

**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 XVIII

ISSUE III

AUGUST 1998

CATCHING UP - STAYING EVEN

THIS PAGE will be abbreviated this time, else I will have to devise 4 more pages. This issue carries your annual state membership roster. Hopefully, it is accurate. It was a big job.

FLORIDA lost a devoted & knowledgeable member when Edith Howells of Lakeland died this summer. Her courage was an inspiration. Despite being confined to a wheelchair and carrying an oxygen pack, she managed to drive herself to society meetings and social outings. The pain is gone, Edith, rest and enjoy.

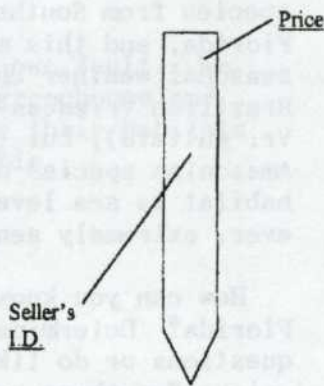
LABELING OF SALE PLANTS FOR EXTRAVAGANZA '98 SALES

If anyone is interested in selling plants at the upcoming Extravaganza, each plant must have two tags. One tag (generally white, but can be any color except red) is to have the name of the plant on it. The second tag must have the price at the top and the seller's identification number below it. Pricing must be in whole dollars only (please, no \$0.99 specials!). Everyone who wishes to sell plants will need to contact Ron or Carolyn Schoenau at 352/372-6589 in advance to obtain a vendor number. Please don't delay in obtaining this number. Numbers will only be assigned before the Extravaganza and no one will be allowed to sell without a vendor number.

- (1) White tag to have name of plant on it. Species, hybrid, etc.
- (2) Sales tag should have the price of the plant at the top of the tag and the sellers I.D. below the price.

If you write on the rough side of the tag (as opposed to the shiny side) with a #2 pencil, it will last through many sales.

This rule will be strictly enforced.



NOT FOR FLORIDA

By: Carol Johnson

Climate, moisture, light. Florida has all these and we grow beautiful bromeliads. We do not, however, have altitude, which is important in the growing of nearly 50% of bromeliad species on record. We can protect our plants from the cold and water them when they are dry. There is no remedy for our low altitude. The highest point in Florida is probably under 600 feet, which is less than 200 meters. One of the recent BSI Journals had as it's cover plant a newly discovered, beautiful Tillandsia. Reading the description, it was revealed that the plant grows at 2,500 meters. A meter is 39", or 3 ft., 3 inches, so the Tillandsia grows at over 8,000 feet. It would be a miracle for it to survive or do well in Florida.

There was also a recent cover picture of *Till. imperialis*, which should never, never be grown in Florida. It is akin to committing murder. Many of us also try to grow *T. deppeana*, *multicaulis*, and *complanata*. These plants are borderline and their rebellion is in the form of refusing to bloom or make offsets.

There are genera which are reliable and at no risk in Florida except for cold or drought. These include *Nidularium*, *Cannistrum*, *Portea*, *Hohenbergia*, *Aechmea*, *Quesnelia*, *Neoregelia*, *Billbergia*, *Dyckia*, *Alcantarea* and of course, low altitude *Tillandsias*. Nearly all genera and species from Southeastern Brazil do very well in Florida, and this makes sense, since they have seasonal weather changes much like we do. Some Brazilian *Vrieseas* have given me trouble (Ex: *Vr. guttata*), but that is probably my fault. Amazonian species do well in Florida. Their habitat is sea level, like ours. They are, however, extremely sensitive to cold.

How can you know which plants will do well in Florida? Determine habitat altitude, ask questions or do like I did, try them all and grieve for those you put to death.

Some genera to avoid completely:

Puya. I know, I know, they are enjoying a certain popularity now, but they are so beautiful in habitat and so scrungy when grown in Florida. Leave them be.

Griegia.

Catopsis. Low altitude and native Florida Catopsis are great, but many species are high altitude and last only through one growing.

Werauhia. This genera was split out from Vriesea in recent years and includes high altitude plants from Costa Rica and the Caribbean. My first trip to Costa Rica I came home loaded down with them. Some made it all the way home, some didn't and all were dead within 3 months.

Navia. It is possible to get one bloom from plants of this genus, but I have never had one survive through two bloomings.

Brocchinia.

Vrieseas and Guzmanias will have to be considered one at a time. They grow wherever there are bromeliads, high and low. My Vrieseas from Brazil are the most reliable, but Guzmanias from Western South America are risky and fickle in Florida. I must also mention the Pitcairnia. They grow on Caribbean islands and up to 10,000 meters elsewhere, but are somewhat adaptable, so take them one at a time.

