

THE CALOOSAHATCHEE
BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S
MERISTEM



Sept-
Oct
2016



THE CBS IS MOVING
TO OUR NEW HOME!

**The Fort Myers-Lee County
Garden Council Building**
The Berne Davis Gardens
2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers
239-332-4942
(See maps and directions inside this issue)

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD

SOCIETY OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President— Pete Diamond 704-213-7601 (Lygodium63@hotmail.com)

Past- President & Vice-President— Dale Kammerlohr 863-558-0647
(dzdase@embarqmail.com)

Co-SECRETARY—Carly Sushil (239) 454-5130 crpfalz@eagle.fgcu.edu

Co-SECRETARY— Sharalee Diaz mrsthimble@aol.com

TREASURER—Betty Ann Prevatt 334-0242 (bprevattpcc@aol.com)

STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSONS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR—Larry Giroux 997-2237 (DrLarry@comcast.net)

NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR— Carly Sushil 454-5130 (CRPfalz@eagle.fgcu.edu)

FALL SALES CHAIRS—Geri & Dave Prall 699-6400 (PalmTreeGardens@hotmail.com);

Brian Weber 941-256-4405 (brianweber1b@aol.com)

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON—Bruce McAlpin (863) 674-0811

WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON—Position Available

SPECIAL PROJECTS— Carly Sushil (239) 454-5130 crpfalz@eagle.fgcu.edu

CBS FCBS Rep.—Vicky Chirside 941-493-5825 (vickychir@aol.com)

CBS FCBS Rep.—Cate Peterson 941-505-1554 (cpeters3606@yahoo.com)

OTHER COMMITTEES

AUDIO/VISUAL SETUP—Bob Lura, Terri Lazar, Vicky Chirside, Larry Giroux

DOOR PRIZE—Bruce McAlpin (863) 674-0811 & membership

HOSPITALITY—Mary McKenzie 239-246 4754

SPECIAL HOSPITALITY—Betsy Burdette 694-4738 (betsy@burdetteinc.com)

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

SHOW & TELL—Dale Kammerlohr 863-558-0647

FM-LEE GARDEN COUNCIL—Mary McKenzie 239-246-4754

LIBRARIAN—Linda Soter 239-561-0154

The opinions expressed in the Meristem are those of the authors. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor or the official policy of CBS. Permission to reprint is granted with acknowledgement. Original art work remains the property of the artist and special permission may be needed for reproduction.



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Sept. Meeting— Sunday, Sept 18th 2016

October Meeting— Sunday, Oct 16th 2016

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 Sept. meeting. Terrie Bert will be bringing sale plants.

Membership Sales are permitted at the October meeting...even though Steve Hoppin may be bringing some of his hybrids for sale.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

September Program

“48 Genera in 45 Minutes”

By Terrie Bert

Terrie returns with a less intense presentation (that is in comparison to the programs we have had from her in the past). But still get ready for a rapid review of the Bromeliad Family in all of their spectacular shapes, colors and peculiarities. Terrie will attempt to encompass all the major genera (48) in the time (45 mins.) allowed her.

Terrie is well up to this task as an exceptional exhibitor, grower, BSI Judge and National and International speaker for decades. Her research on the topics she speaks about spans from evolution to those helpful hints for growing nearly any type of bromeliad.

I’ve been told she will be bringing plants for sale, which is always anticipated not only because of the collections of species she brings, but her outstanding prices.



***Neoregelia* ‘Terrie Bert’ Photo courtesy of the BCR**

October Program

“Growing Quality Cryptanthus”

By Steve Hoppin

Steve Hoppin has been a member of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society for 15 years. For the first 10 of those years he was very active not only with our Society (he was President and Show Chair), but with the BSI as a major Committee Chair of the 2008 BSI WBC Show in Australia and as a BSI Judge. As an exhibitor, his entries were consistently top bench quality, winning Best in Show, Sweepstakes Awards, and not forgetting top awards for Best of categories!

A quandary that more than one panel of Judges faced when judging many of his plants during Bromeliad Shows, especially while judging his cryptanthus, was whether these exhibits were too large for that specific hybrid. Judges are trained to judge a bromeliad by “the standard” for that plant. Of course they have to determine that standard by plants they have seen or grown personally, from photos or what they have observed during their training.

