



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S

MERISTEM

July-Aug 2025



The species Hohenbergia castellanosii

Photo by Matt Bagley

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON—Acting Chair: Julie Stein

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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

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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

July Meeting Sunday, July 20th, 2025
August Meeting: Sunday, August 17th, 2025

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/ Ford Gardens

Please bring food, raffle plants, Show and Tell Items and your extra plants for Friendship plants give-away.

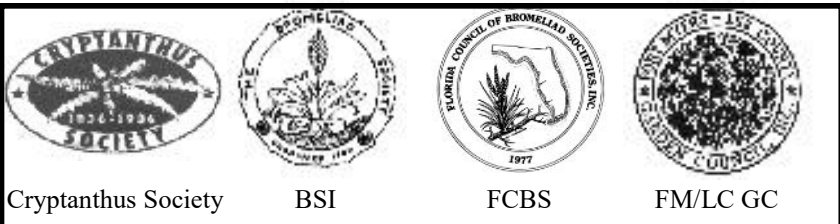
There will be **NO** membership sales allowed at the July meeting; sales information for the August meeting will be announced next month.

WE ARE CHANGING THE MEETING SCHEDULE ON A TRIAL BASES— PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING

- 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 2024 dues. Please catch up for 2025. **MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2025 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

July Program (TBA)

By Matt Bagley

PLEASE NOTE THAT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING AND THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN AS SOON AS EVERYONE SITS WITH THEIR FOOD. THE PROGRAM SHOULD START NO LATER THAN 1:45PM.

Earlier this month, the 1st Annual Bonita Springs Plant Fest was hosted by Matt Bagley at his Bonita Bromeliads Specialty Nursery (previously known as “Little Gator Farm”) in South Lee County. For nearly 3 years, Matt has been rebuilding his nursery, which was badly damaged like so many others along Florida’s West Coast by Hurricane Ian. His collection now encompasses many rare and exotic families of plants including orchids, aroids, coffee plants, Florida natives and fruit tree besides a vast variety of bromeliads.

Matt, who first joined the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society in 2017 and has been a generous donor to our March Auction and a regular contributor to the CBS Facebook page with pictures and answers to posters’ questions, will be providing our July Program. Topic to be announced. Matt will also bring plants for sale so there will be no membership sales allowed.

July Workshop - “Tillandsias”

Julie Stein and Alison Ackerman

Alison and Julie will be teaming up to present our July Workshop. They will be giving a review of the Genus: *Tillandsia*. Details are not available but count on these two BSI accredited Bromeliad Judges to discuss the types of *Tillandsias* (soft-leaf and the gray leaf) and the commonly available species and hybrids as well as the ideal culture required to grow perfect specimens in our climate. Members are welcome to bring in some of their favorite tillandsias from their collections for demonstration and to ask any questions about their care. This is also the ideal opportunity to ask how to enter *Tillandsias* in our December Show.

We are still in need of volunteers to present short workshops on your choice of topics. By the way, individuals or a small group can work together to present the Workshop. Please see Julie Stein for details.

The 2025 CBS Bromeliad Show and Sale

At the May meeting a majority of the membership voted that we will host a BSI Standard Bromeliad Show at the Edison/ Ford Winter Estates with the Judged Show on December 5th and the Show open to the public during the Bromeliad Sale hours on Saturday and Sunday, December 6th and 7th, 2025. It was nice to see so many agreeing to enter plants and volunteer to participate on the various committees.

The next steps involve the volunteering of a Show Chair who will organize the various committees and to help with advertising and decorations, a theme and/ or a Title for the Show needs to be selected. At our next meeting we will bring you a short list of names for consideration; if you have a name that we haven't used in the past or not for a long time, please mention it to Julie, Larry or Betty Ann.

Bromeliad Exposé' By Larry Giroux

Resurrection of a Nursery

Photos by Matt Bagley

About 3 years ago, our immediate area of Southwest Florida (Naples and north to Venice) was hit by a significant hurricane. It caused havoc to residences, businesses, schools and our tourist infrastructure. It did particular damage to the private and commercial nurseries whose shade houses' framing, benches, potted plants and screening, really had little chance against the winds and flooding of Hurricane Ian.



