



**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 XV - ISSUE IV

DECEMBER 1995

CATCHING UP - STAYING EVEN

THERE WAS no October meeting of the Florida Council, so you will find no report of minutes herein. This is the first cancelled quarterly meeting since the Council was formed in 1977. 1996 meetings shall be January, Imperial Polk; April, Jacksonville; July, Sarasota and October, Florida West Coast. The Jacksonville Bromeliad Society will furnish the Council Chairman; Caloosahatchee the Vice Chairman and Imperial Polk the Secretary. The office of Treasurer is a permanent one unless voted otherwise at the first quarterly meeting in January.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE WORKERS GONE? Each year it gets more difficult to get people to fill society offices, chair committees, enter and sell plants at shows, bring plants for "Show & Tell" or even to attend and participate in the monthly meetings. No one wants to even serve on a nominating committee. With only a couple of exceptions, this situation exists all over the state. The few really hard-working, loyal people are being worked to death and we will eventually lose them also. Why is this? And, what is the remedy? SPEAK UP.

DID YOU EVER WONDER WHY SEED COMPANIES package all their seeds in paper? Why not plastic? I read recently in a magazine (Greenhouse Grower, I think) that plastic of the type used in ziplock bags generates static electricity which effects the viability of the seeds and perhaps reduces the yield. True or not, I have gone back to paper towels and envelopes.

THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY in 1991 published "A Preliminary Listing of All Known Cultivars and Grex Names for the Bromeliaceae", compiled by Hybrid Registrar Don Beadle. This is a valuable book and should be owned by all serious bromeliad growers. The book is in the process of revision by the current Hybrid Registrar, Ellen Baskerville, who hopes to have the revision printed in 1996. It is important to get any new hybrids or cultivars registered in time to be included therein. Ellen's address is 5555 Shady Brook Trail; Sarasota, Fl. 34243.

ANNE KAUFFMAN of Bromeliad Society of Broward County has acquired the entire inventory of Tillandsia ionantha cv. Druid from Drew Schultz, who has moved out of the state. Ann says she is ready to wheel and deal, so give her a call at (305) 966-5890. Till. ionantha Druid flushes gold instead of red at blooming and the flowers are yellow and white.

1995 EXTRAVAGANZA held at Leu Botanical Gardens, Orlando, on September 9 was well attended. There was plenty of room for the event except in the sales area, which was crowded. The rare plant auction yielded \$1,541.00 to the Florida Council. This is below the 1994 amount of \$2,465.50, but the number of auction plants was limited and an afternoon auction does not promote reckless abandon when it comes to bidding. Auction expenses were high (\$240.53), much of which was caused by changes in auction procedure.

1996 EXTRAVAGANZA will be hosted by the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and held at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Date for the Extravaganza has been set tentatively as September 14.

The following is reprinted from the current BROMELIADVISORY of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida:

HONOR FOR NAT DELEON

We have been notified by Sidney Silverman that our own Nat Deleon is to be honored by the Tropical Plant Industry, Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association.

In January, 1996, Nat is to inducted into the Foliage Hall of Fame. The announcement says:

"The spotlight is on pioneers who have made significant contributions to the foliage industry. Nat Deleon, for outstanding development of numerous hybrids of both aglaonemas and bromeliads. Many of the early commercial hybrids of both of these plants came as a result of Mr. DeLeon's work. Through his collecting trips and extensive research, Mr. DeLeon has developed over 200 hybrids, many of which are mainstays of the commercial foliage industry today."

Congratulations, Nat, for well-deserved recognition of your contributions to the bromeliad industry. "

Ed. Note: Correct me if I am wrong, Nat, but were you not the first grower, in Florida and perhaps the U.S., to use bromeliads as ornamental landscape plants? And, to our Florida Council members, Nat is a co-founder of the Florida Council and a friend and mentor to all bromeliad lovers.

FLORIDA SALES & USE TAX

12A-1.037 Occasional or Isolated Sales or Transactions involving tangible personal property or services.....

There seems to be some confusion regarding the collection of Florida Sales Tax at our various plant sales throughout Florida.

