



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S

MERISTEM *May/ June 2017*



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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 21st
June Meeting-- Sunday, June 18th**

**Our new meeting place is 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 the 2nd Street north of the Edison Gardens**

**Doors open at 12:30PM for Meeting Setup
The Workshop begins at 1:15PM**

Please bring food, Raffle and Show and Tell Plants

**Membership Sales are not permitted
at the May Meeting**

**Membership Sales are not permitted
at the June Meeting**

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

May Program

“The Behind the Scenes of Bromeliad Wholesaling”

A Q & A session by Kelli Ahnen and Grant Groves

At our next meeting the growing and selling team of Kelli Ahnen and Grant Groves will answer questions about the technics of growing and marketing of vast numbers of Bromeliads. They are prepared to answer such questions as: *What is “cloning” and what part does it play in their wholesale business?*

What are the procedures to growing a large number of plants to maturity in such a short time?

How do they decide what to grow and what's new?

Plus any other questions the audience wants to present to them.

Kelli tells me that they will be bringing a nice assortment of colorful bromeliads for sale at great prices.

Please no membership Sales.

May Workshop

Separating Tillandsia Clumps

Although many Tillandsias appear more attractive and seem to grow better in clumps, many Tillandsias become overgrown and require that their grouping be broken apart and old mothers and dry and rotting leaves be removed. Very often plants will accomplish this on its own. However, prudent trimming and manual separation may be more beneficial. Besides providing the opportunity to clean and reshape your plants, you also acquire healthy offsets to increase your collection or have available for sale.



At our next meeting Pete Diamond, Bruce McAlpin, Cate Peterson along with audience participants will demonstrate techniques for separating Tillandsia clumps. The membership is encouraged to bring in their own Tillandsias, which may need attention.

As mentioned above, some clumps of Tillandsias such as this ball of *Tillandsia ionantha*, hide the old mothers and old leaves and do not need to be separated. Photo by Larry Giroux

SWAMP WALK: Carly is organizing another Fakahatchee swamp walk. It will be on Thursday October 19th. There is room for 14 people. The cost is \$60 per person. To reserve a spot give Carly money by the September meeting. We haven't worked out with Patrick (the guide) if it will be the same hike as last year, but we will figure that out when we get a feel for what the group wants. Ask those that went last year, it was a lot of fun.

June Program

“Terrestrial Bromeliads”

By Rick Richtmyer

A group of several Bromeliad Societies in Florida are pooling resources to bring Carole and Rick Richtmyer to speak to our clubs in June. Although it was originally planned that Carole would be giving a program about Cryptanthus, at her suggestion, since we have recently had Stephen Hoppin present the same topic to us this past fall, Rick will step in and give a program of which he is all too familiar, i.e. Terrestrial Bromeliads.

Besides his long history as an expert grower of the genera Dyckia, Hechtia, Orthophytum, Deuterocohnia, Encholirium and Cryptanthus (when his wife will allow him) to name a few, he has devoted an large amount of his time to Bromeliad organizations including the BSI, Bromeliad Society/ Houston and the Southwest Bromeliad Guild. Within these Societies he has held office positions as well as numerous Committee Chairs. He is currently a BSI Director for the Central US Region. Besides being an extraordinary exhibitor, he is a Master BSI Judge and Judges' School Instructor.

Take advantage of our importation of bromeliad expert speakers for our program series and attend our June meeting and meet Carole and Rick Richtmyer of Houston Texas.

June Workshop

“Soils”

We call it soil, medium, media, substrate, mix and even dirt, but for our terrestrial bromeliads regardless what we call it, it is their life line to the nutrition and water they need to survive and flourish.

At our June Workshop we will review common ingredients and their purpose in the mixes we use to grow our plants.

We encourage members to bring in a sample of what they use or maybe the special additives that they swear by. Please be prepared to give us names and places where we can buy these items.

We will also discuss the difference of terrestrial and epiphytic mixes and when and where to use them for your bromeliads and orchids.

Grant Groves' Hybrid Neoregelias



CBS member Grant Groves, owner and operator of Color Zone Tropicals in Winter Park Florida has been involved in bromeliads for most of his adult life. During that time he has created many signature hybrids. Above, on the front and back covers are a few of the cultivars, which are immediately identified as of his making. Photos by Larry Giroux.



Winners of our Hat contest– Diane Cornelison and her guest.

Although it looked like we were going to be rained out, the reality was far from that. We had an exceptional weather day for our Annual Birthday Party at the home of Terri and Jeff Lazar in LaBelle. Although a relatively small turnout of members and guest, we all had a great time consuming too much food, playing games, enjoying the Lazar’s beautiful gardens and winning raffle plants. Many thanks to the Lazars.

I want to let our members know about an extremely exciting opportunity still available to a few. In just a few weeks Guillermo Rivera will be escorting a small group of adventurers on a trip to Ecuador, a country very rich in natural beauty. Here is some information.

ECUADOR Bromeliad Tour . Pamela Hyatt (Pam Koyde) (Tillandsia world expert) and Jose José M. Manzanares (author of two books on Bromeliads from Ecuador) will be in this incredible journey (Jose only last few days) This trip will combine the best of both Southern and Northern Ecuador. A must for anyone into Bromeliads. I have traveled in Ecuador on 5 different occasions. I am planning to add and explore a few new places on this trip (hence more days, than our usual journey). **Bromeliads and Orchids Dates: July 1st -July 17th 2017 Mode: All inclusive, starting in Guayaquil, ending in Quito. Duration: 17 days Price: \$ 3950. All-inclusive except air fare.**

For additional information please contact ASAP Guillermo Rivera at plantexpeditions@gmail.com



You are invited to the 2017 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Friday, August 4, 2017, & Saturday, August 5, 2017
& Sunday, August 6, 2017

Clarion Hotel

2701 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL 33612
www.clariontampa.com
(813) 971-4710

Ask for Bromeliad Extravaganza Rate
\$75.00 for single/double
\$85.00 for triple/quad
Complimentary hot breakfast
Free Parking

Seminar Guest Speakers

Pam Koide Hyatt of Bird Rock Tropicals, California;
Dr. Larry Giroux of Fort Myers, FL, BSI Judge &
Editor of The Cryptanthus Society Journal;
Bruce Holst, Taxonomist/Scientist and Director of
Botany, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota;
Ken Stokes of Tampa, Bromeliad expert/grower

Registration: \$100.00 per person

After July 25, 2017: \$110.00

Registration includes 2 full meals:

Friday Night Barbeque Buffet &

Saturday night Banquet Buffet

Saturday: Plant Sales 9 AM to 4 PM

Raffle, Silent auction

Seminars with guest speakers

Rare Plant Auction

**Sunday: Optional Bus Garden Tours \$12
8:30 AM to Noon - For those attending
Garden Tours in their own vehicles there
is no charge. Water, cold drinks and re-
freshments will be served at the Gardens.**



Photo by Grant Groves



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This is your May-June 2017 CBS Newsletter
Read your FCBS Newsletter I sent to you last month!