

# **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 XII - ISSUE II

MAY 1992

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CATCHING UP - STAYING EVEN

WEEVIL UPDATE:

Thanks to the individual donations of many Bromeliad Society members throughout Florida, co-ordinated by the various societies, Florida Council recently remitted \$3,000.00 to SHARE to pay a graduate student to assist Dr. Frank for one semester in his weevil research. We must not slack off, though, because semesters have a way of passing by and there will then be need for more money.

We are so fortunate that Dr. Frank has taken an interest in weevil-control research. He is not particularly enamoured of bromeliads--his interest is entomological, but he has come to our rescue, and where would we be now without him? He and/or his assistant will spend an entire day at the World Conference in Tampa, showing posters, passing out literature and answering questions about the weevil. He will be located between Pegasus and Pegasus South Ballrooms, in the hallway. Look for him, listen to what he has to tell you and please thank him for his efforts. The weevil has now been found in bromeliads such as Dyckia, far removed from the original Tillandsia finding and an alarming development.

FOSTER TAPE:

Some printed background material has been found in the Foster Archives that will be of interest to owners of the tape which Florida Council will be selling at the World Bromeliad Conference. Price of the tape is \$25.00. You may mail advance payment to the Newsletter cover address and pick up your tape at Pineapple Place sale booth at the World Conference or go by Pineapple Place booth, pay and pick up or give mailing instructions. No tapes will be distributed prior to the World Conference. There is no extra charge for mailing. The video tape was produced from two reels of 16 mm movie film taken by the Fosters on a South & Central American trip in 1946. Considering the age of the original film, the quality and color is remarkable so make plans to get one.

BROMELIAD SAFARI in Tampa will be the third World Bromeliad Conference to be held in Florida (1980, 1988, and 1992). All three World Conferences have been whole-heartedly supported by Florida Council member societies, monetarily and with physical endeavor. Those of you who are not able to attend the entire conference should try to spend at least a day there. For a small admission charge it is possible to see the judged show and "do" the sales area. There will be people attending from all over the U.S. and many from foreign countries. Please remember they are our guests and treat them as honored ones, so their time spent in Florida will be a warm memory.

AGAIN, HELP!!! Seminole Bromeliad Society plans a society display at the World Conference, using all Florida native



bromeliads and other typical Florida plants. The display will be titled "Florida, The Way We Were". We have been unable to secure Catopsis floribundus and Catopsis nutans. We will gladly purchase, but would be satisfied to borrow the plants for the duration of the show. Art Hyland, President of Seminole Bromeliad Society, will be putting up the display on Wednesday and Thursday, 6/10-11, or please contact him at 2200 Pine Hill Pl.; Orange City 32763; tel. (904) 775-9919. We thank you.

Remember, if you are hunting a plant, a book, whatever, it really works to clear your request through the Newsletter. I asked for a variegated Aechmea bracteata and was offered at least a dozen.

IT IS TIME TO UPDATE MY MAILING LIST. Next issue of the Newsletter will include the state membership roster. All 1992 society rosters should now be complete. I have received those of five out of our ten members, but lack those from Imperial Polk, Sarasota, Florida West Coast, Jacksonville and West Pasco. New members in those societies will not receive this Newsletter issue. Please try to furnish me with complete information prior to the August issue.

# FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

## TREASURER'S REPORT - APRIL 1, 1992

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,173.01
Deposits	34.00
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	\$ 2,207.01

### Expense:

Bulk Mail Permit	75.00
House of Trophies	27.82
Dennis Cathcart, Spkrs. Fee	100.00
Postage (100-29c)	29.00
Printer Ribbon	11.72
World Conference Mailing	27.42
Printing, Vol. XII, #1	301.21
Mailing " " "	61.50
Bank Service Chgs.	.30
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633.97

Balance at April 1, 1992	\$ <u>1,573.04</u>
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Weevil Fund at 4/1/92	\$ <u>3,146.40</u>
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Balance in Account at 4/1	\$ <u>4,719.44</u>
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## BROMELIADS IN DESIGN

by

Carol Johnson

Anyone who has attended a bromeliad show, and I mean from the time of the very first judged show, will agree that they are woefully poor in the artistic design section (usually Division IV). With the creation of the Morris Henry Hobbs special award for this division, it is time we, as bromeliad societies, judges or just plain members, take steps to remedy the situation.

