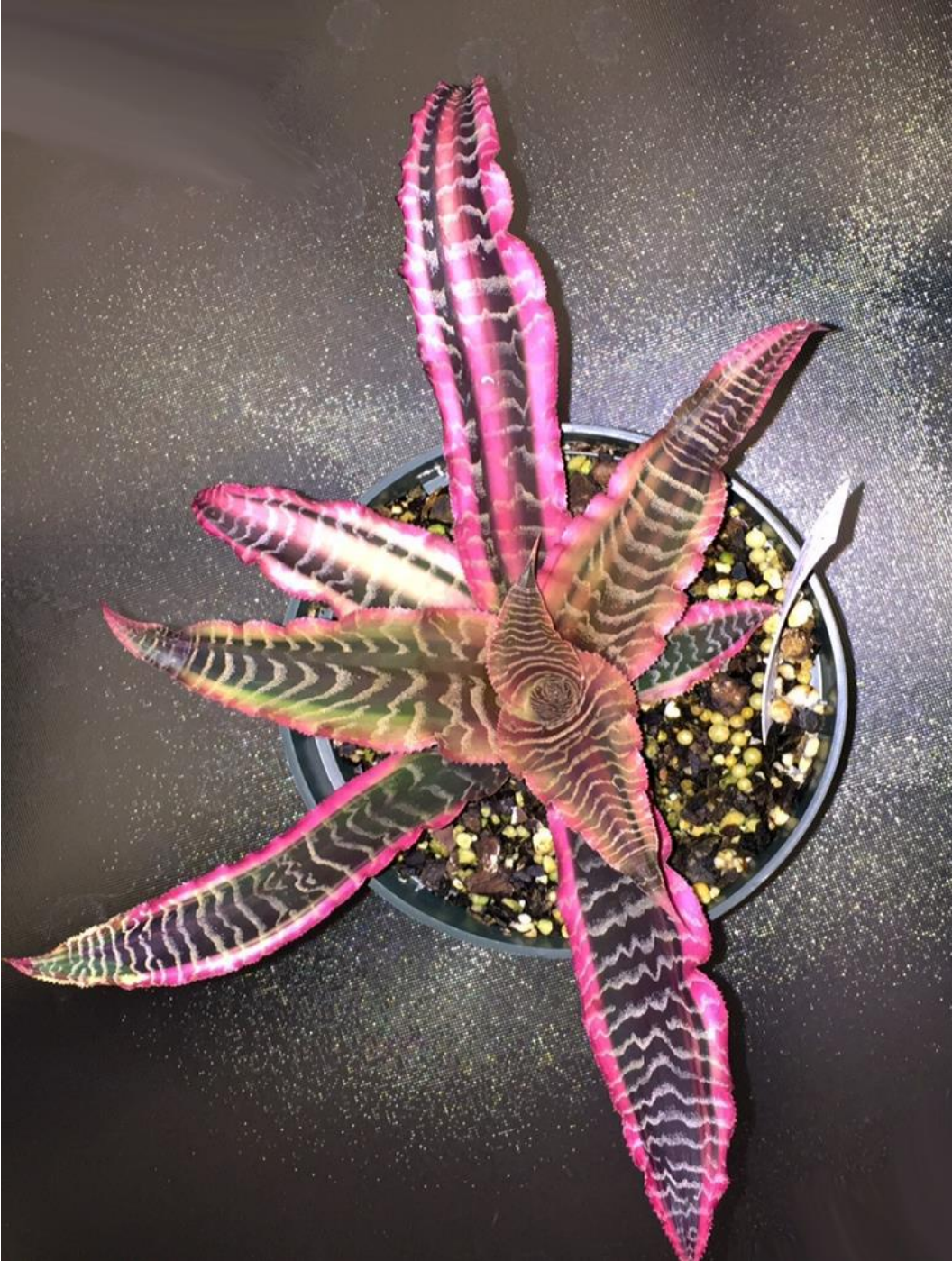




THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S MERISTEM

March-April 2016



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD

SOCIETY OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President— Pete Diamond 704-213-7601 (Lygodium63@hotmail.com)

