



# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S

**MERISTEM**     *May-June 2022*



# CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

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## OTHER COMMITTEES

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**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**

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# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

**May Meeting: Sunday, May 15th 2022**  
**June Meeting: Sunday, June 19th 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 May Meeting will feature Chip Jones discussing “The Amazing Hybrids by Chester Skotak”**

**(Membership sales are not allowed since Chip will be bringing plants for sale.)**

**The June Meeting is TBA**

The CBS Board has established a more structured schedule for our meetings, which we will adapt as necessary—

**\*12:30-1:15:** Doors open, check-in, membership, distribution of door prize tickets and sale of raffle tickets, membership or speaker plant sales.

**\*1:15-1:45:** Workshop **1:45-2:00:** Break, plant sales continue

**2:00-2:15:** Business Meeting **2:15-3:00:** Program followed by door prize

**3:00-3:30:** Break for refreshments **3:30-4:00:** Show and Tell and Raffle

**4:00:** Clean up

**Please bring food, Friendship, Raffle and Show and Tell Plants**

**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

In spite of fewer attendees and fewer donations, we again had a successful Auction in March. I want to thank all who donated items and all the generous bidders who supported us this year.

Also a big thank you to all the volunteers who showed up early to help setup the silent and regular auctions.

Michael's Bromeliads deserves a special thank you for the dozen of exquisite and unusual donated plants he provided from his nursery, which earned a great portion of the money raised.

After a two year hiatus, we didn't know what to expect, but our members came through and made it happen. Thank you all! Dr Larry Giroux, Auction Chair.

## April Birthday Party

I'd like to thank everyone who attended our club birthday party. I am very pleased with the turnout we had here in Bokeelia.

Thank you to members who brought friendship plants and those who donated so many great plants for our raffle. We also received two very nice bromeliads from Jill Mareé of Mareé Farms in Buckingham. Those were used as prizes for our Bromeliad Bingo game-that was a lot of fun and I'm sure we'll be playing it in the future.

We had a wonderful meal with all the great dishes and desserts that were shared by members.

Many thanks to everyone for the lovely afternoon! Julie Stein, CBS President (and your Birthday Party Host)

**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.

Over 50 members and guests turned out for our annual Birthday/ Anniversary Party at the home of Julie and Craig Stein.



We couldn't have asked for a better setting or weather.

The Steins were gracious hosts and members came through with great food and lots of plants.

Our Society has been truly blessed in many ways over our 42 years. Many thanks to Julie and Craig and everyone that contributed to our party.

## May 2022 Program

### *“The Amazing Hybrids by Chester Skotak” By Chip Jones*

There has been a great many discoveries and accomplishments in the bromeliad hobby during the 2+ centuries that bromeliads have been in cultivation, but one that has truly benefited the hobbyist was the discovery and implementation of a “variegation gene” by Chester George Skotak of Costa Rica. For decades, Chester has intrigued us with hundred and hundreds of exciting marginated and variegated hybrids that we can include in our collections to be enjoyed first hand.

Chip Jones, the owner of Jones Landscaping & Nursery in Moore Haven, besides his passion for cycads ([cycadflorida.com](http://cycadflorida.com)), raises bromeliads for his business and has accumulated a vast personal collection, including the coveted Skotak creations.

Chip will be discussing these hybrids at our next meeting and will be bringing in examples for show and sale. If any of our members have some of Skotak's plants in their own collection, feel free to bring them for Show and Tell and to augment Chip's discussion.

Skotak has made a few internet videos and recordings of his programs, which he has given worldwide. For a candid view of his methods I refer you to a UTube video made in 2020... <https://youtu.be/Z8nnZXC8MTE>.

## May Workshop

With the World Bromeliad Conference just around the corner both in location (in Sarasota) and time (June 7th-11th), Betty Ann will be giving us an update of the activities available. Betty Ann and Terrie Bert are the Co-chairs of the Bromeliad Show portion of the conference and so there is no better person than Betty Ann to tell you about ways you can get your entries ready. Sarasota is only about 70 minutes away from Fort Myers, so even if you can't go for the duration of the conference, you can still plan on a day trip to enjoy some of the fun that we have been anticipating for a long while.

**Photos:** Julie has lived at her Bokeelia home a short time, but, nevertheless, she has been able to accumulate an impressive collection of bromeliads and other plants in her landscape. She has taken advantage of the older oak trees on the property (see the picture by Tom Cowell on page 5) to grow a variety of bromeliads requiring both bright and filtered light. The picture on the front cover (by Larry Giroux) demonstrates Julie's use of height layering of *Aechmea* 'Alvarez' (?), *Aechmea* Bert and probably a hybrid of *Neoregelia carolinae* with her fence as a backdrop. In the photo below (by Larry Giroux), shaded by the large trees, she is already developing clumps of many bromeliads of different genera. **Back Cover:** By avoiding long durations of the intense Florida sun, Julie is able to retain the brilliant colors in her plants. An example of this is this magnificent *Neoregelia johannis* 'de Rolf' with its contrasting dark pink blotches and green and white variegated markings. One of my favorite neoregelias, the inflorescence of the mature plant reminds me of a water lily, especially when the cup is full.





## **World Bromeliad Conference June 8-11, 2022 Hyatt Regency Sarasota**

### **World Bromeliad Conference 2022**

Join Bromeliad lovers from around the world at the Bromeliad Society International's 24<sup>th</sup> World Bromeliad Conference which will be held in Sarasota for the first time!

Attendees will have the opportunity to go behind the scenes at **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens** (with its collection of over 1300 Bromeliad species) and **Michael's Bromeliads** and **Tropiflora** with their collector-grade Bromeliads.

