

FLORIDA COUNCIL
of BROMELIAD
SOCIETIES INC.
Newsletter

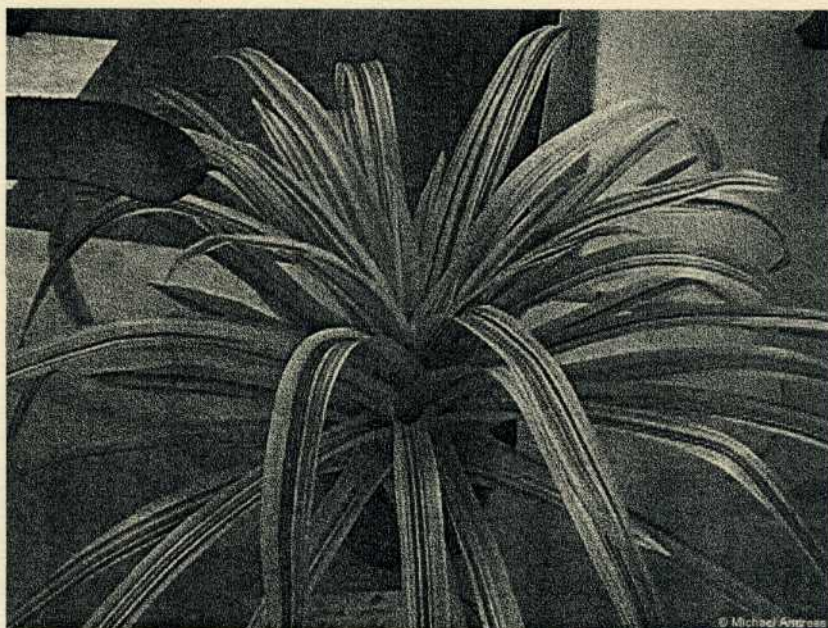


This is just one of the native bromeliads found in Florida.
Wouldn't you like to grow this from seed and return it back
to the wild?

Well you can.

Help save our native bromeliads

This picture is from fcbs.org
<http://fcbs.org/pictures.htm>



Guzmania monostachia var. *variegata*

Entered by Carolyn & Ron Schoenau
1999 Mothers Day Show, BSCF

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[htm](http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~frank/bromel.htm)

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Chairman's message

By now I hope each society has begun to discuss seed collection. The FCBS is now contractually obligated to conduct this task. Mike Andreas has worked very hard to put together all the material on the website. Carolyn Schoenau and Dr. Frank and Mike have had many e-mails back and forth. Carolyn has agreed to be the Chairman for the Grants Committee. That means she is responsible for the two reports required by the state. Dr. Frank and I submitted a proposal to a group called Fund for Wild Nature the end of July. Upon their receipt of the proposal, I was informed the group neither funds at the level requested nor to organizations being funded by state money. Needless to say our request for funds was declined. Looking forward to a positive FCBS meeting in October.

Ed Hall

Bromeliads on Sanibel Island -Trouble in Paradise?

By: Jay Thurrott
Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society

My family recently vacationed on Sanibel Island, which, if you are not familiar with it, is the closest thing to a tropical paradise you're likely to find without leaving the country. Actually this is one of two small islands, Sanibel and Captiva, linked by causeway to Fort Myers, FL. These islands are world-renowned for the variety and quantity of seashells that can be found on their beaches. Sanibel is also well known among bird watchers who flock (no pun intended) to the Ding Darling Wildlife Preserve to observe a truly remarkable variety of wildlife. Fishermen also are familiar with the tarpon tournaments hosted off Captiva at the Boca Grande pass and inshore fishing in San Carlos bay is nothing short of superb. An interesting place to visit!

