

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 XIV - ISSUE III
AUGUST 1994

CATCHING UP - STAYING EVEN

This is the annual roster issue of your Newsletter. The computer counted 713 addresses, but with numerous family memberships, the Florida count is now well over 1,000. It is the even year, when we usually publish the FCBS By-laws, but with such a lengthy roster, I will wait and do so in Issue #4. The 1994 assessment (\$1 per address, plus \$10 membership per society) has been billed.

1996 World Bromeliad Conference: The three societies in the central Florida area have agreed to host the 1996 World Bromeliad Conference. They are Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Seminole Bromeliad Society and East Coast Bromeliad Society. Since Orlando has more hotel rooms than any other U.S. city, it was figured to be a piece of cake--just a matter of getting the best deal. Not so. Orlando hosts conventions from A to Z. You name it--Amateur Magicians, International Prosthesis Foundation, One-legged Ducks (nah, that's a joke). But, just this week there was a convention of the Reptile Breeders Association, complete with a bevy of live snakes. Hotels being built now are booked for four years after completion. So far, the only positive time available for the conference is the first week in July, 1996. Orlando in July is most peoples' idea of the opposite of Heaven. Bud Martin will be the General Chairman, and he guarantees that we will have our banquet indoors. In any event begin thinking about a Conference title, as a naming contest will be upcoming. Organization is still in process, and you will all be kept informed.

San Diego World Bromeliad Conference, June 1994: It has been reported that there were 78 registrants from Florida at the WC in San Diego. That's quite a large number. I hope California will reciprocate in 1996. It was a very nice conference and the San Diego folks did it just right--very relaxed and informal. They were lucky with the weather, also. Cool and dry. It was 93 degrees in San Diego this week.

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY is well on its way with preparations for our annual Extravaganza on September 10. All Florida members were sent a special notice earlier this month and the registration form is reprinted herewith. Get your hotel and banquet reservations in, but by all means come if only for the day. It is the one day each year when all the Florida bromeliad growers get together and pig out on the plants. Proceeds from the rare plant auction sustain Florida Council for the entire year.

CONDOLENCES to Gwen Carnegie and her family. Her husband Andy, and our good friend, passed away on July 25. Memories of Andy will be happy ones--he was a happy man. I remember him saying "Gwen & I have never had a fight. I give her everything she wants, and if she's happy, so am I."

From the Reader's Digest: One of the worst mistakes you can make as a gardener is to think you're in charge.

This is a good year for seed production. Share your extras. Send them to the BSI seed bank; Harvey Beltz; 6327 South Inwood Rd.; Shreveport, La. 71119-7260.

As a member of the Rio de Janeiro Bromeliad Society, I have just received issue number 2 of their BROMELIA, published four times annually. It is a remarkable periodical, with Portuguese and English text, slick paper and many colored photos. All the contributors are names recognizable in Bromeliad circles. I have been invited to contribute an article about Florida bromeliad growers and potential sources of supply for their members. Anyone interested in being included, please send me information regarding your enterprise no later than September 5. Brazil was well represented at the San Diego World Conference and it was a pleasure to see old acquaintances and meet new ones.

SP 166 MOSQUITO/BROMELIAD BOOKLET

Mosquito Production from Bromeliads in Florida



J.H. Frank

24-page booklet alerts reader to association between certain mosquitoes and bromeliads in Florida. For the bromeliad enthusiast, nursery growers, and importers of ornamental plants \$2.50 (plus sales tax)

Mosquito Production from Bromeliads in Florida (formerly Bulletin 877, now out of print) has information on how imported and neglected bromeliads (*Aechmea*, *Androlepis*, *Billbergia*, *Canistrum*, *Catopsis*, *Guzmania*, *Hohenbergia*, *Neoregelia*, *Nidularium*, *Orthophytum*, *Portea*, *Quesnelia*, and *Vriesea*, many of which form tanks) can harbor mosquitoes. Strategies are detailed on how to minimize the mosquito problem without resorting to non-cost-effective pesticides. With 4-color photographs.

Payment by check or money order. No cash.
Florida residents add applicable sales tax for your county.
If 6 percent (\$1.50/copy or \$2.65 total);
if 6.5 percent (\$1.57/copy or \$2.67 total);
if 7 percent (\$1.68/copy or \$2.68 total).
Make checks payable to The University of Florida.



