

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

Mail to:

Carol Johnson, Editor at cover address

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VOLUME XI - ISSUE II

MAY 1991

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May 1991

CATCHING UP - STAYING EVEN

For once, procrastination worked out for the best. May is such a busy month--bromeliad shows, plant sales, and many visitors. There was little time to work on the Newsletter. Then I received the announcement of the 1991 Bromeliad Extravaganza to be held in Tampa on August 3. Had I published on time the Extravaganza would have gotten no publicity since the next issue comes out in August--too late. Please keep this issue for reference and plan to attend the Extravaganza, which has replaced the state show and is a very action packed, enjoyable one day occasion. The 1992 Extravaganza will be in Fort Myers, tentatively on Halloween weekend.

TRAVELERS: Sam & Hattie Lou Smith of Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society have just returned from a plant collecting trip to Ecuador. Harry Luther spent most of April in Australia and Bud Martin has just returned from a visit there. Then, Michael Kiehl and Marty Baxley of Florida West Coast Society made a trip to Costa Rica and caused a very big earthquake. Dr. Werner Rauh has been visiting Florida in connection with his attendance at the Epiphyte Symposium at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota.

So many of our old friends who have passed on are represented in our bromeliad collections by plants named for them. Thus, we may mourn the passing of Racine Foster and Velva Wurthmann, but they greet us every day as Vriesea Velva Wurthman, Aechmea racinae, Vriesea racinae, etc. I just recently acquired the tag-end of Mr. Ensign's collection, and while I did not know him, can now say I have visited his greenhouse and relate to the plants I got there.

This extremely wet, warm Spring is a real switch from what we have experienced in Florida for the past fifteen years. In May, much time is usually spent watering the bromeliads. This year, the big job has been to dump the excess water from plants to prevent rot.

It is not too early to begin planning show entries for the 1992 World Bromeliad Conference. Also, set some plants aside for special treatment so they will be nice for the exhibit your society plans for the event.

The August issue will include the annual Florida state directory. Any corrections or additions should reach me by August 1.

PROS & CONS OF EXHIBITING BROMELIADS

Carol Johnson

Until the late 1970's there were no certified bromeliad judges and no "standard" shows. There were a lot of shows, but no rules or standards to follow. It naturally evolved that the shows would follow the pattern of flower shows staged by the federated garden clubs. Then, about 1978 the Bromeliad Society Inc. decided to set standards for exhibiting bromeliads and to train bromeliad judges to implement those standards. Schools were organized and several groups of judges trained. The first crop of Florida bromeliad judges received their certificates at the World Bromeliad Conference in Corpus Christi in 1982.

When the World Bromeliad Conference was held in Orlando in 1980 there were no certified bromeliad judges. Oddly enough, there has not been a World Conference since with a head table which could compare with that of the 1980 World Bromeliad Conference. Had the point system been in effect at that time, it is doubtful if Best in Show (Bert Foster's *Guzmania lindenii*) would have gotten a red ribbon. There's an old saying which applies: "Ignorance is bliss; 'tis folly to be wise".

Enthusiasm for "standard" bromeliad shows began to wane in the late 1980's. Many societies wanted to innovate. The memberships were split and much grumbling was heard. Some of the objections put forth follow:

1. The shows are put on for the benefit of the judges, not for the public nor the membership.
2. The only plants seen at shows are the safe blue ribbon plants with a minimum of leaves because the more leaves a plant has, the greater the potential for point deductions. I happen to agree with this premise, especially when point scoring for top awards. It is so easy to end up with a very innocuous (but perfect) plant as 'Best in Show'. There are times when the public must think the judges are mad as hatters. This is called second guessing the judges and many times savvy exhibitors have been known to enter a whole lot of perfect 3-leaf plants in order to win Sweepstakes.
3. Bromeliads are, as a general rule, epiphytic plants, yet in the most important section of the show, they must be exhibited in soil and potted in standard pots.
4. Standard bromeliad shows are too expensive. A schedule must be printed, awards purchased, gifts for the judges, and a judges' luncheon furnished. The small societies are going to be stretched too thin.
5. This is the grumble heard most often: The judges don't know enough about the plants. In some cases this may be true, but, mostly, this criticism is unfair. Judges must also be exhibitors and they get to see a variety of plants at the shows they judge. I do not agree with the practice of inviting

poor judges to work a show just because they need the assignment to stay certified. This is the only area of the standard show not dictated by the Handbook for Judges & Exhibitors and thus is an area where the local society can exercise some control. Invite good, experienced, knowledgeable judges and the show will be a good one. Becoming a bromeliad judge requires attending a standard BSI judging school at personal expense. The school consists of five one-day sessions and a subsequent final exam. Judges are rarely reimbursed for trip expenses incurred when judging a show. They give their time and substance to make your show a success and quite often endure verbal abuse from disgruntled exhibitors. The Handbook also says a judge should write the Judge's Chairman a "thank you for asking me to judge" note after the show. Methinks this a little much, after spending probably \$100 in trip expenses and standing on the feet all day.

