



**FLORIDA COUNCIL**  
**of**  
**BROMELIAD SOCIETIES inc.**

**1985**

**Quarterly Newsletter**

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

---

VOLUME V - ISSUE IV

NOVEMBER 1985

ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENTS

BY: ABBIE OWEN

(Introductory remarks by Carol Johnson, Editor).

Ms. Blanton Owen (Abbie) is well known in District VII and Florida State Federation Flower Shows, where she exhibits and consistently wins top awards. She is also a good teacher and has instructed in Artistic Design at the past two Seminole Bromeliad Society workshops. As our bromeliad shows in Florida become more spectacular, horticulturally, our Artistic Arrangements (Division IV) seem to be regressing. The blame for this is surely with the show schedule, as very rarely does it help the entrant by listing themes for interpretation, and the theme is the enthusiasm generator.

Let me give an example: At the Central Florida show a couple of years ago, there were themes listed for interpretation. One of them was "Jump Up Time in Trinidad". Abbie tells me she researches her subject thoroughly. For this subject, she would read all material available about Trinidad, and find that it is one of the southernmost of the Caribbean island, the inhabitants are mainly black, Creole, and Catholic. She would also learn that "Jump Up" is street carnival time, usually preceeding Lent. She will try to use the bromeliads native to Trinidad in her design, and the knowledge acquired thru research in interpreting the theme. Fascinating, isn't it? Can you imagine the education she has acquired thru all the research over the years? It make me realize why I was always the white ribbon winner, before I gave it up entirely. A couple of days before the show I would mutter, "Jeez, I promised. I better do something".

-----

ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

SPACE: The open areas in and around the arrangement. The three-dimensional expanse within which an arrangement is organized.

LINE: A continuous visual line.

PATTERN: The silhouette created by a combination of lines, forms, colors and the space between them.

FORM: (Shape, Size). 1. The habit of growth of the flower, plant, shrub or tree, 2. The contour of three-dimensional material. This applies to the contour of individual parts or components as well as to the contour of the whole plant or design.

COLOR: The visual response of the eye to reflected light rays.

TEXTURE: The quality of the surface structure, such as rough, smooth, dull, shiny, etc

PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

BALANCE: Visual stability.

PROPORTION: 1. The relationship of the length, area, or volume of one part to another or of one part to a whole. 2. The relationship of the amounts of the hue, value or chroma.

SCALE: The size relationship of the component parts of a design.

RHYTHM: (Repetition, gradation). A dominant visual path thru the design.

