



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S

MERISTEM

Jan-Feb 2025



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT— Julie Stein 919-522-1182 FLAGIRL56@aol.com

Past— PRESIDENT— Vicky Chirnside 941 928-3111 (dampearth@me.com)

**Vice-PRESIDENT— Dale Kammerlohr 863-558-0647
(dzdaze@embarqmail.com)**

SECRETARY— Alison Ackerman 239-851-3176 (Alison@spikowski.com)

TREASURER—Betty Ann Prevatt 239-229-7781 (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR—Larry Giroux 239-850-4048 (DrLarry7@gmail.com)

FALL SALES CHAIR—Brian Weber 941-256-4405 (brianweber1b@hotmail.com)

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON—Acting Chair: Julie Stein

WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON—Acting Chair: Julie Stein

CBS FCBS Reps.—Vicky Chirnside 941-928-3111 (dampearth@me.com)

Julie Stein 919-522-1182 (flagirl56@aol.com)

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OTHER COMMITTEES

DOOR PRIZE—Debbie McPhail 239-332-4607 or 239-910-3836 ;

email- deb.mcphail@yahoo.com

HOSPITALITY (Monthly Refreshments)—Diane Cornelison 239-233-7037

Party Chair—Vacant

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—Alison Ackerman 239-851-3176 Alison@spikowski.com

LIBRARIAN—Vacant

MARCH AUCTION CHAIR—Larry Giroux 239-850-4048 DrLarry7@gmail.com

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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

January Meeting: Sunday, Jan 19th, 2025
February Meeting: Feb 16th 2025

Our January and February Meetings will be at the
Ft. Myers– Lee County Garden Council Building
2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers.

The facility is north of the Edison Gardens parking lot and about 1/2 miles north of our previous meeting location— Covenant Presbyterian Church. Virginia Ave is approximately 3 miles north of the intersection of Colonial Blvd. and McGregor Blvd. and is the 2nd Street north of the Edison Gardens

Please bring food, Friendship, Raffle and Show and Tell Plants
There will be NO membership sales allowed at the January meeting.

Please Note that the CBS Board has changed the SCHEDULE of our meetings to accommodate our out of town speakers.

- 12:30 – 1:15 Doors open, check-in, membership, door prize tickets, raffle ticket sales, members donate refreshments & raffle plants, Show & Tell area set-up, speaker or member plant sales
- 1:15 – 2:15 Call to order, announcements, and featured Program
- 2:15 – 2:45 Door Prize followed by Refreshments. Plant sales continue
- 2:45 – 3:15 Business meeting followed by Workshop
- 3:15 – 4:00 Show & Tell & Raffle drawing followed by Adjournment and Clean-Up

Surprisingly, a number of members did not pay their 2024 dues. Please catch up for 2025. MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2025 ARE DUE in January Please contact Betty Ann Prevatt and RENEW. Membership renewal fees are \$15/20 single/dual; New member dues: \$20/25, single/dual payable by check or cash at the meeting or by mail to Betty Ann Prevatt, CBS Treasurer 2902 Second Ave. Fort Myers, FL 33916

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

CBS Officers for 2025



Julie Stein



Dale Kammerlohr



Alison Ackerman



Betty Ann Prevatt

Congratulations and a big thank you to Julie Stein, President; Dale Kammerlohr, Vice President; Alison Ackerman, Secretary and Betty Ann Prevatt, Treasurer, for their election to the Board and agreeing to stay on in their corresponding positions for 2025. Julie will be contacting current Chairs and soliciting and reappointing various positions. If approached, please volunteer to serve the CBS. We appreciate you!

January CBS Program “New Creations” By Jason Mellica

Our friends throughout Southwest Florida and the Gulf Coast were hit hard by the dual hurricanes this year. Jase’s program scheduled for October was cancelled, while he was rebuilding. He has agreed to return in January and talk to us about his newest hybrids and his road to recovery from his hurricane damage.

Jason will be bringing plants for sale so there will be no Membership Sales allowed at this meeting. Please support our local bromeliad growers.

January CBS Workshop To be announced

February CBS Program “Billbergia” By Alex Bello

CBS member Alex Bello returns to the CBS in February to discuss the genus : *Billbergia*. Alex has been working with and collecting bromeliads

and other tropical plants for over 25 years. Bromeliads are his special love. He is the owner, / operator of Bello Tropicals Nursery in Miami.

BTW congratulations go to Alex for his election as President of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida for 2025.

Alex will be bringing plants for sale so there will be *no Membership Sales* allowed at the February meeting. Please support our local bromeliad growers and speakers by purchasing plants at the meetings and visiting their nurseries.

We have complete another year with a successful “Evil Weevil” Auction in March, our Annual Sale in December and Anniversary and Holiday Parties in April and December. Many thanks to Debbie McPhail for her hospitality and making her home available to us again for our Holiday party. Enclosed are a few photos of her incredible gardens. She has done a remarkable job in recovering from Helene and Milton.

Now we have to think of the future. In March, plan on participating in our Annual Auction to benefit the CBS and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. Check out your collection of plants and put aside some items as donations. Don’t have any worthy plants, then consider buying something or donating gardening related items. I don’t think we have a venue for our Anniversary Party scheduled for April... please consider volunteering your home. Talk to Julie Stein, our President about it. Later this Spring, the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida will be hosting the bi-annual FCBS Extravaganza in the Orlando area. The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society as a FCBS member participates in this event which includes a large Sale, seminars, tours and a banquet. More information will follow with registration and hotel info. Soon we will be discussing the Annual Sale and a bi-annual Bromeliad Show. Be more than an exhibitor this year, volunteer to work with the show’s and sale’s committees. Looking toward 2026, the BSI’s World Bromeliad Conference is in the works for Spring/ Summer 2026 in Southern California. Details will be distributed later this year. And lastly, recently got notice from our friends in Australia that in November 2025 they are having their nationwide conference in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia and are inviting the bromeliad world to celebrate it with them. See the inside back page for the flyer ad of this event.







