



**CALOOSAHATCHEE  
BROMELIAD  
SOCIETYs  
CALOOSAHATCHEE  
MERISTEM**

3836 Hidden Acres Circle  
North Fort Myers FL 33903  
(239) 997-2237

*FEBRUARY 2006*

DrLarry@COMCAST.NET



# CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**PRESIDENT** Dianne Molnar (capebrom@aol.com)  
**VICE-PRESIDENT** Larry Giroux- (DrLarry@comcast.net)  
**SECRETARY** Tom Foley- (tefoley24@earthlink.net);  
**TREASURER** Betty Ann Prevatt (bprevattpcc@aol.com)  
**PAST-PRESIDENT** Steve Hoppin (SLHAZ@juno.com)

## STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Larry Giroux- (DrLarry@comcast.net)  
**FALL SHOW CHAIR** No Show in 2006  
**FALL SALES CHAIR** Brian Weber (brianweber1b@aol.com)  
**FALL SALES Co-CHAIR** David Prall (PalmTreeGardens@hotmail.com)  
**PROGRAM CHAIRPERSONS** Debbie Booker/Tom Foley (tefoley24@earthlink.net)

**WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON** Eleanor Kinzie  
**SPECIAL PROJECTS** To be announced

**FLORIDA COUNCIL CHAIRMAN** Vicky Chirside- (vickychirn@aol.com)  
**FCBS REPRESENTATIVES** Debbie Booker & Tom Foley  
**ALTERNATE FCBS Rep.** Dale Kammerlohr (tropdsk@strato.net)

## OTHER COMMITTEES

**AUDIO/VISUAL SETUP** Tom Foley- (tefoley24@earthlink.net); BobLura

**DOOR PRIZE** To be announced  
**HOSPITALITY** Mary McKenzie , (manytoes@aol.com); Martha Wolfe, Sue Gordon

**SPECIAL HOSPITALITY** To be announced  
**RAFFLE TICKETS** Greeter/Membership table volunteers - Luli Westra, Dolly Dalton, Eleanor Kinzie, etc.

**RAFFLE COMMENTARY** Larry Giroux  
**GREETERS/ATTENDANCE** Betty Ann Prevatt, Dolly Dalton(dollyd@comcast.net), Luli Westra

**SHOW & TELL** Dale Kammerlohr  
**FM-LEE GARDEN COUNCIL** To be announced  
**LIBRARIAN** Sue Gordon-  
**ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN** Kay Janssen

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# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

**February Meeting:** SUNDAY February 19th, 2006  
ST. JOHN the APOSTLE CHURCH 3049 MCGREGOR Ave. FORT MYERS.  
DOORS WILL BE OPEN AT 12:30PM FOR SETUP. Please bring RAFFLE  
plants and FRIENDSHIP plants to share with our members.

Although Brian Weber, our speaker is bringing plants for sale, Membership Sales will be permitted and encouraged at this meeting, so bring lots!! Remember to pay the 10% owed to the Society before you leave, if selling plants.

## February Program

(Starting following the refreshment break)

### “Landscaping with Bromeliads”

*Brian Weber has acquired this computer slide program from Dennis Cathcart, a much sought after bromeliad speaker. Brian as chief grower at Tropiflora is very familiar with bromeliads, their tolerances and potential. You don't want to miss this presentation, which is sure to help everyone with proper selection and care of bromeliads for their patio and yard landscaping.*

## February Workshop

(Starting at 1:15PM)

### “Using Your Society Library to Its Fullest Potential”

*It was Gene McKenzie's wish that following her death, her collection of bromeliads and collectibles be sold and the money used to benefit the CBS. Some of that money has been spent on newly available books for the “Gene McKenzie Memorial” Library. Sue Gordon, our chief librarian will discuss these new acquisitions and bring you up to date on the contents of our spectacular society library. Sue will clarify the procedures for checking books out so you can read them at home at your leisure.*

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



FM-LCGC



Cryptanthus  
Society



Bromeliad Society  
International



FCBS

# SOCIETY NOTES

## Welcome new members

Beverly Smith

Diane Cornelison

### **Dues! Dues! Dues!**

At the February meeting you will have one last chance to pay for your 2006 dues before you are removed from the mailing list of the CBS Meristem newsletter and excluded from the 2006 Roster and Yearbook.

