

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:

Geoff Johnson, Editor at cover address

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VOLUME XIX
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VOLUME-XIX ISSUE II

CATCHING UP ----- STAYING EVEN

I hope that this format is a little easier for you to read as compared to my last effort. In spite of the billions of dollars Bill Gates has made from Microsoft some of these programs will drive you batty learning the nuances of their performance.

Enough of the preliminary nonsense, this is supposed to be a bromeliad related newsletter.

The weevil research is moving along with promising results but we still need the member societies to continue to provide the kind of support we have enjoyed in the past. There will be a "Thank You" list later in the text and I'll say now if you contributed and were not mentioned it was an oversight and not an intentional snub.

The council is also looking for volunteers who will be willing to germinate and grow seed from wild collected Florida native Tillandsias that are endangered by the weevil. If you wish to volunteer just tell your FCBS representative that you're ready, willing, and able to help with this project. The purpose of the seedlings is to return plants to their original locale if the wild population is ravaged by the weevil.

Those of you who are hooked up to the Web and have not checked out the FCBS home page are missing one of the best sites that I have seen. Michael Andreas deserves a big round of applause for his hard work.

There is an important item of business I need to interject here. I need to have all rosters before August 1, 1999 in order to assure that the annual roster is updated and I am able to bill the annual society assessments.

According to bylaws they are to be billed on or about September 1, 1999. If your rosters are not received by August 1 I will generate a roster using archival addresses and will bill accordingly. To those who have already updated their rosters for me. Thank you very much. Your new members will get this issue of the quarterly.

1999 FCBS EXTRAVAGANZA

Friday and Saturday September 17&18 1999
Holiday Inn 2701 E. Fowler Ave. Tampa 33612
(813) 917-4710

Set up 5:00 pm, Friday, September 17
6:30pm Friday: Cash Bar, Pool Party, and Buffet

Events begin 9:00am Saturday, September 18
with bromeliad sales, home tours and seminars
throughout the day.

6:30pm Saturday: Cash Bar, Banquet, Rare Plant
Auction.

This hotel has been extensively remodeled with a Busch Gardens influence in the "Kiddie Pool" area. Busch Gardens is just two miles away and University Square Mall is immediately across the street. There is a TGIFridays at the west end of the lobby and a cafeteria style restaurant in the hotel. Reservations can be made @ (813) 971-4710 \$79 per night single or double.

FCBS TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND BEGINNING:	4510.53
#5174 USPS	33.00
#5175 1 st Imp.	288.90
#5176 USPS bulk	139.24
#5177 Div Corp.	61.25
#5178 MU comp.	<u>250.00</u>
	772.39
	<u>772.39</u>
Balance General Fund	3738.14
Expense in transit \$638.10 balance computer	

WEEVIL FUND BEGINNING: 6687.06

EXPENSES: -0-

INCOME:

JAN.	1230.00
FEB.	1213.00
MAR.	<u>1245.00</u>
	3688.00
	<u>3688.00</u>
	10,375.06

TOTAL(reconciled)	14,113.20
(deposit in transit \$278.10)	

Submitted Geoffrey C. Johnson
Report for first qtr. 1/01/99-3/03/99

As a quick aside to the report above, the Extravaganza is the FCBS's sole fund raising activity for the year we need your support.

TOP TEN REASONS BROMELIADS ARE THE PERFECT HOBBY PLANT FOR Y2K

- 1.They aren't date or time sensitive.
- 2.They don't require electricity.
- 3.They can be used to barter in lieu of cash.
- 4.They don't need to use the plumbing.
- 5.They are non-toxic thus edible in a pinch.
- 6.Their fiber can be woven.
- 7.Berries can be used to make ink.
- 8.They are lovely fashion accessories.
- 9.They require no spare parts.
- 10.They impound water if needed.

(Okay some of these are lame. I thought it might be easier to find ten reasons than it really was. Ed.)

So, how about this Y2K thing? All of you technophiles out there let me know your darkest fears on line before we are plunged into the new Dark Ages. I'll post the results in a yes/no fashion in the next newsletter. If 9/9/99 doesn't get to me first.

