



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

MATERIAL PRINTED HEREIN IS THE PROPERTY OF FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES AND MAY BE REPRODUCED ONLY IF CREDIT IS GIVEN AND OWNERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGED.

VOLUME XV - ISSUE I

FEBRUARY 1995

FEBRUARY 1995

CATCHING UP - STAYING EVEN

As a member of the Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) Bromeliad Society, I have just received #4 of Volume I of their magazine "Bromelia". The text is in Portuguese and English, the articles are excellent and it contains beautiful color photos. There is also an advertising section listing Brazilian bromeliad sources. The cost for a contributing membership (USA) is \$40.00 annually, sent to Sociedade Brasileira de Bromelias; Caixa Postal 71034; 21015-970, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil.

The new Garden Activities building at Harry P. Leu Botanical Gardens in Orlando is now open to the public, and Bromeliad Society of Central Florida will begin holding it's monthly meetings there this month (February). The building consists of 22,000 sq. ft., is two story and designed to conform with early Orlando architecture. It's outdoor veranda (22 x 80 ft.) overlooks Lake Rowena. If you are in Orlando, try to visit the gardens. Soon, if possible--the azaleas and camellias are beautiful this time of year. There are also many bromeliads in the conservatory and throughout the landscape. BSCF is making arrangements to have the FCBS Extravaganza in the new building, perhaps on September 9, 1995.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELLA KELLY. She will celebrate her 107th birthday on March 13. She is indisputably the oldest living member of a bromeliad society (Seminole) and would love to receive your greetings on her big day. Her address is in the state roster, but in case you do not have it, it is: 451 South Amelia Ave.; Deland, Fl. 32724.

OVERHEARD The only way to come out of the nursery business with a small fortune is to go into it with a big one.

Heard from Michael & Ruth LeVasseur at Christmas, so guess they still have some sand in their shoes. Their Texas address is: Rt. 5, Box 289; Terrell, Tx. 75160.

The TV weather forecasters worked very hard trying to whip up a freeze for Florida, and finally were successful this past week. 28-30 degrees two nights in a row, but no significant damage here.

JUDGING SCHOOL: It is not too late to enroll in the upcoming judging school, which will hold its first session on Saturday, March 4, at Flamingo Gardens in Davie (Ft Lauderdale). Further details are listed in the FCBS minutes (this issue). Cost is about \$25.00 per session (six sessions). If you are not already enrolled and wish to do so, call or write Betty Ann Prevatt at 2902 First St.; Fort Myers, Fl. 33916, telephone (813) 334-0242.

IT IS OFFICIAL. Bromeliad Society of Central Florida will host the 1995 FCBS Extravaganza at Harry P. Leu Botanical Gardens in Orlando on Saturday, September 9, 1995. The agreement is signed. The Gardens will publicize the event in their magazine and through the media, so as to get a big turnout from the public. BSCF is contacting nearby motels for special rates for our overnight guests. There will be further details as plans go forward, but by all means mark your calendar.

Three people have recently asked me for seeds from *Aechmea orlandiana*. I do not have any, but the plant often self-seeds. If you by chance have any, please save them and send them to me and I will get them distributed.

Any contributions of garden related cartoons or line drawings of plants would be welcomed. They are needed to fill in the pauses at the bottom of the pages of this Newsletter.

GROWING UP

This issue of the Newsletter marks the beginning of my 15th year as Editor. It all began as an effort to replace the then-recently-defunct "Grande". The first two years the pages were run off at the printer, then I took them home, collated, folded and stitched (stapled) them. Mailing labels were prepared by photocopying master sheets onto pages of mailing labels. In order to conform with bulk mail procedure, the entire lot was sorted by hand into zip-code bundles. In 1982 I began the process of securing non-profit status from IRS for Florida Council in order to obtain the much lower postal rate. It took almost two years to finalize our 501(C)3 status and this was done without any legal assistance or expense. From that experience I learned that common-sense and persistence pay off.

In the second year I developed a "trigger" thumb on my right hand. The pain forced me to do something which should have been done all along-- have the collating, folding and stitching done by the printer.

In 1986 I purchased my first PC and soft ware which enabled me to run my own mailing labels in zip-code order. It was wonderful. Now, I can label, sort and bundle the entire issue in 3 hours. My PC has also made it possible for me to print the entire state roster in alpha order for the annual edition, which previously had been a dreaded menial typing job. I have always done all the layout and pasting (you noticed, huh?). Now that I have a FAX it would be feasible to have all the copy typeset (costs more) without having to make numerous trips to the printer with corrections.

