



**THE CALOOSAHATCHEE  
BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S  
MERISTEM**     *Sept-Oct. 2022*



# CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Vice-PRESIDENT— Dale Kammerlohr 863-558-0647  
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## 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**

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# THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

**September Meeting: Sunday, Sept 18th 2022**  
**October Meeting: Sunday, October 16th 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 September Meeting will feature Dennis Cathcart presenting “Trips to Cuba”**

**(No Membership sales are allowed at the September or October meetings.)**

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

## **September 2022 Program** **“Trips to Cuba”** *By Dennis Cathcart*

As I write this introduction for Dennis Cathcart’s presentation on September 18th, he is again in Cuba, in search of his favorite things, reptiles and bromeliads. I’m sure he will be returning with more fascinating stories and photographs of the fauna and flora of Cuba that few of us have had an opportunity to experience.

Dennis and Linda Cathcart are the owners of Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota Florida. Recently, Dennis has turned the operation of the nursery over to his wife, Linda, while he concentrates on his writing. For decades, Dennis has been documenting his travel experiences with a monthly Newsletter: “The Cargo Report”. From these Journals we were able to follow the adventures of explorers and collectors like Wally Berg, John Anderson, Dr. Hiro Takizawa and many others, who accompanied Dennis into the Central American and South American jungles. In his earlier years of exploration which are chronicled in his new book “Koulèv: Adventures of an American Snake Hunter: Book One”, Dennis pursued his interests in reptiles and particularly snakes.

Dennis will be bringing plants and hopefully his new book, for sale, so please no membership sales.

## **October 2022 Program** **By Dr. Terrie Bert**

CBS member Dr. Terrie Bert will be returning to the CBS to give us a program in October. Most of her programs have been Power-point presentations with data and photographs giving us a systematic review of genera, evolutionary concepts and educational materials about bromeliads. Terrie has informed me that she plans a more on hands program assisted by her vast collection of bromeliad species, cultivars and hybrids.

Of course count on numerous interesting sale plants, not available from other sources. Please no membership sales.

Look forward to more information about Terrie and her presentation in future electronic newsletter postings.

# The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society's 2022 Annual Bromeliad Sale December 3rd and 4th 2022

Edison/ Ford Winter Estates have graciously agreed to again host our 2022 Annual Bromeliad Sale on Saturday, December 3rd and Sunday, December 4th 2022. This year we will have only the Sale in the Banyan Tree area as we have had in the past. Included in this issue are the rules for sellers.

*Please read the minutes from the August CBS Meeting, printed in the last pages of this issue, concerning important information about the Sale.*

The rules published here are revised from the December 2021 Sale. They will be reviewed at the CBS meeting and may be changed based on venue situations and agreements with Edison/ Ford Estates and at the discretion of the Sales Chair.

## *PLANT SALE RULES and DECORUM* *Please review the SALES RULES carefully.*

1. Plant sales identification, necessary sales labels and allocation of table space will be assigned by the Chairperson, Brian Weber: [brianweber1b@hotmail.com](mailto:brianweber1b@hotmail.com), 941-256-4405 (cell). You must be pre-registered with Sales Chair.
2. Sale hours for the general public will be Saturday, December 3rd 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday December 4th 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
3. Plants will be received Friday, - December 2nd 2022 following the setup of the sales area, we are asking for volunteers for setup of the fence, cashier tables and membership tables on Thursday. (Since the majority of vendors are responsible for setup of their own tables and tents a more definitive Setup time will be announced for Friday in the CBS Newsletter or at the CBS meetings). Unsold plants must be removed Sunday, by 4:00 p.m. or become the property of CBS.
4. All plants must have TWO TAGS - A white or near white tag which indicates plant's name (it may have your ID on it). The second tag should be a colored tag either obtained from the Sales Chairman or a colored one previously used at a CBS Sale. *The sale price must be legibly written in INK with a permanent marker on the Blue (or colored) Sale Tag. To be consistent and make it easier for our customers & cashiers, please put the price with a \$ on top of the tag, vendor code towards the middle of the tag.* All plants and other sale items should be labeled in this manner before arrival at the sale. While we encourage the reuse of previous years sale tags, please do not use any that have been cut shorter than 2/3 the original length. On large plants, especially those in the landscape area, please have a sticker or sign with the price to make it easier for customers to see without