E-mail ppfcbased@bellsouth.net Look, again I'm a victim of technology MSWord thinks I've put in a hyperlink.

A quick cultural observation, since I have the space. If you are growing seedlings of any kind just one episode of drought can result in chaos in your seedling flats. The #1 bane of my seedling growing is uneven watering.

Followed closely by fungus and cutworms. Water regularly for best results.

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES
MINUTES OF MEETING APRIL 24,1999

The quarterly meeting of the FCBS was held at the University of Florida Entomology Dept. and was hosted by the Jacksonville/Gainesville B.S. and Dr.J. Howard Frank.

Nat DeLeon, Chairman, brought the meeting to order at 2:30pm following an extensive tour of the Entomology labs and greenhouses hosted by Dr. Frank.

Minutes were corrected to show that Geoff Johnson was approved an \$800 budget to purchase computer equipment not to check cost as was printed. Minutes approved as amended.

Treasurer's report approved as presented. Web site report forwarded by Karen Andreas. Nat DeLeon submitted a report with suggestions for collecting and sowing seeds from Florida's native bromeliads.

Extravaganza reported upon. (See previous page.)

Geoff Johnson moved to rescind the motion for FCBS to compile a slide library/slide program. Motion passed.

Al Muzzell moved the FCBS send the BIC a \$200 donation quarterly subject to quarterly review by FCBS board. Request from Harry Luther an acknowledgement for the treasurer to place in permanent records. Motion passed. Various fund raising methods were discussed for the weevil fund. These will be pursued with due haste.

Respectfully submitted , Tom Wolfe.



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24 April 1999

Metamasius callizona in 16 south Florida counties

The greatest concentration of Florida's rarest native bromeliads is in natural areas of Collier County and western Dade County. These plants are *Guzmania monostachia*, *Catopsis berteroniana*, *C. nutans*, *C. floribunda*, *Tillandsia flexuosa*, *T. pruinosa*, and the compact form of *T. paucifolia*. These plants are protected by state law (Florida Statutes 581.185), and many of the areas in which they grow are federal and state parks and conservation areas, giving additional legal protection. Outside those areas, a major risk to the plants is from habitat destruction by developers [581.185(8)a]. There is some evidence that even within those areas native bromeliads are not immune to poaching by collectors.

The laws are designed to protect the plants from people; they do not guarantee any effort to control invasive pest insects such as the Mexican weevil *Metamasius callizona* which now is killing native bromeliads in lands administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Beginning in 1994, I tried to visit some of those areas annually to determine how close the weevil is to them. Also, Dr Dan Austin (Florida Atlantic University), on frequent visits, has kept his eyes open for evidence of the weevil there.

