



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S

MERISTEM

Sept-Oct 2025

Past Mulford B. Foster Award- Best of Show- Horticulture Winners

2017 Winner- Terrie Bert

Tillandsia duratii



2019 Winner- Tom Cowell

Tillandsia concolor x roland-gossellini



2021 Winner- Michael Kiehl

Aechmea tillandsioides



2023 Winner- Geri & David Prall

Tillandsia concolor x roland-gossellini



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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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

September Meeting Sunday, Sept. 21st, 2025
October Meeting: Sunday, October 19th, 2025

Our Sept and Oct 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.

Due to a organizational meeting prior to the regular meeting, Membership Sales are not allowed at the September meeting; sales information for the October meeting will be announced next month.

WE HAVE CHANGED THE MEETING SCHEDULE – 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 2025 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



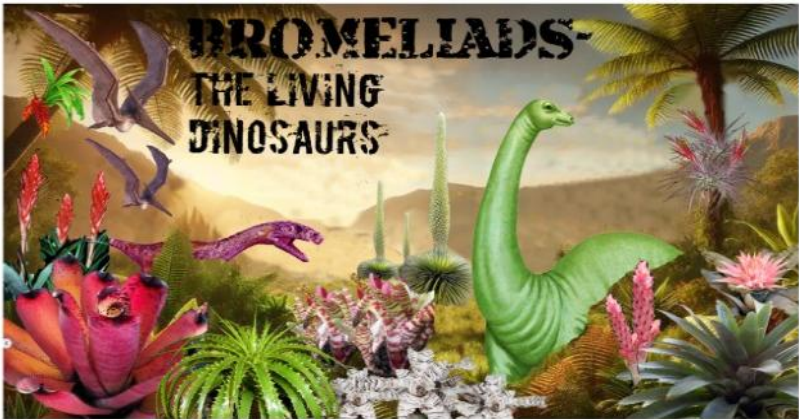
FM/LC GC

September Program
By Show Committee personnel

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.

The 2025 CBS Bromeliad Show and Sale

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society
presents its 2025
Bromeliad Sale & Show



With the Biennial CBS Bromeliad Show scheduled for December 5th, we will be devoting the Program and Workshop at the September meeting to the preparation of plant entries for the Show. Although the official Show Schedule is not yet complete and has not been approved by the Bromeliad Society International (BSI), who is the regulatory organization of all Standard BSI Bromeliad Shows, the next two issues of the CBS Newsletter will contain highlights of the Schedule. The Show Schedule, entry cards and entry forms will be distributed either at the October or November meetings and will also be available from Show and Classification Chairs.

The Board is happy to announce that Julie Stein and Betty Ann Prevatt have agreed to Co-Chair this year's Show and Brian Weber will Chair the Annual Sale. In the coming weeks the various Chairs of the Show Committees will be selected as well as volunteers to help on the Committees and Clerks to assist the Judges during the Show. Please, if asked to participate, sign up to help. Many of the jobs do not require expertise and instructions will be provided to you. Previous volunteers will tell you that it can be a fun and great learning experience.

**October Program
To Be Announced**



**2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza
September 26th to 27th, 2025**

You can still schedule to attend the 2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza in Kissimmee Florida planned for the last weekend of this month. See inside back page for information and how to register for the conference and hotel.

Each of the Florida Societies belonging to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (the CBS is a charter member) has been asked to provide 5 items for the Rare Plant Auction. These do not have to be “RARE”, but rather nice clean bromeliad plants, books, art work or bromeliad related items. If you are unable to personally bring them to the Conference, you can give them to other members who will be attending at the September meeting. The Auction will be held Saturday, September 27th in conjunction with the Banquet. Please be generous!

