



July-Aug
2013

The Caloosahatchee **BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S** Caloosahatchee Meristem



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD

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CBS FCBS Rep.—Position available

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RAFFLE COMMENTARY—Larry Giroux

GREETERS/ATTENDANCE—Betty Ann Prevatt; Dolly Dalton (dollyd@comcast.net), Luli Westra

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FM-LEE GARDEN COUNCIL—Mary McKenzie 939-5820

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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

July Meeting– Sunday, July 21st, 2013
August Meeting– Sunday, Aug 18th, 2013
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 setup, Workshop starts at 1:15PM. Everything stays the same...Bring food, raffle items, Friendship table items, Show and Tell plants.

Membership Sales are allowed at the July meeting
Membership Sales are allowed at the August meeting.

July Program

“The Diversity of Cryptanthus”

By Dr. Larry Giroux

Dr Larry, the Editor of the CBS Newsletter and of the Cryptanthus Society Journal, was a guest speaker at the September 2012 World Bromeliad Conference in Orlando Florida. This was the latest of his talks about cryptanthus, which he has presented to Societies and at WBCs over the last 22 years. He has agreed to give a repeat performance of this presentation, since so few of our membership was able to attend. Using the registration forms, which are completed for new cryptanthus cultivars, as an outline, he will discuss the diversity of

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



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the genus *Cryptanthus*. He will be showing specific examples of species and hybrids to demonstrate the variation.

JULY WORKSHOP

Carol Sweat has volunteered to give the July Workshop. Over the years Carol has been involved with bromeliads in Naples. Besides her own patio and gardens, she has been CBS's liaison to what has been going on in Collier County. This has included the Naples Botanical Gardens and numerous plant sales, both commercial and private.

Her topic will be the sun-loving bromeliads. She will have pictures of the many bromeliads she has seen throughout her travels here in SW Florida.

AUGUST PROGRAM

“Southwest Florida’s Bromeliad Sites”

By Pete Diamond

Pete, our Workshop Chair, has been exploring our area since arriving here from the North a few years ago. He has come up with a list of some of the accessible spots where you and your guests can travel to see bromeliads in gardens and in parks. Lee and the surrounding Counties have a wide and varied populations of many of the native bromeliads found in the state of Florida. Pete is going to show you how to take advantage of our fortunate location and see these bromeliads.

AUGUST WORKSHOP

Sharalee Dias and Marsha Crawford are teaming together to present at the August Workshop—Arranging Bromeliads for Indoor/Outdoor Displays and Floral Shows. This is a show year so I'm sure that the information and tips they will be telling us about will be helpful in preparing arrangements and decorative containers for the Artistic portion of our Show.

Become Part of the Effort to Enhance a Botanical Garden in Our Area.

The Everglades Wonder Gardens have been a focal point of Bonita Springs since 1936 when Bill and Lester Piper created the facility to rehabilitate injured animals. The park has remained in the Piper family ever since and has become a place for visitors to enjoy the botanical gardens and see Florida's wildlife in an intimate way, something that modern parks cannot provide. On April 21st 2013, the animal park was closed due to the health issues of David Piper, Lester Piper's grandson.

Internationally recognized local photographer John Brady and family will take over the operation of the Everglades Wonder Gardens in the Historic District of Bonita Springs.

The new EWG will focus on the botanical gardens, which has some of the most unique species of both native and exotic specimens from South America. The park will appeal to the many visitors that frequent Southwest Florida from all over the world, and will also have a focus on the local community and its residents. The history and heritage of the gardens is of great importance and Brady will continue to uphold its legacy through the operation of a museum in the main building. There will also be an art gallery featuring the work of Brady as well as some other prominent local artists. Brady's images are from the swamps, creeks, and coastal areas of the Florida less traveled. The main building will also have gifts and souvenirs.

We are asking our members to contribute to the gardens by bringing landscape plants to the July CBS meeting. If everybody brought in just one or two plants from their yard, this would greatly add to the existing gardens at EWG. Other plant societies including the Naples Orchid Society have been contacted.