Matt Bagley's Bonita Bromeliads Specialty Nursery in Bonita Springs was one of the many businesses that suffered severe wind and water effects. Earlier this month, Matt hosted what he hopes will be a yearly celebration, the 1st Bonita Springs Plant Fest, at his nursery. The following photographs by Matt shows his renovated facility after nearly three years of work and some of the beautiful bromeliads he is growing.



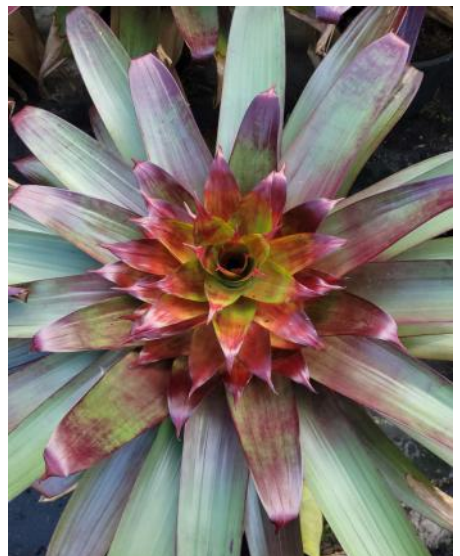
Destruction to Matt Bagley's nursery caused by Hurricane Ian, September 2022.



Bonita Bromeliads Nursery today! Rebuilt and restocked.



The genus: *Alcantarea* is well represented at the nursery. Pictured here (left) is the unregistered hybrid Red Spots. Below (left) is one of many *Alcantarea odorata* at the nursery. The tall inflorescence of this species is covered with large fragrant yellow flowers. Below (right) is an *Alcantarea imperialis* early in its blooming phase.





(Left) This is the cultivar *Neoregelia carcharodon* 'Rainbow'. This stiff leaved, large spined neo can tolerate nearly full sun. Although the majority of us grow it as a terrestrial, it is an epiphyte in its natural habitat in Brazil.



Sincorea navioides (right), formerly *Orthophytum*, transforms from a green plant into an explosion of color during blooming.



Neoregelia Pink Magic (above) is one of the many flashy looking bromeliads that Matt Bagley and his staff grow in quantity for his seasonal customers to enjoy.



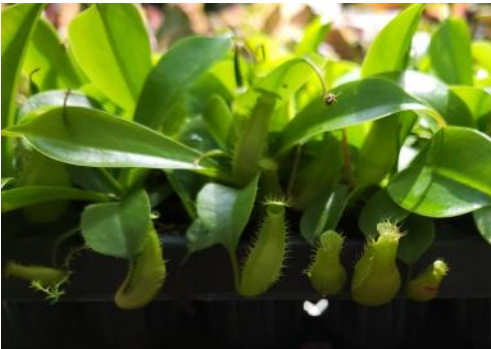
Neoregelia Magali, a Grant Groves hybrid, appears to be favorite of Matt. Besides having a large stock in the nursery, he also uses it in his own landscaping.



Matt also has a large collections of “oldies but goodies” such as this *Neoregelia Van Dorme* (above left), first released in the 1980’s. Originally distributed from Belgium to nurseries through out the World, they ending up in the market place as Van Dourme, Gloria, Van Dorme and Inferno. The plant being sold at the nursery (above right), as *Neo. Oesser* is actually a hybrid produced over 50 years ago by an East German, Dr. Oeser. Its registered name is *N. Dr.Oeser*. From the 60’s to the 80’s, Dr. Oeser produced hundreds of *Neoregelia* hybrids, which were named with just numbers (for e.g. Oeser #100); since, as they have been registered they have been given proper names.



Besides the rare and exotic species and hybrids, the nursery caters to the landscape industry with colorful *Aechmeas* for the yard like the various forms and cultivars of *Aechmea luddemanniana*. The upper left photo is the inflorescence of the colorful, variegated *Ae. luddemanniana* ‘Alvarez’. Above upper right is *Ae. Del Mar* with its blue flower petals and lower upper right is *Ae. Peggy*. And of course Matt has *Cryptanthus*!