I have a copy of the Sales and Use Tax Statute and have talked with the state representative about this. We have two categories of sales at our shows:

1. Commercial Growers who rent a booth and handle their own sales. These growers already have a Florida State Tax i.d. number and must collect the tax and report the sales (for the county in which the sale is held) on their monthly or quarterly tax return. Your society need not worry about them. They are on their own.
2. Individual Growers. Your society takes in plants on consignment from your members and acts as the seller of these plants to the ultimate consumer. The local, applicable sales tax must be paid on such sales. Your society may decide to "eat" the tax as part of the sales commission or deduct it as a separate item when disbursement is made to the member/grower. Consult your local sales tax office before the plant sale for the proper reporting procedure. You will receive a 2.5% collection allowance. If you have more than two sales annually, it may be more convenient to secure your own permanent tax i.d. number and make quarterly reports. However, failure to report regularly will make your society liable for a penalty. It is safest to treat each sale on an isolated basis.

In Issue I, Volume XIII, February 1993 I published an article regarding non-profit status for our plant societies. Non-profit does not make our societies exempt from Florida Sales Tax, since the tax is paid by the ultimate consumer who in this case is the person who buys and carries home the plant.

Another issue which tends to be forgotten during plant sales is the matter of plant inspection by Florida Dept of Agriculture. Call your local ag office well before the plant sale and request that an inspector be on hand on the day of the sale. In my experience they only show up about half the time, but that is their problem. At a sale by a non-profit society, there should be no charge for this inspection.

BRAZILIAN BROMELIAD SOCIETY

As a member of the Brazilian Bromeliad Society, I have just received a copy of the BYLAWS. I was so impressed with their Chapter II - OBJECTIVES, that I am reprinting them below. The society was organized in 1993, and in addition to regular newsletters in Portuguese, they publish a very good quarterly magazine in English and Portuguese, printed professionally and containing many authoratative articles and color photos. At latest count, this new society had 400 members. They welcome contributing members from outside Brazil, and you may send your \$40.00 annual fee in U.S. funds to:

Sociedade Brasileira De Bromelias
Caix Postal 71024
21015-970, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

All correspondence to members in U.S. is by Air Mail.

CHAPTER II - OBJECTIVES

Art. 4th - The objectives of the Society are:

- I- To promote the study, cultivation and conservation of the Bromeliaceae family.
- II- To contribute actively toward the conservation and maintenance of Brazilian ecosystems, especially the ones with the largest occurrence of bromeliads.
- III- To set up an inventory and map Brazilian habitats, their respective species of bromeliads and research the multiple interactions of these with the environment.
- IV- To promote and encourage identification and classification of Bromeliaceae.

- V- To promote and encourage the ex-situ reproduction of species, especially those in danger of extinction, vulnerable or rare, through diverse techniques.
- VI- To combat extraction practices dangerous to the environment and which can place in risk the in-situ survival of the species and their diverse ecotypes and populations.
- VII- To combat commerce which aims at near or remote extraction of plants from nature.
- VIII- To document and combat the spontaneous proliferation of exotic or native species in conservation areas where they do not occur naturally.
- IX- To institute Brazilian Registration of species, as well as of the growers and hybrids that are produced by Brazilian cultivators.
- X- To promote and develop practices and handbooks on cultivation, fertilization, combat of plagues and illnesses, hybridization, etc.
- XI- To research and reconstitute the history of Brazilian studies on bromeliads.
- XII- To organize cultural programs with the aim of arousing interest in bromeliads, through exhibitions, courses, debates, symposiums, conferences and congresses.
- XIII- To promote interchange with congeners societies, universities, and scientific spheres, in Brazil and abroad.
- XIV- To promote improvement in the quality standards of bromeliads, giving courses in judging of plants and flowers, as well as preparing and improving judges and judging committees, including preparation of a handbook on quality standardization norms and awarding of prizes.
- XV- To edit technical publications including periodicals.
- XVI- To furnish technical and scientific assistance wherever required.



