

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 III

AUGUST 1991

CATCHING UP - STAYING EVEN

For the first time since beginning publication of this Newsletter, there is too much material to be published. Since this is the annual state roster issue, 11 pages are automatically filled. Activities in the societies are increasing and need coverage. If I miss anything in this issue, please forgive me, or write and fuss at me. Collector's Corner and specialized reporting will not appear because of lack of space.

WORLD CONFERENCE: Many of you have already registered for the conference, but have you made hotel reservations? If you plan to stay at Saddlebrook, please make reservations as early as possible. Availability of free exhibition space depends on the number of rooms reserved in advance. Write them at 100 Saddlebrook Way; Wesley Chapel, Fl. 33543 or telephone (813) 973-1111 and be sure you mention the conference.

KILL THE EVIL WEEVIL: Your Florida Council views the presence of the weevil Metamasius callizona as a serious threat to Florida's native bromeliads and ultimately to all bromeliads if measures are not taken to eradicate it. Reprinted in this issue is material regarding plans for eradicating the weevil. Please read it carefully. Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and the Bromeliad Society of South Florida have furnished \$1,200.00 to Dr. Frank's efforts to date, but this may be a long and costly fight. Those in the citrus industry need only remember the medfly quarantine. Commercial bromeliad growers in the entire U.S. will no doubt be the most financially effected, but that will inevitably mean trouble for the individual bromeliad collector also.

A special fund has been set up for donations to "Kill the Evil Weevil". As FCBS Treasurer, I have already received a check from Bromeliad Society of South Florida in the amount of \$415.00 representing donations by individual members and the Seminole Bromeliad Society voted at it's last meeting to match all individual donations with a like amount from the treasury. Florida Council urges all our bromeliad family members to support this important project either with individual contributions or through your local society.

A form is provided on the Show Page of this Newsletter for your use in mailing contributions. All donations will be acknowledged through publication in this Newsletter.

It doesn't matter that nobody can spell or pronounce the name of the weevil. Let's make it history.

SPECIAL GIFT: Mr. Bert Foster has graciously donated to the new FCBS Multi-Media program three 16 mm films of trips by Racine and Mulford Foster in 1946 and 1948. This film has been transferred to video tape and the quality is remarkable. You will be notified when it is ready for use.

ROSTER: If your name has been shortened in the roster, please forgive me and blame it on computer limitations. You will also notice that members from outside Florida lack state abbreviations.

SPECIAL THANKS

On behalf of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies,
I wish to thank all of the many volunteers that helped
with the Extravaganza in Tampa on August 3, 1991.

Special thanks go to our Seminar Speakers: Ervin Wurthmann,
Nat DeLeon, Flo Plato, Al Muzzel, Carl Perryn, Mike LeVasseur,
and Bob Steiger. We had many good comments on the workshops
and we appreciate the time and effort that each of you put
into the workshops to make them successful.

It was a great plant sale. We had such a great selection to
shop from. We thank the 27 people that brought the plants
for our sales. Total Sales were \$5,738.50 for the day.
Our thanks to the many sales people who gave so generously
of their time to answer questions and help the public with
their purchases.

Our thanks to Herb Hill, Jr., Auctioneer and his helpers, Carol Johnson,
Dave Johnston and Mike O'Leary for their exciting auction.
Total sales from the auction amounted to \$2635.00.

Thanks to the Host Club, Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Inc.,
led by Dave Johnston, President and all its members who so
graciously worked hard, sold plants, cooked desserts, served
the food, cleaned up, and smiled thru it all! Thanks!!!!

Our thanks to Bob and Rita Guerette of Carlino's Catering
for the excellent gourmet food.

The display tables were one of the main attractions of the
event. Thanks to all who brought your beautiful bromeliads
to share with others.

Our thanks to all the Florida Council Representatives in
securing plenty of auction plants for the Annual Auction.
As well as being an auction, it was like a super show and
tell!

We thank all of you from various parts of the State who
attended and made this day successful. We hope the Extravanza
was an exciting fun-filled day for you.

Our next annual Extravaganza will be hosted by the Caloosahatchee
Bromeliad Society in Fort Myers, Florida in the fall of 1992.
Let's make it another great State event!

