



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S

MERISTEM

Nov-Dec 2024

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society



Bromeliad Sale

**EDISON and FORD
WINTER ESTATES**

2350 McGregor Blvd Fort Myers

**Outside Venue *Ample parking *Food vendors*

Saturday Dec. 7th 2024 9AM-5PM

Sunday Dec. 8th 2024 10AM-3PM

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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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

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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

November Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 24th 2024
December Holiday Party Dec. 15th 2024

Our November Meeting 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

Our December Holiday Party takes place at the home of
Debbie McPhail (see inside for details)

Please bring food, Friendship, Raffle and Show and Tell Plants
There will be NO membership sales allowed at the November meeting.

Please Note that the CBS Board has changed the SCHEDULE of our meetings to accommodate our out of town speakers.

- 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 – 2:15 Call to order, announcements, and featured Program
- 2:15 – 2:45 Door Prize followed by Refreshments. 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

November CBS Program
“Stabbing”
By David Sand

Anyone who has visited Michael and Donna Kiehl’s nursery in Venice has probably met David Sand, Michael’s Bromeliad’s chief grower of many years. Following Hurricane Ian and the closure of Michael’s nursery, David has been working on creating a new bromeliad retail experience in Venice. I for one am excited about this new nursery.

On the 24th of November, David will instruct the CBS members on the technique, which to some may sound a bit uncouth... of ”stabbing”. This tried and proven procedure involves poking a plant’s meristem to produce trauma or stress, which in turn stimulates offset production. David will discuss the pros and cons, the appropriate circumstances as to when and why to perform this trick and the methodology, which he has found most successful.

David will be bringing plants for sale so there will be *no Membership Sales* allowed at this meeting.

November CBS Workshop
“Helping Your Plants Cope”

Our November Workshop will be an Open Forum to discuss ways we can protect and salvage our plants from harm from a multitude of conditions they can face here in Florida. Floods, diseases, insect infestations, animal assaults, sun, drought and failure to thrive will be some of the topics we will review. If you have any examples of these kinds of damage, please bring in a leaf or the plant so affected to share with us.

SCHEDULE OF THE CBS SALE

Friday Dec 6th starting about 7:30AM

If all goes as scheduled, a selected group of workers will have set up all fencing, community tables and cashier tents and checkout tables on Friday morning. At this point we think we have the work covered, but please be receptive to volunteering at the November meeting if asked. At the November meeting Brian Weber, Sales Chair, or his representative, will announce when SELLERS can start bringing in their plants and setting up their tents for the sale (at this time we can presume it will be at 10AM.).

PLEASE REMEMBER: THERE IS NO SHOW THIS YEAR!

Friday, December 6th, Sunrise-10AM

Those CBS members who have previously volunteered to help Brian with setup will meet and set-up the fencing and society tents and tables.

Friday 10AM

Sellers can have access to their booth sites and can set up their tents and tables and bring their plants. There will be security provided for Friday and Saturday nights; however, CBS nor the Edison/Ford Estates are responsible for loss of merchandise. (Any change in seller setup will be announced at the November CBS meeting.) The Sales area is the same as last year.

Saturday 9AM-5PM, December 7th....Sale open to the public

Sunday 10AM-3PM, December 8th....Sale open to public

Sellers who were unable to come on Friday should arrive early with their sale items, claim their designated spots and organize their space on Saturday morning. Be sure to make arrangements with Brian Weber if you are setting up on Saturday. You can replenish your tables anytime Saturday and Sunday. Doors open at Sat. 9AM and Sun 10AM to the public. Be sure you have checked with Brian, gotten your tags, ID number and table assignment before the Sale. Read the rules. Unless you have permission from the Chair, you cannot break down your area until close of Sale at 3PM Sunday. Vendors are expected to help with setup and break-down where and when possible.

Saturday and Sunday is when we need volunteers to help at checkout...cashiers, tag pullers, carriers, box makers, and holding area receivers. Many of these positions are already assigned, but check with Betty Ann Prevatt at our November meeting to see if help is still needed. We will NOT have a kitchen or hospitality area, although Food vendors will be on site.