**CONTRAST:** The use of opposite or unlike qualities, elements or forces.

**DOMINANCE:** The stronger effect of one or more of the elements in the design.

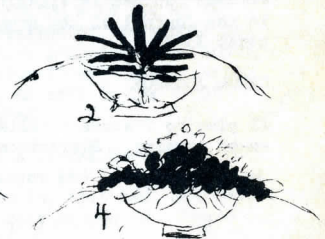
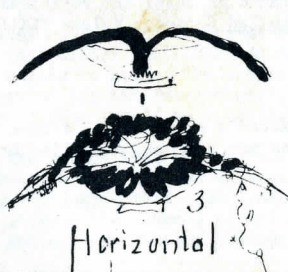
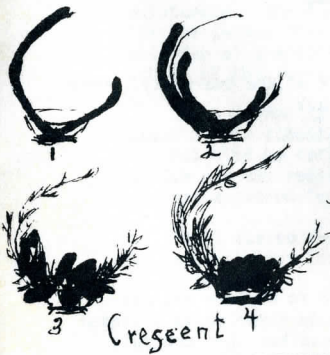
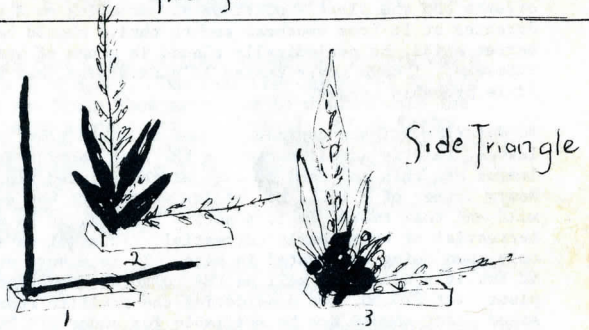
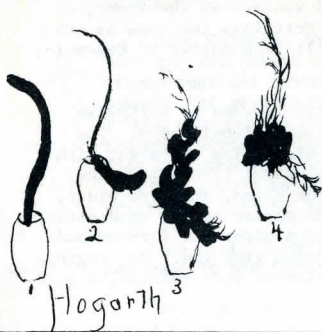
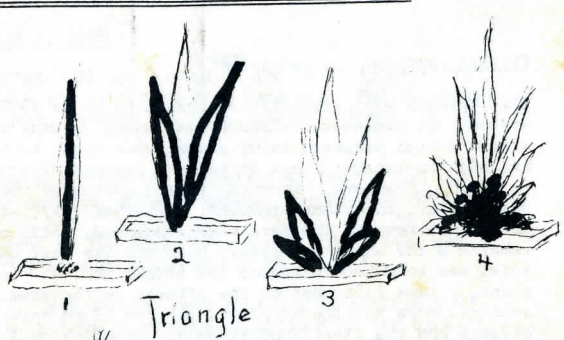
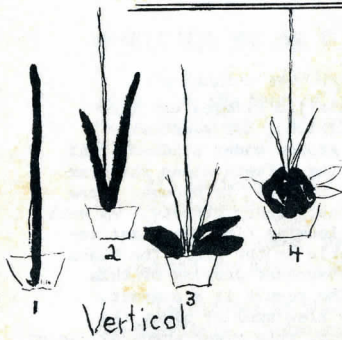
| ELEMENTS OF DESIGN |            | PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN           |            |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Space              | Color      | Balance                        | Contrast   |
| Line               | Texture    | Proportion                     | Dominance  |
| Pattern            |            | Scale                          |            |
| Form (Shape, Size) |            | Rhythm (repetition, gradation) |            |
|                    | (See text) |                                | (See text) |

#### CONVENTIONAL STYLES - and a few comparative elements & components

|                                     | TRADITIONAL  | FREE FORM (Modern)   | ABSTRACT   |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Shape and the use of Space          | Massed plant material with little room for space     | Usually line design (less plant material) with more space.         | Minimum material with use of enclosed space.                       |
| Quantity--(Amount of material used) | Large amount of plant material                       | Less plant material  | Usually only 1 or 2 types of plant material used.                  |
| Central area -- (Movement from)     | Radiates from a "Center"                             | Radiates from a central "point".                                   | Seldom is there a central radiation point.                         |
| Focal Point (Point of Interest)     | Central area is point of interest                    | No central area of interest, but one introduced to provide balance | More than one area of interest (places to which eye is drawn).     |
| Harmony and Contrast                | Colors & shapes used in harmony and with transition. | Feeling of harmony is not as great as sense of contrast.           | There is extremely strong contrast between round & straight lines. |
| Realism                             | Naturalism present                                   | Though secondary, a sense of naturalism remains.                   | No naturalistic appearance.  |
| Container                           | Traditional or Concealed                             | A modern design usually in stonework or pottery.                   | An integrated part of the design, usually having several openings. |



-3-  
Easy Steps to Geometric Designs



BASIC SHAPES

Zig-Zag

See Page 6

## Collector's Corner

### VRIESEA ospinae (oh-speen-)

This Vriesea was originally purchased by me in 1979 labelled Vriesea espirito santos. It seemed to tolerate nearly any growing conditions, but eventually made the best progress in my garden room close to the ground under subdued light and high humidity. There it began a process of producing offsets along the stem in alarming numbers. From the time I purchased the plant until it bloomed three years later, the plant produced, conservatively, at least twenty offsets. As each offset was removed the bare stem elongated, until at blooming time the plant resembled a low shrub or topiary bush and was very unstable in the pot. The bloom spike was enormous, branched and bright yellow. In subsequent growing of this plant, I have left most of the offsets on the stem. The result is a compact, smaller, more foliaceous plant, but the bloom spike is also smaller since the offsets sap the plant's nutriment. Standing on a bench, this plant sheds all water directed at it from overhead and to thrive should be hand watered at the roots, or better still, be periodically placed in a pan of water. Fertilize the same as other vrieseas. I have never tested it's hardiness, but since it is a native of Colombia, it is probably tender.