If you have not paid your dues and can not attend the February meeting, please send your dues-\$10 for a single membership renewal and \$12.50 for dual membership at the same address to our Treasurer. Please review the current information we have about you and update your address, telephone number(s) and e-mail address.

Please see Betty Ann Prevatt at the February meeting or mail your dues as soon as possible so that we might receive them by the meeting date, which is the official cut off date for the roster. In addition I want to remind all that if you have not had a picture taken for the Roster, please see Larry Giroux at the February meeting and have it taken.

### **The 2006 Roster and Yearbook**

Assuming no further complications in my life, the new 2006 photographic roster and CBS yearbook should be available at the March meeting. As a courtesy to our members who cannot get to the meetings, the Secretary will mail the Roster and Yearbook to you for a \$1 fee. We would rather you attend the March meeting to pick up this valuable document and enjoy our planned program and meeting. We will continue to have the Roster available at future meetings.

We have missed the smiling face of Barb Reimer these past months, because she is undergoing chemotherapy. Please join me in sending prayers and good thoughts to Barb for an uncomplicated course and rapid cure. Lets wish her back to our meetings so we can once again enjoy her company. Messages can be sent to her roster address.



**Kitty Ragan**

## **In Memorial**

By Larry Giroux

During the end of last year, I notified many of the on-line members by e-mail of the condition of Kitty Ragan. At that time she had suffered a stroke and was in rehabilitation. I'm saddened to have to inform you that Kitty passed away in the middle of January from further complications of her condition. Many of us knew her as Kitty Bright when she first joined the Society in February of 1994.

Although she has been unable to attend meetings in the past years, she has continued to remain a subscribed member. When I first heard of her medical condition from a neighbor friend of hers, he told me that Kitty had specifically requested that "her Society" be notified of her location. Kitty had assisted Shirley Crego, our previous Librarian, with the library functions. At her River home in Fort Myers, she had continued to grow and enjoy bromeliads these past 12 years. She is survived by her husband, who unfortunately prior to Kitty developing her injury, experienced a fractured back and is currently receiving therapy. Condolences may be sent to the family at - 3385 E. Riverside Drive, Fort Myers, Fla., 33916.



## **Happy Birthday Greetings!**

By Larry Giroux

I don't usually broadcast the age of our senior lady friends, even if I knew, but I'm making this exception since it is truly a great accomplishment. On February 8th our own artist in residency, Kiti Wenzel turned 98 years young.

Kiti moved from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1956, where she started her artistic career after graduating from the Moore College of Art and Design. In that City she spend much of her time educating children in the principles of art. In the 1960's she and husband owned and operated a restaurant, art studios and gallery on Fort Myers Beach. After a move to Sarasota,



A B&W rendering of the first bromeliad, Billbergia pyramidalis, which sparked Kiti Wenzel's interest in botanical drawing.

where she continued her career as a professional artist, she moved back to Fort Myers.

It was in 1981 that Kiti did her first drawing of a bromeliad, Billbergia pyramidalis, which was given to her by a friend. In 1985 she joined the CBS and has been intrigued by the wonderful and varied forms of bromeliads ever since.

There are hundreds of her original watercolors and colored pencil drawings of bromeliads adorning homes throughout the World; Kiti's collection of horticultural print greeting cards remain cherished gifts when sent by a friend; and her numerous Art Exhibitions held over the last 4 decades here in Florida were memorable events. Her generosity is well documented by her contributions of her works to many auctions of local and international organizations as well as providing posters and original designs for World Bromeliad Conferences' publications.

The diversity of Kiti's work distinguishes her as a truly exceptional artist and especially as a "botanical" artist who's works will be appreciated for a long, long time. Happy Birthday, Kiti and we pray that you will have many more.

