



# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S

MERISTEM

*Jan-Feb 2026*



**2025 Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Show**

**The Mulford B. Foster Award (Best of Show-Horticulture)**

*Orthophytum Saxicola* Exhibitor: David Sand

# 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)**

**MEMBERSHIP—Betty Ann Prevatt 239-229-7781 bprevattpcc@aol.com**

**Larry Giroux 239-850-4048 Drlarry7@gmail.com**

## 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—Norma Jean Ridzyowski**

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

**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. Printed by Stinger Digital Print & Graphics, Cape Coral, FL.**



# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

January Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 18th 2026  
February Meeting Feb. 15th 2026

Our Meetings are 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, raffle plants, Show and Tell Items and your extra plants for Friendship plants give-away.

Jase Mellica will be bringing plants for sale, so there will be NO Membership Sales allowed at the January Meeting.

**WE HAVE CHANGED THE MEETING SCHEDULE –**

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 – 2:30 Call to order, announcements, at this time members will get their refreshments and enjoy their lunch during the featured Program

1:45—2:30 Featured Program

2:30 – 2:45 Door Prize. 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

**MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2024 ARE DUE BY THE END OF JANUARY**

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

## January Workshop

## CBS' Plans for 2026

Your Officers and Committee Chairs will be available to discuss the past Show and Sale as well as the upcoming year at the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. Our President, Julie Stein is completing her appointment of Committee Chairs and this would be a great time to volunteer for any positions. Come with ideas for Workshops and Programs. There will be the induction of Officers, Julie Stein, President; Dale Kammerlohr, Vice President; Alison Ackerman, Secretary and Betty Ann Prevatt, Treasurer. Please bring your CBS dues for 2024 and a completed updated Membership Renewal form to this meeting.

## January Program

### “Mimicking Nature” By Jason Mellica

Jason Mellica's home and nursery continue to recover from last year's hurricanes and he has agreed to return and discuss plants in his collection. With previous programs from Jason, we have been entertained by the colorful history of his hybrids with have unique mystical, historical and fantastic names. In January's program he will discuss some of his newer hybrids and how he utilizes information about where and how *Neoregelias* grow in nature to optimize their growth in cultivation. Jason will bring plants for sale, so there will be no Membership Sales at the January meeting.

## CBS Officers for 2026

President- Julie Stein

Vice-President– Dale Kammerlohr

Secretary– Alison Ackerman

Treasurer– Betty Ann Prevatt

## The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale

December 5th-7th, 2025 Edison/ Ford Winter Estates Ft Myers, Fl  
Photos by Dr. Larry Giroux Information by Dr. Larry Giroux



## The Milford B Foster Best of Show– Horti- culture

Exhibit:

*Orthophytum saxicola*

Exhibitor:

**David Sand**

(See photo on front cover)