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Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

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Send to: **Publications**
P.O. Box 110011
Gainesville, FL 32611-0011

Please ship me _____ copies of SP 166, *Mosquitoes from Bromeliads in Florida*.

\$2.50 each including shipping and handling. \$ _____

FL residents add 6, 6.5 or 7 percent sales tax
(\$1.50, .17, or .18 per copy) as applicable \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Shipping Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____



FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

ANNUAL BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA
SEPTEMBER 10, 1994
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

LOCATION: Feather Sound Country Club. Take I-275 south to exit 18 then west on SR 688 or I-275 north to exit 16 then follow signs to SR 688 East. The entrance to Feather Sound is on the north side of Ulmerton Road (SR 688), look for a tall flagpole. When you have entered Feather Sound, the clubhouse will be 0.4 miles ahead on your right (2201 Feather Sound Drive).

FEATURES: Plant sales, exhibitions, door prizes, and mini seminars from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Any Bromeliad Society member in Florida who wishes to sell plants, please contact Andy Price at (813)894-3541 for sales number and instructions.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Comfort Inn. 3580 Ulmerton Road. Clearwater, Florida 34622

Take I-275 south to exit 18 or I-275 north to exit 16, then west on Ulmerton Road (SR 688). One mile west of entrance to Feather Sound. A special rate of \$40 per room per night (1-4 persons) is available for this event. Just mention that you are attending the Bromeliad Extravaganza. Reservations should be made by August 15th. Send reservation card, phone: (813)573-1171 or FAX: (813)572-8736.

BANQUET: Will be at the Feather Sound Country Club. Festivities will begin at 7:00 PM dinner will be served at 8:00 PM. Reservations must be made by September 1st. Cost of \$14.50 includes the tax and tip.

RARE PLANT AUCTION: Will follow the dinner. Each Society is obligated to furnish six rare or semi-rare bromeliad plants (three per council rep). More will be gladly accepted, but not less. This is the only fund raising event of the year for the Florida Council. Your support is greatly appreciated

BANQUET RESERVATION

Send to:
Janet Bankhead 1367 Summerlin Dr. Clearwater, FL 34624
Enclosed is check in amount of \$_____ in payment for _____
banquet reservations on September 10th for the following
persons:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Cost for each dinner is 14.50. Reservations should be received no later than September 1st.

CROWING PAINS

Carol Johnson

Growers newly converted to the bromeliad cult have a tendency to snap up every available new plant that comes along, with the eventual result of being covered over with plants for which there is no room. For years I have been warning new society members that buying everything they see for sale will eventually do them in.

During the '80s Mother Nature took care of Florida growers with several killing freezes, but recent years have proven to be ideal for growing, and the plants have done that--grown and grown and grown. Now the complaint is "I haven't got room for even one more plant and those I have just keep on pupping". Also, as our members become more knowledgeable, they are killing fewer of their new acquisitions.

If you grow outdoors the problem is less severe--you can always park the car in the street and use the garage or driveway for growing space. Or, you can move to a new place with more yard space. You think I'm joking? I could, right now, name a half dozen growers/collectors who have done just that. Sell or give away the extras? Then you are starting others on the same path you followed, because you are unlikely to dispose of the most select clones or the healthiest plants.

It is for those of you who built a "little shadehouse" that I feel the greatest kinship, because I am one of you. My first greenhouse was a 14 x 26 glasshouse and it was enough room for all of six months. I now have in excess of 8500 square feet under cover, stuffed to the rafters.

Along the way I have learned there are ways to utilize existing space to the ultimate, while still providing light, air circulation and water to the plants.

The first and most attractive method is plant rings mounted on upright galvanized steel poles (see illustration). We use big coffee cans. It once was possible to get 3# cans, but with the current goofy marketing mentality, this has now shrunk to 2# 4 oz. These are

filled with fresh concrete and into this concrete is set a 12 inch piece of galvanized pipe, one end threaded, with the threaded end exposed. Put aside to dry and set securely. With the use of a threaded sleeve, galvanized pipe of any length, limited only by your reach, can be added and you are ready for your plant rings. We use the squares in the wire benches to brace the pipe so it will not lean, but it is possible to have your plant pole in an open area, free standing, provided there is a way to brace the top. The plant rings have an annoying way of slipping down on the pole when a plant is removed, but this can be avoided by wrapping the pole with masking tape. Plant rings can be purchased from Michael Kiehl in St Petersburg here in Florida, or from Southern Exposure in Beaumont, Texas to fit pots up to 7 inches and in staggered lengths. Both of these suppliers advertise in the BSI Journal.