To describe Vriesea ospinae: A medium sized plant with light green to yellowish leaves, faintly scroll-marked in the same fashion as Vriesea heiroglyphica. The leaves are thin and tend to curl at the pointed tip. In discussing the plant with Harry Luther of B.I.C., he informs me that he has seen the plant blooming in the wild and that there, in it's native habitat, it is a medium sized, stemless plant, terrestrial or very nearly terrestrial. It acquires its caulescent habit, apparently, only upon being cultivated in pots. It is a very attractive plant and I recommend it for it's beauty as well as the cultural experience it will give you. My original plant cost \$20.00, but considering the prolific reproduction of this species, a good-sized plant should now be available for under \$10.00.

Vriesea ospinae is illustrated in color and botanically described by Harry Luther in the Journal of the Bromeliad Society, Volume XXXIII, January-February, 1983, pages 23-24.

CAROL JOHNSON

(I plan to feature a collector's plant in all future issues of the Quarterly, where space permits. Suggestions are welcome, also line drawings.)

### A NOTE TO FLORIDA BROMELIAD SHOW JUDGES:

It is an unpardonable sin to award other than a blue ribbon to a plant and not explain your decision on the back of the entry card. Yet, in three shows attended this year, notations on entry tags have been the exception rather than the rule. How else will the exhibitor learn? Also, it is wise to approach every plant you judge as though it belongs to the clerk at your elbow. I recently saw a clerk leave the show in tears. Most growers exhibit only once a year--if you must let them down, do it gently and diplomatically, please.

MINUTES FCBS MEETING, OCTOBER 5, 1985

The October meeting of the FCBS was hosted by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society at the home of Dorothy and Walter Berg in Sarasota. Following a delicious salad luncheon, Carol Johnson, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

All Societies were represented but The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. Guests were Connie Johnson, Roland Schnabel and Charles Burgess.

Charles Burgess, President of the West Pasco Bromeliad Society was introduced and his Society welcomed as a new member of the FCBS.

The minutes of the July, 1985 meeting were approved as published in the Quarterly. Treasurer, Rose Schmidt reported a balance in the bank of \$1,860.69.

Gene McKenzie confirmed that Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society would host the 1987 State Show in Fort Myers. The committee appointed to make recommendations concerning the State Show asked her to discuss with the Council the advantages to being a member of the Council. Ellen Peyton, a long time member of the Council, explained how the forming of the Council brought Florida Societies together for the first time and offered a direct line of communication to all the Societies. Dr. Dexter suggested these benefits should be written down. Carol Johnson asked Ellen Peyton to write an article for the Quarterly. She agreed.

The Council still has some 200 bumper stickers on hand. Again a request was made to the Societies to try to sell these at meetings and shows.

William Frazel, Chairman of the Judges' Certification Committee BSI was asked to make a report on the proposed Judging School, first session to be held in March 1986. Bill stated that there was no problem with the March, 1986 date. Valerie Steckler would teach the first session of the school on a Saturday - the Florida instructors would preside over a symposium on Sunday for the judges that were unable to attend the symposium in Fort Myers, using this day as a practice session for the instructors. As this is the first school of this kind, a curriculum should be established.

Dean Fairchild made the motion that we continue with the March date for starting our school and that we have our own instructors and have a symposium at that time to recertify the judges that didn't make the last one; but that we use our own resources without the expense of bringing anyone in. There was not a second to that motion. Discussion followed.

Bill stated that the school would not be certified if not BSI approved. Applications for instructors would be received and those judges applying would be approved.

Carol Johnson suggested that an application for the judging school be put in the next Quarterly and decisions could be made according to the number of students making application. Dean Fairchild made the motion that the fee for the school should not exceed \$15.00 per session and be so stated in the Quarterly application. Seconded by Polly Pascal. Carried.



The final report of the 1985 Florida State Show hosted by South Florida Bromeliad Society was received and South Florida was thanked for absorbing the \$95.62 due from the Florida Council.

The FCBS Quarterly with Carol Johnson as Editor is to be continued.

Carol Johnson was asked to replace the Corporate Seal at an expense not to exceed \$15.00.

