



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S MERISTEM *Mar-Apr 2020*



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT— Vicky Chirside 941-493-5825 (dampearth@me.com)

Past– PRESIDENT— Cate Peterson (941) 505-1554 (cpeters3606@yahoo.com)

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

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

Carly Pfalz—239-850-2669 cpfalz@edisonfordwinterstates.org

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

STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR—Larry Giroux 239-850-4048 (DrLarry@comcast.net)

NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR— Carly Pfalz 239-850-2669 cpfalz@edisonfordwinterstates.org

FALL SALES CHAIRS—Brian Weber 941-256-4405 (brianweber1b@aol.com)

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON—Carly Pfalz 239-850-2669 cpfalz@edisonfordwinterstates.org

WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON—Tom Cowell 732-735-0121 njtom732@gmail.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS— Carly Sushil 239-850-2669 cpfalz@edisonfordwinterstates.org

CBS FCBS Rep.—Vicky Chirside 941-493-5825 (dampearth@me.com)

Alternate CBS FCBS Rep.—Vacant

OTHER COMMITTEES

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

DOOR PRIZE—Bill Sheffield 239) 333-9890 (yardbird@netscape.com) & membership

HOSPITALITY—Mary McKenzie 239-246 4754

SPECIAL HOSPITALITY—Temporary for April Party -Pete Diamond 704-213-7601

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

RAFFLE COMMENTARY—Larry Giroux

GREETERS/ATTENDENCE—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—Carol Sweat 239-980-8047

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

March Auction— Sunday, Mar 15th
April Birthday Party Sunday, Apr 19th

**Our Meetings are at 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 is the 2nd Street north of the Edison Gardens

Doors open at 12:30 PM for room setup

Workshop about 1:15PM

Program approx. 2 PM

**Please bring food, Friendship plants, Raffle &
Show and Tell Items.**

Membership renewal fees are \$15/20 single/dual;

New member dues: \$20/25, single/dual.

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

**Membership Sales will be permitted
at the April Party**

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

Front and Rear Cover Pictures

By Larry Giroux

Container gardens to decorate and brighten up your patio, lanai and yard are also perfect ways of growing and enjoying your bromeliads. Pictured on the front and rear covers of this issue of the Meristem are two areas of the pool lanai of Craig Allen of Apopka Florida. This area of Florida, north of Orlando, is more prone to colder temperatures. Moveable containers or plants placed in pots allow for ease of movement for protection from threatening weather. For those of us who like to change things around, the sky's the limit! Garage sales, flea markets and thrift store are a great source of containers at a fraction of the cost at retail outlets, but bargains can be found even here.

BTW, such containers make great auction items and gifts!

ANNUAL MARCH AUCTION

The CBS Board sets aside the March meeting for our Annual March Fund Raising Auction in lieu of a regular meeting. The money made will benefit our Society and the donations and events we plan during the year.

Last week I sent out a letter explaining this event. As I mentioned we ask the membership to donate nice plants and plant related items to be auctioned. These can include bromeliads, orchids, other tropical plants, tools, supplies, art work and collectibles. The items are split between a "silent 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, raffles, programs, workshops or Show and Tell. The Society business is kept to a minimum. The following is the schedule we will try to keep to leave at a decent time. How long the event takes depends on the number of items and how fast the Auctioneer can separate you from your money!

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 get your “bidding plate” at the recording table. 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 with donations and the purchase of items.

ANNUAL CBS BIRTHDAY PARTY

At the Home of Elizabeth Migliore

2453 N. Westwood Drive North Fort Myers Fl 33917

239-543-8683 emigliore2@gmail.com

April 19th 2020 Starting about 12noon

First I want to thank Betsy Burdette, who is stepping down as Chairperson of the Special Hospitality Committee, which organizes our Birthday and Holiday Parties, for her decades of extraordinary service and for bringing us lots of happy memories these past years. For our April Party she has coordinated with Pete Diamond, who has graciously agreed to Chair this event. **WE STILL NEED A VOLUNTEER TO ASSUME THE FULL TIME SPECIAL HOSPITALITY CHAIR POSITION! PLEASE TALK TO VICKY CHIRNSIDE OR PETE DIAMOND ABOUT VOLUNTEERING.**

This year we are celebrating CBS's 40th Anniversary at a new venue... the home of Elizabeth Migliore in North Fort Myers. Her home and gardens are EAST off of Bayshore Rd. in North Fort Myers. (See Map). Parking should be only a mild challenge. Besides parking on the front right side of Elizabeth's property, there will be street parking, parking on the empty lot across the street and fellow member Dick Arnold has volunteered some space at his home across the street. We will have someone assisting with parking.