Sunday afternoon ...3PM

As 3PM Sunday afternoon approaches, we all want to pack up and go home after a busy weekend. However, we are obligated, unless you have sold out or have permission from the Sales Chair to leave early, to stay until 3PM. If you wish to consolidate your items and displays while continuing to display them, that is fine. We need help with overall break-

down of the Sales areas...with fencing, tents, tables, etc. So where possible contribute some of your time helping in these duties, if asked.

With in a week or so following the Sale, Betty Ann Prevatt and Brian Weber will have tabulated all the plant tags and will distribute checks to the vendors' sales minus the 20% kept by the CBS to pay sales taxes and the costs of the Sale.

If you haven't decided to sell at our Sale, give it more thought and get in touch with Brian Weber to give him your tag ID, pick up the blue sale tags and get your space assignment; read the Rules of the Sale and start looking around your collection for Sale plants. As in past years, we will have a Membership Table for those members who do not have a great number of items or non-plant items and prefer not to set up their own tables. Please let Brian know if you wish to go this route so we can arrange the necessary tables; bringing your own table will be appreciated as well.

PLANT SALE RULES and DECORUM
Please review the SALES RULES carefully.

1. Plant sales identification, necessary sales labels and allocation of table space will be assigned by the Chairperson, Brian Weber: brianweber1b@hotmail.com, 941-256-4405 (cell). You must be pre-registered with Sales Chair.
2. Sale hours for the general public will be Saturday, December 7th 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday December 8th 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
3. Plants will be received Friday, - December 6th, 2024, following the setup of the sales area; as necessary, we will be asking for volunteers for setup of the fence, cashier tables and membership tables on Friday. (Since the majority of vendors are responsible for setup of their own tables and tents, a more definitive Setup time will be announced for Friday in the CBS Newsletter or at the CBS meetings). Unsold plants must be removed Sunday, by 4:00 p.m. or become the property of CBS. **At this time presume that vendor setup can start at 10AM.** Changes will be announced at the November mtg.
4. All plants must have TWO TAGS - A white or near white tag which indicates the plant's name (it may have your ID on it). The second tag should be a colored tag either obtained from the Sales Chairman or a colored one previously used at a CBS Sale. *The sale price must be legibly written in INK with a permanent marker on the Blue (or colored) Sale Tag. To be consistent and make it easier for our customers & cashiers, please put the price with a \$ on top of the tag, vendor code towards the middle of the tag.* All plants and other sale items should be labeled in this manner before arrival at the-

sale. While we encourage the reuse of previous years sale tags, please do not use any that have been cut shorter than 2/3 the original length. On large plants, especially those in the landscape area, please have a sticker or sign with the price to make it easier for customers to see without them having to lift the plant to see the tags that are attached to the bottom.

5. To be eligible to sell plants, a CBS member must:
 - a. Be a member in good standing at least five months prior to sale. (Must be a member by July 1st to sell at the December sale.)
 - b. Be required to attend a minimum of 2 meetings a year.
 - c. Follow all Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society plant sale rules.
 - d. Help in the sales area and assist in clean up.
 - e. Have not been prohibited to sell by the Sales Chair
6. All plants must be priced in increments of one dollar (\$1.00), no .25, .50, etc.
7. Plants must be clean and free from disease, insects, etc. Sales Chair may ask you to clean or remove infected plants.
8. Fifteen percent (15%) of members' sale proceeds will be retained by CBS. Sales tax will be the responsibility of CBS.
9. CBS will not be responsible for loss of plants or craft items, however, all reasonable precautions will be taken to insure their safety.
10. Bromeliad oriented items (art, note paper, carvings, needlework, food, crafts, etc.) may also be offered for sale, subject to the preceding rules. These items should be labeled the same as plants, following rule #4.
11. Vendors and Volunteers are the face of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society during this event. Please be cordial and helpful to buyers and other vendors. Should a disagreement or problem arise, bring it to the attention of the Sales Chairpersons or their representatives for help in resolving it.
12. Take Down - Screens in the case where they are used as a barrier may be removed 15-30 minutes before the close of the sale on Sunday. You may organize & clean up your area in preparation for closing but please do not remove sale plants prior to the closing time.
13. All transactions that occur, even between vendors, on the grounds of the Edison/ Ford Estates that involve exchange of money, must go through the CBS cashiers and are subject to the 15% of the charges retained by the CBS.
14. This is a "SALES YEAR ONLY", so there is NO BROMELIAD SHOW. There will be no sales on Friday nor any need to set up on Thursday.