Tom Wolfe
Chairman, FCBS

REPORT ON BSI BOARD MEETING 06-15-1991

1. BSI board voted to provide, free of charge, the Mulford Foster and Morris Henry Hobbs awards to societies that stage a standard show and provide proof of BSI affiliation; i.e. club affiliation and officer membership in BSI.
2. In a prolonged discussion about the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay's proposal for a bromeliad Hall of Fame the Board voted unanimously to discourage it's formation. The Board felt it may cause bad feelings among those who were not included in the induction ceremonies. The consensus of the Board was instead to honor all the Honorary Trustees in addition to the list provided to the board by BGTB. The suggestion of the Board was some type of display detailing their contributions to the BSI or the bromeliad community in general.
3. The "Kill the Evil Weevil" project was aired to a somewhat lukewarm reception. The Houston B.S. has made a donation of \$2,500.00 to the Victoria Padilla Research fund for unspecified research and it was suggested this money be pursued through channels. The two CA tillandsia growers present were also informed of this initiative and were non-committal about their support, if any.
4. The BSI has provided funding for a new cultural handbook in booklet form with color plates. Mark Dimmit is undertaking this project and has said it can be ready for the Tampa W.C. Direct sale to those interested in case lots will be solicited to save the handling costs which would ensue from shipping to and from the Publication Committee.
5. Don Beadle has completed a preliminary compilation of a checklist of all known bromeliad hybrids and cultivars which is available at \$20.00 per copy by writing:

DON BEADLE; P.O. Box 81464; Corpus Christi, Tx. 78413

Don invites any comment on the preliminary list so any errors can be corrected before the final printing. In my opinion Don should be highly praised for the staggering amount of effort he has put forth in this endeavor.

6. There was preliminary discussion about the 1994 World Conference San Diego shows interest in hosting the event. There will be a resolution of this matter at a later date.
7. The new Roster will be postponed to the Fall of 1992 to allow the Membership Secretary to update her computer system.

This was the most productive Board meeting of the two I have attended with respect to concrete action that will positively impact the BSI membership as a whole & I believe the Board is on the road to being more than an ineffectual collection of Directors and Committee chairmen.

Respectfully submitted:

