



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S MERISTEM

Mar-Apr 2019

What is the evil weevil?



Photo by B. Larson/UF

Metamasius mosieri is native to Florida and is *not* devastating bromeliad populations as is the evil weevil. The native weevil is red and black with 2 black spots. It is about 2/3 the size of the evil weevil.



Metamasius callizona is the evil weevil. It is black with a single band (yellow/orange/red).



Photo by J.H. Frank/UF

Each March in lieu of a regular meeting the CBS hosts our annual Fund raising Auction. The money made benefits our Society and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies uses our donations to continue research for the eradication of the Mexican Weevil, also known as the “Evil Weevil”. For over 2 decades the CBS has been a major contributor to the fight against this weevil, which is decimating native bromeliads in habitat in our State and the bromeliads in our collections.

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Past- PRESIDENT— Carol Sweat 239-980-8047 casweat@comcast.net

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

Co-SECRETARY— Daniel Hale 239-410-7990 (DanKeithHale30@gmail.com)

Co-SECRETARY—Pete Diamond 704-213-7601 (Lygodium63@hotmail.com)

TREASURER—Betty Ann Prevatt 334-0242 (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

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WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON—vacant

SPECIAL PROJECTS— Carly Sushil (239) 454-5130 carly.sushil@gmail.com

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CBS FCBS Rep.—Pete Diamond 704-213-7601 (Lygodium63@hotmail.com)

OTHER COMMITTEES

AUDIO/VISUAL SETUP—Bob Lura, Terri Lazar, Vicky Chirside, Larry Giroux

DOOR PRIZE—Bill Sheffield 239) 333-9890 (yardbird@netscape.com) & membership

HOSPITALITY—Mary McKenzie 239-246 4754

SPECIAL HOSPITALITY—Betsy Burdette 694-4738 (betsy@burdetteinc.com)

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;

Sharalee Dias (239) 220-9189 (mrsthimble@aol.com)

LIBRARIAN—Carol Sweat 239-561-0154

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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

**March Auction— Sunday, Mar 17th
April Party-- Sunday, Apr 14th**

**Our March Auction is at 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 the 2nd Street north of the Edison Gardens

**Doors open at 12:00PM for Auction Setup
Please bring food, Auction Items and your checkbook**

**Membership Sales are not permitted
at the March Auction**

**Membership Sales are not permitted at
the Birthday Party**

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

Annual March Auction

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We split the money made after expenses with the CBS and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, who uses it to help to continue research and the eradication of the Mexican Weevil, also known as the “Evil Weevil”. For over 2 decades the CBS has been a major contributor to the fight against this weevil, which is decimating native bromeliads in habitat in our State and the bromeliads in our collections.

Each year we ask the membership to donate nice plants and plant related items to be auctioned. These can include bromeliads, orchids, other tropical plants, tools, art work and collectibles. The items are split between a “silence auction” and a regular auction. This makes it possible for our members to bring in desirable, less expensive items as well as the possibly higher ticket items. All donations are appreciated. There are always bargains to be had and we always have fun.

We do the auction in lieu of our March meeting. We still have refreshments, but no sales. The Society business is kept to a minimum. The following is the schedule we will try to keep to leave at a decent time.

12Noon

The location will be the same as last year and the procedure will be similar. We should arrive at the LCFMGC building to begin setup of tables and chairs about 12noon. Starting at 12PM we need bodies to help in a variety of areas- Setup, record keepers, runners, people to fill out donation tags, holding area keepers and people to show the items and pass out the winners’ successful winning stubs.

12:30-1:45PM

We will be accepting donations such as bromeliads, other tropical plants, bromeliad and gardening related items, books and art. Bromeliads should be clean and healthy and appropriately labeled. If you are unsure about the name ask other members for an ID. Certain items will be selected from donations for the SILENT AUCTION. All items will be numbered and labeled and will be displayed until the Auction begins. Please register for your bidding number at this time. You can get your “bidding plate” at the recording table.

You can not bid in either Auction without a number.

1:15 PM- 2:15 PM

Refreshment Break

This is the time for review of auction items and submission of bids for Silent Auction items, which will be set up on side tables. Each item will have a bidding sheet for you to write your bidding number and an offer. Bidders can continuously up the bid as they wish. Bidding will continue until the Silent Auction items are randomly selected and sold to the bidder who has bid the highest. Please bear with us, we will still be receiving donations and labeling them until about 1:45PM, so things may look like a mad house!

2:15 PM

We take our seats and the Auction will begin following a brief business meeting and/or announcements from our President. During the Auction, Silent Auction items will be randomly removed and the winner will be announced. Until an item is taken, you may continue to raise your written offer. The auctioneer will with the assistance of those who brought the item or other commentators, describe the item and auction off the items to the highest bidder during the regular Auction. After an item has been won it will be returned to a holding area. You will be given a claim stub with the price you bid and the item's number, immediately after you have won an item.