- them having to lift the plant to see the tags that are attached to the bottom.
5. To be eligible to sell plants, a CBS member must:
    - a. Be a member in good standing at least five months prior to sale. (Must be a member by July 1<sup>st</sup> to sell at the December sale.)
    - b. Be required to attend a minimum of 2 meetings a year (this requirement may be changed depending on the scheduling of the meetings for the rest of 2021).
    - c. Follow all Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society plant sale rules.
    - d. Help in the sales area and assist in clean up.
    - e. Have not been prohibited to sell by the Sales Chair
  6. All plants must be priced in increments of one dollar (\$1.00), no .25, .50, etc.
  7. Plants must be clean and free from disease, insects, etc. Sales Chair may ask you to clean or remove infected plants.
  8. Twenty five percent (25%) of members' sale proceeds will be retained by CBS. Sales tax will be the responsibility of CBS.
  9. CBS will not be responsible for loss of plants or craft items, however, all reasonable precautions will be taken to insure their safety.
  10. Bromeliad oriented items (art, note paper, carvings, needlework, food, crafts, etc.) may also be offered for sale, subject to the preceding rules. These items should be labeled the same as plants, following rule #4.
  11. Vendors and Volunteers are the face of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society during this event. Please be cordial and helpful to buyers and other vendors. Should a disagreement or problem arise, bring it to the attention of the Sales Chairpersons or their representatives for help in resolving it.
  12. Take Down - Screens in the case where they are used as a barrier may be removed 15-30 minutes before the close of the sale. You may organize & clean up your area in preparation for closing but please do not remove sale plants prior to the closing time.
  13. All transactions that occur, even between vendors, on the grounds of the Edison/ Ford Estates that involve exchange of money, must go through the CBS cashiers and are subject to the 25% of the charges retained by the CBS.

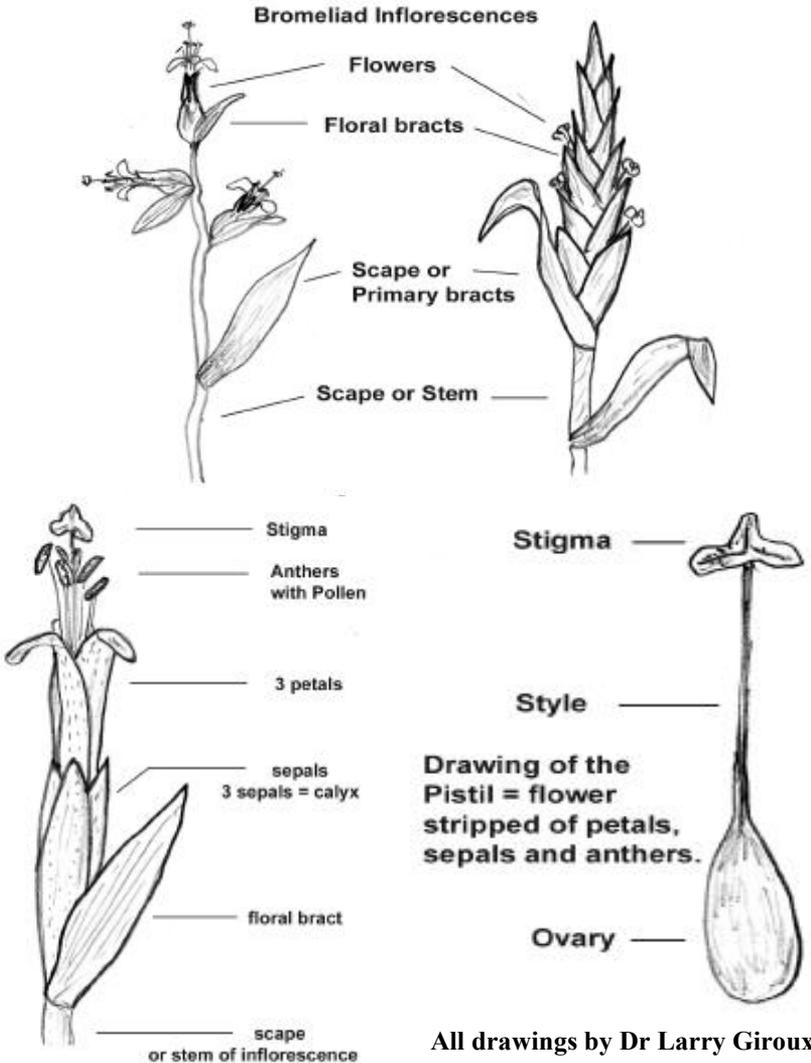
Front Cover: Photo from the article on page 7. *Aechmea recurvata*. Today there are many varieties of *Aechmea recurvata* available as well as many hybrids and bigenerics from this parent. It is often easy to determine a hybrid created from this species due to their unique triangular leaves and especially their flashy inflorescence. This *var. recurvata* gives a great show at blooming with its red and heart pink bracts, sepals and petals. Back Cover: There are many *Aechmeas* with inflorescences that have this cone shaped configuration, covered with blooms seen in this photo. An added visual treat is the change of the petal colors to black as the flowers dry and contract. Photos by Dr Larry Giroux

