

FLORIDA COUNCIL
of BROMELIAD
SOCIETIES INC.
Newsletter



<http://www.seflin.org/bssf/frame.htm>

The Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Art Work

Drawings by Peniel Romanelli

Tillandsia dyeriana

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**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

- \$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)

Chairman's message

BSI REPORT

The 2002 World Bromeliad Conference to be hosted by the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society is well underway. A contract has been signed with the Hilton Hotel in downtown St. Petersburg, Florida, May 14 through 20th. It's a beautiful old hotel with plenty of parking and surrounded with many shops and restaurants. Sign up now by sending your registration for \$120.00 to Carolyn Schoenau, P. O. Box 12981, Gainesville, Florida 32604-0981.

The next BSI Board meeting will be held at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota on May 26, 2001. If you have anything to bring to the Board's attention, please contact me and I will work with you to get the information on the Board's agenda.

One of the BSI's future goal is to eventually establish a World Headquarters at Marie Selby's Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida.

We have need of a permanent home for our headquarters as well as a place for our valuable archives and other pertinent data pertaining to the BSI. We will need support from all of you to bring this project into fruition. We will be bringing your more news on this development in the future if this project progresses.

Thanks for all your support of the BSI over the years and for those of you who worked so hard to make the 2000 World Conference a success.

Thanks again,
Tom Wolfe

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Web Report January 13, 2001 <http://fcbs.org>

There have been 48,800 visitors to the Council site as of January 12, 2001.

Additions to the site include:

"Synonyms of Bromeliad Species" by Michael Andreas and

"Key to the Genera of Bromeliaceae" by Derek Butcher, posted on the Classification page;

A biography of "Professor Werner Rauh (1914 - 2000)" by Wilhelm Barthlott, translated from German by Peter Christian;

"A Trip to the Fakahatchee Strand with the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society" by Larry Giroux. This article originally appeared in the April 2000 issue of the Caloosahatchee Meristem, the newsletter of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. Larry Giroux provided many photographs that were not included in the original newsletter article;

Two articles from the Winter 99-2000 issue of The Palmetto, the Quarterly Magazine of the Florida Native Plant Society, about the "Evil Weevil" which we were pleased to publish online. Special thanks to Cameron Donaldson, editor of The Palmetto, for permission to reproduce these articles: "Florida's Native Bromeliads - Imperiled by Exotic Evil Weevil" by Dr. Howard Frank and "The Evil Weevil - What Will Florida Lose?" by Olan Ray Creel.

Many of you saw the article about Dr. Frank's work on the Evil Weevil that was published in the Manatee Herald-Tribune in Sarasota. The article also was posted on the newspaper's Internet site with a link to the FCBS page.

Since the last report, there have been approximately 270 new photographs added to Photo Index including photos by John Arden and Herb Plevier.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Andreas
Webmaster
webmaster@fcbs.org

Karen Andreas
Trusty Assistant to the Webmaster
karen@digital.net

FCBS EVIL WEEVIL PROJECT HAS TECH ASSISTANTS

For ten years FCBS has sponsored and shepherded funding for the Evil Weevil Project (Save Our Native Bromeliads - especially in our state and federal parks)

Early on strategy discussions concluded with the only viable means operable: Biocontrol.

But how?

Several years of research in the woods of Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama and Venezuela revealed that a small fly (*Admontia* sp.) would do the job.

How to raise the fly?

It's a parasitoid, right?

First ya gotta have food, that's a host: *Metamasius callizona* (**M. cal**)—and many. Finding them was not a problem.

There were lots of them eating up native bromeliads in south Florida. So, with the help of some intrepid volunteers led by Dr. Howard Frank, our technical research director, some several were collected. Raising them was another problem. Artificial diets were hit and miss at best. Buying bromeliad plants to feed to them could get more expensive than the Council could stand. Help was needed, fast.

Pineapple tops! A chance discovery revealed that **M. cal** relished pineapple tops. More scurrying about. The eventual hero of this need was Publix su-

permarkets. They agreed to supply tops if we picked them up.

