



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S MERISTEM

Mar-Apr 2024



Photo by B. Larson/UF

Metamasius callizona is the evil weevil. It is black with a single band (yellow/orange/red).

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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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

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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

**March Auction: Sunday, Mar. 17th 2024
April Birthday Party Apr. 21st 2024**

Our March Auction 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

Our April Birthday Party will be at the home of Julie and Craig Stein see inside for more info.

The CBS Board has established a more structured schedule for our meetings, which we will adapt as necessary—

*12:30-1:15: Doors open, check-in, membership, distribution of door prize tickets and sale of raffle tickets, membership or speaker plant sales.

*1:15-1:45: Workshop 1:45-2:00: Break, plant sales continue

2:00-2:15: Business Meeting 2:15-3:00: Program followed by door prize

3:00-3:30: Break for refreshments 3:30-4:00: Show and Tell and Raffle
4:00: Clean up

**PLEASE BRING AUCTION ITEMS AND FOOD FOR THE APRIL
“EVIL WEEVIL AUCTION “ EVENT**

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2024 ARE DUE Please contact Betty Ann 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

March Fund Raising Auction

In March, instead 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 1/2 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. The weevil is in our environment, our gardens and if you experienced screen damage from Hurricane Ian, most likely it has sneaked into your collections. For the latest information and updates on how to combat this pest, go to www.FCBS.org.

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. The more the better. 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, Program, Workshop, Show and Tell or Raffle. Please still bring food for the Break. Of course any and all items are appreciated and will help. The Society business is kept to a minimum. The following is the schedule we will try to keep to leave at a decent time.

12:00 Noon: 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 to the auctioneer who will announce the winner, 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 or may be given directly to the winner. 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 if they haven't already been given to you when you won it. 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 again 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". We all can take much pride in this accomplishment.

**44th Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society's Anniversary Party
Home of Julie and Craig Stein
7594 Grande Pine Road, Bokeelia, Pine Island 33922
Sunday, April 21st 2024**

The 44nd Anniversary of the founding of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society by a small dedicated group of people headed by Gene McKenzie will be celebrated at the home of Julie Stein, our current CBS President on April 21st, the Thrid SUNDAY in April. Her home is in Bokeelia, Florida. 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.

Julie and Craig Stein

7594 Grande Pine Road Bokeelia, Pine Island 33922

Julie's home is in Bokeelia, which is in the North portion of Pine Island.

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. CBS supplies the paper and plastic goods, iced tea, punch and a meat entree. If you prefer other cold drinks, bring your own, there will be plenty of ice. **Please bring small tables and chairs.**

Try to arrive around noon with your goodies so that the tables can be arranged buffet style. 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.

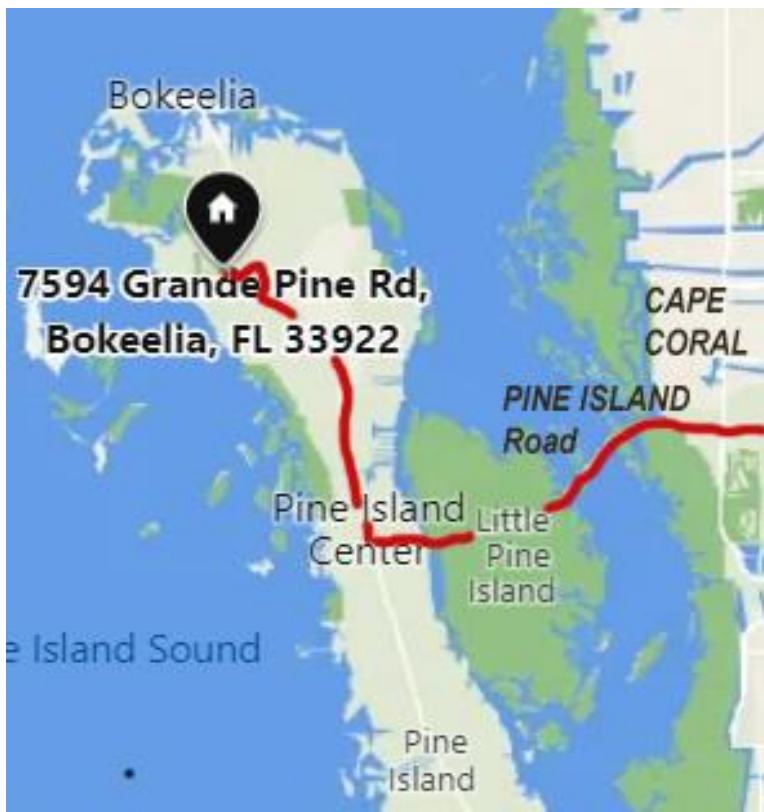
After lunch there will be a raffle of bromeliad plants and items brought by members as gifts (no, you don't have to wrap and ribbon them). But, they should be nice, clean bromeliads or bromeliad related items that anyone would want to win. **We are opening donations to other plant families such as orchids, 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. 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 or infest Julie's yard.**

