



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S MERISTEM

Sept-Oct 2026



Orthophytum lemei
Photo by Rick Richtmyer

Sincoraea burle-marxii 'Albo'
(formerly *Orthophytum burle-marxii*)
Photo by Dr. Larry Giroux



Lapanthus duartei
(formerly *Orthophytum supthutii*)
(formerly *Cryptanthus duartei*)
Photo by Dr. Larry Giroux

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD

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Party Chair—Vacant

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RAFFLE COMMENTARY— Larry Giroux

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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Sept Meeting: Sunday, Sept 20th, 2026
October Meeting: Sunday, October 18th, 2026

Our September meeting will be at the

Ft. Myers– Lee County Garden Council Building 2166 Virginia Ave. Fort Myers.

The facility is north of the Edison Gardens parking lot. 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/ Ford Winter Gardens

HOWEVER, our October meeting will be at Betsy and Bill Burdette's home in Buckingham. See inside this newsletter for information.

For the September meeting at the FMLCGC Building and for the special meeting at the Burdette's in October, please bring food, raffle items, show and tell plants and friendship plants, Only Speaker Sales at our September meeting; Membership Sales at the Burdette's is allowed! Bring your own table.

THE Normal Monthly MEETING SCHEDULE –

12:30 – 1:15 Doors open, check-in, membership, door prize tickets, raffle ticket sales, members donate refreshments & raffle plants, Show & Tell area set-up, speaker or member plant sales

1:15 – 2:30 Call to order, announcements, at this time members will get their refreshments and enjoy their lunch during the featured Program

1:45—2:30 Featured Program

2:30 – 2:45 Door Prize. Plant sales continue.

2:45 – 3:15 Business meeting followed by Workshop

3:15 – 4:00 Show & Tell & Raffle drawing followed by Adjournment and Clean-Up

Surprisingly as of yet, a number of members did not pay their 2026 dues. Please catch up for 2026.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2026 ARE DUE in January Please contact Betty Ann Prevatt and RENEW. 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

September Program– Dave Johnston “*Orthophytums, Sincoraeas* and Hybrids Thereof”



Dave Johnston, even after 40 years of collecting and growing and talking about bromeliads, continues to entertain and educate his audiences with enthusiasm and a definite love for the subjects he presents. Although *Cryptanthus* and *Neoregelias* grabbed his initial interests, he has made his generalized passion for plants into a life long business by opening Bromeliads Galore in Pinellas County, Fla. He refers to his business as a “Collector’s Nursery”, connoting the uniqueness of the plants he raises. It has been hard for him to limit the collection to 1000 various species and hybrids, but his knowledge of the bromeliad

world and their cultivation encompasses so much more. Of the previous 16 or so different original programs, which Dave has authored, the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society has been fortunate to be on the receiving end of nine. Below is Dave’s rendering of his 10th program to the CBS. Of course, Dave will be bringing plants for sale and to highlight his presentation, so there will be no membership sales at this meeting. You are all welcome to bring in your *Orthophytums*, *Sincoraea* and bigeneric hybrids of these genera for Show and Tell.

“My program is brand new and called “*Orthophytums, Sincoraeas* and hybrids thereof”. Why these genera? I have given 16 different programs over the years on the mainstream genera and decided to deep dive into something nobody has really talked about in depth.”

Front and Rear Covers’ Pictures

The taxonomy and classification of bromeliad species have been characterized by a continual flux in nomenclature. The 200 year history of the genera: *Orthophytum* and *Sincoraea* is a good example.

The genera names *Sincoraea*, *Cryptanthopsis*, *Orthophytum*, *Prantleia* and *Lapanthus* have been associated, disassociated or reassociated at some time with all of the *Orthophytum/ Sincoraea* species in cultivation. Finally in 2017, Louzada and Wanderley, based on the most up to date morphological examinations, geographical and genetic (DNA) data of these plants, settled on *Orthophytum*, *Sincoraea* and *Lapanthus* for their classification. As new species are discovered, these criteria will be applied to their identification and taxon placement.

Pictured on the front cover are examples of these genera- *Sincoraea burle-marxii* (the Albo form), *Orthophytum lemei* with its dark red floral bracts and *Lapanthus duartei*, which was initially proudly accepted as a bright yellow petalled *Cryptanthus* by *Cryptanthus* enthusiasts; then as a uniquely different yellow flowered *Orthophytum supthutii* and finally as one of three species of the newly created genus, *Lapanthus* (2010). On the back cover is a popular bigeneric hybrid that was caught up in the name change frenzy: *xNeophytum* Galactic Warrior, which is now *xSincoregelia* Galactic Warrior.