CBS Holiday Party– December 15th 2024.

Debbie McPhail has graciously volunteered her home and gardens this season 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 following our Sale.

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 and small tables.**

Arrival around 12:30 PM with your goodies will allow time to set the tables and for the food to 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. These can be left at the front of Debbie's yard; please label!**

Hopefully the party committee will be planning games and contests as usual. When available 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 and expose them to our hobby, while enjoying the hospitality of our society.

(Editor's Note– The October Workshop: "The Quesnelias" failed to happen because of Hurricane Milton issues. In this article I want to get you back up to speed in our Genera Series of workshops. Hope you enjoy it.)

“The Quesnelias— Close cousins of the *Billbergias* and *Aechmeas*”

By Dr. Larry Giroux Photo credits as noted

Quesnelia - (kwes-nail'ea) is named for M. Quesnel, who introduced this genus into cultivation. This relatively small genera composed of about 25 species currently, are endemic to southeastern Brazil, where they grow mostly in great masses close to the seashore, some close to the tide waters, in swampy areas and in inland forests and others inland to about 3500 ft altitude. Although generally considered epiphytes and found growing in trees and on rocks, more often in habitat they are found growing as terrestrials.

This Genus is classified into 2 groups: one group who's plants being small and tubular with inflorescences resembling *Billbergias* (i.e. *Q. marmorata* & *Q. humilis*) and having short-lived blooms. Actually this group has been considered *Billbergias* for most of their time in cultivation and now are considered a *Subgenus* of *Quesnelia* called *Billbergiopsis*. The second distinct group of *Quesnelia* is the *Subgenus:Quesnelia*; this group consists of large rosette plants with inflorescences similar to many *Aechmeas*. (i.e. *Q. testudo* and *Q. quesneliana*) and their flowers having a longer life span. All have brilliant inflorescences with bright rosy-red bracts and petals of pink, lavender blue, or red and blue/purple. The leaves are spined with some having dangerous terminal pointed tips.

Unfortunately, of the 25 or so of the known species of this genus nearly a 1/3 have been only recently introduced into cultivation and haven't had an opportunity to be spread to growers other than to global botanical gardens. Albeit, those introduced in the 1800s, mostly as *Billbergias* and *Aechmeas*, have become common place due to their ease of growth, their vibrant colored bracts and petals, tolerance to various conditions and their rapid propagation.

Many of these species can be adapted to full sun but prefer moderate afternoon rays. Cold tolerance also differs between the two *Subgenera* with those plants of the *Subgenus– Quesnelia* tolerating much colder temperatures than the billbergia-like species. The billbergia-like group of *Quesnelia* are great plants for trees, rocks, baskets and pots with their stoloniferous growth and pendulous inflorescences, while the *Quesnelia Subgenus* group produce very large clumps of plants, overflowing even the largest pots. Due to their dangerous large sharp leaves, remember to give them lots of space and to keep away from traffic areas. They love humid conditions but should be grown in well draining media.

This small group of species, their variegated forms and hybrids with their unique shapes, pendulous inflorescences, eye catching colorful bracts and blooms and patterned leaves, desire a place in everyone's collection. Just a repeat warning based on personal experience, don't let certain of these plants take over your garden, they don't seem to have respect for boundaries!

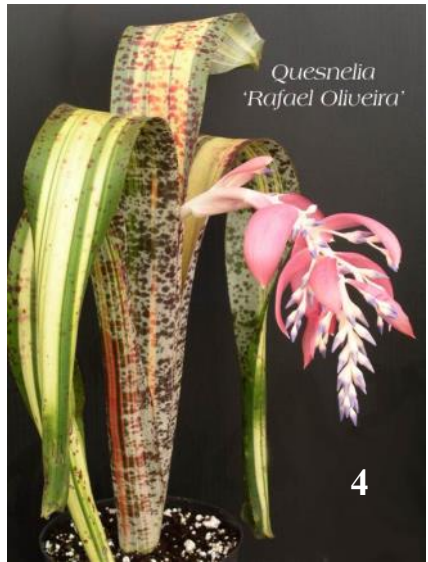
For additional information and photos about this *Genus*, I suggest you go to <https://bromeliad.nl/encyclopedia>, www.fcbs.org and the BSI.org.