Solution number 2 utilizes existing overhead pipes or hooks. The plants hang, one beneath another, on galvanized wire rings (see sketch). The rings are very inexpensive, are easily moved, and surprisingly sturdy. They are galvanized wire, however, so if the leaves of the plants touch the wire, it might be wise to wrap it or use plastic drinking straws for protection. We utilized overhead galvanized pipe for hanging and experienced some leaf damage from the drip, so you may want to encase your galvanized pipe in pvc pipe to avoid such a possibility. A standard size ring fits 6 inch pots, but any size can be made to special order (and higher cost). We use the rings mostly for large, wide leaf vrieaseas, keeping in mind that the bottom tier will get the least light. The rings are available at Imperial Builders in Apopka, Fl. in lots of 100.

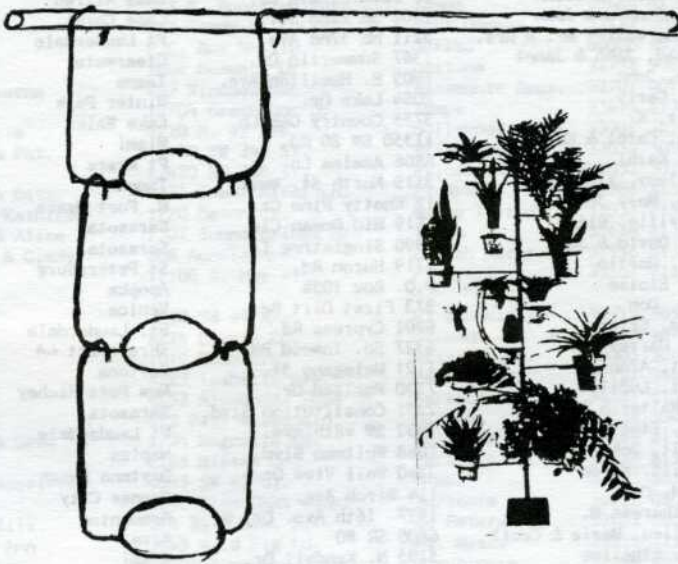
Neoregelias often get very large and their tremendous leaf spans gobble an awful lot of bench space. Invert a pot of the same or larger size and set the big plant up on it. This will free space on the bench under the oversize plant for several small ones. I hope you never get this crowded, but I am.

We have considered bench and overhead space. That leaves the ground, in the aisles and under the benches. To keep my nematode-free certification I cannot grow bromeliads

at ground level, but that is where the spent, pupping plants go. To my notion, it is a last resort, untidy and an open invitation to bugs and disease, even with the added protection of ground cover.

When all else fails, we have a lovely pile of rejected plants out under the trees. There is an open invitation to one and all to come and tote away any of them, and the plants disappear regularly. Some of the more hardy bromeliads are used in landscaping and are often stock plants when offsets are needed.

When you completely run out of space, do as I did, go into business.



Illustrations not by Van Gogh

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

Minutes of Business Meeting held July 9, 1994 hosted by West Coast Bromeliad Society at the home of Bob Steiger.

PRESENT: Representatives from Caloosahatchee (Sam & Hattie Lou Smith), Central Florida (Ed Hall), Florida East Coast (Art Hyland & Ted Nuse), Florida West Coast (Lois Duffey & Fay O'Rourke), Imperial Polk (Mary Jane Albright & Whit Merrin), Jacksonville (Al Muzzell & Carolyn Schoenau), Sarasota (Wally Berg & Jan Dahlin), Seminole (Bud Martin), South Florida (Virginia Schrenker) Tampa Bay (Pat Patterson & Tom Wolfe), West Pasco (Gwen Carnegie & Bob Steiger) and Carol Johnson, Treasurer.

ABSENT: Bromeliad Society of Broward County.

GUESTS: Howard Frank, Nancy Hall, Ronald Schoenau and Jim Schrenker.

