

Draft Minutes
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
Quarterly Meeting July 12, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ashley Graham at 12:50 PM in the clubhouse at Colony in the Woods, Port Orange. The meeting was hosted by Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society.

A **quorum** was present: Betsy McCrory and Ben Klugh (Central Florida); Kay Klugh (Seminole); Rick Ryals (Florida East Coast); Robert McGraw (Gainesville); Fred Rump (Caloosahatchee); Patty Gonzales and Mike Michalski (South Florida); Ashley Graham and Susan Sousa (Florida West Coast); Tom Wolfe (Tampa Bay); David Johnson and John O'Steen (Sarasota). Also present were Dr. Teresa Cooper (University of Florida, Weevil Project) and guests Bill McCrory, Steven Provost (BSI) and members of Florida East Coast.

Due to her recovery from surgery, Sudi Hipsley was not able to attend this meeting. There was no **treasurer's report**.

Due to family issues, Secretary Vicky Chirnside was not present. She had not provided minutes. Ashley reconstructed the **minutes** from the April meeting, with help from the representatives. Tom Wolfe made a motion, seconded by Ben Klugh, to approve the April minutes. Motion carried unanimously. Caloosahatchee representative Fred Rump was attending his first Council meeting. Everyone present understood that Fred was not familiar enough with the issues and representatives to take minutes. Ashley appointed Karen Andreas as acting secretary for the meeting.

Michael Andreas gave the **webmaster's report**. He asked again for final minutes for the minutes archive on the Council website. He will provide a list to Ashley of which reports are missing. He also agreed to update the rotation schedules for officers and meeting locations; with the loss of Broward, the current rotation matrix is not accurate. He has been posting hybrids from Lisa Vinzant and a good number from Thailand. On Monday July 14, he will post a special presentation by Oscar Ribiero on beachside cities north of Rio; pictures include giant bromeliads, including 10' tall Aechmeas.

Karen Andreas gave the **newsletter report**. She has so much material from the Bud Martin/Barbara Whittier programs on bromeliad pioneers that she will do an August newsletter with no need for additional material.

Dr. Teresa Cooper reported on the ongoing **weevil research** as well as the upcoming trip to Belize. She is studying the host bromeliad effect on the survival of the weevil; organizing and

analyzing the data collected so far has been time intensive. Most of the *T. utriculata* in Fakahatchee are gone – the weevil has hit that area hard. Selby has taken several surviving *utriculata* from Fakahatchee in an attempt to preserve that gene pool. There was a discussion on the genetic variability of *utriculata* throughout the state. Dr. Cooper mentioned that there is a Florida West Coast population that is rumored to reproduce by offsets as it also does in Central America. She will be searching out that special population. One goal is to get DNA samples and explore the possibility of hybridizing resistance into *utriculata*.

Old Business

Susan Sousa reported on compiling the **State Roster** for publication in August. She met with the printer in Orlando and is secure in those arrangements. She is interested in any format suggestions. The addition of a color cover was discussed but the consensus was that it would add too much to the roughly \$900 cost of the roster. Among ideas to improve the roster, Susan suggested including a list of commercial growers. Betsy McCrory and Karen Andreas cautioned against including them as that might be construed as advertisement which would jeopardize the Council's not for profit bulk mail permit.

Discussion was held on **additional signatures for the Council bank accounts**. Ashley read a report from Treasurer Sudi Hipsley that stated the process with Sun Trust very straightforward. Sun Trust requires minutes from the meeting in which the other signers are appointed. Representatives agreed the people added to the signature cards should be, for convenience sake, regular attendees of Council meetings and also live within some proximity to Sudi. Rick Ryals made the motion, seconded by Dave Johnson, to appoint Elizabeth (Betsy) McCrory and Kay Klugh to be the additional signatories. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike Michalski reported on **Extravaganza 2015**. It will be September 26, 2015, at the Double Tree Hotel at Miami International Airport. Room rate will be \$109 a night with a \$5 a day parking fee. The Cryptanthus Society will be invited to join the event. There will be a Friday night get together.

There will be no interim event planned by the Council for this year; the consensus was that there is not enough time to plan anything.

