



*Mar-Apr*  
*2013*

# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S CALOOSAHATCHEE MERISTEM



# CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD

## SOCIETY OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**PRESIDENT**—Marsha Crawford (239) 472-2089 [marshacrawford@embarqmail.com](mailto:marshacrawford@embarqmail.com)

**VICE-PRESIDENT**— Larry Giroux (239) 997-2237 [DrLarry@comcast.net](mailto:DrLarry@comcast.net)

**Co-SECRETARY**—Carley Sushil (239) 454-5130 [crpfalz@eagle.fgcu.edu](mailto:crpfalz@eagle.fgcu.edu)

**Co-SECRETARY**— Sharalee Diaz [mrsthible@aol.com](mailto:mrsthible@aol.com)

**TREASURER**—Betty Ann Prevatt 334-0242 ([bprevattpcc@aol.com](mailto:bprevattpcc@aol.com))

### STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**—Larry Giroux 997-2237 ([DrLarry@comcast.net](mailto:DrLarry@comcast.net))

**FALL SALES CHAIRS**—Geri & Dave Prall 542-2245 ([PalmTreeGardens@hotmail.com](mailto:PalmTreeGardens@hotmail.com));

Brian Weber 941-256-4405 ([brianweber1b@aol.com](mailto:brianweber1b@aol.com))

**CBS Show Chair**— To be selected

**PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON**—Bruce McAlpin (863) 674-0811

**WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON**—Co-Chair: Pete Diamond (704) 213-7601

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**—Gail Daneman 239-466-3531 ([bob@fesq.net](mailto:bob@fesq.net))

**CBS FCBS Rep.**—Vicky Chirside 941-493-5825 ([vickychir@aol.com](mailto:vickychir@aol.com))

**CBS FCBS Rep.**—Position available

### OTHER COMMITTEES

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

**DOOR PRIZE**—Terri Lazar (863) 675-2392 ([terriLML@earthlink.net](mailto:terriLML@earthlink.net))

**HOSPITALITY**—Mary McKenzie 939-5820

**SPECIAL HOSPITALITY**—Betsy Burdette 694-4738 ([betsy@burdetteinc.com](mailto: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](mailto:dollyd@comcast.net)), Luli Westra

**SHOW & TELL**—Dale Kammerlohr 863-558-0647 ([dzdase@embarqmail.com](mailto:dzdase@embarqmail.com))

**FM-LEE GARDEN COUNCIL**—Mary McKenzie 939-5820

**LIBRARIAN**—Kay Janssen 334-3782

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# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

## March Auction— Sunday, Mar. 17, 2013 Covenant Presbyterian Church

The church facility is located near downtown Fort Myers, Florida, at 2439 McGregor Blvd., just one block south of the Edison Home parking lot and about 1 1/2 miles north of our previous meeting location— St. John the Apostle Church. The facility is approximately 2.5 miles north of the intersection of Colonial Blvd. and McGregor Blvd.

Doors open at 12PM for Auction setup, There is no Program or Workshop

Please bring food, there will be NO raffle or Show and Tell

*There will be NO Membership Sales*

## March CBS Auction

### 12Noon

We are allowed into the 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

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



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

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 up 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 your stubs; however, we encourage members to stay until the completion of the Auction when we will have several people available to check you out.

