



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

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VOLUME-XIX ISSUE II

CATCHING UP ----- STAYING EVEN

I hope that this format is a little easier for you to read as compared to my last effort. In spite of the billions of dollars Bill Gates has made from Microsoft some of these programs will drive you batty learning the nuances of their performance.

Enough of the preliminary nonsense, this is supposed to be a bromeliad related newsletter.

The weevil research is moving along with promising results but we still need the member societies to continue to provide the kind of support we have enjoyed in the past. There will be a "Thank You" list later in the text and I'll say now if you contributed and were not mentioned it was an oversight and not an intentional snub.

The council is also looking for volunteers who will be willing to germinate and grow seed from wild collected Florida native Tillandsias that are endangered by the weevil. If you wish to volunteer just tell your FCBS representative that you're ready, willing, and able to help with this project. The purpose of the seedlings is to return plants to their original locale if the wild population is ravaged by the weevil.

Those of you who are hooked up to the Web and have not checked out the FCBS home page are missing one of the best sites that I have seen. Michael Andreas deserves a big round of applause for his hard work.

There is an important item of business I need to interject here. I need to have all rosters before August 1, 1999 in order to assure that the annual roster is updated and I am able to bill the annual society assessments.

According to bylaws they are to be billed on or about September 1, 1999. If your rosters are not received by August 1 I will generate a roster using archival addresses and will bill accordingly. To those who have already updated their rosters for me. Thank you very much. Your new members will get this issue of the quarterly.

1999 FCBS EXTRAVAGANZA

Friday and Saturday September 17&18 1999
Holiday Inn 2701 E. Fowler Ave. Tampa 33612
(813) 917-4710

Set up 5:00 pm, Friday, September 17
6:30pm Friday: Cash Bar, Pool Party, and Buffet

Events begin 9:00am Saturday, September 18
with bromeliad sales, home tours and seminars
throughout the day.

6:30pm Saturday: Cash Bar, Banquet, Rare Plant
Auction.

This hotel has been extensively remodeled with a Busch Gardens influence in the "Kiddie Pool" area. Busch Gardens is just two miles away and University Square Mall is immediately across the street. There is a TGIFridays at the west end of the lobby and a cafeteria style restaurant in the hotel. Reservations can be made @ (813)971-4710 \$79 per night single or double.

FCBS TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND BEGINNING:	4510.53
#5174 USPS	33.00
#5175 1 st Imp.	288.90
#5176 USPS bulk	139.24
#5177 Div Corp.	61.25
#5178 MU comp.	<u>250.00</u>
	772.39
	<u>772.39</u>
Balance General Fund	3738.14
Expense in transit \$638.10 balance computer	

WEEVIL FUND BEGINNING: 6687.06

EXPENSES: -0-

INCOME:

JAN.	1230.00	
FEB.	1213.00	
MAR.	<u>1245.00</u>	
	3688.00	<u>3688.00</u>
		10,375.06

TOTAL(reconciled) 14,113.20
(deposit in transit \$278.10)

Submitted Geoffrey C. Johnson
Report for first qtr. 1/01/99-3/03/99

As a quick aside to the report above, the Extravaganza is the FCBS's sole fund raising activity for the year we need your support.

TOP TEN REASONS BROMELIADS ARE THE PERFECT HOBBY PLANT FOR Y2K

- 1.They aren't date or time sensitive.
- 2.They don't require electricity.
- 3.They can be used to barter in lieu of cash.
- 4.They don't need to use the plumbing.
- 5.They are non-toxic thus edible in a pinch.
- 6.Their fiber can be woven.
- 7.Berries can be used to make ink.
- 8.They are lovely fashion accessories.
- 9.They require no spare parts.
- 10.They impound water if needed.

(Okay some of these are lame. I thought it might be easier to find ten reasons than it really was. Ed.)

So, how about this Y2K thing? All of you technophiles out there let me know your darkest fears on line before we are plunged into the new Dark Ages. I'll post the results in a yes/no fashion in the next newsletter. If 9/9/99 doesn't get to me first.