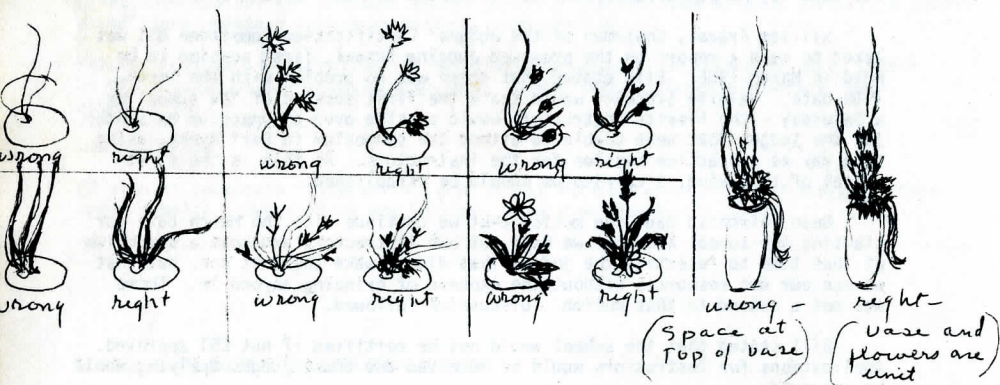
According to rotation Council meetings will be the following for 1986:

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society | January |
| Seminole Bromeliad Society           | April   |
| Imperial Polk Bromeliad Society      | July    |
| Broward County Bromeliad Society     | October |

Meeting adjourned.

Gene McKenzie, Secretary

From Page 3



FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

Rotation Schedule for Officers

|      | Jax. B.S. | Caloosa-hatchee | Imperial Polk | South Florida | B.S.C.F. Orlando | Tampa Bay     | Sarasota B.S. | Fla. West Coast | Broward       | West Pasco | Seminole |
|------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|----------|
| 1986 | Chairman  | Vice-Chairman   | Sec'y         | Treas.        |                  |               |               |                 |               |            |          |
| 1987 |           | Chairman        | Vice-Chairman | Sec'y         | Treas.           |               |               |                 |               |            |          |
| 1988 |           |                 | Chairman      | Vice-Chairman | Sec'y            | Treas.        |               |                 |               |            |          |
| 1989 |           |                 |               | Chairman      | Vice-Chairman    | Sec'y         | Treas.        |                 |               |            |          |
| 1990 |           |                 |               |               | Chairman         | Vice-Chairman | Sec'y         | Treas.          |               |            |          |
| 1991 |           |                 |               |               |                  | Chairman      | Vice-Chairman | Sec'y           | Treas.        |            |          |
| 1992 |           |                 |               |               |                  |               | Chairman      | Vice-Chairman   | Sec'y         | Treas.     |          |
| 1993 |           |                 |               |               |                  |               |               | Chairman        | Vice-Chairman | Sec'y      | Treas.   |



### REQUIEM FOR A GENTLEMAN

Word has been received in Central Florida that one of it's charter and honorary life members, Dr. Roger K. Taylor, passed away recently in Dallas. Dr. Taylor, a chemist, retired to Central Florida from Maryland, where he had been growing bromeliads as a hobby for many years. It was from him I obtained my supply of *Vriesea glutinosa*, which he meticulously propagated from the feathers at the base of his plants. A quiet, courtly gentleman, he nevertheless was quick to call attention to errors in nomenclature or plant culture, as he did in many articles in the Journal.

The following quotation from one of his articles in the Journal (Vol. XXIV, March-April, 1974, paragraph 1, page 72) is typical Roger Taylor rebuttal journalism:

"In the writings on bromeliads, there are several potential sources of inaccuracy. Perhaps the commonest derives from the tendency of authors to over-generalize, to consider what happens to their plants as always happening to all. For instance one article in the Journal contained the assertion that *Vriesea heliconioides* produces offsets only if the inflorescence is promptly removed. This simply is not so--without the benefit of this "information" I've developed a small stock of this species from one original plant. The point is, the proponent of this idea grows his plants indoors, and different behavior in other environments was outside his experience. --Another case has to do with the optimum light intensity for variegated plants. A recent (1972) statement was to the effect that they require more than normal; a considerably older (1953) recommendation was for less. Both authors have wide backgrounds of experience, yet at least one must be wrong. Possibly both are: it may well be that there is no general rule and each variety has its own range of tolerance."

We missed him when he went to live with his son in Dallas after his first illness, and are sad that he will not be coming back to us. Many of us have his plants, so he will not be forgotten. Ed Hall is tending the *Vriesea imperialis* he vowed he would live to see bloom.

