



**FLORIDA COUNCIL
of
BROMELIAD SOCIETIES INC.
Newsletter**

This Newsletter published by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. & mailed to all paid up members of those Bromeliad Societies of Florida which make up the Council. Non-members may subscribe for \$2.00 per year.

Make checks payable to:

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Mail to:

Carol Johnson, Editor at cover address

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DECEMBER 1991

CATCHING UP - STAYING EVEN

Total to date in the FCBS Weevil Fund is \$2,340.40, donated by the following listed individuals and various Florida Bromeliad Societies. In many cases, where a society name is shown, that society has collected from individual members and remitted the total to the FCBS Treasurer. So, a lot of those who gave are not listed except by society. An announcement in the BSI Journal soliciting donations for the Weevil Fund has met with no response and all donations have been from the Florida membership:

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society (member contributions)
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
West Pasco Bromeliad Society
Seminole Bromeliad Society
Mr. Frank Cowan
Mr. Nat DeLeon
Bud Martin, Blossom World
Helga Tarver
Imperial Polk Bromeliad Society
Bromeliad Society of South Florida (membership contributions)
Pineapple Place
Ed Sargent
Whit Merrin
Drs. Morris & Helen Dexter

In the last issue of the Newsletter we reported the gift of movie film from Racine & Mulford Foster. The movies were taken on their 1946 trip thru South & Central America. The film has been transferred to video tape. By a vote of the Florida Council, it was decided to have the tape duplicated in volume. This has been done and copies of the tape will be available for sale as soon as the Council sets a price at the January 1992 meeting.

My article on the pros and cons of judged bromeliad shows was reprinted in the BSI Journal. Unfortunately, where I remarked "the first batch of Florida judges received their certificates at the World Conference in Corpus Christi in 1982" the Journal left out the word "Florida" and produced a whole raft of letters from bromeliad judges in Texas and Louisiana, where many of them were certified long before the Florida judges. Most comments from Florida people complimented the article, but the majority of those from out-of-state were in the vein "how dare you question Holy Writ?" Thanks to those who wrote. I have reprinted those in typewritten format which were not so long as to be cost prohibitive.

The current issue (December 1991) of the National Geographic Magazine carries an excellent article entitled: "Rain Forest Canopy - THE HIGH FRONTIER" by Edward O. Wilson, photographs by Mark W. Moffett. It is all about the amazing world of the tree-top flora and fauna of the rain forests of the world, and there is much interesting reading about bromeliads and other

epiphytes. Biologists from The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens contributed to the project reported. Don't miss it.

The "Special Thanks" (page 2) in the last Newsletter (August) omitted a very major contributor to the success of the "Extravaganza" held in Tampa in August, Dennis Cathcart. Dennis was the main speaker of the evening and presented a slide program of his collecting trips. Dennis is the Frank Buck of the bromeliad world--he brings 'em back alive or takes pictures of the collecting to share with all of us. He is most generous with his time and travels all around the state to give programs at society meetings. Many thanks!

The Racine Foster memorial service in October was well attended and a nostalgic "remembering" tribute to a remarkable lady. The Florida pioneers of the bromeliad movement are nearly all gone now, and we of the second wave are aging rapidly. We must make haste to pass on the knowledge received from the likes of the Fosters, Ensigns, Nallys, Davis' to a younger generation of bromeliad lovers.

My beautiful male *Androlepis skinneri* is in full bloom. Anyone who wishes to use it for cross breeding is most welcome. There will be no stud fees.

Jim Irvin's *Aechmea magdalenae quadricolor* won Best in Show at the Calcoosahatchee Bromeliad Show in November. It was a magnificent specimen. Now, if he could get it to bloom, he could charge admission for just a look. He also won Sweepstakes. Competition at that show was fierce, with probably the lowest percentage of red ribbons (or highest percentage of blues and award of merits) of any show I have ever judged. Considering the hot, wet summer and the resulting algae problems, entries in both the Ft. Myers and Sarasota shows were outstanding. Best in Show was won in Sarasota by Wally Berg with a mounted specimen of *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola*. No more shows until Spring, so the World Conference gets the whole Show Page.

