



CALOOSAHATCHEE
BROMELIAD
SOCIETYs
CALOOSAHATCHEE
MERISTEM

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October 2009



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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VICE-PRESIDENT Ross Griffith
SECRETARY Luli Westra (lulidave@yahoo.com)
TREASURER Betty Ann Prevatt (bprevattpcc@aol.com)
PAST-PRESIDENT Steve Hoppin (steveandlarry@comcast.net)

STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

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FALL SALES CHAIR Brian Weber (BrianWeber1b@aol.com)
FALL SALES Co-CHAIR David Prall (PalmTreeGardens@hotmail.com)
FALL SHOW CHAIR Steve Hoppin (steveandlarry@comcast.net)
FALL SHOW Co-CHAIR Betty Ann Prevatt (bprevattpcc@aol.com)
PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON Bruce McAlpin
WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON Steve Hoppin (steveandlarry@comcast.net)
SPECIAL PROJECTS Gail Daneman (bob@fesq.net)
CBS FCBS Rep. Vicky Chirnside (vickychirn@aol.com)
CBS FCBS Rep. Debbie Booker/Tom Foley (tefoley24@gmail.com)

OTHER COMMITTEES

AUDIO/VISUAL SETUP Bob Lura, Terri Lazar and Vicki Chirnside
DOOR PRIZE Terri Lazar (terriLML@earthlink.net)
HOSPITALITY Mary McKenzie; Sue Gordon
SPECIAL HOSPITALITY Betsy Burdette (betsy@burdetteinc.com)
RAFFLE TICKETS Greeter/Membership table volunteers - Dolly Dalton, Eleanor Kinzie, etc.
RAFFLE COMMENTARY Larry Giroux
GREETERS/ATTENDENCE Betty Ann Prevatt, Dolly Dalton (dollyd@comcast.net), Luli Westra
SHOW & TELL Dale Kammerlohr (dzdase@embarqmail.com)
FM-LEE GARDEN COUNCIL Mary McKenzie
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On our front and back covers are two plants of the cross of *Neoregelia (carolinæ)* x 'Hannibal Lector') x 'Norman Bates'. Prior to the 2006 WBC in San Diego, numerous seedlings of this grex, which was made by Chester Skotak, were sent to commercial growers to grow and eventually sell. Today there are many beautiful plants of this cross available in cultivation. Read in this issue how *Neoregelia carcharodon* 'Tiger' played a major role in the creation of these plants. Photos by Larry Giroux.



THE CALOOSA HATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

October Meeting Sunday October 18th 2009

ST. JOHN the APOSTLE CHURCH 3049 MCGREGOR AVE. FT. MYERS.

DOORS WILL BE OPEN AT 12:30 FOR SETUP.

MEMBERSHIP SALES WILL BE PERMITTED

at the October Meeting.

Friendship plants, Raffle items are always welcome.

There will be a Door Prize and Show and Tell

October Program

(starts after the break)

“Preparing Your Entries “

By Betty Ann Prevatt

With our Show only 2 months away we are trying to help our members with the preparation of plants and other entries for exhibition. Betty Ann, our treasurer has been involved with all aspects of bromeliad shows for nearly three decades and has been specifically associated with the judging of shows. She is the perfect person to cover the many facets of entering and preparing your plants and artistic entries for our Show. Please come to the October meeting with any questions you have concerning entries.

October Workshop

(starts at 1:15PM)

“Selling for Fun and Profit”

By Brian Weber

The Sale is a critical event of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, which is held each year. This is our major fund raiser and allows us to hold our Show every other year. And each year the costs of running our Society and holding special events increases. Brian Weber, the Sales Chairman will be explaining the rules for selling and will give you hints to maximize your profits while helping your Society at this Workshop.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affililate of:



FM-LCGC



**Cryptanthus
Society**



**Bromeliad Society
International**



FCBS

Society News

Message from the President

During the next few months a lot is going on which involves you our members. Here is a reminder list of some of those things.

There are great plant sales and events going on in our area, check them out. These include both local events and the 2009 FCBS Extravaganza. Time is short for getting a discount on your hotel room in Orlando. What you save in hotel charges will pay for your gas. Also think about selling a few plants to help with expenses.

If you plan on selling at the CBS Sale be sure to attend the October Workshop for rules and setup times. Please bring a copy of the rules found in this newsletter. Brian will review these with you.

Volunteer to work the Sale. Thursday night is setup for the Show with Friday AM setup time for the Sale. Saturday and Sunday the Sale is open to the public. Check with Brian or any of the other Committee Chairs at the Oct. Workshop. There are a lot of things you can help with.

Steve Hoppin will fill any left over Workshop time with additional information. Betty Ann Prevatt will review Show preparations for workers and exhibitors in lieu of a Program.

Save and bring to the Sale, boxes and bags. Pick up your posters and display them all over SW Florida. Pick up Road signs at the November meeting. Our Show and Sale is only a little over 8 weeks away!

Notice the change in the date for our Holiday Party; plan on attending and having a fun and relaxing time the week following our Show, we will have lots to talk about.

See you at the October meeting,
Donna Schneider, CBS President

Bus Trip to the FCBS Extravaganza Please Sign-up NOW!!!

