

The Codiaeum Connection

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THE CROTON SOCIETY, INC.

Croton Society Meetings and Events:

Upcoming Meeting:

Saturday, December 11, 2010

Our holiday meeting will be hosted by Jim & Judy Glock at their garden in Ft. Myers, FL

Address: 15601 Doveland LN, Fort Myers, FL 33912

Time: 10:30 AM — 2:30 PM

Refreshments and a light lunch will be served following a garden tour. It will be greatly appreciated if everyone would bring a dish such as an appetizer/salad/or dessert. After lunch a plant auction/sale will take place with all proceeds to benefit the Croton Society. Bring a croton or two as our Head Auctioneer, Jeff Searle will be in attendance.

RSVP to JGLOCK1@COMCAST.NET or call 239-433-2901 by December 6th

Next year, the Florida State Fair in Tampa, FL will be February 2011. We need your ideas as well as crotons to be used in the display. Jack Roberts has once again volunteered to head up the event. Thank you Jack! Anyone who would like to volunteer with the setup, caring for plants throughout the display time and tear down please call Connie @ 813-968-9689. You may also contact Jack directly at 863-868-6525.

Croton Name Match Up Answers

1. ***Canned Sunshine***
Aka Andreanum
2. ***The Pink Croton***
Aka Rheedii
3. ***Little Miss Cobra Head***
Aka Multicolor
4. ***White Veitchi***
Aka Albicans
5. ***Funky Jungle Queen***
Aka Rheedii 2
6. ***Piecrust***
Aka Mortimer
7. ***Honeycomb***
Aka Davis #3
8. ***Sloppy Painter***
Aka Eleanor Roosevelt



Pie Crust



Yellow Nestor

Dolins
GARDEN CENTER 525-3434

*Helping Our Neighbors
 With Their
 Gardening Spirit!*

801 - 62nd Avenue N. • St. Petersburg

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Brenda Funaro—St. Pete, FL
- Mike Harris—St. Cloud, FL
- Robert Lutgen—Key Biscayne, FL
- Scott McIntosh—Tampa, FL
- Peyton Walton—Lafayette, LA
- Carla Wilson—Ft. Pierce, FL
- Guy Young—Huntington Beach, CA

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5259 Ehrlich Road • Tampa, Florida 33624
 813.908.1511 • Fax: 813.908.2920
 email: info@TPACcorp.com • www.TPACcorp.com



Carot

The Croton Society Inc.

P.O. Box 24892
 Tampa, FL 33623-4892
 (813) 968-9689 (Connie)
 croton1@tampabay.rr.com
www.crotons.org

PRESIDENT
 Harold Lee
 Email: Croton1@tampabay.rr.com

VICE-PRESIDENT
 Ray Hernandez
 Email: SubTropicOfCancer@hotmail.com

TREASURER / SECRETARY
 Cornelia (Connie) Hoerstgen
 Email: choerstgen@tampabay.rr.com

September 11, 2010 meeting hosted by Phil Stager

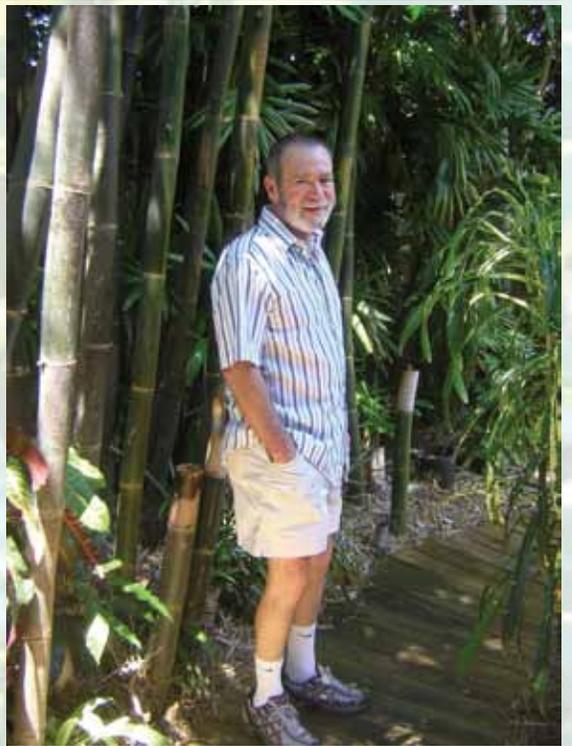
Our first Croton Society meeting for the year was hosted by Phil Stager at his tropical garden home in beautiful St. Pete. Croton identification was the highlight of the garden tour. Members came from as far away as Homestead, FL. Jeff Searle, one of our Head Auctioneers did his magic once again as only he can do!

