



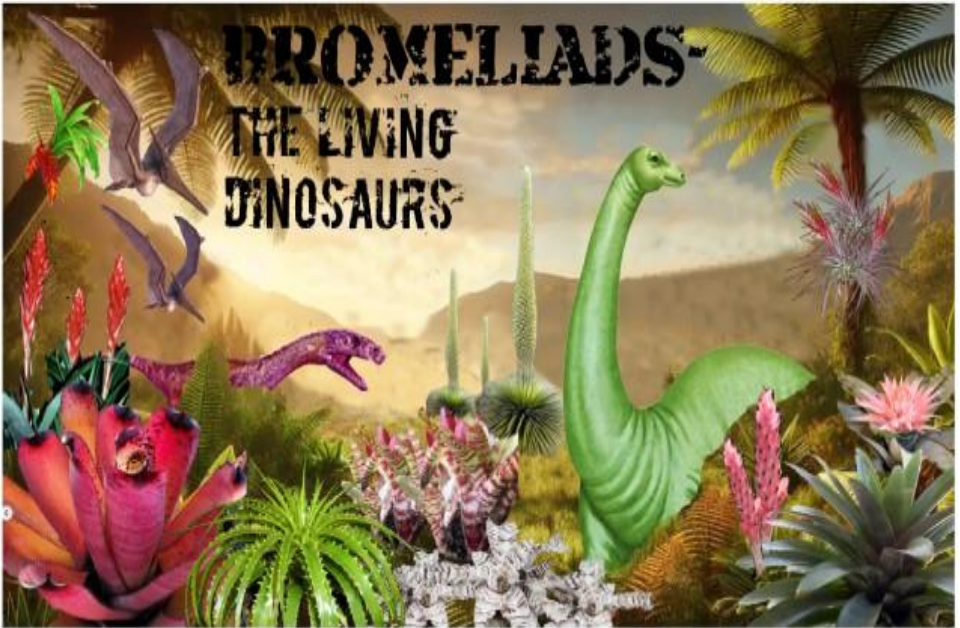
THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S

MERISTEM

Nov-Dec 2025

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society
presents its 2025

Bromeliad Sale & Show



Judged Show—December 5th

Show and Sale open to the public—

Saturday and Sunday, December 6th-7th 2025

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT— Julie Stein 919-522-1182 FLAGIRL56@aol.com

Past— PRESIDENT— Vicky Chirnside 941 928-3111 (dampearth@me.com)

**Vice-PRESIDENT— Dale Kammerlohr 863-558-0647
(dzdaze@embarqmail.com)**

SECRETARY— Alison Ackerman 239-851-3176 (Alison@spikowski.com)

TREASURER—Betty Ann Prevatt 239-229-7781 (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR—Larry Giroux 239-850-4048 (DrLarry7@gmail.com)

**FALL SALES Co- CHAIR—Betty Ann Prevatt 239-229-7781 and
Julie Stein 919-522-1182**

FALL SHOW CHAIR—Betty Ann Prevatt and Julie Stein

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON—Acting Chair: Julie Stein

WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON—Acting Chair: Julie Stein

**CBS FCBS Reps.—Vicky Chirnside 941-928-3111 (dampearth@me.com)
Julie Stein 919-522-1182 (flagirl56@aol.com)**

**MEMBERSHIP—Betty Ann Prevatt 239-229-7781 bprevattpcc@aol.com
Larry Giroux 239-850-4048 Drlarry7@gmail.com**

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

FM-LEE GARDEN COUNCIL—Alison Ackerman 239-851-3176 Alison@spikowski.com

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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

**November Meeting: Sunday, Nov.16th, 2025
Holiday Party: Sunday, December 21st, 2025**

Our Nov. meeting will be at the Ft. Myers– Lee County Garden Council Building 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers. The Dec Holiday Party will be at the home of Debbie McPhail. See inside for details.

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.

Alex Bello , our program presenter for November will be bringing plants for sale, so there will be no Membership Sales allowed at this meeting.

