



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S

MERISTEM

Nov-Dec 2021

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society ^{PRESENTS}
Light up your Life with Bromeliads!



Bromeliad Show and Sale

Judged Show, Thousands of BROMELIADS for sale!

EDISON/ FORD WINTER ESTATES

2350 McGregor Blvd. Fort Myers

Saturday Dec.4th 2021 9AM-4PM

Sunday Dec.5th 2021 9AM-4PM

Contact Betty Ann Prevatt at (239) 334-0242 for Info.

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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Past— PRESIDENT— Cate Peterson (941) 505-1554 (cpeters3606@yahoo.com)

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(dzdaze@embarqmail.com)

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Alternate CBS FCBS Rep.—Vacant

OTHER COMMITTEES

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HOSPITALITY—Membership

SPECIAL HOSPITALITY—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—Mary McKenzie 239-246-4754;

LIBRARIAN—Carol Sweat 239-980-8047

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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

We have returned to the Garden Council Building on Virginia Ave.
November Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 21st 2021
Dec. Holiday Party: Sunday, Dec. 19th 2021

**Our Meetings have returned to 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
Meeting will start this month at 1:00 PM .Workshop will follow
Program. Program will start about 1:15PM
Please bring Friendship plants, Raffle &
Show and Tell Items. There will be no FOOD! Bring your own
beverages. To donate Door Prize Items contact Debbie McPhail.
Guest Speaker will be bringing plants for sale, so no membership
sales.**

**Membership renewal fees are \$15/20 single/dual;
New member dues: \$20/25, single/dual.**

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

November 21st 2021 Meeting

This will be the last meeting before our 2021 Show and Sale on December 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2021. We have a full schedule planned for our members and guests. The meeting will start at 1:00 PM in the Garden Council Building on Virginia Ave off of McGregor in Fort Myers. There is plenty of parking both North and South of the Gardens. We will not have food at this meeting. If you are prone to hunger in the afternoon, feel free to bring a personal snack. Bring your own beverages. Masks are not mandatory but recommended indoors where we are sitting in close proximity.

Pre-meeting activities: Our speaker will be bringing plants for sale, so get to the meeting early for the best selection, Check out the Free Friendship plants. Get a close look at the Show and Tell and Raffle plants and buy your tickets. Explore the Library and check out a Journal or book for over the holidays. Talk to other members about trading or buying plants you have been wanting. Talk to Betty Ann Prevatt about joining the Bromeliad Soc. International and the Cryptanthus Society. .

Program: Since our speaker has traveled a distance and because of the time change, he will be starting our meeting. Dave Johnston is well known to many of our members from his past visits which have included interesting topics and a wide assortment of plants for sale. His interest in Bromeliads began in 1985 when he purchased the only 2 Bromeliads that Frank's Nursery had for sale. A *Cryptanthus* 'Pink Starlight' and a *Neoregelia carolinae* type. Soon thereafter, he learned there were Bromeliad clubs that shared similar interests which he joined. By 1990, Dave had acquired so many Bromeliads – he launched *Bromeliads Galore* a collector's nursery.

Over the past 36 years, He has acquired over 2000 different species and hybrids of bromeliads. As time passed, he became much more sensible and significantly scaled back the number of plants he grows to over 1000 different varieties now.

Besides the vast amount of time he spends growing and selling, Dave has also volunteered his organizational skills to his hobby. He has served 5 terms as President of The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay and 2 terms as President of the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society. He have pretty much served every office there is in these clubs in addition to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. His speaking skills are also well known to a myriad of plant groups. Dave's program topic this Sunday is "Bromeliad Bi-generics", a topic he has chosen, that in his view includes an interesting and attractive group of plants rarely talked about. Dave is bringing lots of beautiful plants for sale, so bring your wish list and cash!

Workshop: Our Show is only 3 weeks away. And although there are a lot of seasoned exhibitors in our group, for new members and those experienced, Betty Ann and Tom Cowell our Show Co-Chairs and Senior Master Judge Instructor/ Student Judge duo will be reviewing the preparations for exhibiting Horticultural and Horticultural Displays in the Show. Knowing and applying some of these simple tricks, which they will be demonstrating can easily upgrade you to a higher ribbon and maybe a major award. Larry Giroux will review some of the other Categories including Artistic Arrangements and Decorative Containers. We encourage you to read over the Show Schedule that was past out at the last meeting and the Sept-Oct 2021 Newsletter. Additional entry cards, entry forms and schedules will be available at this meeting. In addition we will again be asking for volunteers for the various Sale and Show Committees as well as Setup. This is our first year having our Show at Edison. Edison has offered us the open air patio located at the Northwest entrance to the Estates. The Sale will be East of the Banyan tree as it was last year. Times for volunteers, sellers and exhibitors and access points will be discussed at this meeting.

Meeting: We will be presenting nominees for the CBS Officers for 2022 at the November meeting. There is still time to contact Vicky Chirnside and put your name in the running. Vicky will

be glad to discuss openings and the duties of the positions. Between the election and the January meeting, the new President will be seeking out volunteers for the various committees to keep the CBS functioning. Please volunteer or accept if asked.