When this species, *Sincoraea amoena*, was first discovered as a new unclassified species in 1908, the new genus *Sincoraea* was created to accommodate it. In the 1950's, obviously using few morphologic traits to justify the move, the plant was placed in the genus *Orthophytum*. Photo by Oscar Ribeiro.



Orthophytum glabrum was the first species to be classified into the genus *Orthophytum* in 1820. The dish garden above shows the smooth, scaleless leaf surfaces, which gives this species its latin epithet...glabrum. Note that this group of plants has not yet begun to show the typical 10-14" peduncles characteristic of the *Orthophytums*, which are often covered by numerous dense, flowering rosettes. Photo by Dr. Larry Giroux.

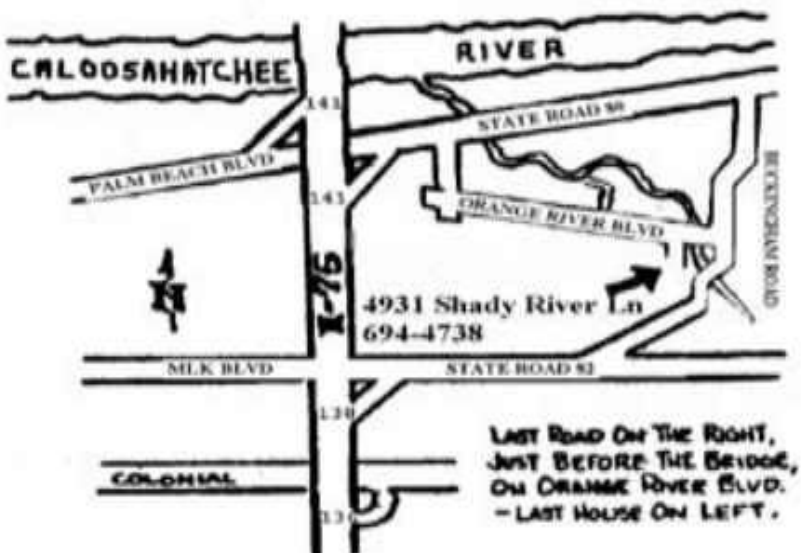
September Workshop

Still in the works, we are considering a Workshop on how to give the genera of *Orthophytum*, *Sincoraea* and for that matter, many of the other terrestrials, the best cultural conditions for optimal development. Hopefully Dave and others of our audience will contribute their opinions and observations. If you have any terrestrial bromeliads to help confirm your recommendations or suggestions, by all means bring them to the Sunday meeting.

CBS October Meeting

Long time members may remember many of our Birthday and Holiday parties, which were held at Betsy and Bill Burdette's home on the Orange River in Buckingham before they experienced significant storm damage. Well, Betsy and Bill have renewed an offer of their hospitality. On Sunday, October 18th, instead of a meeting at the Garden Council building on Virginia Avenue, we are moving our gathering to their home in Buckingham. Attached is the original map I used years ago showing the directions to their home.

Betsy and Bill Burdette
4931 Shady River Lane
Buckingham, Florida
betsy@burdetteinc.com



We will be treating this meeting more like our Birthday and Holiday parties. There will be minimal business and announcements, no Program, Show and Tell or Workshop. There will be a garden tour and raffle and although Betsy may have plants for sale, we are allowing other members to bring their own folding table and participate in Membership Sales.

As with our previous parties, 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, some beverages and a meat entree. If you prefer other cold drinks, bring your own, there will be plenty of ice. **There will be some seating available, but it is a good idea to bring your own chairs and small tables.**

Arrival around 12:30 PM with your goodies will allow time to set the tables and for the food to be arranged buffet style. For those of you that cannot get there early, don't worry it will probably be after 1 PM or later that we start to eat and the festivities begin.

After lunch there will be a raffle of bromeliad plants and items donated by members. They should be nice, clean bromeliads or bromeliad related items that anyone would want to win. **Donations of other plant families such as orchids, ferns, fruit trees, native plants, etc. are also acceptable.** 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 holiday raffle. Tickets are still 3/\$1, so buy a lot. For those items such as excessive yard plants or gardening items that don't necessarily go on the raffle table; these "Friendship Plants" are also welcome...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 or into the Burdettes' garden. These can be left at the front of the yard; please label as best as you can.**

New members or anyone that needs more information, contact your Editor (Larry Giroux) at drlarry7@gmail.com or your host. Bring your significant other and expose them to our hobby, while enjoying the hospitality of our society and the Burdettes'.