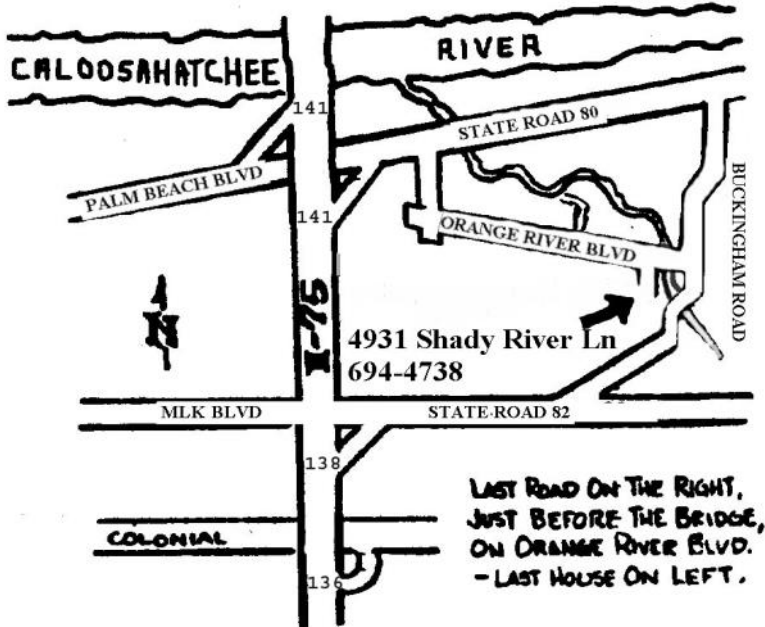
**Please come to the Auction and have some fun while supporting the CBS and the FCBS with donations and the purchase of items.**

**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.**

**There is NO regular CBS meeting in April  
 Instead we are having our  
 33nd BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
 CBS 1980-2013  
 April 15th 2013**

This year we are moving our celebration back to the home of Betsy and Bill Burdette. Betsy and Bill have been members of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society since 1990. Betsy has been our Special Hospitality Chair for many, many years and whenever we are in need of a location for our parties, this generous couple has come through and offered their Buckingham home and gardens for our enjoyment. Touring their garden never becomes old since it seems that the views are constantly changing. Besides the collections of exotic plants, if it's a good day canoeing may be available along the Orange River.

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, although there will be some provided.



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 Burdette's yard is very well shaded. 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.

Our contest will be "Creative Bromeliad Spring Hats". Prizes for the best "Spring Hat", best "Bromeliad Grower Hat", and "the Most Colorful Hat". Any man that makes and wears a hat decorated with bromeliads automatically wins a prize.

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.



The plant, which was featured on the front cover of the January– February issue of the Meristem has been identified by Derek Butcher "Uncle Derek" of Adelaide, Australia as *Aechmea* 'Cracker Night'.

The following is the description per the BSI BCR. Mature rosette to 1 metre diameter. Grown by Equatorial Exotics, Cairns for many years as *Ae. biflora*. When Bruce Dunstan of Greenstock Nursery, Brisbane flowered it, his photo was identified by Harry Luther as a [hybrid](#) of *Ae. nidularioides*. Same cultivar has been in circulation in Australia as *Ae. biflora* x *nidularioides* (or reverse). Petals white. Chester Skotak acknowledged it is his cross (July, 2012). Named by and Reg. Doc. 5/2012 by Kerry Tate. Country of origin: **Costa Rica**

## Bromeliad Expose'

By Larry Giroux

*Last week I returned to Naples Botanical Gardens in Naples Florida. I first visited the Gardens about 1 year after it had opened and was impressed by how much was accomplished in such a short time. I was even more astounded by the expansion and growth of the plants, especially the bromeliads on this visit. There are not too many places in the United States, except Hawaii, where bromeliads can be left outdoors year round to flourish. Naples has taken advantage of its weather and has established a showcase for many of the genera of bromeliads. If you are a member of another Gardens such as Selby or Fairchild, NBG will honor your membership for admission; otherwise the \$12.95 entrance fee is well worth it. Each visit for me is a new experience.*

*Below are some pictures of the NBG; they hardly do justice to a live view of the grounds and gardens.*

*The front and back covers of this newsletter depict a guzmania hybrid growing in the Naples garden.*



The Gardens have an exceptional number of pineapple plants including *Ananas comosus*, both the normal and variegated forms, and this spineless *Ananas lucidus*. They are using 2-3 foot wide clumps of this pineapple to line walk way. *Ananas lucidus* just happens to be in bloom now and gives a great show with its bronze spineless leaves and rosy bracts and blue-purple petals of its fruit. Being spineless it is visitor friendly, especially along the sidewalks.



The gardeners are taking advantage of the growing collection of palms, especially the ones with “boots“ created by the dead old leaves. It won’t be long before the offsets of these epiphytic bromeliads stuck in these spaces begin to climb the bare surfaces and cover the tree trunk.