In the case of Steve's show plants, when the form, color and all other cultural factors conform to the “standard”, but the plant is 50 to 100% larger than the size of a typical or normally judged plant of the same type, what are a judge suppose to do. Most Judges have no choice but to reward the grower for their skill. Steve may have set the new “standard” for some plants.

Steve is going to discuss his special and very successful procedures in growing his beautiful plants.



Steve has dozens of hybrids attributed to him; hopefully he will bring some for the October meeting's sale.

Back Cover– Picture of one of my favorite Steve Hoppin Hybrids: *Cryptanthus* ‘Court Jester’

(L) *Cryptanthus warasii*...grown and exhibited by Steve Hoppin.

September & October Workshop

The Workshops until the end of the year will be announced at a future date. Watch your monthly notifications.

Elections for Officers for 2017

It is not a given that the current Officers...President, Vice-President, Secretaries and Treasurer will remain in office for 2017. In October, the President will select a Nominations Committee to accept nominees willing to run for these elected offices. If you are serious about filling one of these positions, please contact any member of this Committee to have yourself nominated. In November we will have an election by the membership. Please consider volunteering your services to the CBS in 2017.

October 1st Trip to Selby Gardens

Carly Sushil, our Special Project Chair has been arranging a club outing to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota and the Spring Festival at Tropiflora for Oct 1st. By the time you receive this notice, I'm not sure there are available seats. \$15 was expected at the last meeting. This is a bargain since \$15 would hardly cover the cost of admission to Selby. The Society has agreed to pay for the van. If you are still interested call Carly Sushil (239) 454-5130 to check availability. PLEASE DO SO IMMEDIATELY!

Changes...Events...Changes

There are some major events and changes in the next few week and months that will affect you & the CBS significantly. Please read the following information carefully.

Our schedule will be the same as with previous meetings.

Workshop will start at 1:15PM

Refreshment Break following the Program.

Please continue to bring refreshments, Show & Tell /

Plants for Identification, Raffle items and Friendship plants.

Location: 2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers 239-332-4942

There are 2 entrances...Off Virginia Ave and Larchmont Ave.