Now we have a logistics and labor problem.

The solution was a laboratory assistant who was willing to work 20 hours per week for nearly nothing. (Fair game for these type jobs is usually starving undergraduate students.)

Over several years, Dr. Frank suffered through several students and non-students who functioned from adequate to abysmal levels. In early 1999, when the work was becoming most critical and the labor problem was in the tank, along comes TERESA COOPER, an undergraduate student at U.F. (Ah! Fair game—remember? Not so. Read on.)

Teresa agreed to work 20 hours per week @ \$6.50 / hour collecting pineapple tops and planting them in the isolation greenhouses at the Entomology building, U. of F., and generally maintaining the weevil stock. She dug into the job with surprising vigor. And with constructive criticism and direction managed to reorganize how the

weevil raising process worked to make it more efficient. (Remember, the objective here is to have a large and healthy herd of **M. cal** livestock standing by for the advent of the fly.)

Then Teresa surprised us all by taking a personal interest in the project and volunteered her own time and expense to travel to the cypress woods south of Orlando to look for weevils there. (Eureka! We have a jewel!)

(Historically, the FCBS had paid for the lab assistant, but in 1998 Dr. Frank found other funding which temporarily allowed the Council's Weevil Fund to accrue and grow. Now, January 2001, that alternative funding has dried up and the Council has had to step in at a time when the University has decreed that student assistants shall be paid \$7.00/hour. And when our post doc concluded that Teresa needed to work 25 hours per week to keep the weevil livestock at a level to sufficiently rear the *Admontia* flies now in quarantine at the Department of Plant Industry (DPI), Gainesville, FL.)

Today Teresa maintains a fairly

large and healthy population of **M. cal** that allows the research to proceed at a brisk pace.

Dr. BARBRA LARSON, our resident Post Doctoral researcher (post doc) is another story of "stroke of luck" at the critical point of need.

In 1998, when Dr. Frank had procured a source of *Admontia* flies from Escuela Agricola Panamericana, Honduras, it became apparent that raising this fly was about to become a prodigious task. Nothing was known about it! Not even its last name (*Admontia* what species?). We didn't even know if it would attack **M. cal**. Dr. Frank recommended that we needed a "post doc" to accomplish this work as he, Dr. Frank, was being overwhelmed with teaching duties, extension service duties, other research programs under way and collateral duties assigned by the University.

Enter Dr. Jorge Salas, a researcher from Venezuela sent by the Venezuelan government to UF to study pests of pineapples. And paid for by Venezuela. (Lucky Lotto, a post doc for free!) But he was only go-

ing to be here one year. The project would go on longer. What to do??

Discover Dr. Barbra Larson!

Late in 1999, Dr. Frank had been searching for a suitable post doc to fill our weevil program needs when he was informed of a post doc working on a program in Pesticide Testing in a different department. A sterling dossier and glowing recommendations prompted phone calls, paperwork and interviews.

Result: "Dr. Larson, I presume?" Nope, "Barbra", her preference. And it's B-a-r-b-r-a, not the conventional spelling for this 'take-charge-get-the-job-done-right-and-quickly' woman.

What luck! And just in the nick of time. With a supply of flies available and no professional help, this project could have gone in the deep freeze. But with Barbra aboard it can fly, so to speak.

Barbra has a PhD in entomology and works full time (40+ hours/week). She is paid entirely by the Weevil Project. Barbra's primary duty is to raise *Admontia* flies, study their biology, learn how to facilitate their reproduction, deter-

mine the mechanics of how they attack their host (*M. cal.*), set up and run all protocol tests required by USDA and DPI for release of the fly, write reports and papers for publication. In addition, Barbra is assigned overview of the weevil rearing operation, planning for release of the fly in "hot spots" in south Florida, daily coordination with DPI quarantine, attend Florida Council meetings and others as the recent Extravaganza 2000 and Florida Parks Service meeting.

Barbra is raising two fine children, in her spare time.