(Editor's note: The front cover of this newsletter shows a reproduction of a collage of bromeliad drawings by Kiti Wenzel entitled "Bromelia katii". The photo on the back page is of Neoregelia 'Kiti Wenzel'. This is one of two plants selected from the grex of Neoregelia johannis 'Fairchild' X Neoregelia 'Meyendorffii' hybridized by Dean Fairchild and named to honor Kiti. The other plant of the Grex is named Neoregelia 'Magic Palette', which has mottling of the leaves and a coral coloration of the center. Dean Fairchild has been an admirer of Kiti and her work for over 25 years and owns more than 20 pieces of her art.)

## I Remember When...

By Vicky Chirside

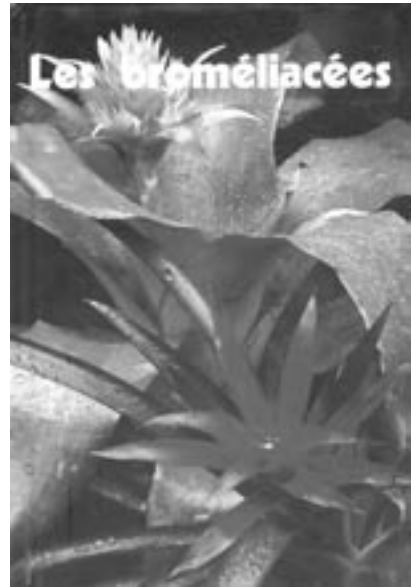
This is one of those 'I remember articles'. As I look at my wonderful collection of bromeliad books, good memories come back to me and I think of our (CBS) great library of books.

When I first built our house, my neighbor from across the street came over and planted at my entrance these ugly tubular plants, as a welcome gift for moving into the neighborhood. He thought that my doorway was a little barren. I will back up a little. This was 1970 and Venice was a very, very quiet sleepy town and everyone knew everyone else. This is why I picked it to be my home. OK back to the story. These were ugly tubular spiky things, but I did not want to hurt my neighbor's feelings, so I left them there. I watched in wonder over the next few weeks as these things opened like a rose and the color was amazing.

Well, I had to go in search for what they were. My neighbor called them "Bromeliads". So the search began. No one at the library knew what I was talking about. The Nurseries were no help; we had no Internet. Then one day walking out of K-Mart, on a turn-rack in the garden center was a book called *Bromeliads for Modern Living* by Lou Wilson from Michigan. This became the Bible. This was a new world, an eye opener and all the other superlatives you can think of. My neighbor loaned me a



A picture of Hazel Quilhot from 1988 while giving a presentation to the 8 year old CBS. Even by this time she had a reputation as a serious grower of bromeliads. She is standing in front of a blooming albo-marginated form of *Aechmea lueddemanniana* called 'MEND'. This was a seedling mutation. The story is that the word "MEND" is derived from (M) Mildred Merkel, whonamed the plant around 1960, (E) for Edward Ensign who sowed the seed, (N) for Julian Nally who harvested the origin seeds and gave them to Ensign and (D) in memory of Ralph Davis. Photo from the CBS archives.



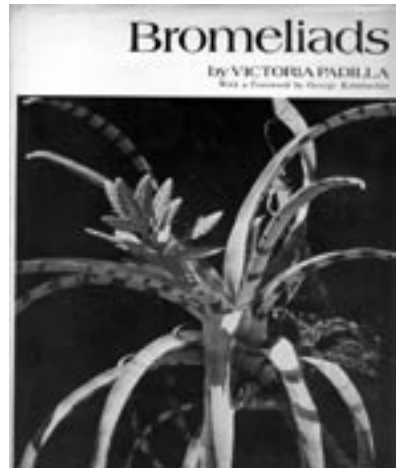
**These are pictures of the covers of two versions of Dr. Louis Wilson's book, the English on the left and the French/Canadian on the right. There was probably a Spanish version printed also. In 1977 this was the most affordable and concise book available throughout Canada and the US about bromeliads.**

