



FLORIDA COUNCIL

of

BROMELIAD SOCIETIES INC.

Newsletter

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VOLUME XIX-- NUMBER III

CATCHING UP-- STAYING EVEN

I know many of you thought you would never get this issue. I now know what pains my Mother went to around roster time. It's just amazing the number of errors you can make when you transpose a 700 entry address list into a new database. More than I care to admit to at this time. I will apologize in advance for the size of the type in the roster. The clubs should get their reps to bring up the idea of a yearly roster in a size that is legible in a format other than booklet.

The FCBS is doing very well and hopefully we are progressing on a course that will lead to the control of the weevil.

On that point the Council is soliciting growers to germinate *Tillandsia* seeds to make sure that there are specimens available to repopulate wild areas decimated by the weevil. If you have any interest please contact your reps and let them know of your interest.

The World Conference is fast approaching and you have until the end of the year to take advantage of the reduced registration fee of \$115. The cut-off is 01/01/00 for this rate. Another rate increase that will go into effect is the rise in BSI dues to \$30 single and \$35 family. This can be avoided by multiple year payments before the end of 1999.

I neglected to mention the generous donation of \$1000 to the Weevil Fund by the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society in the last issue. Before there is clamoring from other societies I will acknowledge others in the next issue.

FCBS TREASURERS REPORT2ND Qtr. 03/01-07/01/99

GENERAL FUND BEGIN		3738.14
#5179-MU Computers	638.10	
#5180-USPS	33.00	
#5181-BIC	200.00	
#5182-print Vol. XIX #2	357.38	
#5183-Office Depot	15,48	
#5184-mail svc.	<u>139.75</u>	
	1183.71	
GENERAL FUND BALANCE 07/01		2554.43
WEEVIL FUND BEGIN		10,375.06
EXPENSE		-0-
INCOME		
April	190.00	
May	-0-	
June	<u>1604.00</u>	
	1794.00	
TOTAL		12,169.06
(\$300 in transit BSSF)		
END 2 ND QTR. BALANCE		14,723.49
Submitted 07/10/99	Geoffrey C Johnson	

I guess nobody was worried about the Y2K bug because I got no response from my query in the last edition. That or nobody reads this rag. If you haven't already done so go to the web site for Microsoft and download their Y2K diagnostic program and it will inventory your system and tell you if you're compliant (for Y2K anyway).



2 July 1999

Which native bromeliads does *Metamasius callizona* attack?

Are you confused about the bromeliads that *M. callizona* attacks? You are not alone. It is likely that adult weevils will nibble on all kinds of bromeliads and might cause cosmetic damage. If you catch an adult weevil and put it in a jar with slices of apple, it may very well eat apple rather than starve. But what matter are the bromeliad species in which adult female weevils will lay eggs, and larvae hatch from the eggs and develop, killing the plants.

Florida native bromeliads already attacked. The five native species that weevil larvae have been found to attack are: *Tillandsia utriculata*, *T. fasciculata*, *T. paucifolia*, *T. balbisiana*, and *T. flexuosa*.

Populations of *T. utriculata* in 16 counties are being devastated by attack by the weevil; for this reason the Florida Endangered Plant Advisory Council has placed this species on Florida's list of endangered species (Florida Administrative Code, 1998).

Populations of the very widespread *T. fasciculata* have been minimally attacked by the weevil in these 16 counties: perhaps the plant is too fibrous to suffer such damage, and it reacts to attack by producing offsets (pups), so that damage to it is trivial; however, it, too, has been placed on the Florida list of endangered species, perhaps needlessly.

Populations of *T. paucifolia* are widespread but sparse, and have been attacked by the weevil -- although attacks may be devastating to this bromeliad species, it has not yet been placed on Florida's list of endangered species -- in fact it has no protected status at all in the Florida Administrative Code although there is reason for it to be listed as an endangered species.

Two species, *T. balbisiana* and *T. flexuosa*, already had protected status (threatened and endangered respectively) before it was known that the weevil attacks them.

Florida native bromeliads yet to be attacked: All indications point to potentially devastating attacks on six native species that already have threatened or endangered status in the Florida Administrative Code. These are: *Catopsis berteroniana*, *C. floribunda*, *C. nutans*, *Guzmania monostachia*, *Tillandsia pruinosa*, and *T. variabilis* (listed as *T. valenzuelana*). These have small populations, all but *T. variabilis* with a very restricted distribution. Once the weevil reaches the areas where they exist, they are likely to be in serious trouble.