Past- President & Vice-President— Dale Kammerlohr 863-558-0647
(dzdase@embarqmail.com)

Co-SECRETARY—Carly Sushil (239) 454-5130 crpfalz@eagle.fgcu.edu

Co-SECRETARY— Sharalee Diaz mrsthimble@aol.com

TREASURER—Betty Ann Prevatt 334-0242 (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR—Larry Giroux 997-2237 (DrLarry@comcast.net)

NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR— Carly Sushil 454-5130 (CRPfalz@eagle.fgcu.edu)

FALL SALES CHAIRS—Geri & Dave Prall 699-6400 (PalmTreeGardens@hotmail.com);

Brian Weber 941-256-4405 (brianweber1b@aol.com)

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON—Bruce McAlpin (863) 674-0811

WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON—Position Available

SPECIAL PROJECTS— Carly Sushil (239) 454-5130 crpfalz@eagle.fgcu.edu

CBS FCBS Rep.—Vicky Chirside 941-493-5825 (vickychir@aol.com)

CBS FCBS Rep.—Cate Peterson 941-505-1554 (cpeters3606@yahoo.com)

OTHER COMMITTEES

AUDIO/VISUAL SETUP—Bob Lura, Terri Lazar, Vicky Chirside, Larry Giroux

DOOR PRIZE—Bruce McAlpin (863) 674-0811 & membership

HOSPITALITY—Mary McKenzie 239-246 4754

SPECIAL HOSPITALITY—Betsy Burdette 694-4738 (betsy@burdetteinc.com)

RAFFLE TICKETS—Greeter/Membership table volunteers—Dolly Dalton, Luli Westra

RAFFLE COMMENTARY—Larry Giroux

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

SHOW & TELL—Dale Kammerlohr 863-558-0647

FM-LEE GARDEN COUNCIL—Mary McKenzie 239-246-4754

LIBRARIAN—Linda Soter 239-561-0154

The opinions expressed in the Meristem are those of the authors. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor or the official policy of CBS. Permission to reprint is granted with acknowledgement. Original art work remains the property of the artist and special permission may be needed for reproduction.



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

March Meeting— Sunday, Mar 20th 2016

April Meeting— Sunday , Apr 17th 2016

We are moving the March Auction from the CHURCH to the
FMLC Garden Council Building
2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33901



The FMLC Garden Council Building is on Virginia Ave, 2 streets NORTH before the Edison Home and about 1/2 mile North of the Covenant Church where we currently meet. See inside this issue for details.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

The EVIL WEEVIL AUCTION

March 20th 2016

Fort Myers/ Lee County Garden Council Building

2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers Florida

12Noon

The location will be different than in other years, but the procedure will be similar. We should arrive at the LCFMGC building to begin setup of tables and chairs about 12noon. Starting at 12PM we need bodies to help in a variety of areas- Setup, record keepers, runners, people to fill out donation tags, holding area keepers and people to show the items and pass out the winners' successful winning stubs.

12:30-1:45PM

We will be accepting donations such as bromeliads, other tropical plants, bromeliad and gardening related items, books and art. Bromeliads should be clean and healthy and appropriately labeled. If you are unsure about the name ask other members for an ID. Certain items will be selected from donations for the SILENT AUCTION. All items will be numbered and labeled and will be displayed until the Auction begins. Please register for your bidding number at this time. **You can not bid in either Auction without a number.**

1:15 PM- 2:15 PM

Refreshment Break

This is the time for review of auction items and submission of bids for Silent Auction items, which will be set up on side tables. Each item will have a bidding sheet for you to write your bidding number and an offer. Bidders can continuously up the bid as they wish. Bidding will continue until the Silent Auction items are randomly selected and sold to the bidder who has bid the highest. Please bear with us, we will still be receiving donations and labeling them until about 1:45PM, so things may look like a mad house!

2:15 PM

We take our seats and the Auction will begin following a brief business meeting and/or announcements from our President. During the Auction, Silent Auction items will be randomly removed and the winner will be announced. Until an item is taken, you may continue to raise your written offer. The auctioneer will with the assistance of those who brought the item or other commentators, describe the item and auction off the items to the highest bidder during the regular Auction. After an item has been won it will be returned to a holding area. You will be given a claim stub with the price you

bid and the item's number, immediately after you have won an item.

