



# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S MERISTEM

*Mar-Apr 2018*



# CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Vice-PRESIDENT**— Dale Kammerlohr 863-558-0647 (dzdaze@embarqmail.com)  
**Co-SECRETARY**—Carly Sushil (239) 454-5130 crpfalz@eagle.fgcu.edu  
**TREASURER**—Betty Ann Prevatt 334-0242 (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

## STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

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## 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  
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# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

**March Auction— Sunday, March 18th  
April Party-- Sunday, April 15th**

**Our new meeting place is the Ft. Myers— Lee  
County Garden Council Building  
2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers.**

**It 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 the 2nd Street north of the Edison Gardens**

**Instead of our normal meetings,  
in March we are having our Annual Action  
and in April we are having our Annual Birthday Party.  
See inside for information.**

**Membership Sales are not permitted  
at the March Auction**

**Membership Sales are not permitted  
at the April Birthday Party**

**The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:**



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

**The drawings on the front cover and back cover are by the last Kiti Wenzel. In her later years, after joining the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, she became fascinated with bromeliads as subjects of her drawings and produced full sized water color and color pencil sketches. Reproductions of the originals were made into smaller prints and sold as posters, laser drawings and note cards. These often show up in our auctions and sales.**

## **Annual March Auction**

**Each March in lieu of a regular meeting the CBS hosts our annual Fund raising Auction. The money made benefits our Society and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.**

**We split the money made after expenses with the CBS and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, who uses it to help to continue research and the eradication of the Mexican Weevil, also known as the “Evil Weevil”. For over 2 decades the CBS has been a major contributor to the fight against this weevil, which is decimating native bromeliads in habitat in our State and the bromeliads in our collections.**

**Each year we ask the membership to donate nice plants and plant related items to be auctioned. These can include bromeliads, orchids, other tropical plants, tools, art work and collectibles. The items are split between a “silence auction” and a regular auction. This makes it possible for our members to bring in desirable, less expensive items as well as the possibly higher ticket items. All donations are appreciated. There are always bargains to be had and we always have fun.**

**We do the auction in lieu of our March meeting. We still have refreshments, but no sales. The Society business is kept to a minimum. The following is the schedule we will try to keep to leave at a decent time.**

### **12Noon**

**The location will be the same as last year and 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".**

# Our 38th Birthday Party

Terri and Jeff Lazar have invited the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society back to their home to celebrate our Birthday Party in LeBelle. The address is

999 County Road 78 LaBelle, FL Tel# 863-675-2392

East on Rte. 80 (Palm Beach Boulevard) about 35 minutes from Rte. 75 to 29 North in LaBelle. Cross LaBelle Draw Bridge and turn left at light on CR 78. Follow CR 78 West a short distance (it passes Bob Mason Park on the left) to 999 CR 78 on your left. If you pass a Handy Store on the right you have gone too far.

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 Lazar'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.

We will of course have games and contests; these will be announced later.

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. Any questions talk to us at the March meeting.

## CBS Meeting Minutes for January 2018

Call to Order: 1:15 by outgoing president Pete Diamond and incoming President Carol Sweat

The swearing in of the new board by Larry Giroux. Bruce McAlpin has been the program chair for a long time and has agreed to continue for the rest of this year. We will need a new Program Chair for 2019. Carol Sweat thanked Pete Diamond for being President and Brian Weber for being Sale Chair. The Workshop Chair is Cate Peterson. If you have suggestions for a workshop please see Cate.

Carly Sushil is planning a field trip to Fairchild Botanical Gardens on March 24<sup>th</sup> to see the Bromeliad Show and Sale. She is also planning a swamp walk for the spring. There are sign-up sheets for each trip at the check in table.

Thank you to Tom Cowell for hosting the Garden Council open Garden Day for us at the Garden Council Building in Fort Myers. Membership dues are due in January. \$15 for single returning members and \$20 for couples.

The birthday party will be on April 15<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jeff and Terry Lazar.

Thank you to Larry Giroux for being our Newsletter Editor and raffle leader. Larry is checking addresses and phone numbers to make sure he has them correct in the roster. He also asks that members send in pictures and articles

for the newsletter. Thank you to Betsy Burdette for organizing the parties and heading up the advertising for the sale. Thank you to Linda Soter for being our librarian. Thank you to Dale Kammerlohr for leading the show and tell.

There were 62 members and guests in attendance. The guests were Addison Dentry, Sandy Troy, Carol Duffy, Hal McFarland, Emil Low, Buzz Farlow, Beth Ceilley, Dinah Ceilley, Eileen Powers, Jane Heckbrush and Shawn Car-caterro. Terrance Hoffman and Farzad Farshi became new members.

The Lee County Fair wants plant entries. Any resident of Southwest Florida can enter. The fair runs from February 21 – March 4. Cash prizes will be given to winners. Ag Day will be on March 3. Pete Diamond will set up a table for the club.

Betty Ann Prevatt gave a report of the show and sale. She thanks everyone who helped out, including, but not limited to: Luli Westra, Dolly Dalton, and Diane Cornelison. The Araba Shiner’s Lodge was a very good place for our event and we have already booked it for the next sale. CBS made \$1,500 in profit. Thank you to Betty Ann for all your hard work as treasurer.