Sanibel also has a wonderful

network of bicycle paths crisscrossing the Island (can you believe that drinking fountains are provided every few miles?) and it was while exploring some of these trails that I began to notice large numbers of native *Tillandsias* in the trees. I decided to see how many different species I could identify on the Island. *Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish Moss) and *Tillandsia recurvata* (Ball Moss) were well represented, as you might expect, but it was only after scanning the trees for signs of other bromeliads that I began to notice areas where fallen *Tillandsia utriculatas* littered the ground-fallen prey to the weevil *metamasius calzone*? Inspection of a fallen plant showed damage to the bases of the leaves resembling short knife slashes. When I peeled away a number of lower leaves, there was the tell-tale cocoon formed from plant debris-identical to that pictured in articles about the weevil in the BSI journal. This was my first encounter with damage inflicted by weevils and it was a certainly a sobering sight.

Numbers of fallen plants ranged from several per tree to easily a dozen or more. In some areas trees could be seen with either dead *Tillandsias* still on the branches or dead plants on the ground and nothing but roots and a few lower leave in the tree itself. The devastation was not complete however, for there were also very healthy communities in other areas - often as close as opposite sides of the street from trees that were obviously heavily infected. Large numbers of small seedlings could be found virtually everywhere on the Island, although I had to wonder whether this ensured a future healthy population of *T. utriculata* or, instead of ready source of food for the weevils. Time will tell.

On some parts of the Island I found groups of *Tillandsia flexuosa*, clinging to what seemed impossibly small twigs in shrubs and small trees. Didn't they realize that these twigs could easily

break away and send the plant to an early end? Some of these were in bloom at the time and many seedlings of various sizes could be seen close by. Often small branches contained a mix of mature plants, seedlings and seed recently released, just beginning to show the green of the first leaves-an encouraging sight after viewing so many dead *T. utriculatas*. I had to wonder why these plants didn't appear to be attacked like *T. utriculatas*. Perhaps the weevil favors the larger food source available in the *T. utriculata* and will move on to *T. Flexuosa* after it exhausts the population of its first choice in food.

Another bicycle trip took me through a relatively small wildlife preserve named for one of the pioneer settlers on Sanibel. Now that I was in the habit of looking for bromeliads in the trees, it wasn't long before I noted a small colony of *Tillandsia paucifolia* in a large oak tree overhanging a drainage canal. In the

same tree was a very large *Tillandsia fasciculata* in bloom-the only plant of this species that I was to see during my stay on the Island. The "Don't feed the alligators" signs posted on the edge of the canal discouraged me from getting any closer to see if other trees in the area held more plants.

Continuing on my bicycle tour I spotted a colony of *Tillandsia balbisiana* rather high in the trees just off the walkways meandering through the Ding Darling Park. One of these had put up quite an impressive bloom spike and others appeared to be nearly mature plants. No fallen plants were visible around the trees, so I am hopeful that the weevils hadn't decided to dine on these...at least not yet.

Quite new to the Island is a commercial native plant nursery where plants are propagated and can be purchased for landscaping around homes and businesses. Walkways around this nursery led to ob-

servation areas where wetland vegetation was identified, a butterfly garden was tended and a small group of native bromeliads was mounted on a display board with identification tags (some more correct than others), but even here some plants appeared to have been attacked by weevils. Large trees surrounding the display bore the remains of dead plants and plants that looked to be in severe decline. Dead plants would probably have been seed on the ground if the grass hadn't been recently mowed.

Unfortunately, our week's vacation passed all too quickly and we were on our way back to Port Orange. Along the way we saw some truly impressive colonies of *Tillandsia fasciculata* in trees overhanging secondary roads around the town of LaBelle. Healthy clumps of these plants totally covered every tree limb reaching out over the road and, although it's hard to say with any certainty when you are driving by at 55 mph, weevils did not appear to

have staged their attack...yet. Soon we were back on the interstate with our shells collected from the beaches, pictures to be developed in the camera and memories etched in our minds of a tropical paradise. But along with these pleasant memories there is a certain uneasiness-how much longer will visitors to Sanibel Island be able to enjoy the sight of Florida's bromeliads in their native habitat?

