



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S MERISTEM *May-June*



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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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—Temporary for April Party -Pete Diamond 704-213-7601

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

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THE CALOOSA HATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

May Meeting— Cancelled
June Meeting— Cancelled

**Our Meetings are normally 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.

At this time
NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR
MAY or JUNE 2020

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

Front and Rear Cover Pictures

By Larry Giroux

Front Cover Picture

Although Jim Irvin is internationally known for his more than 75 unique registered *Cryptanthus* hybrids, this view of his early “nursery” on the front cover showed his varied interest in many kinds of plants, which he also used to hybridize.

Back Cover Photo (By Larry Giroux)

A small sampling of the *Cryptanthus* Hybrids for which Jim Irvin was renowned.

Cancelled May and June Meetings

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic we have had to cancel until further notice our March 2020 Auction and the April CBS Birthday Celebration. Also our May and June meetings will not occur.

The Garden Council meeting facility remains closed to all functions until September. Regardless of this prohibition, even if we could get into the building to have a meeting, there is no way of following the strongly recommended distancing guidelines for our Society meetings in the available room. We are nearly maxing out the occupancy of the room already at our regular meetings. Reducing to only 25% occupancy would be difficult.

Until we can guarantee the safety of our members, let’s try to stay in communication with each other and continue to enjoy our hobby as best as we can without our group gatherings.

Some of you are using Facebook and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Facebook page to show us your plants and gardens. For those of you already on Facebook, go to our page and request to become members. We would all love to see your pictures of your plants and hear about your activities.

The Plant Wizard of Cape Coral

By Dr. Larry Giroux

Once upon a time, many years ago in the sleepy city of Cape Coral there was a young man obsessed with bugs. He went to school to study bugs, he collected bugs every opportunity he had and he even opened a business to use his skill to help people deal with the bugs of Southwest Florida. However, Entomology wasn't his only talent; he could create colorful and unique magic with plants.

This wizard is Jim Irvin. In 1980, Gene McKenzie convinced a growing number of bromeliad growers of Lee, Charlotte, Collier and surrounding Counties to establish the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. The young entrepreneur, Jim Irvin, was bitten by the "Bromeliad Bug", joined the new Society as a Charter member and initiated a 4 decade affair with bromeliads, orchids and many other exotic plants. He converted his home's lanai into his own special garden paradise. Where many people would have had a swimming pool in their screened patio, Jim had wooden platforms, benches and hanging rods dominating his outside living space.

Instead of a wand, Jim waved a brush and tweezers between his plants and created, to my count, over 135 registered bromeliad hybrids with the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry. Each of these was selected from a Grex of many others, which never made it to the public's eyes. Some of these are still in circulation using their parentage ID. Although Jim would name many of his hybrids with the names of friends and relatives, he had a talent of selecting names that described quite appropriately and usually, comically the plants.

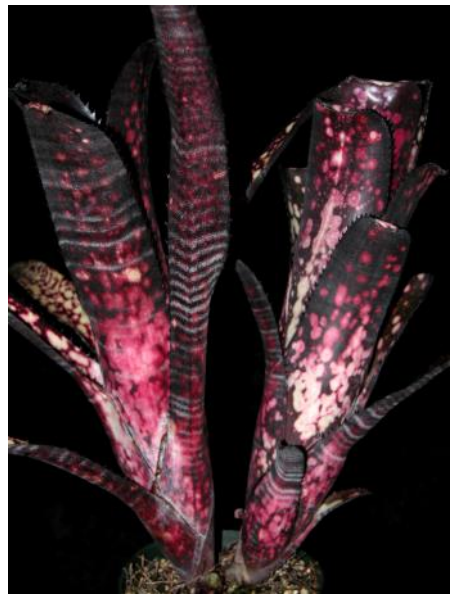
Due his many other obligations, his association with the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, ended in 2009, but not until Jim had provided us with so much of his knowledge, countless award plants at our shows, participation in our

sales and programs and of course his beautiful magical creations.

Although his earlier Cape Coral Patio Garden is gone, he continues to grow select plants at his new home. Below are photos of Jim's previous growing and breeding areas. Pictures of the lanai are by me, individual hybrid pictures are by Jim Irvin, who is also a fantastic photographer. Since I can't print all the pictures, I have selected some of his better known ones and others less common. Hopefully when we meet again, members who have some of these less known plants will bring them to Show and Tell for our enjoyment.







Top to Bottom, Left to Right. *Billbergia* 'Ivory Tower', *Cryptanthus* 'Dr. Larry', 'Strawberries Flambe', 'Betty Ann Prevatt', *Bil.* 'Sparkling Burgundy', *Cryptanthus* 'Cinnamon on Toast', *Billbergia* 'Fire Opal'.



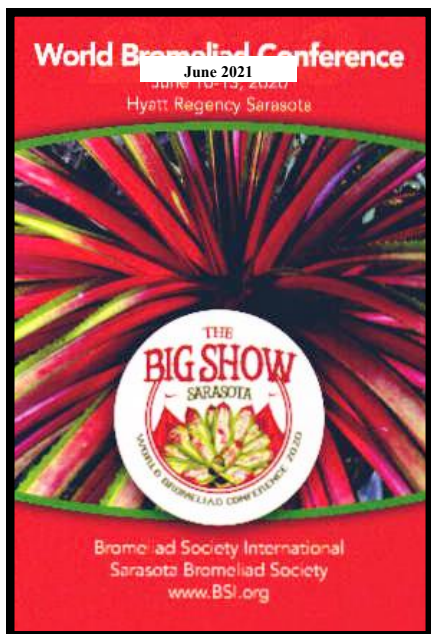
Top to Bottom, Left to Right.
Cryptanthus 'High Voltage',
Billbergia 'Incendiary Delight',
Cryptanthus 'Judy B', *Neoregelia* 'Mo' Pepper Please',
Neon Comfort, *Orthophytum*
 'Mother Lode', *Neoregelia*
 'Match Point'.



Top to Bottom, Left to Right.
Pitcairnia 'Bud Curtis', *Billbergia*
 'Peach Parfait', *Neoregelia*
 'Pittsburg Style', *Billbergia*
 'Prickly Heat', *Cryptanthus* 'Razor
 Back', *Tillandsia ionantha* 'Van
 Hyningii' x *caput medusa*.



Left to Right. *Cryptanthus* 'Sweet Tooth', *Billbergia* 'Tuti Fruiti', *Billbergia* 'Cherry Bomb', *Tillandsia streptophylla X concolor*.



**WORLD
BROMELIAD
CONFERENCE**
to be held in
Sarasota, Florida.
June 2021

**[https://
www.bsi.org/new/
conference-corner](https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner)**
**For more
information**



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This is your May-June 2020 CBS Newsletter
Let's all stay safe until we meet again!