



THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY'S MERISTEM

March/ April 2017



CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Past- President & Vice-President— Dale Kammerlohr 863-558-0647
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NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR— Carly Sushil 454-5130 (CRPfalz@eagle.fgcu.edu)

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WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON—Position Available

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CBS FCBS Rep.—Vicky Chirnside 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 Chirnside, 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—Marv McKenzie 239-246-4754

LIBRARIAN—Linda Soter 239-561-0154

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THE CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

**March Meeting— Sunday, Mar 19th
“Evil Weevil Auction”
At the FMLC Garden Council Building
37th Birthday Party
In lieu of our April 23rd Meeting
At the home of
Terri & Jeff Lazar
See inside for details about both events**

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 March Auction.
Membership Sales are not permitted at the April Party.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society is an active Affiliate of:



Cryptanthus Society



BSI



FCBS



FM/LC GC

Annual March Auction

12Noon

The location will be the same as last year and the procedure will be similar. We should arrive at the LCFMGC building to begin setup of tables and chairs about 12noon. Starting at 12PM we need bodies to help in a variety of areas- Setup, record keepers, runners, people to fill out donation tags, holding area keepers and people to show the items and pass out the winners' successful winning stubs.

12:30-1:45PM

We will be accepting donations such as bromeliads, other tropical plants, bromeliad and gardening related items, books and art. Bromeliads should be clean and healthy and appropriately labeled. If you are unsure about the name ask other members for an ID. Certain items will be selected from donations for the SILENT AUCTION. All items will be numbered and labeled and will be displayed until the Auction begins. Please register for your bidding number at this time. **You can not bid in either Auction without a number.**

1:15 PM- 2:15 PM

Refreshment Break

This is the time for review of auction items and submission of bids for Silent Auction items, which will be set up on side tables. Each item will have a bidding sheet for you to write your bidding number and an offer. Bidders can continuously up the bid as they wish. Bidding will continue until the Silent Auction items are randomly selected and sold to the bidder who has bid the highest. Please bear with us, we will still be receiving donations and labeling them until about 1:45PM, so things may look like a mad house!

2:15 PM

We take our seats and the Auction will begin following a brief business meeting and/or announcements from our President. During the Auction, Silent Auction items will be randomly removed and the winner will be announced. Until an item is taken, you may continue to raise your written offer. The auctioneer will with the assistance of those who brought the item or other commentators, describe the item and auction off the items to the highest bidder during the regular Auction. After an item has been won it will be returned to a holding area. You will be given a claim stub with the price you bid and the item's number, immediately after you have won an item.

Conclusion of Auctions

At the completion of the auction you take your claim stubs to the cashiers and pay for your items with **cash or check**. After you have paid for your items, the claim stubs will need to be shown to the workers in the holding area...so hold on to them. Your items will be handed over to you. We ask that you help us avoid any confusion. We want everybody to get exactly what they have

won as quickly as possible without mistakes. Please note that this year we will be using a two part ticket; one part stays with the plant and the winning bidder receives one part immediately after winning the item, which they will need to claim their winnings. This makes it possible for bidders to check out early since you will know exactly what you owe by adding up you stubs; however, we encourage members to stay until the completion of the Auction when we will have several people available to check you out.

Please come to the Auction and have some fun while supporting the CBS and the FCBS with donations and the purchase of items. As in past years, 1/2 of the proceeds after expenses will be donated to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. We have been generous donors for as long as I can remember. We are acknowledged by the FCBS as their number one Affiliate contributor to the Council's projects including the "Evil Weevil Eradication Program". We all can take much pride in this accomplishment.

Our 37th Birthday Party

Terri and Jeff Lazar have invited the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society to celebrate our Birthday Party at their home in LeBelle. The address is 999 County Road 78 LaBelle, FL Tel# 863-675-2392



The party will follow a similar format as our Holiday and previous Birthday parties. Please plan on arriving about 12 noon; we'll eat about 1 PM. You might want to bring a folding table and chairs to be sure of sitting room.

Bring food to share - such things as salads, casseroles, finger sandwiches, relish trays, and although we will provide a birthday cake, your special deserts will not go uneaten. Bring any special beverages for yourself or to share, although we will have basic beverages.

We will probably be eating outside depending on the weather and the Lazar's property has some shady areas. Expect some mosquitos, so come prepared. In April it will have warmed up, but watch the weather that day so you can be comfortable.

