

Volume 22 Issue 4 Support Your Local Bromeliad Society

**FLORIDA COUNCIL
of BROMELIAD
SOCIETIES INC.
Newsletter**



Neoregelia bahiana formerly *Neoregelia didmantensis*
Donated to SBS rare plant auction by Ray Lemieux

Photo by Leonard Dolatowski

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Weevil Report April 12, 2003

Biological control/weevil research:

Status of flies:

The field season for collection of bromeliad weevils in Honduras came to a close as fly populations declined dramatically in January with the onset of the dry season. However, field-collected weevil larvae continued to be reared out for parasitoids. Attempts were made to establish a colony of the fly in Honduras before the end of the collecting season. We do not yet know the final outcome of those attempts, although it is not promising.

From fly shipments sent during the fall, one weevil larva had been parasitized, producing five new flies. However, despite changes in the rearing setup to allow for better mating conditions, these did not result in new parasitism. Additional changes in the rearing setup were also made to increase the amount of ventilation for the flies without reductions in humidity.

On March 14, a shipment of 21 *Lixophaga* sp. puparia was received in Gainesville. The package spent an extra day in Miami as a result of not clearing customs rapidly. We do not know if the heat during that extra day in transit killed the puparia or if they might

have entered diapause since they were collected so late in the season. They are being maintained under appropriate conditions should the latter be the case.

Host-range testing of weevil:

Forty-three species and hybrids of the following genera are being exposed to weevils in a greenhouse to determine in which the weevil will lay eggs and develop: *Aechmea*, *Billbergia*, *Cryptanthus*, *Canistrum*, *Guzmania*, *Hohenbergia*, *Neoregelia*, *Nidularium*, *Orthophytum*, *Portea*, *Quesnelia*, *Dyckia*, *Tillandsia*, *Vriesia*. We have received no response from our request for suggestions of plants to test (plants which would be found in people's collections or yards, not indoors). If you would like to know which of your ornamental bromeliads may be susceptible to attack by the weevil, please let us know (phone: 352-392-1901 ext. 122 or email: BCLarson@mail.ifas.ufl.edu).

Weevil spread and monitoring activities:

January 9: Ron Cave and Ray Creel explored an area in the northern reaches of the St. Lucie with Greg Kaufmann and Jeff Beal of FDEP. The destruction from *M. callizona* was severe.

January 11: Barbra Larson visited Hillsborough River State Park and found no evidence of weevil presence in *T. utriculata* populations there.

February 14-16: Ray Creel visited the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and observed an unusually high degree of damage to mainly smaller native bromeliads both within and outside of park boundaries, much of it attributed to the native Florida bromeliad weevil, *Metamasius mosieri*. That type of damage seemed even more widespread than it had been during the previous year. Several adult *M. mosieri* were located in these plants. No adult or larval specimens of the Mexican bromeliad weevil (*M. callizona*) were located. There was, however, widespread evidence of Mexican bromeliad weevil activity within the park. Ray suggested that the vast size of the park will likely delay the appearance of massive destruction to native bromeliads observed in other natural areas. However, the degree of damage observed during the recent monitoring trip suggests that native bromeliads in the Fakahatchee Strand will experience significant destruction in the coming years.

March 3: Ron Cave observed bromeliad populations in Everglades National Park (Mahogany Hammock and along the Anhinga Trail) and saw no evidence of weevil presence.

March 19: Ron Cave and Jim Duquesnel, Park Biologist, searched for weevil damage on *Tillandsia flexuosa* and *T. fasciculata* at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Key

Largo, with no evidence of damage found.

March 21: Howard Frank searched in bromeliad populations at Matheson Hammock, Miami-Dade County. He did not find bromeliad weevils or damage to bromeliads.

March 25: A Master Gardener in Brevard County reported weevil damage on *T. utriculata* in North Melbourne. This is the farthest north the weevil has reached so far. The homeowner from whom samples were collected later described the damage as widespread on native bromeliads in the area.

April 2: Moyna and Ed Prince (Bromeliad Society of South Florida) saw no evidence of weevil damage at Deering Estate, Miami-Dade County.

Teresa Cooper has set up a new monitoring site at the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. In February, Ray Creel and AmeriCorp Park volunteer Karen Relish helped her map out the bromeliad populations that will be included in the monthly monitoring. With the help of volunteers, Teresa is now covering four areas (Myakka River State Park, Highlands Hammock State Park, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, and Fakahatchee Strand).

Status of grants:

The final report for the Endangered and Threatened Native Flora Grant that FCBS received in 2000 has been submitted to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The report is available on the Save Florida's Native Bromeliads Website, in both html and Word format, at: <http://savebromeliads.ifas.ufl.edu/updates.htm>.

