



# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S

## MERISTEM

*Mar-Apr 2023*



# CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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**Past— PRESIDENT— Vicky Chirnside 941 928-3111 (dampearth@me.com)**

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

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**TREASURER—Betty Ann Prevatt 239-229-7781 (bprevattpcc@aol.com)**

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**WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON—Vacant**

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**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**

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# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

**March Auction: Sunday, March 19th 2023  
April Party: Sunday, April 16th 2023**

**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

**( Membership sales are not allowed at the March Auction or April Birthday Party. )**

**For the Auction please bring your donations and refreshments. At this time we will be accepting checks and cash for payment.**

**For the Anniversary Party, at Debbie McPhail’s home, list of things you can bring are printed elsewhere in this Newsletter.**

**MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2023 ARE DUE BY THE END OF JANUARY**  
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, CBS Treasurer 2902 Second Ave. Fort Myers, FL 33916

**The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:**



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

## March and April 2023 Meetings

March is our Annual Fund raising Auction. The money raised at this event will benefit our Society and the FCBS' efforts including the eradication of the Mexican Weevil. Please see the schedule elsewhere in this issue and donate items, bid on your favorites and come early to help with setup.

April is the month for us to celebrate our founding with our annual anniversary celebrate. **THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE OF VENUE...INSTEAD OF THE STEIN'S HOME ON PINE ISLAND, DEBBIE McPHAIL HAS AGREED TO HOST THIS YEAR'S PARTY.** See details in this issue.

With the New Year we are in need of **VOLUNTEERS** to keep our Society running efficiently. Please consider filling the current vacant positions.

**PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON**--Currently Julie Stein has been filling in and has arranged for most of 2023. And although she is the acting Program Chairman, she is requesting an assistant to work with her and eventually assume the duties. So we still need a permanent Chair who's duties will entail arranging lacking programs for 9 meetings a year (excluding March, Auction month; April, Birthday Party and December, Holiday Party); to confirm date with speaker and arrange for any equipment needed; to contact Editor with program information by the Monday preceding the first Sunday of the month and to greet and assist speaker; making their introduction at the meeting.

**WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON**--- **Duties:** 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. Call Editor with program information by the Monday preceding the Sunday of the month. Encourage members to attend and bring plants, organize meeting room, announce the meeting and introduce topic at meeting.

**WORKSHOP PRESENTERS**--- We need volunteers to give 20-30 min. presentations on a variety of topics of interest to the members. It can be a slide show, Q & A or a hands-on session from topics previous compiled or of your own choice.

**PLEASE CONTACT President JULIE STEIN and discuss volunteering.**

On the front and back covers are pictures of a form of *Aechmea tillandsioides* taken on a boat trip while touring Guatemala in 2006. There are many *Aechmea* species endemic throughout Guatemala and Central America such as *Ae. nudicaulis*, *mexicana*, *fasciata* and *lueddemanniana* among dozens of others. Photos by Larry Giroux

## The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society's 2023 Annual Auction

In March instead 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.

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 1/2 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. The weevil is in our environment, our gardens and if you experienced screen damage from Hurricane Ian, it has sneaked into your collections. For the latest information and updates on how to combat this pest, go to [www.FCBS.org](http://www.FCBS.org).

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. The more the better. 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.

### 12:00 Noon

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 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 to the auctioneer who will announce the winner, 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 or may be given directly to the winner. 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 if they haven't already been given to you when you won it. 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 again 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 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.**

### EVENTS

FCBS Extravaganza 2023  
West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel  
1001 Okeechobee Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, FL  
[fcbsextravaganza.org](http://fcbsextravaganza.org)  
Register by April 30 (\$150)  
See attached flyer.

World Bromeliad Conference 2024  
West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel  
1001 Okeechobee Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, FL  
For info [www.BSI.org](http://www.BSI.org)

Bromeliad Show and Sale  
Bromeliad Society of South Florida  
Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens  
Miami, Florida  
April 29-30, 2023  
For info [belloTropicals@yahoo.com](mailto:belloTropicals@yahoo.com)

Bromeliad Show and Sale  
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society  
Edison/ Ford Winter Estates  
Fort Myers, Florida  
December 1-3, 2023  
Information to follow

**THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE OF LOCATION FROM WHAT YOU WERE TOLD AT THE LAST MEETING! INSTEAD OF AT THE STEIN'S HOME ON PINE ISLAND OUR BIRTHDAY PARTY WILL BE AT THE HOME OF DEBBIE McPHAIL.**

Our 43rd Anniversary 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. When parking please be courteous to Debbie's neighbors.