Questions to Ask About your Plants Before the Show

By Dr. Larry Giroux Photos by Dr. Larry Giroux

During the judging of bromeliads in a Standard BSI Bromeliad Show, a team of judges who have undergone years of study apply a series of questions to determine which plants conform to the ideal species, cultivar or hybrid it is suppose to represent and which is exhibited in a way to demonstrate its best qualities. There are basically three Categories—Horticulture (judged as single blooming and foliage and multiple blooming and foliage Sections), the second is Horticultural Display (composed of single and multiple Sections). Lastly, we have the Artistic Category with Sections for Decorative containers where live bromeliads are shown in harmonizing containers and Artistic Arrangements where plant and floral parts are arranged according to conventional rules. These questions asked by the judges concerning the exhibits are mostly general and apply to all the Categories, while some are more specific and deal with the way the plants are shown again using certain conventions. **At our September meeting, qualified BSI trained Judges will review the preparing of entries in the Horticulture and Horticultural Display Categories.** The following is a convenient check list for following along with these Judges.

Cultural Perfection of the whole entry:

What is the condition of the container/ mount? Clean? Good condition? Appropriate size? Mix? Clean without debris? Right depth? Top dressed? If so, distracting? Leaves' condition? Damaged? Scurf damage? Holes? Scratches? Appropriately trimmed? Are leaves removed prudishly? Is the caudex exposed due to leaf removal? Wide and narrow leaves? Elongated leaves? Folded or channeled leaves? Gaps between leaves? Are there water and mineral spots, algae, dust, debris or insects on or between the leaves?

Conformation: Is the plant symmetrical? Looking from the top (radial symmetry)? Looking from the side (lateral symmetry)? Is the stem straight? Is the cup pulled off center? For blooming plants...Is the inflorescence correctly positioned for this variety? Do gaps between the leaves cause lose of plant contour? Is there too much leaf trimming? Is there incomplete or excessive grooming? Two stages of growth? Are leaves the appropriate number, shape, width and length for this specific



This picture is presented mostly to show excessive and poorly trimmed leaves. There are ways to trim leaves and not make it look so obvious. Sharp scissors or razor blades should be used to mimic the original shape of the leaves. In this case avoid removing too many spines; try to do this in the morning or the evening before the show. Applying aloe plant gel with a small brush will temporarily prevent drying out of the cuts. Removal of leaves, however, should be done several days before to allow the caudex to darken. If possible bury any exposed caudex. Although the top dressing is nice, maybe a slightly darker color would have been more appropriate. The entry card is standard, but will not be in the pot during judging. It appears that there may be some burning of the leaves; this frequently occurs while transporting the plants in the car. Pack your entries in boxes or trays using paper, not cloth and cover them to protect them from the sun.

plant type?

Color and Markings: The color is optimal for this variety? Markings are typical and evenly distributed for this variety? Markings and color are clear, intense, vibrant and evenly distributed? Are there color breaks not appropriate for this plant? Excessive scurf marring?

Overall balance and symmetry and permanence: Most of these questions can apply to all entries, but **Permanence** is of more critical importance for Horticultural Displays: Is the individual or group of



Judges have been trained to objectify your entry and apply a point scale based on answers to these questions we are asking in this article as the plants are individually merit judged. Plants start at 100 points, which assumes a perfect specimen for your specific species, cultivar, variety or hybrid. The ideal for each plant is usually based on the Judges' experience judging plants, photos posted at the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry, the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' website, the Encyclopaedia of Bromeliads and other online sites and observations from collections they have visited. Award of Merit, Blue, Red and sometimes Yellow ribbons are awarded using this point scoring. In some cases when the plant has significant deficits, only "Judged" is marked on the entry tag. Usually the Judges' Panel will comment on any entry receiving a Red or less ribbon. This is all explained in the Show Schedule .

The above picture demonstrates an entry with many flaws, which resulted in a low score, such as lanky leaves, gaps, two stages of growth, sloppy top dressing and inconsistent color markings. It also appears to have been entered in a "field pot", which was probably a poor choice for a show entry.

plants well balanced with equal growth all around? Is the plant(s) mounted or potted so that the natural growth habit of the plant(s) are enhanced? Is the shape and size of the container appropriate for the size of the plant(s)? Does the plants appear stable? Does the entry look well

established and permanent?

Maturity of Plant: How mature is your plant? Most Categories allow 10 points for maturity. A whole ribbon color is lost because of this determination by the judges. Avoid exhibiting young offsets or pups.