**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 2026 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 Program Tillandsias by Alex Bello

CBS member, Alex Bello, owner of Bello Tropicals (bellotropicals@yahoo.com) in Miami, Florida will be our guest speaker Sunday, November 16th. Alex will be discussing Tillandsias. Alex has a vast assortment of species and hybrids. He has told us that he will be “coming loaded with collector grade and nice stuff not seen around” (so there are NO Membership Sales allowed at this meeting).

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.

Election of officers for 2026

Many thanks to our 2025 Officers and Committee Chairs who have served with distinction for another year. That being said, all of our Officers have agreed to return in their positions for 2026, if elected. Per the Bylaws, any member in good standing can oppose any incumbent by submitting their name for nomination to the Nominations Committee Chair, Dale Kammerlohr. As of this newsletter, no other candidates have been nominated. The slate of Officers, therefore, for 2026, up for re-election is

President.....Julie Stein
Vice-President....Dale Kammerlohr
Secretary.....Alison Ackerman
Treasurer....Betty Ann Prevatt

ELECTION will be held at the November 16th 2026 CBS Meeting.

November Workshop

The CBS Bromeliad Show and Sale is scheduled to start December 5th; the November Workshop will be a short recap of the time schedule for this event. At the October CBS meeting the official Show Schedule was distributed. At the November meeting the entry forms and cards will be available. There are still a few positions available on various committees; all help will be appreciated. See the included time table for the Show and Sale. In lieu of a presentation about the Artistic Divisions of

the Show, in the e-mail containing this newsletter, you will also receive articles about Artistic Arrangements and Decorative Containers these will also be available on our Facebook page.

The 2025 CBS Bromeliad Show and Sale

For those who are either new members or unfamiliar with how we stage our Sale and Show the following is a breakdown of the proceedings.

SCHEDULE OF THE CBS SHOW & SALE

Friday Dec 5th starting about 7:30AM

If all goes as scheduled, a selected group of workers will have set up all the tables and society tents for the Show and Sale on Thursday afternoon. A few of the members will be covering the tables and making final adjustments on Friday AM. We will be asking for volunteers at the Nov. meeting. Workers need to start arriving by 7:30AM on Friday at the latest to set up the Registration, Entries, Classification and Placement areas. These workers should bring in their plants for early entry. We start as soon as we can to enter plants. At the November meeting Betty Ann Prevatt, Sales Chair, will announce when SELLERS can start bringing in their plants and setting up their tents for the sale (this is usually at about 10AM; sellers can drop off their entries if they have the proper paper work completed prior to dropping off their sale plants or after sales setup. Remember, entries close by 12 noon on Friday.

Friday Dec 1st 8:00AM

Entries and Classification officially open and will go until 12 Noon. We will be providing Entry forms and Entry cards at CBS meetings.

Exhibitors can bring their entries with their forms starting at 8AM.

Friday 10AM

Sellers can have access to their booth sites (sooner if arranged with Betty Ann Prevatt, Sales Chair). The Sales area is the same as last year, while the Show area will be a large tent close to the Sales Area.

12:00-12:45 PM

The setup of the Show tent should be completed and most workers will be asked to leave unless on committees needed during the Judging. Clerks should be meeting with Vicky Chirnside, our Clerks Chairperson and becoming oriented with instructions and equipment. Judges are returning from their luncheon about 12:30PM and starting with their orientation. Clerks and Judges are assigned and Judging will start at 1PM. There will be occasional breaks and Hospitality will have tables set up with refreshments for the Judges and workers in the Show tent. We do not have a kitchen or Hospitality area at Edison, so plan on bringing your own food or buying from food vendors for your own consumption..

Friday 1 PM to ~5:30PM

The Judges are all volunteers. They travel here at their own expense. As

a Thank You, we give them a gift certificate to be used at the Sale. Most will leave after the Sale so during breaks and at the completion of the Judging, the Judges will be buying from sellers who are set up. A cashier will be available also. As an incentive to the volunteer workers, they also will be allowed to buy from the sellers during these hours. Judges are often collectors and your best buyers. Clerks are needed to help with major award judging once the merit judging is completed as well as movement of plants and re-placement of plants after judging.