The Sarasota Bromeliad Society has contacted Donna about us permitting some of their members to join the bus trip in November. (Actually there are several members of our Society who also belong to the SBS.) You need to sign-up NOW to reserve a seat, before we offer seats to SBS members.

Contact Donna Schneider ASAP at 239-283-4874 or sgarydonna@aol.com.

Welcome to New Member

Rusty Bell

5620 Rainbow Drive Bokeelia, Florida 33922

rustytree@embarqmail.com xxx-xxx-xxxx

The September Program



Grant and Magali Groves have a great nursery, Color Zone Tropicals Nursery in Winter Park Florida. Grant for many years has been selecting variegated mutations from the thousands of offsets and tissue cultured seedlings, which he grows for sale.

At our September Program he treated us to several of his finds and the variegated plants he has been developing. Many thanks to Grant for helping us understand the mechanisms at work for creating these abnormal, albeit, beautiful freaks of nature.

I have included in the electronic version of this issue of the Meristem, several pictures of the plants, which Grant brought in to the meeting for our members to appreciate again up close.

The September Workshop

With the upcoming Show just around the corner, Larry Giroux started us off on preparation of our entries with a discussion of Decorative Containers for the Artistic Category portion of our December Show.

His program was a modified presentation that he gave to judges at a previous judges school. Knowing what judges are looking for in an exhibit will greatly help and guide the entrant in preparing their entries.

Key points to remember from Larry's program is the need to provide harmony between the plant and its container. This can be done with color, shape and texture. Using the principles and elements of artistic arrangement design, even in creating Decorative Containers will enhance your entry. The "WOW" factor will usually guarantee that your entry will be considered for major awards.

Thanks Larry for the interesting and informative slide show.

Nominations of Officers for 2010

The Nominations Committee, with Mary Scofic as Chairwoman, will present a slate of nominees for the officers' positions for CBS for the upcoming year at the October meeting. If you are asked to run for an office please accept or if you are interested in serving in any of the elected positions, please contact Mary Scofic ASAP. (239) 369-9675 or MSCOFY@yahoo.com

The 2009 CBS Holiday Party

Please mark on your calendar - The CBS Holiday Party's Date **has been changed** from the third Sunday to the Second Sunday of December

**The 2008 CBS Holiday Party will be on:
Sunday, December 13th**

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

The FCBS Extravaganza is scheduled for November 13-15th. To get the reduced room rate of \$109 + tax, you must call and make reservations by OCTOBER 14th with the hotel (see the notice below). After that date the normal rate goes into effect, assuming there are rooms available.

Included in your 2009 FCBS Roster, which you should have received in the mail, is the registration form and menu choice for the Saturday night Banquet. If you do not have that form, go to the www.fcbs.org website and print a new form.

2009 Orlandiana Extravaganza

Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Hosted by Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Inc

November 13-15

RENAISSANCE ORLANDO HOTEL-AIRPORT

5445 Forbes Place, Orlando 32812

Just north of the Orlando International Airport off SR 436/Semoran Blvd.

(407) 240-1000 Toll Free : 1-800-545-1985 Fax (407) 240-3602

www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mcora Group code: *hsobsoa*

24 hour Airport Shuttle Service



Friday

8:00-9:00 Dessert Social

9:00-10:00 Plant sales

Open to Conference Registrants Only

Saturday

9:00-6:00 Plant Sales, Seminars, Raffles,

Silent Auctions, Saturday Evening Banquet

Followed by Rare Plant Auction

Sunday Morning

9:00-12:00 Home bus tours

**PULL OUT YOUR
BEST PINEAPPLE SHIRTS
an award will be given**

Extravaganza Rate \$109.00 per room
Be sure to ask for rooms for Bromeliad CF
Group rates available until
October 14, 2009

REGISTRATION: \$60 for Reception, Banquet and *Early plants sales.*
\$50 for Saturday Sales and Banquet.

The Rare Plant Auction

The Saturday night "Rare Plant Auction" held following the Banquet at the FCBS Extravaganza is a great evening of fun and entertainment. More importantly it is the major fund raiser for the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. It permits them to conduct business and fund programs such as the Weevil Eradication Program.

The FCBS requests that each Affiliate society provide at least 5 auction items. These items do not have to be "rare", but rather plants, collectibles, art, books or such, which other members would like to own. All items are greatly appreciated. If you are going to the Extravaganza, just drop off your donation at the holding area at the hotel; if you are not attending, please contact one of the CBS officers and they will be sure someone will take it for you.

Bromeliad Expose By Larry Giroux

The following article includes several photographs of plants, which were taken several years ago, prior to the registration or naming of these plants. Therefore, many are labeled with only their parental formula names if known. Due to technical difficulties, I was unable to learn the subsequent registered name of some of these crosses. If there is anyone who wishes to spend their time researching current names, please feel free to do so and if you send me a list (in xls, doc or rtf format) with the parentage and registered names, ready for publication, I will include it in a future newsletter.

