



FLORIDA COUNCIL
of
BROMELIAD SOCIETIES inc.

1983

Quarterly Newsletter

This newsletter published quarterly by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. and mailed February, May, August & November to all paid up members of those Bromeliad Societies in Florida which make up the Council. Non-members may subscribe for \$2.00 year. Make checks payable to: Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and mail to the cover address.

VOL. III - NO. 2
MAY 1983

Florida Council of E

1983 OFFICERS:

Chairman (Fla. West Coast) Ellen Jay Peyton
Vice Chairman (Broward) Polly Pascal

Society Name	Meeting Place
Bromeliad Society of Broward County	Holiday Park Annex 844 NE 7th Ave. Ft. Lauderdale, Fl.
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Soc.	1st Fed. S & L N. Ft. Myers, Fl.
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc.	Garden Cottage, Leu Gardens; 1730 North Forest; Orlando, Fl.
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society	St. Catherine Catholic Church - Belcher Road Largo, Florida
Imperial Polk Bromeliad Society	Div. of State Plant Ind. 3027 Lake Alfred Drive Winter Haven, Fl.
Jacksonville Bromeliad Society	Agric. Extension Learning Center; 1010 N. McDuff Jacksonville, Fl.
Sarasota Bromeliad Society	GTE Conference Room 1660 Ringling Blvd. Sarasota, Fl.
Seminole Bromeliad Society	Seminole Ag. Center South Hwy 17-92 Sanford, Fl.
Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Inc.	Fairchild Gardens Old Cutler Road Miami, Florida
Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay	Seminole Garden Center 5800 Central Avenue Tampa, Florida

COLLECTING & IMPORTING BROMELIADS

At one of our judging school classes, Valerie S. said, with a shudder, "There are those who think it is great fun to go to a strange country, slog around in mud, be chased by snakes & bugs, get lost and succumb to dysentery from the water. Not me, I'll get my bromeliads from a nurseryman or by mail, thank you very much". Me? I live for and do without many things, just to be able to suffer all those deprivations. To be sure, it is a strenuous vacation at best and the bromeliads look terrible in the wild. They are filled with debris, chewed on and inhabited by insects and miscellaneous varmints, and most generally out of reach. It is difficult to keep the eyes on the trees and the feet at the same time, resulting in some sloppy falls. Your warmest welcome will be from the chiggers, ants and ticks. Ants, especially, and mostly the stinging kind. The snakes everyone worries about have so far been no problem. With all that, nothing can compare with the joy of collecting your own plants, carrying them home and seeing them pretty up. And, who knows, maybe there will be a new species among them? A word of caution, high altitude plants (especially vriesia and guzmania) do not as a rule acclimate well in Florida, so leave them behind.

A collecting trip is not just a matter of making a plane reservation and 'bye-bye. Many countries, ie. Mexico & Brazil, no longer allow indiscriminate collecting, or even casual collecting. It is best to research the plant restrictions imposed by the various Latin and Caribbean countries -- also the political situation. After you have decided where to go, ascertain what plants grow there. Are they worth the trip? Next, when is their dry season? We collected in Costa Rica and Dominica in the rainy season, and it is miserable. However, for us it was then or never.

If you would prefer to order plants by mail and not make the trip, it is fairly easy to do so. Either way, you must have an import permit. This permit is issued free of charge, upon application to: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; Plant Protection & Quarantine Program; Federal Building; Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Allow several weeks for receipt of the permit. With your permit you will receive information regarding the provisions

of the "Endangered Species Convention Regulations", including a list of plant genera not prohibited or subject to post-entry quarantine. There will also be a list of restricted items. There is a good deal of paper work, and often complete frustration, involved in bringing in plants which are on the restricted list. Detailed information about restricted list permits and documentation can be obtained from: Chief, Wildlife Permit Office; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; U.S. Dept. of the Interior; 1717 H St. NW; Washington, D. C., 20240. Please note the Endangered Species Convention is not administered by USDA as your plant import permit is, and their documentation requirements are separate and distinct from them. Bromeliads are not on the restricted list. Orchids definitely are--all species. In the early days of ESC, thousands and thousands of orchids perished in Miami and other entry points thru the ignorance of the importer as to the proper documentation required.

