



# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S

## MERISTEM

*Nov-Dec 2019*

### Happy Holidays!

Holiday Party—Sunday December 8th  
CBS Sale and Show—December 13th, 14th and 15th



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# 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)

## STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

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## 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 239-980-8047

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# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

**November Meeting— Sunday, Nov 17th**  
**Holiday Party-- Sunday, Dec 8th**

**Our Meetings are 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 is the 2nd Street north of the Edison Gardens

**Doors open at 12:30 PM for room setup**

**Workshop about 1:15PM**

**Program approx. 2 PM**

**Please bring food, Friendship plants, Raffle &  
Show and Tell Items.**

**Membership renewal fees are \$15/20 single/dual;**

**New member dues: \$20/25, single/dual.**

**Membership Sales are permitted**  
**at the November Meeting**  
**Membership Sales are not permitted**  
**at the Holiday Party**

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

## **November Program**

# **“Understanding Plant Toxicity”**

**By Marc S. Frank**

**Just as many plants have developed traits and mechanisms to make themselves attractive to pollinators and other creatures, with which they have a symbiotic relationship, they have effectively created deterrents to things that want to harm them.**

**Marc Frank comes to us from the University of Florida/ Institute of Food and Agriculture to discuss the toxic characteristics that plants have evolved to compete in our World.**

**Marc is a lifelong plant enthusiast who completed Florida Master Gardener training in Alachua County in 2002 and earned a M.S. in Horticultural Science from the University of Florida in 2005. From 2000 to 2008 he worked part-time as the Assistant Collection Manager and Extension Botanist at the University of Florida Herbarium. Marc managed the nursery at the Singapore Botanic Gardens from 2008 to 2011, and was a Botanist at the Division of Plant Industry (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) from 2011 to 2016. In July 2016, he rejoined the staff of the UF Herbarium to manage the UF/IFAS Plant Identification and Information Service. Marc has a particular interest in horticultural taxonomy—the classification and identification of cultivated plants.**

**Marc assures us that as far as plants go, bromeliads are of low toxicity. So no new revelations there...but the stories about other plant groups are very interesting.**

## **November Workshop**

**In preparation for the December Show and Sale we will continue our discussion. Entry forms, entry cards and schedules will be available. Instructions will also be reviewed. We still need volunteers for various jobs.**



# **HOLIDAY PARTY**

**Sunday, December 8th**

**Our Holiday Party is at the home of Dale Kammerlohr in Fort Myers. The only Society business will be to install our officers for the year 2020. Otherwise our time after 12 noon until we finish the raffle, usually about 4 PM, will be spent entertaining ourselves with games, our great holiday raffle, food and the company of our friends and fellow members.**

**Dale Kammerlohr  
3460 River Run Lane Buckingham Fl 33905  
DZDAZE@embarqmail.com  
863-558-0647**

**Some of you may have attended the tours in Buckingham earlier this month, so know where Dale's home is. Attached is a map for those who couldn't attend.**

**Members are asked to bring a favorite holiday 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. Beth assures me that she has accommodated large parties in the past, but if you want you can still bring your own table or chairs.**

**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 we are planning games and our Holiday contest as usual. Well be mentioning the type of Holiday contest at the November meeting.

New members or anyone that needs more information, call Betsy Burdette at (239) 694-4738. Bring your significant other, friends and relatives and expose them to our hobby, while enjoying the hospitality of our society.



**Take Orange River Blvd to Williamson Road. Head north to Oak Run Lane. Take a left. Go to the end and turn right on to River Run Lane. Dale's house is at the end of the road.**

## SOME SUGGESTIONS TO EXHIBITORS

Excerpt from *The 2012 Handbook for Judges, Affiliates and Exhibitors* published by the Bromeliad Society International.

Before the judges ever view the plant(s) exhibited in the show, every plant there has been judged by the plant's first and most critical judge, THE EXHIBITOR, who selected it and deemed it worthy of competition. This section is written for you, the exhibitor, without whom there would be no need for judges and shows, to help you wisely evaluate what plants constitute your best entries, and to show you how you can increase their chances of winning.

Judges begin their evaluation of a plant by assessing condition. Condition is considered under Cultural perfection and simply means that the actual physical state or appearance of the plant at the time of judging is evaluated. Under condition, judges penalize artificial plant shine, mechanical injury, bruising, immaturity, age, weather damage, insect damage, soil and uncleanliness of foliage, bracts, or pot, torn or brown-tipped edges, dried or old florets, cracked, dirty, salt-stained or algae stained pots, pine needles, oak or other leaves protruding from cups, over grooming, such as trimming of leaves with no finesse, and lack of trimming of brown tips on leaves when, and if, needed.