6. Judging is not consistent. In this instance, I agree. One panel of three judges will give many blue ribbons. Another panel, meanwhile, will judge harshly and give very few blue ribbons. The plants don't care, but the exhibitors will never understand. Yellow and white ribbons serve no purpose, are an insult to the exhibitor and should be abolished.

Now, let me defend the standard show. All of our Florida societies have a number of members who dearly love to exhibit their plants and compete for prizes. In order to compete, they must become knowledgeable in several areas.

1. Nomenclature. Plants must be entered with the correct name or be disqualified.
2. Grooming. Competition plants must be well groomed and disease free to qualify for top awards.
3. Exhibitors get to see how other members grow their bromeliads and what constitutes award winning plants.
4. Participation. A bromeliad society is not meant to be just a meeting every month. A bromeliad show brings the members together and thus acquainted with one another. Those members who do not want to exhibit will join in the work and the fun.
5. Education. The aim of every bromeliad society should be to educate (and dazzle) the public. What better way than a show?

The ideal solution would be to stage two shows a year, or alternate one year standard, one year exhibition only. This should keep all the members happy and if as much effort is put into an exhibition show as for a standard show, soon the competition will evolve between the two. Remember, it is also perfectly acceptable to enter plants in a standard show "for exhibition only". Those societies which never exhibit in any fashion, or "skip a show this year" usually fall by the wayside. WRITE ME YOUR OPINION ON THIS SUBJECT AND I WILL BE GLAD TO PRINT IT.

My Last Letter to Racine

23 March 1991

Dear Racine,

I heard this news: "Thursday, March 21, 1991,
saw the passing of a legendary figure in the bromeliad
world . . .

RACINE FOSTER"

You would scoff at the designation "legendary."

In all the years of our friendship you insisted
"Mulford" was the legend.

But, you were too: The pains taking record keeper,
the translator, the writer, keeper of the faith.

When was it last we talked about bromeliads, bugs,
health foods, the world or whatever? February?

Then, there was that next visit to talk about . . .
But, now, you have gone on to better things.

I shall miss you.

For those of us left behind:

Life is so busy . . .

That next visit . . .

Time slips past so quickly.

God Speed


Al Muzzell

Fortunately there are not many insects or pests which pose a severe threat to the average bromeliad collection. Science is also always developing new and improved chemicals for use in the home garden. The possibility still exists that constant spraying of the same chemical can result in serious pesticide resistance problems. It is therefore advisable for even the weekend bromeliad grower to devise a long term approach to pest and disease control that is effective, and that follows established Integrated Pest Management methods. This will help you keep problems to a minimum.

1. Control of many pest and disease problems has always been a matter of "good housekeeping" in the bromeliad nursery. Cleaning pots between uses, keeping plant debris off the benches and picked up from the ground, installing a commercial ground cover wherever possible to help keep weeds under control, and the use of herbicides in problem weed areas are all easy [and almost FREE] ways to help insure a clean environment for your choice bromeliads.

2. It is wise to monitor your collection on a frequent basis. This is the easiest part of the job!! Decide which part of the day you will be most mentally fit to wander through your favorite plants, inspecting upper and lower leaves for uninvited guests. Don't forget to really ENJOY the plants while you are inspecting. If you use insect traps, and visually inspect all of your plants on a regular basis you will have an edge over pest problems -- you will notice them as they develop, not when they have reached plague levels. Mark your calendar and do a serious plant inspection on a regular basis.

3. When you find a pest or disease problem decide what type of treatment is necessary to control the problem. There are about four types of treatments, depending on how wide-spread a problem might be:

Mechanical methods, in which the pest is killed by hand, or their homes (nests) destroyed, or, if the plant or plants on which they are found are thrown into the trash;

Cultural methods, which include anything you do to change your growing environment to make it less desirable to pests, including the above-mentioned housekeeping duties;

Chemical methods, which includes running to the local garden shop or hardware store/garden shop for a bottle of Cygon or Orthene to kill the beasts;

Biological methods, which involve the release of what are host specific predators or parasites, to control the "bad" pest. You can check with your local agricultural extension agent for help in this department.