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 20th-22nd

**Bromeliad Guild of
Tampa Bay**

Show & Sale

Tampa Fed. Of Garden Club Circles
Garden Center
2629 Bayshore Blvd
Tampa, FL
Fri. 2:00-5:00
Sat 9:00-5:00
Sun 9:00-4:00

**Florida Council of Bromeliad
Societies Web Report
July 8, 2000
<http://fcbs.org>**

To date, 34,46 visitors have visited the web site. The number of hits continues to increase and now averages 200,000 a month. This number is increasing by approximately 50,000 its per month every three months (January report was 100,000/month; April was 150,000/month). Obviously interest in the site is not waning at all.

Photos from the 25th Annual Show of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida were posted. All member societies of the Florida Council are welcome to send show/sale photographs or slides for posting on the Council website. All materials submitted will be returned, scanned photos can be emailed to the webmaster. Full credit to the photographer will be given.

One hundred thirty (130) high quality photos of mostly species bromelids from new BSI webmaster Ken Marks have been posted.

The May 2000 issue of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society Newsletter has been added to the site.

Currently the webmaster is processing approximately 1400 pictures taken at the World Bromeliad Conference; after culling, cleaning up, and labeling, there should be several hundred pictures to post.

The fee to HiSpeed Technologies for hosting the website is due 7-23-00. The yearly fee is \$239.40. The fee to register the domain name has already been paid to 2009.

Please encourage your society's members to contribute photographs, slides or scanned pictures and articles to the website. They can be mailed or emailed to Michael Andreas, 617 Fifth St., Merritt Island, FL 32953 webmaster@fcbs.org.

FCBS TREASURERS REPORT
2nd QTR 04/01/00 – 06/30/00

Beginning General Fund Balance \$2943.38

Expenses

#5206 Ed Hall (April Meeting Notice)	16.02
#5207 State of Florida (Annual Filing Fee)	61.25
#5208 Michael Andreas (Web Site Renewal)	267.75
#5210 First Impressions (Printing Q1)	492.20
#5211-#5212 Offsite Mail Room	<u>159.37</u>

Ending Balance \$1946.79

Beginning Weevil Fund Balance \$18,232.26

Expenses

#5209 Barbara Vasquez (Trip allowance)	1,000.00
#5213 James Hogan (Ron Cave Support)	<u>1,000.00</u>
	2,000.00

Income

Private Donations	205.00
Jacksonville Bromeliad Society	<u>96.00</u>
	301.00

Ending Balance 16,533.26

Total Bank Account \$18,480.05

Respectfully submitted by Edward Hall
7/7/00



If you would like to send us something for this News-
letter, please do. You could use snail mail to :
POB 1657 Tallevast, Fl. 34270-1657
OR
E-mail to: ldolatow@tampabay.rr.com



SAVE FLORIDA'S NATIVE BROMELIADS

FCBS PROJECT TO COLLECT, RECORD, AND GERMINATE SEED OF NATIVE BROMELIADS, GROW THE PLANTS, AND REPLACE THEM IN NATURE

INTRODUCTION

FCBS has a contract with the Division of Plant Industry, Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DPI). DPI (through the state legislature) will provide funds in 2000-2002 for research and implementation of a plan to control the pest weevil *Metamasius callizona* (the "evil weevil"), and the rest of our job is to save seeds of native bromeliads threatened by the weevil and to replace the resultant small bromeliads in nature when the treat of the weevil begins to decline. Here, we explain what has to be done to collect and germinate seeds, and replace them in nature. The following headings are used: COLLECTING, GERMINATION AND

REPLACEMENT, RECORDING.

The terms of the contract with DPI require us to follow a formal plan in collection, germination, growth, and replacement in nature (in the places from which the seed was collected) of bromeliad seed. We must follow a strict procedure. We must document everything that we do and publish it on the worldwide web.

COLLECTING

From what species of native bromeliads should seed be collected?

The species that are now (1999) being attached by *M. callizona*: *Tillandsia utriculata*, *T. paucifolia*, *T. fasciculata*, *T. flexuosa* and *T. balbisiana* and the species that are likely to be attached by this weevil when it reaches the areas to which they are restricted: *Guzmania monostachia*, *Catopsis berteronia*, *C. floribunda*, *C. nutans*, *Tillandsia pruinosa*,

and *T. variabilis*.

Where to collect seed.

