

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

BUSINESS MEETING October 20, 1990

The regular business meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies was held in Winter Haven at the home of Betsy & Carl Perryn. Thank you to our host & hostess for their hospitality and the tour of their beautiful garden.

Present representatives were Jane Dahlin, Narda Enander, Ed Hall, Charles Tait, Connie Johnson, Carol Johnson, Ron Schoenau, Eleanor Kinzie, Betty Ann Prevatt, Bob Steiger, Al Muzzell, Gwen Carnegie, Andy Carnegie, Tom Wolfe, Carol Wolfe, Rose Schmidt, Helen Dexter & Morris Dexter.

The first order of business was to approve the secretary's minutes from the previous meeting.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$5,070.77. Carol Johnson made a motion to send 50% of the proceeds from this years Extravaganza to Harry Luther. The check was made out to Selby Gardens and sent to Harry for the purpose of supporting the Symposium for the Biology & Conservation of Epiphytes.

Members of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society will be contacting Edna Sieff To find out what Harry's needs are regarding the BIC. Does he need donations for color separations for his book.

1992 WORLD CONFERENCE- Carol & Tom Wolfe reported that there will be a contest to come up with the theme for the World Conference. Council members will distribute contest entry forms to its club members. They must be mailed to Tom Wolfe postmarked no later than Dec 15, 1990. The contest winner will receive a free registration to the Conference and rare plant.

Registration for the conference will be \$95.00. Registration would like to give each registrant a rare plant and would like to have the next Extravaganza to make money to help pay for the plants. A motion was made by Carl Perryn to donate money for a free registration to the winner of the theme contest for the World Conference amended to include a rare plant - both to be donated by the Florida Council.

At Tampa's request Al Muzzell made a motion that Tampa have the next Extravaganza in 1991 and retain at least half the profits from the rare plant auction for the World Conference. Motion was seconded by Bob Steiger and approved.

Will each society be willing to put in a display at the World Conference?

Room rates will be as follows:
room with 2 double beds \$70.00
1 bedroom suite \$85.00
2 bedroom suite \$120.00
3 bedroom suite \$180.00

Rates will be extended 5 days before and after the conference.

SLIDE PROGRAMS - Carol Johnson will talk with Tinker Massey about plans for putting together programs.


JANUARY MEETING - The January meeting will be held in Gainesville instead of Jacksonville. The April meeting will be held in Sarasota. Offices for next year will be held by the following clubs:
Chairman - Tampa
Vice-Chairman - Sarasota
Secretary - West Coast

NEW BUSINESS - All Muzzell reported that a new weevil (*Metamasius callizona*) has become a problem in the area. It has become a problem because it is not easily controlled by chemical application and no known natural predator in Florida. A proposal was submitted for a start up project to study *Metamasius callizona*. Al Muzzell made a motion to send a check to University of Florida Foundation - SHARE for \$500.00 for the preliminary study of *Metamasius callizona*. The motion was seconded by Carl Perryn. Anyone interested in donating to this project should send checks directly to Carol Johnson.

ADDITION - Anyone wishing to donate money for the World Conference can write the check to the Florida Council earmarking the check for this purpose and they will be able to take the non-profit tax deduction.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Narda Enander
Secretary

FCBS TREASURER'S REPORT AT OCTOBER 20, 1990:

Balance in Bank at Last Report		\$2,435.85
Deposits:		
Society Assessments	699.00	
Auction Proceeds, Extravaganza	<u>2,482.00</u>	<u>3,181.00</u>
		\$5,616.85
<u>Disbursements:</u>		
Mailing, Copy Exp. Sec'y	13.80	
Printing Palace, Vol X, #3	350.01	
US Postal Svc. Vol. X, #3	43.77	
" " " Foreign & 100-.25	38.50	
Robt. W. Read, Honorarium	<u>100.00</u>	<u>546.08</u>
Balance at October 20, 1990		<u>\$5,070.77</u>

HEATING THE SMALL GREENHOUSE

by Carol Johnson

Back in the early sixties I finally got my first greenhouse, a Lord & Burnham glasshouse, 14 x 26 feet, made of redwood and supported by steel pipes. Wow! heaven! After all those years of gardening outdoors and losing the battle with cold and insects, all my problems were in the past. Oh, yeah? I was so dumb I thought there was no need for heat in the greenhouse--the plants would be covered and that was all they would need. Wrong. It got colder in the glasshouse than outdoors.