Inflorescence: (for blooming plants) Is the size appropriate? What is the stage of bloom? Quantity?...Well branched? Mature flowers? Quality?...Scape and floral bracts are undamaged? Spent blooms and bracts removed? Dispersed pollen has been removed from foliage? Color?...flower color is bright, not faded? Floral and scape bracts are clear, not muddy? Symmetry of color throughout the inflorescence? Avoid showing very immature blooming plants.

If you look hard enough and long enough, all plants will have deficits. Fortunately judges are growers and exhibitors themselves and are understanding, especially of Novice.



The Horticultural Display Division of the Show allows growers to exhibit bromeliads, especially the epiphytic types, in a more natural state. Here bromeliads are mounted or grown in baskets with emphasis on “permanence” on an unadorned mount or container. Usually demonstrating multiple generations, there will obviously be evidence of age. Judges take this in consideration. However, if the plants appear to have been recently attached to the mount and showing no permanence, significant points may be deducted. If the mount has been treated , e.g., painted or stained, or has objects or plants other than bromeliads present, it no longer qualifies as a Horticultural Display, but rather as a Decorative Container or Artistic Arrangement and should be re-classified to remain in the Show.

Minutes of the CBS General Meeting

LC/FM Garden Council Building Aug 17th, 2025

Call to order: 1:20 by President Julie Stein

In Attendance: 32. **Guest:** Rob Branch; New members: Micah Sanchez and Craig Dorfman.

General Meeting:

Announcements & Business Mtg: Betsy Burdette requested that we return all the signs to her or to Betty Ann Prevatt ASAP so they can be sent for changes.

Program: Chip Jones, a landscaper, nursery owner and an expert on cycads, gave a unique talk about all the interviews he conducted during the 2024 Bromeliad World Conference. Some of those he interviewed included Grant Groves, Dr. Hiroyuki Takazawa, Dr. Terrie Bert, Herb Hill, Dennis Cathcart, Chester Skotak, Lisa Vinzant, Jason Mellica, and several others. He asked them all about their backgrounds, their bromeliad expertise, their favorite bromeliads, and of course how they first got “bitten” by the bromeliad bug. Most are well known for their many years of producing exceptional bromeliad hybrids.

Chip also described a couple of ways that hybridizers choose which plants to cross to make a new plant. A “bench” hybridizer uses what he calls the “shot gun” method, which is crossing whatever 2 plants in your nursery that just happen to be flowering at the same time. The other method, a more serious method, utilizes a special gas (Ethephon/Ethylene gas), which will stimulate key plants to flower when YOU want them to. With this approach, hybridizers have total control over which plants to cross.

Workshop: Dr. Larry Giroux gave an informative presentation on the Genus *Pitcairnia* which has over 400 species. They are one of the oldest genera and among the first to evolve from the original epiphytic bromeliads. They are also one of the most widely distributed, second only to *Tillandsias*. Another interesting fact is that there is only ONE bromeliad native to Africa, and it is a *Pitcairnia*, specifically *Pitcairnia feliciana*.

When cultivating these plants, Larry recommends growing them in the ground, rather than in containers, as they love water and tend to get pot bound quickly. Using a long-lasting fertilizer is also a good idea and depending on the plant and how well they have been acclimated to the sun, they can thrive in filtered light and maybe even the direct sun.

Door Prizes: We awarded several door prizes this meeting: Three beautiful *Billbergia* Pixie plants donated by Debbie McPhail and six adorable mini *Neoregelia* Eclipse plants brought in by Bob Meier. Everyone of course appreciated their generosity.

Show & Tell: Dale Kammerlohr discussed about 25 plants belonging to the membership as well as several of Dale’s own hybrids.

Raffle: Larry Giroux assisted by Luli Westra and Betty Ann Prevatt, gave away about 35 donated plants to the lucky winners. Many thanks to all that contributed.

Meeting adjourned 3:55

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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Not all entries are plants in Bromeliad Shows...here is a fantastic quilt "Crypstanthus in Wonderland" by Michael Young

This is your September-October 2025 CBS Newsletter
Please note the change in the meeting schedule!