Upon your arrival home in Miami, your plants must be declared to and passed thru U.S. Customs, and you must make arrangements to have them transported to the USDA Inspection Station by a Customs Broker (at your expense). Not too many years ago, it was possible to transport ones own plants from the customs dock to USDA, but then someone skipped on by and carried plants right on home, and USDA clamped down. At USDA your plants will be carefully inspected, one by one, for IAB's (illegal alien bugs) and disease (rust & fungus, usually). One bad bugger can result in the methyl-bromide fumigation of all of your plants. Clean the plants in the field, not once but many times, before packing them for the trip home. Bring them home as dry as possible. Wet plants do not do well if they must be fumigated. It is a good idea to put all the plants you are worried about in one box and bring in several boxes. Out of 4 boxes, for example, the USDA may pass 3 and fumigate one. The inspectors are very conscientious--don't argue with them. My advice is don't leave Miami without your plants. Do not plan to arrive in Miami on Friday or a week-end. It takes time to get the plants from the airport to USDA and time to inspect and/or fumigate them. Nothing gets done between 5 p.m. Friday and Monday morning. Be advised.

All the foregoing sounds terribly complicated, doesn't it? If you speak Spanish and are a seasoned foreign traveller, you will probably have no trouble. If not, plan to join a group where all the paper work is included in the cost of the trip. We went with Fred Fuchs to Honduras and will go to Peru with him in June. It is the most satisfactory of all arrangements. There is also the additional pleasure of the company of other plant collectors.

So far, we have considered mainly plants. How about yourself? You will have to get your body back and forth and about, also. Consider the following:

1. A passport. Some countries, mainly Central America, don't require one, but try to get a traveller's check cashed without one! When I renewed my passport in 1980, the cost was \$13.00. Now, the cost is \$42.00 plus the required two photos. However, they are now issued for 10 years instead of five. All South American countries require a passport.
2. Immunization. Check with the local Health Dept. regarding immunization required where you are going. All of South America requires yellow fever immunization and preventive malaria medication. There has been an outbreak of polio in the Caribbean, so they now require polio immunization.
3. The only 100 percent sure way to prevent diarrhea, dysentery or Montezuma's Revenge while you are away is to not eat or drink anything and that makes the cure worse than the disease and infinitely more permanent. Your doctor can give you a prescription for lomatil and tetracycline to take with you. There are also some new medicines on the market. Don't neglect this. It is no joke and could ruin your trip.
4. Clothing. Take old clothing that can be discarded and replaced by the souvenirs you buy. But, remember to respect the traditions of the country where you will be a guest and dress accordingly. Always carry a raincoat and rubber boots.
5. Food. If you are a snacker or worried about the foreign food, better carry your snacks with you. Whatever you carry, it should be tightly packaged, light weight and not liable to melting.

6. Camera, film, reference books, radio-tape recorder, cassettes. How else will you prove you were there? Do not assume there will be electric current where you go. Even if there is, check what type of current before you blow up your electric razor or hair dryer with 220 current.
7. Insurance. Check that your regular policy (life & health) covers you when you are away from the U.S., and also during air travel. If not, it is possible to buy trip insurance. Some credit card memberships (American Express, for one) include automatic insurance coverage if you purchase your ticket with the card.
8. Money. The U.S. dollar goes a long way most places. Check the newspaper for exchange rates before you leave home, and on arrival, make one of the first things you do is exchange your dollars for some local money.
9. Duty Free on Departure. Purchases made in a duty free shop (booze, cigarettes, gifts, etc.) at the airport will be put on your flight to be delivered to you after take-off.

Have a good trip.

