

**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 XIII - ISSUE III

AUGUST 1993

CATCHING UP – STAYING EVEN

JUDGING SCHOOL: There will definitely be a new BSI judging school formed in Florida-Georgia district in the near future. Any society member who is also a member of BSI is eligible to enroll. The course usually consists of five one-day classes, spaced over one to two years, culminating in a final exam. Students must furnish their own transportation to the classes and pay a small fee to cover school expenses. Anyone who is interested, contact your society president or any Florida Council representative.

SOIL EXTENDERS: In the last Newsletter I reported on the use of eucalyptus chips and mulch as topping when potting Bromeliads. Since then, son Geoffrey brought home from Louisiana two bags of rice hulls to be used as soil extender (instead of tree fern fiber or pine bark soil conditioner). It works very well and gives a good, open feel to the soil mix. Problem: now, in addition to weeds and ferns, we are harvesting rice from many pots. Rice looks and grows like grass and loves the acid bromeliad mix.

1994 WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE: Florida BSI members will, as always, support and attend the San Diego World Conference in June of 1994. I have been asked by World Conference Rare Plant Auction Chairman Thelma O'Reilly to remind you all that rare plants will be needed for the auction, so keep your eyes open and when you come across something rare and/or beautiful, set one aside for the San Diego rare plant auction.

MAILING LIST: The last previous mailing of the Newsletter counted at 565. In August we assessed the various groups for 644 total members, but that includes duplicate members (those belonging to more than one society), and since we mail only one Newsletter to an address, this does not include all family members and is therefore not a true state membership count. Bromeliad Society of South Florida continues to have the largest membership, but Sarasota is second in a very close race with Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. Changing our mailing to MidFlorida Distribution Center was a very wise move. I found that we were way out of date in regard to bagging, zip code groupings and bundling. Since we do not pay for return of undeliverable mail, there is no way except through efficiency to ensure a high percentage of delivery.

Would appreciate comments regarding the new format of your Newsletter.

FLORIDA'S ANNUAL BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA

The first Florida State Bromeliad Show was held in Miami at Fairchild Tropical Garden in 1978. Until 1989 the State Show rotated among the member societies on a voluntary basis. The show was intended to be the annual fund raising project for the Florida Council and rules for the show and plant sale were appended to the Bylaws.

After several years it became evident that a state bromeliad show was a losing proposition, both for the host society and the Florida Council. Schedules, ribbons, awards, luncheons and judges' gifts did away with the profits. In 1988 Seminole Bromeliad Society held a one-day exhibit and sale at Earl Brown Recreational Park in Deland which was a whopping success, and then President Charles Tait suggested at a subsequent Florida Council meeting that perhaps such an event could be substituted for the state show. The first Florida One-Day Extravaganza was held in August, 1989, in Deland in conjunction with the Seminole Bromeliad Society regular event. Dinner, a program by Harry Luther and a rare plant auction were added to the regular day-long agenda of work-shops and hourly plant give-aways. The first rare plant auction netted Florida Council \$1,200.00, which was more than the combined income from the previous ten standard three-day Florida State Shows.

1993 marked the fifth Extravaganza and it was returned to Deland to mark the anniversary. #2, 1990, was hosted by West Pasco Bromeliad Society; #3, 1991, by Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay; #4, 1992, by Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. The event has become increasingly popular (and profitable). Members statewide are invited to bring plants to sell, which helps defray travel expenses and make for an interesting plant sale. The 1993 Extravaganza honored Charles Tait and he was presented at the banquet with a new hybrid *Billbergia* named in his honor (*Billbergia* Chas. Tait—Parentage, B. Manda's Othello & B. Platinum).

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies wishes to thank all who participated in our August 1993 Extravaganza: those who donated plants for the rare plant auction, to Harry Luther for his program, and especially to Don Beadle, our auctioneer, and his helpers. The auction raised \$2,160 from the sale of 84 donated plants. The Extravaganza is especially nice because it is possible for a small society to sponsor such a one-day event when it would be very difficult to stage an expensive formal judged show.

Plan to join us for the 1994 Extravaganza.