In the beginning the Newsletter was, of necessity, a bare-bones project. There have been numerous complaints about the small print, which I can understand. However, print reduction makes it possible to put twice as much material in half the space for the same price. In 1993 FCBS furnished me with a new PC printer (also a file cabinet) and the change in the Newsletter format is undoubtedly noticeable. I would like to hear from the membership. Do you want a classy, slick, expensive Newsletter at much greater cost or is the present arrangement adequate? I would like to hear some opinions.

Cost of the present Newsletter (see Annual Financial Report this issue) is:

Direct Cost:	Printing	1,263.02
	Postage	299.99
Peripheral:	Permit, incidentals	100.00
		<hr/>
		\$ 1,663.01

Present mailing is 720/730 per issue or a total of .57345 each, or \$2.29 for all four issues. Each member society of FCBS is billed in August of each year at \$1.00 per member address to defray Newsletter costs and you can see that does not whack it. However, generous support of the annual rare plant auction at the Extravaganza has made our financial situation much more satisfactory. Mailing cost will increase with this issue. It was formerly .113 per copy and will increase to .116.

In all those fourteen years, even with repeated requests, there have been probably ten contributions of articles from the membership. If I make a mistake or step on a toe or two, I hear plenty, otherwise nothing. I have made it a policy not to use the many really good articles in the other society newsletters I receive (thank you), since they need to swap them around among themselves. Beginning this year, there will be no obituaries, because eventually I would miss one and hurt the feelings of one of my dear friends. Please, if you have information for the Newsletter, write it down and mail it to me. Then I will be responsible for any errors. In this issue, I am guessing about some of the show information, but it seemed important that it appear.

Only one copy of the Newsletter is mailed to an address. So, with many dual memberships, we are now reaching in excess of 1,000 members.

WE ARE GROWING UP-----

Carol Johnson

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

Minutes of Business Meeting held January 14, 1995 Hosted by the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society at the home of Sam and Hattie Lou Smith.

PRESENT: Representative from Caloosahatchee (Sam, Hattie Lou Smith), Central Florida (Ed Hall, Carol Johnson), Florida East Coast (Ted Nuse), Florida West Coast (Lois Duffey), Imperial Polk (Carl Perryn, Whit Merrin), Jacksonville (Carolyn Schoenau, Al Muzzell), Tampa Bay (Tom Wolfe, Judy Patterson) Sarasota (Wally Berg, Jane Dahlin) South Florida (Nat DeLeon), West Pasco (Evelyn Hayes).

ABSENT: Seminole and Broward.

GUESTS: Howard Frank, Ron Schoenau, Peggy Nuse, Nancy Hall, Betty Ann Prevatt, Gene McKenzie, Diane Molnar, Alton Lee and Peggy Bailey.

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm by Chairman Ed Hall.
2. Secretarial report: The secretarial report has been distributed previously with the meeting agenda. It was moved and seconded that the minutes stand approves with the following addition: #5, Extravaganza-Auction proceeds of \$2,465.50 were received. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer's Report: Carol Johnson distributed the Treasurer's report for the fourth quarter and the whole of 1994, ending 12-31-94. A copy is appended to the minutes.
4. Evil weevil report: Dr. Frank reported that he had sent parasitic weevil flies to be reared by Ronald Cave in Honduras. He is providing assistance to a Univ. of South Florida graduate student who is doing a study on enemies of bromeliads in nature.
5. Extravaganza Auction Policy: Handouts containing suggestions of auction guidelines were prepared by Lois Duffey and Geoff Johnson. Since both sets of guidelines were thorough and similar, Chairman Ed Hall volunteered to combine them into one document and present the guideline suggestions at the next Council meeting.
6. Speaker roster questionnaire: Questionnaires were passed out in order to bring the 1995 Speaker's Roster

up-to-date. Societies were asked to submit a list of their 1994 Programs to Chairman Ed Hall. This list will be added to the Speaker's Roster.

7. World Bromeliad Conference. James Boynton of Florida West Coast submitted the winning entry of "Orlandiana '96 for the theme of the World Bromeliad Conference to be held in Orlando in July of '96. Ed Hall passed out fliers to determine interest in pre and post conference tours. The fliers are to be presented to the societies membership and returned to Ed Hall by July '95. The exact dates for World Conference events were requested and will be recorded in the next quarters' minutes.

8. Mulford Foster video tapes. A motion was made, seconded and carried that the Foster tapes in the possession of Carol Johnson be donated to the World Bromeliad Conference.