Carol Sweat has agreed to be our contact with the Gardens and will be bringing her SUV and/or her truck to the July meeting to collect bromeliads that members want to donate. She is also willing to drive to homes to collect plants if they are too cumbersome to bring to the meeting. Her home number is 239-732-7017 & cell number is 239-980-8047. If you are bringing plants to the meeting or have others at home to donate, please call Carol and let her know about them and if she needs to bring one or two vehicles. Thanks

Front and Back Covers

By Larry Giroux

The front cover photo is of *Hechtia texensis* taken by Dave and Geri Prall while walking along a trail in Santa Elena Canyon at Big Bend National Park in western Texas. The plants are out of bloom, but still demonstrate the size of the rosette and the nature of the multiple branching spike. The Pralls were also able to document the type of habitat where plants of this Genus are found.

The back cover is a close up of the typical clusters of white flowers that cover the branching inflorescences of many hechtias. Included in the article below are additional photos of hechtias and one showing the rosy colored flowers of some species of hechtias. Photo by Larry Giroux.

Bromeliad Expose'

By Larry Giroux

Hectias

There are only about 60 species of the genus— *Hechtia*, which have been discovered in the arid regions of Texas, Mexico and Northern Central America in the last 175 years. This genus adds another facet to the family of bromeliads. They resemble more closely cacti and other succulents, among which they can be found growing next to each other in deserts and rocky cliffs. They are xerophytic terrestrials, which like cacti can tolerate extremes of heat and cold and lower moisture conditions. They range in size from approximately 6 inches to nearly 4 feet. The stiff, succulent leaves, which are margined by coarse prominent spines are often indistinguishable from the leaves of plants of the genus *Dyckia*. And although they resemble dyckias in many ways, their habitats are half a continent apart. Dyckias are only found south of the equator; while hechtias have been discovered only in the areas mentioned above. Dyckias have minimal branching of their inflorescences and the flowers are shades of yellow and orange; dramatically different are hechtia inflorescences, which have multiple branching and whose flowers usually are white with a few species having rosy or reddish petals. Both dyckias and hechtias, unlike most genera of bromeliads, have lateral inflorescences; there is a limited group of hechtias, which sport their



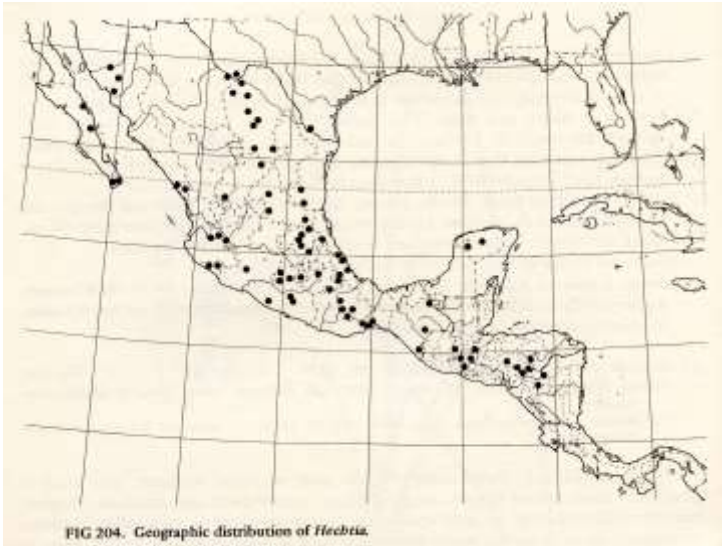
***Agave lechuguilla* is another native plant growing in the Great Bend National Park. The sign identifying the hechtias mentions this to compare the spines and spikes of these to genera of plants. Photo from Wikipedia.org.**

Big Bend Country. Compare the leaves and flowering stalks with those of lechuguilla.”

spikes from the center of the rosette.

The Pralls provided the picture on the front cover page of this issue of the Meristem. On a recent trip to Big Bend National Park in southern Texas, during a walk in a remote area of the desert, they came upon a clump of these hechtias. They noted that although there were many other plants around, only these bromeliads had a large sign identifying them.

“*Hechtia scariosa*. *Hechtia*, a member of the pineapple family, grows only in the



From Flora Neotropica #14, 1974—*Pitcairnioideae*, Smith and Downs

Although in the picture that the Pralls sent me, the sign looks like it is well maintained and recent, the information it contains is dated.

For many years it was believed that there were four *Hechtia* species native to the southern portion of Texas. These four included *Hechtia scariosa*, *ghiesbreghtii*, *glomerata* and *texensis*. Today, taxonomists have changed the bromeliad taxon lists and recognize only two distinct *Hechtia* species indigenous to the United States. These are *Hechtia glomerata* and *texensis*. *Hechtia ghiesbreghtii* has been renamed *glomerata* and the hechtia in the Pralls' photo (*Hechtia scariosa*) is now considered *H. texensis*.