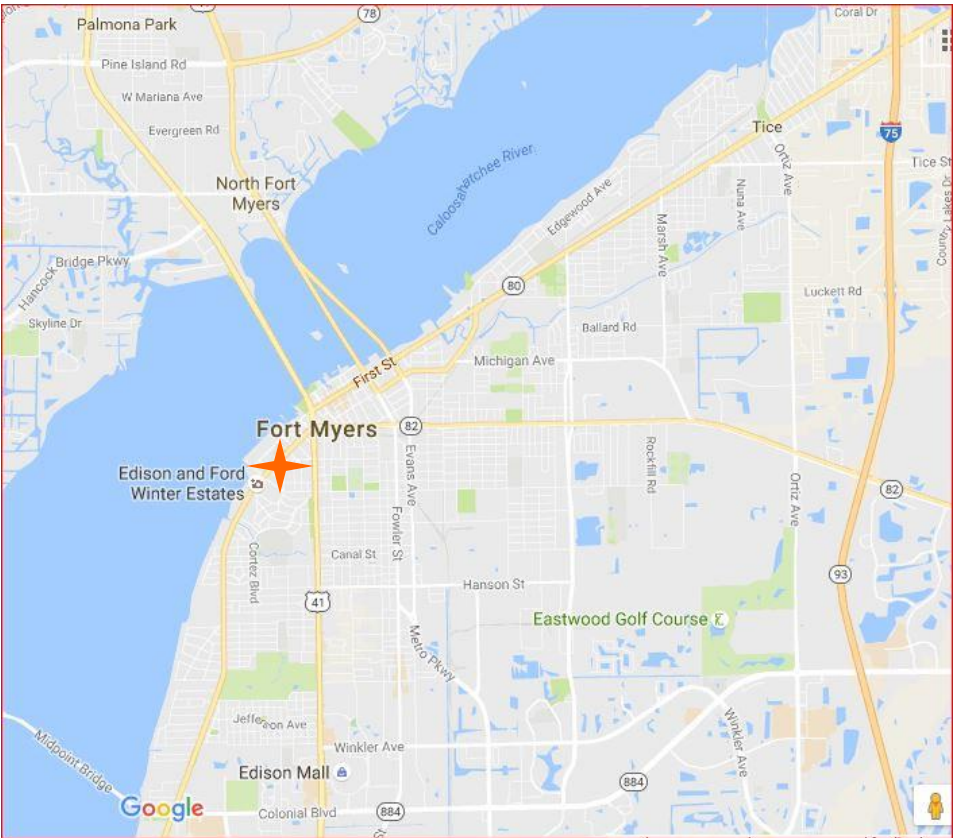
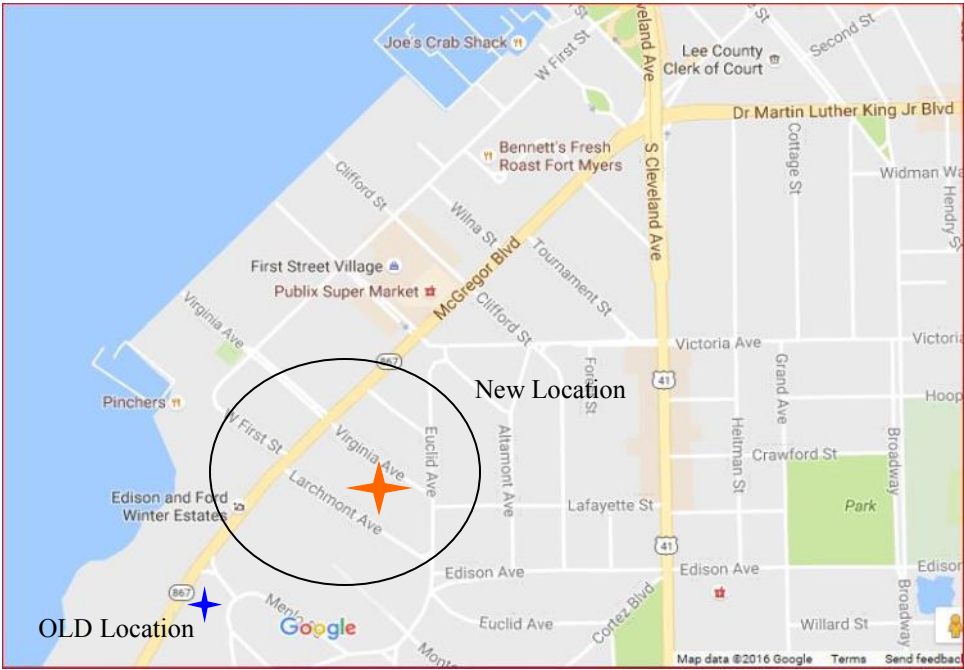
Virginia Ave is the 2nd Right North of the Edison Gardens

Larchmont is the 1st Right North of the Edison Gardens

There is limited Handicap and regular parking on Virginia Ave.

There is a grassy field during dry weather and general parking on Larchmont, north of the Edison Gardens.





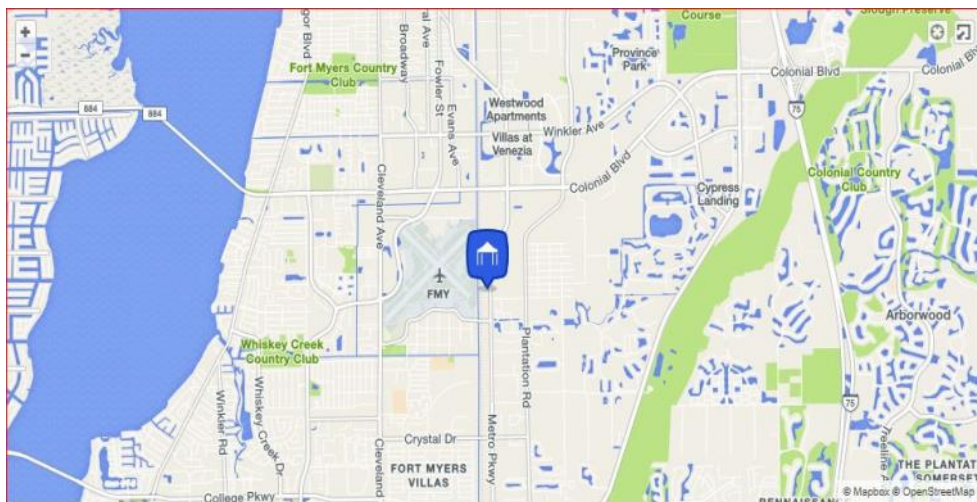
**We are changing the location of the
CBS Sale from Terry Park to
The TROPICAL LODGE #56 / Also called the
MASONIC LODGE
10868 METRO PKWY FT MYERS FL 33906**