4. Do not use any chemicals until you have read the label completely, follow the directions carefully, and make sure you take all the proper safety precautions.

CHEMICALS COMMONLY USED BY BROMELIAD GROWERS

FUNGICIDES

All work well against a broad range of fungal diseases

Benomyl	Truban 30
Daconil	
Chipco 26019	

INSECTICIDES

Avid - for mites

Cygon 2E - a systemic, good for Fly speck scale

Malathion - a contact pesticide, good for aphids/mealybugs

Orthene - also good for a wide range of scale

Safer Insecticidal Soap - All purpose, for use against aphids, fungus gnats, mealybugs, mites and others

Schultz Insecticide Spray - All purpose, as above



The FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.
ANNOUNCES: THE 1991 FLORIDA

BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA

BROMELIAD EXTRAVANZA - "BROMELIADS BY THE BAY"

Saturday, August 3, 1991, TAMPA GARDEN CENTER, 2629 Bayshore Boulevard,
Tampa, Florida

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies present the 1991 Bromeliad Extravanza "BROMELIADS BY THE BAY", hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. This is an all day event from 10:00 A. M. to 10:00 P. M. with displays, exhibits, sales, workshops, speakers, dinner and rare plant auction. Half of the auction proceeds will go to the 1992 World Bromeliad Conference and half to the FCBS.

For dinner reservations (5:00 P. M.), please send \$6.00 per person to: Dottie Meyers, 8720 Dexter Ave., Tampa, Fl., 33604. Phone: (813) 932-1417, no later than July 31, 1991. The meal will be a catered cold buffet with meat, salads, fruit, drinks, and dessert.

The Hampton Inn, 4817 West Laurel St., Tampa, Fl. (813) 287-0778 (Westshore & Airport) will give you a special rate of \$48.00 a night, single or double, when you call them direct and tell them you are with the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay group. Free continental breakfast will be served at the Inn from 6:00 A. M. until 10:00 A. M. each morning. Free local phone calls are included.

Please bring any rare or unusual plant or a plant that might be in bloom, for display. Display tables will be available. There will also be a Show & Tell session.

For members selling plants at the Extravanza, set-up will be on Friday, August 2, 1991 from 5:00 P. M. until 9:00 P. M.

There will be an open house on Sunday morning at the home of Tom & Carol Wolfe for out of town guests. Coffee, juice and pastries will be served. 9:00 A. M. - 12:00 Noon.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES:

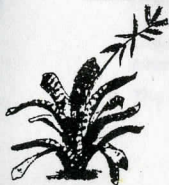
10:00A.M. - 5:00P.M.:

Bromeliad Sales & Workshops

5:00p.m. Dinner (Resv. Req.)