Membership Dues: We will resume collecting membership dues in January. Attached to the e-mail message in which you received this newsletter, will be a membership form. Some will be at the upcoming meetings. Please complete for 2022 and confirm your email and mailing addresses and phone contact # . Return this to Betty Ann before or at the January meeting. The rates are still the same. \$15/20 for single/ dual renewing members; \$20/25 for single/dual new members. Any new members that join in Oct, Nov or Dec are paid up for 2022. New members, be sure to give Betty Ann the name(s) you want on your name tags; for other members, Betty Ann can probably reorder a lost name tag for a nominal fee.

Show and Tell: S & T will be held as usual. You might want to hold that special plant you'll enter in the show...don't chance it being damaged bringing it in.

Raffle Plants: Donate your nice extra plants so others can enjoy them and the Society makes a little extra money.

Holiday Party– December 19th 2021. We have a lot more to be thankful for this year and we owe ourselves some fun. Debbie McPhail has volunteered her home and gardens for our December Holiday Party. The format will be the same as in years past. great food, plenty of cheer, overflowing raffle and Debbie's spectacular yard as the venue is sure to make for a memorable event to end the year!

Debbie McPhail

3596 McGregor Blvd Fort Myers 33901

Deb.mcphail@yahoo.com 239-332-4607

Debbie's home is across the street from the Fort Myers Country Club and the Edison Grill. Her house is at the corner of McGregor and Shadow Lane. Parking is permitted further down Shadow Lane and at the Country Club across the street. Please be courteous to her neighbors when parking.

Members are asked to bring a favorite pot luck dish to share, such as casseroles, vegetables with dip, little sandwiches, cakes, cookies and about anything else that is edible. CBS supplies the paper and plastic goods, some beverages and a meat entree. If you prefer other cold drinks, bring your own, there will be plenty of ice. **Debbie has sitting for over 50 people, but if you want you can still bring your own chairs.**

Try to arrive around noon with your goodies so that the tables can be arranged buffet style. For those of you that cannot get there early, don't worry it is always closer to 1PM or later that we start to eat and the festivities begin.

After lunch there will be a raffle of bromeliad plants and items brought by members as gifts (no, you don't have to wrap and ribbon them). But, they should be nice, clean bromeliads or bromeliad related items that anyone would want to win. **Donations of other plant families such as orchids, ferns, fruit trees, native plants, etc. are also acceptable.** We are a diverse group of growers, who enjoy many different plants, so if you have extras of other types of plants donate them to our special holiday raffle. Tickets are still 3/\$1, so buy a lot. 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. **But please, please...make sure you spray your plants or wash them very well...we don't want any members to bring diseases back to their collection or into Debbie's garden.**

Hopefully Betsy will be planning games and our contests as usual. We'll be mentioning the type of contests in upcoming memos before the party.

New members or anyone that needs more information, contact your Editor (Larry Giroux) at 239-850-4048 or your host. Bring your significant other, friends and relatives and expose them to our hobby, while enjoying the hospitality of our society.

Questions to Ask Your Plants Before the Show

By Dr. Larry Giroux Photos by L. Giroux

During the judging of bromeliads in a Standard BSI Bromeliad Show, a team of judges who have undergone years of study or who are currently enrolled in a judging school 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. Betty Ann Prevatt and Tom Cowell will demonstrate the preparing of entries in the Horticulture and Horticultural Display Categories. The following is a convenient check list for following along with Betty Ann and Tom.

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 in-

Lanky leaves, gaps, two stages of growth, sloppy top dressing.



Excessive and poorly trimmed leaves.



sects 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 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 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.

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?

If you look hard enough and long enough, all plants will have deficits. Fortunately judges are growers and exhibitors themselves and are understanding. Listen to Betty Ann and Tom at the November meeting and follow their advice; enter a few plants and let's have some fun.



Mount oversized for plants and plants do not show permanence for this Horticultural Display.

Although this entry is quite beautiful and has many good qualities, the excessive removal of its bottom leaves and exposure of its caudex together with a dirty pot may have dropped it down to a blue ribbon.



**Minutes of General meeting of the
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society 10-17-21
(Note: For those who were not in attendance, the description
of David Sand's discussion has been expanded.)**

Meeting opened at 1:50 PM by President Vicky Chirnside.

Attendance: 32

New Member: Allison Bennett (Reznor)

Guests: Emma & Avery Sushil (Children of Carly Pfalz); Bobbie Mesteri

Program: David Sand, chief grower for 15 years at Michael's Bromeliads, was introduced by Vicky Chirnside, Topic: "Stabbing Variegated Bromeliads to Encourage Offset Production".