Put a Tiger in Your Collection

From 1889 to 1896, Baker played around with a plant previously collected in central eastern Brazil, finally settling on the name *Aregelia carcharodon*. In the early 1930's, L.B.Smith renamed the genus, *Neoregelia* and the name *Neoregelia carcharodon* has stuck to present times. M.B.Foster on a collecting trip in 1939, brought back several specimens of this plant collected from widely separate areas including Espirito Santo, Vitorio and Santa Teresa. This large bromeliad with its also large central tank, was found growing epiphytically (in trees) in the rainforest. Victoria Padilla wrote in her book, "Bromeliads" in 1973-

"*N. carcharodon* — (1889) So far as this author knows, this species is one of the largest and most robust of the entire genus. It is best suited for outdoor planting, as its heavy appearance does not lend itself to being a houseplant. The leaves are gray, with maroon specks above and maroon blotching underneath."

In a later edition she gives a more detailed description-

"Discovered in mountains near the city of Rio de Janeiro and in Espirito Santo, Brazil. A large robust species with stiff, grayish green leaves, spotted purplish maroon above and blotched and banded beneath, that form a spreading rosette. The 2-foot-long, 3-inch-wide leaves have prominent purplish spines and red tips. The white flowers, tipped with lavender, form a dense head deep in the center."

It was these large spines, which prompted Baker to give this plant its name *carcharodon*, which means "with shark teeth".

Over the following years this large, spiny plant remained a novelty in cultivation. However at the 1996 WBC in Orlando Florida, *Neoregelia carcharodon* was placed into the spotlight as a parent of a pair of exceptional bromeliads newly available for sale- *Neoregelia* 'Ying' (also referred to as 'Yin') and 'Yang'. These unique cultivars were produced by Chester Skotak of Costa Rica (<http://chesterskotak.com/>) from *Neoregelia carcharodon* and a clone of *carolinae lineata*, which was capable of transmitting variegation to its progeny. The creation of these patented cultivars from the *carcharodon x carolinae* grex (<http://www.freepatentsonline.com/PP10716.html>) and several earlier Skotak variegated hybrids revolutionized bromeliad hybridization in a very short time. Today there are enormous numbers of outstanding variegated bromeliads, largely due to the efforts of Chester Skotak.

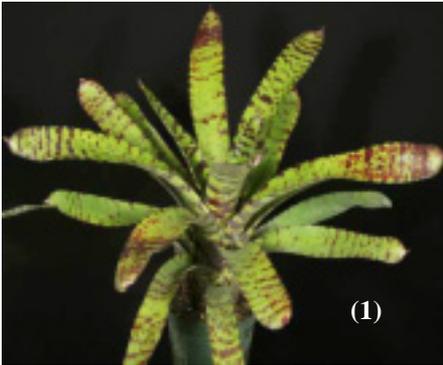
This brings me to the original purpose of this article- *Neoregelia carcharodon* 'Tiger' in cultivation. In Vol 13 No 1 - March, 2003 issue of Tropiflora's Cargo Report, published by Dennis Cathcart, Dennis wrote this about 'Tiger':



Neoregelia carcharodon 'Tiger'



Neoregelia ampullacea 'Tigrina'



Neoregelia 'Hannibal Lector'(1)



Neoregelia 'Clarise'(2)

Neoregelia 'The Governor's Plea'(3)

Photographs from Tropiflora's Cargo Report, Dennis Cathcart, Editor.



Neoregelia "Hannibal Lector F2"



Neoregelia 'Ying'

Neoregelia
'Blushing Tiger'

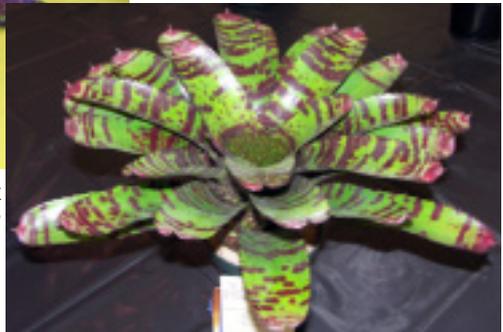


Neoregelia
'Screaming Tiger'



Neoregelia 'Hannibal Lector'
x smithii

Neoregelia 'Hannibal Lector' x
"Foster's *concentrica*"





Neoregelia 'Governor's Pie'

Neoregelia
'Kahala Dawn' x
'Hannibal Lector'



Neoregelia 'Medusa'

Neoregelia pauciflora x
'Tigrina'



Neoregelia
'Tiger Head'

Neoregelia 'Painted Delight' x
'Hannibal Lector'



All photos unless noted by
Larry Giroux.

“*Neoregelia carcharodon* ‘Tiger’ This plant has become a superstar since its limited introduction just a couple of years ago, finding a ready market at high prices at bromeliad conventions and shows. A spectacular, large-growing plant with heavy reddish-brown bars across light green leaves. Large marginal spines line the wide, stiff leaves. A superior plant for hybridizing, Hannibal Lector being an example. It should be noted that this plant has no official botanical status. It was brought into cultivation by Chester Skotak after having found it in a Brazilian collection. Lacking a better description for now, it is being referred to as *carcharodon* cv. Tiger.”