METAMASIVS CALLIZONA: NEWS UPDATE

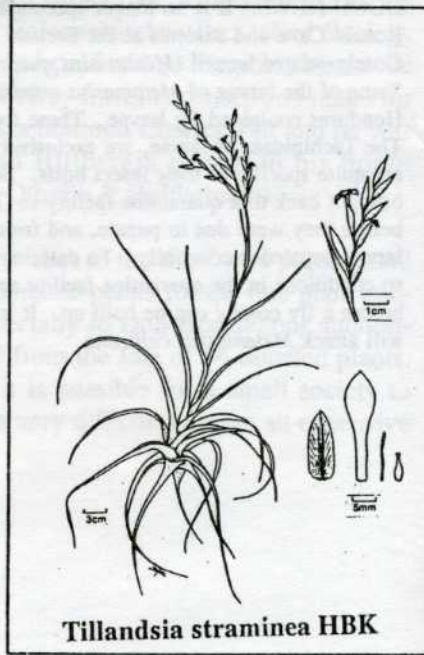
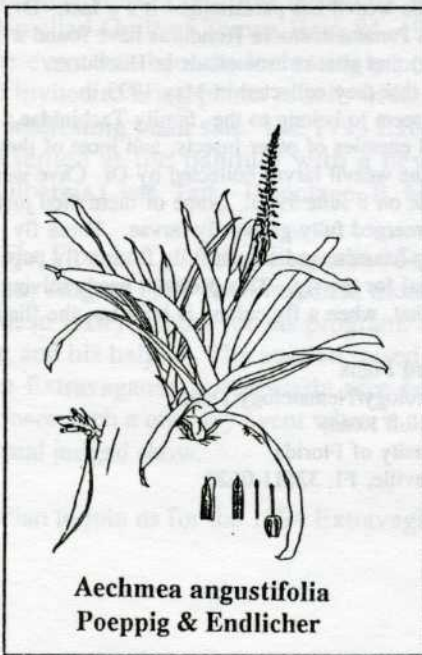
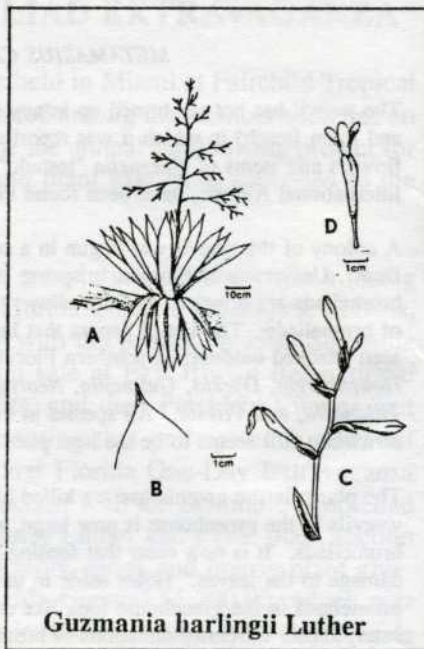
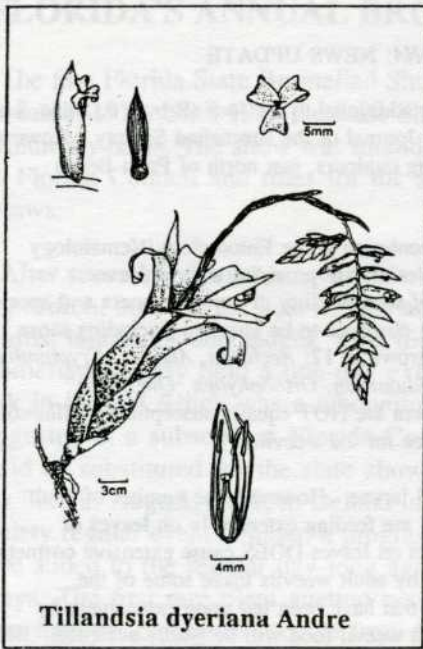
The weevil has not yet turned up in any counties additional to the four (Broward, Dade, Lee, and Palm Beach) in which it was reported in the Journal of the Bromeliad Society. However, flowers and stems of *Quesnelia "testudo"* growing outdoors, just north of Palm Beach International Airport, have been found infested.