I am hunting an offset from *Aechmea bracteata variegata*. Anyone have one to swap or sell? Many years ago I produced an *Ae. bracteata variegata* from irradiated seed, probably about 1974. Being big and wicked, they finally overran my greenhouse and I disposed of the whole lot. If anyone can help, please let me know.



**FLORIDA COUNCIL OF
BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.**

5211 Lake LeClaire Road
Lutz, Florida 33549

November 21, 1991

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE FCBS:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your great participation in the projects, activities, and events of the FCBS during 1991.

As I reflect on 1991 and the accomplishments FCBS made during this year, it gives me a great deal of confidence to know that we have so many committed people steadily progressing towards goals that will enhance the future of bromeliads statewide and even worldwide.

Some of our accomplishments this year were:

1. Presenting Harry Luther, Director of Mulford Foster Bromeliad Identification Center at Selby Gardens with a 35 MM Camera and accessories. Harry will be able to take pictures on collecting trips, natural habitats, laboratory specimens, and other events to use as he speaks to the Bromeliad Clubs all over the State.
2. The FCBS has established a Multi-Media Library of slide and films for the enjoyment of the FCBS members.
3. The annual Extravanza was a great success. The sales area was one of the largest we've ever had. The sales, seminars, program, and auction were exceptional. Fifty percent of the proceeds of the Rare Plant Auction was donated to the 1992 World Bromeliad Conference.
4. Funds were raised for KILL THE EVIL WEAVIL campaign and research is underway. The FCBS directly contributed \$500.00 and established a fund to receive contributions for the research.
5. Some exceptional films of Mulford Foster's expeditions have been purchased by the FCBS and put on video tape for the library.
6. A Florida Bromeliad Pioneers Award has been established by the FCBS to honor Bromeliad people in Florida. More information about this new honor will be forthcoming.
7. In May, 1991, the International Symposium on Epiphytes was held at Marie Selby Gardens in Sarasota. The Symposium was supported by the FCBS with a \$1241.00 donation from last year's Auction at the Extravanza.

8. FCBS sponsored a contest to come up with a theme for the World Conference. FCBS donated the money for the free registration and a rare plant.

A hearty thanks to all the Florida Council Representatives, who have sacrificed to attend the meetings, were very enthusiastic, and worked hard to make 1991 a successful year in the history of the FCBS.

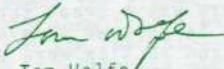
Our goals for 1992 are worthy of making note of:

1. To KILL THE EVIL WEAVIL.
2. To support the 1992 WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay and co-hosted by the FCBS.
3. To promote the 1992 Extravanza which will be hosted by the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society to make it bigger and better than ever.
4. To induct the first members of the Florida Bromeliad Pioneers at the 1992 Extravanza.

Because of the tremendous efforts of so many people in the State of Florida to pull together through the FCBS, we have been able to accomplish many worthwhile and needed projects that otherwise could not have been done. We hope that all of its members will benefit tremendously as the FCBS continues to serve you and become a vehicle through which many great accomplishments will be realized.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Chairman this year.

Sincerely,



Tom Wolfe
Chairman

TW: cw



FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

BUSINESS MEETING October 19, 1991

The regular meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies was held in Longwood at the home of Carol Johnson, Pineapple Place.

Present were council members Carolyn Schoeneau, Rose Schmidt, Tinker Massey, Gwen Carnegie, Jane Dahlin, Nancy Hall (for Audrey McCrory), Carroll Hollaad, Wally Berg, Connie Johnson, Tom Wolfe, Dave Johnston, Edward Hall, Bob Steiger, Carol Johnson, Nat De Leon, Morris Dexter, Helen Dexter and Al Muzzell.

Agenda

The meeting was called to order by the President, Tom Wolfe.

The secretary's report and the treasurer's report were approved as submitted.

Old Business

1. World Conference.

- a) The registrar, Gwen Carnegie reported 170 registrations as of this date.
- b) Cryptanthus plants are requested to form a blanket for a papier mache' elephant.
- c) Gene McKenzie is in charge of awards. Anyone wishing to honor a person or give a memorial should send a check for \$35.00 to Gene McKenzie. Letters to this effect have been mailed world wide.
- d) Herb Hill will be in charge of commercial displays. Several foreign growers have offered to set up exhibitions. Herb will facilitate such details as getting plants through customs.
- e) Complimentary tickets will be issued to commercial growers to give to their customers.
- f) The Seminole Society has offered to exhibit native Florida Bromeliads.