9. Fifth International Cryptanthus Conference and Bromeliad Show: Tom Wolfe reported that the International Cryptanthus Conference and a BSI judged bromeliad show will be held Sept. 14-17, 1995 at the Wyndham Harbor Island Hotel in Tampa. Information fliers were distributed for Florida Council membership. A special rate of \$84 per night was obtained at the Wyndham Hotel.

10. Extravaganza '95: Carol Johnson moved that Central Florida host the one day Extravaganza at Leu Gardens, providing the facility is available. The motion was seconded and passed.

11. Judges School: Betty Ann Prevatt, Fla-Ga. Registrar, reported that the first session of the School will be held Saturday March 4, at Flamingo Gardens in Davie, Fl. Valerie Steckler will conduct the first school. Thereafter, sessions will be conducted by Florida instructors under the leadership of Bill Frazel. Carol Johnson made the motion that the Registrar be allowed to make all decisions regarding the Judges School. The motion was seconded and passed. Al Muzzell moved that Betty Ann Prevatt be reimbursed for Ms. Steckler's plane fare. Judges School fees, less expenses, will then be returned to the Fla. Council. The motion was seconded and passed. There are, at present, 18 students signed up for the school but more students are welcome. The schools will be held every six months for three years.

The site schedule is as follows: Broward, Fort Myers, Tampa, Orlando and Fort Myers. The host societies will make all arrangements but will not be responsible for expenses.

12. Miscellaneous: Al Muzzell volunteered to try to reactivate the Florida Council slide library.

Judy Patterson made the motion, it was seconded and carried that the next Florida Council meeting be held April 1, 1995 in Tampa.

On March 10-12 a Florida Federation of Garden Clubs sponsored show featuring bromeliads will be held at the Tampa Garden Center. Annual judged shows will be held in Sarasota in April and Miami in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

/s/ Hattie Lou Smith, Secretary

QUOTE: "A committee of three is three separate views, tabled. A committee of four is a split vote, no action. With a committee of five, at least two can't make the meeting, so we are back to a committee of three. Any individual who takes on a task and does a good job is a dictator. If he makes no progress, he gets all the blame."

The days are long enough now, and there is a hint of Spring in the air, so it is time to start taking pups from your Neoregelias. Let them harden for 10 days upright in a pot, however. It is also the time to treat plants with Florel for May bloom, and if you have any of the mixture left, throw it away. You may get plant damage if you save it for later use.

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

TREASURER'S CONSOLIDATED 1994 REPORT

Balance, 1/1/94, General Fund		\$ 7,348.94
Income: Assessments & Dues	833.00	
Subscriptions	4.00	
Auction Proceeds	2,465.50	<u>3,302.50</u>
		\$ 10,651.44

Expense:

Refunds, Adopt a Garden	97.50	
Tape Recorder Purchase	77.02	
Corporation Fee, Fla.	61.25	
Misc. postage	58.00	
Extravaganza:		
Postage	69.35	
Printing	58.31	
Envelopes	45.86	173.52
Chairman's Expense		107.11
Supplies		57.26
1995 Bulk Mail Permit		75.00
Newsletter, Vol 14, 4 issues:		
Printing	1,263.02	
Mailing	<u>299.99</u>	
	<u>1,563.01</u>	<u>2,269.67</u>

Balance, General Fund, 12/31/94	\$ 8,381.77
---------------------------------	-------------

WEEVIL FUND:

Balance, 1/1/94	10,382.00
Deposits, 1994	<u>2,458.00</u>
	12,840.00

Expense:

Shade cloth & shipping	112.03
Panama Trip	2,776.64
Escuela Panamericana	<u>1,592.50</u>
Total Expense	4,481.17

Balance, Weevil Fund, 12/31/94	<u>8,358.83</u>
--------------------------------	-----------------

Reconciled Bank Balance, 12/31/94	\$ <u>16,740.60</u>
-----------------------------------	---------------------

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fourth Quarter 1994 at 12/31/94

Beginning Balance, General Fund	\$ 8,818.99
Deposits:	163.00

\$ 8,981.99

EXPENSE:

Chairman reimbursement	45.58	
Extravaganza Printing	58.31	
Supplies (Quill)	24.86	
100-29c Stamps	29.00	
Tru-Dimension Printing	288.90	
Mail V. 14 #4	78.57	
US Postal Svc. 1995 Permit	75.00	600.22

Balance, General Fund \$ 8,381.77

Weevil Fund:

Beginning Balance	9,783.33
Deposits	168.00

\$ 9,951.33

EXPENSE:

Escuela Agricola Panam- ericana **	1,592.50
---------------------------------------	----------

Balance, Weevil Fund, 12/31 8,358.83

BALANCE IN BANK AT 12/31/94, Reconciled \$ 16,740.60

Petty Cash:

Beginning Bal.	26.96
Copies, Fax exp., excess bulk post.	7.44 = \$19.52

** This check is outstanding at 12/31/94. It represents
1/2 of anticipated expense.

HORTICULTURAL MISTAKES

Carol Johnson

The title of this paper should perhaps be "Hybridizing Errors", but since I am in no way an authority, there should be some latitude to hedge. These are all my opinions, and I would welcome any alternate view.