Program: Anthony Warfield gave a talk on Tillandsias. Anthony works as a shipment packer and quality controller for Tropiflora. Tillandsia is the largest genus. Species’ habitats range from Virginia to Argentina. Tillandsias need to be watered and fed regularly. Many are epiphytes. Different species prefer to grow on different things from twigs to trunks to rocks and cactus. Antho-ny went over separating clumps and how to clean them in order to combat fungal growth.

Happy birthday to Mrs. Kinzie. She is 97 now. The door prizes were won by Beth Ceilley, Larry Giroux, and Don Robert-son. Bill Sheffield will be our new door prize chair. Show and tell: Led by Dale Kammerlohr Raffle: led by Larry Giroux, and assisted by Betsy Bur-dette, Dolly Dalton, and Pete Diamond.

Adjournment: 4:00  
Respectfully submitted by Carly Sushil, Secretary

**CBS Meeting Minutes for  
February 2018**

Call to order: 1:15 by President Carol Sweat

Workshop: Collecting and germinating seeds by Bruce McAlpin. Many seed-lings take 2 to 3 years or longer to get big enough to put out in the garden.



Bruce uses a horticultural heating pad to start his seeds. Bruce uses milled sphagnum moss packed on top of potting soil to sow seeds. Betty Ann donated some seeds from her garden so that members can try growing seeds at home.

Program: Craig Morrell is the director of the Kampong – the Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden Mainland Garden. The garden is open to the public by appointment. Craig talked about Vriesea care and problems. Vrieseas like bright light, but most don't like deep shade. They also like their roots on the drier side but their cups full of water. This is achieved by providing good drainage and frequent waterings. High phosphorus fertilizer is good for vrieseas. Banrot is a good, safer fungicide than some of the others. Conserve is a systemic insecticide safe for edible plants. Coretect is Merit in a slow release tablet form.

Attendance: there were 65 members and guests in attendance. The guests were Ann Powell, Jack Powell, Leighton Bloch, Emil Low, Kay Thomas, Sunny McKenzie, Jan Signer, and Mary Parker. The new members are Beth Ceilley, Marian Kennell, Pat Lamke, Sherrie Schneider, Susan Bellevue and Mark Kennell.

Sharalee Dias has resigned as Co-Secretary due to her new job. If anyone would like to volunteer to help Carly with keeping the minutes please contact her or any board member.

Larry Giroux asks that you remember to pay your dues and get your picture taken for the roster if you haven't already done so.

The birthday party will be on April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Lazar's home in Labelle.

Bill Sheffield donated 6 mini Neoregelias for the door prize. The winners were: Tom Cowell, Beth Ceilley, Bill Burdette, Bob Meier, Eleanor Kinzie, and Mary Chis.

The meeting in March will be the Auction. Half of the money earned will go to weevil research. We will need workers to start setting up at 12. Please bring nice plants and gardening items to be auctioned. All the information will be in the March/April Newsletter.

March 10<sup>th</sup> is the March in the Park plant sale at Jaycee Park in Cape Coral. Information was in your Feb. CBS News emailing.

Pete Diamond announced that you can still enter plants into the Lee County Fair. The Fair runs from February 21 – March 4. Information was in your Feb. CBS News emailing.

Carly Sushil is planning a trip to Fairchild on March 24<sup>th</sup> to see that Bromeliad show and sale. She is also planning a trip to Fakahatchee Swamp in April. There are sign-up sheets for each trip on the check in table.

Show and tell: led by Dale Kammerlohr

Raffle: Led by Larry Giroux and assisted by Dolly Dalton and Betsy Burdette.

Adjournment: 4:00

Respectfully submitted by Carly Sushil, Secretary



Another very popular colored pencil drawing by Kiti is *Aechmea orlandiana*, which has been used to advertise a World Conference and has been made into posters and cards. There is only one original, which is 36" x 30"



Possession of *Tillandsia dyeriana* for many growers is only having Kiti's drawing since this species is relatively hard to grow and is becoming endangered in Ecuador in its native habitat. Many of Kiti's sketches are so detailed as to look like photos.

Kiti would frequently assemble individual drawings of plants of the same genus into collages as she did here with a variety of tillandsias. Kiti did not use a computer, instead she used scissors and glue!



Kiti Wenzel was an artist and teacher for most of her life. Right out of High School she started formal art training. She and her husband opened a shoppe on Fort Myers Beach in 1960. At that time she was into abstract and non-bromeliad horticultural subjects. She actually didn't start drawing bromeliads until she was 73 years old and became a member of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society in 1985. She remained an active artist and CBS member until her passing, 4 months shy of her 100th birthday.

# World Bromeliad Conference 2018

San Diego



May 29 - June 3, 2018

fiesta de las bromelias

**Registration Fee: (in United States Dollars)• \$290.00 New low registration fee!!! \$60.00 optional bus excursion [See Conference Corner for details on optional excursion.]**

**If you are not a current BSI member, your annual membership fee must be paid, USA residents add \$45 single and \$60 dual members**



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**This is your March– April 2018 CBS Newsletter**