THE 2026 CBS BROMELIAD SALE
SATURDAY DEC 5th and SUNDAY DEC 6th

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society



Bromeliad Sale

EDISON and FORD

WINTER ESTATES

2350 McGregor Blvd Fort Myers

Saturday Dec.5th 2026 9AM-4PM

Sunday Dec.6th 2026 10AM-3PM

Contact Dave & Geri Prall at PalmTreeGardens@hotmail.com for Info.

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 Chairpersons, Dave & Geri Prall: palmtreegardens@hotmail.com. You must be pre-registered with Sales Chairs.
2. Sale hours for the general public will be Saturday, December 5th 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday December 6th 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
3. Plants will be received Friday, December 4th, 2026, following the setup of the sales area; as necessary, we will be asking for volunteers for setup of the fence, cashier tables, tents and membership tables on Friday. (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). Please precheck with the Chairs if you just can't arrive until Saturday morning to confirm your "sales spot" and if late arrival is allowed. 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 the plant's name (it may have your ID on it). The second tag should be a colored tag either obtained from the Sales Chairs 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. Of course, changes can be made onsite. Any discounts need to be made clearly on the sales tag or on a new tag and initialed before the item is brought to the cashiers. 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. Be sure the sticker and tag prices match. To avoid accidental loss of tags or the deliberate switching of price tags, be sure that the tags are securely attached to the items (especially the more expensive items) and can only be removed by the cashiers.
5. To be eligible to sell plants, a CBS member must:
 - a. Be a member in good standing at least five months prior to the sale. (Must be a member by July 1st to sell at the December sale.)
 - b. Be required to attend a minimum of 2 meetings a year. Members who have given programs during the year preceding the Sale, check with Chairs.
 - 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 Chairs
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 Chairs may ask you to clean or remove infected plants.
8. Fifteen percent (15%) 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 on Sunday. 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 15% of the charges retained by the CBS.
14. This is a **“SALES YEAR ONLY”**, so there is **NO BROMELIAD SHOW**. There will be no sales on Friday nor any need to set up on Thursday.

Nominations Committee for the 2027 CBS Slate of Officers

Every year in the month of September, the CBS requests 2 or 3 volunteers to serve on the Nominations Committee. Selected from active members, other than the current office holders, this Committee contacts the current incumbents and determine their intentions on running again for their positions. In addition, the Committee accepts nominations from qualified individuals who wish to run against the incumbents or run for a vacant position. CBS President, Julie Stein will be asking for volunteers at the September meeting. In October, a slate of nominees will be presented to the membership and solicitation for additional nominees will continue. At the November CBS meeting the election of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will take place and winners will be inaugurated at either the holiday party in December or at the regular January CBS meeting. Even if you decide not to seek an office, we hope you will consider becoming more involved by volunteering for one of the Society's Committees, if asked, in January.

The CBS November Speaker

Bringing Andy Siekkinen from San Diego, California in August was a great success. As you will recall, the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, The Bromeliad Society of the Palm Beaches and the Bromeliad Society of South Florida helped by a grant from the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, hosted Andy's week long visit. Well, as promised, we have also scheduled Pamela Koide Hyatt, also from California, to give programs to these three Societies in November. Further details will follow in the November-December CBS Newsletter. But, for now reserve November 15th to attend Pam's program at our regular scheduled meeting.



Pam Hyatt Koide our November speaker.

Minutes of the CBS General Meeting

LC/FM Garden Council Building July 19th, 2026

Call to order: 1:18 by Secretary Alison Ackerman

In Attendance: 26

Guest: Germaine Hyatt

Program: Alex Bello, a longtime member of CBS, President of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, and owner of Bello Tropicals gave an inspiring talk entitled “*Vriesea*: Show Beauties”. When he had concluded, we all felt like experts on these gorgeous treasures and were ready to start our own *Vriesea* collections.