Although it is not uncommon that specific bromeliads may exist in cultivation with more than one name, it is more understandable that this happens among the hechtias. It has been noted by Victoria Padilla in her book, The Colorful Bromeliads and Their Culture, The Bromeliad Society, Inc, 1966 that:

“The Hechtias have one interesting character which is unusual in the family of bromeliads. While the flowers are monoecious, having both pistil and stamens, however, each species has what we might term masculine and feminine forms. In other words, in the male form the pistil is not fully developed enough to function. In years past in many of the species, because of the different vegetative appearance in the two forms, each sex was named as a separate species.”

A second characteristic of many of the hechtias, which might have led to a specific plant being described as two separate species, is the wide variation of the leaf color and pattern resulting from various cultural factors. In the case of *Hechtia texensis*, the included pictures demonstrate how light intensity has a significant influence on the appearance of this species. With this species and many other of the



***Hechtia ghiesbreghtii* was listed as one of the 4 hechtias native to Texas. It has been reevaluated and has been renamed *Hechtia glomerata*. Depending on its culture *Hechtia glomerata*'s outward appearance can be quite variable. Photo from www.tropengaten.de.**

Another entirely different appearing specimen of *Hechtia glomerata*. Probably grown under much greater light intensity; now demonstrating yellowish foliage and rust color streaks. Photo by Derek Butcher from fcbs.org

Hechtia species leaf color can vary from yellow to green to amber to dark rosy within the same species.

Many thanks to Geri and Dave Prall for sending me these pictures and I encourage everyone to send me your pictures of bromeliads that you take on vacations, from their own yards or visits to others' gardens.



This photo is of a mountain road in Guatemala. It was here that several species of hechtias were found. Plants of the same species had different appearances depending on their sun exposure. Photo by Larry Giroux.



Hechtia texensis photo by D. Mueller, JBS 1982 p157

of color into the leaves from the spines.

Note the wide variation of color and markings in the photo above by D. Mueller and that below by Len Harrison of *Hechtia texensis*.

To the right are spikes of *Hechtia*

Like most hechtias, *Hechtia texensis*'s appearance can vary greatly depending on its culture. All plants of this species have red to brown spines. The variation is the color of the leaves and the spread



texensis. This shows the white flowers, although the branching in this species is not as great as with other hechtia species. Photo of inflorescences also by Len Harrison. Pictures from fcbs.org.

To the right are seen the typical small flowers of hechtia species. There can be hundreds of blooms on spikes 3 to 4 feet long. Below is an example of the inflorescence of some hechtia which have pink to dark rose colored petals.



Photos by Larry Giroux

Accepting Show Names

Our Sale and Show are scheduled for the first weekend in December.

It is time to select a theme and name for our Show to help with the selection of awards, decorations and the design of posters, etc. Please take the time to submit a name which will suggest a theme that we can work with. Please give these to Betty Ann Prevatt or Larry Giroux as soon as possible.

CBS Meeting Minutes May 19th 2013

Location: Covenant Presbyterian Church at 2439 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33901

Meeting called to order at 1:15 PM. By President Marsha Crawford

Attendance total: 52

New members: 0

Guest: 8, Elizabeth Repple, Pauline Woods, Mary Gune, Rick Cinino, Reggie Wilson, Ross Griffith, Hal MacFarland, Bob Alonzo

Workshop: Alcanterea. Presented by: Bruce McAlpine

Bruce brought many wonderful *Alcanterea* from his own collection to show us. He said this genus, which use to be a subfamily of *Vriesea* is often neglected because they are thought of as extremely large, green and slow to mature. The ones we use in landscape are desired because of the foliage, not the inflorescence. *Alcanterea imperialis*, *imperialis rubra*, a smaller hybrid *vinicolor* and *odorata* are most common here. These are spineless and make many “grass pups” or “hair pups” when young, and regular off sets when mature. Now is the time to separate the pups. He puts them in damp sphagnum moss (not packed too tight) and keeps them moist. He uses sphagnum for most of his pups and struggling plants. *Alcanterea* in nature grow on cliffs so their roots will grow into anything. He plants in well drained medium such as ½ perlite & ½ potting mix. For the large ones he uses lava rock, plant on top, more lava rock around and then puts the potting mix on top and shakes it till it disperses throughout the rock. He uses 1-3 gallon plastic pots and then places these in the heavy clay pots for stabilization. *Alcanterea imperialis* takes full sun but is often bothered by snails that eat the tender tips as they are formed, so he uses a few granules of snail bait between the leaves.