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm on July 9, 1994 by Chairman Bob Steiger.
2. Secretarial report: The secretarial report had been distributed previously with the meeting Agenda. Art Hyland moved and it was seconded that the minutes stand approved as distributed.
3. Treasurer's report: Carol Johnson distributed the Treasurer's report for period ending June 30, 1994. A copy is appended to the minutes. Carol Johnson also distributed membership rosters for each society to verify and return to her prior to August 1.
4. 1994 Extravaganza: Information was distributed by Lois Duffey concerning the September 10, 1994 Extravaganza (a copy is appended to the minutes). The important change to note is the location. It will be held at the Feather Sound Country Club. Hotel reservations should be made by August 15 and dinner reservations by September 1. Call Andy Price for a seller number. Six plants are requested from each society for the auction.
5. Mosquito booklet: Bob Steiger had eight copies of the first printing of the mosquito booklet available.

Howard Frank distributed an order form for the second printing of the mosquito booklet.

6. Weevil report. The report on the Panama trip was made by Howard Frank and Al Muzzell. Purpose of the trip was to search for and bring back *Metamasius callizonas*. Weevils found were *Metamasius cincinnatus*. These weevils make a cocoon and are very similar to *callizona*. Approximately 115 of the *cincinnatus* were brought back to Gainesville for further study. Howard Frank felt that even though their natural habitat is about 4,000 feet that they will live and do well in Gainesville. As yet, no natural enemy to *cincinnatus* is known. The cost of the trip was about \$200 less than the original estimate of \$2,940. Al Muzzell will prepare a report to the Research Station in Panama concerning the plants studied and Howard Frank will do the same for the weevils obtained.

Information was also requested about the banana moth. Al Muzzell reported that bathing the bromeliad in cygon will rid the plant of the banana moth.

7. Miscellaneous: Carol Johnson requested that names and addresses of commercial growers in the reps' areas be sent to her.

8. Next meeting: The next Florida Council meeting will be held at Ed and Nancy Hall's home, hosted by Central Florida Bromeliad Society, on October 8, 1994.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schoenau, Secretary
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc.

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Second Quarter 1994 at 6/30/94

Balance, 4/1/94, GENERAL FUND	6,679.62
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Deposits	-0-
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EXPENSE:

Tru-Dimension Printers	308.93	
US Postmaster, XIV #2	76.32	
Quill, Extravaganza Envelops	45.86	
Quill, Labels & Printer Rib.	32.40	463.51

Balance, General Fund	6,216.11
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WEEVIL FUND:

Beginning Balance,	10,560.97	
Deposit, Caloosahatchee		
Plant Auction	<u>1,540.00</u>	<u>12,100.97</u>

BALANCE, 6/30/94 Reconciled	<u>\$18,317.08</u>
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The \$11.58 in dispute at last report has been credited to our account.

Petty Cash:

Beginning Balance	20.78
Auction Cash	<u>31.00</u>
	51.78
Copies & telephone,	
Vol. XIV, #2	<u>11.23</u>
Balance	40.55

Submitted: Carol Johnson, Treasurer
7/10/94

SHOW PAGE

September 10, 1994 FLORIDA COUNCIL EXTRAVAGANZA
Hosted by Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society.
At Feather Sound Country Club. SEE FULL PAGE
DETAILS IN THIS NEWSLETTER. General Chairperson,
Lois Duffey, (813) 536-3682.

October 15-16, 1994. SEMINOLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY,
second annual standard judged show, at Seminole
Ag Center Auditorium; Sanford, Fl. Judging on
Saturday A.M., show open 9-5 Saturday & Sunday.
There will be no plant sales. General Chair-
person Peggy Nuse, (904) 673-2648.

1994 FLORIDA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Please check
the roster for addresses and telephone numbers.

BROWARD: Polly Pascal and Anne Kauffman
CALOOSAHATCHEE: Sam & Hattie Lou Smith
CENTRAL FLORIDA: Ed Hall & Geoffrey Johnson
FLORIDA WEST COAST: Fay O'Rourke & Lois Duffey
FLORIDA EAST COAST: Arthur Hyland & Ted Nuse
IMPERIAL POLK: Carl Perryn & Whit Merrin
JACKSONVILLE: Carolyn Schoenau & Al Muzzell
SARASOTA: Wally Berg & Jane Dahlin
SEMINOLE: Bud Martin & Charles Tait
SOUTH FLORIDA: Nat DeLeon & Virginia Schrenker
TAMPA BAY: Tom Wolfe & Judy Patterson
WEST PASCO: Bob Steiger & Gwen Carnegie

OFFICERS:

Chairman: Bob Steiger, West Pasco
Vice Chairman: Bud Martin, Seminole
Secretary: Carolyn Schoenau, Jacksonville
Treasurer: Carol Johnson, Seminole (Permanent Treas)