Posters, identification decks, and workshop materials produced with the grant money from the Gulfstream Environmental and Recreational Trust program were sent to Pat Crocker at Gulfstream in February. With the submission of these materials, FCBS has no further reporting obligations for any external grants received.

The renewal of UF's bromeliad weevil contract from the Florida Park Service for the next fiscal year is uncertain at this point. The governor's proposed budget allocates \$0 to natural and cultural resources restoration for state parks, the category from which the funds originate. Unless the legislature replaces that money, the Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources may not be able to support us after June 30.

Seed Collecting:

Status of permits:

Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Department has issued a

permit to collect seeds on their properties. The Regulated Plant Index Harvesting Permit has been requested from DOACS/DPI. Regulated Plant Index Harvesting Permit renewals have also been requested for all county parks permits previously obtained, as well as for state parks, for which a new permit was issued by the Florida Park Service.

Berni Reeves, volunteer at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, collected seeds of *T. balbisiana* in February. In April, Moyna and Ed Prince (Bromeliad Society of South Florida) collected seeds of *T. utriculata* and *T. fasciculata* at the Deering Estate with Rick Cohen. South Florida Water Management District and Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management will both have their staff collect some seeds this spring on some of their properties. We have contracted Heidi Rhoades of Delray Beach to collect seeds for us this spring. She plans to collect seeds in state parks, especially the Fakahatchee Strand, in the Panther Refuge, and in those county parks for which we have requested renewal permits.

Status of germination of collected seeds:

At the January meeting, the Council requested a status report on the germination of seeds collected so far. Phil Fenner has received seeds from 3 sites and they have germi-

nated well. John Russell sent a detailed report giving approximate percentage of germination for each seed record, along with photos of some of the seedlings. Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the report should contact Barbra Larson (352-392-1901 ext. 122 or email: BCLarson@mail.ifas.ufl.edu). The photos and report will be posted on the Website as time permits.

Germination of collected seeds being grown at Russell's Bromeliads has ranged from 0 to 100% [24% of collections had no germination, 25% had poor germination (<30%), 33% had fair to good germination (30-80%), 4% had excellent germination (80-99%), and 14% of seed collections resulted in 100% germination]. John's report shows that there are many collections of *T. utriculata* but few of the other species. None of the seeds collected in the Fakahatchee Strand germinated, so that park is considered a priority for future seed collecting.

Education/Outreach:

Presentations on the weevil problem during the last quarter:

Boca Raton Bromeliad Society, Boca Raton; Feb. 20; 32 people (Ron Cave)

Sea Rocket Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society, Cocoa; Feb 26; 36 people (Ron Cave)

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Key Largo; March 19; 28

people (Ron Cave)

Exhibits on the weevil problem at public events during the last quarter:

Ft. Pierce Farmer's Market Ag-Day, March 22 (Ron Cave).

Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival, Kanapaha Gardens, Gainesville; March 22-23 (Al Muzell, Gainesville Bromeliad Society).

Palma Sola Botanic Garden, Bradenton; March 22 (Inez and Len Dolatowski, Sarasota Bromeliad Society).

Thornebrook Craft Show, Gainesville; March 29 (Al Muzell, Gainesville Bromeliad Society).

Bromeliad identification card sets:

Seven societies have received bromeliad identification card sets to give out for \$5 donations to the Weevil Fund. The UF/IFAS Extension Bookstore is also selling copies. When each society returns donations to the Weevil Fund, they should specify that the money is for the card sets so that we can keep track of how many are still outstanding.

Weevil Report July 12, 2003

Biological control/weevil research:

The Florida Park Service has renewed the weevil research grant

for FY 2003-2004. The new \$55,000 grant will be used to hire a post-doctoral researcher to work with collaborators in Honduras to establish a colony of the biological control agent (the fly), which is a priority for success of the project. Once that colony is established in Honduras, larger shipments to Florida quarantine will be possible to complete the required non-target testing. The FPS grant will also continue to fund Teresa Cooper's graduate study of bromeliad and weevil populations in several state parks.

Nolberto Arismendi, who has been collecting weevils in Honduras, has begun again to find some parasitized by the fly. He will keep the flies in Honduras to try to establish the colony there, with help from the new researcher, as soon as someone is hired. Hector Cabrera continues to search for weevils and possible natural enemies in pineapple fields in Mexico.

Details of recent weevil research can be found in the quarterly progress reports sent to the Florida Park Service on December 31, 2002, March 31, 2003 and June 30, 2003, which are available on the Save Florida's Native Bromeliads Web site, at <http://savebromeliads.ifas.ufl.edu/reports.htm>.