The expert exhibitor can do much to improve and refine the appearance of his plant in advance. Start at least two weeks before the show and evaluate the possible entries. Look at the plants critically to find one that has symmetry, good sheen to its foliage (if applicable), clear, rich color and markings, and is of a size and appearance that conforms to the description of that particular species or hybrid. Is it centered in the pot? Does a pleasing proportion exist between the size of the plant and the size of the pot? If not repot it into something suitable, or set the pot into a larger one and cover the rim of the old pot with mix so it cannot be seen. Is the pot clean and intact? Is there damaged foliage? If so, can it be trimmed carefully so that the conformation of the plant doesn't suffer? For example, if it's a plant with white margins and you have to trim so many leaves to such a degree that very little white margin remains, conformation obviously suffers and you'd do better to take another plant to the show. If leaf damage is relatively minor take a small scissors and trim the leaf so that its new shape resembles the leaves of that variety. Never cut bluntly across or to an extreme, unnatural form. Try to be a good barber and make your trimming as inconspicuous as possible. Do the trimming the day you enter the plant so that the trimmed

portion doesn't appear brown for judging. Be sure to wipe off the leaves, especially the dark, shiny, thin leaved varieties. Hose them well to be sure they are soil and dust free. Be sure that all spray residue is removed. Check to see if there is any "fauna" aboard. This includes scale, mealy bugs, fungus, caterpillars, grasshoppers, snails, slugs, and even the "friendlies" - the frogs and lizards. If your plants live out under the trees, pick out all the needles or leaves from between the bromeliad leaves and remove those protruding from the cup. A long stainless steel tweezers or "pick up" is invaluable here. They are available from surgical supply houses. As the inflorescence opens and ages, the old florets and bracts that are now brown and shriveled should be removed.

Many a blue ribbon is lost on the road to the show by the exhibitor who doesn't take the time to pack his plants properly to prevent mechanical injury from a sudden turn or bump on the way. Pack your bromeliads carefully and tightly to prevent overturning. Don't bend or crease the leaves. Plant sleeves of paper or plastic are a good investment, and can be purchased from a nursery. Place like plants together spiny leaved with spiny leaved; smooth leaved with smooth leaved.

Sometimes a problem arrives that perplexes the owner. Suppose you have a plant beautiful in every respect, but on one of the inner, center leaves there is a big hole the size of a quarter. To remove it or to trim the leaf back to almost nothing would ruin the symmetry of the plant. To leave it...well...there's that hole looking at you. What to do? Usually if plant form and symmetry will be impaired, it's better to leave the hole. The most points you could lose would be three, and by taking it off you'd probably lose more. Another problem is deciding what bottom leaves should be trimmed and which should be removed in their entirety. Use your hand or a piece of paper and visually block out the leaf in question before removing it, for once gone it can never be replaced. A few trimmed and artfully reshaped leaves may cost you a point or so; a major gap that exerts a negative influence on symmetry will usually result in a 3-4 point loss. Therefore, carefully evaluate each leaf before removing it. Once the decision to remove the leaf is made, be sure to remove it completely and not leave a residual stub. If several leaves at the base of the plant are removed and the caudex is exposed, repot the plant lower in the pot, or in a new pot to hide the "light" or "white" area. Remember, the number of points deducted per flaw is based on the total number of leaves per entry.

Another thing that is often of concern is size. Of course, if ALL THINGS are equal, the plant that is bigger will win. Exceptions to this are plants



that have rank growth of long, floppy leaves usually resulting from insufficient light, and plants that are so grossly, coarsely oversized from over fertilization that they are not typical of the variety. Remember, conformance to the standard for that variety or cultivar, good cultural perfection, symmetry, brilliant, clear color and well defined markings are more important than just size. If you must choose, take the perfect plant that is perhaps a little smaller than a large, poorly developed one.

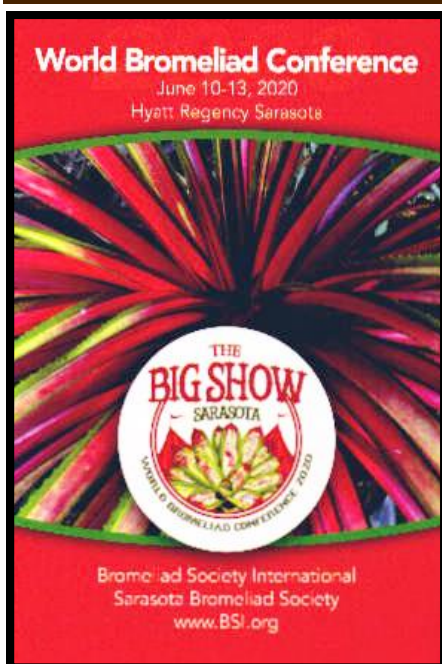
Make out your entry tags (in pencil or by typing) several days before the show. Be sure that you fill out both the top and the bottom of the tag -legibly. Give yourself enough time to get to the show so that you can drive slowly and not jar the plants. Enlist someone's help to open doors and help you get your plants into the show area safely. Once your plants are entered and classified, the Placement Committee will place your plants on the table or hang them. Be sure that all tank types have water in their cups, particularly the blooming Neoregelias. They always score higher when the cup is filled. If you have an Artistic Arrangement (and in our Show- a Decorative Container), you are allowed to place it in its designated area yourself. Be sure to place the entry tag at exactly the angle from which you want the arrangement judged. Remember that the judge is required to stand three feet back from the arrangement to judge it, so that some mechanics within the design will never be seen.

