



# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S MERISTEM *July-Aug 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/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;

**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

**July Meeting— Cancelled**  
**Aug Meeting— Cancelled**

**Our Meetings are normally 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.**

***At this time***

***NO MEETINGS are SCHEDULED FOR***  
***July or August 2020***

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

## Front and Rear Cover Pictures

By Larry Giroux

### Front Cover Picture

Bruce McAlpin has been planning his retirement long before he moved to Labelle. Anticipating his continued involvement with exotic plants, he developed his acreage by building a large Quonset hut type shade house and a unique home. The picture on the front cover is the view from his patio of some of the concrete balls and plants he brought from Miami.

### Back Cover Photo

Another view from the patio of some of Bruce's collection of tropical and semi-tropical plants.

## Cancelled July and August Meetings

The Covid-19 Pandemic continues to effect seriously how we live our lives. Although initially encouraged by the reopening of some businesses and facilities, we are now learning, unfortunately, that we have in no way put down the virus' wrath.

As I mentioned in the last message, the Garden Council meeting facility remains closed to all functions until at least September. Therefore, there will be NO July or August meetings. When we are allowed back in the room, we will still need to figure a safe way of interacting in person.

Until we can guarantee the safety of our members, let's try to stay in communication with each other and continue to enjoy our hobby as best as we can without our group gatherings.

Some of you are using Facebook and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Facebook page to show us your plants and gardens. For those of you already on Facebook, go to our page and request to become members. We would all love to see your pictures of your plants and hear about your activities.

# One Garden in Labelle

By Dr. Larry Giroux; photos by Dr. Larry Giroux

About 20 years ago, in anticipation of his move from Miami to Labelle to spend his final years living in nature, Bruce McAlpin purchased several acres in Hendry County. He proceeded to build a unique, functional, minimalistic home just perfect for his retired life. Indulging his passion for exotic plants he constructed a Quonset hut style shadehouse and transferred from Miami and collected anew an outstanding variety of tropical and sub-tropical plants to stock his gardens and shadehouse.

In 2007 Bruce joined the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. As an interested and very active member, he has served as committee chairman of several committees. In particular he was our Speaker Chair for several years and drew upon his many contacts while he was a long time member of the South Florida Bromeliad Society. During his 13 years as a member of the CBS he has given many Workshops and Programs, speaking and exhibiting his personal methods of mounting, growing, separating and repotting plants as well as freely giving of his vast knowledge of horticulture. I think that a part of Bruce's success is his application of his knowledge specifically to each *Family*, *Genus* and *Species* he grows. Knowing all about a plant and what it needs to grow optimally can only result in greater success. Bruce's collection is a prime example of this applied philosophy.

At Show and Tells at our meetings and at our Bromeliad Sales and Shows, the uniqueness, rarity and quality of his plants are very evident. Top awards for his plants are routine when Bruce enters Shows.



**The design of Bruce's shadehouse in Labelle allowed him to hang plants at various levels or mount on walls, while still providing large areas of benches with varying degrees of shading.**

Bruce has been generous with not only his knowledge, but with his plants. During Workshops when Bruce is dividing a clump, members are sure to get cuttings and I can't tell you how much he has donated to Door Prize drawings. His generosity has been overwhelming during the last couple of years. For all of us, age is the great limiter. Bruce has found it necessary to cut back on the care he can give his vast collection in his shadehouse. Although the garden plants require care, forethought on Bruce's part with plantings and positioning has decreased his required work in the gardens surrounding his home. The more cherished shadehouse plants, however, are another story. Bruce has gradually found homes with collectors and botanic gardens for his rare and unusual collection, guaranteeing that these special plants will continue to flourish in cultivation and bring joy to generations to come.

7 years ago I attended a 4th of July Party hosted by Bruce at his home in Labelle. The included photos are a few of the pictures I took on that occasion.



Although there were the typical benches holding plants, Bruce likes to use cinder blocks to hold potted plants to keep the plants from being knocked over. This also allows for elevation by stacking.



Having a preference for *Cryptanthus*, I was attracted to Bruce's small but diverse collection. From top to bottom, from left to right he had 8-10" pots full of the species *C. sinuosus* 'Cascade', *acaulis* 'Variegata', *marginatus* 'Arlety' and the cultivars- 'Betty Ann Prevatt', 'Dianne Molnar' and 'xRacinae', also known as 'Racine Foster'.



**Un-identified bromeliad, possibly a bigeneric**

**Collection of *Amorphophallus*, bromeliads, hanging cacti and begonias.**



**Cacti, succulents and sansevierias.**

**Collection of Desert  
Roses...*Adenium  
obesum***



**Unnamed  
*Hectia species***

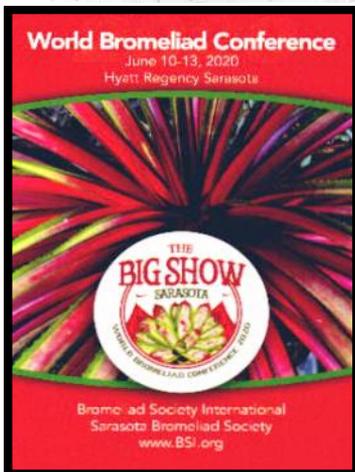


***Hectia rosea***



**Pictures of a portion of Bruce's collection of Dyckias. Sorry I did not get the names of all of them. The plant in the lower, left corner is a beautifully symmetrically grown specimen of *Deuterocohnia lorentziana*. Although a very difficult plant to grow to this form, Bruce has mastered the technic.**

Here is seen a grouping of select albo-marginated and variegated plants of Bruce's *Sansevieria* collection. When I was there he had a least a dozen large 1/2 whisky barrels filled with specimen plants of all varieties. The nicest “mother-in-law tongue” collection I have ever seen. Of course no horticultural collection would be complete without water plants. Within one of his home building, Bruce has, as well, set up aquariums for enjoying his tropical fish.



## WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE to be held in Sarasota, Florida. June 2021

[https://www.bsi.org/  
new/conference-corner](https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner)  
For more info  
and updates.



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



**This is your July-August 2020 CBS Newsletter**  
**Let's all stay safe until we meet again!**