



# **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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VOLUME X - ISSUE II

MAY 1990

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CATCHING UP - STAYING EVEN

This issue will be coming to you a little late this time, mainly because your editor has been involved in three bromeliad shows, beginning with the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society show at Bayfront in St. Petersburg; then the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Show at Florida Mall in Orlando; and lastly, the Bromeliad Society of South Florida show at Fairchild Gardens in Miami. This was the first Spring show for Bromeliad Society of Central Florida since the 1980 World Conference, and it was a pleasure to see some different bromeliads make a public appearance in the area. Plant sales as all shows have been very good, probably because of the 1989 Christmas freeze. For some reason, the Neoregelias have not been doing well in the shows this year. The judges seem to expect a higher peak of perfection in them than in the other genera. It is also interesting that there were relatively few Tillandsias exhibited at BSCF & FWC shows, but a great many of them in Miami where the majority were of blue ribbon and above quality.

Michael & Linda O'Leary are the proud parents of a new hybrid, Kevin Michael O'Leary, born May 12, 1990. One of the hybridizers Michael O'Leary, is President of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. CONGRATULATIONS!

Thirteen student judges took their final exam in Ft. Myers on April 7, 1990 after completing five school sessions on bromeliad judging. Taking the exam were Peggy Bailey, Anne Collings, Josephine DeVille, Narda Enander, Eleanor Kinzie, Michael and Ruth LeVasseur, Gene McKenzie, Betty Ann Prevatt, Dr. Sam & Hattie Lou Smith, Simone Van Stolk and Victor Yingst. Those completing all the requirements by June will receive their judge's certificate at the World Conference in Houston.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PARTY AT SELBY: Sunday, July 8, will be "free" day at Selby Gardens in Sarasota in opening observance of the garden's 15th anniversary year. Director Larry Pardue has announced that the regular admission price of \$5.00 will be waived for that day, and all Garden displays, exhibits, public facilities and shops will be open for the occasion. The public is invited to pack picnic baskets and spend the day enjoying the gardens, special exhibits and demonstrations and entertainment by a variety of instrumental, vocal and dance groups. Free lemonade and soft drinks will be available and ice cream, food and snack vendors will be on the grounds. Marie Selby, widow of oil magnate William Selby, bequeathed her entire bayfront home and grounds to the Sarasota community as a site for a botanical garden and \$2,000,000.00 to provide initial funding. On July 7, 1975, the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens opened to the public.

Is there a safe, satisfactory way to eliminate algae in the cups of bromeliads, mainly neoregelias? This is my first experience with this unsightly condition and I have seen it in other greenhouses this year also. If anyone knows of a way (or a product) to treat algae, please share it with our readers.



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

F.C.B.S.I. Regular Meeting

The April 14, 1990 meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies met at the home of Linda and Mike O'Leary of the Tampa Bay Society. Thank you to our hosts.

Ed Hall, President called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30pm.

Minutes of the January 13th meeting were read and approved.

Carol Johnson, Treasurer, submitted her report reflecting a reconciled balance of \$2,630.30. The report was accepted and filed for audit. Carol is requesting that all societies submit their 1990 rosters if they have not already done so.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Reproduction of plants at Selby Gardens: A letter addressed to Edith Howells from Larry Pardue, Executive Director of Selby Gardens, was read revealing the resignation of Dr. Christensen from the Gardens. Therefore, discussions regarding tissue culturing bromeliads at Selby will have to be postponed. Harry Luther estimates it will be at least six months before the subject can again be broached. A copy of the letter is attached for informational purposes. A discussion of the mericlone project ensued. Nat DeLeon will look into the possibility of utilizing a smaller commercial lab. Three species of plants have thus far been nominated as possible candidates for reproduction. They are: *Till. kegliana*, *Cryptanthus warasii* and *Aechmea corymbosa discolor*.

2. Judges School: Rolland Schnabel reported 13 student judges sat for the final exam April 7, 1990. He pronounced the project successfully completed. Certificates will be awarded to successful candidates at the World Conference in Houston.

3. Bromeliad Identification Center: Tom Wolfe requested additional time for his report.

4. 1990 "Extravaganza": Bob Steiger announced a date has been set for this event - September 15, 1990, in New Port Richey. The plant sale is open to other groups - and other participants are welcome and encouraged. Contact person is Bob Steiger - 813-845-0222. Reps are reminded that each one will be responsible for 3 rare plants for the auction. Al Muzzel moved that proceeds from the rare plant auction be divided between the Florida Council and the international symposium entitled "The Biology and Conservation of Epiphytes" sponsored by Selby Gardens to be held in May 1991. Nat DeLeon amended the motion to give a minimum of 50% to the symposium, subject to review after the Extravaganza in September. The motion, as amended, was adopted without dissent.