Until recently Division IV winners were eligible for the Best in Show Award and this created some controversy, the consensus being that mother nature's plants should be the focus of the society's show endeavors and they should not have to compete with human, contrived design. Under the new rules, Divisions I, II, & III (horticulture) provide the Best in Show and the Best of Division IV is awarded the Morris Henry Hobbs Award. Originally, it was required that any artistic design include the entire bromeliad plant. This has now been changed and it is permissible to use any part of the bromeliad plant in the design, along with other components, as long as bromeliads predominate.

We have also gotten away from the practice of selecting themes for our shows (i.e. "BSCF Presents it's Seventeenth Annual Bromeliad Show), and this makes it very difficult to just whale away and produce a winning artistic design with no theme as inspiration.

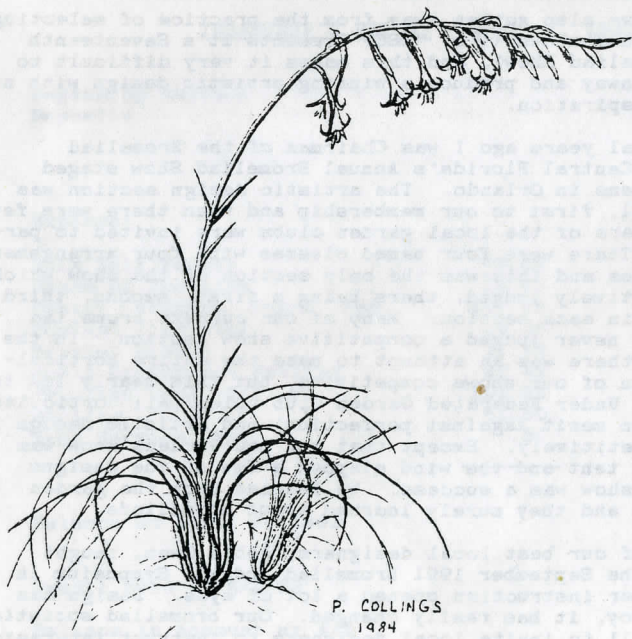
Several years ago I was Chairman of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida's Annual Bromeliad Show staged at Leu Gardens in Orlando. The artistic design section was invitational, first to our membership and when there were few takers members of the local garden clubs were invited to participate. There were four named classes with four arrangements in each class and this was the only section of the show which was competitively judged, there being a first, second, third and fourth in each section. Many of our current bromeliad judges have never judged a competitive show section. In the early days there was an attempt to make the entire horticulture section of our shows competitive, but this nearly led to bloodshed. Under Federated Garden Club rules, all horticulture is judged on merit (against perfection) and artistic design is judged competitively. Except that our Leu Gardens show was staged in a tent and the wind slapped a few of the designs about, the show was a success. We learned from the garden club ladies and they surely learned about bromeliads.

One of our best local designers, Abbie Owen, taught design at the September 1991 Bromeliad Judges' Symposium in Sanford. Her instruction opened a lot of eyes. Design has changed. Boy, it has really changed. Our bromeliad societies would do well to invite local designers to instruct interested bromeliad society members, or, alternatively, invite the local

garden clubs to fill the design section in our shows until our members can do it on their own. Our local show schedule states entries are open to all exhibitors. Two years ago best of Novice Section in our show was won by an exhibitor who read about the show in the paper and brought in a huge basket of *Neoregelia* fireball. So, why not artistic design?

If your society should decide to invite garden club designers to fill the design section of your show, it would be best to have at least one Garden Club judge on the panel, else they may never choose to participate again. The local bromeliad society members who have shown an interest in the design section have all been men.

If we are going to write the Morris Henry Hobbs Award into our show schedules, we need to make a greater effort to attract entries.