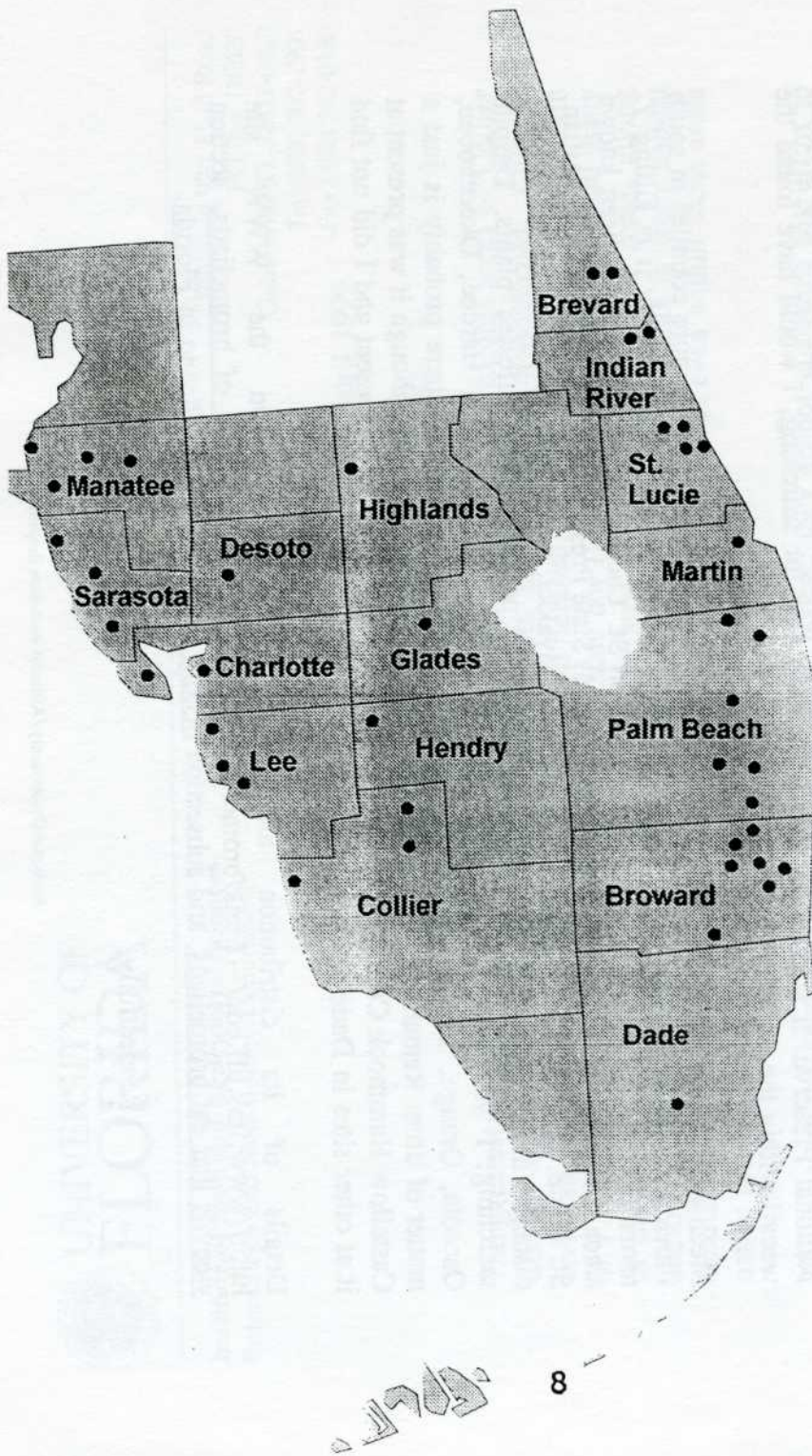
On the 1st of April 1999, I found a dead *Tillandsia utriculata* with a *M. callizona* cocoon, at Sunniland in Collier County, within 4 miles of the northern boundary of the Big Cypress National Preserve. It is possible that, with more time for searching, I would have found the weevil within the preserve.

Meanwhile, since late 1998, the weevil has been shown to exist in four more counties in south Florida: Brevard, Indian River, Desoto, and Highlands. In Highlands County it is killing *T. utriculata* in Highlands Hammock State Park. In St. Lucie County, where it has been known since November 1995, it now infests The Savannas State Preserve. It is moving up the Sebastian, St. Lucie, Loxahatchee, Caloosahatchee, Peace, Myakka, and Manatee river systems, but long-distance movements most likely are the result of people moving infested plants. Despite searching, I was unable to find the weevil in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Hardee, Okeechobee, Osceola, Orange, Sumter and Monroe counties, although its arrival there probably is just a matter of time. Remarkably, I was unable to find it in Dade County: although it was present at Castellow Hammock County Park in 1991, it seems no longer to be present and I did not find it at other sites in Dade county.

Details of its distribution are given with a map on the WWW site <http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~frank/bromel.htm> under the chapter pests of bromeliads, section weevils that eat bromeliads, and subsection history of *Metamasius callizona* in Florida.

Respectfully,

J.H. Frank



A generous THANK YOU to the following for
their donations to the Weevil Fund.