Break: 1:50 - 2:10 PM

Program: “Bromeliads O-P part II” Presented by: Dr. Terri Bert

Today Dr. Terri Bert covered *Pitcairnia*, *Portea* and *Puya*. ***Pitcairnia*** is a primitive plant known as the grasses of the Andean Slopes. This genus contains over 336 species. It starts with spiny juvenile leaves and ends with softer grassy like leaves. Leaves can be slim or broad, most like shade but some are sun tolerant, all like lots of water and many grow near rivers. Flower colors range from red to blue, with yellow and white being rarest and only in high elevations. Flowers are branched and unbranched, many have directional growth depending on their pollinators. Oddities are cone heads,

spotted foliage, droopers and flat tops. All are terrestrials so use large pots with trays to keep them moist or plant in well drained soil in the ground. Grow in shade to filtered sun and use lots of slow release fertilizer to get the best blooms. Can withstand cool temps but not prolonged frost. As long as its bulb is solid it can survive. Blooms around the holidays. **Portea** contains 9 species and are from southeastern Brazil. Their inflorescence last for months and are either loose or compact, usually ranging from red/pink/purple. They grow at the edge of forest, costal mangroves and on sandy dunes. These are sun loving bromeliads and can withstand some dry periods. *Portea nana* can be grown in full shade to full sun. Don't cut the bloom off of *Portea grandiflora* as the seed pods themselves are attractive. All these are terrestrial so plant in large pots with bromeliad medium, or orchid mix, use slow release fertilizer and water 1 - 2 times a week. Cold tolerant.

Puya the most ancient has 219 species. The largest of these, *Puya Raimondi*, grows at 12000 feet, can be 10 meters high and takes 80-100 years to bloom. You can find *Puya* in the high plains and peaks of Santiago Chile. Mostly big and spiky, some have soft leaves and some are twisted and tangled like *Puya prosanae*. The flowers can be branched or single spike, sessile, cone heads, club headed and spike heads. Many have dark blue flowers and heavy scurf which repels UV rays. Some white bell shaped flowers and some with pink bracts and blue flowers. *Puya alpestris* grows here in partial shade with water once a week but may rot in rainy season. The *Puya* that grow in Florida all have blue flowers. These terrestrials need sun. Use large pots with coarse soil like volcanic rock, perlite, or orchid mix. Put on trays of water to water from below. Fertilize heavily with slow release fertilizer and water 1-2 times a week. Cold tolerant.

Break for refreshments: 3:12- 3:30 PM. Thank you Mary McKenzie and volunteers for all the wonderful treats.

Business Meeting called to order at 3:30 PM. by President Marsha Crawford.

Announcements: Marsh Crawford wanted everyone to know that former member Lara Cordell recently passed away. There will be a celebration of her life on June 2, 2013. Please contact Elizabeth Migliore for details.

Door Prize: Three *Aechmea nudicaulis* were donated by Bruce McAlpine and won by Pat Bevacqua, Kay Jansen, and Margaret England.

Show and Tell: Led by Dale Kammerlohr.

Raffle: Led by Dr. Larry Giroux, assisted by Marsha Crawford, Luli Westra and Terri Lazar

Adjournment: 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Sharalee Dias and Carly Sushil, Co-Secretaries

CBS Meeting Minutes June 16th 2013

awl, sewing needle, or other sharp implement. After stabbing the center of the plant cut away some of the lower leaves to expose to the soil to the sun and this should stimulate offset growth.

Break for refreshments: 3:05- 3:25 PM. Thank you Mary McKenzie and volunteers for all the wonderful treats.

