

**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 XVII - ISSUE II

MAY/JUNE 1997

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CATCHING UP - STAYING EVEN

THIS NEWSLETTER is later than usual, but that will occur when the Council meeting is late, as it was this time.

PLEASE MAKE A CORRECTION on the list of offices printed in the last issue for Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. The Treasurer is Helen Kwiat, not Ed Hall. Ed is Treasurer of the Seminole Society. My error. Sorry.

SHOULD THE PRESENCE of scale insects on a plant being exhibited in a show be noted by the judges on the registration card? The problem arose at the Central Florida show and the Miami show. In both cases I persuaded the judging panel to forego comment and merely punch the "judged" slot. Why? First, Classification should have caught it and withdrawn the plant, thus sparing the exhibitor. Second, it is very embarrassing to have it there, written on the tag, for all to see, that there is scale (most possibly dead, but scale nonetheless) on their plant. Since exhibitors are becoming endangered species in many Florida shows, let us be careful how we treat them. The Show and/or Judge's Chairman should take care, however, that the exhibitor is notified of the shortcoming. Do you feel otherwise? Let me know.

BEST IN SHOW, HORTICULTURE was won both at the Sarasota Show & the Central Florida Show this May by clumps of blooming Tillandsia funckiana.

THE NEXT ISSUE, AUGUST, will contain the 1997 state membership roster, so it is imperative that I receive as soon as possible the latest, complete roster from all societies. Errors and omissions in the annual roster linger to haunt us for a whole year, so please make a special effort to get the information to me.

1996 NEWSLETTER COST, per mailing cost FCBS \$2.282 each address. Total cost (for three mailings, remember) was \$1,741.37, which included 3/4 of the bulk mail fee. There was an average of 763 pieces per mailing. Costs continue to climb, so perhaps we should consider only 3 mailings annually. 'Tis for the Council to decide. In case you wonder why 3/4, that is because we do a non-profit mailing for the Extravaganza and that is separate expense.

NEXT MEETING OF THE FLORIDA COUNCIL will be hosted by the Seminole Bromeliad Society at the Sanford Garden Club building on Saturday, July 12, and will mark the twentieth anniversary of the organization of the Council which, coincidentally, also occurred in Seminole County in June of 1977 (at my house, to be exact). As one of the founders of FCBS, I would like to extend a personal invitation to all former representatives of the Council to attend the meeting in Sanford and reminisce about the early days.

DRIFTWOOD. In the last issue, I asked for possible sources of driftwood for mounting bromeliads. I had several replies, some duplicates. Ernestine Murphy of 5779 Tahiti Dr.; Bokeelia, Fl. 33922 (941) 283-4533 says they "have a large stock of driftwood for sale on hand, and can get any amount anyone wants". Two or three people reported that Tropiflora in Tallevast has a good supply and though he did not volunteer the information, I saw a big pile of driftwood at Blossom World in Sanford lately.

DR. LYMAN B. SMITH of the Smithsonian Institution passed away on May 4, 1997 at the age of 92. Without Dr. Smith, the family bromeliaceae would still be an obscure plant family. His compilation of Monograph XIV, Volumes 1, 2, 3, completed in 1976, is the ultimate authority in the plant family. We are tremendously grateful for his legacy, especially since he was probably in his seventies when the work was completed.

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

TREASURER'S REPORT

First Quarter 1997 at 3/31/97

Beginning Balance, General Fund	\$ 6,886.43
Deposits	64.00
	<hr/>
	6,950.43

Expense:

Copies	8.27	
Postage	64.00	
Florida Corp. Tax	61.25	
Bulk Mail Permit, 1997	85.00	
Beaumont Garden Club	125.00	
Quill (Extrav. envelopes & authorized file supplies)	169.87	
BIC	300.00	
Volume XVII #1, Print	471.70	
" " Postage	91.69	
Offsite Mailing Service	<u>45.00</u>	<u>1,421.78</u>

Balance, General Fund, 3/31/97	\$ 5,528.65
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WEEVIL FUND, Beginning Bal.	2,883.23
Deposits	<u>2,492.09</u>
	5,375.32
To Honduras, 3/26 (outstanding)	<u>2,300.00</u>

Balance, Weevil Fund, 3/31/97	<u>3,075.32</u>
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RECONCILED BALANCE IN BANK, 3/31/97	\$ <u>8,603.97</u>
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Note: \$1,300.00 from BSCF deposited Weevil Fund April.