There were many rare plants to auction and everyone went home with something. Thank you Phil for opening up your home to the members.



More meeting highlights:







"How apropos that I attend my first meeting in the garden that started my croton affliction. I distinctly remember being drawn to Phil's garden. It was a couple years back for a palm society gathering. Those vivid colors through the smattering light of the canopy are what struck me so deeply. Palms seemed some what lackluster after that. Later I would learn about their fascinating Florida heritage and as a history buff, the deal was sealed, the bug had bitten down hard. I'd like to thank Phil for the opportunity of that return visit. It was a wonderful gathering & a most welcoming group. I look forward to the next time...Brenda Funaro"



*October 16 meeting highlights from Randy Wiesner and
Ricky & Karen Ginsburg*





About 15 people attended a beautiful dry sunny day, although it was perfect for the garden tours at Randy Wiesner and Ricky & Karen Ginsburg's homes.



We first toured Randy's garden which was very neat with many spectacular palms and crotons. We met two of Randy's kids; Casey is a stately Irish setter who acutely owns the garden and Beazer a small green parrot type bird from New Guinea that Randy had for 20 years. I was impressed by Beazer who talks better than most human 20 year olds.

After Randy's, we headed over to Ricky's garden which has not missed a beat from last winter's cold. We had a delicious lunch of smoked brisket from Ricky the Barbeque King and the beans were just fantastic. After our lunch we had an auction of about 25 crotons.



Taking The Extra Precaution, Is It Worth It?

By Dr. Ron Parlett

Sometime back I authored an article that appeared in “The Croton Connection” entitled “*Putting the Babies to Bed*”; in this article I talked about protecting Crotons in Central Florida (Tampa) during the winter months. I described the process of assembling a frame and then completely covering the structure with clear 4mil plastic sheeting, then providing a thermostatically controlled 165,000 BTU Canon heater to warm the crotons during colder nights. Since this area had an irrigation system, once they were under plastic, they were out of sight and on their own from mid December to April 1st. Sounds like over kill, right? I too felt somewhat strange going through all this trouble and expense to protect the hundreds of varieties in the collection, especially since for the past decade or so the weather in this area had not warranted this need. Well needless to say, my efforts paid off this past winter. Over 95% of all crotons located in other places of my yard (that were practically unprotected) perished, weakened or are just coming back.



Since I have lived in this area close to 50 years, I know that it is just a matter of time when the next “big freeze” will occur. I can recall being a 14 year old upstart Hibiscus collector when a freeze wiped me out. It took years for me to really recover my interest, but after awhile we forget about the devastation that can happen in just one night.

Now the big question is what you should do? It really depends on your location and how you have your crotons growing. Are they planted in the ground? Are they growing in pots? The simple solutions for plants growing in pots are to drag them into a protected area. It is not so easy if they are planted in the ground. Something else to consider may be the size of your collection and your ability to protect them all. Everybody’s situation is different so collectors use your best instincts in this regard.

Now the big question that must be asked of me after years of protecting my crotons, was it worth it? Yes, I love crotons, so when I saw the freeze damage in and out of my greenhouse (yes I even lost plants in there) and then I see my 5 to 5 1/2 foot plants in all there glorious color today, I say to you, I will continue to protect the “Babies” each winter.

As a side note, the greenhouse that I was referring to was over 25 years old and has been torn down and a new one is in construction. I needed more protection. Call me a fanatic, but you need to be prepared for Mother Nature or Jack Frost whom-ever you want to blame. Please send the editor of the Croton Connection the tricks and techniques you have used to fight off the elements so we may pass them along to others.