Dates: Sat. Dec 3rd & Sun. Dec 4th 2016

**The new facility is indoors, A/C'ed and easily
accessible for both sellers and buyers.**

The sales committee would like to get an idea of how many vendors will be selling, as we need to work on a new layout. We would also like to know if you are willing to bring your own tables. There are 25 round tables available for CBS's use. Those that do not have their own tables can use some of the round tables. Please email Geri Prall (PalmTreeGardens@hotmail.com) if you intend to sell at this sale and if you can bring tables. We need to get a preliminary count; but, if something comes up and you change your mind, you can let her know before the sale.

Any member in good standing who has been a member since June 1st 2016 is eligible to sell bromeliads, driftwood, plant related items (including hangers, bromeliad art, etc.) You get to keep 75% of the money you earn and have a fun time doing it.



The CBS HOLIDAY PARTY WILL BE HOSTED BY

Carly Sushil

6441 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers (Buckingham)

On Sunday, December 18th 2016

**More information will follow in the
November/December Newsletter**

Additional Information for Bromeliad Growers about Mosquitoes...

Hi Larry and Carly,

When I attended the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society meeting in May, there was a lively discussion about mosquitoes in bromeliad tanks, whether it was an issue of concern, and how to control them.

I just ran across what I think is a very thorough article on this subject from the Tampa Bay Times, which includes some useful information from UF/IFAS extension personnel in Pinellas County. The article was published in 2008 but the information still seems relevant. I'm sending the link to you, so you can share it with the Society members by email or print out and distribute to your members at your next monthly meeting, if you think it's of interest.

[http://www.tampabay.com/features/
homeandgarden/simple-precautions-prevent-
bromeliads-from-becoming-mosquito-
nurseries/483443](http://www.tampabay.com/features/homeandgarden/simple-precautions-prevent-bromeliads-from-becoming-mosquito-nurseries/483443)

Best wishes, Marc

Marc S. Frank

Extension Botanist

UF/IFAS Plant Identification and Information Service

More Additional Information for Bromeliad Growers about Mosquitoes...from a bromeliad expert.

Hi Dennis, Hi Carol:

The vector of Zika virus is the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*. It is uncommon in Florida bromeliads. For a start, these mosquitoes prefer to lay their eggs in **dark** containers of nutrient-rich water, such as scrap tires. Here is a study that I made and published in 1988: <http://journals.fcla.edu/flaent/article/view/58346/560251> As you see, almost all of the mosquitoes present were of the genus *Wyeomyia*, whose adults bite but do not transmit disease to people. Better than that, the *Wyeomyia* mosquito larvae outcompete the *Aedes aegypti* for food. Yes, I know that the samples I collected were all from *Billbergia pyramidalis*, but the same applies to other ornamental bromeliads.

Here is a link to the website of the Gainesville Bromeliad Society: <http://www.gainesvillebromeliadsociety.org/Partners.html> It includes a writeup about how to control mosquito larvae in your bromeliads. I wrote it in 2014, but the same applies now - just that now we have Zika virus as well as Chikungunya and dengue viruses.

The last two are also spread by *Aedes albopictus* which was not present in Florida in 1988.

In summary, I think the risk of these diseases being spread by mosquitoes whose larvae develop in bromeliad leaf axils is greatly overblown. Furthermore, the GBS website describes methods of controlling the mosquito larvae that are present.