2. Al Muzzell reported on "The Hall of Fame." His work was appreciated but this turned out to be a controversial topic. Numerous suggestions were made from the floor. Some were concerned that the name itself might spawn resentment among serious growers who were left out.

A suggestion was made that the name "Hall of Fame" be changed to "Florida Bromeliad Pioneers." It was suggested also that candidates be selected from a posthumous list. Another member suggested that the Council agree on a committee of respected growers who would recommend an appropriate list.

It was recommended that information concerning a list of Pioneers be published in the "Quarterly Newsletter" of the Florida Council. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

3. Multi-Media Library.

Tinker Massey suggested a name change from "Slide Library" to "Multi-Media Library" as many more educational video tapes are now anticipated.

A detailed report was submitted to council members concerning rental prices, evaluation forms, deposits and penalties for damage.

Al Muzzell suggested that copies of the Foster Tapes be made available for sale to those interested. A rough estimate of the cost would be \$25 - \$30. Carol Johnson suggested that the tapes be shown at the World Conference and copies sold there. Part of the profits would be made available to the Bromeliad Identification Center. A motion made to make copies of the Foster Tapes available for sale at the World Conference carried.

4. Nat De Leon reported on the current status of "Kill the Evil Weevil" program. He felt the fund could be much improved if commercial growers would contribute. He requested a list of such growers from each area.

Nat suggested that other societies follow the lead of South Florida and have an auction of two or three rare plants at each meeting for the benefit of the Weevil Fund. Al Muzzell requested host plants to use in the establishment of weevil colonies. Some members expressed concern that a quarantine might be established. Al Muzzell said this was unfounded since the weevil can be controlled in limited growing areas.

5. Carol Johnson invited comments concerning the critique of judging that appeared in the newsletter. Many members concurred with her criticism.

New Business

1. Wally Berg reported that the Sarasota show was a great success. 905 visitors attended. Of the 380 plants exhibited, 80% received blue ribbons. The plant auction earned \$1,988.

Officers for 1992

President - Jane Dahlin (Sarasota).

Vice-President - From Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society.

Secretary - Gwen Carnegie (West Pasco).

Treasurer - Carol Johnson.

Additional Notes

Avis has replaced Budget Rent-A-Car as the rental car service for Saddlebrook.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in January, 1992 at the home of Bob Steiger of the West Pasco Society.

The Council is indebted to the Johnson's for their cordial hospitality, delicious lunch and allowing us to visit their exciting growing area.

Respectfully submitted,

Morris & Helen Dexter, co-secretaries

Seasons Greetings To You & Your Family.

11220 S.W. 107 Ct.
Miami, Fla. 33176
August 16, 1991

Dear Carol,

I was glad to see your article in the Florida Council Newsletter about show rules.

If enough societies are dissatisfied with the status quo, then surely the time has come for the BSI to address their complaints and revise the rules accordingly. Just as we learn more about bromeliads all the time, then surely we're going to find better or more appropriate ways to exhibit them. I'd like to see a permanent show committee which would be continually evaluating standards and suggestions for change.

In your article you listed some specific complaints, and I'd like to throw in my two cents' worth:

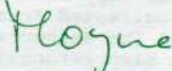
"Safe Blue Ribbons." I think you're right, that we see too many of these. I'd like to see more entries of rare or hard-to-grow species, and not just in the "Exhibit Only" category. And this takes us into the grooming problem. Must we have such heavy emphasis on grooming to the apparent exclusion of all else? I've had to leave well-grown plants at home because I didn't have time to remove every speck, or was reluctant to damage the rootball by forcing them into a smaller pot.

People are always going to complain about the judges; for the most part they do a pretty good job. Let's have more judges' schools in Florida and perhaps add work shops to keep current judges up-to-date.

You're right: remove the yellow and white ribbons. Eliminate the Judges' Division but keep commercial growers separate from hobbyists. Nursery-grown specimens have an unfair advantage over the backyard grower.

Now to your defense of the standard show: the show put on by the Bromeliad society of South Florida fits all your requirements even though it's non-standard!