Minutes of the CBS General Meeting LC/FM Garden Council Building November 24th, 2024

Call to order: 1:16PM by President Julie Stein

In Attendance: 35

General Meeting:

Announcements: President Julie Stein announced that the 2025 Extravaganza will be held next April or May in Sanford, Florida. She advised everyone to be on the lookout for more information in the future.

The Garden Council is looking for speakers. Dr. Larry Giroux asked the members to consider giving a talk on any specialty.

Brian Weber, our Annual Sale Chair, announced that Friday, Dec. 6 at 10:00AM is the set-up day and time for anyone planning to sell plants during our sale. He will be there to help you get situated.

Election of Officers: Nominating Committee Chair, Dale Kammerlohr, presented the slate of officers under consideration to serve in 2025. All the current officers, President Julie Stein, Vice-President Dale Kammerlohr, Secretary Alison Ackerman, and Treasurer Betty Ann Prevatt have all agreed to serve another term. They were all unanimously voted in.

Program: David Sands who got into plants when he was 16, then worked for Michael Keihl for many years, and just recently took over his business in Venice, Florida, gave a lively talk about how and why to ever “stab” one of your bromeliads. He says the reason you would do this is to disrupt the growing pattern, making the plant think it has bloomed so that it will then put its energy into producing pups, or new plants. Stabbing the center basically kills or stresses the meristem, so that it won’t bloom. Another reason to stab a plant is when say a variegated plant is producing non-variegated pups. In that case, David recommends removing the all-green pups and then stabbing the mother plant.

He cautioned that if you stab the plant too far down, it will die sooner than it would if you just went in a half inch or so. The tool he uses is just an “s” hook he straightens out for the larger plants. He typically does most of his stabbings in the spring, which gives the newly developing offsets a more appropriate growth period.

When asked about the fertilizers he may use, David explained that he prefers the slow-release varieties, like Osmacote (yellowish) which lasts about 90 days, or Nutricote (greyish), sold under the name of Dynamite, which lasts much longer, up to 360 days.

Workshop: Dr. Larry Giroux presented a slide show reviewing what we can do for our plants before, during, and after a natural disaster. Saltwater intrusion is one of the worst events that can damage bromeliads. The salt

actually sucks the water right out of the leaf. Brackish water, a combination of freshwater and saltwater is not quite as bad. The solution is to immediately flush the plants with fresh water before even a few days have passed. But take care - excessive freshwater exposure causes root rot and crown rot, not to mention a fungal infestation. If your plant does develop root rot, you can scrape and cut away the rotting material and douse with 3% Hydrogen Peroxide. For crown rot, sterilize your instruments with 3-5% Hydrogen Peroxide, then clean out the rot before spraying or brushing with more Hydrogen Peroxide.

Following a huge storm, the humidity typically falls significantly; so many plants will dry out and need water right away. The storm winds also contribute to drying your plants, not to mention destroying screen enclosures and denuding the trees. Plants are then exposed to the full sun and its heat, which they are not accustomed to.

Before a cold snap, it can help to completely water the ground where the plants are growing, then cover them up. Never use plastic; frost cloth or light weight cloth sheets will give a 3 degree or so temperature boost.

As far as insects go, the Florida weevil *Metamasius mosieri* with large reddish areas on its carapace, does not do too much damage to our bromeliads. But in the late 1970s, the Mexican "Evil Weevil" *Metamasius callizona* made its appearance and has the potential to devastate almost all varieties of bromeliads in our state, both native and imported. Larry recommends treating your potted plants 2-3 times a year, using Imocloprimid (2 tbsps per gallon of water). However, it will kill bees, so it's best not to treat any plants that are flowering.

For black or brown scale, use a cotton swab with isopropyl alcohol for small outbreaks. For larger problems, you can use Imocloprimid as a systemic or Sevin as a less effective topical agent.

For drought problems, besides knowing that long dry spells can be problematic, he also shared that too much peat moss in your soil mix can dry out and makes the surface so hard that water will not permeate the surface and tends to just run down the sides.

Door Prizes: Julie Stein donated 4 lovely plants she got from her friend in New Orleans, who maintains a water garden in New Orleans as well as the bromeliads at the Botanical Gardens there.

Show & Tell: Dale Kammerlohr presented 8 plants, 3 for help in identification, 2 beautiful *Billbergias* in bloom, and a couple of lovely hybrids that Dale saved from the recent storms.

Raffle: Larry Giroux assisted by Julie Stein and Dolly Dalton, gave away about 30 donated plants to the happy winners.

Meeting adjourned: 4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Alison Ackerman

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AUSSIE  BROMS

4TH - 7TH November 2025

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New Releases!
Taxonomy Botany
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Rare plant auction
Garden tours

INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL
EXPERT SPEAKERS DISCUSS
ALL THINGS BROMELIADS

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Register at Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CXJKS>

✉ AussieBroms2025@bromsqueensland.com.au



THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND





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This is your January-February 2025 CBS Newsletter