Dr. Alix



Voncilla Barley



Blotched Jungle Queen



Rose Charmer

Crotons on Postage Stamps

Crotons on Postage Stamps

By Phil Stager

Unlike many plant genera and species (e.g., orchids, palms, the coconut palm), few postage stamps depict our favorite plant *Codiaeum variegatum*, the croton. Only two political entities have issued postage stamps showing crotons.

The first (Figure 1) is the issue from the Republik Selatan, a questionable political entity in Indonesia. We know little of the stamp and even less about the Republik Selatan.

The second is from the island nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the Caribbean. This is a set of 15 postage stamps in denominations from 10 cents to \$20 ECC. Most are shown in the illustrations below. They were issued on 1-January 1996 and were printed by lithography. (You may be able to see the small dots of color in the enlargements.) Not all common names are in agreement with what we in Florida use; a few are mis-spelled. These postage stamps actually saw postal service in St. Vincent. The author has about fifteen envelopes with the croton stamps that passed through the mails. This is unusual since most of the stamps issued by St. Vincent and the Grenadines seem to get about as close to the islands as you or I are right now. One stamp was even hand overprinted locally for revenue use. Although this set of stamps has a modest current Scott catalog value of \$33.35, the stamps are quite difficult to locate.



Figure 1



More Crotons on Postage Stamps



CROTON REFERENCE MATERIALS

Group II – STANDARD BETTER VARIETIES

Prices:	<u>Each</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>100</u>	
Small size, 2 ½" and 3" pots	.35	3.00	25.00	
Medium size, 4: pots	.50	4.00	35.00	
Large size, 5" and 6" pots		1.00	9.00	85.00
Small tubs	2.50	22.50		
Large tubs	3.50	32.50		
Specimen sizes	5.00 and up			

ALBICANS: A sport from Veitchii, with white or light cream variegations.

BARONES DE ROTHSCHILD: Large, broad, dark red leaf, strongly marked with cream.

BEAUTY OF WYDMURE: Mottled cream and pink leaves, vivid carmine reverse.

BRILLIANTISSIMA: Long, rather narrow leaves, very brilliant orange and red.

CATHERINE GEPHART: short leaved corkscrew, mottled green and yellow.

CHRYHOPHYIA: Medium long leaves, center and petioles brilliant yellow.

COMPTE DE GERMANY: Long, dark green leaves, mottled orange, red and yellow.

CRAIGI SUPREME: Large, oak leaf type, veined and blotched bright yellow.

DAYSRING: Very long, brilliant leaves, suffused red, yellow and green.

EARL'S COURT: Large, crumpled leaf, yellow and red, reverse chocolate brown.

EDWIN T. MERIDITH: Long, narrow leaves, brilliantly colored yellow.

GENERAL LAWRENCE: (Exquisite) (Ft. Myers) A broad leaved, brilliant yellow variety.

GENERAL PAGET: Immense green & yellow leaves; the largest leaved Croton we know.

JOHANNA COPPINGER: A seedling from Sunburst. Medium long leaves, spotted brilliant red and yellow.

JULIETTE DELARUE: Oak leaf type, lobes spreading, bright yellow, no red.

LADY CLAIRE : A yellow sport of the Tortillis variety.

MIAMI BEAUTY: Very large, dark leaf of oak leaf type. Purplish green above, profusely spotted red and pink. Under surface is brownish red.

MORTIMER: Narrow leaf, very brilliantly spotted red, yellow and cream. Leaf margin undulate.

MRS. DUNCAN MACAW: Long, broad leaf of semi-oak leaf type. Orange-red veins and mid-rib.

NORWOOD BEAUTY: A brilliant oak leaf type, shaded red and yellow.

ORVILIA: Medium sized leaves, oddly rounded at end. Veined and blotched yellow.

PHILADELPHIA: Rather small, brilliant yellow leaves of oak leaf type.

PORTER'S PINK VEITCHII: A variation of Veitchii, but with more green and pink than the type.

RHEEDII: Very large leaf, heavily veined. Under best conditions shows almost all creamy-pink with darker veins.

REGINA: (No.3) (Radena) Long medium sized leaves, brilliantly colored orange-red.

ROBERT CRAIG: Medium large leaf; a very brilliant dark red and bronze-green.

ROBERT LAVALOIS: Medium sized leaves, profusely spotted clear yellow.

STURROCK'S NARROW LEAF VEITCHII: A form with much narrower leaves than the type and strong pink coloration.