David demonstrated the method he employs at Michael's Bromeliads to stimulate pup production on those stinky or unstable albo-marginated and variegated bromeliads. Albo-marginated plants have the white or yellow of the variegation along the leaves' edges, where variegated plants have green or colored borders to their leaves and the white or yellow patterns (usually stripes) are toward the center. He has found excellent success by injuring the meristem of nearly any genus of bromeliad with a sharp stick or probe. The size of the tool depends on the plant size. The results may vary with the genus; i.e. David has noticed he gets fewer pups when using this method from *Sincoraea* than from *Neoregelia* and other genera. Care must be taken not to pierce through the meristem completely or angling through the side leaves. The cup must continue to retain water for nutrient absorption. Often the process of obtaining a stable wholly variegated plant may take several generations of experimentation. Stabbing can be used to save loss of a hybrid, which may be lost to albinism, correcting unstable variegation, forcing plants that fail to produce offsets or encouraging a minimally variegated plant to intensify its pattern. This process works better with more mature plants, but even younger plants respond. It is also best to perform this procedure at the beginning of the growing season in your area, coinciding with the rainy season. You must be willing to cut your losses and make decisions and remove undesirable offsets when they are young in order to allow other offsets to develop, which might have better patterns or be more stable. Additional tips to speed up the process and to make it more successful include tilting the plant in the pot to allow better light exposure to that portion of the meristem where the best variegation appears on the mother plant; inserting a very few grains of fertilizer pellets (Osmocote, Dynamite) into the leaf axis of the best variegated leaves; removing leaves and exposing the nodes from where new offsets develop. The fear of possible fungal infection of the meristem from stabbing can be alleviated by the use of a non-copper containing fungicide such as Captan. Infection is generally not a problem. Normal care of the stabbed mother and prudent trimming and removal of offsets when at least 1/3 the size of the mother, will keep the mother looking well and allow you to continue to harvest many healthy and often improved plants. This non genetic manipulation of bromeliads has also created reverse- variegated new cultivars. (Albo-marginated to variegated and vice-versa). It is a safe and easy way to increase your population of your more stubborn, expensive, rare and beautiful bromeliads.

David had a large selection of plants for sale.

Business meeting:

Brian Weber and Betty Ann Prevatt, Chairs of the CBS Show and Sale discussed details of this event. Show Friday Dec 3rd and Sale Dec 4th and 5th. This time of the year, Edison is hosting their "Holiday Lights" from 5-9PM each night of our Show and Sale; so, we need to

work around this highly attended event. Although there will be some tables and tents available, sellers are encouraged to provide their own, otherwise let the Chairpersons know of your needs. Membership Sales table will be set up if requested. Location of Sale will be East of the big Banyan Tree as it was last year, Show location is still being worked out and will be announced when decided. Times as published by our Society will be Saturday 9-5PM and Sunday 9-4PM. You might notice that Edison's calendar have us ending at 4PM Saturday. Food trucks and a Beer wagon will be available on site. Depending on the location of the Sale and the Covid situation, workers' refreshments may be available. If so, we will be asking for volunteers and food to keep us fed. Show entry forms, entry tags Show Schedules and Mini-Artistic Arrangement boxes were available. Vendors and other members are reminded that if you are selling, you must enter two entries in the show. Next newsletter and at the next meeting we will be discussing prep of your entries along with AA and Decorative Containers. You are encouraged to read over your schedule before the next meeting. Any questions or concerns contact Brian Weber, brianweber1b@hotmail.com, 941-256-4405; Betty Ann Prevatt, 334-0242 (bprevattpcc@aol.com); Dr Larry Giroux 239-850-4048 (DrLarry@comcast.net); Tom Cowell 732-735-0121 njtom732@gmail.com.

Betsy Burdette passed out signs to advertise the Show and Sale. Instructions will be published in the Newsletter as to their placement.

Marion Kennell, former Co-chair of the WBC gave an update of the BSI Conference, It is definitely on for June 7th-11th 2022 in Sarasota, Florida. This will be the closest the Conference has ever been for us. Specials right now include BSI membership of \$15 for electronic membership (1/4 the cost of normal membership). This gets you full access to the BSI "members only" sections of the BSI website, which include electronic access to all the 72 years of the Journals, electronic copies of the 4 issues of the fully color, packed BSI Journal, and allows you to register for the WBC at the reduced rate of \$295 until December. Sarasota offers great beach and city sites and the conference has National and International speakers, Auctions, Raffles, world's largest bromeliad sale, tours (one to back areas of Marie Selby Botanic Gardens), banquet and Bromeliad Show. Further information and applications available at BSI.org.

Debbie McPhail has again volunteered her services and home for our 2021 Holiday Party. It will be on December 19th 2021. Directions and details will be printed in the next issue of the newsletter.

Debbie McPhail provided two beautiful bromeliads for the Door Prize drawing, Drawing assisted by Luli Westra.

Show and Tell was presented by Brian Weber.

Raffle was presented by Dr Larry Giroux, assisted by Luli Westra and Betsy Burdette

Next CBS meeting is scheduled for November 21st 2021 at the Garden Council Building.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45PM.

Hall was cleaned per Council guidelines by membership.

Submitted by Dr Larry Giroux



WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE
to be held in Sarasota, Florida. [June 2022](https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner)

[https://www.bsi.org/new/
conference-corner](https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner)

For more info



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2021 5th Ave. Naples Bromeliad Tree. Photo submitted by Jim Bixler.

This is your Nov-Dec 2021 CBS Newsletter
Nov Mtg November 21st...Holiday Party Dec 19th