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 birthday 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 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.



**Featuring**

**FCBS & Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches**  
presents  
**Bromeliad Extravaganza**  
**July 28-29, 2023**

**Don't Delay, Register Today!**

Hotel Registration: West Palm Beach Marriott  
1001 Okeechobee Blvd. • West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
[www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)

Conference Registration: [www.fcbsextravaganza.org](http://www.fcbsextravaganza.org)

**For more information: 561-386-7812 • [tramiccio@aol.com](mailto:tramiccio@aol.com)**



## Bromeliad Expose by Larry Giroux

I had the opportunity to travel to Guatemala in early December of 2006 with PlantAdventures on a Cactus and Bromeliad discovery tour. The 10 day tour explored the central region of the country. Besides out of the way bromeliad habitats, we were able to enjoy the ancient and modern culture of this exciting area of Central America. Hope you enjoy a few of the pictures taken on this trip. (This article was originally printed in February 2007.)



**One of the many active volcanos in Guatemala. A holiday reindeer made of *Tillandsia usenoides* (Spanish Moss).**



**Various views - a dense population of bromeliads in a forest along a highway; a fully developed inflorescence and adult plants early in the blooming stage, of an unidentified tillandsia or vriesea. These pictures were taken at about 3000 ft. altitude, northwest of Guatemala City. To the left-**

**this was the first *Tillandsia ionantha* I had seen in its native habitat. In spite of growing in full sun and appearing mature, it lacked any red coloration.**



This specimen of *Pitcairnia heterophylla* was discovered along a river bank at approx. 3000 ft altitude. Its leaves are dimorphic with the inner leaves green and growing about 24 inches long; the outer leaves are no more than elongated very pointed spines. This species is found from Mexico to Peru.

Like candlesticks set in the trees for the Holiday season this area of forest was inundated by *Tillandsia guatemalensis*, which bloom from November to February. Plants are found at higher



altitudes from 3000-7800 ft . from Mexico to Guatemala. They are a popular cut flower during the Holidays for the natives and are found for sale at markets and roadside stands. Unfortunately, it rarely gives offsets and needs to be grown from seed. Closeup of the blooms and a picture of an individual spike is shown below.





The species name for this plant is “pinguin”, which is the West Indian name for bromeliad. *Bromeliad pinguin* was a valuable plant to the indigenous people. Its fibrous leaves were used for making rope and weaving; while, the large fruits can be eaten and fermented into an alcoholic beverage. Today the plant is still used as natural fencing to contain livestock who are deterred by its 3-4 foot long very spiny leaves. In March and April its center leaves become brilliant scarlet with a 12-16”



inflorescence, white “furry” bracts and white flower petals with magenta centers. The fruit, which quickly develop after blooming are grape size and turn a golden yellow. *B. pinguin* is native to the West Indies and Central America while its close cousin *B. balansae* is native to South America. Patches of both of these plants can now be found growing wild in South Florida; you may have noticed them on Pine Island in Lee

County.



We discovered two types of hechtias, the *Hechtia glomerata*, pictured here and the much larger *H. guatemalensis* seen on the next page. Both were growing together at about 3500 ft. *Hechtia glomerata* resembles *Hechtia texensis* with red spines when grown in good



light; however the dark, red maroon color infiltrates the borders and a portion of the center of the leaves with high light conditions. The plant seen here is still young with adult plants reaching 18" diameter with a 15-20" slightly branching inflorescence having clusters of small white flowers.