SUNBURST: Medium broad leaf, profusely orange-crimson with mid-rib zone orange-yellow.

SUPERBLISSIMA: (Yellow Corkscrew) Long, spiral, green and yellow leaves.

TORTILIS MAJOR: Large leaved form of the corkscrew type. Dark green and red.

VAN HOUTII: Red and yellow leaves of semi-oak leaf type, becoming dark red with age.

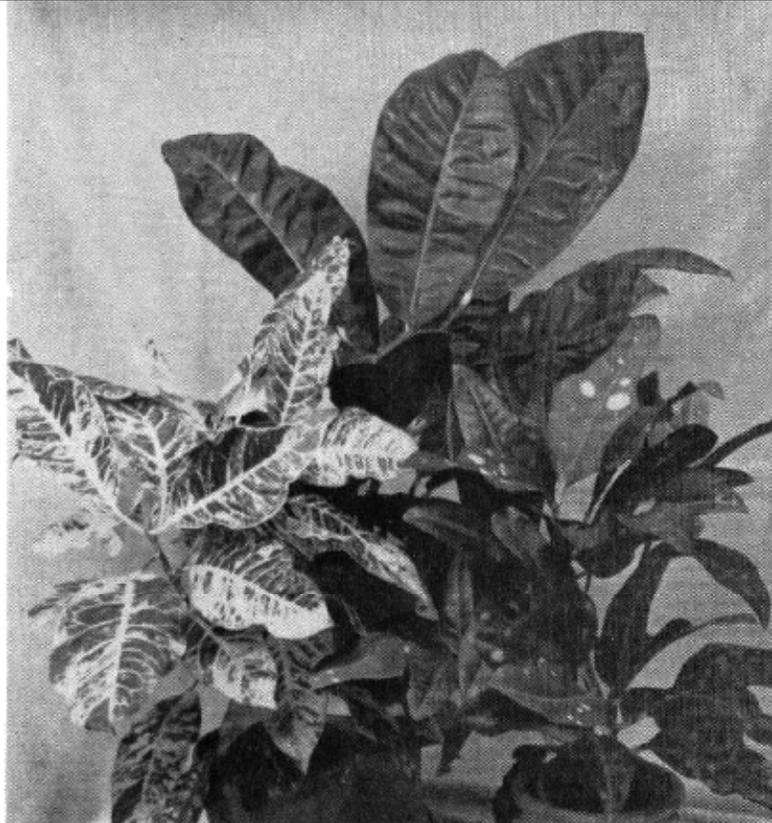
VOLUTUM: (Ram's Horn") Short leaves, very much re-curved. Veins & mid-rib yellow

WEISMANII: Narrow leaves, veined brilliant yellow; dwarf, compact grower.

YELLOW EXCURRENS: A form of excurrens, brilliant, blotched and marked with yellow.

YELLOW NESTOR: Sport from Nestor, but with larger leaves. Brilliantly spotted and centered with clear yellow.

CROTON REFERENCE MATERIALS



RARE CROTONS

NEW CROTONS

- ****APPLAUSE.** Semi-oak large leaf, very compact, yellow and green on new growth maturing to blush pink. — **10.00**
- ****BRAVO.** Semi-oak leaf—deep pink to rose—very compact. — **10.00**
- ***CARIBBEAN STAR.** Elliptical medium size, heavily veined, orange red center with green to dark black areas. — **5.00**
- ***ELIZABETH CUTLER.** A very fine new pastel pink. — **7.50**
- ****FASCINATION.** Semi-oak leaf, compact—old rose. — **10.00**
- ***JUNGLE QUEEN.** Obvate leaf, red veined, red, pink and maroon blotches. — **5.00**
- ****NEMBULA.** Elliptical large leaf, heavily veined light pink. — **10.00**
- ***PRESIDENT TRUMAN.** New irregular leaf, blotches of red with green and maroon background. — **5.00**
- ***SIBYL GRIFFIN.** Very fine, very large semi-oak. Deep pink. — **5.00**
- ****SOUTHERN CROSS.** Oak leaf — pink to maroon. — **10.00**
- ***NEW** — ****NEW INTRODUCTION**

Peace



Maximum