book titled *Bromeliads in Color and Their Culture* by Victoria Padilla and he started showing me drawings and pictures and talking about his wife's brother, Mulford Foster. But I still had no additional books. I found *Bromeliads in Cultivation* by Bob and Catherine Wilson (1964). It seems no one checked it out so it was expendable, but what a treasure it became to me. The world of Bromeliads began to open up. I met a couple of people at the County Fair in the plant exhibit hall and discovered that they too were fascinated with Bromeliads. The rest is history - the Sarasota Bromeliad Society was born. We were all so hungry for information - along came another book by Victoria Padilla named simply *Bromeliads* (1973). This now became our new bible. Hazel and Ralph Quilhot joined our group. They were growing, to the other SBS members' amazement a LARGE number of Bromeliads and we began to learn from each other. California bromeliad growers along with Mulford Foster and other growers from Florida and Louisiana formed the International Bromeliad Society (1950). Its Journal became another invaluable source of information. It was hard back then knowing so little about these plants to grow them well, but we had great fun and camaraderie learning together



from the great people - the pioneers of the movement. *Bromeliads* by Walter Richter came out in 1977 and in 1979 we waited for Werner Rauh's book *Bromeliads for Home, Garden and Greenhouse* to be translated to English. We were on the pre-publication list for the *Biology of Bromeliads* by David H. Benzing (1980).

Do not take our library lightly. It is one of the finest collections of available literature on Bromeliads. We now have such wonderful information right in front of us. Quality books are now being written and available by experts from around the World. Please read them, then look at the beautiful photography and be inspired. I would not give up the hard way we had to learn because I was fortunate to meet all the pioneers, but new ones are still coming—take advantage of their knowledge available in books and journals and Enjoy! By the way my first plants were *Aechmea fosteriana*.



Above is the cover to Victoria Padilla Book, “Bromeliads”. In 1973 at \$12.50 it was still expensive, but was the “Bible” of its time. Ms. Padilla had a commanding presence at the Bromeliad Society since its inception. As editor for many years of the BS Journal she vigorously guarded all information and pictures she felt belonged to the BS. The picture to the left is *Aechmea fosteriana*, the first bromeliads owned by Vicky Chirside. Photo by Larry Giroux.

**This month in lieu of a President’s Message, Dianne Molnar wants to re-warn you about a progressive illness spreading amongst our membership.**

## **“Bromeliaditis”**

**By Dianne Molnar**



Unlike the flu, Bromeliaditis doesn’t go away. The symptoms get stronger every day. After being exposed to the plants responsible for the sickness, you get a fever with delirium with the urge to have every plant you see. The fever is followed by a skin rash, which is really a bunch of scratches and puncture wounds. Bromeliads become the center of your interest. You know longer care to be inside your home. Your closets can be cluttered, your meals can be late and your shopping list can wait another day . You just want to be in your garden. Those who get this disease think nothing of traveling long distances to go on collecting trips, or, if they can’t do that, go to every show or sale they can, to obtain new specimens, even such treacherous ones that you would not have been caught dead with before you got the sickness. You walk around with dirt under your fingernails, learn a strange new vocabulary to be able to converse with other victims, don’t mind staying up all night grooming your plants for show, and learn patience you never knew you had, waiting for a plant to grow up and bloom and you even desert your favorite chair to go to “ Sunday meetings” in jeans or shorts, long sleeves (to cover your bloody arms) and floppy hats you have adopted . Some, who are severely affected, even sit in front of a little screen, straining their eyes, seeking out other victims, some even change their names by adding “.com”, getting terrible backaches in the process. It seems, misery loves company. Bromeliaditis hits you hard, but I wouldn’t have missed it for the world! I’m glad there are no shots to prevent it.



## **Your Editor Needs You Help Again**

In an attempt to get information for our monthly Newsletter - The Meristem, we are asking the membership for input on a monthly bases.

### **Personal Experiences**

The concept is very simple: from meeting to meeting we are asking members to write down on a piece of paper or on your computer any information on the happenings in your yard or patio. Such things as what is blooming; what is not growing well, how do you treat your plants, what's pupping, too much rain, too little rain, where and what are you buying with regard to plants and supplies, trips to other gardens or parks with bromeliads. If you read or learn of helpful hints that might benefit others, these would be the kind of things I want to know about. This will be more like a "Homing Pigeon" column than a "Round Robin"

### **Photographs**

I don't need a lot of details, but as they say a picture says a thousand word. When possible submit pictures either in picture form (they will be returned to you if you wish) or better still in electronic form as e-mails or on disk to DrLarry@comcast.net or delivery them to me at meetings or my address in the roster. I will ask for them at every gathering so please bring them with you. Please include a decription of what the picture is suppose to demonstrate.