BRASILIANIANA 96

Twelfth World Bromeliad Conference • Orlando Florida

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Third Quarter 1995 at 9/30/95

Beginning Balance, General Fund \$ 7,327.08

Deposits:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Newsletter Assess. | 765.00 | |
| Ext. Auction | 1,541.00 | |
| Reimb. BSCF | 55.00 | <u>2,361.00</u> |
| | | \$ 9,688.08 |

Expense:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Chairman's Exp. | 8.00 |
| Postage, 1st Class | 64.00 |
| Vol. XV #3 Print | 484.71 |
| " " Mail | 81.30 |
| Extrav. Mailing, Print | 49.81 |
| " " Mail | 78.31 |
| " print envelopes, misc. supplies, Quill | 123.38 |
| Auction Exp. Cards | 36.43 |
| Extrav. Liquor License* | 25.00 |
| Fla. Dept. Revenue* | 30.00 |

Total Expense 980.94

Balance, General Fund, 9/30/95 \$ 8,707.14

* Reimbursed

Weevil Fund, Beginning Balance \$ 9,509.93

Deposits:

| | | |
|---------|--------|---------------|
| 7/13/95 | 237.00 | |
| 9/11/95 | 100.00 | |
| 9/26/95 | 172.00 | <u>509.00</u> |

Subtotal 10,018.93

Expense:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Escuela Agricola Panamerica ** | <u>1,592.50</u> |
| Balance, Weevil Fund, 9/30/95 | \$ <u>8,426.43</u> |

Combined Balance, Reconciled \$17,133.57

**Outstanding at 9/30/95

Petty Cash fund exhausted (mail parcels, copies)

Submitted: Carol Johnson, Treasurer, 9/15/95

CULTURAL HINTS FOR BROMELIAD GROWERS

AECHMEA: Each species in the genus should be considered separately since the habitat covers nearly every geographic area where bromeliads are found. The Aechmeas of Brazil, Bolivia & Chile are more hardy than those from Central America, the Caribbean & Amazonian South America. Some require feeding, some are hurt by application of fertilizer. Nearly all do well when mounted provided they are started young, before the plants are heavy, but, remember that mounted plants require daily care indoors. Plant size ranges from very small to very large. Plants which will ultimately be large should be weighted at potting time with rocks in the bottom of the pot. After blooming, many Aechmeas produce colorful, attractive seeds, all of which are edible.

BILLBERGIA: With few exceptions this genus should be protected from freezing. Plants should be underpotted and fertilized very sparingly. Overfeeding produces lush,

green growth at the expense of foliage color & it may take 3 generations of pups before color is restored. Those from subgenus *Helicodea* are the least cold hardy. Subgenus

Billbergia species nearly all bloom during the Winter months when their blooms, though fleeting, are welcome.

ANDROLEPIS, ANANAS, ARAEOCOCCUS, ORTHOPHYTUM, X NEOPHYTUM: These have all been lumped together since they seem to thrive on similar treatment. *Androlepis* & *Ananas* (Pineapple) are large plants. The others are more manageable in size. All require strong light, rich soil, generous pot size, regular feeding and plenty of moisture. Most prefer warm weather and growth is slowed during Winter months.

QUESNELIA, HOHENBERGIA, PORTEA, STREPTOCALYX: Until the switch to *Aechmea* is official, I shall continue to list *Streptocalyx* as a separate genus. There are some big, mean plants in these four genera. *Quesnelia* is the most cold hardy, most surviving outdoors under trees in Central Florida. *Portea* is the next hardiest, while *Hohenbergia* & *Streptocalyx* are always very tender. Strong light & cessation of feeding when the plants are mature produces best foliage color & promotes blooming. Be selective growing *Hohenbergia*. Many have nothing but size to recommend them, having green foliage & colorless blooms. We list only the attractive forms. *Streptocalyx* have very spiny leaves, but are extremely beautiful in bloom. Grow warm, on the dry side & furnish lots of light.