Best wishes

Howard Frank

CBS Minutes for June 19th 2016

Location: Covenant Presbyterian Church at 2439 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers,

Meeting called to order at 1:20 PM. By President Peter Diamond

Attendance total: 40 New members: 0 Guest: 1, Hal McFarland

Workshop: “Hybrid Crossing” Presented by Dale Kammerlohr

Dale brought in samples of his hybrid crosses and a diagram of the flower anatomy. The reasons for making crosses are to produce something exceptional and the fun of never knowing what you are going to get. When making crosses you must remove the male parts (anthers) to avoid self-pollination. He showed the kit he uses to mark the plants. Acrylic paint to mark the plant and then he uses forceps to transfer the pollen. For Neos he usually pokes a hole in it so the plant drains and doesn't rot. He keeps extensive records and every plant has a number. The seed plant is listed first and then the pollen plant (example plant # 101 crossed

with plant # 205 would be plant 101x205. And then the resulting hybrids would have a separate number. Two sets of seedling trays were shown from crosses he did 6 months and one year ago. Then he showed a tray with selected plants that he liked the look of and after that he puts them in 5 inch pots. The last tray was Billbergias all from the same cross which showed lots of variations, from there you choose what you like to keep and discard the rest. For flowers it takes about 3 years to see the fruits of your labor. Crossing for foliage is easier to see and if everything goes right the whole cycle can take up to 6 years. Aechmeas grow faster, Billbergias are easier to emasculate and last year he potted up 5000 Neoregelias and he would be happy with a couple of really good ones.

Business Meeting called to order at 1:45 PM. by Peter Diamond

Announcements:

Peter reminded everyone that a few members were at the World Bromeliad Conference. Bruce spoke about upcoming speakers, Guillermo Rivera, Andy Siekkinen and Dr. Teri Bert. Peter – we still need a workshop chairman. In August Jeff will do a synopsis of the Fakahatchee swamp walk that was in April and Carly is working on a future field trip to Selby Botanical Gardens or Naples Botanical Gardens on a day other than our regular meeting day. Dale was contacted by Garden Council regarding sprucing up our area of the garden. Saturday the 16th of July was chosen as a work day and a sign-up sheet was passed around. Work will begin at 7:30 AM.

Program: “Foliage Vrieseas” Presented by: Dave Johnston from “Bromeliads Galore”

Dave showed a wonderful power point presentations showing many beautiful and sought after Vrieseas that are prized not for their inflorescence but for their patterned foliage. The three main hybridizers that he spoke of were David Fell from Hawaii Andrew Malloy, from Auckland New Zealand and Jack Konig from Australia. Most of the popular hybrids come from one or more of these plants: *Vriesea fenestralis* from Brazil which is cold tender, *Vriesea fosteriana* also from Brazil and cold tender, *Vriesea gigantea* a large but cold tender plant, *Vriesea hieroglyphica* which does not like heat and humidity or cold and tends to rot here in Florida, and *Vriesea platynema* with its purple tips that come through in the crosses. Some of these spectacular plants have sold as high as \$1,800.00. The best way to grow Vrieseas here in Florida is with very loose potting mix, spray with water soluble fungicide at first sign of disease, use lots of time release fertilizer, grow in low but bright light conditions and leave two rows of dead leaves on the bottom to help prevent rot. Vriesea tend to be slow growers and can take years to reach maturity. The leaves can mutate and the plants use a tone of fertilizer. He cuts the leaves back on the plants that have bloomed and will sometimes stab the Neoregelias to promote increased off-set production. He has about 1200 varieties of plants in his nursery now, and uses cistern water for his automated watering system. He welcomes visitors to his nursery “Bromeliads Galore” in Pinellas Park and brought some plants with him today.

Refreshment Break: 2:36 - 3:08 PM. Thank you Mary McKenzie and volunteers for all the wonderful treats

Show and Tell: led by Dale Kammerlohr, Jerry and David Prall

Door Prize: 5 *Vriesea ospina* were donated by Bruce McAlpin and won by Linda Soter, Sharalee Dias, Robin Harris, Bert Dias and Debbie McPhail

Raffle: Led by Dale Kammerlohr, assisted by Terri Lazar and Dolly Dalton

Adjournment: 3:45 PM Respectfully submitted by Sharalee Dias Co-Secretary

CBS Minutes for July 17th 2016

Workshop: Kara Tyler-Julian from Lee County Mosquito Control District gave a lecture on mosquitos, Bromeliads, and the Zika virus. Mosquitos are flies. There are 80 species in Florida and 48 in Lee County. 2 species are capable of spreading Zika. Only female mosquitos take a blood meal. The proteins in blood are needed for egg production. Both males and females eat nectar. Larvae are aquatic and need standing water to grow into adults. Not all mosquitos feed on humans. Some prefer birds, or other mammals.

