



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S MERISTEM *May-June 2026*



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 (bprevattppcc@aol.com)

STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR— Larry Giroux 239-850-4048 (DrLarry7@gmail.com)

FALL SALES CHAIR— Dave Prall 239-699-6400 palmtreegardens@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 bprevattppcc@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— Vacant

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

May Meeting: Sunday, May 17th, 2026

June Meeting: Sunday, June 21st, 2026

Our May and June Meetings 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

For the May Meeting Please bring food, raffle items, show and tell plants and lots of items for our “Wheel & Deal”...sale and swap meet..

For June we are going to have our “Pineapple Day”

FOR OUR MAY MEETING THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN THE SCHEDULE SEE INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION
THE Normal Monthly 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

Surprisingly, a number of members did not pay their 2025 dues. Please catch up for 2026. MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2026 ARE DUE in January Please contact Betty Ann Prevatt 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

May CBS EVENT “Wheel & Deal”—A Sale and Swap Meet

Put on your dealer's visor and get ready to “wheel and deal”. At our upcoming CBS meeting on May 17th, we will be holding a sell and swap meet. We want all our members and guests (yes, your neighbor, friend or family member may sell if accompanied by a member and they follow the rules!!) to search their yards, gardens, and patios for offshoots of bromeliads and other nice small plants that you can offer for sale between \$3 and \$10 or are willing to swap for an equally priced item that catches your fancy. We will try to follow some basic rules.

1. Items for sale or swap can include bare-rooted or potted bromeliads, orchids, other small plants including 1/3 to 1/2 grown landscape plants (please don't bring in large plants like mature *Aechmea blanchetianas* or such). Also plant and garden related items are welcomed. Maybe you have garden books, artwork or pineapple items to offer.

2. Please clean the items and have plants labeled as best as you can with their names and your best price. Other members at the meeting may be able to help you with name tag labeling. Labels will be available free of charge at the meeting if you need them.

3. Price items fairly between \$3 and \$10. More “rare” items priced at slightly more can be offered but should not be in excess. Try to limit the number of items to no more than 20 or so due to space.

4. We are still going to have a show and tell and any items you put in the show and tell can still be up for sale and sold or swapped.

5. We are still going to have a raffle, and we ask all members to be generous, but request anyone participating in the sale and swap, donate at least one plant to the raffle.

6. Each seller will use their portion of the table at which they are sitting at as their sales area. We will provide plastic covers for your spot.

7. Each seller is responsible for collecting the sales money. Change for larger bills will be available if you do not bring enough smaller bills to make change. You get to keep all your earnings as long as you donate to the raffle. It is up to the seller if they will accept checks, so to avoid missed out, please plan on paying with cash.

8. Any swaps that are made between sellers are at their own discretion and choice and may require partial payment if agreed upon.

This is the first time we have tried this out. Whether you bring two or three items or 20 items, we want all to have fun and leave happy. This “Wheel and Deal” is in lieu of our program and workshop and will continue during our refreshment period.

For this to be successful, we want many to participate in the buying, selling and swapping, so get your shears, boxes, pencils and labels and start collecting now! Save your boxes to bring back home all those new plants too.

June Program

Return of Pineapple Day

For our June meeting we are bringing back the repeat experience of Pineapple Day. Spanish Moss and Pineapples are two of the best known of the bromeliads. To celebrate Pineapples' popularity we will indulge in everything "pineapple". Your June E-Newsletter will give you more information on how you can participate in this enjoyable afternoon.

Future CBS Speakers

Julie Stein, our President and acting Program Chair, has been working overtime here and in California during the World Promeliad Conference last month to bring us speakers for the remaining months of 2026. We currently have tentative promises from Alex Bello, from Miami; Dave Johnston from Pinellas County, Florida and Terrie Bert from Bradenton, Florida. As the dates of their programs approach, we'll give you more information. Julie has also been diligently working with other Florida Societies and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies to bring us out of state speakers to fill the vacant slots in our meetings' schedules. We'll pass on any good news as we learn of it. But, this will be HUGE!!

I know the cool days and nights and the end of the year holiday seasons are still a long time away, I just want to keep you up to date...right now our Annual Bromeliad Sale (no Show this year) is planned for Saturday and Sunday, December 5th and 6th, 2026. More about that in the coming months.



David Denholm, CBS member and our BSI Regional Director posed with 9 other, mostly international students, at their first Student Judges' School held at the WBC in California. Since the schools are held only every 2 years at the WBCs, David and his classmates have a long road ahead of them. Best of Luck! Photo provided by David Denholm.

