



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S MERISTEM

Mar-Apr 2022



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 CHAIRS—Brian Weber 941-256-4405 (brianweber1b@hotmail.com)

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON—Tom Cowell 732-735-0121 njtom732@aol.com

WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON—Vacant

SPECIAL TRIPS— Kyle Wade 570-269-5103 kwade46.kw@gmail.com

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 & Membership

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

LIBRARIAN—Norma Jean Ridzyowski 941-421-4730 normajeannridzyowski@gmail.com

HISTORIAN—Tom Cowell 732-735-0121 njtom732@aol.com

MARCH AUCTION CHAIR—Larry Giroux 239-850-4048 DrLarry7@gmail.com

The opinions expressed in the Meristem are those of the authors. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor or the official policy of CBS. Permission to reprint is granted with acknowledgement. Original art work remains the property of the artist and special permission may be needed for reproduction. Printed by Stinger Digital Print & Graphics, Cape Coral, FL.



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

We have returned to the Garden Council Building on Virginia Ave.
March 2022 Auction: Sunday, Mar 20th 2022
April Birthday Party: Sunday, Apr 24th 2022

**Our Meetings have returned to the Ft. Myers—
Lee County Garden Council Building
2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers.**

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 Gardens

**Our March Meeting is our
ANNUAL AUCTION**

**Our April Meeting has been rescheduled
for April 24th and will be our
ANNUAL BIRTHDAY PARTY**

**Detailed information is inside for both
events!**

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.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

Annual March Auction

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 for various programs including continuing 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.

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, although because of Covid we have not been able to host the Auction during the pandemic. 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 in previous years (the Garden Council Gardens), weather permitting and the procedure will be similar. We should arrive at the LCFMGC building to begin setup of tables and chairs outside 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.

Membership Dues: We resumed collecting membership dues in January, 2022. Attached to the e-mail message in which you received your Jan newsletter, was a membership form. Forms will be at upcoming meetings. Please complete for 2022 and confirm your email and mailing addresses and phone contact #. Return this to Betty Ann at the meeting. The rates are still the same. \$15/20 for single/ dual renewing members; \$20/25 for single/dual new members. Any new members that joined in Oct, Nov or Dec 2021 are paid up for 2022. New members, be sure to give Betty Ann the name(s) you want on your name tags; for other members, Betty Ann can probably reorder a lost name tag for a nominal fee.

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 of a plant, ask other members for an ID. Certain items will be selected from donations for the SILENT AUCTION. The selection of Silent and Live auction items is at the discretion of the organizers, but if you wish an item specifically for the live auction, clip a note to the item to let us know. 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- 2:00 PM

Refreshment Break

This is the time for review of auction items and submission of initial 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. Even during the live auction, feel free to check your bid and increase it. 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! *At the present time we ask you to bring your own beverages and provide extra individually wrapped commercially prepared food items to share.*

2:00 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. Depending on the size of the audience and the bulk of the item, items may be delivered directly and immediately to the winning bidder.

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 can be shown to the workers in the holding area to claim your winnings...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 your 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 at least the 30 years I have been a member. 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.

Front Cover photo: Pitcairnia is a terrestrial bromeliad also referred to as "Grass" bromeliads. They can be adapted to many growing conditions from shade to full sun and pot culture to in the ground. The majority of the species have upright multi-branched inflorescences with relative long red and orange flowers. They are extremely easy to care for, but should not be allowed to dry out. They like their food and in the ground will spread rapidly. In the pot their roots quickly become pot bound and should be divided and given more pot space regularly. In Hawaii, I've seen plots hundreds of square feet in size of one species growing on a hilltop in full sun. Pictured here is an old hybrid made by Jim Irvin over 20 years ago called *Pitcairnia* 'Pinot Noir', a cross of two species *P. rubronigriflora* and *P. xanthocalyx*. Photo by Dr. Larry Giroux

Back Cover photos: For decades since *Metamasius callizona* was imported into Florida in a shipment of plants from Central America, this pest has been destroying Florida's native bromeliads, especially *Tillandsia utriculata*. This was particularly troubling since this tillandsia reproduces only from seed, so if the plant is killed before it flowers, no additional plants are produced. The weevil has become less particular and has infested many other *Genera* of bromeliads. Growers, from Orlando to the Keys will see the adult weevil on their plants, but often the tell tale sign of loose central leaves, fallen leaves on the ground or a jelly like glop on your plant, will lead you to the larva already chewing on the meristem of your dyckia, cryptanthus, tillandsia or another favorite plant. Please donate to our Auction and go to www.FCBS.org to learn how to pre-treat your plants, at least in your shade house, against weevil infestation. Because of injury to the environment and helpful insects, I recommend only treating your closed growing areas with insecticides.

**Please note due to Easter falling on the third Sunday in April we are changing the date of our Birthday Party to:
April 24th 2022**

The 42nd Anniversary of the founding of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society by a small dedicated group of people headed by Gene McKenzie will be celebrated at the home of Julie Stein, our current CBS President on April 24th, the FOURTH SUNDAY in April. Her home is in Bokeelia, Florida. 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.

Julie Stein

7594 Grande Pine Road Bokeelia, Pine Island 33922

Julie's home is in Bokeelia, which is in the North portion of Pine Island.

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, punch and a meat entree. If you prefer other cold drinks, bring your own, there will be plenty of ice. **Please bring small tables and 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 or infest Julie's yard.**

We will probably have games as usual. We'll be mentioning the type of contest in upcoming memos if you need to prepare anything.

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. If there is any additional information we will pass it on as the date draws near.



Directions to Julie's house in Bokeelia...

