



FLORIDA COUNCIL
of
BROMELIAD SOCIETIES inc.
Newsletter

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VOLUME IX - ISSUE I

FEBRUARY 1989

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February 1989

CATCHING UP - STAYING EVEN

DR. READ TO SPEAK -

Dr. Robert W. Read of the Smithsonian in Washington, D. C. will be the speaker at Stetson University on February 23. He will give two programs that day; the afternoon session being devoted to palms. The evening program will be on bromeliads.

TIME: 8:00 P.M.

PLACE: Davis Hall, Stetson University Campus

Dr. Read will be retiring from the Smithsonian shortly and he and Mrs. Read will make their home in Naples, Florida. We welcome them to our Florida bromeliad family

COUNCIL RECEIVED DONATIONS -

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. received cash donations of \$1,060.00 in 1988, for which we thank the following for their generosity:

Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Ms. Connie Johnson; Miami, Fl.

Ms. Esther Fenton; Stuart, Fl.

The Council is really not into fund raising functions as yet, and these donations will make possible continued publication of this Newsletter as well as helping to fund the annual State Bromeliad Show.

LOGO, LOGO, WHERE ARE YOU LOGO?

To date I have received only two entries in the logo contest being sponsored by Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and announced in the last 1988 issue of the Newsletter. Hopefully, there will be a fistful received by the deadline, March 31, 1989. To refresh you memory, FCBS is offering a \$100.00 prize for a new logo for Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. (est. 1977). Submit on letter size paper and send to the Editor at the cover address. The winner will be selected at the Council meeting on April 8, 1989.

JUDGING SCHOOL -

Session 4 of the bromeliad judging school sponsored by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay will be held on April 22, 1989 at the Garden Council Building; South Hiway 41; Fort Myers, Fl. School will convene at 9:00 A.M. On the same day, same place, same building, different room, there will be a seminar for the presently certified judges. Those judges who were not able to attend the Symposium for judges in 1988 may attend this seminar, then assist the student judges in the point scoring. This will then be considered a make-up Symposium. Please notify Jean Schnabel, Florida-Georgia Judges Registrar at 5106 127th Ave.; Tampa, Fl. 33617 if you plan to attend. Please do not wait until the last minute to do so.



FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

MINUTES OF F.C.B.S.

JANUARY 16, 1989 MEETING

The meeting was held at Dr. Morris W. Dexter's cabana, 1068 Eldorado, Clearwater Beach, Florida.

Carl Perryn, 1988 Chairman turned the meeting over to Nat DeLeon, 1989 Chairman. Nat presented Carl Perryn with a plaque for a job well done in 1988, and a belated plaque to Ed Hall for a job well done as 1987 Chairman. He then thanked Charles Tait, 1988 Secretary, for his excellent job recording the minutes, and Carol Johnson as Treasurer and Quarterly Newsletter Editor. Nat then recognized Dr.'s Morris & Helen Dexter for their hospitality and great Bar-B-que lunch.

PREVIOUS MINUTES-Carol Johnson said that the word professional should be struck from the third paragraph of the October, 1988 minutes and the word hobbiest be inserted as per Harry Luther's request. The minutes then will stand as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT-The Treasurer, Carol Johnson, pointed out that F.C.B.S received \$1,060.00 in private donations. The report then stands as written. Net balance as of 1/1/89 shows \$2,435.78.

STATE SHOW-Ed McNulty stated that the State Show will be held Labor Day weekend, September 1, 2nd, and 3rd, 1989. It was suggested that Ed inform all Florida affiliates as to the change and include all other particulars. Connie Johnson stated that the Miami Show will be May 13th and 14th at Fairchild Gardens.

BY-LAWS CLARIFICATION-Ellen Peyton reported that the by-laws, Article V, Section 1 thru 3, should have the word members deleted and Representatives inserted. Ellen stated that the reason being that the local affiliates are the members and we are their Representatives. Nat requested that Ellen clean up that word as it appears anywhere else in the By-Laws and present a cleaned-up version at the next Florida Council Meeting and also give Carol Johnson a copy to print in one of the newsletters this year or the annual report.

FLORIDA COUNCIL EXTRAVAGANZA AT SELBY GARDENS-No report as Vicky Chirnside didn't attend the meeting and has been replaced by new Sarasota Representatives.