Sincerely,



Moyna Prince

TREES

Following are excerpts from an article entitled "Small Plants in High Places: The Conservation and Biology of Epiphytes" written by N. Michele Holbrook of the Dept. of Biological Sciences, Stanford University in TREE, Vol. 6, #10, 10/91. I have excerpted portions of the lengthy article which will be of interest to the non-scientific epiphyte (bromeliad) growers. cmj

With the urgency of issues surrounding global change, large-scale deforestation and massive worldwide losses of biodiversity, it might at first seem that conservation initiatives focusing on epiphytic plants must take a back seat. For the over 100 participants from 26 countries who attended the 2nd International Symposium on the Conservation and Biology of Epiphytes* at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens (Sarasota, Florida, USA) in early May, (1991) however, epiphytes constitute much more than a pleasing yet unimportant component of the flora. Two and a half days of invited and contributed papers and posters on all aspects of epiphytic biology, followed by a round-table workshop on epiphyte conservation, did much to dispel the impression of epiphytes as plants whose *raison d'etre* is to adorn the branches of the more substantial and economically important trees.

Befitting a meeting hosted by the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens was an emphasis on the propagation, horticulture and display of epiphytes. Techniques enabling actual habitat simulation of vascular epiphytes were presented, along with the recommendation that scientific institutions grow epiphytes for educational purposes as well as research applications.

Concomitant with this discussion was an awareness of the role horticulturists can and should play in furthering the conservation of these plants. Among the recommendations of the round-table discussion on this topic were: (1) create an international computer based exchange program for propagules; (2) encourage massive reproduction of native species in the country of origin for commercial export and conservation; and (3) develop public education programs concerning the nature of epiphytes that stimulate the public to question how commercially available epiphytic plants were obtained. The importance of this was brought home in a discussion of the bromeliad trade by W. Rauh of Heidelberg University, Germany. Rauh reported that in the first three months of 1988 150 tons (approximately six million plants) of these air plants were collected from the wild in Guatemala and exported to Germany and The Netherlands where they were sold as grown from seed. Rauh also personally documented the decline in bromeliad abundance in Guatemala due, in his opinion, to overcollection--a theme echoed by R. Fernandez (Museo de Historia Natural, Lima, Peru) with reference to the Orchidaceae of Peru.

There is little doubt that most of the participants arrived at the symposium already convinced of the value of epiphytes. What became apparent at this meeting, however, is that aspects of the population biology, reproductive ecology and physiology

of these plants that allow them to thrive in the treetops make them particularly vulnerable to even small-scale disturbances. Conservation efforts to preserve tropical rain forests, the forest type in which the majority of epiphyte species occur, may thus need to be augmented with a special concern for all epiphytes. Among the specific questions addressed in the round-table discussions on epiphyte conservation were: how can we motivate the general public to support epiphyte conservation, and how can institutions and organizations in temperate regions contribute to conservation of tropical epiphytes? Events like the Selby symposium that highlight the important contributions of these small but worthy plants may provide a first step.

*A summary of the conservation workshops as well as specific recommendations is currently available from the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota.

ALSO FROM SELBY:

Harry Luther, BIC Director, writes that those persons who received seedlings labeled as Aechmea aff. strobilina and Aechmea pittieri from the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens several years ago are hereby advised that both represent new, undescribed species which will be published in Phytologia later this year. (26 Sept. 1991)

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

TREASURER'S REPORT
at 10/16/91

Beginning Balance		\$ 1,827.00
Deposits:		
Auction Proceeds	2,635.00	
Assessments:	501.00	
	51.00	
9/27 Deposit	67.00	
		<u>3,254.00</u>
		5,091.00
Expense:		
Auction Postage	57.28	
" Printing	<u>42.82</u>	
	100.10	
Tropical Arts, Tape	127.20	
Graphic Exp. V. XI #3	397.50	
Mailing " "	58.06	
Massey, Oct. Check	200.00	
Bank Svc. Chgs.	6.47	
		<u>889.33</u>
Balance at 10/15/91		\$ 4,201.67
Add Weevil Fund		<u>2,045.40</u>
		<u>\$ 6,246.07</u>