*Hechtia guatemalensis* has up to 30" long, green leaves and a slightly branched 6 ft. inflorescence; it is also covered with small white flowers. These plants were found growing in their typical habitat on rocks or in gravel. *Hechtia glomerata* has been collected from Texas



to Guatemala while *Hechtia guatemalensis* has a narrower native habitat of Guatemala to Nicaragua. To the left is the typical habitat in which we found hechtias and to the left is a picture of the long flower spikes of *Hechtia guatemalensis*. A special treat by our guides was a visit to an



incredible orchid nursery in the hills outside of Antigua. A variety of the orchid pictured to the left is the national orchid of Guatemala. The *Tillandsia multicaulis* (1) seen on the next page was spotted growing on the trees providing filtered light to his multiple rows of orchids. This is one of the few bromeliads, which produces multiple simultaneous bloom spikes from a single



plant. It is native from Southern Mexico to Panama. At this same nursery, in what seemed the dampest and darkest area, we discovered several other bromeliads growing quite happily. Included among these was *Tillandsia punctulata* (2, 3). This difficult to grow plant requires cooler temperatures at night, constant misting and a semi-shady location - exactly like the spot in which we found it. Other tillandsias found in the nursery's collection were sighted elsewhere on our trip. A plant probably *Tillandsia rodrigueziana* (5) was found in an old church garden.





6

A beautiful clump of *Tillandsia polystachia* (6) required a fast stop on the road for a photo. Many of the genus - *Catopsis*, which are indigenous to Guatemala were also spotted including *Catopsis nitidis* (4) , *Catopsis nutans* (7) and *Catopsis subulate* (8). I was lucky enough to sight an attractive clump of *Tillandsia pruinosa* (9).



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## Minutes of the CBS General Meeting LC/FM Garden Council Building January 15, 2023

**Call to order:** 1:20 by President Julie Stein

**Guest:** Wayne Arnold, Sharon Hill, Lacinda Ritchie

In Attendance: 22

### **General Meeting:**

**Swearing in of Officers:** The following CBS officers for 2023 were sworn in by Larry Giroux: Julie Stein, President; Dale Kammerlohr, Vice-President; Alison Ackerman, Secretary; Betty Ann Prevatt, Treasurer.

**Announcements:** Betty Ann Prevatt reported that the CBS took in about \$2500 from our December sale. Total sales were about \$29,000. Julie Stein proposed that the CBS purchase our own projector; Larry has been using his personal one for our presentations, but it is no longer working properly damage following from Hurricane Ian. A motion in favor of this idea was put forth and passed unanimously. Julie Stein reported that we still have 4 vacant Committee Chair positions: Librarian, Special Trips, Workshops, and Programs. Norma Jean Ridzyowski said that she will be our Librarian and would appreciate some guidance as to her responsibilities. Larry asked for volunteers to help set up for our **March Auction**. We usually have between 50 & 100 plants that need to be tagged. He also invited members to contribute plants and any items relating to plants. Half the funds we raise will be given to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, for weevil research or other endeavors. Julie offered to host our annual April Birthday Party once again at her house on Pine Island in April; further information will follow in the Meristem, the CBS Newsletter. Vicki Chirnside brought several vinyl blind slats that members can take to use for plant labels. To avoid a delay in the distribution of our annual contributions to the BSI, Selby Research, CS, Fakahatchee, etc., a vote of membership was recommended to continue our routine donations. The motion "to send the same amount of donations to the recipients noted in the 2022 Annual CBS Board of Directors minutes" was made by Larry Giroux, and seconded by Alison Ackerman. The motion was passed. The specific amounts and recipients will be published at a later date.

**Program:** CBS members Larry Giroux, Betty Ann Prevatt, and Dale Kammerlohr fielded questions from the audience, which served as an informative Q & A session for our program. They shared many bits of knowledge such as how to use Florel spray to encourage blooms, how to sprinkle cinnamon on wounds to help them heal, how to use hairpins to hold down wobbly Cryptanthus plants plus add charcoal and a little fertilizer to encourage root growth, and how stabbing a Neo will force MORE pups than normal.

**Door Prizes:** Debbie McPhail donated an *Aechmea* 'David Barry', and Julie brought 6 plants given to her by Rich Sacher from the New Orleans Botanical Gardens. He wanted to help our members replenish their gardens following Hurricane Ian.

**Show & Tell:** Dale presented several plants to show, including an unusual speckled *Quesnelia marmorata*.

**Raffle:** Larry Giroux, Julie Stein and Dolly Dalton awarded about 10 donated plants to the lucky winners.

Meeting adjourned: 3:15 Respectfully submitted by Alison Ackerman



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**This is your Mar-Apr 2023 CBS Newsletter**