Conclusion of Auctions

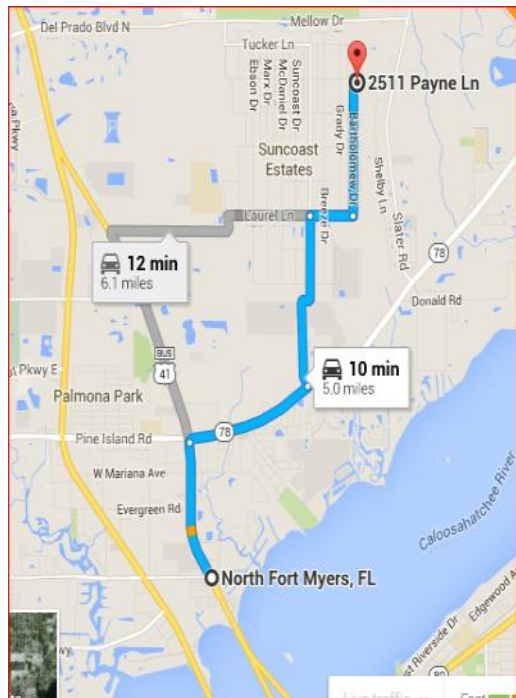
At the completion of the auction you take your claim stubs to the cashiers and pay for your items with **cash or check**. After you have paid for your items, the claim stubs will need to be shown to the workers in the holding area...so hold on to them. Your items will be handed over to you. We ask that you help us avoid any confusion. We want everybody to get exactly what they have won as quickly as possible without mistakes. Please note that this year we will be using a two part ticket; one part stays with the plant and the winning bidder receives one part immediately after winning the item, which they will need to claim their winnings. This makes it possible for bidders to check out early since you will know exactly what you owe by adding up you stubs; however, we encourage members to stay until the completion of the Auction when we will have several people available to check you out.

Please come to the Auction and have some fun while supporting the CBS and the FCBS with donations and the purchase of items. As in past years, 1/2 of the proceeds after expenses, will be donated to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. We have been generous donors for as long as I can remember. We are acknowledged by the FCBS as their number one Affiliate contributor to the Council's projects including the "Evil Weevil Eradication Program".

**CBS
Birthday Party
Sunday,
April 17th 2016**

Diane Cornelison has invited the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society to celebrate our Birthday Party at her home in North Fort Myers. The address is

**2507 Payne Lane
North Fort Myers, Fl
Tel# 239-543-1650**



Directions to Diane Cornelison's home:

On Business US41 in North Fort Myers, go north to Bayshore Rd (SR78), take a RIGHT.

Go 1.0 miles on Bayshore to Hart Rd/ New Post Road, take a LEFT

Go 1.2 miles on Hart Rd, to Laurel Lane, take a RIGHT

Go 0.4 miles on Laurel Lane to Bartholomew Dr, take a LEFT

Go 1.0 miles on Bartholomew Dr to Payne Lane, take a RIGHT

2507 Payne Lane is on the RIGHT.

The party will follow a similar format as our Holiday and previous Birthday parties. Please plan on arriving about 12 noon; we'll eat about 1 PM. You might want to bring a folding table and chairs to be sure of sitting room.

Bring food to share - such things as salads, casseroles, finger sandwiches, relish trays, and although we will provide a birthday cake, your special deserts will not go uneaten. Bring any special beverages for yourself or to share, although we will have basic beverages.

We will probably be eating outside depending on the weather and the Cornelison's property has some shady areas. Expect some mosquitos, so come prepared. In April it will have warmed up, but watch the weather that day so you can be comfortable.

Our Birthday and Holiday raffles are always an important part of our celebration so try to bring nice clean plants (nice plants other than bromeliads are also appreciated) and bromeliad related items, for our raffle. Consider items that other members would relish. Tickets are still 3 for \$1. Friendship Plants are also welcome... these are those extra plants from your garden that might be of value to other members. These freebies are always appreciated. **But please, please...make sure you spray your plants or wash them very well.**

Our contest will be "Best Spring Hats!". Prizes for the best "Most colorful", "Most Whimsical" and the "Best suited for gardener". Of course, bromeliads must be prominent. If this changes, I will let you know before.