From that one time importation of this plant by Mr. Skotak to his nursery in Costa Rica, it seems that an entire industry revolving around tiger-like barring of bromeliads has evolved starting with Skotak’s *Neoregelia* ‘Hannibal Lector’.

The following is just a partial list of “tiger” plants, many of which are illustrated here.

Neoregelia ‘Hannibal Lector’ - Three clones were selected by Skotak from the grex of *Neoregelia punctatissima* x *carcharodon* ‘Tiger’ for registration. *Neoregelia* ‘Hannibal Lector’, *Neoregelia* ‘Clarise’ and *Neoregelia* ‘The Governor’s Plea’.

Neoregelia ‘Norman Bates’ – Skotak’s hybrid of *Neoregelia carcharodon* ‘Tiger’ x ‘Hannibal Lector’

Neoregelia ‘Tiger Head’ (‘Betty Head’ x *carcharodon* ‘Tiger’) - A Tropiflora hybrid by Ray Coleman.

Neoregelia ‘Groves’ Red Tiger’ – *Neoregelia* ‘Ornato’ x ‘Tiger’. Cultivar by Grant Groves

Neoregelia “Hannibal Lector F2”

Neoregelia ‘Kahala Dawn’ x ‘Hannibal Lector’

Neoregelia ‘Hannibal Lector’ x “Foster’s” *concentrica*

Neoregelia ‘Hannibal Lector’ x *smithii*

Neoregelia ‘Groves’ Medusa’ – *Neoregelia* ‘Hannibal Lector’ x ?

Neoregelia ‘Painted Delight’ x ‘Hannibal Lector’

Neoregelia ‘Tiger Shark’ – *Neoregelia ampullacea* ‘Tigrina’ x (‘Kahala Dawn’ x ‘Hannibal Lector’) by Jason Mellica

Neoregelia ‘Blushing Tiger’ – by Lisa Vinzant

Neoregelia ‘Governor’s Pie’ – *Neoregelia rubrifolia* x ‘Hannibal Lector’

Neoregelia ‘Tunisa’ – *Neoregelia punctatissima* x ‘Hannibal Lector’ by Chester Skotak

Neoregelia (*carolinae* x ‘Hannibal Lector’) x ‘Norman Bates’ by Chester Skotak

To be fair to Mother Nature, there are other bromeliad species with tiger-like stripes, which are beautiful just the way they are, but have also been used to add variety and color to our collections. Examples of a few cultivars using these species are -

Neoregelia ‘Screaming Tiger’ – *Neoregelia carolinae* ‘Tricolor’ X *ampullacea* by Sharon Petersen

Neoregelia ‘Alley Cat’ – *Neoregelia punctatissima* x ? by Grace Goode

Neoregelia pauciflora x *tigrina*

So in the word of one of the great tigers, Tony, -tiger stripes are “Grrreat” and we should all have them in our collection.

PLANT SALE RULES

1. Plant sales identification, necessary sales labels and allocation of table space will be assigned by Chairperson, Brian Weber- brianweber1b@aol.com, 941-355-2847(Home) or 941-256-4405(Cell)
2. Sale hours will be Saturday, December 5, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday December 6th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sales will be permitted to Show Judges and members actively working the Show and Sale on Friday, December 4th starting at the judges' break until dark.
3. Plants will be received Friday morning December 4th, 2009 following the setup of the sales area. (Setup time to be announced at the CBS October meeting) Unsold plants must be removed Sunday, December 6th by 5:00 p.m. or become the property of CBS.
4. All plants must have TWO TAGS - A white or near white tag which indicates **plant's name** (it may have your ID on it, but no price). The second tag should be a colored tag either obtained from the Sales Chairman or a colored one previously used at a CBS Sale. This tag will have the **seller's ID**, previously obtained from the Sales Chairman and the **price of the item**. These should be clearly written on the upper portion of only **ONE SIDE of** the colored tag . All plants and other sale items must be labeled in this manner before arrival at the sale.
5. To be eligible to sell plants, a CBS member must:
 - a. Be a member in good standing at least six months prior to sale.
 - b. Be required to attend a minimum of 2 meetings a year.
 - c. Follow all Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society plant sale rules.
 - d. Help in the sales area and assist in clean up.
6. All plants must be priced in increments of one dollar (\$1.00).
7. Plants must be clean and free from disease, insects, etc.
8. Twenty five percent (25%) of members' sale proceeds will be retained by CBS. Sales tax will be the responsibility of CBS.
9. CBS will not be responsible for loss of plants or craft items, however, all reasonable precautions will be taken to insure their safety.
10. Bromeliad oriented items (art, note paper, carvings, needlework, food, crafts, etc.) may also be offered for sale, subject to the preceding rules. These items should be labeled the same as plants, following rule #4.

The Other Plant Sale's Rule

A complaint, which is inevitably voiced to the Sales Chairman at every sale is that many of the “nice plants” vanish soon after they are placed on the tables; often prior to the opening of the sale.

This year we are designating time on Friday to allow our Judges and active workers on Friday, to make purchases from those plants set up in the tent on Friday morning. This of course is to reward those volunteers who give of their time. Nevertheless, these sales will go through normal channels, CBS will get 25% and will pay the 6% sales tax.