**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.

## Bromeliad Exposé By Larry Giroux

For the last 30 years, I have been taking photographs of bromeliads. I am still amazed by the beauty to be found in each and every bromeliad bloom. Bromeliad leaves with their colors and patterns can be interesting, but the structure and colors of the various blooms are breathtaking. In the next two issues of the Meristem I am reprinting an article I wrote about 14 years ago reviewing the blooms and inflorescences of the various *Genera* of Bromeliads.

### The Anatomy of the Bromeliad Inflorescence





*Acanthostachys strobilacea* has a 1 1/2" inflorescence with protruding yellow flowers. It is more closely related to the Pineapple than other bromeliads.

Among the many forms of inflorescences within the *Aechmea* genus, that of *Aec. fasciata*, which has tubular flowers, is exceptional. The petals change color from white to blue to red as it develops.

There are many *Aechmeas*, which have individual flowers originating from the stem without surrounding floral bracts as with this hybrid of *Aechmea gamosepala*.



There are over a dozen varieties of *Aechmea nudicaulis*, but the most significant differences are with the patterns of the leaves, while the inflorescences are very similar, albeit, colors of bracts and flowers may vary.

*Alcantarea* flowers are some of the largest bromeliad blooms, measuring 4-5" across. Many *Alcantarea* species do not bloom for over a decade, probably explaining their large inflorescences and abundant number of flowers.



The fruit of the pineapple (*Ananas comosus*) is actually composed of hundreds of individual ova and the “scales” on the outside are modified floral bracts.



Up until recently, *Androlepsis skinneri* was considered the only member of this genus; two other species have now been added. The scape and bracts are heavily covered with white

scurf, while the flower petals are a pale yellow. Interestingly, there are male and female plants having only the male or female flowers. Pictured here is the more common male plant.

The colorful, solid and striped billbergia flower petals have an interesting sequence of progression. The bloom is short lived and quickly goes from tightly enclosing the stamen and style, to peeling downward to expose the sex parts to pollinating creatures, to twisting back around them as if protecting the parts until fertilization is complete.



With over 80 species and 1000 cultivars, there are only a few *Cryptanthus* that have coloration to their petals or floral bracts. They make up for the lack of color in their flowers with a vast array of colors and patterns in their foliage as with this *C. beuckeri*.