What better legacy can one leave than a plant which speaks our name each time a friend looks upon it? My friends (the living also) crowd my greenhouse and speak to me daily. So, too, I say: "Good Morning, Mr. Ensign", "Good Morning, Mr. Nally", "Good Morning, Mr. Bennett", "Good Morning, Mr. Foster".

"Good Morning, Dr. Taylor".

---

Nearly all our Florida societies are in the process of electing new officers for 1986. Be sure to let the Quarterly know, either thru your Newsletter or by mail, the names of the new officers and the Junior-Senior representatives to the Florida Council for 1986. Also, to be assured that all your new members receive the Quarterly, please send me their names, addresses and telephone numbers. Where all this is listed in your newsletter, there is no need as I pick them up from there. Remember, you are paying for these additions to the mailing master whether it gets done or not.

U N C L A S S I F I E D

There were many out of town, out of state visitors at the Central Florida Bromeliad Show at Leu Gardens in October, from Texas, Louisiana, Georgia and even California. It was nice to see John Barbie there. He did a thriving business, selling his paintings. Also saw Mr. & Ms. Jim Walker of Fort Walton Beach, Victor Yingst of Ft. Myers, and Jack Cunningham of West Palm Beach had entries in the show and some of those on the head table.

Bud Martin of the Seminole Bromeliad Society is in Europe (Holland, Belgium, Netherlands) on a buying trip. He hopes to visit several botanical gardens while there.

About two years ago the need for cultural workshops at the society meetings was discussed at a Florida Council meeting. The reps apparently talked the idea up at home. More and more of the societies are holding half-hour workshops before or after their regular meetings. That way, anyone who feels the need for instruction can attend. Those who have "passed" can skip it. All report the workshops are well attended.

The bromeliad collecting trip planned for November to Mexico has been postponed. The permit office in Mexico City was buried in the earthquake, and "no permittee, no collectee". There is talk now of a trip to Bolivia after Christmas. Bolivia is the land of *Tillandsias duratii*, *didistichia*, *edithae*, *lorentziana* and many others. Of course, there are *Vriesea*, *Guzmanias* and many bromelioideae, also. Bolivian plants do very well in Florida as they encounter similar fluctuating weather conditions there, too.

The new Chairman of the BSI Seed Bank is Mr. Harvey Beltz. Write him for a list or send seed donations to: 3927 Michigan Circle; Shreveport, La. 71109.

Harry Luther, Marie Selby Bromeliad Identification Center in Sarasota informs me that use of the BIC has dropped off. I send him collected plants for identification quite often. It is very comforting to know my plants have correct name tags. If you have something you want identified, send him a fresh bloom spike and a complete leaf sample. I generally send the whole plant. He will return your plant if you ask him to do so, and he is very reliable. Fee for identification is supposed to be \$5.00, but he does not push for it. However, if you ask for your plant to be returned, it would be nice to be sure the BIC is not out of pocket for the postage. His correct address: HARRY LUTHER, BROMELIAD IDENTIFICATION CENTER; Marie Selby Botanical Gardens; 811 South Palm Avenue; Sarasota, FL 33577. A reminder to members of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens--Annual plant distribution will take place at the gardens on November 7, 8, & 9.

Those of you who have complained that Victoria Padilla's book, "Bromeliads", which has been the only available layman's reference book, is not available at the book-stores, will be happy to know that Crown Publishing Co. plan to reprint the book. Reported price will be \$16.95. It was also reported to me that, while the contents of the book will be unchanged, the cover will be paperback. Watch the Journal for further announcements.

Volume VI, Issue I, which will be mailed in February 1986, will be a library issue. We have not listed or reviewed any bromeliad books in some time. Contributions of reviews will be most welcome.

A Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry (warm) Christmas to all. If you make a trip north, be sure to close the doors behind you when you leave for home.

## HYBRID REGISTRATION

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION

All proposed names of a grex or cultivar should be a name of three words or less.

The parents of grex hybrids, when they are hybrids or cultivars, must be registered or recognized by the Bromeliad Society to be acceptable.