5. Native plant collecting: Edith Howells was not present. However, the consensus was that the severe cold weather had probably made such an effort rather futile.

NEW BUSINESS

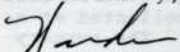
1. New projects: Reps are urged to canvas their memberships for creative project ideas.

2. July meeting will be held in South Florida - second Saturday in July. Location to be announced.

3. Carol Johnson donated the silent auction plant- *Vriesea erythrodactylon*, variegata. Nat DeLeon was the high bidder at \$50.00, low bidder was Rose Schmidt.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30pm.

Submitted by,

  
Narda Enander  
Secretary

OBITUARY

(With acknowledgment to Magpies' Journal, Sep/Oct. 1989 issue). submitted by Marj Lock.

The Association was saddened to learn of the death of one of its valuable members, *Someone Else*.

*Someone's* passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill.

*Someone Else* had been a member of the Association for many years. He did far more than a fair share of the work. Whenever there was a job to be done or a Meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's lips: "Let *Someone Else* do it".

It was common knowledge that *Someone Else* was the largest contributor of his time to the Association. Whenever there was a need for volunteers, everyone just assumed *Someone Else* would volunteer.

*Someone Else* was a wonderful person; sometimes appearing super-human, but one person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of *Someone Else*.

Now *Someone Else* has gone, we wonder what we are going to do.

*Someone Else* left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to do the things that *Someone Else* did?

(Following are excerpts from Entomology Cir. No. 330, dated May, 1990, issued by Fla. Dept. Agric. & Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry. Lack of space in this FCBS Newsletter makes it impossible to print the entire text. A complete report will undoubtedly be carried in the BSI Journal).

THE SPECIES OF METAMASIVS IN FLORIDA  
(Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

**INTRODUCTION:** The weevil genus Metamasivus Horn is composed of approximately 100 Neotropical species, one of which naturally occurs in South Florida. These medium-sized, often brightly colored weevils generally breed in palms, orchids, bananas and plantains, sugarcane, and bromeliads, including pineapples. Recently 2 exotic species with pest potential have become established in South Florida. Metamasivus callizona (Chevrolat) is here reported for the first time from the United States. This circular summarizes biological and distributional information about these 3 species and will facilitate their identification.

**HISTORY:** Metamasivus callizona (Chevrolat) was described from Mexico south through Guatemala and western Panama (Vaurie 1966). The first Florida specimen of this species was collected at a bromeliad nursery in Ft. Lauderdale on 11/15/89. The nursery was treated and no other specimens were found. Within two months, continued surveying produced specimens of M. callizona from scattered localities in central and northern Broward County and southern Palm Beach County and it appears to be established. Weevils have been collected from native bromeliads in both residential and natural areas.

**IDENTIFICATION:** Metamasivus callizona (11-16 mm long) is black except for a transverse band of yellow or orange just before the midpoint of the elytra.

**BIOLOGY:** Vaurie (1966) recorded Metamasivus callizona from bromeliads, pineapple plants, and "banana debris". In Florida, it has been collected from Tillandsia fasciculata Sw. and T. utriculata L. Adults, larvae and pupae often are present in the same plant. Larval damage is restricted mainly to the base of the plant, although sometimes it extends up the inflorescence.

At Easterlin County Park in Broward County a heavy infestation in February (1990) was marked by numerous seemingly healthy plants littering the ground. Closer inspection revealed extensive damage to the base of the plants, so that they had broken away from the tree branches. The life cycle seems to be fairly rapid, as pupae have been found in extensively mined but still green and apparently healthy plants. Obviously distressed plants rarely yield anything except empty pupal cases.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Metamasivus callizona: Broward: Ft. Lauderdale, North Lauderdale, Oakland Park, Parkland, and Wilton Manors. Palm Beach County: Boca Raton. Its distribution suggests that it was introduced and established long before the first specimen was discovered.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Metamasius callizona has already shown that it has pest potential in nurseries specializing in bromeliads, and could pose a threat to the native Tillandsia species in the state. Of special concern are the 2 threatened species of the genus in Florida, T. flexuosa Sw., which occurs within the current Florida range of M. callizona, and Till. pruinosa Sw. (Ward 1981).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: This report prepared by C. W. O'Brien Department of Entomology and Structural Pest Control, Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, Fl. 32307 and M. C. Thomas, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, P.O. Box 1269; Gainesville, Fl. 32602. Also, Division of Plant Industry inspectors Dennis Clinton, Susan Marsicano, Matthew Wittek, Debra Chalot, Donna Lecne, Jack McCluskie and Keith Harris are to be thanked for their untiring efforts in tracking down populations of M. callizona.