GEOFFREY JOHNSON, BSI Director, Florida

RARE PLANT AUCTION

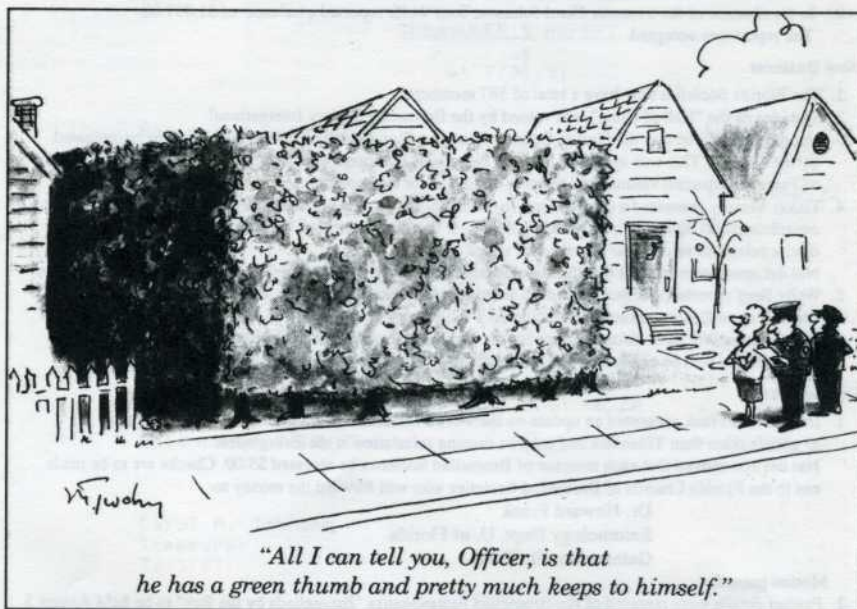
PCBS, TAMPA ON AUG. 3, 1991

Plant Name	Purchaser	Price
Ae. Fascini albo-marginata	CM Johnson	55.00
Combination Dish	E. Kinzie	20.00
Araecoccus pectinata	M. Baxley	37.50
Vriesea triligulata	G. Carnegie	15.00
Guzmania ekmanii	N. DeLeon	70.00
Hohenbergia lanata	Betty Ann Prevatt	25.00
Ae. fasciata x Neo meyerdorfii	D. Kammerlohr	15.00
Ae. Bert variegata	D. Kammerlohr	15.00
Guzmania memorii	Connie Johnson	30.00
3 - Ae. fasciata	Nat DeLeon	70.00
Ae. chantinii cv. Shogun	Rita Roehr	25.00
Ae. chantinii Choc. Soldier	Whit Merrin	45.00
Pr. decorated lamps	Rita Roehr	50.00
T. brachycaulos x flabellata	Wally Berg	25.00
Billbergia Pink Champagne	Mary Schwartz	10.00
X Neophytum Hendrix special	Michael Kiehl	75.00
Araecoccus parviflora	Eleanor Kinzie	20.00
Neo. Pinwheel	F. Hogge	25.00
Ae. orlandiana variegata	Rita Roehr	10.00
Ae. flemingii	Bobbie Hull	35.00
Vr. Vulcan	Bobbie Hull	15.00
Neo. Isobel	Geo. Aldrich	15.00
Orthophytum magelhaense	D. Clark	30.00
Till. cyanea v. triflora	Ed McNulty	70.00
Till. andreana	Faroz	40.00
Ae. fulgo-ramosa	Geo. Aldrich	30.00
Ae. dichlamydea	D. Fulkerson	50.00
Ae. fasciata (Deep Pink)	Nat DeLeon	15.00
Ae. Fascini spineless	C. Heller	15.00
Ae. chantinii Little Harv	Whit Merrin	35.00
Vr. gigantea sp. Nova	Bob Steiger	40.00
Two book from Herb Hill	Al Muzzell	30.00
Second book	Dennis Cathcart	25.00
Billbergia stenopetala	Bobbie Hull	100.00
Ae. weilbachii	Hazel Quilhot	10.00
Neo. marcelli	Tom Wolfe	20.00
Neo. Little Rose	D. Fulkerson	50.00
Ae. chantinii Little Harv	Geo. Aldrich	25.00
Vr. ospinae sp. Nova	Nat DeLeon	400.00
Neo. Maya	Michael Kiehl	95.00
Bill. tessmannii	Roland Schnabel	40.00
Neo. Fancy Free	B. Stickney	10.00
Navia splendens	Dean Fairchild	30.00
Neo Takemura Grande	R. Guerette	25.00
Ortho. sucrei	Wally Berg	20.00
Ae. Bert variegata	Mary Schwartz	27.50
Neo. Empress albo-marg.	Carol Johnson	30.00
Neo. compacta Bossa Nova	Carol Johnson	45.00
Ae. warasii affin.	Carol Johnson	40.00
Vr. White Lines	Gwen Carnegie	65.00
Driftwood	Eleanor Kinzie	25.00
Driftwood	Whit Merrin	35.00
Ae. fasciata Ivory	B. Davis	25.00
Ae. chantinii x zebrina	Geo. Aldrich	25.00

Neo. caroliniae x macrosepala	Rita Roehr	15.00
China Plate	Whit Merrin	35.00
Neo. Vandorme	Dean Fairchild	45.00
Ae. Pink Rocket	Eleanor Kinzie	20.00
Vr. Bananas	Nancy Hall	40.00
Neo. Yellow Devil	Ed. Hall	20.00
Vr. saundersii-bituminosa var.	Eleanor Kinzie	25.00
Ae. weilbachii pendula	Herb Hill	30.00
Ae. carvalhoi	Tom Wolfe	15.00
Neo. meyendorffii orange	D. Fulkerson	50.00
Till. cyanea	F. Hogge	15.00
Ae. nalii variegata	Hattie Lou Smith	25.00
Puya caerulea	B. Davis	25.00
Book, Padilla hardback	Paroz	25.00
Guz. Cherry variegata	Carol Johnson	25.00

Total Auction Proceeds \$ 2,635.00

Many thanks to all those who donated plants for the auction.
We know where about 50% of the donated plants came from, but there were too many anonymous donations to make a report feasible.





FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

BUSINESS MEETING July 13, 1991

The regular meeting of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies was held July 13 in Belleair, hosted by Helen and Morris Dexter.