Please remember that we undertake the effort each year to have a bromeliad sale to make money not only for the sellers, but also for the CBS so we can have a Show every other year and afford other events during the year. When plants are traded or sold without putting it through proper channels, CBS is losing 19% (25% - 6% sales tax) of the plant's cost.

Members have all year long to contact each other and make deals; we have members' monthly sales available at nearly every meeting where the Seller is charged only 10% and speakers are charged nothing. So we ask you and encourage you to buy from each other during the Sale hours and not make “deals” outside normal procedures. In this way you contribute to the success of not only this Sale, but all the other activities, including this Newsletter and donations for which we use our profits generated from the Sale to afford during the rest of the year.

The 19th World Bromeliad Conference

Now is also the time to start to plan a vacation to New Orleans, Louisiana. The city has totally recovered from Katrina. It has so much to see and do besides hosting the 19th WBC. New Orleans is within a comfortable driving distance of Fort Myers. The Hotel venue is within walking distance of all the excitement New Orleans has to offer. With New Orleans centrally located within the “bromeliad belt” of the U.S., it is expected to be one of the largest WBC events ever. Lock in the lower registration fees now and guarantee a room in the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel. For schedule and registration info see below for the GNOB website or go to the BSI.org website for details.

BROMELIADS
in the
Big Easy

Catch the Fun.... July 26-August 1, 2010

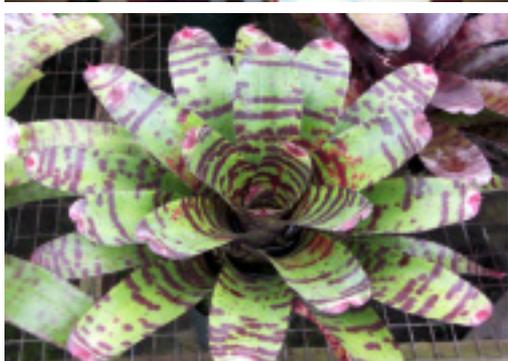
19th World Bromeliad Conference
Hosted by BSI & GNOB
Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel
New Orleans, LA USA

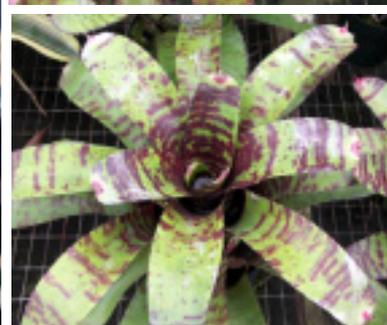
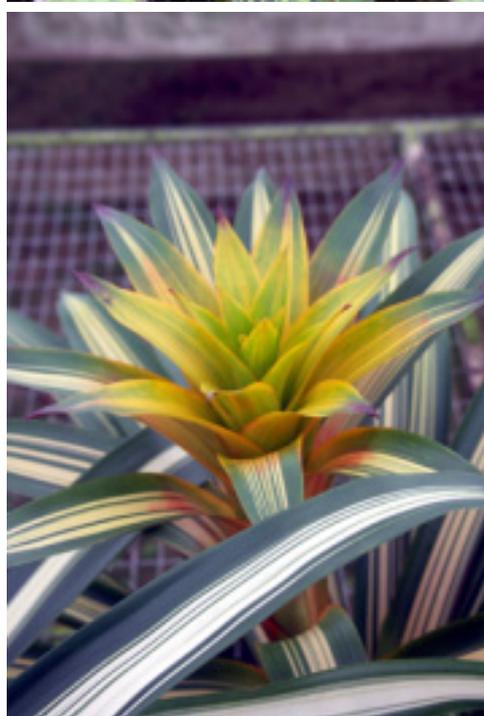
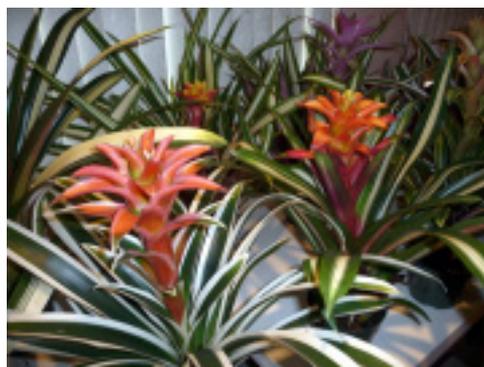
For Conference Schedule and Registration Information
visit our website: GNOBromeliads.com

For Hotel reservations contact the Astor Crowne Plaza
at (504) 962-0500 or visit www.astorneworleans.com

**Pictures from Color Zone Tropicals in Winter Park
and Grant Groves' Plants**





The Clone Preservation Project

By Alan Herndon

Greetings,

I have added several new people to the distribution list this month. This is largely because I was recently contacted by Barry Uren (New Zealand) with the news that they have a similar project underway in their country. It is likely that other groups are also working on similar projects, and I hope a wider distribution of these updates will make it easier to establish contact with these groups. If you are interested in seeing the original project proposal and the earlier updates, they are available at the FCBS website.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in receiving these updates, have them contact me.

If you would like to be removed from the distribution list, just let me know.