FCBS has arranged for Barbra's salary to be paid from special grants from DPI. The primary grant was won in statewide competition. The initial grant was procured through the efforts of the DPI Grants Committee originally made up of Geoff Johnson, Chmn., Nat DeLeon and Al Muzzell. Later, Ed Hall was appointed chairman and still serves.

Submitted FYI.

Al Muzzell

DPI Grants Committee, FCBS

Update on Weevil Project, October 2000

1. Collecting trip to Guatemala:

Weevils were found early on in the area of Alta Verapaz, site of the original record of *Metamasius calizona*. Collecting continued throughout the state of Alta Verapaz and parts of Baja Cerapaz, the region with the highest bromeliad populations at an appropriate altitude. Weevil populations were extremely low, however, and despite searching through thousands of bromeliads, only about 50 weevil larvae were found. There were nearly all larvae of *M. quadrilineatus*, the same species from which the flies were collected in Honduras. Five tachinid larvae emerged from one of the weevil larvae and pupated. Upon emerging, three adults died right away, the fourth within 1 week, and 1 live fly was brought back to quarantine, along with the remaining weevil larvae. The fly appears to be *Admontia* (the Honduran fly). Its identity will be confirmed by a fly specialist. No other parasites emerged from those weevil larvae. Specimens of *Metamasius rugipectus* and *Metamasius dimidiatipennis* were also collected. *M. dimidiatipennis* has not been recorded from

Guatemala previously. Host plants on which were found *Metamasius quadrilineatus* include *Tillandsia guatemalensis*, *T. polita*, *T. brevifolia*, *Catopsis hahnii*, *C. wagnerinii*, and *Catopsis morreniana*.

2.) Florida trip:

Dr. Frank spent several days in early September with Robert Noonan, a professional photographer who agreed to shoot pictures for an article on the weevil Dr. Frank will be submitting to National Geographic Magazine or Smithsonian Magazine for possible publication. They visited several natural areas in south Florida, including the following:

- 3.) North Key Largo, Monroe County
- 4.) Fuchs' Hammock, A Broward County park west of Homestead not open to the public
- 5.) Collier-Seminole State Park, Collier County (east of Naples)
- 6.) Fahkahatchee Strand State Preserve, Collier County
- 7.) Corkscrew Swamp, Collier County
- 8.) Myakka River State Park, Sarasota County

These natural areas were chosen as possible places to which the weevil may have spread. Dr. Frank found no weevils in any of the first 5 sites, but weevils have recently been found in the Myakka River State Park.

3. Other developments:

a. Honduras trip:

Howard Frank left for Honduras on October 10 and will be there for approximately 7 weeks. He will collect flies in the same manner as last year and should be able to bring back enough to successfully get the colony going in quarantine. Based on what we learned last year, we have a much greater chance of maintaining the colony this year.

Status of plants and weevil colonies:

i.) University of Florida Facilities Operations did not finish installing the new evaporative coolers in the 2 greenhouses holding *Tillandsia* until the beginning of October. Because the greenhouses were constructed with limited wattage available in each, we could not install air conditioners. Despite using a soaker hose running water over the greenhouses during the hottest part of the day, the plants could not

withstand the high temperatures in July and August. Approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the *Tillandsia utriculata* plants were lost. We are trying to propagate some of those plants. The greenhouses now have adequate systems for both heating and cooling.

ii.) The *Metamasius callizona* colony on pineapples in the two older greenhouses has been maintained and total population size is approximately 900 larvae on approximately 1200 plants. We are working with Teresa to increase population size in the greenhouses in anticipation of rearing the flies coming from Honduras in late November.

iii.) The native weevil, *M. mosieri*, has been more difficult to rear. Despite changing cage type, location, and host plant, adults have continued to die without laying eggs. Figuring out how to maintain a colony of the native weevil is one of the priorities now, because the fly will have to be tested against it before receiving permission for release.