One final word on COMPETITION. Everyone who enters a plant on a show table hopes to win, and in every class some of these hopes will be unfulfilled. When you win, be gracious and accept the sincere applause of your peers. When you lose, be a good sport. Don't attack the judges' eyesight, prejudices, parentage, and fairness. Be gracious, congratulate the winners, and make up your mind to beat one and all next time. If you feel you have a legitimate, unexplained error, look for the Judges Chairman and if your complaint is justified, the mistake will be rectified. Sometimes a decision will be very close and you may receive a red ribbon when you truly feel your plant deserves a blue. Before you explode, carefully assess all your entries throughout the show. Are there a few blue ribbons which in your heart you felt were probably deserving of only reds, and which would only earn blues if you were lucky? Most judges sincerely want to award as many blue ribbons as possible. They want to be considered fair and knowledgeable, and invited back next year. So be a good competitor and don't harden your arteries, or tear up your stomach being stressful over an award. This is your HOBBY and there's ALWAYS be a next Show.

Please review carefully your previous issue of the Newsletter for the schedule of events of the setup and organization of the Sale and Show. Also if you are selling be familiar with the rules, have your labels and check with Brian Weber about table assignments and volunteering for jobs.

Advertising is important so please put out the flyers, send them to friends and email acquaintances , put up the signs (last issue had all the rules for where and when.

Let's make this another great successful Sale and Show.



At the January meeting Dues are due.

This year many members waited several months to pay their dues.

A renewal form will be included in the January e-mailing of the Newsletter.

Please be prepared to pay at the meeting or mail dues to Betty Ann.

Treat yourself to a Holiday Gift in June. Register for the

**WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE**  
to be held in Sarasota, Florida.

<https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>

For more information and updates.



## Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Minutes for 18 August 2019

**Call to order:** 1:20 by President Cate Peterson

**Workshop:** Betty Ann Prevatt with Tom Cowell assisting- talk discussing how different amounts of light affects the growth and color of bromeliads. Two plants of the same species/hybrid were used (grown in different light levels) demonstrating how this happens.

**Attendance:** 48

**New member:** none

**Guests:** Joe Smith, Fred Appleton, Robert Tonkin, Keith Steinberg, Nancy Moore, Ellen Herr and David Green.

**General meeting:**

Larry Giroux talked us through the December Show and Sale schedule explaining, setup, show plants, need for volunteers, etc. He started a list for signups for the various committees explaining the duties of each.

**Program:** Chip Jones based his talk around hybrid neoregelias and how different growth conditions affect them. He discussed in depth how to grow and prepare plants for showing, how fertilizer affects the color in plants and also how it can be used to increase your yield of pups.

**Door prizes:** donated by Bill Sheffield and won by Keith Steinberg.

**Show and tell:** Dale Kammerlohr

**Raffle:** Dr Larry Giroux

*Meeting notes submitted by Daniel Hale, CBS co-secretary*

***The Nominees for CBS Officers for 2020 are:***

***Vicky Chirnside—President***

***Dale Kammerlohr— Vice-President***

***Pete Diamond—-Co-Secretary***

***Betty Ann Prevatt—- Treasurer***

***The Election of Officers will take place at the November Meeting.***

***Officers are usually sworn in at the Holiday Party.***



Dr. Larry Giroux, Editor  
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(239) 850-4048 DrLarry@comcast.net



# Bromeliad Show and Sale

*Judged Show, Thousands of BROMELIADS for sale!*

## ARABA SHRINE TEMPLE

2010 Hanson Street Fort Myers

(Just South and Across Cleveland Ave from Lee Hospital)

**Saturday Dec. 14th 2019 9AM-4PM**

**Sunday Dec. 15th 2019 10AM-3PM**

This is your Nov-Dec 2019 CBS Newsletter

2019 Roster/ Yearbook available to paid up members.

THE DECEMBER MEETING IS DEC 8th 2019