Conclusion of Auctions

At the completion of the auction you take your claim stubs to the cashiers and pay for your items with cash or check. After you have paid for your items, the claim stubs will need to be shown to the workers in the holding area...so hold on to them. Your items will be handed over to you. We ask that you help us avoid any confusion. We want everybody to get exactly what they have won as quickly as possible without mistakes. Please note that this year we will be using a two part ticket; one part stays with the plant and the winning bidder receives one part immediately after winning the item, which they will need to claim their winnings. This makes it possible for bidders to check out early since you will know exactly what you owe by adding up you stubs; however, we encourage members to stay until the completion of the Auction when we will have several people available to check you out.

Please come to the Auction and have some fun while supporting the CBS and the FCBS with donations and the purchase of items. As in past years, 1/2 of the proceeds after expenses will be donated to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. We have been generous donors for as long as I can remember. We are acknowledged by the FCBS as their number one Affiliate contributor to the Council's projects including the "Evil Weevil Eradication Program". We all can take much pride in this accomplishment.

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March 17th 2019

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If you haven't paid your CBS Dues, please submit them ASAP

If you joined the CBS in Oct, Nov or Dec 2018, your dues are paid up until 2020.

Hopefully in April a new Pictorial Roster and Yearbook will be distributed. If you joined during 2018 and have not had your picture taken for the Roster please see Dr. Larry Giroux at the March meeting.

**Please note due to Easter falling on the third Sunday in April we are changing the date of our Birthday Party to:
April 14th 2019**

Our 39th Birthday Party is at the residence of Debbie McPhail in Fort Myers. Our time after 12 noon until we finish the raffle, usually about 4 PM, will be spent entertaining ourselves with games, our great birthday raffle, food and the company of our friends and fellow members.

**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.

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, iced tea and a meat entree. If you prefer other cold drinks, bring your own, there will be plenty of ice. **Debbie assures me that she has sitting for over 50 people, but if you want you can still bring your own.**

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. **We are opening donations to other plant families such as orchids, ferns, fruit trees, native plants, etc.** 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.**

Yes Betsy will be planning games and our contest as usual. We'll be mentioning the type of contest in upcoming memo in the next 2 months..

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.

Planning for Our Show

Thank you to all who showed support for having our Biennial Bromeliad Show in conjunction with the Annual Sale this year. Historically we have had our Show the end of November or the beginning of December. Unfortunately due to problems with the venue, the Show and Sale is being moved to later in December. To keep our location the same as the last two years, (the Araba Shrine Temple in Fort Myers, our event will be held on Friday-Sunday, December 13th, 14th and 15th 2019.

There are a lot of planning necessary over the next 8-9 months, but we should start with two issues. We need to have a volunteer who will be the Chairperson of the Show. This person will seek out Committee Chairs, who will then be responsible for the different parts of the Show such as Judges and Judging, Head table, Awards and prizes, Setup, Judges' Luncheon, decorations, etc.

We also need a title and theme for the event. This should be catchy, and lend itself to the creating posters and other advertising paraphernalia, headtable design, possibly exhibits, theme for artistic entries and decorations. I've provided a few possibilities, but would appreciate input from the membership about other names. I believe this will be our 19th biennial Show, so we could possibly use older themes. Use your imagination!

Bromeliads: The Royalty of the Plant World

A Weekend in the Bromeliad Garden

Marvelous Bromeliads

Bromeliad Smorgasbord

Bromeliads– Superheros of the Garden

Please welcome our new Co-Secretaries- Pete Diamond and Daniel Hale. They will be submitting the meeting minutes of the CBS monthly meetings. Please review these notes to keep up to date on the goings-on at our gatherings and changes or upcoming events.

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Minutes for 20 January 2019

Call to order: 1:15 by President Cate Peterson

Workshop: Brian Weber from Tropiflora continued an annual tradition for the New Year with a workshop devoted to identifying unknown, unlabeled, and mystery bromeliads that members brought to the meeting.

General meeting:

Donations – The following pending donations for 2019 were presented for a vote:

\$300 to Bromeliad Society International

\$300 to Cryptanthus Society

\$300 to Harry Luther Scholarship Fund

\$100 to Friends of the Fakahatchee

\$100 to Six Mile Cypress Slough

A motion to proceed with the donations was approved by the CBS Board at the January Board meeting.

At the general meeting, Vicki Chirnside motioned to accept and John Taraska seconded.

Members voted in favor of proceeding with the donations.

A bromeliad garden workday is planned for Saturday 16 February 2019 at 10 a.m. at the Garden Council building.

As it was announced that a location was needed for the April CBS founding anniversary (birthday) party, Debbie McPhail agreed to host the event. Also, because the third Sunday of April is Easter, Debbie agreed to hold the event one week earlier, on 14 April.