*M. callizona* Chevrolat, dorsal view (length, 11-16 mm).



*Metamasius callizona*, lateral view

### NAME THAT PLANT!

The subject of this piece is labelling plants. Many, many times growers have come to me and described a plant, complete with hand gestures, with every expectation of my instant identification. Usually the tag has been lost or the plant's name has faded away altogether. Another happenstance is a perfectly legible tag lying on the ground--now which pot did it come from?

If you are a serious bromeliad collector and plan to exhibit your plants in the future, it is important that you tag your plants correctly and that you keep a record of your source of supply and the date of purchase.

Tags and markers come in all shapes and colors. If there is not enough room on the tag for all the information there is no law says you cannot use two tags. Shops like K-Mart or White Rose rarely carry plant name tags in stock, so go to a nursery shop to buy them. In a pinch, an old Clorox jug cut into tag size pieces does very well. The plastic is just about the right thickness and rigidity, and, being white, takes the print well, although the Clorox smell lingers for a long time. The ultimate in plant tags are those made of soft aluminum, upon which the plant name is impressed with a sharp, pointed writing utensil and is literally engraved forever. These are very expensive. The latest wholesale listing is \$10.00 per hundred.

The biggest problem in tagging plants is not the label but the marking pen or pencil. Some #1 soft lead pencils are ideal, but the wrong one is disaster. Laundry marking pens such as Sanford which are available nearly everywhere fade badly after one season. The most permanent of the inked marking pens is the Pilot permanent SC-UF, available at Office Depot by the dozen only. Our intense Florida sun and heavy rains are what causes the printing on plant tags to fade. Mounted plants suffer the worst, so turn the printing inward away from the weather. I have noticed that printing does not fade on tags buried in the pots.

Taking pups? Make the tags and insert between the leaves before cutting off the pup. Especially with *Vriesea* and *Guzmania* offsets, it is difficult to tell which is which away from the mother plant.

Plants entered for competition should have the tags removed, but if the entry tags are a good indicator, about one in every six plants is tagged wrong.

To be perfectly correct:

1. Genus (*Aechmea*) should be capitalized.
2. Species (*orlandiana*) should be in lower case.
3. Cultivar names (cv.) should be capitalized (as cv. *Pickinenny*).
4. Hybrid names should be capitalized (as: *Neoregelia Catherine Wilson*).

5. Varieties of species (as: *Aechmea nudicaulis* var. *equalis*) should be in lower case.

Shown below are illustrations of executed tags. Why is it important to keep dates and sources? There are several reasons. The source because if you have been sold a misidentified plant, the error can be traced and corrected. Also, it is generally required that an exhibitor own a plant for a given period of time before it is eligible for entry into a show. Lastly, the tags are constant reminders of friends, past and present.

Tags and proper plant marking were the subject of a workshop at Seminole Bromeliad Society recently and I was amazed at the interest shown in the subject and the many questions asked. There are a lot of new members in our various societies and this is a subject taken very much for granted by our long time members.

*Aechmea orlandiana*  
cv. *Pickinenny*



Sept. 1979. W.C. Frase  
(Original Clone)

*Neoregelia Catherine*  
Wilson (Simmons 1980)

*Aechmea nudicaulis*  
v. *equalis* (Sale-1984)



SHOW PAGE

August 18, 1990 - Seminole Bromeliad Society Fantasy 4 one day Exhibition and Plant Sale. Hourly door prizes, workshops, entertainment. Contact Chas. Tait or Arthur Hyland. Earl Brown Recreation Park, Deland, Fl. Hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission.

8/24-25, 1990 - Jacksonville Bromeliad Society Show & Sale Orange Park Mall; Orange Park, Fl. Standard judged show, entries invited. Show Chairman, Jim Bailey, (904) 373-2990.

September 15, 1990 - ONE DAY EXTRAVAGANZA, sponsored by Florida Council and this year hosted by West Pasco Bromeliad Society. This one day affair replaces the Florida State Bromeliad Show. Further information is included in minutes printed this issue, or contact Bob Steiger (813) 845-0222.

10/13-14, 1990 - Sarasota Bromeliad Society Annual Standard Bromeliad Show and Sale at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota.

11/9-11, 1990 - Caloosahatchee Annual Bromeliad Show and plant sale, Ft. Myers, Fl.

More detailed information on the above listed shows will be carried in the August newsletter, which will also include the annual state roster. It is important that the editor receive all address, name and telephone number corrections not later than August 1, 1990.



## BROMELIADS IN SPACE

NINTH WORLD CONFERENCE  
JUNE 6-10, 1990  
HOUSTON, TEXAS