WINNERS OF THE 2026 BSI WBC BROMELIAD SHOW

Costa Mesa, California April 15th-18th 2026

Photography by Dr. David Denholm with labelling by Dr. Larry Giroux

In April the Bromeliad Society International held their 2026 World Bromeliad Conference in Costa Mesa, California; hosted by the Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society. Although I was not able to attend, CBS member, David Denholm generously volunteered to take photos of the events. Many thanks to David. The information about the winning plants and exhibitors was extracted from the photographs and unfortunately some of this information, specifically, some of the names of the plants, could not be determined; I may also have missed some Divisions' and Sections' winners due to lack of information and pictures. For this I apologize. I think I got the exhibitors' names correct. For a complete list when available, go to www.bsi.org.

Front Cover: "The Big Winners"

Best of Show Horticulture– Hobbyist: The Mulford B. Foster Award
xVrieslandsia Arden's Comet Exhibitor: Patti Dunn

Best of Show Artistic– The Morris Henry Hobbs Award
Artistic Arrangement Exhibitor: Norm Nakanishi

Best of Show— Commercial: The Mulford B. Foster Award
Vriesea Strange Brew Exhibitor: David Fell

Sweepstakes Award

Norm Nakanishi Represented by one of Norm's AM winning *Vrieseas*

Some of the other Major award winning entries



Division I & Best *Vriesea*
***Vriesea* Pink Dream**
Exhibitor: Scott Sandel



Division I SecA
Hechtia lanata x argentea
Exhibitor: Cristy Brenner



Division II *Tillandsia imperialis*
Exhibitor: Dylan Zoller



DivII SecA *Canistrum triangularis*
Exhibitor: Norm Nakanashi



Div III *xBiltanthus Rattanapong*
Exhibitor: David Kennedy



DivIII SecA *Tillandsia tectorum*
Exhibitor: Ted Johnson



Division III SecA
***Orthophytum* 'Roberto Menescal'**
Exhibitor: David Kennedy

You might notice that there are two Division III Section A winners displayed here. I rechecked the tags and they are both labelled as the Div III Section A winners.



**Division IV &
The Bob Whitman Best Cryptanthus
Group Award**
Rokautskyia microglazioui
Exhibitor: Dylan Zoller



**Div V *Tillandsia tectorum*
Exhibitor: Jeff Sorensen**



Division X: Judges' Challenge
Tillandsia tomekii **Exhibitor: Nancy Groves**
Nancy actually won with *Tillandsia tricholepsis*,
but unfortunately I do not have a picture, so
instead I'm showing another of Nancy's Award
of Merit *Tillandsia* winner.

**Division VIII
"Another Magnificent Sunset"
Exhibitor: Jackie Johnson**





Division XIII *Artistic Expression*
Exhibitor: Norm Nakanishi

**Sponsored Award– The Carole
 Richtmyer Best Artistic Entry where
 Cryptanthus Group plants predominate
 & Div VIII Sec B
 “Catch the Wave”
 Exhibitor: Jackie Johnson**



Warren Loose Best Cryptanthus Grp Hybrid
Cryptanthus Thriller
Exhibitor: Robert Kopfstein



**Sponsored Award–
 Best Variegated Bromeliad**
Vriesea fosteriana ‘Shazam’
Exhibitor: David Fell

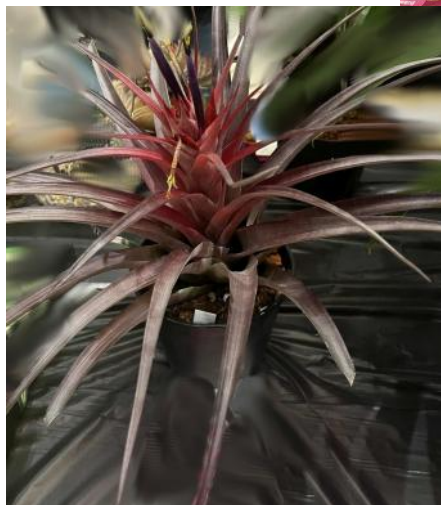
Sponsored Award– Best Aechmea
Aechmea (?) **Exhibitor: Andy Siekkinen**