Our time after 12 noon until we finish the raffle, usually about 4 PM, will be spent entertaining ourselves with games, our great birthday raffle, food and the company of our friends and fellow members. **THIS YEAR WE ARE GOING TO ALLOW MEMBERS TO SELL PLANTS.** You will need to bring your own tables for sales. All we ask is that you as usual be generous to the RAFFLE with donations in lieu of the 25% .

The rest should sound familiar! Members are asked to bring a favorite pot luck dish to share, such as casseroles, vegetables with dip, little sandwiches, cakes, cookies and about anything else that is edible. There will not be cake so bring desserts. CBS supplies the paper and plastic goods, iced tea or punch and a meat entrée (probably a ham). If you prefer other cold drinks, bring your own, there will be plenty of ice. Dale has agreed to supply some tables, but please bring snack tables and personal sitting. We will be sitting outside under the oak trees. Elizabeth claims

that the mosquitos are usually not bad until 5ish, but be prepared. Try to arrive around noon with your goodies so that the tables can be arranged buffet style. We will have the food set up on the lanai, but there is limited refrigeration and warming, so bring food in ice chests, crock pots or in insulated packing. For those of you that cannot get there early, don't worry it is always closer to 1PM or later that we start to eat and the festivities begin.

After lunch there will be a raffle of bromeliad plants and items brought by members as gifts (no, you don't have to wrap and ribbon them). But, they should be nice, clean bromeliads or bromeliad related items that anyone would want to win. We are opening donations to other plant families such as orchids, ferns, fruit trees, native plants, etc. We are a diverse group of growers, who enjoy many different plants, so if you have extras of other types of plants donate them to our special holiday raffle. Tickets are still 3/\$1, so buy a lot. Free 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 don't want any members to bring diseases back to their collection.

You have to wait to see what Pete comes up with for entertainment New members or anyone that needs more information, contact your Editor (Larry Giroux) at 239-850-4048, Pete Diamond at 704-213-7601 or your host. Bring your significant other, friends and relatives and expose them to our hobby, while enjoying the hospitality of our society.



From Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers; Turn onto Coon Rd 0.2 mi;
Turn left onto Donald Rd 0.8 mi; Donald Rd turns slightly left and becomes
Bonita Blvd 0.3 mi; Turn right onto Winston Rd 0.2 mi; Turn left onto N
Westwood Dr Destination will be on the left 0.1 mi.

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Minutes for 19 January 2020

Call to order: 1:15 by new President Vicky Chirnside

General meeting:

Out-going president Cate Peterson was thanked for her year of service.

New CBS board members were sworn in.

Carly Pfalz has agreed to be Co-secretary when Pete Diamond is unable to attend a meeting.

Board members are requested to stay afterwards for a short board meeting.

Members are reminded to take only one friendship plant so that everyone can enjoy a “free” plant. They may take more if items are left at the end of the meeting.

Thanks were given to show and sale exhibitors, vendors, and organizers.

A reminder was made about the upcoming World Conference in Sarasota.

A workday is planned for Saturday February 22nd at the Bromeliad Garden of the Berne Davis Garden Council Garden.

Treasurer Betty Ann Prevatt says the show and sale brought in \$23,365.

This was \$2,000 less than 2018 but the most recent sale was also held a week later. The club made \$500.00 after expenses.

Workshop: none

Program: Anthony Warfield from Tropiflora spoke to the club about unusual *Tillandsia* and he brought a big display of different *Tillandsia* as part of his talk.

Some highlights from his talk:

It's important to note that there are also different collection locations of the same species and these plants may not always look exactly alike.

As an example, there are numerous variations of *Tillandsia fasciculata*.

Plants received at Tropiflora as *T. fasciculata* from Guatemala 20 years ago have matured into specimens with different appearances. The form from Honduras is quite scurfy and there is also a caulescent/stoloniferous form.

Veronica has been the primary *Tillandsia* grower at Tropiflora for 20 years and she has closely observed these plants as they have grown out..

The cultivar of *Tillandsia fasciculata* called ‘Tropiflora’ may actually be a hybrid of *T. compressa* and *T. fasciculata* from Jamaica. And *T. fasciculata* ‘Magnificent’ from Central America may be a natural hybrid.

Changing environments contribute to some of the variation, even among *T. fasciculata* within Florida.