LOGO CONTEST REPORT-Carol Johnson reported that there has been very little interest so far and we should send all entries to her. Prize to the winner is \$100.00 from The Florida Council and a rare plant presented by Nat DeLeon. The deadline is March 31st. Nat exhorted all representatives to announce this at their next affiliate meeting.

PRIVATE DONATIONS TO FCBS REPORT-Carol Johnson hoped for more donations in 1989 and said that she is getting a form made up to give people who make donations. FCBS is a tax exempt non-profit organization, which makes all donations tax deductible. However, if you buy plants at a FCBS sponsored show this expense is not a tax deduction, it is just an expense to the purchaser. Breakdown of donors is included in the attached Treasurer's report.

Bromeliad experts for judging-Ellen Peyton reported that she is sending a form letter to all prospective "expert" judges in the state in hopes of compiling a list of experts who would be available to judge a non-standard show or fill in at a standard BSI Show after all efforts have been exhausted to get certified BSI Judges. (A rule from the Judge's Handbook.)

Charles Tate then suggested that the Florida Council Representatives should not decide who the experts are but the local affiliate societies should have the burden of recommending the people who they think are qualified.

Tom Wolfe stated that the people on the list be called experts and not judges or expert judges to make certain that there isn't any confusion between the two groups of people namely BSI Certified Judges and Florida experts.

Speakers/Programs-Ed Hall is compiling a list of speakers and program subjects to be distributed to the affiliates as a source for programs. Connie Johnson passed out a list of the past two years programs used by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. All other rep's are to submit a list to Ed as soon as possible.

Selby Gardens Plaque Report - no report.

Societies report on 1989 Events and Programs-Peggy Bailey of the Cloosahatchee Bromeliad Society reported that they are having a sale in March at the Lee County Garden Show, and that their Board of Directors unanimously voted to donate the Club's commission from the sale to the F.C.B.S.

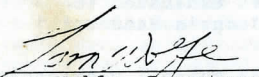
Tom Wolfe suggested that Miami share their wealth with Sarasota in the form of front money to help them finance the so-called Extravangaza at Selby Gardens. Nat said that he would look into it by contacting the two new rep's from Sarasota.

Tom Wolfe suggested that we invite Tinker Massey (B.S.I. Slide Library Chairperson) to the next F.C.B.S. meeting to present a report on the present status of the B. S. I. Slide Library and to stir her enthusiasm about the F.C.B.S. and bromeliads again.

New Hybrid-Al Muzzell then showed us an example of Vriesea X 'Polonia' Chevalier, and then showed us a pup that "sported" out variegated. He named this plant Vriesea X 'Polonia' Chevalier cu. Carol Johnson. Carol was naturally elated and added that in 1983 she collected a Neo. species in Peru which is named after her, Neo. Retulia Johnstoneii.

Next meeting - It was decided that the next meeting should be hosted by Seminole Bromeliad Society, April 8, 1989.

Respectfully submitted,


Tom Wolfe, Secretary



COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Aechmea caudata and *Aechmea blumenavii*----

Both of these *Aechmea* species have been lumped together since their origins and cultural needs are the same. Both are in the sgenus *Orgiesia* and their native habitat is Southeast coastal Brazil. They have declined in popularity in recent years, which is a shame. The reason is probably that, grown in ideal conditions, the plants lose their endearing traits and become just big, green plants. Both need to be grown outdoors, underpotted, starved, grown in strong light, and wet or dry as the weather dictates. I have grown both species outdoors in Central Florida for the past ten years, and neither has suffered appreciably from freezing temperatures. Grown in tubs and allowed to clump, they make a spectacular showing in the spring months. One plant, grown in the greenhouse in optimum conditions rarely blooms. The plants need to be stressed to a point where they scream for attention by blooming.

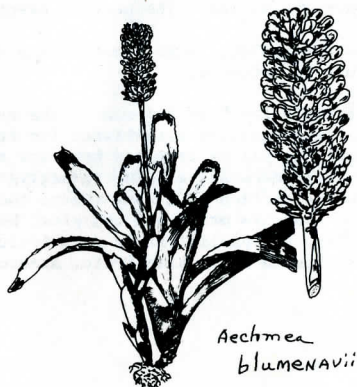
I will describe them separately---

Aechmea caudata. A robust plant with heavy green leaves which develop black spots and leaf tips when grown as described above. The bloom spike rises well above the foliage, the bracts are negligible, but the large, rather pyramidal bloom spike produces yellow-bronze flowers which, after blooming, maintain the bronze color for many months. The plants self-seed for me when grown outdoors. Please note that culture of the variegated and marginated forms of this species are entirely different than for the plain species detailed here.