Present were board members Wally Berg, Gwen Carnegie, Jane Dahlin, Nat deLeon, Helen and Morris Dexter, Carol Holland, Connie Johnson, Eleanor Kinzie, Audrey McCrory, Al Muzzell, Carl Perryn, Betty Ann Prevatt, Rose Schmidt, Ron Schoenau, Bob Steiger, and Tom Wolfe.

Others present: Tinker Massey and Dr. Howard Frank.

Agenda

The meeting was called to order by the President, Tom Wolfe.

1. After corrections (enclosed) the secretary's report was accepted.
2. In the absence of the treasurer Carol Johnson, Tom Wolfe reported a balance of \$1,837.00. The report was accepted.

New Business

1. The Florida Societies now have a total of 587 members.
2. The idea of the "Hall of Fame" was vetoed by the Bromeliad Society International.
3. Nat deLeon moved that the Florida Council sponsor a Florida Hall of Fame which shall be perpetuated by the F.C.B.S. This was approved by vote. Numerous questions were asked in regard to the Florida Hall of Fame. Al Muzzell volunteered to act as chairman for the ground rules.
4. Tinker Massey presented a comprehensive outline of the progress of the slide library. A motion passed to contribute \$200.00 annually to the slide library. It was suggested that Tinker Massey be authorized to devise rules and set fees for the rental of slides. Nat deLeon recommended that the slide library should have one master slide set and one set of duplicates.
5. Wally Berg reported that Selby Gardens acquired another building which will house the Bromeliad Identification Center and research facilities.
6. Harry Luther will have an open house for the Bromeliad Society members October 12 and 13. A tour of the facility will be conducted and there will be a rare plant auction.

Old Business

1. Dr. Howard Frank presented an update on the weevil *Metamensa callizona*. This has now spread to genera other than *Tillandsia* and may be causing infestation in the Everglades. Nat deLeon moved that each member of Bromeliad Societies be assessed \$5.00. Checks are to be made out to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies who will forward the money to:

Dr. Howard Frank
Entomology Dept. U. of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Motion passed.

2. Further details were reported of the Bromeliad Extravaganza "Bromeliads by the Bay" to be held August 3 at the Tampa Garden Center. There will be display plants (tables available) sale plants and plants for the rare plant auction. Each member of the FCBS is responsible for two rare plants. Display and sale plants are to be brought in between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Speakers will be Nat deLeon, Al Muzzell, Erwin Wurthman, Carl Perryn, Bob Steiger, Dave Johnston and Dennis Cathcart (Keynote Speaker) Agenda for the speakers' program will be distributed at the door. Dinner will be available with reservations for \$6.00. Contact Dottie Meyer. Arrangements have been made at the Hampton Inn for those who wish to stay overnight. \$45.00 with continental breakfast.

1992 World Conference

Exhibition Hall has no air conditioning but good cross breeze and good light. Carl Perryn is in charge of the plant sale. Displays are being developed by the Central Florida Society.

The next meeting will be October 19 at the home of Carol Johnson in Longwood.

Respectfully submitted,

Morris and Helen Dexter

FLORIDA COUNCIL
of
BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

TREASURER'S REPORT

at 7/¹³~~2~~/91

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,231.22
Deposits	<u>127.00</u>
	\$ 2,358.22

Expense:

Narda Enander Free Registration	95.00	
Florida Dept. of State	61.25	
Printing Palace, V. XII, #2	232.31	
U.S. Postal Service	58.17	
Office Depot (Com. paper & labels)	36.71	July
U.S. Postal Svc. 100 .29 Stamps)	29.00	July
Service Chgs. 3 months	<u>8.78</u>	<u>521.22</u>

Balance at 7/13/91	\$ 1,837.00
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Carol M. Johnson
Treasurer
7/13/91

The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

811 South Palm Avenue · Sarasota, Florida ~~34236~~ · Telephone (813) 366-5730

34236

Dear BSI affiliate members;

As some of you may have heard, the BIC has moved ! The Bromeliad Identification Center, the Orchid Identification Center, herbarium and other research resources and offices are now at 711 South Palm Avenue, one block north of their previous location. Very shortly our research library and periodical collections will join us in our new 3600 square foot facility. This new Science Center will allow us, for the first time in the Gardens history, to house in a single, safe and secure, climate controlled building all of our research programs. Those of you who have visited the BIC in its old cramped and dilapidated quarters can appreciate this positive change.