Different *Tillandsia* hybridizers may use the same plants in their crosses



Top picture is that of *Tillandsia* 'Magnificent' and lower picture is of *Tillandsia* 'Tropiflora'. Both were considered cultivars of the species *Tillandsia fasciculata*. Now per Anthony Warfield, thoughts are that the cultivar of *Tillandsia fasciculata* called 'Tropiflora' may actually be a hybrid of *T. compressa* and *T. fasciculata* from Jamaica. And *T. fasciculata* 'Magnificent' from Central America may be a natural hybrid. Photos from bromeliad.org.au.

but often produce hybrids with some very different results. *T. duratii* is from Bolivia but when crossed with *T. stricta* it yields three very different progeny in terms of size, leaf curling, and scurf. There are also many different forms of *T. ionantha* x *T. capitata*.

Anthony recommends fertilizing *Tillandsia* weekly and suggests that lighting can be variable for good growth.

Attendance: 49 members and guests present

New members: Tex O'Neill, Cindy Mallonee, Nancy O'Connell

Guests: Lucinda Ritchie, Niki Venter, Tina Peart, Maria Taraska

Door prizes: Bill Sheffield donated three *Aechmea werdermanniana*

Show and tell: Dale Kammerlohr

Raffle: Larry Giroux

Meeting notes submitted by Pete Diamond, CBS secretary.

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Minutes for 16 February 2020

Call to order: 1:15 by President Vicky Chirnside

General meeting:

Members were reminded to pay annual dues.

Vicki reviewed the proposed donations of \$300 each to the *Cryptanthus* Society, Bromeliad Society International (BSI), and Selby Gardens – “Harry Luther Research, Conservation, and Education Fund”, and \$100 each to Friends of the Fakahatchee and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. Alex Bello put forth a motion and Ed Wenzlaff seconded. All members voted in favor of making the donations.

Members were reminded about the upcoming World Conference in Sarasota.

A workday is planned for February 22nd at 9 a.m. at the Berne Davis bromeliad garden.

The March meeting will be the fund-raising plant auction.

The April meeting is the CBS birthday party.

As Betsy Burdette is stepping back from “Special Hospitality” and show/sale advertising, two members are asked to step forward to replace her.

Elizabeth Migliore has tentatively agreed to host the April CBS party at her home in North Fort Myers. Pete Diamond will be checking to make certain there is enough parking in the neighborhood for members' cars.

Workshop: none

Program: “Understanding Bromeliads” was the topic of Dennis Cathcart's program.

As the owner of Tropiflora nursery in Sarasota, Dennis has travelled extensively and “understands” bromeliads quite well.

He covered the basics, from what is a bromeliad and what characters define this group of plants, to a review of the bromeliad subfamilies (there are eight now instead of the old three) and a discussion of phenotypes as the observable characteristics of a plant.

Dennis described how bromeliads occupy vastly different habitats and have quite variable growth habits. There is a *Dyckia*, for example, that grows along rivers and streams and these habitats are sometimes seasonally inundated (with flood waters).

Bromeliads also vary from “obligate epiphytes” to “obligate terrestrials” and “facultative epiphytes,” plants that are typically epiphytes, but which may grow as a terrestrial.

Key points were that not all bromeliads are monocarpic and that there are many dire and very real threats to bromeliads and their habitats.

Attendance: 49 members and guests present

New members: none

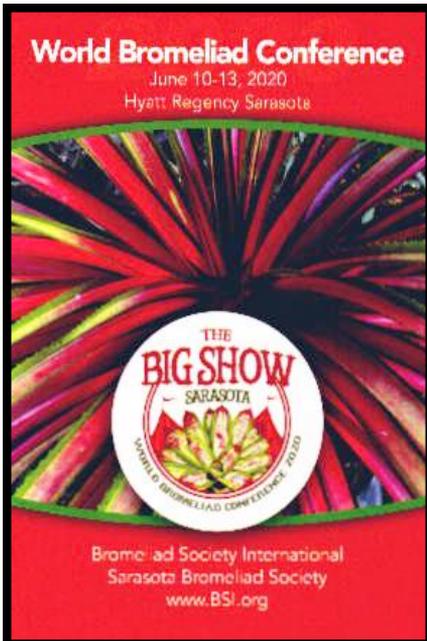
Guests: Greg Dechirico, Eduardo Camacho, David Deglar

Door prizes: Bill Sheffield donated *Aechmea* ‘Caloosa’

Show and tell: Dale Kammerlohr

Raffle: Larry Giroux

Meeting notes submitted by Pete Diamond, CBS secretary.



**WORLD
BROMELIAD
CONFERENCE
to be held in
Sarasota, Florida.**

**[https://
www.bsi.org/new/
conference-corner](https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner)**

**For more
information**



Dr. Larry Giroux, Editor
80 Skyline Drive
North Fort Myers Fl 33903
(239) 850-4048 DrLarry@comcast.net

This is your Mar-Apr 2020 CBS Newsletter
Don't miss the March Auction & the April Party