Since that time there have been many small greenhouses and then some large ones. Forget the large ones. Most bromeliad hobby growers start by growing their plants outdoors, in a pool or patio area and then bringing them inside for the cold weather. After a couple of years, the putting and taking becomes tiresome and they build a small greenhouse and their education continues. Now the greenhouse must be covered in Winter and some form of heat provided for the cold spells. If the new greenhouse has a flat roof and that roof is covered with poly, rain water collects and if unrelieved, its weight will crush the structure.

The small greenhouse grower seemingly does everything according to Murphy's Law--the first time. Mostly, during the winter months the greenhouse is unbearably hot, but when the sun goes down and the temperature drops, then the cover becomes justified.

Following are my heating experiences over the years for the small greenhouse----

For the Glasshouse. My first purchase was an Aladdin kerosene heater. The next winter I bought another since one was not enough. At that time the heaters were of the kind with a round wick which mostly produced more smoke than heat.

Screen Rooms. If there is a screen room attached to the house and it is covered in winter, the heating problem is usually less complicated than in a free-standing structure. At least on one side the heat from the house extends into the screen room and is also a shelter from the cold winds. It is possible to use electric heaters in this situation since the extension cord will not be so long that the current is dissipated before reaching the heater.

Fiberglass Pitched Roof. Our third greenhouse was a 24x60 wood structure, concrete base and fiberglass roof. In that house, since it was covered, we installed a Modine gas heater with thermostatic control. We covered the sides with poly in winter, but set the thermostat and were able to sleep at night.

House #4. In #4 we made all the mistakes. It was another 24 x 60, but with a flat roof covered with shade cloth in summer and poly in winter. Water collected in great pools and unless relieved, the roof came crashing down. Just inside

the door was an old broom handle to which was fastened an ice pick. With flashlight in one hand and ice pick in the other, many miserable hours were spent poking holes in the poly so the rainwater could drain. In this greenhouse we used a kerosene torpedo type heater with an electric blower. This type of heater puts out a tremendous amount of heat (and uses a lot of fuel) but can set fire to the greenhouse in a hurry if it is placed too close to wood members or dried plant material. This type heater also will use up the oxygen in a tightly closed area and this causes the heater to go out. Fumes (and smoke) from kerosene heaters often promote premature blooming of bromeliads. Do not use a torpedo type heater in a house smaller than 20 x 40 feet or equivalent. In one cold night I fried nearly all the plants in my garden room.

Auxiliary Heat. We now heat our greenhouses with propane heaters, but we also have a fleet of stand-by radiant kerosene heaters just in case of power failure. These heaters are a far cry from the old Aladdin wick type. They have mantles of fiber glass (?) instead of cloth and these mantles turn blue from the flames and produce much heat. It is possible to purchase this type of heater with blower fans, but then you would again be without heat if the power fails. It takes about 2/3 gallon of kerosene to fill each heater, but that keeps it burning for nearly eleven hours.

Water. This is one method of heating which we have never tried. Many growers use their sprinkler systems to keep temperatures above or just at freezing. Florida fern growers have their sprinklers going continually during freezes, and you have no doubt seen pictures of the resulting mounds of ice. We have not used this method for a couple of reasons. One, we pump our own water which puts us at the mercy of the power supply, and two, I want to keep my bromeliads pretty and saleable, not just alive. I really believe it is not the best way to go from Central Florida north.

My recommendation for the small greenhouse is the radiant kerosene heater. Initial cost is under \$100.00, operation is efficient and economical, the heater is small enough to store in the warm months and is easily moved from one area to another.

Finally, before installing your heating system, buy a good, reliable thermometer and hang it in the coldest spot in the greenhouse. It will be the "Horse's Mouth" when it comes time to turn on the heat.

**ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE
IF SOMEBODY ELSE
HAS TO DO IT**