**The Morris H.  
Hobbs**

**Best of Show—  
Artistic**

**Exhibit:**

***Cryptanthus  
brevifolius &  
warren-loosei***

**(In a**

**Mini-Artistic Arrangement)**

**Exhibitor:**

**Dr. Larry Giroux**



**The Sweepstakes  
Award**

**(The most Blue Ribbons Awarded)**

**Representative Exhibit:**

***Billbergia Hallelujah*  
(In a metal vase)**

**Exhibitor:**

**Dr. Larry Giroux**



**Division I Winner**

**Exhibit: *Neoregelia Black Olive***

**Exhibitor: David Sand**



**Division I  
Sec A  
Winner**

**Exhibit:**  
*Vriesea fosteriana*  
*x hieroglyphica*

**Exhibitor:**  
**David Sand**

**Division I  
Sec B  
Winner**

**Exhibit:**  
*Aechmea chantinii*

**Exhibitor:**  
**Alison Ackerman**



**Division II  
Winner**

**Exhibit:**  
*Forzzaea warasii* *x*  
*leopoldo-horstii*

**Exhibitor:**  
**David Sand**



**Division II Sec A  
Winner**

**Exhibit:**

***Cryptanthus  
warren-loosei*  
'Margie Lee'**

**Exhibitor:**

**Dr. Larry Giroux**



**Division II Sec B  
Winner**

**Exhibit:**

***Aechmea  
recurvata***

**Exhibitor:**

**Carly Pfalz**

**Division III  
Sec B Winner**

**Exhibit:**

***Tillandsia bulbosa  
X caput-medusa***

**Exhibitor:**

**Dr. Terrie Bert**





**Div IV Sec B  
Winner**  
Exhibit:  
***Various Tillandsias***  
(In an Artistic Arrangement)  
Title:  
**“The Tillandsia Tree”**

Exhibitor:  
**David & Geri Prall**

**Div IV Sec A  
Winner**  
Exhibit:  
***Cryptanthus***  
**‘Starlight’ & Ulewehi**  
(In a Decorative Container)  
Exhibitor:  
**Dr. Larry Giroux**



**Div III Winner**

Exhibit:  
***Tillandsia  
palacea x  
tectorum***

Exhibitor:  
**Dr. Terrie Bert**

**Bob Whitman Best  
Cryptanthus Group  
Species**

**Exhibit:**  
*Forzzaea warasii x  
leopoldo-horstii*

**Exhibitor:**  
**David Sand**



**Warren Loose Best  
Cryptanthus Group  
Hybrid**

**Exhibit:**  
*Cryptanthus  
Burgundy Blast*

**Exhibitor:**  
**David Sand**



**The  
Gene McKenzie  
Best Tillandsia Award  
& Best Judges'  
Horticultural Award**

**Exhibit:**  
*Tillandsia tectorum*

**Exhibitor:**  
**BSI Judge  
John Boardman**



**Members' Choice  
Award  
1st Place**

**Exhibit:  
*Neoregelia  
Bombshell***

**Exhibitor:  
Dr. Terrie Bert**

**Members' Choice  
Award 2nd Place**

**Exhibit:  
*Tillandsia  
xerographica***

**Exhibitor:  
Dr. Terrie Bert**



**Members'  
Choice Award  
3rd Place**

**Exhibit:  
*Neoregelia  
Acceleration***

**Exhibitor:  
Alex Bello**



**Best  
Judges' Artistic  
Award**

**Exhibit:**  
*Hechtia glomerata*  
*(in a Artistic  
Arrangement)*

**Exhibitor:**  
**BSI Judge  
Debbie Hughes**



**Division III Sec. A**

**Exhibit:** *Tillandsia nizandaensis*

**Exhibitor:** **Dr. Larry Giroux**

On the following pages are pictures of other Blue and Award of Merit Ribbon winning plants shown by some of the 24 exhibitors who did not get on the Head table. We had 123 entries with an incredible 69 Award of Merit ribbons given; in addition there were 38 Blue ribbons and 16 Red ribbons awarded. Several hundred dollars in “Sales Credit” was won by the top award winners along with hand made “fossils” as trophies.



Exhibit: *Tillandsia Betty*  
Exhibitor: **Stephen Seal**

Exhibit:  
*Hohenbergia*  
'Sandra's  
Mountain'