Friday Afternoon following Judging

Setup of the Headtable for displaying the winners and organization of Show Hall in preparation of public showing. Sale open to Judges and Volunteers. Major Award winners can pick up their cash vouchers.

Saturday 9AM-5PM, December 2nd....Show and Sale open to the public

Sunday 10AM-3PM, December 3rd....Show and 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 Betty Ann Prevatt if you are setting up on Saturday. Please arrange to enter your 2 Show plants on Friday AM before 11:30AM. 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 Betty Ann, gotten your tags, ID number and table assignment in the weeks 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. Show plants and awards can be picked up at that time. Vendors are expected to help with setup and break-down where and when possible.

We have a special award, "The Members' Choice Award", which we give to the 3 plants voted by the members as their "Best in Show" from among those which did not get to the head table. We ask that all members vote for this award on Saturday morning for display in the afternoon.

Saturday and Sunday is when we need volunteers to help at checkout...cashiers, tag pullers, carriers, box makers, holding area receivers and guards and hosts in the Show area. Again, we will NOT have a kitchen or hospitality area, although Food vendors have been asked to 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. The same holds true for your Show entries; unless you have permission from the Show Chair, please do not remove entries until 3PM. We need help with overall break-down of

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

Again this year we are doing something different with the awards. Instead of plaques to Division and Section winners along with a store bought gift, we are giving a piece of memorabilia and prize money as gift certificates good for purchases from the vendors. These will be distributed on Friday night or Saturday morning.

Within a week or so following the Sale, all the plant tags will be tabulated and checks for the vendors' sales minus the 20% kept by the CBS to pay sales taxes and the costs of the Show and Sale will be distributed.

If you haven't decided to sell at our Sale, give it more thought and get in touch with Betty Ann Prevatt to give her 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 Show and Sale plants.

The printed Show Schedule will be distributed at the October and November meetings. Help with preparing your plants and exhibits for the Show and Sale will also be given in the CBS Newsletter and by e-mail.

Show and Sales Chair Assignments (partial list)

- Show Chair.....Betty Ann Prevatt 239-229-7781
- Show Co-Chair.....Julie Stein (919) 522-1182
- Clerks Chair.....Vicky Chirnside 941-928-3111
- Sales Chair.....Betty Ann Prevatt 239-229-7781
- Awards Chair/ Headtable.....Larry Giroux 239-850-4048
- Show Schedule.....Larry Giroux 239-850-4048
- Classification.....Alison Ackerman and Larry Giroux
- Other Chairs to be announced.

Holiday Party December 21st 2025

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 to celebrate the end of a very productive year. We do ask that you limit guests to your immediate family: partners, mothers, fathers and children. If you have relatives or friends visiting for the holidays, bring them along rather than missing this celebration.

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!**

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.

Minutes of the CBS General Meeting
LC/FM Garden Council Building September 21st, 2025

Call to order: 1:20 by President Julie Stein

In Attendance: 21

Guests: none

General Meeting:

Announcements Pete Diamond announced that he is planning a couple of weekends when he wants to sell his plants and plant-related items since he will be relocating to San Diego soon. He has chosen Oct. 11 and 18 for his sale. He asks that anyone who wants to take part, use his phone number to message him when you would like to come. His number is (701) 213-7601

President Julie Stein announced that Sundance Orchids and Bromeliads has invited our organization to set up a table at their 25th year celebration, scheduled for November 12, from 9AM to 2PM Anyone who wants to come help at this event is invited to bring a plant or two to show off, which could help promote our Society. Let Julie know if you can help.

Program and Workshop: Larry Giroux, Julie Stein, and Betty Ann Prevatt brought in a variety of plants to demonstrate how to prepare them for entering into our December show. They talked about when and how to clean them, how best to position them in their pots, and the necessity of choosing an appropriate soil topping. They also explained how to judge if an inflorescence will most likely earn top marks.

Door Prizes: Six door prizes were handed out to the lucky winners. .

Show & Tell: Dale Kammerlohr led the discussion for 17 plants brought in by our members.