Knowing the cultural requirements of each bromeliad is very important to displaying bromeliads to their best advantage. Not sure if these *Aechmea chantinii* ‘Black’s have been grown elsewhere in low light and have recently been planted, or are in too much shade and are not demonstrating their ideal urn shape. I think the later is the case and their offsets will adapt to their sunnier location and have better form.



Throughout the gardens multiple bromeliads of the same type as in this picture, where plants of *Neoregelia johannis*, are used to create borders. Close examination indicated that nearly ever plant was in bloom.



The bromeliad collections are still young and are lacking in variety, but ever so often during my tour I noted something different like this un-identified *Pitcairnia*. I couldn't tell if this was a species or a hybrid, but the flowers and leaf morphology identified it as a definite *pitcairnia*.



Permanent labels accompany many of the bromeliad plants and were accurate as far as I could tell. The tag on this grouping of *Aechmea* 'Blue Tango' gave the Genus, the plant name (either species, hybrid or cultivar name) the family and the country of origin.



I was fortunate to be treated to the sight and fragrance of blooming *Tillandsia usenoides* on this trip to the NBG (note the green petals. I highly recommend looking for this when you see this unlikely tillandsia.



**I was very disappointed in their small collection of cryptanthus and even more so by the placement of these moisture loving terrestrials with the xeric cactus and succulents. The *C.* ‘Strawberries Flambe’, ‘Black Mystic’ and ‘Café au lait’ were faded out and badly dehydrated.**



**Besides bromeliads the gardens have nice collections of other semi-tropical and tropical plants including a variety of sansevierias. We saw a limited amount of wildlife other than birds and a turtle. Photos by Larry Giroux.**

## CBS Meeting Minutes January 20th 2013

**Location:** Covenant Presbyterian Church at 2439 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33901

**Meeting called to order** at 1:15 PM. By President Marsha Crawford

**Attendance total: 33** New members: 0, Guest: 4, Sandra Wilkerson, Pauline Renaud, Sam Wolf, Wilma Miller

**Workshop: Introductory Course on Navigating the FCBS Website**  
Presented by: Peter Diamond, Workshop Chairman

Pete did a nice job leading the group through the website for the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (fcbs.org). He pointed out the bromeliad art gallery, links to the Cryptanthus Society, many helpful resources and publications, the gift shop, seed exchange, and the bromeliad cultivar registry.

**Break:** 1:43 - 2:00 PM

**Program: "Why My Plant Did Not Make the Head Table in the Show."**

Presented by: Jay Thurrott, Current President of the Bromeliad Society International

Jay gave a lecture on what things the judges look for as well as what it takes to become a judge. In plant scoring each plant is considered perfect and point are deducted for faults. The categories of faults are culture, conformation (or shape), color & markings, inflorescence, and maturity. When using decorative containers the objective is to have harmony between the plant and the container. Neither should detract from the other. Jay also put emphasis on the need to follow the rules in the show schedule. Some other tips he suggested were to use black or green pots that are the standard or azalea pot shape. Use club soda to remove mineral deposits.

**Break for refreshments:** 2:47- 3:15 PM. Thank you Mary McKenzie and volunteers for all the wonderful treats.

**Business Meeting called to order** at 3:15PM. By President Marsha Crawford

**Announcements:** Bruce McAlpin asked members to bring any sick or problem plants to the February meeting because the topic for February will be a trouble shooting clinic. Vicky Chirnside noted that the Florida Bromeliad extravaganza will be on September 21, 2013 at Indian Rocks Beach. For more information see Vicky or call Judy Lund at (727) 439-7782. Vicky also announced that the next World Conference will be in Hawaii in September of 2014. Larry Giroux spoke asks that if you have access to email and don't need to receive the newsletter in hardcopy that you opt to get it only via email. Larry also said that everyone should be receiving the Florida Council newsletter in the mail. If you aren't, please see Larry. The 2013 roster comes out in March. If you have changed any of your contact information or need a new picture taken, please contact Larry. CBS will pay for half of the subscription fee for all first time members to both the Cryptanthus Society and the BSI. Please see Betty Ann to sign up.