Possible future supplemental grants:

FCBS TREASURERS REPORT**3rd QTR 07/01/00 – 09/30/00**

Beginning General Fund Balance \$1946.79

Income

FECBS Dues	48.00
BGTB Dues	<u>86.00</u>
	134.00

Expenses

Checks and Rubber Stamp	31.39
#5215– Michael Andreas (Web Site-Rental)	239.40
#5216 First Impressions (1000 Envelopes)	318.94

Ending Balance 1761.85

Beginning Weevil Fund Balance 16533.26

Income

CBS Donation	147.00
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Expenses

#5217 Edward Hall (Ac & Temp Sensors)	1127.22
	<u>15553.04</u>

Ending Balance 17314.89

TOTAL BANK ACCOUNT

Respectfully Submitted by Ed Hall & Ted Nuse

P.S. Cost of Extravaganza Mailings & red tags

Envelopes	\$31.30
Printing & Folding	212.93
Off site Mailing	<u>186.41</u>

430.64

10,000 Tags	121.20
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If you would like to send us something for this Newsletter, please do. You could use snail mail to :
POB 1657 Tallevast, Fl. 34270-1657
OR
E-mail to: ldolatow@tampabay.rr.com



Teresa Cooper is applying for an NSF grant to do graduate work on this project and plans to do an honors independent study during spring/summer 2000 (her last semesters as an undergraduate) working on the project. Her proposed research focuses on weevil population distribution and density in southern Florida. She will sample weevil populations over time to determine seasonal fluctuations. She will also monitor distribution of the weevil throughout south Florida and use GIS to map populations, giving us a more accurate picture of how the weevil is moving and where it is most concentrated. Knowing where weevil hotspots are and during which months the weevil is most abundant will aid in determining the most appropriate release sites when the time comes.

ii.) We are applying for an Earthwatch grant to get small groups of volunteers to help with weevil distribution mapping starting in late fall 2001. If successful, Earthwatch volunteers could also be used to help collect data in evaluating the fly's effectiveness.

Educational efforts:

Upcoming presentation on "The Evil Weevil" at Florida Parks Service Biologists Annual Meeting, October 23. The talk will be an opportunity to inform FPS biologists of the project, give them specimens of weevil larvae and adults for their aid in identifying the weevil, and ask them to cooperate with FCBS seed collectors.

ii.) Upcoming slide show and exhibit at Extravaganza 2000, November 11: The presentation will focus on the effects of the weevil, accomplishments of the project to date, future activities, and importance of protecting the state's native bromeliads.

iv.) An article on the weevil has been published on Featured Creatures, an on-line group of fact sheets on insects (mostly pests) in Florida that is widely read by people working in agriculture and natural resources management, as well as the general public. The article 'bromeliad-eating weevil' can be found at: http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/insect/om/m_calizona.htm

v.) Public outreach activities for the next few months will

include expanding Dr. Frank's website page entitled "Urgent peril to Florida's endangered species of bromeliads" to include sections on project overview (including impact of the weevil and past and current research), FCBS seed collecting project, weevil distribution (Teresa will develop this section), and kids/teachers/parents section providing activities and information for kids an invitation for classes or groups to get involved in the project.

Florida Events for 2001

MARCH 24-25

Harry P. Leu Gardens Plant Sale (many vendors & plant societies are participating) When: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. March 24-25 Where: Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave., **Orlando**
Admission: Free admission to gardens & all events

March 31st & April 1st,
Bromeliad Society of South Florida - Annual Show and Sale Location: - Fairchild Tropical Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, **Miami**, Florida

Admission to the Garden is \$8.00, and the show is free. Admission on Sunday morning, (9.30 am to 12 noon) is FREE.
Hours are 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

There will be 10 commercial vendors from across the state, plus plants for sale which have been grown by BSSF members.

Included in the latter will be some rare species from the collection of the late Peniel Romanelli. The show is a standard BSI show. The show chairman is Karl Green, (305-255-4888). E-mail kkg@mindspring.com

April 5 - 8

Broward/Boca Raton Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale

Location: Outdoor World, 200 Gulf Stream Way, **Dania Beach** (Ft. Lauderdale), FL
Thursday, April 5th: Plant entry for the judged show and setup. Friday, April 6th: Plant judging and setup continues. Saturday & Sunday: Show and sale open to the public. Plants for sale by commercial vendors and society members. Admission to the show is free. Contact: Show chairman Ann Schandelmayer 954-583-1124

April 14-15

Seminole Bromeliad Society Show and sale at Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford.