6:00p.m. Speaker

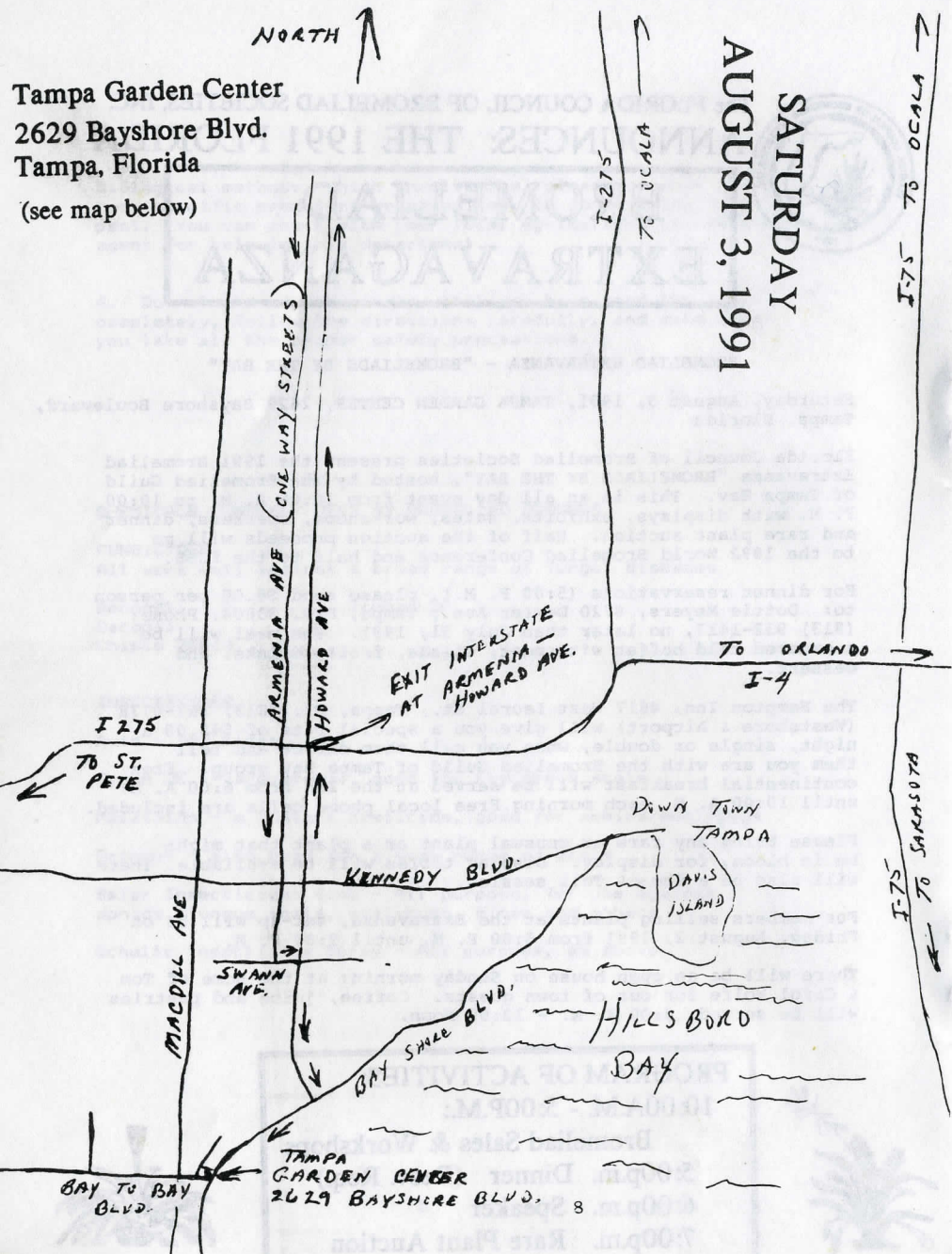
7:00p.m. Rare Plant Auction



NORTH

SATURDAY
AUGUST 3, 1991

Tampa Garden Center
2629 Bayshore Blvd.
Tampa, Florida
(see map below)





FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

BUSINESS MEETING January 13, 1991

The regular meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies was held at the home of Ron and Carolyn Schoenau in Gainesville on January 13, 1991.

Present were board members, Carol Johnson, Ed Hall, Tom Wolfe, Ron and Carolyn Schoenau, Eleanor Kinzie, Jane Dahlin, Carol Holland, Carl Perryn, Wally Berg, Al Muzzell, Betty Ann Prevatt, Gwen Carnegie, and Helen and Morris Dexter. Also present were Mike and Ruth Le Vasseur (in place of Gabe Johnson from the Tampa Society) and Dr. Howard Frank from the University of Florida in Gainesville.

The meeting was opened by retiring president, Ed Hall, who expressed the Society's appreciation of the Schoenau's hospitality. He then turned the meeting over to incoming president, Tom Wolfe. A round of applause showed gratitude for the excellent job done by the retiring officers during the past year.

Agenda

1. The minutes of the October 1990 meeting were approved as written.
2. Carol Johnson gave the treasurer's report which showed a balance of \$3,119.79.
3. Tom Wolfe reported on the Tenth World Conference which is scheduled June 11-14, 1992 at the Saddlebrook Resort in Wesley Chapel, north of Tampa. The chosen theme will be BROMELIAD SAFARI.

Registration will be:

- \$ 95— (early) before November 1991
- \$120— (regular) Nov. 2, 1991 to April 1, 1992
- \$145— (late) after April 2, 1992

Each registrant will receive a rare plant. Sales there will be both commercial and member sales. There will be a section on arts and crafts also. Member societies are urged to participate.