Dr. Larry Giroux: Newsletter Editor & Vice President. 1. Request that those who can receive the newsletter by email please do so as the cost of printing is increasing. Let him know. Also the email version is an expanded version. 2. CBS pays \$3.00 per member for us to receive the FCBS quarterly newsletter. If you are not receiving this, please let him know. 3. The 2013 paid member

roster will be out in March. Please update any information ASAP and he will also be taking pictures at the February meeting. 4. CBS still pays half the subscription rate for the BSI and Cryptanthus Society for new members for 1 year. If you are a new member please take advantage of this offer.

Marsha Crawford read a flyer brought in by Geri Prall regarding the Garden Club of Cape Coral's 5<sup>th</sup> annual "March in the Park." It will be held Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Jaycee Park 4125 SE 20<sup>th</sup> Place, Beach Parkway, Cape Coral. Contact Kathy Woodlock for information at (239)242-6303. Flyers are available at the check in table. Marsha also asked members to help out Mary McKenzie our wonderful hospitality chair, by bringing dishes that are ready to be served, for example, plates/bowls that just need their covers removed.

**New Business:**

The President, at the request of board, asks the general membership to approve a \$300.00 donation to BSI and a \$300.00 donation to the Cryptanthus Society. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Marsha called for volunteers for multiple positions including show chairman for our upcoming bromeliad show in December 2013. This will be addressed in detail at future meetings.

**Door Prize:** Thank you Jay and Calandra Thurrott for donating a Vriesea Rafeal as our door prize. It was won by Vicky Chirside.

**Show and Tell:** Conducted by Dale Kammerlohr

**Raffle:** Conducted by Dr. Larry Giroux, assisted by Dolly Dalton

**Adjournment:** 4 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Sharalee Dias and Carly Sushil, Co-Secretaries

## CBS Meeting Minutes February 17th 2013

**Location:** Covenant Presbyterian Church at 2439 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33901

**Meeting called to order** at 1:15 PM. By President Marsha Crawford

**Attendance total: 51**

New members: (2) Larry and Pam Geiger and Dr. John Taraska

Guest: (7) Liz Repple, Karen Wojnar, Marie Taraska, Joyce Sanders, Ivey Ronan, Bob Toney

**Workshop: How to prepare your collection for the upcoming growing season.**

Presented by: Peter Diamond, Workshop Chairman

Peter led the discussion recommending to grow some plants on the hard side. Steve recommended no fertilizer for Neo's or Vriesea for increased foliage color. Dr. Larry – Billbergias also have better color without fertilizer, however, bigenerics (neophytums for example) and cryptanthus love fertilizer; but mix the long lasting slow release types into the soil, especially when potting up off sets. Bruce - now is the time to fertilize bromeliads in the trees and spray for the weevil, then spray again in July. Remove pups and place in a sunny location now to acclimate them for survival in our summer sun. Fertilize the mother in hopes of producing more off sets, and

start thinking about getting plants ready for our Dec. show and sale. Larry-Facebook-our club has a page and many others that talk about and will answer questions about bromeliads. Vicky-look up where they originally came from and you will see the climate they need. Peter-time to clean out fallen leaves and remove dead foliage. Dr. Larry-when rainy season arrives make sure you have pulled back the mulch from the base of the plant to prevent rot.

**Break:** 1:50 - 2:00 PM

**Program: “Plant Clinic for Troubled Plants.”**

Presented by: Craig Morell, Chief horticulturist at Pinecrest Gardens in east Miami.

The key to avoiding problems is choosing a plant that is suitable to your microclimates. Find out what is causing the problem- people, animals, insects or fungus/pathogens. Is the climate- too hot, too dry, to wet, not enough air circulation? Change the environment and or treat with the right agent. Use systemic controls if you do not want to reapply topical agents on a repeated basis. Some of the chemicals he uses are rubbing alcohol, Merit, wettable garden sulfur, Captan, Hurricane, diatomaceous earth. Prevent root rot with well draining growing medium and shallower pots. Try Turface, or granular clay or mix peat moss+ pine bark + perlite. Some fertilizers he has used for example are Harrell 0-0-14, Dynamite + Morganite in equal amounts, Epsom organic rose fertilizer +Morganite + Dynamite.