CANISTRUM, CRYPTANTHUS, X CANMEA, NIDULARIUM; Here again, these take similar treatment. Cryptanthus are always terrestrial, but the other 3 can be grown mounted. All like rich soil, plenty of moisture, and should be fertilized regularly. A fairly low light level is important. Crypts & X Canmea do best in 60% shade, the rest tolerate even lower light levels. Nidulariums are tolerant of cold, wet conditions and are greatly under-rated. They are great as poolside specimens or under shrubbery in the yard. Because they resemble Neoregelias, they are often grown the same and the result is disappointing. Don't be alarmed if they drop lower leaves. That is normal for the genus. Treat Canistrum as Nidularium.

NEOREGELIA: Offsets of Neoregelia from the same plant, grown by two different people in different areas, can mature with very little resemblance to one another. The plants are very sensitive to light, fertilizer and pot size and these make a world of difference in the finished plant. Most do best when underpotted and underfed, grown on the dry side, and, here in Florida, subjected to as much strong light as they can endure. 50% shade is always safe. Neos do well outdoors in Summer, but can pick up a lot of leaves & debris which makes them unsightly. With good growing conditions the Neos give more satisfaction with less work than many other bromeliads. Set offsets upright in an empty pot for at least 10 days to harden off before potting, but keep water in the cup. Off-sets should not be taken or potted during short days.

THE PITCAIRNIOIDEAE: This subfamily was the forerunner of all bromeliads, evolving in the deep past from the grass family. All (Dyckia, Hechtia, Pitcairnia, Deuterocohnia, Fosterella) are terrestrials requiring copious amounts of water & fertilizer when grown as pot specimens. Either water daily or grow standing in saucers of water. Dyckia is from Brazil and very cold hardy. Hechtias are native from Texas thru Central America & are extremely tender. Pitcairnias are becoming more popular, even though the foliage is often grassy and sloppy. Blooms are spectacular red, yellow, orange. Pitcairnia habitat is damp creek banks and shady locations. They seem to enjoy a dormant, dry recess for several months during Winter, which forces bloom when watering is resumed. Dyckias & Hechtias should be grown in strong sunlight, and since they have enormous root systems, need to be overpotted. There are no valid bi-generics in Pitcairnioideae.

TILLANDSIA: Collectors visualize Tillandsias as dry growing, sun-loving epiphytes. That is the exception rather than the rule. Those with the heaviest coat of peltate (fuzzy)

scales will survive dry conditions best, but this is their mechanism for extracting moisture from the air. All of the Tillandsias need moisture. In the wild, many grow on tree limbs where they are protected by the foliage, nourished by bird droppings & leaf mold. Do not treat them all the same. Research the habitat and treat accordingly. Green-house grown plants require applications of liquid fertilizer. Size span is 1/2 inch to 7 feet.

GUZMANIA: Low light, warm air, plenty of plant food and moist pot space. Guzmanias are truly tropical plants and frustrating for many new growers. Neglect of any sort is intolerable. Feed heavily and keep in a constant, stable environment. The Guzmania hybrids are easier to grow than the species and usually more spectacular. Grow outdoors at your own risk.

VRIESEA: These are the aristocrats of the bromeliaceae. They come small & huge, with plain green or exotically patterned and colorful, spineless foliage. The plants look fragile, but are probably the hardiest of all bromeliads. They have shallow root systems and should, therefore, be fed thru the leaves with liquid fertilizer. Dry conditions are tolerated better than wet, but surrounding air should be moist and cool. Some like strong light, but the general rule is 60-65% shade. Small to medium-size green leaved Vrieseas make the best showing when allowed to clump, and their bloom season is late Winter.

FERTILIZER & POTTING SOIL: We add superphosphate & potash to our potting mix and top dress with slow release nitrogen fertilizer only as needed. This has improved the quality of our plants.

Just recently, I have begun the practice of introducing some lime (dolomite) into the potting mix when planting bromeliads which are naturally terrestrial. This includes nearly all the Pitcairniaceae, plus Orthophytum and especially the Cryptanthus which is very dependent on the soil mix for good growth.

Everyone has his/her own recipe for potting mix. Whatever works is good enough. I mix like I cook--a little of this and maybe a dash of that, then top with a little Osmocote and also cover that with some bark or sand so it doesn't wash away.

Carol Johnson, 12/95