We will probably have games as usual. We'll be mentioning the type of contest in upcoming memos if you need to prepare anything.

New members or anyone that needs more information, contact your Editor Larry Giroux at 239-850-4048 or Julie Stein at 919-522-1182. Bring your significant other, friends and relatives and expose them to our hobby, while enjoying the hospitality of our society. If there is any additional information we will pass it on as the date draws near.

Directions to Julie's house in Bokeelia...

Go west on Pine Island Road. Go through Matlacha to Stringfellow Road (Hwy 767) take a right and head north for 4.5 miles. Take Florence Dr. on the left. This is an unpaved road. Turn right onto Bokeelia Road then immediately turn left onto Raintree Drive. Turn right on to Grande Pine Road. Your destination is on the right 7594 Grande Pine Road.



Splitting Bromeliads By Barbara Black (Editor)

**Originally published in East London Bromeliad Society's
Newsletter of South Africa. March 2024.**

(CBS Editor's Note): For many years, I have been involved in an unofficial Newsletter Exchange with a few Newsletters throughout the World. This article caught my eye from the East London Bromeliad Society of South Africa. I have made a few minor notes to enhance and clarify information. Barbara Black is doing a superb job as it's Editor. Many thanks for including me in its mailing. Hope our readers enjoy this article.

Dr. Pete Pfister brought a big clump of *Lutheria* (formerly *Vriesea*) *glutinosa* to be split. It had developed quite a few pups, this genus tends to produce axial pups coming out of the centre of the plant which are difficult to separate from the mother. You risk losing the mother and the pup. Pete, Dudley Reynolds and Dave Gower got stuck in and managed to demonstrate to the members just how to do the job safely. There were also a few grass pups growing

around the base which were saved too. Another option is to allow your bromeliad to form a nice clump to make an attractive display. This does not usually suit *Neoregelia* with their rosette form for instance, which are best grown separately to let the plant grow to its full potential without squashing the leaves. If you want more pups to grow, separate your pups from the mother only when they are at least more than half the height of the mother to ensure survival and good growth. The old mother, if not in too bad a condition, or a very special plant, might continue to produce one or more pups. For our newer members, a brief recap on splitting bromeliads: When you are planning to separate your bromeliads you will need to decide whether



The boys (Pete Pfister, Dave Gower and Dudley Reynolds) in action trying to cut through the tough woody joins holding the pups to the old mother plant. Photo by L. Friend

you are going to plant them in the garden, mount or pot them. You will need pots, potting medium (which needs to be free draining), labels, which you can make out of yogurt or ice-cream containers (CBS Editor: I use 1" window blind slats cut into 6" pieces), use a permanent marker (CBS Editor: @2 lead pencil tends not to fade as much) to write the details. Try to keep your plants labeled if it comes with the correct name, you will thank yourself much later!!! · You will need secateurs, loppers, even a small saw for some of the thick woody stems or a sharp, old knife to do the job. Bromeliads can start forming pups, (also called off-shoots or offsets) at any time, but most start 'pupping' after they bloom; and then the mother plant slowly dies off over the next year or so, having replaced itself with the pups. You can choose to leave the plant in a clump and just remove the old mother. Most pups grow off the side of the mother plant at the base or on long woody stolons. Some varieties, like *Lutheria glutinosa* that was split at the meeting, have an axial pup coming out of the centre of the mother plant's leaves. You do risk losing the mother trying to remove these kind of pups, so wait till there is more than



A pup ready to be removed from the basal root area on *Neoregelia* 'DeRolf'. Photo by Barbara Black.