Some of our failures are our own fault. We put all genera together in the greenhouse and treat them all the same, whereas their habitats and cultural needs may be variable.

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Second Quarter 1998 at June 30

Beginning Balance, General Fund	\$ 3,286.01
Deposits (Boca Raton membership)	<u>50.00</u>
	3,336.01

General Fund Expense:		
Print Vol. XVIII #1	386.90	
Mail " " "	137.10	
First Class postage	32.00	
Grant Applic. Expense	43.28	
Mailing Labels (Lyben)	<u>28.19</u>	<u>627.47</u>

Balance General Fund, 6/30/98	2,708.54
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Weevil Fund:	
Beginning Balance	\$8,422.06
Deposits (Caloosa)	<u>1,316.00</u>
	9,738.06

Weevil Fund Expense:	-0-
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Balance, Weevil Fund, 6/30/98	<u>9,738.06</u>
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BALANCE IN BANK 6/30/98 (Reconciled)	\$ <u>12,446.60</u>
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To be paid: \$5,200.00 to SHARE for graduate student and greenhouse maintenance in Gainesville. There will also be Extravaganza mailing expense this quarter.

Newsletter assessment invoices will be mailed August 10, after 1998 roster is complete

Submitted:

Carol Johnson, Treasurer
7/11/98

MINUTES OF FCBS MEETING OF JULY 18, 1998

Meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM, 7/18/98 by Joy Meyer, Chairman. All societies reps were present except Broward and Treasure Coast.

Carolyn Schoenau reported as of 7/15, BSI membership totalled 1,806.

A proposal to revamp FCBS Web Page in order to secure more memory and enhance the quality of the BSCF web site with proposed address of BSF.org. Michael Andreas has volunteered his time to set up the new web site. Motion to proceed made by Carolyn Schoenau, second by Ed Hall, passed by reps.

The Extravaganza was discussed and it was noted that anyone who needs a sales number contact Carolyn Schoenau. A mailing is to be provided by FCBS to all state members conveying pertinent information. Each society will provide five (5) rare or semi-rare plants for the rare plant auction.

Societies were reminded to provide Ed Hall with labelled slides for FCBS slide library.

Endangered species grant application was discussed and the following persons were designated as contacts for information: Carol Johnson as financial contact; C. Schoenau, grant information; Al Muzzell as general information contact.

There was discussion of a query to the Goldman Fund for monies to support the Weevil research, to be reported at the next meeting. Dr. J. Howard Frank will travel to Honduras 8/13 to pursue further Weevil related research. There was discussion of the need to provide a seed bank and growing facilities for native species to be re-introduced into the wild when the weevil is eradicated.

Next meeting of FCBS Council will be 10/17/98, hosted by Bromeliad Society of South Florida.

Respectfully submitted: Geoffrey C. Johnson,
Sec'y and Rep. from BS of Central Florida

FCBS WEB PAGE

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Web page has been moved and now has its own domain name. The Council's new address is <http://fcbs.org/>

The page has been redesigned. It now includes pictures from the World Conference held in Houston in June, as well as other new bromeliad pictures. Since the space at this site is unlimited, there is now plenty of room to include as many pictures of bromeliads as possible. If members of the Council's member societies would like pictures posted on the site, contact Webmaster Michael Andreas. If your pictures have been scanned or are in digital format, they can be emailed to Michael at mike@digital.net. If they are regular pictures, you can mail them to Michael. He will scan them and return the original pictures to you. At some point later this year, he plans to be set up to scan slides. Please include your name, address and phone number with the picture as well as the correct spelling of the name of the bromeliad. Michael's mailing address is 617 Fifth Street, Merritt Island, FL 32953. Telephone is 407-453-0366.

Remember to send information on meetings and upcoming events to Michael so they can be included on the Council's page. He also is interested in linking to your society page or to any other bromeliad-related sites on the Internet. If there are any changes in contact persons for your society, please let Michael know so he can keep the information current.



27 July 1998

WEEVIL UPDATE

In the last quarterly report, I mentioned that Wally's weevil (apparently a virgin female of an undescribed species of *Cholus*, probably from Panama) was alive and well, in a glass jar behind locked doors. Its presence in Florida is illegal. So, now I would like to talk about laws about importation of plants and insects.