*Puya mirabilis*



## COLLECTOR'S CORNER

### HOPEFULLY HELPFUL HINTS

1. Got a big *Neoregelia* fireball you need to divide? Offsets put directly into new potting mix have a tendency to turn green. I root my fireball pups in a tray of moist perlite. When a good root ball is formed, pot in soil but do not shake off all the perlite from the new roots. The new plants will not lose color when handled thus.
2. Do you grow *Aechmeas* and *Billbergias* from seed? Watch your newly transplanted young seedlings. There is a small grey moth which deposits eggs in the center of the vulnerable young plants. These develop into tiny worms (larvae) which eat the centers, and it is not unusual, one morning, to find all the leaves fallen from the plants. Regular spraying with Dipel (or similar) is all the control necessary. Amazingly, many of these defoliated young seedlings will pup and survive.
3. Most *Vrieseas* prefer to have dry feet. One exception is *Vriesea ospinae*, which needs to be fed regularly and the soil kept moist at all times. I overpot and grow with the pot standing in a tray of water. To further demonstrate it's individuality, *Vriesea ospinae* will not bloom naturally unless it is allowed to clump. Most growers try to keep up with offset production, but forget it. Do not take pups until blooming is past. The plant responds well to Florel and even the smallest offset will bloom, but the natural bloom is far superior to the forced one.
4. There have been many suggested remedies for leaf quilling (the tying up of new center leaves). In my greenhouse the worst culprit is *Vr. Shima Rhyu*. One drop of dishwashing liquid (Joy, etc) works wonders. Try to catch the plant before it is too late and carefully put one drop of soap in the very center. Then fill with water and allow to stand a few minutes. Leaves generally slide easily apart. I do not know if the soap would damage the plant if left too long, so make a habit of flushing it all away as soon as the leaves have loosened.
5. There is a need for rare plants for the Plant Auction at the World Conference in Tampa. Probably more Florida bromeliad growers have rare plants than anywhere else. Rare does not necessarily mean new plants, and many species plants are becoming increasingly difficult to find. Look around. Proceeds of the auction go to the Bromeliad Identification Center, a project dear to all Floridians. William Frazel is in charge of this project. His address is: 12500 SW 12 St.; Ft. Lauderdale 33325. Tel. (305) 474-1349.



## FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

BUSINESS MEETING HELD JANUARY 11, 1992

Host, Bob Steiger, W.P.B.S.

Tom Wolfe, outgoing Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:50 PM and thanked Florida Council for the opportunity of being Chairman for 1991. Tom introduced Jane Dahlin, as the 1992 Chairperson, and she took over the meeting. Her first job was to present Tom with a plaque for a job well done. Next Jane introduced the new officers: Permanent Treasurer, Carol Johnson, Secretary, Gwen Carnegie and Co-Chairperson forthcoming soon by FWCBS.

Agenda continued with Treasurer's Report passed around by Carol, to 19 Representatives in attendance and approved as read. Carol made a motion to pay Dennis Cathcart, for being Guest Speaker at 1991 Extravaganza. The motion was seconded by Tom and carried by all.

### I. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Tom Wolfe talked about the latest process concerning the World Conference. Tom did show the beautiful poster, by Kiti Wenzel, and available for \$10.00 at the World Conference.
2. Dave Johnston discussed the Entertainment area which included: Tour of Homes, Paid Tours, Post Conference Tour and the bus company that will meet our needs. Dave has worked very hard, on the Entertainment, and literature in your Registration packets will attest to the fact of the matter.
3. Carl Perryn continues to enlighten us with the latest information about Staging. The subject included added rooms, displays by Florida Council Societies, and the many Commercial Dealers plans for outstanding displays. Carl has found the best arrangements for everything and showed diagrams of the set-up. Also the materials available to use in displays such as background plants, trees, shrubs and compatible smaller plants plus mulch. It will be on a first come basis so be sure to arrive early to do the work involved for an outstanding World Conference.
4. Bob Steiger reported on Publicity by giving us an account of his placing many advertisements in magazines and other publications. Bob is providing discount tickets to many clubs so members may attend the judged show and sales areas plus viewing the many displays around the area. The Garden Clubs are delighted to be able to attend the conference and getting discount tickets as an added attraction.
5. Carol Johnson provided us with a report on the upcoming Guest Speakers and she has a firm commitment of 10, as of January meeting. Carol continues her efforts to reach at least 12 speakers by June. This will make it possible to provide an excellent variety to meet the needs and interest of all.