From NATURAL habitats in southern Florida, public or private. Do NOT collect seed from anywhere into which native bromeliads have been brought from somewhere else (this also means do NOT collect seed from your own backyard if you have brought in native bromeliads from somewhere else).

Who should collect seeds.

Designated members of local bromeliad societies.

What does "designated" mean?

It means that your name has been put forward by your local bromeliad society to FCBS, and that FCBS has written a formal request to DPI (which is the Florida agency that issues permits to collect endangered plants) to request a blanket permit in which your name is listed, to collect bromeliad seed as part of SAVE FLORIDA'S BROMELIADS, and that DPI has

issued a permit (letter) in response, and that your name is specifically mentioned in a permit (letter) from DPI.

Without such permit (letter) it is not legal (under Florida law) for you to collect seed because most of these bromeliad are now classed as endangered species. Carry a photocopy of this permit (letter) any time you set out to collect seed -- you may be asked for it by the police, sheriff's department, National Parks Service employees, most of whom have the power of arrest. The permit (letter) does NOT relieve you of the responsibility to obtain permission to collect on designated lands as described in the two paragraphs below.

Collecting on private lands

Florida law requires you to have a letter of authorization from the landowner before you may collect bromeliad seed.

Collecting in parks

You need a permit to collect bromeliad seed from county, state, or federal parks. The

permit can be obtained by writing to the appropriate (county, state, or federal) parks service, and explaining why you want to collect bromeliad seed.

GERMINATION AND REPLACEMENT

Somebody or several people, not necessarily the collectors of seed, will be designated to receive and propagate the seed collected, and keep records. When seedlings are of sufficient size, they may be replaced in nature in the place from which they were collected. If the exact site from which seeds were collected has been "developed", then seedlings should be replaced nearby in an "undeveloped" area. Seedlings have best be replaced by attaching them to the bark of a tree with a dab (as small as possible) of "Liquid Nails." It is best not to replace the seedlings in nature until it has been announced (FCBS Newsletter) that weevil populations are declining due to biological

control. Data from all these activities must be submitted to the DATABASE COORDINATOR.

RECORDING

Under our contract with DPI, we are required to maintain a computerized database of all bromeliad seed that we collect, published on the worldwide web (WWW), linked to the FCBS website, and available for public scrutiny. The DATABASE COORDINATOR, to whom all records should be submitted in writing, is(address, tel. fax, e-mail). THE FIELDS OF INFORMATION for the database are:

1. Species - e.g., *Tillandsia fasciculata*
2. Variety (where appropriate) -- e.g., var. *clavispica*
3. Collector name -- e.g., Ann B. Smith
4. Local bromeliad society -- e.g. Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society
5. Date of collection (give it in military style: day - first 3

letters of month - year in full)- -e.g., 4-JUL-2001

6. County of collection -- e.g., Glades
7. Locality -- e.g., 2.4 mi S of Palmdale on hwy 29
8. Habitat -- e.g., from one of a group of cypress trees
9. Coordinates (see below how to calculate coordinates) -- e.g., 26 53.59' N, 81 23.49' W
10. Address of place where seed is being germinated/ grown -- e.g., 201 N 10th Street, Arcadia
11. Name of person in charge of germination/growth -- e.g., Charles D. Smith
12. Dates of replacement of seedlings in natural habitat - - e.g., 2-JUN-2004
13. Number of seedlings replaced in nature -- e.g., 240
14. Name of person who replaced seedlings in natural habitat -- e.g., Ann B. Smith
15. Coordinates of place in which seedlings were replaced -- e.g., 26 53.59' N, 81 23.49' W

How to calculate coordinates

Calculating coordinates from a map is something you may have learned in middle school. For those who have forgotten how to do so, here's a refresher using FLORIDA ATLAS AND GAZETTEER (available in many bookstores). One version of the GAZETTEER has coordinates printed at the 4 corners only of each double page, in which page height is 14.5 inches (representing 30' of latitude) and width across the 2 pages is 19.5 inches (representing 45' of longitude). Thus one vertical inch is $(30/14.5)$ or 2.069', and one horizontal inch is $(45/19.5)$ or 2.306'.