As Director of the BIC, I am asking for your support of the Gardens research efforts. Contributions toward the purchase and maintenance of this new facility will be gratefully accepted. If anyone has questions please feel free to contact me at the address above (the mailing address remains the same) or phone 813 955-7553 (new number). Thank you.

PS: A special BIC "Open House" will be given during the annual Sarasota Bromeliad Society show in Oct. I look forward to seeing your members then.

Sincerely,



Harry E. Luther

Director, BIC

Dear Carol,

I was intrigued by your article on exhibiting bromeliads and finally decided to throw in my two cents worth. In general I agree with your list of objections to standard bromeliad shows. There is an element of truth in all of the objections which you have listed.

In my mind there are two primary reasons for putting on a bromeliad show. The first goal is to educate the public about bromeliads and encourage others to embrace our favorite plant hobby. The second primary goal is to give recognition to the good growers and to encourage the less successful growers to try to do better. Some judges apparently believe that bromeliad shows are designed to provide an opportunity to display their supposed superior knowledge and the plants are only necessary accessories to this ego trip.

In truth, growing and exhibiting 20 bromeliads of blue ribbon quality requires a great deal more skill and dedication than serving three or four hours on a judging panel. As 1/3 of a panel a judge is backed up and assisted by two other panel members. An exhibitor doesn't have the opportunity to enjoy this sort of outside help.

I strongly agree with objection number five. The bad judging decisions that I recall most vividly are the ones that were brought about by ignorance of the growth habit of the plant or plants under consideration. In my experience many of the harshest and most opinionated judges are also amongst the louisiest growers. Plants entered in the Judges Class are often not judged as severely as plants in the open classes and this may give some judges who are inept growers an exaggerated estimate of their skill and knowledge. All the schools and symposiums in the world are not going to prevent a judge from making stupid mistakes if he or she lacks a comprehensive knowledge of the plants.

I agree emphatically with item number six. Scientific proof usually requires duplication of results by more than one group. Switching panels and judging a show a second time is almost guaranteed to produce different results.

The five points listed in defense of the standard shows apply equally as well to most non-standard bromeliad shows. I am convinced that making all of the rules for shows optional would do more to restore harmony to the BSI than any other action that could be taken. The bitter fights over the rules for shows and judges have badly damaged the organization. The animosities generated by these disputes will in many cases last for years. In addition they have cost the organization considerable money and lost memberships.

George
George H. Anderson



THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY, INC.

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF A BROMELIAD CULTIVAR

PROPOSED NAME: _____ (LIMIT-3 Words & 20 Letters)

[SPECIES CULTIVAR] GENUS: _____ SPECIES: _____

VARIETY: _____ DATE OF DISCOVERY: _____

[HYBRID CULTIVAR] PLEASE FILL IN AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE:

GREG NAME: _____ CROSS DATE: ____/____/____ 1st BLOOM DATE: ____/____/____

SEED PARENT: GENUS: _____ SPECIES: _____

VARIETY: _____ CULTIVAR: _____ ID#: _____

POLLEN PARENT: GENUS: _____ SPECIES: _____

VARIETY: _____ CULTIVAR: _____ ID#: _____

COLLECTOR/HYBRIDIZER: NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ COUNTRY: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

APPLICANT: NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ COUNTRY: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

Permission by collector/hybridizer to publish cultivar name? Yes ☐ No ☐
Permission to reproduce photographs for use by the BSI, Inc.? Yes ☐ No ☐

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CULTIVAR: _____

PLANT CULTIVAR MOST RESEMBLES: _____

DESCRIBE CHARACTERS MAKING CULTIVAR UNIQUE/RECOGNIZABLE/DIFFERENT: _____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: _____ DATE: ____/____/____

~~Send completed form to Don Beadle, P.O. Box 81464, Corpus Christi, Tx 78411~~

REGISTRAR USE ONLY: ACCEPTED ☐ REJECTED ☐ REASON: _____
DATE: ____/____/____ PHOTOS: _____ CODE#: _____ ID#: _____ SIGN: _____



THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

ENTOMOLOGY AND NEMATOLOGY DEPARTMENT / BLDG. 970, HULL ROAD
740 IFAS / GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32611-0740 / TEL 904/392-1901 / FAX 904/392-0190