Everybody is welcome to our parties, so bring friends, relatives and significant others and introduce them to our group. Who knows, they may just want to get involved on a regular basis.

Front and Back Cover Pictures

These two views of *Cryptanthus fosterianus* 'Elaine' were provided by their grower, Gary Nelson. This cultivar of a well known species was developed over many years to stabilize its variegation. It is also the first cryptanthus to be patented in the United States. These plants can vary significantly in their markings and colors, especially from seasonal cultural factors. I prefer the "winter" colors, where the whites, pastel pinks and greens are more prominent. With the summer light and heat we see more darkening of the colors with near complete loss of the greens.

Reworking a Piece of Art

By Larry Giroux Photos by Lyle Bowen

I'm sure this has happened to many of us in the past. We have these great plans to renovate our gardens, but there are always excuses for us to postpone it. This situation recently happened with Lyle Bowen. One of our new members called me and asked me about using bromeliads as a ground cover. I immediately thought about Lyle and his professionally looking landscaped yard. If you have seen his yard, you know that he is a perfectionist when it comes to his gardens. Besides the manicured lawns and the beds of hundreds of bromeliads, from the bottom to the top of the trunks of his trees, he has layers and layers of mounted plants. But like many of us the holidays, extra work shifts and family commitments had taken Lyle away from his duties in his yard. Apparently my call encouraged him to take some action concerning his gardens.

After the removal of 300 bromeliads and the replanting of a similar number, 100 bags of mulch and a new design plan, Lyle's little bit of paradise has taken on a whole new look. Below are pictures provided by Lyle of his new garden. I for one am anxiously awaiting to attend his next sale or open house to see firsthand this transformation.





CBS Minutes for January 17th 2016

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 1:20 by President Pete Diamond Attendance: There were 54 members and guests in attendance. New Members were Donna Anderson, Martha Stover, and Annette Baynard. Guests included Louella McAloose, Eva Torres, Diego Molina, Carmen Perez, Zuki Perez, and Carol Daigneault.

General Meeting: Our sale in December was successful. We earned a profit of \$2,048.02.

Larry Giroux will continue to be our Newsletter Editor. He will send out monthly emails with reminders of the meetings as well as reminders for upcoming events. Larry is always accepting photo and article submissions for the newsletter. Please send a caption with all photos.

Brian Weber will continue to be the Sales Chair.

Carly Sushil is now the Special Projects Chair. She is planning a trip to Fakahatchee Swamp sometime this spring. The trip will include a tram ride and swamp walk. To sign up contact Carly by email or phone.

Vicky Chirside and Cate Peterson will be our Representatives to FCBS this year.

Betsy Burdette will continue to plan the parties as our Special Hospitality Chair.

Linda Soter will be our Librarian and has been doing a very nice job.

We still need a person for the Workshop Chair. The Chair does not have to give the talk every month, but will need to organize and plan for it. The workshops should be hands on and practical.

Bruce McAlpin has been bringing in the door prize for the last year and we are very grateful for that. However Bruce would like to relinquish the responsibility. There is a sign-up sheet at the front table. If you are able to bring in a plant for the door prize please sign-up for a meeting.

Mary McKenzie has been our hospitality chair for the monthly meetings and is also hoping to pass on the torch. If anyone would like to take over for Mary please contact her.

Pete Diamond brought up our annual donations. We give: \$300 to BSI, \$300 to the Cryptanthus Society, \$300 to the Harry Luther Scholarship Fund, \$100 to Friends of Fakahatchee, and \$100 to Six Mile Cypress Swamp. Vicky made a motion, Kay Jansen Seconds. The motion passes.

We need to have a work day at the Garden Council Garden. Our garden has really been growing and needs to be thinned out.

Dues for 2016 are due at the January meeting. New members should see

Larry to get a picture taken for the roster.

March 12th is the March in the Park plant sale. It will be from 9 to 3 at Jaycee Park on 4125 SE 20th Place. For more information contact Ginny Huffer at (239) 257-2654.