Thanks. Alan (Alanherndon@AOL.com)

Clone preservation project update - September 2009

I would like to start by acknowledging some people who have aided the clone preservation project. David Williams of Fort Pierce has a bromeliad collection with several plants that can be traced back to the 1940's. He has already contributed two plants from his collection to the clone preservation project (they are being propagated for distribution). We expect he has other plants of interest for the project and look forward to continued interaction with him. In Sarasota, Linda Sheetz and Helga Tarver have actively supported the project. Linda has already carried out some independent projects in her local society.

Aechmea fasciata and its allies are now blooming or recently past bloom, so it seems like a good time for a review of the group. First, with respect to taxonomically recognized taxa,

Aechmea fasciata has 4 recognized varieties (var. *fasciata*, var. *flavivittata*, var. *pruinosa* and var. *purpurea*). *Aechmea dealbata* is not considered to vary enough to warrant the recognition of separate subspecific taxa. In fact, *Ae. dealbata* is very similar to *Ae. fasciata* in appearance. It has a smaller, paler inflorescence and leaves with a pale red-purple to purple tint. The



Aechmea fasciata var *fasciata*
Photo by Larry Giroux

leaf color overlaps the range of colors found in the leaves of *Aechmea fasciata* var. *purpurea*.

Aechmea caesia and *Aechmea flavo-rosea* are distinguished from *Aechmea fasciata* by their shorter bracts and greater separation between the lower branches of the inflorescence. The density of trichomes on their bracts is also less, so the inflorescence appears more orange-red than pink. Growth form of both is more tubular than in *Aechmea fasciata*. Leaves have a large ‘fingerprint’ at the base of each blade and a scattering of white bars (that do not extend across the entire leaf width) on the lower surface. No subspecific taxa have been proposed for either species. In fact, there is still some question whether the latter two are actually distinct species. They are clearly separated by flower color (*caesia* having blue-violet flowers, *flavo-rosea* having bright yellow flowers), but are otherwise exceedingly similar.

There are a few different clones of *Aechmea dealbata* in cultivation, although none have received official cultivar names as far as I can tell. *Aechmea caesia* seems to be very rare in cultivation, at least in Florida, and presumably represents a single clone. *Aechmea flavo-rosea* is widespread in cultivation, but I am not sure there is more than a single clone available, and know of no cultivar names applied to the species.

Since *Aechmea fasciata* has been grown in large numbers for commercial markets over the course of several decades, several named cultivars have been developed, although it is surprising how few cultivars have been named. This is partly due to the fairly limited number of variations you could expect from the plant. The leaves are more or less covered by trichomes in the wild. Areas of the leaf surface with these trichomes densely packed (to the point of overlapping) appear white or silver when dry. These trichomes may have some banding structure or be evenly spread over the leaves. Under cultivation, the only changes you can expect are variegation, an increase in evenness and density of trichomes or stronger definition of banding, an increase in leaf width or an increase in inflorescence size.

In Europe, the early hybridizers produced many different clones. This can be seen in the pictures in early editions of *Exotica*, and an article by Victoria Padilla (*Bromeliad Society Bulletin* 7(6): 83-84. 1967). Nat DeLeon recalls that every major producer of *Aechmea fasciata* in Europe had a distinct clone. However,



Aechmea fasciata var. *purpurea*. Photo of inflorescence by Fred Ross, plants by Larry Giroux



they never bothered to assign clone names because they had stable relationships with their customers, and did not need to develop brands. On the other hand, the buyers did not need names because they knew what kind of plant to expect from each grower. Two cultivar names (from the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry) that originated in Europe were Aton and Auslese (although the latter may have been used as a descriptive term rather than a true cultivar name). It is also noteworthy that variegated and albo-margined cultivars were available in Europe early on. These plants likewise never received proper cultivar names.

After growers in the United States began growing large numbers of *Aechmea fasciata*, and the market expanded internationally, branding became common and cultivar names proliferated. *Aechmea* ‘Silver King’ was a cultivar of *Ae. fasciata* with leaves having a silvery appearance due to uniform trichome coverage. It was the dominant cultivar during the early stages of mass market development. Nat believes this cultivar was developed and named by one of the California growers. It was replaced in the market by the cultivar *Ae.* ‘Morgana’ from the European grower Corn. Bak. Later, several spineless clones were developed. These now dominate the mass market. The spineless clones include *Ae. fasciata* ‘DeLeon’, *Ae. fasciata* ‘Grey Ghost’ and *Ae. fasciata* ‘Superb’, all developed by Nat DeLeon. The other major spineless clone is *Ae. fasciata* ‘Primera’ by Corn. Bak. *Ae. fasciata* ‘Frost’ is a spineless offering from Chester Skotak. More recently, a variegated cultivar of ‘Morgana’ called *Ae.* ‘Lauren’ has been developed and patented by Kent’s Bromeliad Nursery. Bucking recent trends, this cultivar retains a full set of marginal spines.