Reference Material:

1. Smith & Downs, Flora Neo-Tropica, all three parts of the monograph.
2. "Know Before You Go" put out by and available from U.S. Customs, Washington, D. C. 20229.
3. BSI Journal, July/August, 1980. "Changing the Federal Policy of Gassing at US Ports of Entry".
4. BSI Journal, Sept./October, 1980. "About the Endangered Species Act".
5. "Bromeliads" by Werner Rauh. Especially the portions regarding the effects of altitude and climate on bromeliads.
6. Bulletins Q-37-2, Q-37-4, Q-37-6, USDA; Plant Protection & Quarantine Programs; Federal Building; Hyattsville, Maryland 20782.
7. Your bank balance.

NORTHWEST FLORIDA BROMELIAD SOCIETY

For some time now we have been hearing rumors of a bromeliad society in the Pensacola area. 'Tis true. Several of their members have visited my greenhouse, and I asked one of the members, Murray Cragin, to send me an expose of the situation. Following are excerpts from his reply:

- - - Number of Members - We are a small group with approximately 15 members. However, what we lack in numbers we make up for with miles traveled...some of our members must travel upwards of 60 miles to attend meetings!

How Long Organized - About 4 years.

Where do we meet and when - We try to meet the last Sunday of each month at 3 p.m. The meetings rotate among our member's homes. But, with such a small club, when major events (such as the Super Bowl) or holidays tend to cause a conflict, we can easily change our dates to a more convenient time. As to location, we seem to be alternating between the cities of Fort Walton Beach and Pensacola, a distance of about 60 miles, and our membership is pretty much divided between these two cities.

By and large our membership does not tend to specialize as clubs in other regions do. The usual genera with the standard plants are present in most club member's collections. As an example of our diversity, our club meeting on-going program has been to go through all the bromeliad genera alphabetically, and discuss & show, when the plants are available, the plants within the specific genera. In some of the larger genera, the program may take several meetings to cover all the plants. When specimens are not available, we can usually find photos in back issues of the BSI Journal. It is amazing just how many plants our combined membership has.

1983 Officers: President: Max Horne, Pensacola,
(904) 476-5604
V. Pres.: Dave Gordon, Ft. Walton
Beach, (904) 862-7510
Secretary: Ron Kesler; 122 Missi-
ssippi Ave., Ft. Walton Beach, Fl.
32548 (904) 243-6096
Treasurer: Murray Cragin, Ft. Wal-
ton Beach; (904) 651-4559

We do displays in the local shopping malls (we'll have a display in the State Flower Show to be held in Pensacola the weekend of April 15).

We are a small group and a friendly group. We always welcome passing brom people to give us a ring and if possible drop by our meetings, or just come over & talk plants. You know there is nothing a plant person loves more than to conduct a tour through the greenhouse! ----- (end of excerpts)-----

Your editor has personally extended an invitation to all members of the Northwest Bromeliad Society to participate in any and all Florida bromeliad activities. However, Pensacola is 686 miles from Miami and the nearest FCBS member society, Tampa, is 444 miles away. Houston, Texas is closer to Pensacola than Miami is. We do hope they will find a way to attend some of our shows and that we will get to know them all. All FCBS members, make note of the mailing addresses and 'phone numbers, keep NW advised of all our activities, and if you are passing thru, give them a call.

LOGO



Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society logo was designed by Luli Westra. It is Florida's *Tillandsia fasciculata* circled by the Caloosahatchee River. The society meets at First Federal Savings & Loan, North Fort Myers, on the 3rd Sunday of the month, 2:00 p.m. Visitors are welcome. See the Show Page for more news of this society's plans. Although the society is the newest member of FCBS, it has a large & active membership.

FCBS UPDATE

The regular meeting of FCBS, scheduled for April 9, was postponed until May 7, when it will be held in Jacksonville to coincide with the Florida International Bromeliad Show. Consequently, there are no minutes to record in this issue.

MEMBERSHIP: All FCBS societies, if you have not already done so, please send a list of your current paid up members to the Quarterly editor (name, address and telephone number). The annual state roster will be printed in the August issue. Newsletter editors, when welcoming new members to your society, please print the full name and address so that it can be picked up on the Quarterly mailing list.

