The patterned leaf aechmeas such as *Ae. orlandiana* and the group such as *Ae. racinae* with pendulous inflorescences are better appreciated when they are mounted and hung high. The same holds true for the patterned billbergias. The light passing through the leaves add another dimension to these plants. Photos by Larry Giroux.



Probably the ultimate mounts are these artificial trees resembling the Umbrella Acacia trees of the African savanna. The late Harry Luther who worked at the Gardens By the Sea in Singapore, where these “trees” were erected, was an taxonomist who specialized in epiphytes. I wonder if he foresaw masses of bromeliads mounted on these man made wonders. Photo from the Gardens By the Sea website.



Cork slabs have lost some of their popularity over the years as a mount for our plants. I’m not sure why since the irregular porous surface is ideal for root attachment and growth. Tillandsia hybridizers favor wine bottle corks to start newly developing seedlings of their hybrids. Here is pictured a large clump of *Tillandsia bulbosa* on a piece of cork. Wood remains one of the most popular mounts for our epiphytic bromeliads. Roots, slabs, trunks and weathered driftwood all provide perfect surfaces to attach plants. It is important, especially if you are planning on entering in the Horticultural display category, not to varnish or enhance the surface. Again this is a rule for entries of this show category. Enhanced mounts, however, can be entered in the Artistic divisions. Even if you do not plan on showing your plant, sealing the wood decreases the ability of the roots to attach and for the wood to hold moisture for root development. The photo to the right, also on the back page, is a tillandsia hybrid on a piece of grape vine. Photos by Larry Giroux.



When the rules for displaying cryptanthus were established for the All Cryptanthus Shows, Horticultural Displays of cryptanthus were not allowed. The Cryptanthus Society officials realized that cryptanthus as terrestrials as mounted exhibits contradicted the definition of the a Horticultural Display...”a look of permanence should be displayed by the plant”. Since cryptanthus, dyckias, orthophytums and other terrestrials can not be grown simply mounted, they cannot show permanence.

However, we often see in nature, terrestrials growing in niches in rocks and the forks of trees, where there is soil to support root growth. The picture above shows how one grower solves this problem. Also popular besides true hanging baskets are strawberry pots and drilled out volcanic rock or wood.

## CBS Minutes for May 17th 2015

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Dale Kammerlohr at 1:15

Workshop: Pete Diamond “Why you need to label your plants.”

Pete led a discussion on the various reasons why it is important to keep labels on your plants. Some of these were all plants to be sold need to be labeled and also plants must be labeled to be entered in a show and put them on the raffle table. Pete also discussed the different kinds of labels and their pros and cons. Some of these were plastic, vinyl, aluminum, and zinc. The best writing utensil is a #2 pencil. It is important to make the name clear and legible. It is also a good idea to write out two tags and bury one completely in the soil as a backup. Some places to buy tags: EONIndustries.com and DP industries. You can use rocks or bricks as labels and etch the names with a Dremel tool. If a label should become covered in algae you can dip it in a jar of chlorine. The algae will die and the pencil will remain. Do not trust permanent marker.

General Meeting: Thank you Michael and Donna Kiehl for hosting our birthday party. It was a big hit.

The FCBS Extravaganza will be in Miami on September 26<sup>th</sup>. For more in-

formation and a registration sheet see Vicky Chirnside.

Attendance: There were 50 members and guests at today's meeting. Including new members Kent Hines and Bruce Knapp and guest Dick Ridge.

Program: Don Beadle gave a very interesting talk on how he came to be a bromeliad hybridizer. He is from Texas and didn't really get started in bromeliads until he was 40. *Aechmea* 'Black Jack' was his first bromeliad. After a while he became interested in hybridizing and concentrated mostly on *Billbergia* because no one else was. He realized that *Billbergia* are difficult to cross because of their short bloom time. His solution was to freeze pollen until he was ready to use it. *Billbergia vittata* 'Domingos Martins' was a savior for producing color and patterns in the leaves. In the 90's he bought 5 acres of land in Venice, FL. In 2004 he sold that land and the plants on it to Michael Kiehl and bought a boat. He lived on and traveled in the boat for several years. Then he sold the boat and moved back to Florida. He then went back to Michael's Bromeliads to help out with the *Billbergias*.

Door Prize: Bruce McAlpin donated 8 blooming *Vriesea*. They went to: Jeff Lazar, Sandy Drake, Terry Lazar, Signe Diem, Barry Kruger, Bob Lura, Linda Sorter, and Dave Bogert.

Show and Tell was led by Dave Prall

Refreshments

Raffle led by Larry Giroux, assisted by Terri Lazar.

Meeting was adjourned approximately 4PM.

Submitted by Carly Sushil, Co-Secretary

### Bromeliad Events

**The CBS Sale and Show (?) - December 4th, 5th & 6th 2015. Additional information forthcoming.**

#### **The FCBS Extravaganza**

**WHAT: You're invited to attend the 2015 Bromeliad Extravaganza® Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida**

**WHEN: Friday & Saturday, September 25 and 26, 2015**

**WHERE: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Miami Airport & Convention Center**

**The Bromeliad Society of South Florida is our host this year as we enjoy a two day event (with optional tours on Sunday, September 27) in beautiful Miami. It's a fun filled weekend of activities starting on Friday evening with a meet and greet. Enjoy a huge bromeliad sale on Saturday. Guest speakers are Sr. José M. Mazanares from Ecuador and Mr. Craig Morell of Pinecrest Gardens. A wonderful banquet on Saturday evening is followed by a fabulous Florida Council Rare Plant Auction. Optional tours on Sunday include Block Botanical Gardens, Sunshine Bromeliads and Pinecrest Gardens.**



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**This is your July and Aug Newsletter.  
If you know that other members are not receiving their e-  
-mail or hard copy of the Newsletter, please let me know.**