Ashley asked Rick Ryals to present the proposal for the Council to **provide reimbursement for speaker(s)** at future Extravaganzas and the off-year events. Rick advocated this program as a way to support bringing fresh speakers from out of state and even out of the country as well as provide tangible support for hosting societies. There was considerable discussion about the financial ramifications of the proposal. Rick made the motion, with Ben Klugh seconding, to approve a new Standing Rule to establish a Florida Council reimbursement program to

encourage Affiliated Societies to attract out of state speakers to speak at local meetings (where two or more clubs are participating) or at state events, i.e., seminars, symposiums or the biennial Bromeliad Extravaganza. The Council would reimburse a local club for the following expenses, up to \$1000 per event: air fare, lodging, federally accepted mileage and meals, event registration. Application must be made six months in advance, and the Council has the sole discretion to approve funding. Motion passed unanimously. Rick will create an application form to be posted on the Council site.

Ashley stated that a member of Florida West Coast asked for a discussion about the **length of the digital newsletter and its frequency**. Karen assured members that she would not be unreasonable in the length of the newsletters and that an August issue will be added to the schedule of quarterly newsletters. The State Roster will no longer be counted as a newsletter.

Rick Ryals presented a proposal for a **dues** schedule. There were six options offered: the current assessment of \$3.00 per address (which raises about \$1700/year); charging clubs with 75 members or less \$75 and those with 76 members or more \$150 (\$900); \$100 per club (\$900); \$1.00 per address (\$560); or have no dues beyond the initial contribution of \$50. Ben Klugh pointed out that, under all but the first scenario, the Council could not even pay for the roster publication, let alone embark on the speaker reimbursement program. A motion was made to change the current Standing Rule on dues from: “Dues for an Affiliated Florida Bromeliad Society shall consist of an initial contribution of \$50.00 and annual dues of \$10.00 with a Newsletter assessment of \$3.00 per address annually” to “Dues for an Affiliated Florida Bromeliad Society shall be \$3.00 per address annually.” Rick made the motion, seconded by Robert McGraw. Motion passed unanimously. Karen will write it as a Standing Rule and have it posted on the Council website.

Ashley is working on proposals to clean up the **Bylaws** and bring them into a more current condition. She asked for suggestions within the next week. Karen suggested changing the responsibility of keeping the roster from the Treasurer to a Roster specific person and also eliminating the “senior” and “junior” representative language.

New Business

Rick Ryals presented a **New Member Recruitment** proposal. In an effort to attain new affiliate society/club members, he suggested that the Chairman reach out and contact by any means necessary those Florida societies that are not currently members, offering: the ability to join the Council for one year, with no dues assessed; period of membership to be from September 30, 2014, to December 31, 2015; such member societies will not enter to rotations of the council officers or quarterly meetings; they will be invited to attend the Bromeliad Extravaganza; they will not receive the Council’s 2015 State Roster. Proposal passed.

Steve Provost gave a **BSI** report. He promoted the World Bromeliad Conference in September. Alan Herndon will be the new editor, starting with the April-June issue of the BSI Journal. Steven is chairman of the BSI archive committee. All the BSI archive material has been moved from Marie Selby Botanical Gardens to the University of Florida where it is being catalogued into the collection. All bromeliad societies are welcome to send their own archival material to this collection for cataloguing and, ultimately, preservation.

Representatives gave their societies' news.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Andreas
Acting Secretary.

Standing Rule 2

Dues for an Affiliated Florida Bromeliad Society shall be \$3.00 per address annually. (July 12, 2014)

Standing Rule 12

A Florida Council Speaker Reimbursement Program to encourage Affiliated Societies to attract out of state speakers for local meetings (in which two or more societies are participating) or at state events, i.e., seminars, symposiums or the biennial Bromeliad Extravaganza. This program would stimulate clubs to attract speaker talent not normally available to members because of financial burden.

A. The Council would reimburse the following expenses: air fare, lodging, federally accepted mileage and meals, event registration.

B. There is no limit to the number of speakers the Council will reimburse for in a single year or event or to a single Affiliated Society.

C. The Affiliated Society hosting the event must submit a proposed itemized request no later than six months prior to the event date to the Council Chairman and Treasurer.

D. The Affiliated Society must complete the reimbursement process within 30 days after the event.

E. Decisions for reimbursement are at the sole discretion of the Council's voting representatives present at the quarterly meeting when reimbursement is requested.

F. A small token admission (\$1) will be collected at each event (not for multiple speakers at a single event, i.e., Extravaganza) and submitted to the Council Treasurer within 30 days after the event.

G. Council representatives may consider a maximum of \$1000 reimbursement per event and will consider distance traveled, topic and quality of the speakers. (July 12, 2014)