II. Al Muzzell was absent so his program was put on hold until April.



- III. Nat DeLeon gave his report on "Kill The Evil Weevil" and over \$7000.00 funds received but more needed to do the job. Dr. Frank wants to hire a Graduate Student to help in his research to eradicate the weevil. Dr. Frank continues to check the Ft. Lauderdale area and the Everglades where the weevil problem is present.

Nat advised us not to panic but rather be watchful of our plants. It must be a joint effort by all Bromeliad collectors, commercial or hobbyist to participate in this endeavor for a complete elimination of the weevil. Any plants that die and are questionable would warrant calling the Extension Service to get them checked. Look for a plant that keels over and has a small slit at the base of the stem of green part. A jelly like substance means weevil is there. Sevin and Benlate were recommended and follow label directions to the letter. **Note following on Benlate.**

- IV. Racine Foster donated the tape of their earlier travels and it will be available at the "World Conference" for \$25.00. This was Nat's suggestion, when there appeared to be a deadlock concerning the price. It was recommended that all Florida Societies order "1" tape as only 49 available for sale.
- V. The "1992 Extravaganza" will be held in Ft. Myers by CBS and on Oct. 31. CBS will continue its sale to Nov. 1st and anyone may continue to sell their plants and pay 25% to the society. All plants will be set-up by Genus to make it easier to find your special favorite plants in the least amount of time. Betty Ann Prevatt will give us more information at our meetings. A motion was made and seconded to pay Guest Speaker \$100.00.

Jane Dahlin dismissed the meeting at 4:30 P. M.

**Note:**

There were seven visitors or alternates in attendance. Bob Steiger, Irene & Walt Klymko did an excellent job of serving us a delicious lunch in beautiful surroundings.

Sincerely submitted,

*Gwen Carnegie*

Gwen Carnegie, Secretary

**Note:** From C.B.S. Newsletter April 1992: Gene McKenzie, Editor Dupont has canceled all ornamental uses of Benlate (WP). In September, they took ornamentals off the label of Benlate in the wettable powder form (WT). They have now also removed its use for dips, drenches, for containers and in the greenhouse. It seems the product causes stunting and malformed growth. It is not because of increased risk to human health. (There is some health risk in the use of any fungicide.)



## SHOW PAGE

June 11-14/1992 WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE;  
at Saddlebrook Resort; Wesley Chapel, Fl.  
Presented by Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay  
and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

AGENDA: Wednesday, June 10, all day set up and  
show entries. Entries are open to all growers.  
Thursday, Judging 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Evening  
poolside buffet, Safari costume contest, sneak  
preview. Friday, show opens, garden tours, seminars,  
plant sales all day. Rare plant auction  
7:00 p.m. Saturday, show & sales open all day,  
garden tours, seminars, banquet at 7:00 p.m.  
Note: Seats are available at the banquet for  
non-registrants, cost \$48.00. Make reservations  
with Registration Chairman.  
Sunday: Show & sales open, seminars, conference  
closes at 4:00 p.m.  
Monday thru Sunday, June 15-21, 1992, Post conference  
tours. Registrar; Gwen Carnegie; 1734 Magnolia Rd.;  
Belleair, Fl. 34616.  
LATE FULL REGISTRATION FEE \$145.00.

August 15, 1992. Seminole Bromeliad Society Annual One  
Day Exhibition and Plant Sale at Earl Brown Recreational  
Park, Deland, Fl. Seminole Bromeliad Society will stage  
it's first formal, judged show in April 1993.

October 31, November 1, 1992. Calacooahatchee Bromeliad  
Society Exhibition and Sale (not a judged show).  
Saturday & Sunday at Exhibition Hall; 1320 Hendry St.  
Downtown Fort Myers. Hours: Sat. 9 - 5 and Sunday  
10 - 4. Featuring : The Florida Council of Bromeliad  
Societies, Inc. 1992 EXTRAVAGANZA SALE & PLANT AUCTION.  
Dinner and Auction 7:00 p.m. Contact Betty Ann Prevatt  
(813) 334-0242.

LAST MINUTE INFO: Please make dinner reservations at least five days  
in advance. This applies to non-registrants only.

GENERAL ADMISSION AT THE DOOR FOR SHOW & SALE IS \$5.00 (World Conference).