Mr. Nat DeLeon
11000 SW 77 Ct. Circle
Miami, FL 33156

31 May 1991

Dear Mr. DeLeon:

Following our discussion at Fairchild Tropical Gardens on the 19th, please find enclosed a background on the weevil. I remained in south Florida until the 27th; although I did not find evidence of the weevil in the vicinity of Matheson Hammock, I did discover a population of it in *T. utriculata* at Castellow Hammock in Goulds. Several nurseries in the Goulds/Homestead area grow bromeliads, and it is likely that infected *Tillandsia* imported by one of them were the origin of the weevils at Castellow Hammock. I showed the damaged plants, freshly-collected weevil cocoons and an adult to Roger Hammer, who is director of Castellow Hammock.

The two pages enclosed give a general background on the weevil, an account of what I have done, and a suggestion for a student project in this department. The major emphasis now should be on improvement of an artificial diet for larvae of the weevil so that these larvae can be reared readily in the laboratory. It would not be a good investment of funds to search abroad for natural enemies (parasites/predators/pathogens) until this diet is satisfactory and until all stages of the weevil can be made available in the laboratory in good quantity.

My area of specialty is biological control of insect pests. My two major programs are on biological control of mole crickets and muscoid flies.

The departmental FAX and telephone numbers are on the letterhead. The telephone extension in my office, where I have an answering machine, is 128.

Yours sincerely,

Howard Frank

J.H. Frank
Professor of Entomology

Metamasius callizona, a weevil of Central American origin, has been present in Broward and southern Palm Beach counties at least since late 1989 (J. Brom. Soc. 40: 203-205, 222). There, it attacks and kills native Tillandsia utriculata, T. fasciculata, and T. paucifolia (J. Brom. Soc. 41: 107-108). A population of the weevil also was found in a bromeliad collection in western Lee County, where it attacked and killed bromeliads of several genera (Caloosahatchee Meristem, Oct. 1990: 3-6). This weevil is a serious threat to native and exotic bromeliads. Even though it may be controllable in nurseries by prophylactic application of chemical pesticides, such treatments are not feasible over huge areas of natural vegetation, so the weevil is bound to persist and spread. This will reduce natural populations of bromeliads, including endangered and threatened species, and the feral weevil population will act as a source of infection of nurseries.

In February 1991, J.H. Frank and M.C. Thomas were unable to find evidence of the weevil in the vicinity of Matheson Hammock and Fairchild Tropical Gardens in eastern Dade County. However, on 25 May, J.H. Frank found an infestation of it at Castellow Hammock, in Goulds, just north of Homestead, in western Dade County. Geographical separation of the three known areas of infestation (eastern Broward + Palm Beach/ western Dade/ western Lee) suggests three independent introductions. Interception by USDA inspectors at Tampa of infected bromeliads imported from Vera Cruz, Mexico, suggests southern Mexico as the source.

The biology of the weevil is practically unknown and there is no published information about its natural enemies in Central America. Lack of such information coupled with thriving bromeliad populations in Central America suggests that the weevil is not a major problem there, and probably is held in check by natural enemies. This offers the possibility of its control in Florida by importation of specific natural enemies: e.g., minute parasitic wasps or flies which would attack eggs or larvae or pupae and be harmless to other organisms. Such parasitic wasps or flies, assuming that they exist (there IS a good chance), could be imported to a quarantine laboratory in Florida for breeding purposes, and then stocks of them could be released wherever the weevil has been detected, with the expectation that they would multiply, spread, and reduce (but not eliminate) weevil populations. But there is little point in searching for and importing such natural enemies until laboratory stocks of the weevil are large: without ready availability of weevils in the laboratory it will not be possible to breed the natural enemies because of their specialization.

Funds, totalling \$1,200, were supplied by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. To begin the first step - building up of laboratory stocks of the weevil - J.H. Frank and M.C. Thomas in February 1991 brought weevils from Broward County to a secure laboratory in the Entomology & Nematology Dept., University of Florida, at Gainesville. The funds are viewed as enabling a brief search for natural enemies in southern Mexico.