So, find your collection site on the map, and measure distance to it from the nearest two margins using a ruler marked in inches and tenths. First, measure northings from top or bottom of the page by measuring with a ruler in inches and tenths, multiply by 2,069, and add (if you measured

from the bottom) or subtract (if you measured from the top) minutes to the degrees and minutes printed below the bottom margin or above the top margin. Second, measure westings from left or right of the page by measuring with a ruler in inches and tenths, multiply by 2.306, and subtract (if you measured from the left) or add (if you measured from the right) minutes to the degrees and minutes printed to the left of the left margin or to the right of the right margin.

Example: Koreshan (a state park in Lee County) is shown on p. 111. The center of the symbol marking it is 1.95 inches (4.034 minutes) from the top margin, itself 26 30'N, so the northings are 26 25.97'N. The center of the symbol is 8.3 inches (19.139 minutes) from the right margin, itself 81 30'W, so the westings are 81 49.14'W. The complete citation is 26 25.97'N, 81 49.14'W (assuming that the symbol is accurately placed on the

map).

Traditionally, coordinates are given in degrees, minutes, and seconds. Above, coordinates are given in degrees, minutes, and decimals of minutes because this simplifies calculation and is no less accurate. Traditionally, coordinates of the park would be given as 26 25' 58"N, 81 49' 8" W.

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF
BROMELIAD SOCIETIES,
INC.

Business Meeting
Jul 8, 2000

The meeting was held at the home of Greg and Judy Biglin, with a delicious lunch provided by the Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society. 22 members attended the meeting that was called to order by Chairperson, Ed Hall at 1:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

The Secretary's minutes of the meeting held on April 29, 2000 taken by Inez M. Dola-

towski was presented by Ed Hall. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Miranda Maliborski, seconded by Karen Andreas; the motion carried.

Ed presented the Treasurer's report. A balance of \$18,480.05 was reported with \$1,946.79 in the general fund and \$16,533.26 in the weevil fund. A request was made the all societies present their rosters as soon as possible if they have not already done so, as dues need to be billed.

The Web Report was given by Karen Andreas. There have been 34,426 visitors to the site with the number of hits continuing to increase and now averages 200,000 a month. She reported additional photos have been posted including the Cryptanthus Society Journal, 130 photos of mostly species bromeliads from Ken Marks and the 25th Annual Show of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. The yearly

hosting fee is \$239.40 and the fee to register the domain name is paid to 2009. A motion to accept the website fee was made by Miranda Maliborski, seconded by Polly Pascal; the motion carried.

Dr. Howard Frank gave an update on the weevil project and it was announced the FCBS has been awarded a two-year grant of \$58,000 from the state of Florida. As part of this award however, there are projects that are mandatory to fulfill the terms of the grant which includes 1) research on weevil and eradication; and 2) collection of native seeds from nature after the weevil is under control. The need to photograph one of each variety of seed plants at each collection site was also suggested to support specimen identification. The project has been given the name of "Save Florida's Native Bromeliads". An in-depth collection procedure prepared by Dr. Frank was presented. This included instructions on collecting, germination, re-

placement, recording and coordinate calculations. John Russell in Sanford has volunteered to grow the plants including germination. Carolyn Schoenau has volunteered to keep a spreadsheet of the information needed to be recorded which will also be available to view on the FCBS website.

Mike Andreas requested that pictures of native bromeliads be sent to him for the website. Len Dolatowski suggested that a workshop to given at the next Extravaganza on seed collection.

Collection permits will need to be obtained and Ed Hall requested that a list of names from each society be given to the FCBS and he will submit the list to the state to obtain the permits. Society reps are to bring this project to their members and solicit them to participate by collecting and/or germinating the seeds and to present their plans at the next FCBS meeting to be held on October 14th. It is critical that

the affiliated Florida Council societies participate in this project.

NEW BUSINESS

Ed Hall announced the disbanding of the Imperial Polk Bromeliad Society.