A colony of the weevil was begun in a small greenhouse at the Entomology/Nematology Dept., University of Florida, in spring 1992. Weevils are provided with whatever bromeliads are donated, and this allows testing of susceptibility of various genera and species of bromeliads. The list of genera that have been observed to be attacked (including those seen attacked outdoors in southern Florida) has grown to 12: *Aechmea*, *Ananas*, *Cryptanthus*, *Hohenbergia*, *Dyckia*, *Guzmania*, *Neoregelia*, *Nidularium*, *Orthophytum*, *Quesnelia*, *Tillandsia*, and *Vriesia*. All species in these genera are NOT equally susceptible. *Tillandsia utriculata* still seems to be the host plant of choice for the weevil.

The plants in the greenhouse are killed by weevil larvae. However, the number of adult weevils in the greenhouse is now large, and they are feeding extensively on leaves of bromeliads. It is now clear that feeding by adults on leaves DOES cause extensive cosmetic damage to the leaves. Holes made in the leaves by adult weevils make some of the bromeliads in the greenhouse look like cabbages that have been fed upon extensively by caterpillars. Offers of donations of bromeliads as weevil food will be gladly accepted. Best are large *Tillandsia utriculata* and other large *Tillandsia*, and *Neoregelia compacta* and *Quesnelia testudo*. The need for large numbers of weevils is to act as hosts for any insect parasitoids that can be obtained from Mexico or Central America.

GOOD NEWS: It is no longer speculation that the weevil has parasitoids - it's a fact. Dr. Ronald Cave and students at the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana in Honduras have found a closely-related weevil (*Metamasius quadrilineatus*) that attacks bromeliads in Honduras. Some of the larvae of *Metamasius quadrilineatus* that they collected in May 1993 in Honduras contained fly larvae. These fly larvae seem to belong to the family Tachinidae. The Tachinidae, as larvae, are exclusively natural enemies of other insects, and most of them are quite specific to their insect hosts. Some of the weevil larvae collected by Dr. Cave were brought back to a quarantine facility in Gainesville on 8 June 1993. Some of them died just before they were due to pupate, and from them emerged fully-grown fly larvae. These fly larvae pupated successfully. To date, no adult fly has emerged successfully from a fly pupa, so conditions in the quarantine facility are not ideal for the fly. This problem needs solving before a fly colony can be built up. It is hoped that, when a fly colony is built up, the flies will attack *Metamasius callizona*.

Howard Frank
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(970 Hull Road)
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-0620



1993 FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

<u>CODE</u>		<u>MEETING DAY</u>
02	CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY Lee County Garden and Activity Center Fort Myers, FL Julian Hudson, Pres. (813) 694-2618	Third Sunday 2:00 p.m.
03	BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA Senior Citizens Center, Marks St. Orlando, FL Ed Hall, Pres. (407) 847-2039	Fourth Monday 7:30 p.m.
04	FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY Hope Presbyterian Church, Belcher Rd. Clearwater, FL Fay O'Rourke, Pres. (813) 531-9312	First Thursday 7:30 p.m.
05	IMPERIAL POLK BROMELIAD SOCIETY Tampa Elec. Operations Center Winter Haven, FL Rose Schmidt, Pres. (813) 923-5365	First Sunday 3:00 p.m.
06	JACKSONVILLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY Ron & Carolyn Schoenau (904) 372-6589	Members' Homes Quarterly
07	SARASOTA BROMELIAD SOCIETY Marie Selby Botanical Gardens Sarasota, FL Wally Berg, Pres. (813) 824-0060	Second Monday 7:30 p.m.
08	SEMINOLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY Seminole Ag Center Auditorium 17-92; Sanford, FL Bud Martin, Pres. (407) 321-0838	Third Sunday 2:30 p.m.
09	BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA Fairchild Tropical Garden Old Cutler Rd., Miami, FL Connie Johnson, Pres. (305) 667-7890	First Tuesday 8:00 p.m.
10	BROMELIAD GUILD OF TAMPA BAY Seminole Garden Center 5300 Central Ave., Tampa, FL Fran Hogge, Pres. (813) 933-1046	Third Monday 7:30 p.m.
11	WEST PASCO BROMELIAD SOCIETY Elfers Senior Center (Off 54) Elfers (Port Richey), FL Walt Klymko, Pres. (813) 863-3371	Fourth Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
12	FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY Garden Center, Daytona Beach, FL Barbara Willey, Pres. (407) 574-1842	Fourth Sunday 1:00 p.m.