Exhibitor:  
**Bill Sheffield**



Exhibit:  
*Neoregelia*  
Comet

Exhibitor:  
**Julie Stein**

Exhibit:  
*Araecoccus*  
Flagellate

Exhibitor:  
**Diane  
Cornelison**



Exhibit:  
*Neoregelia*  
*Arya's Eyes x*  
*Pirates Landing*

Exhibitor:  
**Jason Mellica**



Exhibit: *Vriesea fenestralis*  
Exhibitor: **Betty Ann Prevatt**



Exhibit:  
*Willisia cyanea*  
Exhibitor:  
**Diane Cornelison**



Exhibit:  
*Dyckia pallaphat*  
Exhibitor:  
**Vanessa Long**

Exhibit:  
*Cryptanthus*  
*'Living Colors'*  
Exhibitor:  
**Suzanne Bogacki**



## Minutes of the CBS General Meeting LC/FM Garden Council Building Nov 16th 2025

**Call to order:** 1:40 by Vice-President Dale Kammerlohr

**In Attendance:** 25

**Guest:** Barbara Murza

### **General Meeting:**

**Business:** Dale Kammerlohr, head of the Nominating Committee, announced that the current officers have all agreed to serve for one more year. The slate includes Julie Stein for President, Dale Kammerlohr for Vice-President, Alison Ackerman for Secretary, and Betty Ann Prevatt for Treasurer. There were no additional nominations from the floor, and all four officers were unanimously approved.

**Program:** Alex Bello, owner of Bello Tropicals, his Nursery in Miami, gave a lively presentation entitled “Tillandsia Hybrids & More”. In particular, he talked about two pioneers in this field. Steve Correale now deceased, traveled deep into the rain forests together with his close fellow horticulturalist friend, Nester; before the importation restrictions they were able to bring back orchids, bromeliads and especially tillandsias in the 1960s. Subsequently, Steve created hundreds of hybrids with these plants. Alex actually ended up with Correale’s entire collection and showed us many photos of the beautiful crosses, which he now propagates, sells and uses in his own hybridizing program. One interesting tidbit is that Correale liked to use these three Tillandsias in many of his crosses: *T. capitata*, *T. chiapensis*, and *T. fasciculata*

Alex also gave several hints on how to grow *Tillandsias*. For instance, if one of your plants gets separated from its clump and it has no visible roots, he said not to worry - just clean it, and plunk it, as is, into a basket to let it dry out for at least a week. It should be fine. In fact, he grows almost all his plants in bare orchid baskets or just hangs them on a wire, although recently he has experimented with growing some Tillandsias in plastic pots with a fast-draining mix. He even brought an example to show us, and it looked like it was thriving.

**Workshop:** Betty Ann Prevatt talked about our upcoming sale the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in December. She asked for volunteers to help set up the tents and the cashier tables on Thursday afternoon. On Friday morning, she needs help setting up the fencing. Vendors will be coming that day starting at 10:00 to raise their tents and arrange all their plants for the sale. Judges and all volunteers can purchase plants that afternoon. Larry Giroux then gave the rundown on our Bromeliad Show, reviewing the times and procedures. Many members

raised their hands promising to enter plants. Larry had entry tags, entry forms, show schedules and mini-Artistic Arrangement 6” x 6” show boxes available for entrants. He reminded members that the latest Newsletter has all the information about and time table for the Sale and Show.

**Door Prizes:** Debbie McPhail brought 3 gorgeous *Orthophytum* Fire Opal plants for our door prizes.

**Show & Tell:** Members brought about 17 plants for Show & Tell and Dale led the discussion for each one.

**Raffle:** For our raffle, Larry Giroux with help from Luli Weston, gave away 15 plants. There were *Tillandsias*, *Neoregelias*, and a *Billbergia* Casa Blanca. Larry pointed out that *Billbergias* with a lot of white are particularly slow-growing and usually stingy with offsets.

Meeting adjourned 4:03

Respectfully submitted by Alison Ackerman



**The BSI WBC 2026 will include speaker presentations, a judged plant show, a special plant sale, a rare plant auction, bus tours, a banquet with keynote speaker, and more!**

**For additional information, to register and make hotel arrangements go to**

**<https://bromeliadconference.com>**



**Dr. Larry Giroux, Editor**  
**80 Skyline Drive**  
**North Fort Myers FL 33903**  
**(239) 850-4048 Dr-Larry7@gmail.com**

**This is your**  
**Jan-Feb 2026**  
**CBS**  
**Newsletter**



## The 2025 CBS Bromeliad Show Headtable