NEWSLETTERS: Copies of all newsletters printed by Florida bromeliad societies are regularly received by your editor and read from cover to cover. Many thanks. Of special interest is news of future activities. It is rather redundant to report on what has been done, when potential visitors are more interested in what you plan to be doing should they chance to come by.

MULTI-MEDIA SLIDE LIBRARY: Chairman Tinker Musleh reports the following contributors of slides to the library; Jane & Mike Keys; Dr. & Ms. H. Y. Seidel, Carol Johnson and Kyle Brown--with promises from a few more. More, more, more.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU: There has been a total lack of response to the 1983 Speaker's Roster Program. Forms were distributed to all society presidents for their use in enlisting talented members to the program. The forms are to be renewed yearly, just in case our speakers wish to make a change in subject matter or terms. This is a very important part of FCBS's function and the service has been used extensively since it was initiated.

TAX EXEMPT STATUS: We have been notified by IRS in Atlanta that our application for tax exempt status has been approved. This makes FCBS exempt from income taxes and we will also be eligible for the non-profit

bulk postage rate. We have been paying 10.9 per ounce, and this will be reduced to 5.3 per ounce. However, when making application to the post-office for the reduced rate, I was informed that it may take six weeks for our application to be approved. That means this issue will again cost us 10.9 to mail. Our application with IRS was filed on November 6, 1982, but with all the delays while we furnished more and more information, the notification was received on April 20. With the additional six weeks, the whole process will have taken six months to complete. FCBS will continue to pay full Florida Sales Tax on all purchases, as only institutions supported by tax money are exempt from such tax.

TRIP TO PERU

Bromeliad collectors from various points in Florida will be joining Fred Fuchs on a collecting trip to Peru in June. The group will leave Miami on June 14 via Fawcett Airlines and go directly to Iquitos, Peru. The first night will be spent in Iquitos, then the following day will journey by motor launch down the Amazon to Explorama Lodge, which will be headquarters for the next four days. Plants collected during that time will be left there while the group proceeds up the Napo River to Explornapo Lodge for two days collecting in that area. Then, back to Explorama to pick up plants and return to Iquitos for the balance of the time. Return to Miami will be on June 23. Please note that plants will be collected that grow at altitudes adaptable to our Florida climate. Fred says he may have room for two or three more people. Cost of the trip, Miami to Miami, is \$1,074.00 per person. If interested, write Fred Fuchs; P. O. Box 2113; Naranja, Fl. 33032, or call 305-287-4876. Also, please read the article in this issue titled "Collecting & Importing Plants".

Bromeliad Society of Broward County

New officers elected for the 1983-84 term are:
President - Richard Sedlak; Vice President, Polly
Pascal; Recording Secretary, Alice Gay; Corresponding
Secretary, Georgene Lewis and Treasurer Tom Naylor.

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

The society will have an exhibit at the Florida
International Bromeliad Show, with Chas. Branneky
transporting the plants to Jacksonville.

Many society members attended an open house at
Bromel-a on Sunday, April 10. Racine Foster graciously
extended the invitation to come and tour the grounds
and also to purchase any of the remaining plants. The
Polk Bromeliad Society visited there on Sunday, April
24 as well. Ms. Foster will soon be moving to her new
home, and this touching farewell gift is greatly ap-
preciated by the society members.

Imperial Polk Bromeliad Society

Member Whit Merrin is keeping a beautiful ongoing
display of bromeliads in the lobby of Lakeland Hospital.

Rose & Chas. Schmidt, along with daughter, Carolyn,
will be among the group making the trip to Peru in
June.

Jacksonville Bromeliad Society

Occupied as they are with show plans, the society
has had guest speakers at their regular meetings.
Jeff Johnson gave a program on dichotomy in March, and
Ann Mann was the speaker in April.

Seminole Bromeliad Society

After three months of meetings away, the May 15
meeting will return to the Seminole Ag Center. The
program will be "Mystery Hybrids" and members are
urged to bring mystery plants for discussion, and,
hopefully, identification.