April 28 & 29 Sarasota Bromeliad Society - "2001 A Bromeliad Odyssey"

Location: - Selby Botanical Gardens, 811 S. Palm Ave, **Sarasota**, FL There will be plant sales on Friday April 27th also. Show Chairman Rob Branch 941-358-4953 or email Len Dolatowski ldolatow@tampabay.rr.com



The All New BSI Website
Open For Business

at
www.bsi.org

Ken Marks
BSI Webmaster

MAY 11-13 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

26th Annual Mother's Day Bromeliad Show & Sale

When: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. May 11-12; Noon - 6 p.m. May 13

Where: The Florida Mall, 8001 S. Orange Blossom Trail, **Orlando**

Admission: Free

OCT. 27

Bromeliad Extravaganza 2001

When: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Oct 27

Where: Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave., **Maitland**, FL

Admission: Free, charge for banquet

Extravaganza 2001

October 27, 2001

ORLANDO. The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida will be hosting this year's Extravaganza. The society has rented the entire Maitland Civic Center in order to provide a spacious and comfortable environment for all the activities. The Civic Center overlooks beautiful Lake Lily and is located in Maitland, just north of Orlando and adjacent to Winter

Park. This well-known landmark facility includes over 9,000 square feet of interior space and will allow us to have all activities indoors without having to worry about the weather. The location is easily accessible and has plenty of free parking.

Ed Hall is chairing a committee that has already begun laying the groundwork. They expect to put together a day of fun-filled and educational activities including a large sales area, a variety of speakers & workshops, displays and in the evening there will be a banquet and rare bromeliad auction. The auction is an important fund-raiser for the Florida Council.

Societies and individuals are invited to contribute suggestions and provide displays (table top or otherwise) to educate & entertain the general public as well as long time bromeliad growers. Mark your calendars now and please help spread the word about this event. Contact:

Ed Hall 407-647-2039
Palmetbrom@aol.com

*In memory of
Peniel Romanelli*

By
The Bromeliad Society of
South Florida president, Peter
Kouchalakos

On a very sad note, I'm sorry to inform the membership that one of our most dedicated members has passed away. Peniel Romanelli was truly an asset to our society. As an active board member, Peniel was always ready to lend a helping hand to various club efforts. he was a fixture at our annual show along with his mom, Carol. Members who had the good fortune to know Peniel and Carol always took delight in the hand drawn bromeliads and cats that would grace their annual holiday cards. Peniel would never say "no" to any task that he undertook on behalf of the society, whether it be at our show, the Ramble, our auction, or just talking shop about some obscure genus at a monthly meeting. Peniel designed and brought on-line one of the first bromeliad sites on the Internet, and did so without seeking notoriety or recognition. He did it for the simplest and best reason of all...he loved bromeliads. We shall all miss him...

Reprinted from *The Bromeliad Society of South Florida Newsletter* Moyna Prince also told me about the outstanding bromeliad drawings he did for the newsletter, and posters and postcards advertising events. He also prepared a series of leaflets on culture which we gave out to visitors. Peniel was extremely modest and unassuming yet was highly knowledgeable about Bromeliaceae.

AFFILIATE SOCIETY NEWS

Florida West Coast society is having a recruiting drive, especially at plant sales. John Bankhead also reports they have about five plant sales in a year and they have donated funds to help fund land acquisition for Selby Gardens. They are the oldest Bromeliad Society in Florida and still have two members from the 1950's Dr. Helen Dexter and Jinx Watkins.

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay will be participating in the State Fair in February which is a great place to solicit new members. Don Nores has received the 2000-2001 BGTB Distinguished Service Award for outstanding contributions to their society.

They are also giving a raffle plant to each new member and have an outpouring of welcoming new members.

The Florida East Coast Society and the Seminole Society has had two pick up trucks with plants donated to the Central Florida County Zoo as a community project.