Aedes aegypti and *Aedes albopictus* are the mosquitos that vector the Zika virus. Both are container breeders, and daytime feeders, although they are opportunistic and will feed whenever food is available. In addition to Zika, these mosquitos can spread Yellow Fever, Dengue, and Chikagunya. They will breed in any container of water that is left outside, including Bromeliads. The good news is that they are short distance fliers, and will fly only 300 feet at the most.

The Zika virus was discovered in 1947 in Africa. The first case outside Africa was in 2007. The symptoms of the virus are: fever, rash, joint pain, and red eyes. Most symptoms are mild and short term. There is an additional threat to pregnant women because it can lead to Microcephaly in the fetus. Because it is a virus the symptoms can be treated, but the virus has to run its course. In humans the incubation period is 3 to 12 days and symptoms last about a week. In mosquitos if a female bites an infected host it has to incubate for 8 to 10 days before she can pass the virus on to another human, but that female is capable for infecting others for the rest of her life. On average a female takes 5 blood meals in a lifetime.

There are 2 native mosquito species in Florida that specialize in breeding in Bromeliads. *Culex* and *Aedes* neither of these species is capable of spreading diseases. These mosquitos are very common and are frost sensitive.

There are a few things you can do to reduce the amount of mosquitos in your yard: rinse the tanks of Bromeliads once a week or more with a hose, and keep fallen leaves and twigs out of Bromeliads. Also, there is a product called Mosquito Bits, which is ground up corn cobs with bT mixed in. There is another product called, Altosid, which is an insect growth regulator that doesn't allow the larvae to become adults. The best practice is to make sure there is no standing water in your yard. Be sure to dump out buckets, toys, trash cans, and other containers at least once a week.

To protect yourself from mosquito bites you can wear long sleeved, light colored clothing and apply repellants on the outside of your clothes.

For more information on mosquitos go to www.lcmcd.com.

General Meeting: There was a work day yesterday (July 16th) at the Garden council gardens. Thank you to everyone who showed up to help. There will be another work day in the fall. Renovations are under way in the garden council building and should be done in the next 5 weeks. Pete Diamond mentions that we may have to donate some AV equipment to the garden

council as there is no budget for it. If you have any information on AV equipment procurement please contact Larry Giroux. Vicky Chirnside made a motion to move our monthly meetings to the garden council building when the renovations are complete. Elizabeth Miglore seconded. The motion passed.

The annual sale will be on the first weekend in December as usual, but it will be held at the Tropical Lodge #56 (also known as the Masonic Lodge) at 10868 Metro Parkway in Fort Myers. We moved the location because it is big enough for both the show and sale, it is inside and air conditioned, and is affordable.

Carly Sushil is planning a bus trip to Selby Gardens and Tropiflora on October 1st. This is the day of Tropiflora's fall festival, so there will be many vendors selling plants. The cost for members is \$15 and is due on or before the September meeting. If you would like to attend please contact Carly at (239) 454-5130 or email at crpfalz@eagle.fgcu.edu.

Vicky Chirnside gave a report on the Florida Council meeting. The funding for evil weevil research has been cut. Dr. Theresa is still working on it, but is looking for private funding. The Extravaganza for next year will be in Tampa on July 22-24. The world conference in 2018 will be in San Diego on May 29-June 3. Also, the BSI is trying to raise \$66,000 to cover its operating costs.

Diane Cornelison's partner passed away this week. Pete Diamond thanks everyone who reached out to her and family in her time of need to offer friendship or donated to her cause.