A big crowd attended the barbecue at Bill & Betty
Shakelford's home on the Wekiwa River. Everyone had
such a good time, it was decided to make it an annual
April event.

The society will have a display at the FIBS.

Bromeliad Society of South Florida

The big news, of course, is the annual show, with everyone involved and busy. We hope our friends from the rest of the state will be able to attend.

Another collecting trip! The "Bromeliadvisory" just received announces a plant collecting trip to Puyo, Ecuador from June 28-July 6. Price of \$875.00 includes everything except meals for 2 days in Quito. The group will have it's own bus for all activities. For more information, call Gene Fike at 305-891-7909.

Fairchild Tropical Gardens will be offering a course of six classes on growing bromeliads, Thursday evenings 7:30-9:30, beginning May 19 and running thru June 23. Instructor will be BSSF President John Hammel. The fee is \$30.00 for members of the gardens and \$35. for non-members.

A party for show workers and out of town guests and judges will be held on Saturday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Trisha Frank; 4595 North Kendall Drive.

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay:

Editor's Report on the Palm Sunday Weekend Bromeliad Show:

It is always such a pleasure to attend and judge a Tampa Bromeliad Show. There is never any frenzy or panic. Everyone is so laid back, relaxed and friendly. How do they do it?

The show committee introduced a new way (to me) of picking top awards. Judges point scored on pre-printed ballots all plants with 95 points or above. The points were then totalled to determine "Best of Show" and other top awards. It worked very well. There was only one tie, and in that case duplicate prizes were awarded.

A bad hailstorm two days prior to the show cut down on the number of entries and it was early for blooming plants (March) but there were plenty of entries, all correctly classified, very clean, and of course very beautiful.

The winners:

Best of Show: Ae. pineliana v. minutae - Div. IV.
Bill Radford

Division I: Guzmania lindenii - Bill Radford

Division II: Aechmea zebrina multiple - Andy Price

Div. III: Tillandsia ionantha display, Val Haynes

Division V: Artistic Arrangement - Allyn Sikes

TROPICAL DRY SEASONS

For anyone contemplating a collecting trip, perhaps the following information regarding wet and dry seasons in the tropics may be helpful. It was gleaned from National Geographic World Atlas, and of course is based on averages. Who knows about 1983?

The following countries share the same dry season from December thru April:

Guatamala	Costa Rica
Nicaragua	Honduras
Bahamas	Dominican Republic

Chile, Paraguay and Argentina are fairly dry all year, with average annual rainfall of 6 to 8 inches.

Trinidad and Puerto Rico have heavy rainfall throughout the year, with it being somewhat drier February through April.

Columbia and Venezuela are dry January thru March, except the Maracaibo area of Venezuela is nearly always dry.

Ecuador - Dry season June thru October
Bolivia - Dry May thru August
Peru - Dry all year on the Pacific Coast. Dry season in Amazonian area is June thru August.

Mexico - Yucatan area, dry February thru April, but not too dry then. In the area of Mexico City, November & December are the only dry months.

Brazil - Manaus area is driest July thru September
NE & Central areas dry May thru September
Rio area driest June thru August
Belem area is wet all year.

Jamaica and most of the Caribbean islands are dry December thru July, barring tropical storms.

Panama varies, but in collecting areas is dry January thru March.

May 6-8, 1983 Florida International Bromeliad Show

Orange Park Mall; Orange Park, Fl. Just off I-95. Hosted by Jacksonville Bromeliad Society, in co-operation with FCBS. Competition is open to all growers. Merit judging. Registration at the Mall 9-11 p.m. May 5. Judging on Friday, May 6. Show hours, Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday, 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Membership & commercial plant sales.

May 14-15, 1983 Annual South Florida Bromeliad Show.

Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Miami. Host is the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. Open to all exhibitors, with separate Commercial Grower's Division. Entries registration Thursday, May 12, 12 noon to 9 p.m. Merit judging. Member and Commercial Sales. Show hours 9:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, May 14-15. Admission to the Gardens is \$3.00.