Quesnelia alvimii (photo by E. Leme), *Q. humilis* (photo by E. Gouda), *Q. liboniana* (photo by E. Gouda) and *Q. lateralis* (photo by B. Dunstan) are examples of the *Quesnelia* Subgenus: *Billbergiopsis*. They sport loose inflorescences and a billbergia-like shape to their rosettes. Typically they are found growing from San Paulo, south to Rio de Janeiro at higher altitudes rather than along the southeast coast of Brazil. Generally small plants, they do well in pots and hanging baskets. Hopefully, the several more recently

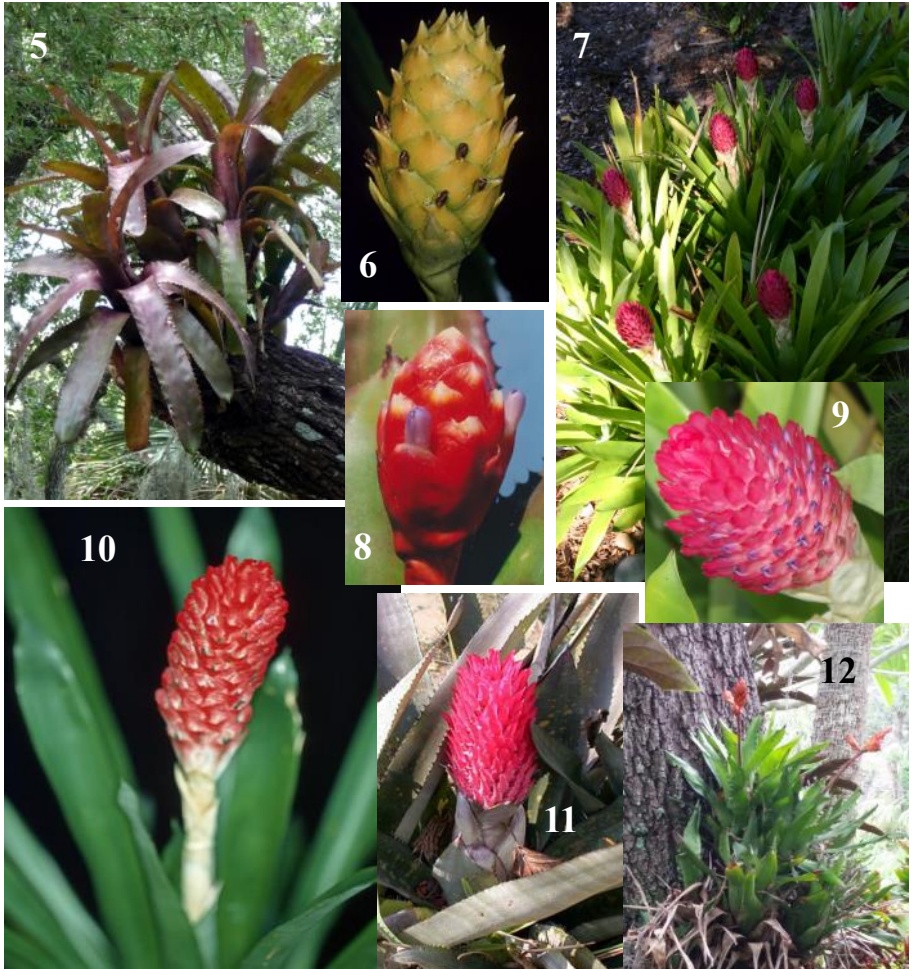
described species of this *Subgenus* will make it into hobbyist's collections. Photos from Encyclopaedia of Bromeliads.





Quesnelia marmorata is probably the best known and most frequently grown of the *Quesnelia* Subgenus *Billbergiopsis* species. In the 1800s and 1900s it was known as *Billbergia vittata*, *B. marmorata* and until

1965 as *Aechmea marmorata*. Pictures: 1- shows a variegated *Q. marmorata* v. 'Tim Plowman'; 2- a the pendulous inflorescence of a normal *Q. marmorata*; 3- a clump of *Q. marmorata* growing on a large rock as an entry in a bromeliad show; and 4- a show winning variegated cultivar of *Q. marmorata* called 'Raphael Oliveria'. With only about 5 to 6 leaves and a relatively short-lived inflorescence, winning in a bromeliad show can be problematic. Photo 4 by Eric Gouda; others by L. Giroux.