There will be an open house at the Branch Botanical Garden at 1315 38th St, in Sarasota on February 13-14 from 9 to 3. There will be vendors and the gardens will be open to tours. Admission is free.

Carol Sweat announced that the Master Gardeners of Naples will be hosting a workshop series at Unity of Naples Church. The first workshop was on January 7th and they are every Thursday at 10 am. For more information contact Carol

Marty Ward passed away from cancer last week. There will be a memorial service on January 26th at the Garden Council Garden at 1pm.

Program: Brian Weber from Tropiflora came in today to help identify our plants.

Door Prizes: Bruce McAlpin donated 10 *Aechmea brevicollis*. The winners were: Carmen Perez, Vicky Chirnside, Carol Daigneault, Linda Soter, Art and Bonnie Hunkins, Donna Anderson, Bill Burdette, Carly Sushil, and Ed Wenzlaff.

Respectfully submitted by
Carly Sushil, Co-Secretary

CBS Minutes for February 21st 2016

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

Meeting called to order at 1:20 PM. By President Peter Diamond

Attendance total: 56

New members: 5, Jan and Jim Blythe, Doris Mock, Ross Griffith, Oscar Venerio

Guest: 4, Andy Sigl, Duane Bagley, Mary Chis, Hal McFarland

Workshop: "Landscaping with Bromeliads in a Cactus and Succulent Garden" Presented by: Dr. Jeffrey Joffe

Jeffrey presented a wonderful power point presentation showing how he has used bromeliads in his landscaping at his previous residence and the new one he moved into a couple of years ago. Bromeliads are good to include for the following reasons: 1) Diversity of many genera 2) Sun loving 3) Colorful 4) Textured 5) Xerophilic 6) Generally cold hardy 7) Interesting flowers 8) Low

maintenance 9) Requires little space 10) Many look like desert plants 11) Many come from dry areas. *Neoglaziovia variegata* looks like a skinny *Sansevieria* and needs a deep pot as the stolens go under the soil deep and then pop back through the surface with its offset. Other nice bromeliads to include are *Ananas*, *Deuterochnia*, *Bromelia*, *Dyckia*, *Hechtia*, *Puya*, *Encholirium*, *Tillandsia*, and *Orthophytum*. If you need a dryer area use a raised bed for planting. The color of the planting surface can greatly effect how the landscape looks. Dyckias like ‘Cherry Coke’ really pop when they are planted in white rocks. Pictures of his landscaping included palms, agave, cycads, cacti and aloes. He pulls weeds by hand and also uses Round-Up which does not seem to effect most of the bromeliads.

Business Meeting called to order at 1:45 PM. by Peter Diamond

Announcements:

Peter reminded everyone the next meeting will be the auction and April will be the Birthday Party at Diane Cornelison’s. Did everyone who does not have email get the reminder postcard that Larry sent? If you have any gardening or bromeliad books that you no longer want please consider donating them to the club’s library-see Linda Soter librarian. Larry will send out the schedule for the auction in the March newsletter but in general he ask that volunteers come to set up around 12 noon. From 12:30 to 1:45 they will be accepting donations of nice bromeliads and other plants you yourself would like to have. Related items are also welcomed like books, jewelry, etc. . . . There will be a refreshment break and the Regular auction begins at 2:15 PM. The Silent Auction will run simultaneously and the winning bidders interspersed during the regular auction. If everyone donates one or two nice items it will be a great auction. We take cash or check. Remember half of the proceeds go for research on eradication of the Mexican Bromeliad weevil or “evil weevil” and we keep the other half.

The Birthday Party is on the 3rd Sunday in April at Diane’s. Her father Frank was the only bromeliad person in Fort Myers back in the 50’s and he was mentioned in the book “The Orchid Thief”

Roger Oskcochuck will be liquidating his bromeliad collection-info to follow in the future. Dale – the master gardeners have a booth at the Lee County Fair and needs one of us to volunteer to give a short program, John Taraska, M.D. volunteered for this. Pete said the Edison Garden Festival was great. March in the Park in Cape Coral will be on March 12th from 9-3 at Jaycee Park, many vendors will be there. We also have for sale every meeting Tilly Tacker, fertilizer and aluminum wire (40ft for \$5.00)- see Betty Ann. Carly reminded those that signed up for the Fakahatchee swamp walk on April 2nd,

that they need to meet at 10 AM and that it is \$60.00 per person.