May 20-22, 1983. NE Florida Fern Society-Jacksonville Bromeliad Society joint show at the Normandy Mall in Jacksonville. A fern and bromeliad show with sales booths by both societies. Entries will be judged. Contact Jax B.S. President Tinker Musleh for further details.

June 17-19, 1983. Georgia Bromeliad Show; Cumberland Mall, Atlanta, Ga. Show Chairman Sheryl Hyde; 404-971-8467; Co-Chairman Patty Klosik; 404-636-8476. Entries, Friday June 17; Judged Saturday, June 18. Entries open to all exhibitors. Member & Commercial plant sales. BSI Board of Directors meeting will be held in conjunction with this show.

July 22-24, 1983. Jacksonville Bromeliad Society second annual Palatka Mall Show. Palatka Garden Club will participate. Entries invited. Member plant sales but no commercial sales. Contact JBS Pres. Tinker Musleh for further details.

Sept. 16-18, 1983. Annual Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Show; Winter Park Mall; Winter Park, Fl. Show Chairman, R. H. Pearre III; Telephone 305-656-6542. Full details in the next Quarterly.

November ? 1983. First Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Show. Full details in the next Quarterly.

Secretary (Seminole) Carol Johnson
 Treasurer (Jacksonville) Ron Schoenau

Day of Month & Time	1983 President	Other Officers & FCBS Reps.
Third Monday 7:30 p.m.	Paul Lefkowitz 19520 NE 21 Ct. N. Miami Beach 33179 305-931-8886	V. Pres. Richard Sedlak Sr. Rep. Polly Pascal Jr. Rep. Wm. Frazel
Third Sunday 2:00 P.M.	Terry Virta 2265 44th Terr. SW Naples, FL 33999 813-455-3090	V. Pres. Peggy Bailey Sr. Rep. Roberta Virta Jr. Rep. Terry Virta
4th Monday 7:30 P.M.	Ms. Audrey McCrory 3615 Boggy Creek Road Kissimmee, FL 32741 305-846-4955	V. Pres. Laurel Stone Sr. Rep. Nancy Hall Jr. Rep. Audrey McCrory
4th Thursday 7:30 P.M.	Richard Paul 2106 East Flora Tampa, FL 33610 813-238-0620	Sr. Rep. Ellen Jay Peyton Jr. Rep. (Voting): Dr. Morris Dexter V. Pres. Helga Turner
4th Sunday 3:00 p.m.	Ms. Rose Schmidt 1475 Highway 655 Auburndale, FL 33823 813-984-1782	V. Pres. Whit Merrin Sr. Rep. Carl Perryn Jr. Rep. Rose Schmidt
Third Tuesday 7:30 P.M.	Tinker Musleh Rt 2- Box 400K Melrose, FL 32666 904-475-2126	V. Pres. Matt Encinosa Sr. Rep. Ron Schoenau Jr. Rep. Nick Ciccarello
Second Monday 7:30 P.M.	Robert L. Smith 431 S. Washington Dr. Sarasota, FL 33577 813-388-1921	V. Pres. Patricia Worley Sr. Rep. Hazel Quilhot Jr. Rep. Vicky Chirnside
3rd Sunday 2:30 P.M.	Edward Hall 1111 Glen Garry Cir Maitland, FL 32751 305-647-2039	V. Pres. Carol Johnson Sr. Rep. Carol Johnson Jr. Rep. Edw. Hall
First Tuesday 8:00 P.M.	John Hammel 14226 SW 283 St. Miami, FL 33032 305-247-3753	V. Pres. Dean Fairchild Sr. Rep. Nat DeLeon Jr. Rep. Don Yetkow
Third Monday 7:30 P.M.	William Radford 1803 West Sligh Tampa, FL 33604 813-935-6669	V. Pres. Charles Brown Sr. Rep. Wm. Radford Jr. Rep. Ervin Wurthmann