Wally Berg followed the law in obtaining a permit from Panama to collect and export bromeliads, and a permit from USDA/APHIS to import bromeliads into the USA. Many plant collectors obtain such permits. Consequently, more than 350 million shipments of plants are imported legally into the USA through Miami airport every year. Unfortunately, many pest insects are thereby imported, and nobody accepts responsibility. Wally did not intend to import a weevil. The USDA/APHIS inspectors at Miami airport are charged with preventing importation of pest insects, but there are too few of them to inspect more than about 2% of shipments. The result is that many pest insects arrive unwanted. The big question is: who pays to control the pests that get by the inspectors? There are no routine State (Florida) or federal (USDA) funds to do this. Only if the pests that arrive are pests of citrus are State or federal funds likely to be made available. It is very easy for plant importers to bring in unwanted pests.

I am now faced with the task of importing a specialized (insect) natural enemy that I hope will control *Metamastus callizona* populations in Florida. The laws of the USA make this a far more difficult task.

First, I must obtain permits from the country of origin. Some countries require a permit for collection and another for export. Many countries treat all animals equally - so that it is as difficult and expensive (these are real dollars) to collect and export two flies from Mexico as to collect and export two jaguars: if Mexico were the source, I would be obliged (a) to hire a hunting guide for the duration of my visit (no matter that the hunting guide is used to hunting for deer, and cannot distinguish a parasitoid fly from a flea), (b) declare in advance how many flies (number of adult males and females, and number of immatures) that I plan to capture, (c) pay a large fee, (d) seek a collaborative research agreement with a Mexican scientist, and (e) get a multi-page research proposal approved by Mexico's equivalent of the National Science Foundation, ensuring research funds for my Mexican collaborator - I have to produce a Mexican "collaborator" no matter that no Mexican entomologist may have the slightest interest in what I am trying to do because this weevil is of no consequence in Mexico - and I have no funds to give to him/her to achieve the objectives of the project. Although this seems insane, it is the law, and it is enforced by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). If I arrive in Miami with such parasitoid flies without the appropriate Mexican permits, but am challenged by a USFWS inspector, I can be fined thousands of dollars and jailed for years under wildlife laws that have no bearing on what I am trying to do!

Second, I have to obtain a Florida (State) permit and a federal (USDA-APHIS) permit to import living flies into quarantine in Florida for further study. At this point I do not have a permit to release the flies in nature. To obtain a release permit, I must conduct many tests and then present the results with an application for release to State (Florida) and federal (USDA-APHIS) agencies, and the permit may or may not be granted.

Third, I have to declare to USFWS that I have imported "wildlife" - a beneficial parasitoid fly.

The bottom line is that it was easy for Wally's weevil to arrive in Florida. It came as a contaminant of plants that he had imported legally. He did not have a permit to import weevils. I have to go through far more to legally import a beneficial fly that may control *Metamastus callizona*. I hope that whenever you have the opportunity to review - and vote on - U.S. laws you will endeavor to make it harder to import pests and easier to import biocontrol agents, which is the reverse of the current situation.

Respectfully, Howard Frank

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
Invites You to Attend the

1998 BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA

In Daytona Beach at the Daytona Beach Resort and Conference Center
(Formerly the Ramada Inn Resort Oceanfront)
2700 N. Atlantic Ave.

On September 11 and 12, 1998

Hosted by the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

Features: Friday - Teaula's Hawaiian Luau Feast and Dinner Show
Saturday - Plant Sales, Seminars, Banquet and Rare Plant
Auction (Proceeds to go to the Florida Council)

Location: Daytona Beach Resort and Conference Center in Daytona Beach - see
directions on reverse side of this notice.

Reservations: Call 1-800-654-6216 Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You must
make mention of Extravaganza '98 to take advantage of the low rate of \$49 plus tax/per
night. Check in time 4:00 p.m. - checkout 12 noon. Make your hotel reservations now! Cut
off date is August 25th. Make reservation directly to the hotel. Don't be left out!

Luau Feast:

Hawaiian Vegetable Salad
Tropical Fruit Salad
Maui Seafood Chowder
Sweet and Sour Chicken
Pepper Steak
Mahi Mahi Coconut
Newburg Roast Pork
Candied Yams
Island-Style Fried Rice
Hawaiian Ginger Vegetables
Assorted Desserts
Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea

Banquet:

Fresh Garden Salad
Chicken Marsala
Steamed New Potatoes
Green Beans Almondine
Hot Rolls and Butter
Carrot Cake
Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea

Dinner Reservations

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Please check the appropriate boxes below:

I will I will not attend the Luau Feast/Dinner Show on Fri. night at 8:00 p.m.
 I will I will not attend the Banquet/Rare Plant Auction on Sat. night at 7:00 p.m.

Cost for each event (Fri., Sat.) is \$18.00/person. Reservations must be received no later than
Aug. 25th. Send to: Ted Nuse, 3 Rocky Creek Trail, Ormond Beach, FL 32174-4963

Note: Hotel reservations must be made separately.