Submitted: Carol Johnson, Treasurer, 4/21/97



Photo courtesy of Stetson University

Longtime friends who stopped by with gifts and best wishes for the 109th birthday of Ella Reardon Kelley, center, include, from left, Pope Duncan, Stetson University chancellor; Amory Underhill, Stetson trustee, emeritus; Linda Davis, Stetson associate vice president; and Gary Meadows, Alumni Association executive director.

Friends honor Ella Kelley with 109th birthday bash

DELAND — Ella Reardon Kelley celebrated her 109th birthday Friday with cake, flowers and friends at the DeLand Convalescent Center.

Longtime friends who stopped by with gifts and best wishes included Pope Duncan, Stetson University chancellor; Amory Underhill, Stetson trustee, emeritus; Linda Davis, Stetson associate vice president; Gary Meadows, Alumni Association

executive director; Kelley's nephew and his wife, Morton and Kay Briggs, Middletown, Conn.; and DeLand Mayor David Rigsby, who presented a key to the city.

Stetson's oldest alumna, Kelley was 60 when she graduated with the class of 1948. Originally from New York, she has lived in DeLand since the 1930s. She was born March 15, 1888.

Mrs. Ella Kelley is a member of the Seminole Society.

ODDS & ENDS

Carol Johnson

WHY WON'T THEY BLOOM? Many bromeliads are shy bloomers, and then some seem never to bloom. One such is *Vriesea phillipo-coburgii* and it's erstwhile relative *Vriesea vagans*. These two will only bloom outdoors here in Central Florida when we have a continuous stretch of, say 30 days, when night temperatures are at least 20 degrees below daytime highs. Needless to say, they are very hardy and bloom in my outdoor plantings every winter. I finally threw in the towel and disposed of *Aechmea magdalenae* quadricolor after 12 years. It was a virtual scale factory, and though it pupped profusely, it never bloomed. I passed it on to Jim Irvin of Cape Coral and he promptly made it into a beautiful specimen plant. Anyone who claims to have bloomed the hybrid *Billbergia Muriel Waterman* does not have the real thing. Treatment with Florel results in a dead mama and probably six offsets (for me). *Aechmea Burgundy* (*distichantha schlum. x weilbachii*) by Foster will not bloom as a pot specimen in the greenhouse, but withstands freezing temperatures and blooms profusely in the landscape. I waited six years for a mature specimen of *Aechmea marie-regina* to bloom. The plant was enormous and the bloom gorgeous, but it lasted only about ten days. Enough, already, I no longer grow the plant. There are more, but these come readily to mind. Of course, there are reasons why these plants do not bloom in Florida--altitude, temperature, moisture, light, but non-blooming plants do diminish the grower's ego.

1996 SEED PRODUCTION. About 50 percent of the plants in my greenhouse are grown from seed, species & hybrids. In the growing year 1996 there were NO seeds produced on *Neoregelias* in my nursery. The seeds from *Pitcairnia* and *Dyckia* did not germinate, and seeds from berried bromelioideae produced very few seedling and these contained stunted and/or freaked specimens. I have no explanation for this phenomenon, but would like to know if it occurred elsewhere. 1997 is starting well. There is good germination from seed of *Quesnelia marmorata* and *Aechmea corymbosa*.

ZAP. During the long period of drought here in Florida which included the years from 1978 to 1992, there occurred, from time to time, at least in Central Florida, something that we called "zap". When thunder clouds formed, lightning made the air sizzle, but no rain fell and the clouds drifted away, we began to realize that unless we immediately watered our plants thoroughly, there would be serious leaf damage. We speculated ozone damage, an excess of dry nitrogen particles; whatever, it was lethal to bromeliads. Came the rainy, wet years and we forgot all that and began worrying about algae. Then, this year, after a dry February and March, we had a recurrence of the old malady and many growers suffered extensive leaf damage. It would be nice to have an informed analysis of this distressing situation. Also, did growers in other parts of Florida suffer similar damage?