### **Features Writers**

We are also looking for individuals who would like to go to "new and unknown places". These places can be parks or zoos or a friends yard. You can do this on vacation or on a day visit to see a friend or place. Bring your camera and write up your experiences and lay it on me. I will become your shadow writer and produce a printable article. If this sounds like something you would like to do please contact me and I can set you up with necessary question you should try to cover to give substance to an article.

If there is anything else you can think about to contribute to your newsletter, please discuss it with me. I'm looking forward to working with many of you.

Thanks,

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY.**

**DATE:** January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**LOCATION:** St. John the Apostle Metropolitan Community Church, Ft Myers, Fl

**ATTENDANCE:** 32 members and guests

**WORKSHOP:** Start time 1:20 PM Brian Weber -Title: Natural and man-made bi-generics

**CALL TO ORDER:** Pres. Dianne Molnar at 2:00 PM

Introduction of new members: Beverly Smith, Guest: John Cassani

**MINUTES:** Motion by Ed Wenlaff to accept minutes as printed, Bob Lura seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FCBS REP:** Vicki Chirnside- Evil Weevil report.

**LCFMGC DELEGATE:** Betty Ann Prevatt- Dues are due, bldg. update, LCFMGC Show at Galloway Ford, South Fort Myers, see BAP for info.

**MERISTEM:** Larry Giroux-Newsletter is now on FCBS website.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Bonsai show and sale Pine Island Feb 4-5 call Donna Schneider, Pine Island Garden club show and sale Feb 18 9am-2pm many vendors. March 10,11 & 12 SWFL Orchid Society show and sale 3 Oaks Community Center. Brian Weber announced that Aechmea bractcata 'Pacifica' seedlings were available to share with all members

**DOOR PRIZE:** conducted by Dianne Molnar-Neoregelia 'Memorium', donated by Buddy Singleton and won by Ed Wenlaff.

**SHOW & TELL:** Conducted by Brian Weber a very nice selection of plants.

**BREAK:** 25 minutes to eat and visit.

**REFRESHMENTS SET-UP:** Thank you to Mary McKenzie and Sue Gordon.

**PROGRAM:** 2005 Show and Sale Review: a nice slide presentation narrated by Larry Giroux.

**RAFFLE:** Raffle commentary by Brian Weber and Ross Griffith runners Luli Westra & Tom Foley.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 3:45PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Foley  
Secretary

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY.

**DATE:** Feb 4, 2006

**LOCATION:** Dianne Molnar's home and gardens, Cape Coral

**ATTENDANCE:** Dianne Molnar, Betty-Ann Prevatt, Vicky Chirnside, Larry Giroux, Dale Kammerlohr, Debbie Booker, Tom Foley.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 1:40 PM by Pres. Dianne Molnar.

**Policy and Procedures-** Copies of job descriptions will be distributed to new Board members and Chairs by Dianne Molnar. Motion - The Vice-President is permitted to spend up to \$50 for a gift to be presented to the President at the Christmas Party. Made by Larry Giroux and second by Vicky Chirnside. Passed.

**Larry Giroux** has agreed to stay on as chief Editor, but is asking for the entire society's input with articles and help with assemblage. Search is on for feature writers. "Idea pages" from Members was one of the ideas submitted by Betty Ann Prevatt. Monthly input with "Round Robin" information from several members at the meetings or by electronic mail was also suggested.