Brom. Soc. of Broward County
Brom. Soc. Of South Fla.
Brom. Soc. Of Central Fla.
Calloosahatchee Brom. Soc.
Leonard & Inez Dolotowski
Karl Green
Sam & Hattie Lou Smith
Carol Breen
Jack & Ardie Reilly
Ty & Linda Wilson
Ed & Nancy Hall
Jim & Ruth Irvin
Bob & Betsy Read
Ervin Wurthmann
Fay O'Rourke
Joe & Peggy Bailey
Ed & Dot McNulty
Esther Fenton
Tom Lineham
Art Hyland
Martha Kent
Verdia Lowe
Bob Wright
Nat DeLeon
DeLeons Bromeliad World
Alex & Dottie Holmes
Betty Ann Prevatt
Eleanor Kinzie
Marie Bessilieu
Bill & Betty Shackleford
Gene McKenzie
Gainesville/Jacksonville B.S.
Dr. J. Howard Frank

If your name
is not listed
please
accept my
apology. A
big thanks to
everyone
who has
donated to
the Weevil
fund both
now and
over the past
years.
Thanks a
million.

Geoff Johnson



Golden Anniversary
The Bromeliad Society International
World Bromeliad Conference

Registration form
San Francisco, CA

Hyatt Regency Hotel
June 26 through July 5, 2000

Registration Rates are:

\$130.00 January 2, 2000-June 1, 2000

\$150.00 June 2, 2000 and at the door.

Please print or type (we want to be able to reach you).

Name _____

Your address _____

City _____ State _____ Country _____

Zip or Country code _____

Telephone (Include country or area code) _____

Name On badge(s)? (please print)

1. _____ BSI voting member _____ (this will be checked)

2. _____ BSI voting member _____ (this will be checked)

3. _____ BSI voting member _____ (this will be checked)

Your BSI Affiliate Name? _____ (if applicable)

Amount (per registrant) _____ Check/Visa/Master Card (circle one) # _____

Credit Card Expiration Date _____

Signature as it appears on your card _____

Add \$15.00 per registrant if not a BSI voting member. (Do not pay dues and receive *The Journal of The Bromeliad Society*)

Send this form and payment to: Carolyn Schoenau, P.O. Box 12981, Gainesville, FL 32604

The registration fee is 70% refundable until June 15, 2000. After that no refund will be given (except in cases of illness or death)

FCBS WEB SITE REPORT
Karen and Michael Andreas

The FCBS web site continues to grow and is still the most viable, active bromeliad related site on the net. The site is being maintained daily by the webmaster with pictures being posted as the main activity. Thanks to the generosity of bromeliad lovers, the Council has the most complete and best-organized photo collection on the World Wide Web. With unlimited space the site can provide home pages for member societies at no cost. As of 4/19 there have been 7,296 visitors resulting in 273,245 hits internal to the site itself.

The photo index includes 2700+ pictures in 41 different genera and 18 different bigenerics. With the help of Manny Lorenzo the photos from the late Dr. Frank Sherman are displayed. Dr. Sherman's daughter has expressed her pleasure at the sight of her father's photos on the Net. There is also a plan to place Carol Johnson's collection of slides on the site.

(Editors note; as soon as things slow down in my personal life this will become reality.) Wally Berg has also agreed to provide slides for the site.

There are many new features to the site including a search engine to help you navigate within the site.

If you wish to provide slides, articles or have information about your society you want to have posted we can be contacted at: 617 Fifth St. Merritt Isl., FL 32953, (407)453-0366 or on line webmaster@fcbs.org or karen@digital.net

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

Seminole Bromeliad Society has cancelled their Father's Day show at the Seminole Towne Center.

August 21 Saturday
Seminole Bromeliad Society Annual
Bromeliad Fantasy at the Volusia County
Fairgrounds I-4 & SR44 Deland, FL.
9:00 AM- 4:00 PM
Contact Ed Hall (407) 647-2039

1999 BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA

September 17 & 18, 1999

See article for details. There will be a special mailing in August.

November 5,6,7, 1999

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society will present their biennial BSI standard judged show at Terry Park. Palm Beach Blvd. Ft. Myers. Judging Friday 11/5 with sales open to the public 11/6, 9AM-5PM, 11/7, 10AM-4PM. Contact Gene McKenzie (941) 997-6392 or Diane Molnar (941) 549-3404.

If you have a special event that your society wants to have posted on this page please write me at the cover address or e- mail

ppfcbssed@bellsouth.net