Our Birthday and Holiday raffles are always an important part of our celebration so try to bring nice clean plants (nice plants other than bromeliads are also appreciated) and bromeliad related items, for our raffle. Consider items that other members would relish. Tickets are still 3 for \$1. Friendship Plants are also welcome... these are those extra plants from your garden that might be of value to other members. These freebies are always appreciated. But please, please...make sure you spray your plants or wash them very well.

One of the contests will be Bromeliad Hats. Bromeliads must dominate the hats' decorations.

1. most bromeliads on one hat
2. most whimsical
3. the smallest hat

Everybody is welcome to our parties, so bring friends, relatives and significant others and introduce them to our group. Who knows, they may just want to get involved on a regular basis.

Patterned Vrieseas

By Larry Giroux

All photos by Larry Giroux until otherwise noted.

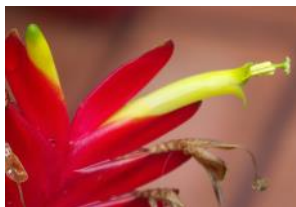
The genus *Vriesea* belongs to the plant Family *Bromeliaceae* and to the Subfamily *Tillandsioideae*. This means that *Vrieseas* are closely related to *Guzmanias* and *Tillandsias*. They have many similarities such as their soft leaves, feathery seeds, many have similar structured inflorescences and all are spineless. This epiphytic group of plants grow almost exclusively mounted in semi-shady locations throughout Mexico, the West Indies, Central America and in the northern two third of South America. However, in cultivation, mounted bromeliads are not commercially successful, so most *Vrieseas* are grown and sold in pots. Actually the cultivation of mass numbers of these plants has become a major business. It is not all *Vrieseas*, which have achieved market success.

There are basically two types of *Vrieseas species* found in nature. First is the group of plants with rosettes of green or minimally spotted leaves and simple paddle like or mildly branched, flashy colored inflorescences. The species representatives of this group far out number the second group. Requiring little care and lower light conditions as found indoors, it is this group which have achieved commercial success. These are grown mostly because of their appealing inflorescences. The almost neon colors range from yellow to orange to bright red to dark maroon. The second group often called the foliage vrieseas or the patterned vrieseas, consists of just a couple of handfuls of species, but literally thousands of outrageously marked cultivars. These have come into their own during the last 2 decades, mostly due to a small talented group of hybridizers from Hawaii and Australia. For many these plants have become the crown jewels of their collections. During the World Bromeliad Conference in Hawaii in 2014, hybrids were selling for hundred and hundreds of dollars to collectors from around the World. At the nurseries that attendees visited, acres of vrieseas dominated the tables, and each of these gems appeared distinctively unique.

These decorative vrieseas, at least for me and many other growers I have spoken to are more difficult to grow than the other vrieseas or most other bromeliads. Probably the major factor to success is the control of water. In Hawaii, where they get excessive rains, of which they have little control, they have adapted by providing these exclusively epiphytic plants with a very porous media, often just volcanic pebbles when growing in pots and very porous soil, in raised beds, when growing in the ground. Here in Southwest Florida, I can't tell you how many *Vrieseas* and *Alcantareas* (very close relatives of *Vrieseas*) I have lost from rot, growing both in the ground and in pots. Regardless of where you grow them, mimicking the Hawaiian cultural conditions of very porous media, feeding weak solutions of soluble fertilizer in the cups or on the foliage and filtered light is your best chance to continue to enjoy these fantastically patterned plants.



Two of the small group of the foliage *Vriesea species*, which have provides genes for the thousands of colorful hybrids. *Vr. fenestralis* and a drawing by Kiti Wenzel of *Vr. fosteriana* ‘Red Chestnut’.



It is suggested that the markings on the patterned leaves of the *Vriesea* species provide a beacon to attract bats and moths that pollenate these night bloomers. The tubular flowers (left) have also adapted for such night creatures.

Below are a sampling of the beautiful hybrids of *Vrieseas*. Sorry, when taking many of these pictures, I did not get names; otherwise, I would still be photographing! David Shigii was one of the pioneers to introduce these plants into cultivation and many of these plants are from his collection. He was followed later by David Fell in providing new cultivars. On our front cover and back cover are photos by Dr. Gary Nelson of one of Fell's cultivars named Vr. 'Pink Dream', which he acquired in Hawaii. Parentage is unknown. I encourage you to check out all the other beautiful *Vrieseas* at BSI.org and FCBS.org.