There are several clones of *Aechmea fasciata* of interest primarily to collectors. The easiest to identify is *Ae.* ‘Ivory’, a *fasciata* with white bracts. Two other named cultivars that presumably look the same are ‘White Head’ and ‘White Bouquet’. I especially hope someone still has one or both of those cultivars so we can compare them directly to ‘Ivory’. ‘Pink Fasci’ and ‘Red Fasci’ were names use by the early grower and hybridizer Hubble. These presumably refer to clones of *fasciata*, but we could certainly use plants or, at least, pictures to verify this assumption. ‘Big Mama’ from Herb Hill was conspicuous for its size. ‘Checkers’ reportedly had a ribbed leaf surface that combined with white bars to form a checkerboard appearance. I see ribbed leaves frequently enough, but can’t say I have ever known the trait to pass to a second generation. I hope someone knows the plant



Aechmea flavo-rosea
Photos by Larry Giroux



Aechmea dealbata

Photo by Larry Giroux

and can give us more information. ‘Kiwi’ reportedly has a consistent red-brown striping on the leaves. ‘Sangria’ and ‘Silver Queen’ are cultivars of *Aechmea fasciata* var. *purpurea*. Another cultivar name in *Aechmea fasciata* is ‘Leucadia’. I have no information about this plant beyond the name.

As usual, please look at your own collections to see if you have any of the species or cultivars mentioned above. Any information you can share, especially on the plants with unresolved questions, would be very helpful. Better yet, if you can write a review of this group (or any part of it) from a more informed standpoint, I would gladly attach your work to a future update.

Lately, there has been some uncertainty expressed about the future of the bromeliad collection at Selby Botanical Gardens. I have no idea whether the collection is in any danger, but would like to take advantage of the uncertainty to point out that we should never assume any important

collection is safe. In the particular case of Selby, a single well-placed major hurricane would obliterate the collection even if it is perfectly safe at this time, so the clone preservation project should have a plan in place to cope with any disaster. We should try to put together a database of all living plants from Selby (with the associated Selby accession number) currently found in private collections. A quick review of my own collection shows I have more than 60 plants with Selby numbers. I undoubtedly have more species, but received them with other collector numbers (primarily BAB and Elton Leme numbers) and have yet to correlate these numbers with Selby numbers. By the way, if you have not been in the habit of keeping such identifying numbers, you need to start.

A very simple set of data for each plant should suffice: Genus, Species, Selby number, Owner, Availability, Privacy. We can correlate Genus and Species with Selby number as a simple check for potential mismatches. The Owner field will allow us to judge how widely cultivated a given plant is. Availability is a voluntary field. Yes means the plant grows well enough that you typically produce an excess over your needs on a regular basis. If you have only had the plant a short time, or haven’t examined it in some time, you may not know whether to answer Yes or No. You can leave to field blank to denote uncertainty. Yes in Privacy means you do not want your ownership of the individual plant made public. We would use these records only in summaries. A copy of the preliminary data from my collection is attached as an example.

Please be sure to include only plants that you originally received with the Selby number in your listings. Do not assume that a plant you received from Selby with the same genus and species as a plant on my list has the same number. Many of the plants distributed by Selby are seedlings, and must be assumed to represent clones different from the parents. Also, do not use my list to correct your plant names. Eventually we should be able to produce a list of verified names corresponding to each Selby number, but, at this point, there could be more than one name associated with some of the Selby numbers. Once we have some idea how many plants from the Selby collection are already available in collections, we can put together a plan to ensure the plants are grown over an extended geographical area to protect against potential disasters.

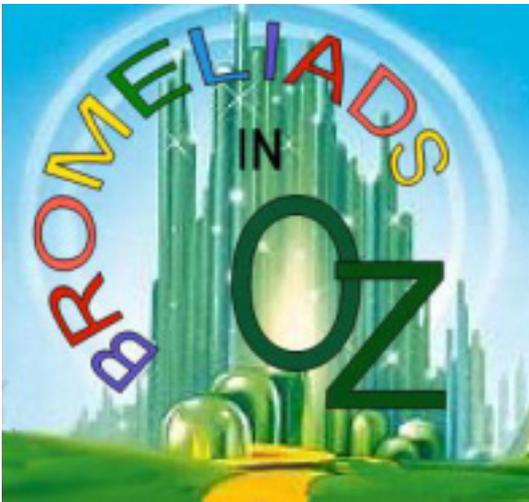
Minutes of the September 20th, 2009 CBS Meeting