The following five species probably will not be attacked: *Tillandsia bartramii*, *T. setacea*, *T. simulata*, *T. recurvata*, and *T. usneoides*. This is because these plants individually do not seem to provide enough tissue to allow a weevil larva to develop -- and so adult female weevils do not lay eggs in them.

Respectfully

Howard Frank

I had someone give me a hint I thought I'd pass along to everyone. All of us have gone to the plant and pulled the tag only to find that the name was illegible. I've gone to soft pencil to write my tags but even graphite is not forever. It can smear or become smudged.

I had someone suggest that you write two tags and place one of them with the plant name below the soil surface (turn the tag upside down) and the suns UV rays don't fade the tag and prying fingers don't smear the name.

This sounded like a good idea but with a few thousand plants maybe it's better to take your chances.

FCBS MINUTES OF JULY 10,1999 (digest)

Hosted By SBS at Selby Gardens

Nat DeLeon, Chairman brought the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Minutes of last meeting approved.

Treasurer's report approved.

Web Site Report- our page has received the "Links to Go Key Resource Award" as the best bromeliad related site on the WWW.

Extravaganza report: Tom Wolfe reported the finalization of dates for the event as 9/24-25 at the Holiday Inn on Fowler Ave. Buffet and banquet forms were distributed.

BSI report: Carolyn Schoenau, Membership Secretary reported a decline in falling membership.

Tom Wolfe, BSI President reported on the BSI Board meeting at Longwood Gardens.

(1)BSI Journal back on schedule.

(2)The best affiliate tabletop display at WC will win \$100.00.

(3)Harvey Beltz needs species seed for the seed bank.

(4)Slide Library is being revamped.

(5)New judging district, Louisiana District incorporating the three remaining New Orleans judges with the rest of Louisiana.

(6)BSI making an effort to secure blanket liability insurance to cover affiliates as well as BSI.

Evil Weevil: Nat DeLeon made several suggestions.

(1)Letters to legislators

(2)Information Tables at local functions to make the problem known to the general public.

Motion:Geoff Johnson moved to fund BIC \$200. Motion carried.

Adjournment: 4:00PM

Digest of minutes, which were submitted by Tom Wolfe.

THE NAME GAME

Oh, No!

That's the lament of some bromeliad growers today about the renaming and restructuring of bromeliad species and families.

This is the era of the bromeliad splitter. As sure as death and taxes this is a natural progression in the world of taxonomy.

While there are sound reasons for the new names and reorganizations of the bromeliad world, most based in a need to explain inconsistency in plant families as they were organized, some growers could feel lost in a new sea of names unfamiliar to them.

Just as the geographer must draw new maps to explain the changing world. The taxonomist must update the world of bromeliads to bring a new map of the bromeliad world.

Don't despair, if you call it by it's "old" name you will find that some will hurry to correct your syntax but they'll still know what you're talking about. Just remember to call it by it's new name on your show entry tags and the sailing will be smooth.

I find it just as hard to remember that Macedonia is a sovereign nation as to remember that *Canistrum perplexum* is now *Edmundoa ambigua*, or to remember that the new Central Florida area code is 351 as to remember that *Vriesea sanguinolenta* is now really a *Werauii*.

Remember, the plants remain the same it's the names that have been changed to protect the innocent.

Please no ranting, the above is just opinion.
(GCJ)

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Shows/Events/etc.

11/06-07/99- Caloosahatchee B.S. BSI Standard Show and sale. Lee County Extension Bldg. Terry Park on Palm Beach Blvd. Ft. Myers.

11/13-14/99- Fairchild Tropical Gardens Plant Ramble. FTG Miami, FL.

11/20-21/99- Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society, sale Heathcote Botanical Gardens Ft. Pierce Fl.

04/01-02/00- BSSF Show and Sale. FTG

06/26-07/05/00- World Bromeliad Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, San Francisco. \$115 until 01/01/00, \$130 01/02-06/01/00. Registration form available in the next issue.

If you have a special event please contact me at the cover address (6) months in advance so that it can become a part of this publication. Unfortunately I sometimes don't read your newsletters as well as I should. I hope this will rectify itself as I refine my filing and office systems.

Remember that a bird in the hand can at times give you more than you bargained for.

Donations for the weevil fund can be sent to the cover address.