



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S

MERISTEM *May-June 2018*



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**March Auction— Sunday, May 20th
April Party-- Sunday, June 17th**

**Our new meeting place is 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 12:30PM for Meeting Setup
The Workshop begins at 1:15PM
Please bring food, Raffle and Show and Tell Plants**

**Membership Sales are not permitted
at the May Meeting**

**Membership Sales are not permitted
at the June Meeting**

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

Front Cover; *Tillandsia usenoides* is probably the most ubiquitous *Tillandsia* and probably has the widest natural habitat of the bromeliads. It has been a useful product for



centuries having been collected for many uses. The picture below was taken in Guatemala where it is used in the cottage industries. The front cover is an oak tree in my yard covered with *Tillandsia usenoides*, which has taken many hits from lightening to freezes to several hurricanes.

Nevertheless, the “Spanish Moss” or “Goat’s Beard”, as it is commonly called, seems to be resilient and keeps coming

back providing a beautiful setting.

Back Cover: Each year I am treated by a blast of fragrance as thousands of miniature, chartreuse green flowers bloom (see back cover). Perfume from the flower was another one of the profitable products of this common plant.

May Program “Bromeliads in Nature” By Kyle Wade

Kyle Wade, a member of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and owner/ operator of Environmental Creations in Fort Myers, will be talking to us about “Bromeliads in Nature”. I’m not sure if this presentation will be restricted to Florida Bromeliads or if it will encompass other habitats.

Kyle, who has a BA in Environmental Sciences and is a certified FNGLA (Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association) Horticulturist, specializes in creating gardens, landscaping and maintenance and unique art (sculpture/ arbor). His projects emphasizes bromeliads. Kyle may be selling plants; I will let you know with the electronic mailing.

June Program

**“What Bromeliad Evolution Will
Tell You About
Bromeliad Cultivation”**

By Theresa Bert

Dr. Terrie Bert is a longstanding member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society (SBS) and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and has held multiple offices in the SBS. She also served the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) as a representative and officer for eight years and has authored articles for the FCBS Newsletter. For the Bromeliad Society International, she has been a Florida Director, chaired several international committees, judged several shows, and contributed articles to the BSI Journal. Currently she is Curator of the Wally Berg Award of Excellence and a Master Judge. Terrie has given over 150 presentations on bromeliads to numerous U.S. and international bromeliad societies and other groups and to participants at international bromeliad conferences. She cultivates more than 2,500 different bromeliads in about 35 genera. She’s won multiple top awards in local bromeliad shows and BSI world conferences. Terrie has a Ph.D. in marine biology and recently retired from her positions as a research scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

“Bromeliad Ecology, Evolution, & Cultivation—Making the Best of a Taxonomic Quagmire” (Developed for 2017 Australasian Bromeliad Conference)

Bromeliads have great diversity in form, physiology, and the habitats they occupy. Taxonomy studies based on genetic differences between species have shown the locations and habitats where bromeliad species existing today originated, how and where they spread in the Americas, and how they developed such diversity. Understanding something about bromeliad ecology and evolution can help you find the best conditions for cultivating the bromeliads you grow.

Our 38th Birthday Party

Many thanks to Terri and Jeff Lazar for their hospitality and hosting our Birthday Party. It turned out to be a perfect day. Below are a few photos of the large group of members and guest in attendance.







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This is your May-June 2018 CBS Newsletter