Mix and mingle with attendees from all over the world at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota with its beautiful waterfront setting and nearby fine dining, beaches, shopping, museums, and other sightseeing opportunities.

Join us for **THE BIG SHOW** at **World Bromeliad Conference 2022** with this amazing opportunity to learn, grow and explore!

### **Speaker Presentations:**

Graeme Barclay – New Zealand  
Eric Gouda – Netherlands  
Ivon Ramirez – Mexico  
Julián Aguirre-Santoro – Colombia  
Cristy Brenner – California  
Bruce Holst – Florida  
Jerry Raack – Ohio

### **Banquet Keynote Speaker:**

Graeme Barclay – New Zealand

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### **Events:**

Conference Opening/Reception  
Judged Plant Show  
A Huge Plant Sale  
Optional Bus Tours

Behind-the-Scenes visits to:  
Michael's Bromeliads  
Tropiflora

Home Garden Visits  
Guided Behind-the-Scenes Tour  
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens  
Banquet with Keynote Speaker  
Rare Plant Auction

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**www.BSI.org**

## WBC 2022 Schedule

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022 (pre-conference)*  
BSI Board Meeting, Judges School, and  
Plant Show Entries

### Wednesday, June 8, 2022

*Morning:*

Optional Bus Tour to **Michael's Bromeliads**  
plus a Light Lunch & Home Garden Visit  
Plant Show Entries

*Afternoon:*

Plant Show Judging  
Plant Sale Setup

*Evening:*

Official Conference Opening, Reception and  
Welcome Address

### Thursday, June 9, 2022

*Morning:*

Optional Bus Tour to **Tropiflora**  
plus a Light Lunch & Home Garden Visit

*Afternoon:*

Plant Sale Setup  
Plant Show Open for registrants only

*Evening:*

Cocktail Reception  
Plant Sale Open for registrants only

### Friday, June 10, 2022

*Morning:*

Behind-the-Scenes Bus Tour (registrants only)  
to **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens**

*Afternoon:*

Four Speakers

*Morning and Afternoon:*

Plant Sale Open  
Plant Show Open

*Evening:*

Rare Plant Auction

### Saturday, June 11, 2022

*Morning and early afternoon:*  
Four Speakers

*Morning and early afternoon:*

Plant Sale Open  
Plant Show Open

*Evening:*

Banquet with Keynote Speaker

## More Information

For more information on WBC 2022,  
just go to the BSI website at  
<https://www.bsi.org> and click on the  
**WBC** menu choice near the top.

After you register for the conference,  
you can also make hotel reservations at  
a special price with free parking and no  
resort fees.

### Conference Registration:

\$335 if paid by May 26, 2022  
\$395 at the conference

## BSI Membership

To register for the conference, you need  
to become a BSI member if you aren't  
one already. Membership rates start at  
only \$15 for first-time members.

Join the BSI at <https://www.bsi.org>. Start  
by clicking on the **WBC** menu and then  
select **WBC REGISTRATION**.

BSI MEMBERSHIP RATES			
Journal	First-Time Member*	Indiv. Renewal	Dual Renewal
ONE-YEAR RATES			
Electronic Only	\$15	\$25	\$35
Printed Journal			
US Bulk	\$35	\$50	\$60
US First-Class	\$40	\$55	\$65
Int'l Air Mail	\$45	\$60	\$70
THREE-YEAR RATES			
Electronic Only	N/A	\$70	\$100
Printed Journal			
US Bulk	N/A	\$140	\$170
US First-Class	N/A	\$155	\$185
Int'l Air Mail	N/A	\$170	\$200

(\*For First-Time Member **Dual** rate, add \$10)



# The Pendulous Billbergias

By Dr. Larry Giroux

At the birthday party last month, a pendulous *Billbergia* was donated to the raffle. I pulled up an old pictorial essay I wrote about 16 years ago illustrating some of the available hanging inflorescence billbergias in cultivation. Normally the billbergia flowers do not last long; however, with these larger inflorescences, you have a lot more flowers to enjoy for a longer time. I apologize for any name changes since I wrote the article.



A billbergia flower demonstrating the spirally rolled petal typical of bromeliads of the subgenus *Helicodea*. Photo by Larry Giroux.



## *Billbergia stenopetala*

This photo taken by and submitted by Sue Gordon demonstrates the blooming of this 2005 CBS Show award winning plant.

*Billbergia pallidiflora* was discovered growing epiphytically and on rocks in the mid 1800's. Native to Mexico, Guatemala and Nicaragua, it is one of the northern most naturally growing billbergias discovered. This picture does not do its beautiful pendulous inflorescence justice. The inflorescence is completely covered with white scales with coral-pink bracts and green tightly rolled up petals. Photo by Eric Gouda.





*Billbergia decora* was first introduced into cultivation in 1831 from the rain forest of Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. It has green petals and peach colored bracts. Photo by Herb Plever.



*Billbergia tessmannii* was collected from Peru in 1925 and named in honor of its discoverer, Gunter Tessmann. Two years earlier he had also discovered, in Peru, *Billbergia stenopetala*, (pictured elsewhere in this article). This very ornamental plant has a large “umbrella” of wide, rose colored bracts and lime green petals. The pistils and anthers are borne on long needle like projections. Like *B. stenopetala*, *B. tessmannii* is a large plant with 36 inch banded gray-green leaves. Photo by Dorothy Berg.

*Billbergia zebrina* was one of the earliest billbergias to be introduced into cultivation; it is from the rainforest of Brazil. Its range, however, also includes arid and harsh environments, making this a very tolerant plant for most gardens. The 3 foot leaves turn a purplish-bronze color with heavy silver banding. The bracts are rosy and the flowers have yellow-green petals. Photo by Reginaldo Baiao.



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.



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

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

**For more info and updates.**