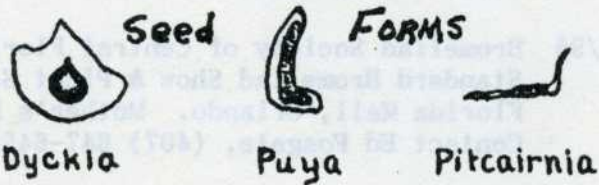
The majority of bi-generic crosses are terrible mistakes. There are a few exceptions, but most of those plants which are in our collections are weak, degenerate growers which deteriorate with each succeeding generation. In many cases, the bi-generic cross is wishful thinking, and the resulting offspring is merely a selfing of one parent or the other.

I do not believe there is even one successful bi-generic produced from Pitcairnioideae parents. Any resulting progeny usually die before blooming. Dyckias, pitcairnias, puya, hechtia--all have diverse seed forms which are not conducive to cross pollination. The bromelioideae subfamily is where the majority of the bi-generic crosses have been made. Many of these are mules and never bloom. I have in my greenhouse a cross between *Aechmea ludemanniana* and *Billbergia pyramidalis* (source ?). In the fifteen years I have been growing this plant it has never bloomed and it responds to Florel with a mess of offsets, so I cannot get rid of it. *XNeomea Meadiana* is a lovely plant, but it never produces roots and over the years has produced fewer and fewer blooms and offsets. The *XNeophytums* are probably the best of the bi-generics, but that is undoubtedly due to the caliber of the hybridizers. Also, these plants have good and bad years and it is hard to know exactly what their cultural wants are. The one time that I bloomed *XNeotanthus Cardboard* it produced seed, and the seed produced nondescript *Neoregelias*. The mother *XNeotanthus* then died and produced no offsets. My latest experience is a *XCanmea* which developed in a batch of *Aechmea chantinii* seedlings. There is so much random cross pollination among the *Aechmeas* in my greenhouse that I no longer harvest the thousands of seeds produced.

Hybridizers in the Tillandsioideae subfamily are striving to produce bi-generic plants with pollen sterile blooms which maintain color and form for a long time and are hence good commercial items. There are some nice ones, i.e. X Guzvriesea Marion and X Vrieslandia (V. Marieae X T. multicaulis, DeLeon). There will be more, and because the hybridizers of these plants are planning carefully, this subfamily will, in time, produce the most beautiful bi-generics.

I am all for hybridizing within the subfamilies, but leave bi-generics alone. Just to see if it can be done is not a good enough reason.

It would be interesting to hear your views on this subject.



SHOW PAGE

3/10-12/95 Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay will participate in Tampa Federated Flower Show, "Visions Unlimited" at the Tampa Garden Center

3/16-19/95 Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society will participate in "Everybody's Flower Show" Daytona Beach.

4/22-23/95 Sarasota Bromeliad Society 15th Annual Standard Bromeliad Show & Plant Sale At Selby Botanical Gardens; 811 Palm Ave. Sarasota. Party and Plant Auction Saturday night; reservations requested. Contact Patsy Worley (813) 747-2231.

5/12-14/95 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Annual Standard Bromeliad Show & Plant Sale at Florida Mall, Orlando. Mother's Day Weekend. Contact Ed Fosgate, (407) 647-6459.

5/20-21/95 South Florida Annual Bromeliad Show & Sale at Fairchild Botanical Garden, Miami. Show Chairman, Peniel Romanelli, (305)642-5597.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1995--ANNUAL FCBS ONE DAY EXTRAVAGANZA AT HARRY P. LEU BOTANICAL GARDENS; ORLANDO. Further details & special mailing later, but mark your calendar now.

9/14-17/95 Fifth International Cryptanthus Conference and Bromeliad Show. Wyndham Harbor Island Hotel, Tampa. Contact Tom Wolfe for hotel and conference registration forms.

7/1-8/96 World Bromeliad Conference. Clarion Plaza Hotel; Orlando, Florida. Show Chairman, Bud Martin, (407) 321-0838.

DEADLINE FOR SHOW INFORMATION IS FIRST OF THE MONTH FOLLOWING FCBS QUARTERLY MEETING, OR 2/1, 5/1, 8/1, 11/1.