Sarasota Bromeliad Society gives away a BSI membership at each meeting. They have also established a new member packet of goodies which includes a BSI Cultural Manual, five free raffle tickets, and a coupon that enables the new member to have half the cost of a BSI membership paid among other items.

The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida has a new newsletter editor, Kathy Law. Kathy is not only the editor, but the new president for 2001 as well as the librarian. Everyone in the society is gearing up for the Extravaganza to be held on October 27th in Maitland.

The Bromeliad Society of South Florida presented past president Ed Prince with a

plaque by new president Peter Kouchalakos expressing appreciation for all his hard work on behalf of the society.

The Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society meets at 2:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month at Heathcote Botanic Gardens, 210 Savanna Road, Ft. Pierce. This is the only Florida society having meetings on a Saturday and if you are in the area make sure you attend.

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

Business Meeting Minutes January 12, 2001

The meeting was held at the home of Peggy and Ted Nuse with a barbecue lunch provided by the host. 25 members attended the meeting that was called to order by Chairperson Ed Hall at 1:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Ed Hall presented the Secretary's minutes of the October 14th meeting taken by Inez Dolatowski. There were no corrections to the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Wolfe and seconded by Bob Dalzell.

Peggy Nuse presented the Treasurer's Report. A net total was re-

ported of \$44,142.64 with \$15,550.00 in the Weevil Fund. \$14,500.00 grant monies received, and a total of \$3,142.54 in the general fund. Copies of the full report were distributed.

Announcement of new officers was accomplished with the below listed results based on a rotation that was predetermined. Chairman: Tom Wolfe. Vice-Chairman: Terrie Bert, Secretary: John Bankhead. Treasurer: Ted & Peggy Nuse. All chairmen assumed their duties at this meeting. Tom Wolfe presided over the rest of the meeting.

Karen Andreas gave the Webmaster report. There continues to be a significant number of hits on the site that contains over 6,000 pictures of bromeliads. The collection of photographs continues to draw the most interest. A suggestion was made to put the bylaws of the State Societies on the web site, and space is available if the need arises. Karen solicited any information, historical or otherwise that Societies can contribute to the website, special attention to the history of the Florida Council, and the BSI, and any other historical information that may be of value or interest to web explorers. Specifics of several additions to the site were delineated in the Web Report.

Tom Wolfe reported on the 2002 World Conference. The contract has been signed for the site. The St. Petersburg Hilton has the space and can accommodate our needs

. The dates will be May 14th to May 20th inclusive. 168 registrations have been received during the early registration period. Updated information will be in a mailing to all registrants in the near future.

Tom Wolfe presented information on the Selby Gardens renovations for 2001. Palm Avenue will be closed and all the houses on Palm Avenue have been acquired and will be torn down. New greenhouses will be erected, and other structures will be built. Selby has been approached to house the World Headquarters for the BSI and is receptive to housing the archives and related information.

Len Dolatowski submitted a bylaw committee report (copies of old and new proposed bylaws were distributed) further discussions on the bylaws were tabled until the members had a chance to review the information. A vote on acceptance will be taken at the next meeting, after discussion.

Dr. Barbra Larson presented a report on weevil activities at USF. One weevil has been successfully parasitized. Studies on several native weevils have begun with the flies being given a smaller area and larger weevil concentration, in an attempt to affect more parasitism. Plants for the colony will probably be acquired through a pipeline expansion through Mana-

tee, Palm Beach, and Martin Counties. All displaced native species will be brought to the lab if the Federal Authorities approve the plan.

Earthwatch has asked for a proposal, and if approved will fund volunteers to help with manpower, and data collection for this project. An EPA Grant has also been applied for. If granted it will provide for educational materials for the Parks Service and FCBS Societies.

A proposal went out to the Captain Planet Foundation which provided an after school program designed to teach children about growing bromeliads, infestation, and posting experiences on their website.

NEW BUSINESS

Ed Hall presented information on the 2001 Extravaganza to be held on October 27, 2001 at the Maitland Civic Center, Maitland, Florida.