Alex told attendees that the group of *Vrieseas* he was discussing is mainly grown for their beautiful, uniquely patterned foliage, although the large, branched inflorescences do last a long time, even months, which is a plus. He recommends growing them in pots and placing them in dappled shade, which he says is absolutely enough for them to maintain their color. If using shade cloth, he noted that 30% light blocking screen fabric typical of our lanai screen enclosures will let in too much light; he thinks greater blockage is preferred; up to 70% is more ideal. A combination of small pieces of lava rock or clay pellets (hydroton balls) plus an orchid mix will provide the best growing medium for *Vriesias*. They like to be moist - not too wet and not too dry. He says above all, the mix must be airy – that’s the key. As for fertilizer, since these are epiphytes, Alex recommends a pinch of slow-timed release formulations only when repotting or initial offset potting.



***Vriesea* Leinaala is a very early hybrid (1984) by David Shiigi of Hawaii. This is an example of the incredibly colorful patterned *Vrieseas* David Shiigi and David Fell have been creating for decades. Photo by Dr. Larry Giroux**

One reason Alex suggests growing *Vriesias* in pots is that the leaves tend to grow downward and sometimes their pots need to be elevated to avoid the leaves dragging. However, he did mention that *Goudeia opsinae* var *gruberi* and some other *Vriesea* bromeliads might do OK in the ground as they like to clump and their leaves grow upright.

When *Vriesias* produce offsets, it’s important to wait until the pup is at least half the size of the mother before removing it. But before doing that, Alex emphasized that since offsets usually develop in the axes between the leaves, you should first strip any leaves of the mother that are touching the pup so

you can remove the pup as close to the mother as possible in order to retain as much of the caudex of the offset.

Besides explaining how to grow and care for *Vriesias*, Alex mentioned some well-known growers and hybridizers who have specialized in *Vriesias*. These include David Fell from Oahu, Hawaii, David Shiigi from Hilo, Hawaii and Josepha Leon, a top grower from Broward County, Florida. If you are interested in learning more about the gorgeous hybrids they produced, you can easily find them on the internet.

Workshop: Larry Giroux gave a slide presentation on how bromeliads have been portrayed by artists over the years. Titled “Bromeliads in Art”, he showed many slides of meticulously painted bromeliads by several artists.

One artist he mentioned was Lyle Bowen of Fort Myers and a member of our Society who draws stunning abstracts of his own garden. Many of his works of art have been featured in art shows throughout our area. Others included Urszula Dudek, of Miami and Mary Cinotto of Houston Texas, who have drawn beautiful *Cryptanthus* plants among others using pastels and colored pencils. Another notable artist is John Barbie, from Tampa, Florida who is known for his in habitat drawings, descriptive horticultural “plates” and conference posters.

The late Kiti Wenzel, a past member of our society, was a prolific and extremely talented artist who drew many pieces for the covers of our newsletters and artwork for posters of bromeliad events. Using colored pencils, she drew many single plants but was particularly famous for the collages she put together by literally assembling cutouts of her drawings to create her unique works. This was more amazing considering there was no “Photoshop” available to her! Interestingly, in many of her works she’d hide one of her iconic “kitties” among the plants!



If anyone is interested in viewing some of the original “plate” art created in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, which Larry showed and more, you can subscribe to <https://bromeliad.nl/encyclopedia>, a site created and hosted by Eric Gouda, the BSI Webmaster, which features all known bromeliad genera and species with detailed information,

One of the collages Kiti Wenzel created by assembling cutouts of her drawings. Note the hidden kitty, which Kiti would often include.

plates, photos, descriptions, etc. It is a great website for ID'ing species and learning about their history and origin, which can benefit their cultivation. (This site is not the same as the BSI BCR at bsi.org, which houses the thousands of bromeliad cultivar records.)

Door Prizes: Two beautiful *Neoregelia* Tiger x *Carcharodon rubra* plants, donated by Debbie McPhail, were given away to two lucky winners,

Show and Tell: Members brought 11 plants for Show & Tell, including a very special James Elmore hybrid brought in by Dave Denholm. In the 1970's James Elmore produced hundreds and hundreds of hybrids; each was given a number, of which there are nearly 2000, although, there are only about 500 actually registered named hybrids listed in the BSI BCR, and of these there are very few with pictures to ID them. If anyone has an Elmore hybrid and wants to know more about it, check out the 1998 Bromeliad Cultivar Registry compiled by the late Don Beadle. In the back pages are listed probably every Elmore hybrid. David Denholm then volunteered to present and comment on the rest of the plants to the membership.