Business Meeting called to order at 3:25 PM. by President Marsha Crawford

Announcements- Marsh Crawford announced that the Treasures report was posted in the back. We received a thank you letter from the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies for our donation of \$675. Lara Carcinci made a memorial donation for our December show awards in memory of Laura Cordell. Carol Sweat asked the club members if they wanted to donate plants or time to the Everglades Wonder Gardens that have reopened under John Brady as a botanical gardens and museum. **Meeting called to order** at 1:15 PM. By President Marsha Crawford **Attendance total: 28**, New member: Mary Guhne, Guest: 0

Workshop: "Landscaping with Bromeliads in a Cactus Garden" Presented by: Dr. Jeffrey Joffe- Jeff showed us a slide show of how he has mixed bromeliads in and among other cactus and succulents in his landscape. Bromeliads blend well and enhance this type of landscape for the following reasons. 1) Plant Diversity 2) they like sun 3) xerographic 4) cold hardy 5) most come from dryer areas 6) low maintenance 7) varying textures 8) adds color 9) interesting flowers. He uses anans, deuterocohnia, dyckia, encholirium, hechtia, neoglaziovia, orthophytum and puya. Various sizes and colors of rock accent the plants, and to keep weeds out he uses roundup which doesn't seem to harm the bromeliads.

Break: 1:34 - 2:00 PM

Program: "Tearing up Terrestrials" Presented by: Ray Lemieux Chief Terrestrial Grower at Tropiflora- Today Ray brought in many bromeliads and showed how he takes off the pups and repots them. Orthophytums have leaves that spread downward and make it hard for water to get into the pot. He cuts off leaves at pot rim height and then pulls it out of the pot. Remove the dead leaves and offsets then repot in "dirty perlite" 70% perlite and 30% soil. For species that put out pups on the bloom spike, or upper puppers, Ray said to remove each pup and pull off any dead leaves. Then plant in regular potting soil. After all the pups have been harvested, the mother plant will put out more pups from the base. Ray likes shallow bulb pots instead of standard pots and uses liquid fertilizer on the soil, not on the leaves. On Pitcairnia species Ray removes the plant from pot, digs down deep for roots, cut off the bulbous end and pull off dead skirt. When dividing Pitcairnia look for many very small pups in the soil. The pups of terrestrials can be separated from the mother much earlier than epiphytes. Be careful of sharp spines some of these offsets have. There are two kinds of Deuterocohnia: big rosettes and mounding varieties. To repot you start by cutting the leaves off around pot rim, and pull off brown leaves and break up root ball. Repot as above. On the mounding varieties you should plant three or five to a pot. Hechtia and Dyckia are both repotted in the

same way. Take out of pot, pull off dead leaves, and cut through roots of mother plant before repotting. Dykias divide themselves and so the new plant is very close to the mother. Use care when dividing. Cut off leave to remove from pot, remove dead leaves get rid of soil to see where multiple plants are growing. Cut part way through one side then the next. You can let this harden for a day or two before re potting. To repot Navias get rid of old leaves, replant stolens and you can harvest seeds. Navias like chunky peat and no direct sun, lots of water. Neoglaziova send their stolens deep in the soil. Because of this they should be planted in tall pots. It is important that they are replanted at the same level or the rosette will fall apart. Monocarpic plants such as eneholirium reproduce by seed but you can force pups by damaging the center with a clean m. If you would like to donate any plants or time please contact Carol Sweat at (239) 732-7017. Larry reminded us about the need to get working on the show and sale coming up in December. We still need to fill all show officer positions. Marsha said we will spend a significant amount of time on filling these positions next meeting.

Door Prize: Two Dykia cherry coke were donated by Bruce McAlpine and won by Larry Giroux and, Kay Jenssen

Show and Tell: led by Dale Kammerlohr

Raffle: Led by Dr. Larry Giroux, assisted by Marsha Crawford and Terri Lazar

Adjournment: 4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Carly Sushil and Sharalee Dias, Co-secretaries.

Calendar of Bromeliad Events

August 17-18

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale. The Garden Club of Sanford (on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd) 9:00AM—4:00PM.

September 21

Bromeliad Extravaganza

Hosted by Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society. Holiday Inn Harborside, 401 2nd Street, Indian Rocks Beach, 33785, 727-595-9484. Info contacts: Susan Sousa (susansousa1@yahoo.com) and Judy Lund (glund@tampabay.rr.com)

December 6-8

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society's Show and Sale. Back of Terry Park, Fort Myers, Fl. Judged Show– Friday, Dec 6th; Sale Saturday, Dec 7th, 9AM-4PM and Dec 8th 10AM-3PM. For additional information contact Betty Ann Prevatt (bprevatt@aol.com).



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**Hold on to this issue...
it is your July & August edition**