The next meeting will be held in Broward County on April 14, 2001. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John Bankhead
FWCBS

WEEVIL PROJECT UPDATE
17 January 2001

Populations of the parasitoid fly *Admontia* are highest in Honduras during the fall months, so we were not able to obtain more flies until that time. During October and November, Howard Frank spent 7 weeks at the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana at El Zamorano, collecting weevil larvae from bromeliads in the cloud forests of the surrounding mountainsides. *Admontia* flies emerged from some of the more than 350 weevil larvae collected in the field. On November 29, Howard Frank returned to Gainesville with 29 adult flies and 58 puparia, most of which developed into adults over the following weeks. In Honduras, Ron Cave continued to monitor weevil larvae that had already been collected, and he sent an additional 27 fly adults and 18 puparia on December 18.

We currently have 50 adults in the fly colony in the quarantine facility at DPI. At least one weevil larva has been successfully parasitized. We have moved the flies to a smaller cage where we are better able to maintain a higher level of humidity, and we are supplying flies with as many weevil-infested *Tillandsia utriculata* plants as will fit in the cage. We still have one greenhouse filled with mostly medium-sized

T. utriculata plants. The project has recently received an additional donation from Driftwood Gardens of approximately 300 very large *T. utriculata* plants. The research priority in the next few months is to ensure continued production of flies.

We are also preparing for the host testing that is required in order to secure the release permit for the fly. We must determine if the fly will parasitize the only related weevil species currently found in Florida, *Metamasius hemipterus*, an introduced pest that does not attack bromeliads other than pineapple, and *Metamasius mosieri*, Florida's native bromeliad weevil. Olan Ray Creel, a member of the Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society, has devoted a great deal of time to the labor-intensive task of developing a rearing system for the native weevil. As a result of his efforts, we have been able to start producing native weevils in the lab and will shortly be exposing them to the flies. We are expecting to receive some *M. hemipterus* in the near future and will perform host testing on that species as well, once the fly colony is stable.

As a result of the many unknowns involved in this type of research, we cannot know at this point if and when we will be able to make releases of the fly into natural areas. This is all the more reason for bromeliad society members to become involved in the seed-saving program. If the weevil project experiences additional

setbacks but seeds have been saved, the chance to save the bromeliads will not be lost. However, without a successful seed-saving effort, the project as a whole will not be successful. Please visit the FCBS website (www.fcbs.org) for detailed information on seed collecting procedures, and see your society's Council representative to request your permit and add your name to the list of designated seed collectors."

Barbra Larson

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FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

Business Meeting
October 14, 2000

The meeting was held at the home of Dr. Larry Giroux, with a terrific lunch provided by the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. Seventeen members attended the meeting that was called to order by Chairperson, Ed Hall at 1:25 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

The Secretary's minutes of the

meeting held on July 8, 2000 taken by Terrie Bert and Inez Dolatowski was presented by Ed Hall. One correction to the minutes was made to the fifth paragraph second sentence which should be changed to read "2) collection of native seeds for replacement after the weevil is under control". A motion to approve the minutes was made by Karen Andreas, seconded by Nancy Hall; the motion carried.

Ed presented the Treasurer's report. A balance of \$17,314.89 was reported with \$1,761.85 in the general fund and \$15,553.04 in the weevil fund. Ed reported the purchase of an air-conditioning unit and sensors for the quarantined greenhouse at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He also built a screened enclosure for the unit to ensure flies don't get sucked into it.

Dr. Barbra Larson who recently made a collecting trip to Guatemala gave an update on the weevil project. She advised there were very low populations of weevils and it would be best to concentrate searches in the Honduras. Barbra showed a slide presentation on the area she visited.

Barbra also gave a report on Dr. Frank's recent trip in September to various Florida locations and announced there would be an article submitted to National Geographic or the Smithsonian Magazine for possible publication. An update on the air conditioner units was given and it was announced that about one half of the plants have been lost due to high tem-

peratures before the new units were installed. The population of the fly has been maintained. They have also had difficulty with the native weevil. Olan Creel of the Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society advised he has been successful in reproducing the native weevil. Barbara announced a graduate student is also willing to work on the project. A grant is being applied for from Earthwatch. There are also several education efforts for the near future.