The following committee Chairs were determined:

**2006 November Sales Event** – Brian Weber, **Co-Chair** – David Prall. **Workshop** - Eleanor Kinzie. **Special Projects** – recommended member will be contacted prior to next meeting. **Show & Tell** – Dale Kammerlohr. **Librarian**- Sue Gordon. **Hospitality**- Mary McKenzie, Sue Gordon and Martha Wolfe. **Raffle Chairman/ Ticket Sellers**- will be the **Greeters/Membership Table volunteers** (Luli Westra, Dolly Dalton and others). **Raffle Commentator**- Larry Giroux, others will be asked to serve as alternates. **Garden Council Delegate(s)**- volunteers to be sought out at next meeting. **Setup main room and AV Setup** – Tom Foley, **Co-Chair** - Bob Lura. **Door Prize** - volunteers to be sought out at next meeting **Florida Council Rep**- Vicky Chirnside is now **FCBS Chairperson**. Debbie Booker and Tom Foley will serve as **Voting Reps** with Dale Kammerlohr as **Backup Alternate**. **Breakdown**- All members

**BREAK:** President Dianne provided a nice snack assortment and 2 Birthday cakes for Larry Giroux.

**Treasurers Report-** (Available from Betty Ann Prevatt)

CBS's annual contributions were discussed. Donations to the BSI, the BIC the CS and the WBC Scientific Seminar & Awards Fund were agreed upon and will be brought to the membership for approval. Larry Giroux will prepare a ½ page color ad on behalf of CBS for the WBC Program and submit it to Program Committee.

**November Annual Sale Report** - Betty Ann Prevatt, following the 2005 Sale and Show reserved Nov. 17th (Friday night), 18<sup>th</sup> (Saturday), 19<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) the auditorium at Terry Park. The Board agreed with the rule change proposed by Brian Weber that "persons selling are required to be in the sales area during sales hours and make arrangements with someone else to provide coverage for bathroom or food breaks.

**Membership Plant sales-** CBS will continue to promote membership sales by

keeping the amount due to CBS of sales to 10%. Sellers are required to settle up with the Treasurer before leaving for the day.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Foley

Secretary

## JANUARY PROGRAM

Hopefully all the attendees at the January meeting enjoyed the review of the 2005 CBS Show and Sale held at Terry Park in October. The presentation given by Larry Giroux, besides showing the pictures of all the head table awarded plants, reviewed all the Award of Merit awarded plants in full color with names of the plants and exhibitors. Our membership was portrayed in the slides as they contributed to this Sale and Show. Thanks go to Larry for letting us reminisce about all our achievements during our show and sale. We all benefit from an occasion boost of our egos.

## JANUARY WORKSHOP

Brian Weber with plants from his own collection and plants brought in by other members, demonstrated the results of both natural and man-made inter-generic hybridization. In most cases, the audience was shown the parents of these bigeneric crosses and was able to see at first hand, which characteristics were dominant in the new hybrid. Although some of the crosses were attractive, the general consensus, at least with the samples, which were brought into the workshop, was that the resultant crosses, although unique, have little to offer over the parents. The moral of this story is - sometimes "it doesn't pay to fool around with Mother Nature". Many thanks are given to Brian for this information and discussion and to the other members who brought plants.

**You must renew your membership by the next meeting to be included in the 2006 Roster**

# EVENTS CALENDER

## June 6th - 11th, 2006

**Bromeliads on the Border, 17th World Bromeliad Conference.  
Town and Country Resort & Convention Center 500  
Hotel Circle North, San Diego, California 92108, <http://www.towncountry.com>. You can register on the website  
[www.BSI.org](http://www.BSI.org)**

## April 22-23, 2006

**Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Show and Sale  
Fairchild Gardens, Miami**

## September 30, 2006

**Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Bromeliad  
Extravaganza  
Presented by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida  
Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center, Miami**

## **Got something of interest?**

**If any of you have special events other members  
would be interested in, please submit them to your  
editor. Please provide by the 1st of the month,  
prior to publication.**

**To All Our Members: Enjoy your hobby more**

**Join the Bromeliad Society International**

***for less than \$0.60 per week***

**Join the Cryptanthus Society**

***for less than \$0.40 per week***

**and as a first time subscriber the CBS will pay for  
1/2 of the first year. So for \$0.50 per week you can get 2 great colorful**

**Journals and be part of the bigger picture.**

**See Betty Ann Prevatt for more information.**

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY  
3836 HIDDEN ACRES CIRCLE  
NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33903

*Please pay*  
*your dues.*