Go west on Pine Island Road. Go through Matlacha to Stringfellow Road (Hwy 767) take a right and head north for 4.5 miles. Take Florence Dr. on the left. This is an unpaved road. Turn right onto Bokeelia Road then immediately turn left onto Raintree Drive. Turn right on to Grande Pine Road. Your destination is on the right **7594 Grande Pine Road.**

Special Trips Committee Report

By Kyle Wade

Hello, I'm Kyle Wade your new Special Trips Coordinator. This is the new name for the "Special Hospitality" Committee Chair and I will be responsible for organizing, presenting and scheduling hikes, walks and site visits to area locations for individual members or groups.

There are currently some amazing hikes being offered through the Lee County 20/20 Conservation Program and I thought since I volunteered to organize some hikes this year, this would be a good resource to start with. I will be attending a few of these myself.

For those who might be interested, I want to see what dates would work best. Here is a link to the event on Facebook—

<https://www.facebook.com/events/4517645781612005/?sfnsn=mo>

Here is that same link as a normal website—

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guided-walk-1st-tuesdays-at-crew-marsh-trail-tickets-116898936867?aff=efbeventix>

The event organizers are asking for a \$5.00 donation per person and use Eventbrite as a ticket resource website.

Anyone can go to any one of these if you have the time and desire.

If these is one in particular that a group wishes to attend let me know.

I am planning on attending the session on Tuesday, April 5th to CREW 9 am to 11:30 am. Who would like to join me? (See below)

Thanks everyone.

Your Special Trips Coordinator

Kyle W.

570-269-5103; kwade36.kw@gmail.com



CREW Marsh Trail

Tue, Apr 5, 9:00 AM

CREW Marsh Trails • Immokalee, FL

Starts at \$5.00

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society

Minutes for General Meeting
Lee County Garden Council Building
February 20, 2022

Call to order: 1:44pm by President Julie Stein

Guests: Sue Fero and Carole Kerns

General Meeting:

Julie presented the annual donations agreed upon by the Board of Directors for approval by the membership. Donations were approved. Donations include those to BSI \$300, Luther/Padilla Research Fund \$300, FOF \$100, Six Mile Cypress \$100 and the CS \$300.

Julie asked for volunteers to fill several committee positions. Kyle Wade offered to head our Special Projects committee, Diane Cornelison will be in charge of Hospitality at our regular meetings, and Norma Jean Ridzyowski volunteered to become our new Librarian. There are two remaining positions that need to be filled: 1. A Workshop Chair to line up a member (or other persons with bromeliad experience) to conduct a short workshop at our general meetings and 2. A Party Chair, who coordinates 2 parties with the hosts of our April club birthday celebration and our December holiday party.

Sue Fero and Carole Kerns, volunteers with the Garden Council, asked the membership for help organizing and managing the bromeliad section of the garden. The regular workers are unsure of how to do this. They would welcome more variety to help educate the public and are willing to make the necessary signs. Dale Kammerlohr volunteered to spearhead this endeavor.

Larry Giroux announced we will be going ahead with our March Auction event. Set up will begin at noon, including a silent auction. While bromeliads will be the focus of this sale, all types of plants and related items are welcome. The auction will start promptly at 2:00pm. All members are encouraged to donate plants and participate.

Julie offered to host our annual “Birthday” Party on the 4th Sunday on April 24th due to Easter falling on the 17th. There will be more on this at future meetings and in the newsletter.

Betty Ann announced that the Cape Coral Garden Club will host their annual plant sale “March in the Park” on March 12, from 9 – 3:00 at Jaycee Park. There will be a slew of vendors.

Diane Cornelison provided info about “Earth Day Bromeliad Sale and Bazaar” on April 23rd 2022 in Fort Myers. More info will be in your electronic Newsletter.

Larry encouraged members to attend the World Bromeliad Conference in Sarasota. For more information visit: <https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>

Tom Cowell volunteered to be nominated for our 5th Director to the Bromeliad Society International .

Show & Tell – Dale Kammerlohr presented about 15 beautiful plants brought in by members.

Door Prizes – Debbie McPhail donated 3 beautiful *Aechmea nudicaulis* plants.

Raffle – Dr. Larry Giroux, assisted by Dolly Dalton, headed up this event, giving away over 20 plants.

Meeting adjourned: 3:15

Submitted by Alison Ackerman, CBS Secretary

We still need a volunteer for WORKSHOP Chair Per the Bylaws their duties would be—

- Request members with "expertise" about the pre-selected topics to attend workshops and participate in discussions each month except, March, Auction month; April, Birthday Party month and December, Holiday Party month.**
- Call Editor with program information by the Monday preceding the first Sunday of the month**
- Encourage members to attend and bring plants, organize meeting room, announce the meeting and introduce topic at meeting.**

In addition we need a volunteer for Party Chair (previous referred to as the Special Hospitality Chair). This special committee chair is responsible for—

- Finding a member, willing to volunteer their home or finding another location to hold the April Birthday/Anniversary Party and the December Holiday Party.**
- Organizing the parties with the host as to parking, sitting, food, beverages and necessary supplies, games or contests, etc.**
- Providing the Editor with appropriate information for the Mar/Apr Newsletter, such as directions, parking information, special requests, etc. If interested contact the President, Julie Stein.**



Dr. Larry Giroux, Editor
80 Skyline Drive
North Fort Myers Fl 33903
(239) 850-4048 DrLarry@comcast.net



*Metamasius
call zone
Larvae*

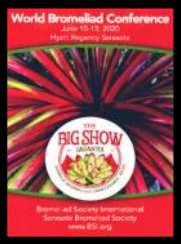
UF/L. Castner



UF/L. Castner

*Metamasius
call zone
Adult weevil*

See Page 6
for info-



**WORLD BROMELIAD
CONFERENCE**
to be held in Sarasota, Florida. [June 2022](#)

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

For more info and updates.