Barbara will be presenting a 8-10 minute presentation at the FCBS auction on November 11th. A motion was made by Karen Andreas to purchase a banquet ticket and travel expense for Barbara. Seconded by Al Muzell; the motion carried.

Al Muzell discussed forming a committee for managing the DPI contract for the duration of the grant to handle reports, etc. and maintain reasonable continuity and that Ed Hall be Project Director and Al Muzell and Nat DeLeon as alternates. A motion to form the committee was made by Karen Andreas, seconded by Al Muzell; the motion carried.

It was reported that \$14,500 is the first draw available from DPI which can be billed to them.

Affiliated societies are to be prepared to submit a plan on their

society seed collection.

Ed Hall announced that there is going to be a gas line built that extends from Tampa to Vero Beach and includes a mitigation plan for endangered species such as plants. We might be able to obtain the plants for research plants and even possibly get plants stored at Leu Gardens.

The Web Report was given by Karen Andreas. There have been 41,740 visitors to the site. Internal hits are averaging over 7,000 a day. FCBS is now hosting the home page of Florida West Coast Bromeliad society and recent issues of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society is posted. Additional items added to the site are photographs from the San Francisco World Conference, Save Florida's Native Bromeliads project, Cryptanthus Society Journal color pictures, Olan Creel's photo essay on the weevil, Cryptanthus pictures contributed by Virginia Schrenker, and reproduced articles from The Palmetto, the journal of the Florida Native Plant Society.

Extravaganza 2000 is being hosted by the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society. There are to be programs given by Harry Luther, Dennis Cathcart and Michael Andreas. Red sales labels were distributed to the affiliated societies. Questions regarding the Extravaganza were answered including as to where the proceeds go. The proceeds

from the auction go to the Florida Council and 25% of the plant sales goes to the host society, Caloosahatchee. The separate mailing for the extravaganza was addressed and it was suggested the mailing go out with the newsletter.

Extravaganza 2001 date has been set for November 3rd at Leu Gardens in Orlando.

NEW BUSINESS

Revision of FCBS By Laws was addressed and a committee established of Leonard Dolatowski, Vickie Chirnside, and Inez Dolatowski to revise the By Laws.

Affiliate Society representative changes includes Nancy Hall to replace Miranda Maliborski for the Seminole Bromeliad Society, and Bob Dalzell to replace John Bankhead of the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society.

The FCBS Roster was addressed. The cost of printing and mailing the second quarterly was \$494. This was for five pages sent to 650 members. It was estimated the roster at this time was 13 pages. A discussion ensued as to the cost effectiveness of printing a complete roster and mailing to all members. A motion was made by Ed Hall to print a hard copy of the roster for each Sr. Representative who may reproduce copies for those members of their individual

societies who wish a copy; seconded by Nancy Hall; the motion carried.

The next meeting of the FCBS will be on January 13, 2001 wherein there will be a change of officers; Tampa Bay will be chairman, Sarasota Bromeliad Society will be co-chair; Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society as Secretary, and Ted Nuse as Treasurer.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Inez M. Dolatowski
Sarasota Bromeliad Society

Catching up – Staying Even

There is always so much to say in this newsletter, that we never have enough space to put other things. It's amazing that when we first decided to do this, we were under the opinion that we would have to beat down doors to get articles to fill the pages. But the reality is, we need more pages. We've had to resort to making the fonts smaller than we'd like, just so we could fit it all in. As you can see with these 24 pages in this issue, we could have easily filled another four pages. I guess putting all the reports from the Florida Council Meeting takes up more space than we would have thought. I hope what you see in this newsletter is the info that you are interested in reading about. Maybe one day, when we get rid of the evil weevil we'd have a little more space to donate towards others issues. One last thing, don't forget to turn your name in to Ed Hall so he can get permits for collecting seeds.

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

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 _____
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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 ill-
ness 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