4. Tom Wolfe proposed the establishment of a Bromeliad Hall of Fame to honor such well-known collectors such as Mulford Foster, Victoria Padilla, Werner Rauh, etc.
5. ~~The Bromeliad Extravaganza~~ ^{A standard bromeliad show} will be held in Tampa Feb. 21-23 with the proceeds to go toward the World Conference.
6. After some discussion a sum of \$600 was voted to purchase a camera for Harry Luther. Special lenses would be included.
7. An update of the weevil parasite (*Metamensa callizona*) of Tillandsias was presented by Dr. Howard Frank. It is thought to have originated with plants shipped via Vera Cruz although the specific area is still uncertain. He requested that any contributions for the research project be sent to him directly instead of being channeled through the university where there is considerable delay.
8. Al Muzzell reported on the "Banana Moth" (*Opogona saccharii*). This has been a problem for many types of plants in Florida and the Caribbean, but only recently has attacked bromeliads. It tends to prefer dark areas. Control may be done by frequent use of Seven or Lindane or by a commercially available nematode carrying bacteria that kills the larvae. Clean plants and growing areas are essential.
9. The next meeting will be held in April, 1991 in Sarasota.

Respectfully submitted,
Morris & Helen Dexter, co-secretaries

COLLECTOR'S CORNER/

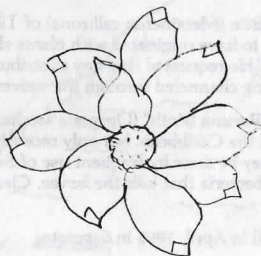
X Neotanthus Cardboard-----

Among the generally disappointing and bewildering number of bi-generic bromeliads, X Neotanthus Cardboard is a pleasing exception. A bi-generic is defined as the cross-pollination of two different genera to produce a new hybrid. In this case, the two genera are Neoregelia and Cryptanthus. However, X Neotanthus Cardboard has no recorded validity anywhere--not in the "International Checklist of Bromeliad Hybrids", nor is X Neotanthus listed as one of the bi-generics in the "Bromeliad Glossary". Yet, to me, the cross breeding of Neoregelia and Cryptanthus makes more sense than the bulk of the bi-generics. Both genera are grown primarily for foliage color, neither has exerted bloom spike.

X Neotanthus Cardboard may not exist for the record, but it will always have a place in my collection. A medium to small plant, it seldom is larger than 8" across. The leaves are thick and leathery and are maroon with rosy red fingernail tips. The blooms are typical of both parents and are pale lavender (almost white), and sunk in the center of the leaves. The plants in my greenhouse have never suffered from extremes of heat or cold and medium to strong light does not alter the character of the plant as with Cryptanthus. The plant grows on a heavy stem from which the offsets appear, not in abundance, but enough to maintain an adequate supply.

X Neotanthus Cardboard has volunteered seed for me and I have one good-sized F-2 (?) specimen which must be really very bewildered (Who am I? What am I? --got no Momma, no Papa, aaaall alone in the world--).

X Neotanthus Cardboard maintains a steady popularity in the trade and, despite having no past, is grandfathered as a valid hybrid in standard bromeliad shows. It would be nice if someone cleared up the mystery surrounding this plant.



QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Fellow Member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies: My name is Geoffrey Johnson and I'm one of the Florida Directors of the Bromeliad Society, Inc. I would like you to take a few minutes of your time to help me and the BSI serve the needs of bromeliad growers, BSI members or not, by filling out the questionnaire and returning it to the address below. Please answer and help the BSI work better for everyone. No signature is necessary on the completed form. Thanks for your cooperation.

- 1) Are you a BSI member? Yes_____ No_____
- 2) If yes, what can the BSI do to better serve you as a bromeliad enthusiast?
- 3) If no, why have you not applied for membership and if you do become a member what would you expect from the BSI in terms of services?

S H O W P A G E

August 3, 1991. FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES
ONE DAY EXTRAVAGANZA AT TAMPA GARDEN CENTER.
See two pages of details elsewhere this issue.
THIS IS A SATURDAY

August 17, 1991. Seminole Bromeliad Society one day
FANTASY V. Earl Brown Recreation Park, Deland.
Plant sales, workshops, plant exhibition. Free
admission, drawing every hour. Show Chairman,
Mary Walls, (904) 734-2162. SATURDAY

October 11-13/91 - Annual Sarasota Bromeliad Show. At
New Activities Building, Marie Selby Botanical
Gardens, Sarasota. This is a standard judged
show.

June 11-14/1992 WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE AT SADDLEBROOK
RESORT; Tampa, Florida. Show theme: "Bromeliad
Safari". Show Chairman, Tom Wolfe. Registration
Chairman Gwen Carnegie; 1734 Magnolia Rd.;
Belleair, Fl. 34616; (813) 584-7749.