Program: “Tillandsia” Presented by: Bruce McAlpin

Bruce filled in for a speaker who couldn't make it. His interest in tillandsias started 45 years ago when he came to South Florida on vacation from Duke University. Today he brought in two full tables worth of Tillandsias from his green house for his program. Tillandsias are mostly full sun and epiphytic. They can grow from a string or sitting on a block in shade or sun. The color and bloom can depend on the amount of light. Most Tillandsias are cold hardy until it reaches around 32 degrees. He showed many substrates on which they may grow. He often uses the wire closet shelves and hangs these from a hanger in full sun. When he fertilizes he uses about half strength liquid fertilizer about every 3 weeks. He fights the weevil using Imidicloprid and sprays in March and September. Most tillandsias in nature grow hanging in trees or off cliffs, but he passed around a book showing miles of *Tillandsia paleacea* growing on the desert floor in Peru. He showed us three forms of *Till. usenoides*. Always use non copper wire and hang large long Tillandsias down as they grow in nature, especially the bulbous shaped types to avoid collision of water between the leaves. *Till. bulbosa* also needs to point down and if it wants it will grow upright by itself. If you don't take the pups off the mother plant they get bigger because they still get nutrition from the mother plant. Small plants can grow sitting in an orchid basket and he sits some just on the concrete blocks in full sun. Plants that grow in rosette form are most primitive and elongated growth is most likely a variety of a primitive rosette species. Some tillandsias look like other species like *Till. kirchhoffiana* resembles an *Alcantarea*. And *Vriesea hitchcockiana* looks like a Tillandsia. He is looking forward to his trip to Terra Del Fuego later this month where he will be looking for some of the southern most growing tillandsias..

Show and Tell: led by Dale Kammerlohr

Refreshment Break: 2:36 - 3:08 PM. Thank you Mary McKenzie and volunteers for all the wonderful treats

Door Prize: 7 *Aechmea fida* were donated by Bruce McAlpin and won by Dolly Dalton, Jeff Joffe, Roger Oskochuck, Kay Jansen, Bob Lura, Mary Chis and Carol Sweat.

Raffle: Led by Dr. Larry Giroux, assisted by Terri Lazar and Dolly Dalton

Adjournment: 4:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Sharalee Dias Co-Secretary

Tour to the Fakahatchee Swamp

The TOUR to the Fakahatchee Strand south of Alligator Alley (I75) is filling up fast.

Where: Fakahatchee Strand, The Tram Tour and Swamp Walk begins at the ranger station off Jane's Scenic Drive. The park entrance is on the west side of SR 29 between I-75 and U.S. 41.

When: April 2nd 2016

Details: The group of 12 people who have previously signed up for the special guided tour will meet in the parking lot at 10AM. You need to provide your own transportation or carpool.

Payment: Carly Sushil 239-454-5130 will be collecting money and be paying for the group at the Park. Please contact Carly and give her your payment of \$60 per person. Please have cash to give to her to pay the Tour Agent.

For details, specifics of the tour, proper attire for the different portions of the tour, please contact Carly at the above #.

Check with Carly Sushil to confirm place and time

For additional info go to www.orchidswamp.org

**The Pictorial Roster and Yearbook
will be available at the
March Meeting.**

The Bromeliad Society International Presents
The 22nd World Bromeliad Conference

BROMELIADS TEXAS STYLE

Featuring The Largest International Bromeliad Show And Sale



Westin Galleria Hotel
HOUSTON
June 13-19, 2016



Hosted By The
Bromeliad Society/Houston, Inc.

More information
at BSI.ORG





Dr. Larry Giroux, Editor
3836 Hidden Acres Circle N
North Fort Myers Fl 33903
(239) 997-2237 Dr.Larry@comcast.net

**This is your March-April Newsletter.
March is our Auction
April is our Birthday Party**