



FLORIDA COUNCIL
of
BROMELIAD SOCIETIES inc.

1983

Quarterly Newsletter.

This newsletter published quarterly by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. and mailed February, May, August & November to all paid up members of those Bromeliad Societies in Florida which make up the Council. Non-members may subscribe for \$2.00 year. Make checks payable to: Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and mail to the cover address.

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Florida Council of B

1983 OFFICERS:

Chairman (Fla. West Coast) Ellen Jay Peyton
 Vice Chairman (Broward) Polly Pascal

Society Name	Meeting Place
Bromeliad Society of Broward County	Holiday Park Annex 844 NE 7th Ave. Ft. Lauderdale, Fl.
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Soc.	1st Fed. S & L N. Ft. Myers, Fl.
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc.	Garden Cottage, Leu Gardens; 1730 North Forest; Orlando, Fl.
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society	St. Catherine Catholic Church - Belcher Road Largo, Florida
Imperial Polk Bromeliad Society	Div. of State Plant Ind. 3027 Lake Alfred Drive Winter Haven, Fl.
Jacksonville Bromeliad Society	Agric. Extension Learning Center; 1010 N. McDuff Jacksonville, Fl.
Sarasota Bromeliad Society	GFE Conference Room 1660 Ringling Blvd. Sarasota, Fl.
Seminole Bromeliad Society	Seminole Ag. Center South Hwy 17-92 Sanford, Fl.
Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Inc.	Fairchild Gardens Old Cutler Road Miami, Florida
Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay	Seminole Garden Center 5800 Central Avenue Tampa, Florida

COLLECTING & IMPORTING BROMELIADS

At one of our judging school classes, Valerie S. said, with a shudder, "There are those who think it is great fun to go to a strange country, slog around in mud, be chased by snakes & bugs, get lost and succumb to dysentery from the water. Not me, I'll get my bromeliads from a nurseryman or by mail, thank you very much". Me? I live for and do without many things, just to be able to suffer all those deprivations. To be sure, it is a strenuous vacation at best and the bromeliads look terrible in the wild. They are filled with debris, chewed on and inhabited by insects and miscellaneous varmints, and most generally out of reach. It is difficult to keep the eyes on the trees and the feet at the same time, resulting in some sloppy falls. Your warmest welcome will be from the chiggers, ants and ticks. Ants, especially, and mostly the stinging kind. The snakes everyone worries about have so far been no problem. With all that, nothing can compare with the joy of collecting your own plants, carrying them home and seeing them pretty up. And, who knows, maybe there will be a new species among them? A word of caution, high altitude plants (especially vriesea and guzmania) do not as a rule acclimate well in Florida, so leave them behind.

A collecting trip is not just a matter of making a plane reservation and 'bye-'bye. Many countries, ie. Mexico & Brazil, no longer allow indiscriminate collecting, or even casual collecting. It is best to research the plant restrictions imposed by the various Latin and Caribbean countries -- also the political situation. After you have decided where to go, ascertain what plants grow there. Are they worth the trip? Next, when is their dry season? We collected in Costa Rica and Dominica in the rainy season, and it is miserable. However, for us it was then or never.

If you would prefer to order plants by mail and not make the trip, it is fairly easy to do so. Either way, you must have an import permit. This permit is issued free of charge, upon application to: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; Plant Protection & Quarantine Program; Federal Building; Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Allow several weeks for receipt of the permit. With your permit you will receive information regarding the provisions

of the "Endangered Species Convention Regulations", including a list of plant genera not prohibited or subject to post-entry quarantine. There will also be a list of restricted items. There is a good deal of paper work, and often complete frustration, involved in bringing in plants which are on the restricted list. Detailed information about restricted list permits and documentation can be obtained from: Chief, Wildlife Permit Office; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; U.S. Dept. of the Interior; 1717 H St. NW; Washington, D. C., 20240. Please note the Endangered Species Convention is not administered by USDA as your plant import permit is, and their documentation requirements are separate and distinct from them. Bromeliads are not on the restricted list. Orchids definitely are--all species. In the early days of ESC, thousands and thousands of orchids perished in Miami and other entry points thru the ignorance of the importer as to the proper documentation required.

Upon your arrival home in Miami, your plants must be declared to and passed thru U.S. Customs, and you must make arrangements to have them transported to the USDA Inspection Station by a Customs Broker (at your expense). Not too many years ago, it was possible to transport ones own plants from the customs dock to USDA, but then someone skipped on by and carried plants right on home, and USDA clamped down. At USDA your plants will be carefully inspected, one by one, for IAB's (illegal alien bugs) and disease (rust & fungus, usually). One bad bugger can result in the methyl-bromide fumigation of all of your plants. Clean the plants in the field, not once but many times, before packing them for the trip home. Bring them home as dry as possible. Wet plants do not do well if they must be fumigated. It is a good idea to put all the plants you are worried about in one box and bring in several boxes. Out of 4 boxes, for example, the USDA may pass 3 and fumigate one. The inspectors are very conscientious--don't argue with them. My advice is don't leave Miami without your plants. Do not plan to arrive in Miami on Friday or a week-end. It takes time to get the plants from the airport to USDA and time to inspect and/or fumigate them. Nothing gets done between 5 p.m. Friday and Monday morning. Be advised.