A tulip shape is characteristic of the inflorescence of the *Genus Canistrum*. I have found them to be the more “dirtier” of the bromeliad blooms. As the blooms cycle through their life they begin to rot in their tulip cup and become unsightly. This mess can be avoided by plucking out spent blooms and keeping less water in the cup.



It is remarkable how the delicate, soft 1/2 inch flowers of *Dyckias* can develop into equally sized prickly, hard seed pods. (above) Also very interesting is the arrangement like a pile of coins that the flat, nearly round seeds assume within the pods.

**Minutes of the CBS General Meeting  
Lee County Garden Council Building July 17th, 2022**

Call to order: 1:20 by President Julie Stein  
 Guests: David Denholm  
 In Attendance: 27  
 General Meeting:  
**Announcements:**

If any member plans to sell plants at our big December sale, they need to be a member of this group since July 1, be up-to-date with their dues, and attend at least two general membership meetings.

If any member is selling plants at our general meetings, they must have been a member for at least 6 months. They also need to either donate 2 plants to our raffle table that day, or give 10% of their sales to the CBS.

Julie reminded those in attendance of the upcoming Yard Art Sale from 10 to 3:00 at 481 Marsh Avenue in Fort Myers. Everyone is invited to bring yard art and/or plants to sell.

**Program:** Dr. Larry Giroux gave a wonderful presentation of “The Big Show”, held up in Sarasota from June 7 – 11. He had fabulous photos of all the plants grown by hobbyists that won awards, plus many others. We also saw photos of the special exhibits which were nothing short of breathtaking. Many of our members volunteered their time to this incredible event, and also entered plants to be judged.

**Door Prizes:** Debbie McPhail donated 3 beautiful *Aechmea* ‘Amarillo’ plants for our door prizes.

**Show & Tell:** Dale Kammerlohr presented about 5 plants brought in by various members.

**Raffle:** Dr. Larry Giroux, assisted by Dolly Dalton, headed up this event, giving away about 15 plants to the lucky winners..

Meeting adjourned: 3:25

Respectfully submitted by Alison Ackerman

## Minutes of the CBS General Meeting Lee County Garden Council Building August 21st, 2022

Call to order: 1:23PM by President Julie Stein

Guests: Katelyn Calderis, Kathryn Belcaro, and Dave Johnston

New Member: Dave Denholm

In Attendance: 33

General Meeting:

### **Announcements:**

Brian Weber, our Sale Chair, requested that all vendors who plan to sell plants at our December Sale notify him by e-mail or a text. He needs to know approximately how many plants you will be bringing and/or how much space you will need etc. so he can organize the layout of the booths and tables.

Anyone selling plants at our December sale will also need to provide their own tent and tables. They should be available the Thursday before the sale as well, to help set up the fencing, and should also help with the tear-down on Sunday.

Details of how to tag your plants etc. will be presented at a future meeting and in our newsletter.

Betsy Burdette asked that everyone return the signs from last year so she has time to change the dates.

**Program:** Dave Johnson, from Bromeliads Galore, presented “X Bi-generics Part 2 The Final Chapter”, which was a follow-up slide show presentation on Part 1 that he gave to us at a previous meeting. He showed around 30 Bi-generics from *X Neophytums* to *X Zizagoudaea*. Many of the examples, with photos from BSI, are available from Michael’s Bromeliads and Tropiflora.

**Door Prizes:** Debbie McPhail brought 2 beautiful plants for our door prizes: *Aechmea nudicaulis* ‘Mary Hyde’ and *Neoregelia x correla-araujoii alba*. The 2<sup>nd</sup> one was actually given by Sandra Drake.

**Show & Tell:** Dale Kammerlohr presented about 14 plants brought in by various members.

**Raffle:** Julie Stein, showcased about 23 plants and awarded them to the lucky winners..

Meeting adjourned: 3:21

Respectfully submitted by Alison Ackerman



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