Descriptions should be as complete as possible. They should include overall size of plant; length, width, color and number of leaves. And, when applicable, size, color and spacing of spines. Terminal spine? Growth habit - tubular vs. open rosette. Stoloniferous? If so, length of stolons. Description of flowering habit is very important. It should include height and number of branches of inflorescence. Color of bracts or berries when applicable. Color and size of flowers. Fragrance? Day blooming or nocturnal? Cup color, if any. Anything else that would add information to the description.

Please use other side of application form to complete description.

For cultivar registration, please list any information regarding plant's origin, when introduced into cultivation or just general knowledge about the plant.

Cultivars of species must show how they differ from the typical species; i.e. differences in leaf color, inflorescence bract or berry color, color of flowers, or growth habit.

Bromeliads become eligible for registration only when the first plant comes into bloom, except in the case of naming a cultivar because of different growth habit.

Each application must be accompanied by two photo color transparencies which are not returnable. The color and sharpness should be of a quality that would be suitable for publication in the Journal. One slide should be of a general overall view. The other slide should be a close-up of the plant's main feature; i.e. the inflorescence, or the foliage that shows the leaf pattern and color. In neoregelias or multi-generics, a third slide showing a close-up of the inflorescence is desirable but not required.

Since first flowerings are not always representative, it is hoped that the applicant will amend descriptions and other information at some future date.

Ed. Note: Many people have asked how to go about registering new hybrids. Reprinted above are the instructions received with the Registration Form.

Forms should be requested from:

Mr. Nat DeLeon, Hybrid Registrar  
The Bromeliad Society, Inc.  
Office of the Registrar  
P. O. Box 560524  
Miami, Florida 33256-0524



APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT IN BROMELIAD JUDGING SCHOOL

Sponsored by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. There will be five all-day sessions and a final exam (six sessions in all). Fee for session number one will be \$15.00. Classes will all be held on Saturday, the time and place to be announced, but session number one will be held as near to March 1, 1986 as arrangements can be made. Please fill out the form below, attach your check for \$15.00 and mail to Ms. Polly Pascal, Registrar; 4413 SW 38th Terrace; Ft. Lauderdale, Fl., 33312 on or before December 15, 1985.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIETY AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER BROMELIAD SOCIETY, INC.

Yes

No

S H O W   P A G E

November 9-10, 1985 N O W ! Annual Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Show.

At the Garden Council & Activity Center; Cleveland Avenue;  
U.S. 41; Fort Myers. Entries Friday, November 8, 8 a.m. to  
Noon. Judging Friday afternoon. Show open to the public on  
Saturday and Sunday. Membership plant sales. Show Chairman,  
Ms. Peggy Bailey; 813-694-1803. Entries Chairman, Ms. Gene  
McKenzie, 813-997-6392.

March 28-29, 1986. Jacksonville Bromeliad Society at the Palatka Mall.

April 18-20, 1986. FLORIDA STATE BROMELIAD SHOW, hosted by the Bromeliad  
Guild of Tampa Bay, at University Square Mall, Tampa. Standard  
Show, member and commercial plant sales. Co-chairmen, Roland  
and Jean Schnabel, 813-988-7046.

May 2-4, 1986. Jacksonville Bromeliad Society. Normandy Mall, Jacksonville.  
Early Mother's Day, so as not to conflict with World Conference  
in New Orleans.

May 17-18, 1986. Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Bromeliad Show.  
Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Miami.

May 21-25, 1986. WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE, Fairmont Hotel; New Orleans.  
"One Mo' Time". Registrations now being accepted. All society  
presidents should have registration forms. It is too late now  
for Early Bird \$70.00 registration. From now until April 15,  
1986 registration will be \$85.00; thereafter (late) \$100.00.  
Send to Jack Grubb, Show Chairman; 10008 Hyde Place; River  
Ridge, La. 70123.

1987      FLORIDA STATE SHOW will be hosted by Caloosahatchee Bromeliad  
Society.

1988      WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE will be hosted by Bromeliad Society  
of South Florida. Send your suggestions for a show theme to  
Connie Johnson; 13075 SW 60 Ave.; Miami 33156. Winner will  
receive \$100.00 worth of bromeliads from DeLeon's Bromeliad  
World.

Best of Show was won at the Sarasota Show by Robert Smith; at the Central  
Florida Show, Ms. Audrey McCrory won BOS.

**KILLING TURKEYS  
CAUSES WINTER!**