Raffle: Larry Giroux assisted by Julie Stein and Dolly Dalton, gave away about 27 donated plants.

Meeting adjourned 3:55

Respectfully submitted by Alison Ackerman

Minutes of the CBS General Meeting
LC/FM Garden Council Building Oct. 19th, 2025

Call to order: 1:20 by President Julie Stein

In Attendance: 30

Guests: Matthew Herring, Barbara Murza, Melinda Sand, and Joe Nelson

General Meeting:

Announcements: Betty Ann Prevatt invited members to take a sign to post, advertising our upcoming sale in December. She said to put it out Friday night and pick it up Sunday. Apparently, the signs might ‘disappear’ otherwise. Larry Giroux asked everyone who plans to sell plants, enter plants in the show and/or volunteer to please sign up with their contact information at the back table.

Julie gave a report on The Bromeliad Society International. This is their 75th anniversary and they very much want to increase their membership by offering a discount to join. Check this out on their website if you are interested. One of their main missions is conservation - especially in areas that have lost much of their bromeliad populations, like in Brazil and even here in Florida with the *Tillandsia utriculata* plants, decimated by the “evil” weevil. If you join, you will be helping to save endangered plants such as this one.

Larry also talked about the Cryptanthus Society, hoping some members will consider joining this group. He also mentioned that our society, the CBS will pay half your membership in the BSI and the Cryptanthus Society if you have never joined them before.

Dale Kammerlohr, head of the Nominating Committee, announced that the current officers have all agreed to serve again for one more year. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor next month when our elections will be held.

Program: Dave Sand, from Bromeliads by Dave, Inc., gave a very lively and informative program all about miniature bromeliads.

He defines a miniature bromeliad as any plant typically less than 6 inches in height and width. They can be *Neoregelias*, *Tillandsias* or others. There are 2 types - ones that like to clump and ones that like to climb. They both have stolens. If their stolens are long, they are called climbers and tend to spread out and the ones with shorter stolens are called clumpers.

He gave some great ideas on where and how to plant/mount minis. Some ideas include using an old water fountain, or hanging pots or

mounted plants on shepherd hooks. Tying the plants on oak trees and cabbage palms also works great, He pointed out that minis can even be used to fill in areas around larger bromeliads creating a stunning display.

For fertilizer, especially if your plants are not growing out in a yard, he recommends using either Osmocote, which has a 90-day release time, or Nutricote with a 360 day release. He normally uses very small amounts, but if he really wants to stimulate his plants to grow fast, he will use a lot more of both types and then wait for many months for the fertilizer to be used up. This is because the extra fertilizer turns the leaves green, making the coloring disappear. Eventually the color will return.

If you are interested in contacting Dave or visiting him, his contact information is as follows:

e-mail: David@michalesbromeliads.com Address: 3343 Kennedy Dr. Venice, FL 34292

He will open by appointment and is available to ship any time.

Workshop: For our workshop, Dave Sand talked about and showed us all the ways he mounts bromeliads. Driftwood or even Australian tree fern can be used, either hanging, or even sitting on a table, patio, or the ground. It's best to use at least 2 points where you attach the plant to the wood with a zip tie. The plant must not be wobbly at all, or the roots won't attach. You can always use a screw, a nail, or fencing staples. But if you use nails or screws on some palms, you will get stains. If you put the plants into the 'boots' of a cabbage palm, the bromeliad roots will help the 'boots' stabilize. Dave personally does not use glue to attach any of his plants, and does not use moss either around the base, because in nature the plants are happy growing with bare stems.

Finally, he encouraged us to be free to create what looks good to us, because in the end the final piece is there for us to enjoy.....

Door Prizes: Debbie McPhail brought 3 adorable minis for our door prizes, *Neoregelia* Hot Embers

Show & Tell: Members brought about 30 plants for Show & Tell and Dale led the discussion for each one

Raffle: About 30 plants were given away during our monthly raffle, led by Larry Giroux with assistance from Betsy Burdette and Luli Westra..

Meeting adjourned 4:03

Respectfully submitted by Alison Ackerman

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!



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This is your November-December 2025 CBS Newsletter