Aechmea blumenavii. This *Aechmea* resembles *Aechmea caudata* in many ways, except it is smaller, has fewer leaves, and is distinguished by the blunt leaf tips, and the black coloring is only on the leaf tips and at the base of the plant. The blooms are yellow, the bloom spike more cylindrical and it does not stay in color past the blooming cycle. This plant has always been in bloom for me on Palm Sunday. Bromeliad Society of Central Florida for many years had an exhibit at the Central Florida Orchid Show which always fell on Palm Sunday weekend. For five years I exhibited an increasingly large tub of blooming *Aechmea blumenavii* until at one time there were 26 bloom spikes.

Because of our topsy-turvy Winter, both species are blooming early this year.

Cost? Although becoming rare, neither should cost more than \$5.00.



FRUITING BROMELIADS

Carol Johnson

We have all read articles regarding the sapor of bromeliad berries and nearly every day we encounter the pineapple (*Ananas*) in some form. We have also been regaled with theories which purport that the brilliant foliage and bizarre markings of the plants are nature's way of attracting pollinators to the blooms. Little has been said about the bromeliads with insignificant blooms and ordinary green foliage which nearly always self-seed and in the process produce spikes of fruit (berries) of incredible and long lasting beauty. Birds and other predators are attracted by the fruit, eat it and leave their droppings elsewhere where the seeds sprout and the habitat of the bromeliad species is expanded. Plants produced from these self-seeding species nearly always come true to the parent. All are in the bromelioideae subfamily and the majority are *Aechmeas*.

Then, there are bromeliads which may or may not self-seed and when they do, the progeny bears only slight resemblance to the parent. I am thinking, in this regard, of *Aechmea chantinii*, *Aechmea zebrina* and many *Aechmea* in that related subgenus, *Platyaechea*. I suspect that ants are the pollinators of these plants in my greenhouse and no longer attempt to grow seeds produced by *Aechmea chantinii* and *Aechmea zebrina* as the product may be hundreds of dissimilar seedlings. It is possible to isolate, hand pollinate and tie off the blooms, but then we are no longer discussing a natural occurrence.

In the interest of conserving space, many growers have discarded those bromeliads which have insignificant blooms and thus are not aware that they are missing the most beautiful stage of the plants' lifespan. Listed below are those which I grow strictly for the beautiful spikes of berries. There are many more, but these are my favorites:

Aechmea pubescens (and *pubescens rubra*), has whitish yellow flowers followed by often two foot long spikes of geometrically arranged blue seeds (fertile) which stay in color several months.

Aechmea mexicana. This plant also has spectacular red foliage when grown in strong light, but here again the insignificant panicle of blooms is followed by berries which progress thru white to blue.

Aechmea luddemanniana. Pink flowers followed by blue, viable seed pods,

Aechmea angustifolia. The plant is quite variable, but the bloom spike is a dense cylinder of yellow blooms, followed by large blue, white &/or yellow seed pods.

Aechmea bracteata. This *Aechmea* can also produce red foliage in strong light, but the most spectacular spikes of red and green berries are produced on fertilized plants which then produce larger blue spikes. The berries eventually turn black.

On the following pages is a chart detailing those plants which come to my mind and which fit into the desirable fruiting category.

When the "Handbook For Judges & Exhibitors" of BSI was in the process of revision, I tried very hard to get a separate classification established for fruiting bromeliads in our shows without success. Most of the plants detailed here are rarely seen in shows, blooming or non-blooming, as their decorative value is negligible. When in berry, they stand little chance in the blooming section of a show (where the rules say they must be entered) since the foliage is then past its prime and the plant has probably already produced several offsets. Consequently, the public rarely sees fruiting decorative pineapples, *Portea petropolitana* with its handsome blue fruit, *Areococcus flagelifolius*, *X Ananea Scorpio*, etc.