one of decent size. By removing pups from most bromeliads, you speed up the process of the mother plant perhaps producing one or more pups. The other type of pup seen on *Lutheria glutinosa* were grass pups. These grow around the base of the mother and in the case of some *Alcantarea* varieties, they are the only type of pup the mother produces. When big enough they can be carefully removed and grown on. A tip: these grass pups can be placed in the water of the cup of another bromeliad where they root easily before potting them on. · (Normal) Pups are ready to be separated when they reach about half to 2/3 the size of the parent plant. If the pup is starting to form roots, that's a good indication that the plant can survive on its own. They do not necessarily need to have roots in order to survive and begin life. They will form roots. Remember that (many) bromeliads take in moisture and nutrients through their leaves and most can survive as epiphytes and can be mounted. (CBS Editor: The terrestrial bromeliads absorb their nutrients and moisture through their roots and should be planted in media.) Roots are mainly to anchor the (epiphytic) plants, to provide stability when potted, or on a host, eg. a tree trunk. Pups may be removed by cutting with a sharp knife or secateurs as close to the mother plant as possible. The bigger varieties may need a small saw to cut through the woody stem. Try not to damage the mother plant as it might produce more pups. Some pups can be pulled



Neoregelia punctatissima

pups growing on woody stolons. Still too small to remove. I like to let them grow in a clump. Photo by Barbara Black.

away from the mother by hand. The longer you leave the pups on the mother plant the quicker they will reach maturity

(taking nourishment from mom). Feel free to trim back the leaves of the parent plant if they start interfering with the growth of a pup. To encourage the pup to grow, position the plant with the pups facing towards the light. Alternatively, removing the pups a bit smaller will encourage the mother plant to throw more pups sooner. Just remember that pups removed when they are too small struggle to develop and will result in inferior plants. It depends on



whether you want a bunch of plants (for bedding or to share with friends) or if you just want a few that will mature faster. If you live in a colder climate you may want to wait until spring time to remove pups that would otherwise be ready to remove in the winter as pups don't usually root well when it is cold. Once pups are separated you can leave them

Adventitious or 'grass pups' growing on *Alcantarea nahoumii*. Photo by Barbara Black.

Two axial pups can be seen growing from the centre of *Lutheria splenriet*. Photo by Barbara Black.

for a few days in a shady spot for the 'wound' to heal or pot them up straight away but don't over water them. Best to keep them on the drier side till roots form to prevent any rot setting in. Alternatively, if you have a number of pups around the mother, you may choose to cut away the mother plant and let the pups form an attractive specimen group (clump) of that particular bromeliad. Still too



A basal pup on a foliage *Vriesea*. These can sometimes be gently pulled away from the mother stem. Photo by Barbara Black.

small to remove, I like to let them grow in a clump. You can separate or leave the pup on the mother to form a nice clump. Some bromeliads, like *Neoregelia* look better separated so that the rosette form of the plant can be appreciated. Other genera eg. *Billbergia*, some *Guzmania* and *Tillandsia* often look much better as a clump of specimen plants. HAPPY SPLITTING AND POTTING!



A *Neoregelia* with a nice strong stolon attaching the pup. You can separate or leave the pup on the mother to form a nice clump. Photo by L. Wegner.

World Bromeliad Conference 2024 — “A Florida Treasure”



The **World Bromeliad Conference (WBC 2024)** will be held on **May 22-25, 2024** in West Palm Beach, Florida, USA. For more information on West Palm Beach, see the **Travel & Leisure** article, [This Idyllic Florida City Is a Hidden Gem Near Palm Beach, and Just As Chic and Happening](#).

WBC 2024 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! Check out the WBC 2024 Schedule on the WBC 2024 Menu on the [home page](#).

Worlds largest bromeliad **sale**, judged bromeliad **show** and **auction**..... fun, fun, fun.

The **keynote speaker** for the Banquet on Saturday night, May 25, 2024, is **Andrew Devonshire from New Zealand** with his presen-

tation, *Hybridizing: The Kiwi Way*.

The hotel venue will be the **West Palm Beach Marriott**. There is a special hotel rate for registrants with online reservations now available for booking in the [Members area](#) of this website. Regular daily hotel rates in May for the Marriott are \$300 and up, but the special WBC rate is \$179 and comes with a reduced parking rate of \$10 (regularly \$16). The special hotel rate is available until the earlier of April 30, 2024 or whenever the special block of rooms is fully booked. When reserving your hotel dates, you need to enter your arrival and departure dates prior to selecting the “check availability” button or you will see an error message stating “no available rooms”.