Members brought in plants with various problems for diagnosis. In summary: Know what you are trying to control. Control the conditions. Use the product with the lowest toxicity that will produce the desired results.

**Break for refreshments:** 3:10- 3:30 PM. Thank you Mary McKenzie and volunteers for all the wonderful treats.

**Business Meeting called to order** at 3:30 PM. by President Marsha Crawford

**Announcements:** Marsha announced Pine Island Garden Gala on Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9 A.M. - 2 P.M. Also the Garden Club of Cape Coral’s 5<sup>th</sup> annual “March in the Park” Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Jaycee Park 4125 SE 20<sup>th</sup> Place, Beach Parkway, Cape Coral. Contact Kathy Woodlock for information (239)242-6303. Larry Giroux- 2013 membership roster will be out next month, please make sure your information is correct and that he has a picture of you. Only paid members will be included. Mary McKenzie reminded us of the Lee Garden Councils Standard Flower Show coming up on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Eco-Living Center in Rutenberg Park and she encouraged members to participate in the horticulture divisions. Information is on the Garden Council website or contact Mary. Our Auction is next month on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March and Dr. Larry will post the procedures for the auction in the upcoming newsletter. Proceeds are used to pay the rent on our meeting location and also for a donation to FCBS. Volunteers are needed for various tasks before and during the auction. If you would like to help out please arrive at noon. We also need donations of clean plants and plant related items for the auction. In addition to bromeliads, other welcome donations would be driftwood, orchids and ferns, for example.

### **New Business:**

Larry Giroux called for a volunteer to host the Birthday Party in April. Elizabeth Migliore volunteered her home if Betsy Burdette agreed it could accommodate our group. If anyone else would like to volunteer their home, please contact Betsy.

**Door Prize:** 7 Vriesea Ospinae were donated by Bruce McAlpin and won by Ed Wenzlaff, Ken Ripple, Rick Lyon, Carly Sushil, Carol Sweat, Pam Geiger, Peter Diamond. Thank you Bruce.

**Show and Tell:** Led by Dale Kammerlohr

**Raffle:** Led by Dr. Larry Giroux, assisted by Terri Lazar and Dolly Dalton

**Adjournment:** 4 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Sharalee Dias and Carly Sushil, Co-Secretaries

## **Calendar of Bromeliad Events**

### **March 23-24**

**Bromeliad Society of Broward County ... "Gone Wild with Bromeliads" Show and Sale.**

### **April 20-21**

**Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale**

**The Garden Club of Sanford (on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd)  
9:00AM—4:00PM.**

### **August 17-18**

**Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale**

**The Garden Club of Sanford (on 17-92, one block south of Lake Mary Blvd)  
9:00AM—4:00PM.**

### **September 21**

**Bromeliad Extravaganza**

**Hosted by Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society**

**Holiday Inn Harborside, 401 2nd Street, Indian Rocks Beach, 33785, 727-595-9484. Info contacts: Susan Sousa (susansousa1@yahoo.com) and Judy Lund (glund@tampabay.rr.com)**

### **December 6-8**

**Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society's Show and Sale**

**Back of Terry Park, Fort Myers, Fl. Judged Show— Friday, Dec 6th; Sale Saturday, Dec 7th, 9AM-4PM and Dec 8th 10AM-3PM. For additional information contact Betty Ann Prevatt (bprevatt@aol.com).**

### **Read the Expanded Newsletter**

**I have been asking members who have e-mail, if they can start receiving the Meristem exclusively by e-mail and I have gotten a good response from the membership. I want to remind the members that even if they can not receive the e-mail version, because they have dial-up internet service, they can still go to [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org) and read the expanded Meristem directly online. Go to [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org) to view this expanded electronic issue, if you are not already opting to receive it or let me know if you want me to send it to you. Editor**



Dr. Larry Giroux, Editor  
3836 Hidden Acres Circle N  
North Fort Myers Fl 33903  
(239) 997-2237 DrLarry@comcast.net

**March 17th is our Annual Auction at the Church**  
**April 15th is our Birthday Party at the Burdette's**