The *Quesnelia* Subgenus *Quesnelia* consists of distinctly different appearing plants from the Subgenus *Billbergiopsis*. Their rosettes consists of more lax, stiffer and larger serrated leaves; while their inflorescences are compact and resemble many of the *Aechmea* inflorescences. Although ubiquitous in southeastern Brazil, they are often found growing terrestrially in large clumps in sunny and humid conditions along the coast. Photos 5 (by L. Giroux), 6 (by E. Gouda) and 8 (by D. Butcher) show *Quesnelia edmundoi* and its 2 color forms (normal yellow and *v. rubrobracteata*). Pictures 7 and 9 by L. Giroux demonstrate the prolific *Q. testudo* (commonly known as the Winter torch and Turtlehead bromeliad) can take over a garden very quickly if not contained. Photo #10 *Q. quesneliana* by E. Gouda and photo #11 *Q. arvensis* by O. Ribeiro show two more typical species of this subgenus. Although they have very similar inflorescences, their foliage are more distinct. Photo #12 shows a large grouping of a *Quesnelia* and *Aechmea* hybrid growing epiphytically on an oak tree in Florida (photo by L. Giroux).



Many attractive bigeneric hybrids have been made with *Quesnelias*. Left is *xQuestrum* Claudia a cross of *Q. edmundoi* x *Canistrum fosterium* (photo by

L. Giroux), right is *xQuesmea Pohoia*, photo and hybrid by Dennis Heckart of Hawaii, made with *Aechmea manzanaresiana* x *Q. 'Tim Plowman'*. Below, *xQuesregelia Pioneer-* created in 1975 by Louisiana hybridizer, Joe Carron. (Photo by J. Carron). Check out the FCBS.org and the BSI's BCR for other bigenerics.



AECHMEA	QUESNELIA	BILLBERGIA
Floral bracts usually pungent.	Floral bracts never pungent.	Floral bracts never pungent.
Sepals mucronate or pungent,	Sepals unarmed or soft-apiculate.	Sepals unarmed or soft-apiculate.
or if blunt then small and		
Ovules long caudate.	Ovules not long caudate.	Ovules not long caudate.
Ovules numerous or few.	Ovules numerous.	Ovules numerous.
Petals regular, erect or suberect.	Petals regular, erect or suberect.	Petals either zygomorphic or recurved in a spiral.
Pollen grains with pores.	Pollen grains with pores.	Pollen grains usually with a single longitudinal fold.
Fruit usually a smooth berry.	Fruit a smooth berry.	Fruit usually a ribbed or grooved berry.
Style equalling stamens.	Style equalling stamens.	Style exceeding stamens.

This is a key devised by the taxonomist Robert W. Read to help with the identification during his reclassification of many of the plants of three closely related *Genera* of the *Sub-family Bromelioideae*. Taken from the JBSI, BSI 15(2) 23-26.

Minutes of the CBS General Meeting
LC/FM Garden Council Building September 15th 2024

Call to order: 1:12 by President Julie Stein

In Attendance: 32

Guests: Babu Mathew and Joe Barrilleaux

New Members: Marguerite Hart and Charlie Holmes.

General Meeting:

Announcements: Julie announced that Dale Kammerlohr will head up the nominating committee this year. Dale explained that he needs two volunteers to help him line up the slate for the officers and for two Committee Chairs that need filling. Carly Pfalz volunteered. There were no further volunteers. The committee will return a slate of Officers for 2025 in October and an election will be held in November. Dale requested that anyone who would like to volunteer for Workshop Chair or Program Chair, please notify him.

Julie also reminded people planning to sell plants at our December Sale to bring their own canopy and tables. Please contact Brian Weber and let him know how much space you need, let him know your TAG identification you will be using and to confirm if you qualify to sell.

Program: Dennis Cathcart, retired founder of Tropiflora, presented a slide show and talk titled “A Naturalist Trip to Western Cuba”. He has made 6 trips to Cuba in all, two to the western areas. He told us that Cuba has 7,500 plant species, 3,000 of which are endemic. There are about 60 species of bromeliads even *Tillandsia fenderii* which usually grows at much higher altitudes. He noted that *Catopsis nutans* and *Catopsis floribunda* grow in masses there. We have them here in Florida, but they are much less common. Their most common *T. fasciculata* is the *T. fasciculata* var. *clavispicata*, which gets as large as a huge wash-tub with inflorescences much larger than those seen in Florida. One last curious fact he shared is that there is only one native *Aechmea* that grows in Cuba: *Aechmea nudicaulis*.