Among the many other exotic families of plants at the nursery, Matt keeps a collection of carnivorous “Pitcher Plants”.

Minutes of the CBS General Meeting LC/FM Garden Council Building May 18th, 2025

Call to order: 1:10 by President Julie Stein

In Attendance: 23

New Members: Kellen Geha and Michael McCauley.

General Meeting:

Announcements & Business Mtg: Julie announced that International Pineapple Day falls in June, and she would like our meeting to honor this special day by bringing refreshments and raffle items focusing on the pineapple. Also, the membership voted to go ahead with our biennial Show this coming December in conjunction with our Annual Show. The Show will be a Standard BSI Judged Show on Friday, December 5th 2025. We will talk about this event in the coming meetings and newsletters to help members prepare at least one plant, Decorative Containers and Artistic Arrangements to enter in this show and at least 2 plants as required, if you are a vendor at the Sale. Julie reviewed the new Meeting Schedule we will be trying out where we will serve refreshments at the beginning of the meeting and will enjoy them during the Program. She encouraged diabetics or anyone who arrives early and needs to drink or eat, to bring something to hold them over.

Program: Dave Johnston, owner of Bromeliads Galore in Pinellas County, gave a lively talk on Billbergias, with many stunning slides of old favorites and new hybrids. He even explained how hybrids are made, a process that can take up to 6 or 7 years. His 1st success resulted from crossing *Billbergia* Pixie with *Billbergia* Fantasia, and his most well-known hybrid is called *Billbergia* Purple Moon Dust, which is sold at Tropiflora in Sarasota. Dave also gave some tips when growing Billbergias, namely to be careful not to overfeed them, or they will lose their color and give them higher light so they keep their urn shape. They also should not be allowed to dry out between waterings but be careful not to use reclaimed water; it is better to use rainwater or RO water. Pups will mature and bloom in two years time, usually between November and March. While most blooms do not last more than a week or so, an exception is the bloom of *Billbergia magnifica*, which may last up to 3 weeks!

Door Prizes: Our door prizes this month were 2 beautiful Billbergias, donated by Debbie McPhail: *Billbergia vittata* ‘Domingos Martins’ and *Billbergia* Casablanca.

Show & Tell: Dave Prall presented about 15 plants, mostly Billbergias, for discussion.

Raffle: Larry Giroux assisted by Julie Stein and Dolly Dalton, gave away about 30 donated plants to the happy winners.

Meeting adjourned 3:50

Respectfully submitted by Alison Ackerman

EXPLORING DIVERSITY & BEAUTY
2025
AUSSIE BROMS

4TH - 7TH November 2025

Eatons Hill Hotel, Brisbane, QLD

Plant Sales -
New Releases!
Taxonomy Botany
Cultivation
Rare plant auction
Garden tours

INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL
EXPERT SPEAKERS DISCUSS
ALL THINGS BROMELIADS

Full details at www.aussiebroms2025.bromsqueensland.com.au/wp

Register at Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CXJKS>

✉ AussieBroms2025@bromsqueensland.com.au



THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND



2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza
September 26th to 27th, 2025
Kissimmee, Florida (near Disney)
Conference Registration Fee: \$125
([Online Registration](#) or [Mail-In](#))

Sponsored by the [Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies](#) and hosted by the [Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society](#), this will be Florida's biggest Bromeliad event of the year!

The **2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza** will include a Friday night dinner (BBQ buffet), three Saturday afternoon seminars (including [Leonardo Versieux](#) from Brazil), a Saturday night banquet (Italian buffet) with a rare plant auction, and last (but not least), the biggest Bromeliad sale of the year in Florida. The Bromeliad sale (an area of almost 6,000 square feet) is open to the public on Saturday from 9 to 4.

The hotel is the **Ramada Gateway**, 7470 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy 192, Kissimmee, FL 34747.

Register online today at:

<https://sbtps.square.site/>

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A popular plant at the Bonita Romelad Nursery is this *Neoregelia johannis* 'de Rolff' Photos by Matt Bagley

This is your July-August 2025 CBS Newsletter
Please note the change in the meeting schedule!