BSI president, Tom Wolfe, gave a report on the 2000 World Conference. Tom advises there were 388 registrants and over 500 entries. Over \$15,000 was raised for the Bromeliad Identification Center from the auction which was the second largest ever. About \$2,800 was raised in the Cryptanthus Society auction. The vendors were happy, publications were successful, and seminars well received especially the taxonomic seminar.

Ed Hall advised Ted Nuse has volunteered to become Treasurer for the remainder of the year.

An article written by Art Levy of the Sarasota Herald Tribune about Harry Luther was shared.

An update on the Extravaganza to be hosted by the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society was given by Bobbie Hull. The event will be held on November 11th & 12th at Terrie Park in Ft. Myers. There will also be a Master Gardner and Rare Fruit Society plant sale held at the same time. Red sales tags are requested. Sellers may sell only one day if they wish. An auction, seminars and banquet are planned. Affiliated societies are requested to donate five plants each for the auction. Further details will be sent to each member through a special mailing sent by the FCBS.

Extravaganza 2002 will be hosted by the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society to be held at the Daytona Beach Resort. (The resort is under new ownership and there is no longer a Hawaiian show).

The next FCBS meeting will be held on October 14th hosted by the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society in Ft. Myers. The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Bert and Inez
Dolatowski
Sarasota Bromeliad Society

EXTRAVAGANZA 2000

November 11, 2000

Host Society: Caloosahatchee
Bromeliad Society
Ft. Myers, FL
Sales 9 A.M.-5 P.M.

- Seminars and Workshops from 10 A.M.-3 P.M.
- Banquet, Terry Park 7 P.M.
- Rare Plant Auction 8 P.M.
- Sunday, November 12, 2000
- Sales 10 A.M.- 4 P.M.
- Hourly Raffles
- Continental Breakfast
- Garden Tour at Kinzie and Prevatt Homes
- Special rates have been arranged at the Comfort Inn, at I75, Exit 25, off Palm Beach Blvd. Approximately 2-3 miles from Terry Park

Mark your calendars to be there now before you forget.

Catching up - Staying Even

Too much to say, too little space. The Florida Council and all the affiliate bromeliad societies that we've heard from seem to have been very active these past few months. Wish we had the room in this issue to tell you just some of the things that have been going on within this group. Hopefully, we will be able to catch up in upcoming issues. We still need to hear from many more of our affiliates on a regular basis. Send us your info on upcoming shows, sales, and any projects you have been involved in.

We hope that all the affiliates will get involved in the Tillandsia seed growing project that the council is committed to. Even if you are not able to grow the seeds yourselves, going out on an expedition as a group to find the seeds, documenting the findings with photographs of the native bromeliads would be a fun and exciting adventure for your members and a great learning experience for all.

Leonard & Inez Dolatowski

**Register Now
For the
Bromeliad Beach Party
Fifteenth World Bromeliad Conference
Bromeliad Society International
Hosted by
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Clearwater/St Petersburg, FL**

- \$110.00 September 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000
 - \$120.00 Jan 1, 2001 to June 30, 2001
 - \$130.00 July 1, 2001 to May 1 2002
 - \$155.00 after May 1 and at the door)

Add \$15.00 per registrant if you are not a BSI voting member.
(You do not currently pay dues to and receive The Journal of the Bromeliad Society.)

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

Name (s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Country _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ FAX _____
e-mail _____

Name (s) on Badge (BSI membership will be verified)

BSI Member? _____

BSI Member? _____

Your BSI Affiliate (if applicable) _____

Total Amount Due _____ Payment by Check: Make check in US
Dollars payable to: WBC 2002

Payment by Credit Card: Visa? MasterCard? (circle one)

Expiration Date? _____ MM/YY

Your name as it appears on your CARD (Print) _____

Signature _____

Account Number _____

You will be notified of the Date and Hotel

All registration fees paid after July 31, 2000 and until May 1, 2002. Are 70% refundable. After that no refund will be given (except in cases of illness or death)

After July 4 2000, send registration fee as indicated above to
WBC 2002 P.O. BOX 12981 Gainesville, FL 32604-0981 FAX 352-372-8823