He also shared many tidbits about some of the animals and creatures he saw. For instance, the mangrove water snake is the only snake there that you can also find in Florida. There are Caribbean water snakes which must stay in the water at all times or they’ll die, even if you just take them out of the water for a short time. He also saw many anoles, lizards, tropes, slugs and even a special snail that hangs by a mucus thread at night to evade predators, the only snail in the world to do this. Seriously!

Workshop: Our discussion subject this month is *Porteas*, native to the Atlantic coast of Brazil. Dr. Larry Giroux presented a slide show outlining many interesting facts about this genus. The genus *Portea*

has 9 species of which 3 are varieties of *P. petropolitana* as well as a few cultivars of these species. They tend to be medium to quite large in size and most can tolerate strong light. The typical inflorescence of the majority of plants of this genus is quite striking, usually perched on top of a tall spike with coral / pink primary bracts; coral, pink, red, green or yellow floral bracts and lavender or white flower petals. While many grow terrestrially, they are also seen growing without soil, as an epiphyte high in the trees; this is particularly true of *P. nana* and *P. kermesina*. They do have prominent spines and love to clump, so they should be planted away from walkways with plenty of space to spread. *Portea petropolitana* var. *petropolitana* and *Portea petropolitana* var. *extensa* are two that are grown commonly in southwest Florida. In fact, their inflorescences are often entered in shows in the “Inflorescence Section” because of their beauty and duration in bloom. Betty Ann Prevatt and Julie Stein both brought in various *Portea* specimens from their gardens to share.

Door Prizes: Our door prizes this month were 5 bags of bromeliad fertilizer (10 10 17) donated by Bob Meier and an *Aechmea* ‘Silver Streak’ donated by Brian Weber. It is a cross of an *Aechmea nudicaulis* ‘Silver Streak’ with an *Aechmea disticantha*.

Show & Tell: Dale Kammerlohr presented 4 plants including a *Billbergia* with albo-margination, potted in a striking green and white pot, perfect enough to be entered in a show as well as a *Cryptanthus* collected by the late Bob Whitman, the owner of Southern Exposure Nursery in Beaumont, Texas. This *Cryptanthus* SE 12 (named for his nursery) was later described by Harry Luther as a variety of *C. warren-loosei*. Bob was the founder of the *Cryptanthus* Society and was probably the most influential person in promoting World-wide interest in *Cryptanthus*.

Raffle: Larry Giroux assisted by Julie Stein and Dolly Dalton, gave away about 26 donated plants to the happy winners.

Meeting adjourned: 4:00

Respectfully submitted by Alison Ackerman

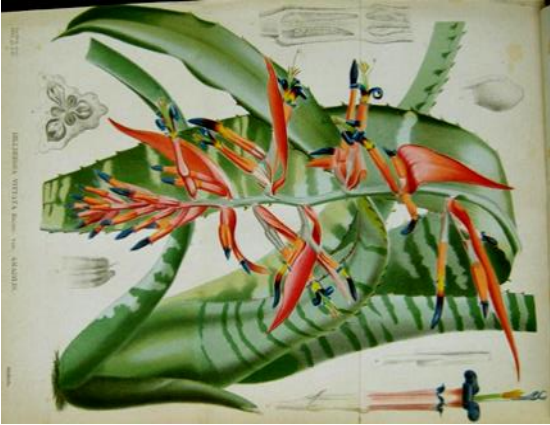
**Minutes of the CBS General Meeting
LC/FM Garden Council Building October 2024**

The October 20th 2024 meeting of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society was CANCELLED due to Hurricane Milton related issues .



Dr. Larry Giroux, Editor
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Just as we now have a vast array of digital photographs and data available to us on the Global Web, the black and white and colored horticultural drawings which accompanied taxonomists' written descriptions deposited at various Botanical Gardens were the best source for identification. *Quesnelia mammorata*, known in the 1800s as *Billbergia vittata* or *manorata* with its colorful inflorescence and mottled leaves was a popular bromeliad to draw and numerous examples still exist and have been copied to the Internet.



This is your November-December 2024 CBS Newsletter