BROMELIADS WITH OUTSTANDING FRUIT

<u>Plant Name</u>	<u>Foliage</u>	<u>Plant Size</u>	<u>Blooms</u>	<u>Berries</u>	<u>Viable (In Florida)</u>
AECHMEA:					
allenii	green	small-med.	pink	Pearl White	No
angustifolia	green	medium	yellow-green	blue	Yes
bracteata	green	large	yellow-green	Red/Green to Black	Yes
castelnavii	green	large	pink-white	black	Yes
chantinii, unbanded	green	large	yellow-orange	Red & White	No
dactylina	green	medium	yellow	blue & white	Yes
dichlamydea trinitensis	green	large	blue-purple	blue	No
filicaulis	green/red	small	white	blue/white	Rarely
fulgens & miniata	red-green	medium	blue	red	No
lingulata	green	large	pale yellow	purple	Rarely
ludemanniana	green/red	med/large	lavendar	blue & white	Yes
mertensii	green	small	yellow	blue & white	Yes
mexicana	green	large	rose	pearl/blue	Yes
nudicaulis	variable	small/lg,	red/yellow	red	Usually
penduliflora	green/red	medium	yellow	blue & white	Yes
pubescens	green/red	medium	yellow/white	blue	Yes
racinae	green	small	yellow	red/orange	Rarely
recurvata	green	small	red	black	Yes
retusa	green	large	orange/red	orange/red/blue	Rarely
servitensis	green	medium	yellow/orange	pearl	Rarely
tillandsioides	green	small/medium	yellow	blue	Yes
tocantina	green	large	orange/yellow	orange	Yes
tonduzii	green	med/large	yellow	black	Yes
victoriana	green/red	medium	blue	purple/black	Rarely
ANANAS:	various	small/large	yel/red/blue	edible fruit	No
BILLBERGIA:					
viridiflora	green/red	medium	green	orange	Yes
BROMELIA:					
balansae	green	very large	red & white	yellow	Yes
NEOGLAZIOVA:	banded	small/med	red	maroon	No
PORTEA:					
petropolitana extensa	Yel/green	large	lavendar	purple	Rarely
X ANAMEA SCORPIO	Variable	small	yellow	bronze	No

Many hybrid Aechmeas have attractive berries which are usually not viable. Examples: Ae. Royal Wine, Ae. Foster's Favorite, Ae. Valencia.

S H O W P A G E

March 17-19, 1989. Bromeliad Society of Greater Mobile Annual Show. Bel Air Mall, Mobile. Standard Show. Entries restricted, Plant Sales. Hours same as mall hours. Contact Mary Thompson, (205) 626-7210.

May 13-14, 1989. Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Show. At Fairchild Tropical Gardens. Entries Thursday, May 11; Judging on Friday, May 12. Membership plant sales and commercial sales on the grounds. Show & plant sales open to public on Saturday and Sunday. Contact Connie Johnson, Chairman; (305) 667-7890.

May 26, 27, 28, 1989. Jacksonville Bromeliad Society Show at Orange Park Mall. Standard show, entries invited. There will be plant sales and hopefully also commercial sales booths. Hours will be the same as the mall's business hours. Contact Ron & Carolyn Schoenau; (904) 372-6589.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND - Florida State Bromeliad Show at Florida Mall; Orlando
Further details in May & August issues.

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida will have a booth and will be selling plants at the Leu Gardens Central Florida Lawn & Garden Show on March 3/5, 1989.

Please Note: If you are having a show and it is not listed above, that is because we have received no notification of it. We publish in February, May, August and November.

The annual edition will be published in May. This will carry the state roster, the FCBS By-Laws and, hopefully, a list of meeting places, dates and officers of the ten societies which make up the Council. Any society which would like a computer run of it's membership, please notify your Council rep and I will see that one is forthcoming. It is important that addresses be correct, as we do not have forwarding privileges with our bulk mailing. If the address is wrong, the Newsletter is dumped. Correct zip codes are essential, as that is the way the mailing is sorted and dispatched.

In the August, 1988, Newsletter, there was an article about the proliferation of weeds in pot plantings. I just recently received a 'phone call from Mr. Walter McGahee, President of the Imperial Polk Bromeliad Society. He said he had been running experiments with various soil mixes and has found that a commercial mix call Pro-Mix is completely weed free. He uses it just as it comes from the bag (5.5 cu ft.) with no additions and has had great success. I will try it also, and report on it at a future date.