E-mail ppfobsed@bellsouth.net Look, again I'm a victim of technology MSWord thinks I've put in a hyperlink.

A quick cultural observation, since I have the space. If you are growing seedlings of any kind just one episode of drought can result in chaos in your seedling flats. The #1 bane of my seedling growing is uneven watering.

Followed closely by fungus and cutworms. Water regularly for best results.

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES
MINUTES OF MEETING APRIL 24,1999

The quarterly meeting of the FCBS was held at the University of Florida Entomology Dept. and was hosted by the Jacksonville/Gainesville B.S. and Dr.J. Howard Frank.

Nat DeLeon, Chairman, brought the meeting to order at 2:30pm following an extensive tour of the Entomology labs and greenhouses hosted by Dr. Frank.

Minutes were corrected to show that Geoff Johnson was approved an \$800 budget to purchase computer equipment not to check cost as was printed. Minutes approved as amended.

Treasurer's report approved as presented. Web site report forwarded by Karen Andreas. Nat DeLeon submitted a report with suggestions for collecting and sowing seeds from Florida's native bromeliads.

Extravaganza reported upon. (See previous page.)

Geoff Johnson moved to rescind the motion for FCBS to compile a slide library/slide program. Motion passed.

Al Muzzell moved the FCBS send the BIC a \$200 donation quarterly subject to quarterly review by FCBS board. Request from Harry Luther an acknowledgement for the treasurer to place in permanent records. Motion passed. Various fund raising methods were discussed for the weevil fund. These will be pursued with due haste.

Respectfully submitted , Tom Wolfe.



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24 April 1999

Metamasius callizona in 16 south Florida counties

The greatest concentration of Florida's rarest native bromeliads is in natural areas of Collier County and western Dade County. These plants are *Guzmania monostachia*, *Catopsis berteroniana*, *C. nutans*, *C. floribunda*, *Tillandsia flexuosa*, *T. pruinosa*, and the compact form of *T. paucifolia*. These plants are protected by state law (Florida Statutes 581.185), and many of the areas in which they grow are federal and state parks and conservation areas, giving additional legal protection. Outside those areas, a major risk to the plants is from habitat destruction by developers [581.185(8)a]. There is some evidence that even within those areas native bromeliads are not immune to poaching by collectors.

The laws are designed to protect the plants from people; they do not guarantee any effort to control invasive pest insects such as the Mexican weevil *Metamasius callizona* which now is killing native bromeliads in lands administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Beginning in 1994, I tried to visit some of those areas annually to determine how close the weevil is to them. Also, Dr Dan Austin (Florida Atlantic University), on frequent visits, has kept his eyes open for evidence of the weevil there.

On the 1st of April 1999, I found a dead *Tillandsia utriculata* with a *M. callizona* cocoon, at Sunniland in Collier County, within 4 miles of the northern boundary of the Big Cypress National Preserve. It is possible that, with more time for searching, I would have found the weevil within the preserve.

Meanwhile, since late 1998, the weevil has been shown to exist in four more counties in south Florida: Brevard, Indian River, Desoto, and Highlands. In Highlands County it is killing *T. utriculata* in Highlands Hammock State Park. In St. Lucie County, where it has been known since November 1995, it now infests The Savannas State Preserve. It is moving up the Sebastian, St. Lucie, Loxahatchee, Caloosahatchee, Peace, Myakka, and Manatee river systems, but long-distance movements most likely are the result of people moving infested plants. Despite searching, I was unable to find the weevil in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Hardee, Okeechobee, Osceola, Orange, Sumter and Monroe counties, although its arrival there probably is just a matter of time. Remarkably, I was unable to find it in Dade County: although it was present at Castellow Hammock County Park in 1991, it seems no longer to be present and I did not find it at other sites in Dade county.

Details of its distribution are given with a map on the WWW site <http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~frank/bromel.htm> under the chapter pests of bromeliads, section weevils that eat bromeliads, and subsection history of *Metamasius callizona* in Florida.

Respectfully,

J.H. Frank