You may cancel your room reservation for no charge before 11:59 PM local hotel time 2 day[s] before arrival. There is a one-day cancellation penalty if one departs early after checking in.

WBC 2024 Registration Fees are \$295 if paid by March 31, 2024; \$335 from April 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024; or \$395 from May 1, 2024. Registration fees may be paid in the [Members area](#) of this website. To register for **WBC 2024**, you must be a [BSI member](#). Paid registrations are 100% refundable through March 31, 2024 and not refundable thereafter.



Minutes of the CBS General Meeting
LC/FM Garden Council Building Feb 18th 2024

Call to order: 1:15 by President Julie Stein

Guests: Barbara Barton, Kyle Hughes, Philip Li, and Grant Mitchell.

In Attendance: 28

General Meeting:

Announcements: Julie and Dr. Larry Giroux reminded everyone to pre-register for the upcoming Bromeliad World Conference in May. Doing so early will save money not only for the registration, but for the hotel rooms. More information is available at <https://www.bsi.org> and in our own newsletters.

Julie handed out a list of bromeliad and orchid supplies available through OFE International in Homestead, a company that offers discounts on bulk orders. She encouraged members to fill out the form and return it to either her or Betty Ann Prevatt. The site where the supplies can be viewed is ofeintl.com. It's hoped that if we can order at least \$500, then we won't have to pay for shipping.

Larry talked about our upcoming Auction in March, a major fundraiser for this organization. He encouraged members to donate anything relating to bromeliads, especially plants which provide the most excitement in the bidding process. We will donate half of the funds we raise to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, which they will use for various endeavors such as research on how to eradicate the Mexican "Evil" weevil. We really need a good turnout for this event, as we barely broke even for our sale last December 2023.

Workshop/Program Combination: Larry, Dale, Vickie, and Betty Ann brought in plants and supplies to share and then began this hands-on event by talking about how to choose and mount various bromeliads to produce beautiful, balanced displays. The trick is choosing the right plant to go with the right mount. If you get your wood from the seashore, it should be free of salt, so extended soaking will be required. Volcanic rock is also excellent, as is cork, grapevine, and even slate. Almost anything will work as long as it's rough enough for the roots to attach.

Interesting historical fact: When the BSI started their shows, they only accepted mounted **epiphytes** – no other plants were allowed. Now any plant can be used. Aechmeas, Neos, and Tillandsias are now commonly used and can just be glued and/or snugly tied to its mount until they develop attachments; while terrestrials such as *Cryptanthus*, *Dyckias*, *Hechtias*, and plants of the *Pitcairnioideae Sub-family* need to have a soil-filled niche into which they can be nestled and receive nutrients. Once the plants are established and roots have attached to the mount, the zip ties, panty hose, cord, or wires can be removed. As for the type of glue to use, E6000, Goop and Liquid

Nails were all recommended.

Many members brought in their own plants and supplies as well, creating several beautiful displays over the next hour.

Door Prizes: Our door prize this month was a beautiful *Aechmea melodrama*, donated by Carol Sweat.

Show & Tell: Dale Kammerlohr showed and discussed 12 interesting plants brought in for discussion. One highlight was one he brought in, a *Wallisia cyanea* (previously known as *Tillandsia cyanea*) mounted on a piece of a “lighter knot”, which is an innermost piece of a pine tree core full of pitch, which means it will basically never rot. There was also a magnificent flowering multiple *Guzmania zahnii* which everyone loved.

Raffle: Larry Giroux, Kay Janssen and Julie Stein awarded about 17 donated plants to the lucky winners.

Meeting adjourned: 3:45 Respectfully submitted by Alison Ackerman



The
World
Bromeliad
Conference
(WBC 2024)

will be held on
May 22-25, 2024
in
West Palm Beach,
Florida, USA.

The hotel venue
will be the
**West
Palm Beach
Marriott.**

Time is running out for the lower Registration Fee, deadline is March 31st and the number of rooms at the special rate are limited. So register early. WBC 2024 will include speaker presentations, a judged plant show, one of Florida's largest bromeliad plant sales, a rare plant auction, bus tours, a banquet with keynote speaker, and more! For additional information and to register go to: www.BSI.org/new/conference-corner/



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Metamasius mosieri is native to Florida and is *not* devastating bromeliad populations as is the evil weevil. The native weevil is red and black with 2 black spots. It is about 2/3 the size of the evil weevil.

This is your Mar-Apr 2024 CBS Newsletter