If anyone has any information on Alzheimer's patient day care please contact Elizabeth, who will pass it on to a member of our club who is looking for assistance. Program: Guillermo Rivera gave a presentation on a recent scouting trip to Columbia. Guillermo says that Columbia is the #1 country for birding and is one of the 17 most diverse countries. The roads are good in Columbia, but it still takes a while to get places because it is so mountainous. He photographed many species of bromeliads including Pitcairnia, Tillandsia, Guzmania, Billbergia, and Vriesea. Guillermo is planning a trip to Ecuador next year in July. Contact Guillermo for more information.

Door Prize: There was a *Neoregelia* Grace donated by Ashley Singleton that was won by Eleanor Kinzie. Bruce McAlpin donated 8 *Cryptanthus microglasioui* the winners were: Barry Kruger, Gary Mayer, Ross Griffith, Carly Sushil, Harriet Nolan, Nathan Singleton, Patty Gonzalez, and Jim Blythe.

Attendance: There were 51 members and guests in attendance. The guests were Gary Mayer, Hal McFarland, and Nathan Singleton.

Show and Tell: Led by Dale Kammerlohr

Raffle: Led by Larry Giroux and assisted by Betsy Burdette, Dolly Dalton, and Ross Griffith

Respectfully submitted by Carly Sushil, Co-Secretary.

CBS Minutes for August 21st 2016

Call to order: 1:15 by President Pete Diamond

Attendance: There were 53 members and guests in attendance. The guests were Nathan Singleton, and Leighton Block.

Diane Cornelison and her daughter stood up and thanked everyone for their help and support during their time of mourning.

Workshop: Jeff Joffe gave a presentation about the trip to Fakahatchee Strand back in April. Carly Sushil, Pete Diamond, Dick Arnold, and Jeff went on a swamp walk about 3 miles into the swamp. The walk was about 1 hour long. The tour guides gave out walking sticks and led the way. The water was about knee high. Within Fakahatchee there are Cypress domes, prairies, and small oak hammocks. There were many species of Tillandsia and orchids. After the swamp walk Jeff went camping in the Everglades for the weekend. He went to the Kirby Storter Boardwalk, Monroe Loop Road, and went kayaking on the Turner River.

General Meeting: Carly Sushil is organizing a trip to Selby Gardens and Tropicflora on October 1st. The club will rent a van for the day. The cost to members is \$15. See Carly for more information.

Carol Sweat announced that the Collier Master Gardener's plant sale will be on October 22-23 at the extension office.

Dale Kammerlohr and Larry Giroux went to the FM-LC Garden Council building to get an idea of what they need in terms of AV equipment. Larry will donate a projection screen. Several companies submitted quotes for the AV work. Estimates ran from \$6,000 to \$19,000. There was discussion among members about how much CBS would donate. Vikki Chirnside motioned to donate \$1,500 to pay for AV equipment. Elizabeth Migliore seconded. The motion passed.

Program: Andy Siekkinen gave a presentation on his trip to Brazil in March of 2015. He went to an academic conference on Bromeliad research. At the conference there are poster presentations from the researchers to explain what they have been working on in an informal and conversational way. Andy's research is about finding out how closely *Hechtia* species are related based on DNA. He has found that the closer the plants are growing the more closely related they are. While in Brazil Andy went on a few day-trips to see the plants growing in habitat. He went to a dry forest with granite outcroppings that were covered in bromeliads. He found a species of *Anthurium* that grows exclusively in the tanks and leaves of Bromeliads.

Break for refreshments: Thank you for bringing in snacks.

Door Prize: Ashley Singleton donated a *Neo. Dorothy*. It was won by Terri Lazar. Bruce McAlpin donated 9 *Neo. Chiquito Lindo*. They were won by: Helen Robertson, Nathan Singleton, Duke Graessle, Octavio Velarde, Geri Prall, Barry Kruger, Larry Giroux, Carol Sweat, and Elizabeth Migliore.

Show and Tell: Led by Dale Kammerlohr.

Raffle: Led by Larry Giroux, assisted by Dolly Dalton and Terri Lazar.

Adjournment: 4:00

Respectfully submitted by Carly Sushil, Co-Secretary.



Dr. Larry Giroux, Editor
3836 Hidden Acres Circle N
North Fort Myers FL 33903
(239) 997-2237 DrLarry@comcast.net



This is your Sept/Oct CBS Newsletter.