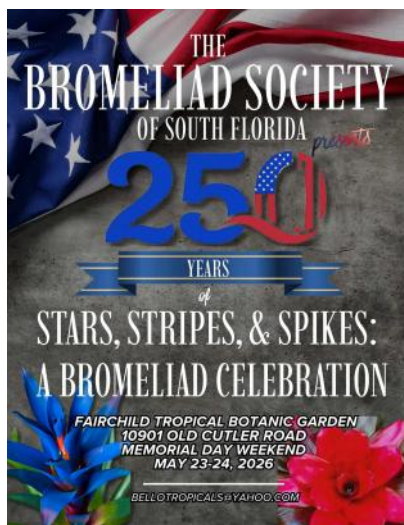
Sponsored Award– Best *Neoregelia*
Neoregelia Screaming Tiger x
Hannibal Lector
Exhibitor: Bryan Chan



Sponsored Award–
Best *Tillandsia* Species
Tillandsia guanter-nolleri
Exhibitor: Pam Hyatt



Sponsored Award–
Best *Tillandsia* Hybrid
Tillandsia Nellie Rose
Exhibitor: Ted Johnson



The Bromeliad Society of
South Florida's Show and Sale.
Saturday and Sunday, May 23-24, 2026
BelloTropicals@yahoo.com for info.

Minutes of the CBS General Meeting
LC/FM Garden Council Building February 15th, 2026

Call to order: 12:55 by President Julie Stein
In Attendance: 31; **New Member:** Bob Hodges; **Guests:** Wayne Arnold and Diane Myers

Announcements:

Julie let everyone know that this will be Dale's last meeting, as he is moving to Hawaii. Since it was his birthday recently, we have another reason to celebrate Dale, who has been an active member of this society for many, many years, serving as our Vice-President, our learned Show & Tell moderator, and overall bromeliad expert. He has brought in plants to show, plants to share, and plants to give away. His knowledge and all-around good nature will be sorely missed by all.

Julie reviewed the donations the Board of Directors would like to make to various organizations and asked for a vote to support these donations. The membership approved them all: \$300 to Selby Gardens (the Luther/ Padilla Research Center); \$300 to the Cryptanthus Society; \$300 to the Bromeliad Society International; \$100 to the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park (Friends of Fakahatchee); \$100 to the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve; \$40 for dues to the Fort Myers/Lee County Garden Council.

Program: Bryan Windham and his wife Catherine, from Louisiana, joined us at the CBS February meeting. Bryan has been involved with bromeliads for over 20 years, and gave a wonderful talk about terrestrials for which he has a special fondness. He told us that surprisingly, *Dyckias* in particular require a lot of water in spite of their cactus like appearance; as for terrestrials he fertilizes the loose, well draining medium. If they become root bound, it is important to repot them sooner rather than later. Another tidbit about *Dyckias* is that they will continue to grow, producing more and more leaves, even after blooming. This is quite unusual for a bromeliad. He also shared many beautiful photos of plants he created along with pictures of their parentage—one in particular named *xSincoraechmea* 'Sunburst' – a stunning bigeneric cross between *Aechmea* 'Deleon's Chantinii' and *Sincoraea ulei*.

Workshop: Bryan Windham is the Chairman of the BSI Seed Bank Committee and shared that BSI members can purchase a packet of seeds of various species (an up to date list is available at www.BSI.org) for just \$3. If you decide to give this a try, you should first sift some soil using ¼ inch hardware cloth to create a fine soil medium. Next, wet the soil, sprinkle the seeds, then enclose the container in a water tight zip-lock plastic bag with a small amount of water in the bottom of the bag. Place the bag in a warm space with moderate light. It may take several months for the seeds to germinate. When they do, you can leave them in the bag (partially opened, being sure they do not dry out) until they are manageable size, then transplant the seedlings into their own pots or multi-sectional trays and add weak fertilizer.

Door Prizes: Three very huge and beautiful *Aechmea* Amarilla plants, brought by Debbie McPhail, were given away to three lucky members. She reported that these plants will thrive in full sun. Julie also brought in a beautiful *Vriesia* to give away, called Purple Cockatoo.

Show & Tell: Members brought about 8 plants for Show & Tell, including a huge *Cryptanthus* 'Betty Ann Prevatt' created by Jim Irvin.

Raffle: For our raffle, 25 plants were donated by various members. Larry Giroux led the discussion for all the plants and Luli Westra assisted in the drawing.

Meeting adjourned: 2:42 PM, Respectfully submitted by Alison Ackerman



Dr. Larry Giroux, Editor
80 Skyline Drive
North Fort Myers FL 33903
(239) 850-4048
DRLARRY7@GMAIL.COM



**One of the many elaborate displays by Nurseries
and Plant Societies at the 2026 BSI WBC in Costa
Mesa, California. Hosting Society was the
Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society.**

This is your May-June 2026 CBS Newsletter