Call to Order: 1:30 by President Pete Diamond
CBS Meristem Mar-Apr 2017

CBS Minutes for January 15th 2017

Call to Order: 1:20 by President Pete Diamond

Workshop: Larry Giroux showed a slideshow of pictures from Wally and Dorothy Berg's garden in Sarasota. Wally Berg imported a large number of bromeliads in the early days when there were fewer restrictions on importing. The Bergs turned their swimming pool area into a garden with a waterfall and lily pond.

General Meeting: Pete Diamond thanks all board and committee members for all their hard work in past year as well as the upcoming year. Larry Giroux would like everyone to know that there is frequently room in the newsletter for articles/ essays. If you would like to submit an article please contact Larry. Pete also thanked the Dave and Geri Prall and Brian Weber for their work in a very successful sale. This was our most successful sale since 2007. Comments and questions about the sale/ the upcoming sale can be directed at any board member.

Carly Sushil will be the Special Projects chair again this year and is asking for input on field trips. She wants to plan another hike for the fall. There may be a bus trip to the Extravaganza in August. If you would be interested in either of these trips or hosting a home garden tour please contact Carly.

Bruce McAlpin is still providing the door prizes and we all thank him for it. If anyone would like to help Bruce by bringing a nice plant for a door prize please let him know which month you will bring it.

Mary McKenzie, Carol Sweat, Terri Lazar, and Anne Miller our hospitality committee and have been doing a wonderful job of serving refreshments. Thank you ladies. Please remember to bring a dish to share to meetings. And also remember not to snack before it is snack time.

Thank you to Betsy Burdette for organizing our parties. And thank you to Carly for hosting the Christmas party. This year's Birthday party will be at the home of Jeff and Terri Lazar. Thank you to Dolly Dalton and Luli Westra for being our raffle sales ladies. Thank you Dale Kammerlohr for being the Show and Tell leader.

Our annual auction to support research for the weevil will be in March. Please bring plants to be auctioned.

Thanks to Linda Soter for being our Librarian. Linda wants everyone to know that most of the books in the library are available for check out for one month.

Friendship plants are always welcome at meetings and parties. Plants outside the bromeliad family are welcome as well. Please limit yourself to one plant so that everyone has the chance to get one. Raffle plants are always welcome as well. Plants should be clean and in good condition. Show and tell plants are encouraged. Bring plants that need identification as well as nice ones that you want to brag about.

We still need a workshop coordinator. The board has come up with many ideas for topics. The job requires that you line up people to give a 15 minute interactive talk about basic bromeliad care information.

Pete Diamond announced the proposed donations for the year. They are: \$1000 to the BSI, \$300 to the Cryptanthus Society, \$300 to the Harry Luther Scholarship fund at Selby Gardens, \$100 to Friends of the Fakahatchee, and \$100 to the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. Gary Nelson will also donate

\$250 to the Science and Inventor's fair on behalf of CBS. This event will be on February 4th. If you would like to donate, or volunteer contact Gary.

The extra money to the BSI this year is to help BSI raise \$66,000 to combat their drop in membership. They will use this money to cover operating costs, putting on the world conferences, and in producing the journal. Donations from individuals are greatly appreciated as well. First time members to the BSI will get a 50% discount from CBS.

Larry Giroux made a motion to approve the donations. Bruce McAlpin seconded. The motion carries.

Bruce McAlpin brought up that we should give to the Ft Myers Garden Council since we don't pay rent on the building. Betty Ann Prevatt noted that we recently gave \$1500 for AV equipment and that the Garden Council has a budget and doesn't necessarily need money at the moment. We will keep open lines of communication for future funding needs. Mary McKenzie and Sharalee Dias are our reps for the garden council.

We netted \$35,035 at last year's sale. The club made about \$6,000. The balance in the bank is around \$19,000.

Pete Diamond and Vicky Chirnside are our reps for FCBS. Vicky has the registration forms for the Extravaganza on August 4, 5, and 6. It will be in Tampa at the Clarion Hotel. Rooms will be \$75 per night and includes breakfast. Registration is \$100 and includes a plant sale on Saturday, seminars, guest speakers, and a banquet on Saturday night. On Sunday there are garden tours available.