**BUSINESS MEETING HELD JULY 10, 1993
HOSTED BY CAROLYN AND RON SCHOENAU**

AGENDA:

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Fay O'Rourke who expressed the council's appreciation to our hosts and welcomed visitors and guests.
2. Minutes were accepted.
3. Treasurer's report was read and accepted.
4. Nat Deleon thanked the societies for their participation in the recent show at Fairchild Gardens in Miami.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

5. Art Hyland reported satisfactory progress on this year's Bromeliad Extravaganza and reminded all council members of their responsibility for supplying rare to semi-rare plants and artifacts for the auction.
6. Dr. Frank reported progress on the weevil control study. A parasite has been found and he is presently trying to establish a colony of these critters. We were reminded that this is the point at which research cost will increase and accelerate. Nat Deleon suggested regular reports to FCBS members to help spur on further fund raising.
7. Action on the BSI judge's school was tabled pending further information on how long the program will take and whether or not Florida judges will be allowed to teach.
8. Adopt a Garden program was tabled pending a definition of the idea's implementation.

NEW BUSINESS:

9. Art Hyland reported the organization of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society. Tom Wolfe moved that the new society be given membership with the first year's dues forgiven. Motion was seconded and passed.
10. The secretary was instructed to invite the Broward Society to attend the Extravaganza and further to invite them to rejoin FCBS.
11. The October meeting will be moved to Florida West Coast and be hosted by Fay O'Rourke.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.
13. The October meeting will be at Fay O'Rourke's home on 10/16.

SUBMITTED:

Arthur Hyland, Secretary 1993
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Second Quarter 1993 at 6/30/93

Beginning Balance General Fund	\$ 6,185.18
Deposits	<u>88.00</u>
	\$ 6,273.18

EXPENSE:

100 Stamps	\$ 29.00
Print Vol. 13 #2	209.72
Mail Vol. 13 #2	<u>58.27</u>
	\$296.99

	<u>296.99</u>
Balance, General Fund 6/30	\$ 5,976.19

WEEVIL FUND BALANCE	<u>9,191.40</u>
Reconciled Balance	\$15,167.59

On Hand for Deposit:

Weevil Fund, from West Pasco	\$ 50.00
Adopt-A-Garden	97.50
Cash for Newsletter Subscription	<u>2.00</u>
	\$149.50

Adopt-A-Garden payments from Caloosahatchee, Tampa, and Central Florida (2).

SHOW PAGE

- 9/18-9/19** Seminole Bromeliad Society, First Standard Judged Bromeliad Show, at Seminole County Ag Center Auditorium; Hwy. 17-92, Sanford. Entries Friday, 5-9 p.m. No plant sales. Show open to public Saturday and Sunday. Elaine Sizer, Chairman, (904) 736-1470
- 10/9-10/10** Sarasota Bromeliad Society Standard Show and Plant Sale; Marie Selby Botanical Gardens; 811 S. Palm Ave.; Sarasota. Plant sales on grounds. Reduced admission to the gardens. Contact Wally Berg. (813) 824-0060.
- 10/30** "Bromeliads by the Bay" at Tampa Garden Center. One-day non-judged bromeliad show and plant sale. Clubs and commercial growers are invited to participate. Sales commission will be 20% Sponsored by Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. Pat Patterson (813) 996-6302.
- 11/13-11/14** "Treasures of the Rainforest" in Fort Myers. Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Standard Show and Sale at the Lee County Garden Council and Activity Center; on U.S. 41, in front of Lee Memorial Hospital. Hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sunday. For exhibit and sale information, contact co-chairmen Hattie Lou and Sam Smith, (813) 694-1135.
- 6/15-6/19** "Bromeliads in Paradise." Eleventh World Bromeliad Conference, San Diego, CA. Watch the BSI Journal for details.

CULTURAL HINT.....

Offsets of *Neoregelia pendula* must be well rooted before blooming, otherwise the plant will not produce its long stolens nor more plants. Since it is nearly always sold as an offset, the impulse is to pick the prettiest and brightest red specimen. That is a mistake. However, blooming plants will root well and produce offsets when soil-layered before being cut from the parent plant.