DATE: Sunday, September 20, 2009. **LOCATION:** St. John the Apostle Metropolitan Church, Fort Myers, Florida. **ATTENDANCE:** 48 members and guests. **WORKSHOP:** Larry Giroux presented a very lively and informative program entitled "A Primer on Preparing Decorative Containers" at 1:15 pm. **CALL TO ORDER:** Donna Schneider welcomed our new member, Rusty Bell and guests Kelly Ahnen, Pam Flesher and Deanna Hartman. Donna encouraged participation in Show & Tell, Friendship Table and Raffle Table and that only plants in good condition, free of any pests should be considered. A special plea was made for members to remain to break down the meeting and refreshment areas in as much as Ross Griffith was suffering with back problems. Thanks to David and Geri Prall for continuing to contribute so generously to the Friendship Plant area. **MINUTES:** Minutes were approved as printed in the Newsletter. **OLD BUSINESS:** Donna Schneider announced that the Board decided not to do any addition funding beyond what was allocated in January 2009, for the Bromeliad Identification Center at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens at this time. Vicki Chirside again indicated the need of a volunteer from CBS to fill the FCBS Council representative. This would give the CBS their allotted two votes, that there are only four meetings a year and car pooling is always an option. A reminder that members must sign-up for the bus trip for Saturday, November 14 FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza; 13/14 people at \$38.60 each needed to secure the bus; members from the Sarasota Bromeliad Society are interested in helping to fill the bus; we can not let them know if seats are available until all our interested members have signed up. **NEW BUSINESS:** Mary Scofic has agreed to be our Chairperson for the Nominating Committee. Betsy Burdette discussed the date for our Annual Christmas Party at her residence; the general consensus was for Sunday, December 13th. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** FCBS Rep. Vicky Chirside stated their meeting is scheduled for next week. CBS Show & Sale: Publicity Chair, Betsy Burdette, requested that members distribute the flyer, which Larry Giroux created by forwarding to friends, family, their e-mail list and also to print and post at supermarkets, restaurants, etc. Directional signs will be passed out at our next meeting. Steve Hoppin said he has a Co-Chair, Betty Ann Prevatt, and that he is striving to have more members involved in the Show & Sale by encouraging everyone to participate by volunteering to co-chair on a committee that appeals to them and/or to make a commitment to work on any committee (all information outlined in the September 2009 Meristem). Steve explained that a fringe benefit for any worker is the opportunity to shop at the sale on Friday afternoon along with the judges. Brian Weber stated he will be holding a workshop at the next meeting on sale rules and changes at Terry Park. Special Projects Chair, Gail Daneman, absent, but sent word for members to make reservations for the Nov. 13-15 Extravaganza in Orlando. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Tropiflora's 10th Annual Open House and Sale is Oct. 2, 3 & 4. Sale at Echo Park in Cape Coral Florida is on 10/24, 9am-2pm; Edison House has a new Exhibit: Music, Movie & Dancing. **DOOR PRIZE:** Mary Scofic won *Neoregelia* 'Moonshine' donated by Donna Schneider. **SHOW & TELL:** Conducted by Dale Kammerlohr. **BREAK:** Provided by Mary McKenzie, Kay Janssen and Barb Johnson(?). **PROGRAM:** Brian Weber introduced Grant Groves, member and owner of Color Zone Tropicals in Winter Park, Florida. Grant's lively and often funny presentation concentrated on his time-consuming challenging creations of variegated vrieseas, neoregelias and guzmanias. A great program. Grant said his nursery would be one of the tours at the November Extravaganza to be held in Orlando Florida. **RAFFLE:** Conducted by Larry Giroux, Betsy Burdette and Mary Scofic. **ADJOURNMENT:** Donna Schneider adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm. Respectfully submitted by: Terri Lazar , Acting Secretary (terrilml@Earthlink.net)

Read the Expanded Newsletter

I have been asking members who have e-mail, if they can start receiving the Meristem exclusively by e-mail and I have gotten a good response from the membership. I want to remind the members that even if they can not receive the e-mail version mainly because they have dial-up internet service, they can still go to www.fcbs.org and read the expanded Meristem directly online. The October issue has pictures of variegated bromeliads. Go to www.fcbs.org to view this expanded electronic issue, if you are not already opting to receive it or let me know if you want me to send it to you. Editor



CBS presents at
Terry Park,
Fort Myers.
Judged Standard BSI
Show on Friday,
December 4th 2009
Show and Sale open
to the public
Saturday, Dec 5th
& Sunday, Dec.6th

Calendar of Bromeliad Events

Tropical Plant Bazaar

at Four Mile Cove/Eco Preserve

Saturday, October 24th 9A.M.-2P.M.

A semi-annual event. You never know what you will find - palms, fruit trees, heliconias, bamboos, orchids, bromeliads, gingers, hibiscus and more. Free admission and parking. It is at the foot of the Veterans Parkway Bridge. For additional information call 542-2245.

Open House

at the home of Robyn and Lyle Bowen

Saturday, November 1st, 10 am - 3 pm

7460 Twin Eagle Ln Fort Myers 33912

More information at the October meeting

November 13-15, 2009

The FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza, hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, will be held at the Renaissance Orlando Hotel Airport in Orlando Florida, Sales, Seminars, Tours, Banquet and Rare Plant Auction. Information to follow.

December 4-6, 2009

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society's Show and Sale, Terry Park, Fort Myers, Florida. Judged Show on Friday with Show and Sale open to the public Saturday Dec 5th- 9AM-5PM and Sunday 10AM-4PM.

December 13, 2009

The CBS Holiday Party

July 26-August 1, 2010

The BSI World Bromeliad Conference - Bromeliads in the Big Easy (Astor Crowne Plaza - New Orleans). "Catch the Fun".

To all of our of our readers

Join the Bromeliad Society International

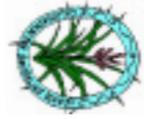
for less than \$0.80 per week

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 \$0.60 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 N
North Fort Myers, FL 33903
E-mail - Drlarry@comcast.net

***The October Meeting program will be devoted to preparations for the
upcoming Show.
See inside for details of the Program.***