An 1881 “plate” by P. Stroebunt of *Cryptanthus beuckeri*, Morren. Picture from Encyclopaedia of Bromeliads, moderated by Eric Gouda.



Neoregelia Blue Nude. This named Elmore hybrid which was probably made with *Concentrica* #1, a common parent of many of Elmore's plants. Photographer unknown.

Raffle: For our raffle, 21 plants were donated by various members. Larry Giroux led the way providing commentary, with Barbara Barton and Luli Weston helping.

Meeting adjourned: 3:55 PM

Minutes of the CBS General Meeting

LC/FM Garden Council Building August 16th, 2026

Call to order: 1:02 by President Julie Stein

In Attendance: 39

Guests: Keith Steinberg, Mark Smith, Germaine Hyatt, Dr. Orlando Daiz-Figuro, and Elijah Spurlin

New Members: Delia Garner and Lariann Garner

Announcement:

Dave Prall, one of our Sale Chairs, asked that anyone interested in being a vendor at our December Sale, to let him know, so he can add them to his roster and get them the information they will need when the time comes.

Program: Andy Siekkinen from San Diego, California gave a fabulous talk on *Deuterocohnia* and *Hohenbergias*.

Deuterocohnia is a genus of terrestrial, succulent bromeliads found in habitat in the Andes Mountains of South America, specifically in Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, and Chile. The inflorescences occur on a long stalk and will continue to bloom along that stalk, so he wisely advised not to cut them unless they look really unsightly. Plants formerly of the genus *Abromeitiella*, based on DNA analysis have been reclassified into *Deuterocohnia*. Although, this genus is considered terrestrial, in their natural very dry, mountainous and rocky habitat they must rely on the absorption of water through their leaves, which are covered with dense hairy trichomes, from mountain mist. In cultivation, the media should be allowed to dry out between waterings and during the winter months, it can remain dry. The soil should be a fast draining succulent type mix; high to very bright light is preferred. Andy entertained us with a comprehensive slide show of a large variety of species, hybrids and bigeneric hybrids, some of which were of his own making.

Hohenbergias can be difficult to work with, so only a portion of those described to date are found



Deuterocohnia lorentziana or *brevifolia* are the more recognizable *Deuterocohnia* species in cultivation. Many other species of this genus have the appearance of other zeric bromeliads, like this *Deuterocohnia longipetala*, which is easily confused with plants of the genera—*Dyckia*, *Hechtia* or *Encholirium*. Photos by Larry Giroux.

in cultivation. *Hohenbergias* in habitat have adapted to growing as terrestrials in tropical America, and Northern and Eastern South America in the coastal dunes and arid lowlands. While another group of this genus are found growing more epiphytically throughout the Caribbean and tropical areas of Columbia and Venezuela, elevated off the ground. They all prefer bright to full sun. For growing this genus, Andy recommended using a fine substrate that holds an even amount of moisture, but warned against letting the plants get too much water, or they will rot.

Anyone interested in contacting Andy with questions or comments can reach him at Andysbromeliads.com or sieckkinenar@gmail.com

Door Prizes: We had several door prizes at our meeting. Geri and Dave Prall brought a beautiful *Neoregelia* Bird Rock, a hybrid of 'Rosea Striata'. Debbie McPhail donated two plants: an *Aechmea* Amarillo, which is a hybrid with beautiful green and yellow foliage, plus an *Aechmea* 'Peggy', a cultivar of *Aechmea ramosa*. And Elijah Spurline from the Sundance Nursery in South Florida gave 11 plants, which he commented, a most generous donation.

Show and Tell: Members and guests brought in many plants to share. Elijah, Dave Denholm and Betty Ann Prevatt did the honors, holding them all up to show and discuss.

Raffle: For our raffle, over 40 plants were brought in and given away to the happy winners by Larry Giroux along with Betsy Burdette and Dolly Dalton. It seemed that almost everyone left with a new treasure.

Meeting adjourned: 4:03 PM
Respectfully submitted by
Alison Ackerman, CBS Secretary



Morphologically, most *Hohenbergias* resemble one of two shapes. *Hoh. castellanosi* has the typical wide leafed, slightly flattened rosette; while, *Hoh. pennae* has the other shape, a bulbous urn shaped form. Most have the upright, branching inflorescence.



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xSincoregelia Galactic Warrior
(formerly *xNeophytum Galactic Warrior*)

This is your September-October 2026 CBS Newsletter