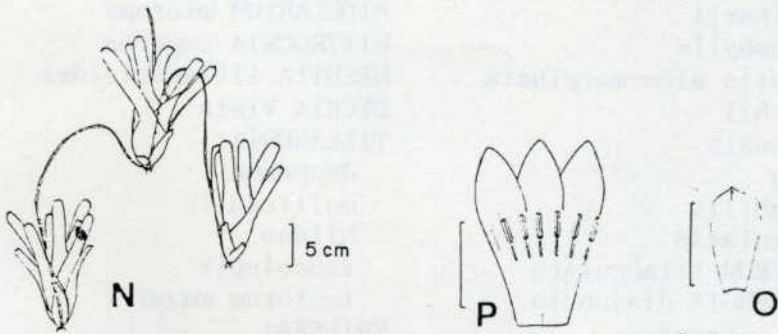
Neoregelia Charm. (*chlorosticta* x *marmorata*, Goode). In my lifetime I have diapered three babies and house-broken countless puppies and kittens, but NEVER have I smelled anything so foul as Neo. Charm at the peak of blooming. It is a very nice plant with a fine production of wide red, speckled leaves and is larger than average size. I first noticed the smell when I entered a fine specimen in the Tampa World Conference and considered it an isolated incidence. But, it has happened again and again. Check it out. On the other hand, there are *Neoregelias* which are delightfully fragrant, at least in the morning. *Neoregelia oligantha* is the best, along with many of the small, ampullaceae types.

WEEVIL FUND DONATIONS FIRST QUARTER 1997

Carol Breen	25.00
Seminole Bromeliad Society	1,134.50
Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society	100.00
Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society	321.00
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society	89.00
Fay O'Rourke	25.00
Bromeliad Society of South Florida	500.00
West Pasco (dissolution balance)	297.59
	<u>\$ 2,492.09</u>

NEOREGELIA *hoehneana* deserves special mention when discussing non-blooming bromeliads. It is a Brazilian plant with a limited habitat in Sao Paulo province. I acquired the plant in the 70's (as something else, of course). It is a small, stoloniferous plant no larger than *Neo. fireball*, but with longer, wirier stolons. The leaves are very dark, fairly tubular, with no more than fifteen per plant. In the twenty years I have owned this plant, it has been bloomed only once with the help of Florel. The result was two very peaked white flowers which produced no pollen and would accept none from other plants. Many hybridizers have been foiled in attempts to utilize it in their work. I have in my collection a small plant marked "*hoehneana x johannis*". *Neo johannis x hoehneana* maybe, but with *Neo. hoehneana* listed as the seed parent, the cross is very suspect. Another small *Neoregelia* from Brazil (*Neo. simulans*) is likewise mute, but it does not have the desirable traits of *Neo. hoehneana*.

There is an illustration of *Neoregelia hoehneana* by Margaret Mee in the book "The Bromeliads, Jewels of the Tropics" with text by Lyman B. Smith.



N-P, *N. hoehneana* (A. Gehrt in SP 44469): N, habit; O, sepal; P, petals and stamens.

August 16, 1997 - TENTH ANNUAL BROMELIAD FANTASY
Seminole Bromeliad Society. Hours 9:00
A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at Volusia County Ag
Center; SR 44, just East of I-4. Displays,
plant sales, seminars. Carol Johnson,
(407) 333-0445.

THE ANNUAL EXTRAVAGANZA SPONSORED BY THE FLORIDA
COUNCIL WILL BE HOSTED THIS YEAR BY BROMELIAD SOCIETY
OF BROWARD COUNTY & BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF S. FLORIDA.
PRESENT PLANS ARE TO HOLD IT AT THE DON SHULA HOTEL,
LOCATED ON 826 SOUTH OF THE PRO-PLAYERS STADIUM SOME
TIME IN SEPTEMBER. THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER
WILL HAVE COMPLETE PLANS & THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL
MAILING IN ADDITION.

Following is a list of other shy-blooming bromeliads.
All bloom eventually, but take their own sweet time.

AECHMEA:	NEOTANTHUS Cardboard
purpurea rosea	Waffle
castelnavii	NIDULARIUM microps
chlorophylla	WITTROCKIA superba
coelestis albo-marginata	HECHTIA tillandsioides
lamarchii	DYCKIA Vista
marauensis	TILLANDSIA:
ornata	deppeana
spectabilis	multicaulis
triangularis	hildae
CANISTRUM triangulare	leucolepis
HOHENBERGIA disjuncta	tectorum major
rosea	VRIESEA:
stellata	altodessarae
NEOREGELIA simulans	atra
NEOMEA Strawberry	heiroglyphica