There are 57 members and guest in attendance today. The guests were Rose Parish-Weil, Marylou McGowan-McBride, Mary Cris, Dolores McQueen, Rick Lyon, and Wes Robinson. The new members are Pat Goetzinger, Alison Ackerman, Linda Ballou, Terry Wright, and Lee Whittington.

The Edison Home is having another plant sale on February 11th

The March in the Park sale is

The garden council of Cape Coral is planning a trip the Bach Tower. The cost is \$53 per person.

Annual dues are due at the January meeting. They are \$15 for a single member or \$20 for a dual membership.

Larry Giroux is gathering thoughts and ideas on building a webpage for CBS. He would like to form a committee to get this done. He needs people with expertise in webpage building.

Dale Kammerlohr and Carly Sushil are forming a committee to redesign our portion of the Garden Council Garden. We would like design ideas.

Break for Refreshments: Thank you to everyone who brought snacks.

Members are allowed to sell plants some of the regular meetings. The newsletter will announce which meetings you can. Sellers must donate 10% of their sales to the club or donate to the raffle.

Betty Ann Prevatt and Eleanor Kinzie will do the workshop in February on *Aechmea nudicalis*. Please bring any *Ae nudicalis* that you have to help demonstrate the many variations on the species.

Program: Larry showed a video of his visit to Wally Berg's garden with Diane Molnar, and Gene McKenzie in 2001.

Door Prize: Bruce McAlpin brought in some no label commercial Vrisesas for the door prizes. Thank you Bruce. The winners were: Linda Ballou, Robin, Anne Miller, Betty Ann Prevatt, Bert Dias, Roger Ozkochuck,

Allison Ackerman, and Rose Parish.

Show and tell was led by Dale Kammerlohr.

Raffle was led by Larry Giroux and was assisted by Pete Diamond and Luli Westra.

Respectfully submitted by Carly Sushil

CBS Minutes for February 19th 2017

Workshop: Betty Ann Prevatt and Eleanor Kinzie gave a talk about *Aechmea nudicaulis*. *Nudicaulis* are generally stiff leaved and prickly and like to crawl out of their pots. There is a thumbprint at each leaf base. These are tough plants that do well in the landscape and mounted on trees. *Nudicaulis* means nude stem. Betty Ann and Eleanor brought in several different *nudicaulis* to show and identify.

Program: Dave Johnston is the owner of Bromeliads Galore and gave a program called "Billbergias are Awesome". *Billbergias* have colorful foliage and blooms. Dave showed a slideshow of some very beautiful *Billbergia* species and hybrids. Dave says that *Billbergia* need good quality soil, time release fertilizer and good quality water. Do not let them dry out.

The Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council's Standard Flower Show will be on March 17 and 18. The hours are 1 to 6 on Friday and 10 to 3 on Saturday. Admission is free. It will be located at the garden council building at 2166 Virginia Ave.

The March meeting is our annual auction to raise money for FCBS. Please come early to help set up. Also, bring plants to donate to the auction.

Pay your dues before March 1st in order to get your name in the roster for CBS and FCBS.

The Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council needs a new Vice President. Any CBS member can volunteer.

This year's birthday party will be on April 23rd at the home of Terry and Jeff Lazar in Labelle.

There will be a plant sale on Saturday, Feb 25th at the home of Debbie McPhail on Shadow Lane in Fort Myers starting at 8am.

On March 11th there will be a garden tour at Rick Batt's house in Cape Coral. The March in the Park sale is also that day at Jaycee Park.

Rob Branch is having an open house over Mother's Day weekend.

Attendance: There were 66 members and guests in attendance. The guests were: Loretta Archer, John Woodhouse, Anita Renggli, Mary Lou McBride, Matthew Bagley, and Wes Robinson.

Door Prize: Bruce McAlpin donated 9 *Billbergia nana*. The winners were: Octavio Velarde, Geri Prall, Debbie McPhail, Bonnie Hunkins, Ken Repple, Wes Robinson, Carly Sushil, Betsy Burdette, and Elizabeth Migliore.

Show and Tell: Led by Dale Kammerlohr

Raffle: Led by Larry Giroux and assisted by Pete Diamond and Dolly Dalton.

Respectfully submitted by Carly Sushil, Co-Secretary.



Dr. Larry Giroux, Editor
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This is your March-April 2017 Newsletter Please refer to it for all the information about the March Auction and the April Birthday Party.