Rearing of the weevils was entrusted to a graduate student who devoted a few hours a week to the task (his major research task is on whiteflies on tomatoes, and he also is taking classes). He succeeded in getting adult weevils to lay eggs in Tillandsia bromeliads placed in insect cages. However, the bromeliads used to receive the eggs

must be torn apart to find the eggs, and a ready supply of bromeliads is thus necessary. Dennis Cathcart supplied a carton of Tillandsia caput-medusae for this purpose. Given a continuing supply of such plants, weevil eggs can be produced in the laboratory.

The next step is rearing weevil larvae. It is perhaps possible to rear as many as 10 larvae in a single very large Tillandsia utriculata. To rear hundreds of larvae on bromeliads would demand use of hundreds of large plants in an insect-tight greenhouse, but the progress of the larvae in the plants would be invisible. It would be much easier to rear the larvae in transparent plastic or glass containers on artificial diets. Artificial diets have been developed for larvae of some weevil species. If a diet could be found for Metamasius callizona larvae, their rearing would become much easier and more controllable, which is especially important when attempting to rear parasitic wasps or flies on them. Small quantities of diets used for two pest weevils (boll weevil and black pine weevil) were obtained and were provided to Metamasius callizona larvae. While the latter fed on the diets and about half of them developed, they produced undersized adults. The diets need improvement, but incorporation of blended Tillandsia did not improve either of them, and the solution is more complicated.

There are several possible approaches to improvement of the diet, such as: A) To fund a student in entomology to undertake a special project, which normally would last one semester and would be under the guidance of a faculty member. B) To fund a student in entomology to undertake a master's research project on the subject, under the guidance of a committee of faculty members. C) To hire a technician experienced in insect nutrition to work under the guidance of a faculty member. Without knowing how long the task will take, it is difficult to estimate costs.

A student undertaking a special project might expect \$6/hr for 20 hrs/week for a semester of 16 weeks (total \$1,920). Master's-level students normally receive stipends in the range of \$9,000 per annum during the two years in which they take classes and perform research. Well-qualified technicians would expect to receive some \$25,000 per annum in pay, with fringe benefits additional, and with the University's overhead charges adding extra cost. Supplies (materials for artificial diets, cages, containers, etc.) should cost only a few hundred dollars, but if the work goes slowly and uses many weevil larvae experimentally, there will be need to travel to and from south Florida to collect weevils for experimentation. Society members could help by shipping Tillandsia from south Florida for experimental use.

I recommend plan A) above as the least-expensive option at \$2,500, including funds for supplies and limited travel to south Florida. It could be converted later to plan B) if warranted, or could be repeated for a second semester with another student. The advantage of plan B) is that the student would have more commitment - his/her master's degree would depend upon the successful outcome.

The Bromeliad Society of South Florida already has a mechanism to fund students at the University of Florida. In the past, these funds have paid for studies in the Botany Department. There may now be a good case for making them available to a student in the Entomology & Nematology Department.

SHOW PAGE

9/14-15/91 Free days at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota. Free admission the entire week-end to all visitors.

10/12-13/91 Sarasota Bromeliad Society Annual Standard Bromeliad Show & Plant Sale at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. The show will be set up in the new air-conditioned activities building. Hours are Saturday, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Sunday 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. All bromeliad society members are invited to tour the new Bromeliad Identification Center during an open house on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M., and to tour the greenhouses on Sunday, Oct. 13 at 1:00 P.M. All members staying in town are invited to a party & plant auction Saturday night at 7:00 P.M. which will be held in the new activities. Members are urged to RSVP for the Saturday auction event, so plans can be made for food. For further information contact Show Chairman Wally Berg at (813) 924-0060.

11/9-10/91 "Carnival of Bromeliads" standard bromeliad show & sale sponsored by the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society will be held at the Exhibition Hall, corner of Hendry Street & Edwards Drive, on the river, in downtown Fort Myers. Entries will be received on Friday, 11/8, 8:30 to 11:00 A.M. Judging will be 1-6 P.M. that same day. The show will be open to the public Saturday, 11/9, 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. and Sunday 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Admission is free to all attending. For further show information contact Betty Ann Prevatt at (813) 334-0242 or Gene McKenzie at (813) 997-6392.

Here is my donation to the "Kill the Evil Weevil" Fund:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Society Affiliation: _____

Amount Enclosed _____ (Please, no cash by mail)

Make checks payable to FCBS, Weevil Fund, and mail to Carol Johnson, Treasurer; 3961 Markham Woods Rd.; Longwood, Fl. 32779.