Tom Cowell agreed to become the Workshop chairperson for 2019.

Carli Pfalz is organizing a Fakahatchee Swamp walk on 1 March 2019.

The estimated cost is \$60 to \$65.

Attendance: approx. 45 members present

New members: Sue Fers, Marla Clawson, and Norm & Marilyn Ellison

Guest: Mary Smith

Program: Brian Weber was also the program speaker and he shared his insights into growing different *Hechtia* species in South Florida. He has achieved the best success by potting these plants in 100 percent Turface (high-fired calcined clay). He adds a bit of potting mix at the bottom of the pot to help retain the Turface and keep it from falling out of the pot's drainage holes. Because of this Spartan potting mix, adding time-release fertilizer twice a year is essential for the plants to thrive. A good ratio is one-half teaspoon for a six-inch pot. Some of these plants can get large enough that they require a pry bar to divide the clumps.

Door prizes: five *Aechmea* ‘Del Mar’, donated by Bill Sheffield

Show and tell: Dale Kammerlohr

Raffle: Larry Giroux

Meeting notes submitted by Pete Diamond, CBS secretary.

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Minutes for 17 February 2019

Call to order: 1:15 by President Cate Peterson

Workshop: Dale Kammerlohr and Bruce McAlpin started a discussion of month-by-month bromeliad culture and related gardening activities. This interactive workshop with members touched on the topics of winter projects, fertilization, Mexican bromeliad weevils and mosquitoes, dividing bromeliads, among others. This to-be-continued workshop will eventually be available to members in printed/digital form for a full calendar year.

Attendance: more than 60 members present

New member: Jim Conyers

Guests: Greg & Cynthia Jeffcott, Linda & Jerry Bastedo, Keith Banta, Emma and Avery Sushil, Stan Grigiski, Hal McFarland, Michael Oster, Julie Currie, Steve Kurowski

General meeting:

A brief mention of the December bromeliad show and sale was made, including an early request for members to show plants and help with logistics relating to the show and sale. A “large” number of members agreed, by show of hand, to participate in both.

There was no additional information available regarding the Garden Council request for bromeliad landscaping at the historic rail station.

Bill Sheffield briefed members on the upcoming bromeliad auction at next month’s meeting (17 March 2019). The request for plants includes bromeliads, other types of plants such as orchids, bromeliad books and other garden references, gardening tools, etc. Donated items should be clean and pest-free. Half of the auction proceeds are earmarked as a donation from CBS to the Evil Weevil project. CBS is the largest donator to that organization.

Larry Giroux is ill and CBS members signed a “get well” card for a speedy recovery.

Program: Ross Griffith shared with the members his love of books and the written word. He stressed the importance of words for conveying many things and added that plant taxonomists make every word count in terms of describing and naming plants. Gardening is innate, he points out, adding that it is the number one hobby in the United States. Ross mentioned that the CBS library collection included many important authors in the bromeliad world, including Don Beadle, LB Smith, Elton Leme, and others. The CBS library books may be checked out for one month at a time.

Door prizes: six *Orthophytum* ‘Copper Penny’, donated by Bill Sheffield

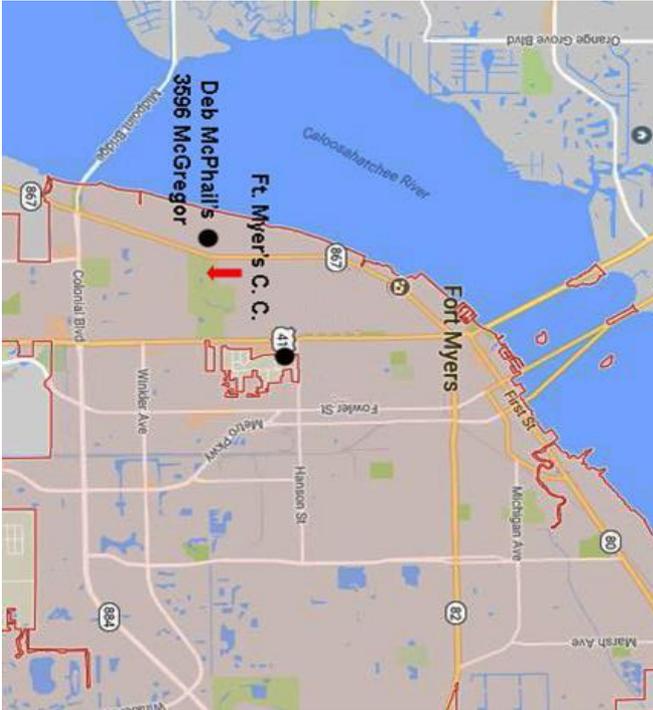
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Raffle: Pete Diamond

Meeting notes submitted by Pete Diamond, CBS secretary.



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This is your Mar– Apr 2019 CBS Newsletter
Auction March 17th...Party April 14th!