Weevil Spread in Florida:

Moyna and Ed Prince found no evidence of weevil presence at Deering Estate, Miami-Dade County, while collecting seeds on April 2. Barbra

Larson found no evidence of weevil damage on April 13 at Tosohatchee Preserve State Park, Christmas (Orange County), where seeds of *T. simulata* were collected. On April 23, Karen Andreas, Michael Andreas, Carroll Holland and Barbra Larson confirmed Mexican bromeliad weevil presence in *T. utriculata* that had been reported earlier by a homeowner in the Lake Washington area of North Melbourne (Brevard County).

On June 9, Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park biologist Christopher Tucker found an *M. callizona* adult in one of several large *Tillandsia* that had blown down in front of the park office. The park is in northwest Okeechobee County, about 25 miles north of the city of Okeechobee and 4 miles south of the Osceola County line. This is the first find of the weevil in Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, and it represents the seventh state park in which the weevil has been found.

Seed Collecting:

Many of the seeds collected this spring were from the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, a priority park. There are now 128 records in the seed collection database. The project's two volunteer seed growers (John Russell and Phil Fenner) have been gener-

ously donating much time and space to grow out these seeds. Their contributions are greatly appreciated. To lighten their workload, we need to find more volunteer seed growers.

Please find out if anyone in your societies would be willing to help with this. John Russell has offered to train and provide basic supplies to new seed growers if they don't already have experience growing Tillandsias from seed. His nursery is located in Sanford, about 20 miles north of Orlando. We also need anyone with experience growing non-Tillandsias from seed, since we are collecting *Catopsis* and *Guzmania* as well.

Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park will be trimming some mangroves along a canoe trail in the fall (after the water level goes down), and park managers expect to remove "about a boatload" of *Tillandsia variabilis*, which they will give to the project for seed. This makes finding more seed growers even more important.

John Russell's status report on seed germination, summarized at the last Council meeting, has now been posted to the Save Florida's Native Bromeliads Web site, where it is available as an Excel file at http://savebromeliads.ifas.ufl.edu/seed_germination_russell.xls.

Education/Outreach:

Ron Cave gave two presentations on the weevil problem, to the Miami-Dade chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society in Miami (April 22, 42 people in attendance) and to the Marine Resources Council in Grant (May 30, 15 people in attendance). Karen Andreas and Barbara Larson explained the weevil problem to a meeting of Master Gardeners in Brevard County on April 23, during Karen's presentation on bromeliads in the landscape.

The Bromeliad Society of South Florida displayed an exhibit on the weevil at their show in May (thanks to Karl Green), and the Sarasota Bromeliad Society included a display on their Bromeliad Garden Walk and Weevil Display, May 11 (thanks to Inez and Len Dolatowski).

Educational materials on the weevil were sent or delivered to the following: Brevard County Cooperative Extension Service, Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management, Miami-Dade Natural Areas Management, Florida Native Plant Society, Tosohatchee Preserve State Park, South Florida Water Management District, Brevard County Master Gardeners, and Forever Florida.

Karen Andreas has held meet-

ings with managers of the Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department to keep them informed of the problem and help them plan how they will monitor their parks for the weevil.

Please remember when giving Ted Nuse your payments for the bromeliad identification decks ordered by your society to specify the number of identification decks for which you are paying. The number of decks received by each society is as follows:

Tampa Bay: 20
Broward: 20
Central Florida: 35 (all paid)
South Florida: 200
Caloosahatchee: 30
West Coast: 10
Sarasota: 100
Seminole: 30
Treasure Coast: 10

Central Florida Bromeliad Society has already paid for all of the decks they have ordered. For all other societies, please remember to return any decks that are not sold. Any society that would like more identification decks, please contact Barbra Larson by email at BLarson@mail.ifas.ufl.edu or by phone at 352-392-1901 ext. 122.

Posters on the weevil problem are still available. If you can take posters to your local parks, gardens, nurseries, museums, etc., please give Barbra Larson your address

(see above contact information) and the number of posters you would like and she will send them to you.

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Minutes April 12, 2003

Societies present: Ted & Peggy Nuse (FEC, treasurer); Ken Marks (Boca Raton); Maureen Frazel & Polly Pascal (BSBC); Karen Andreas & Jerry O'Keefe (BSCF); Vicky Chirside & Larry Giroux (CBS); Jay & Calandra Thurrott (FEC); Dr. Barbra Larson (Gainesville); Jean & Roland Schnabel (FWC); Adele King (TCBS); Nat DeLeon & Karl Green (BSSF) and Ed & Nancy Hall (Seminole).

Others Present: Mike Andreas, Web Master.

Societies not represented: Sarasota and Tampa Bay.

Chairman Roland Schnabel called the meeting to order at 12:30PM.

The host

Society, The Bromeliad Society of Broward County was thanked.

Roland Schnabel distributed an updated agenda. Larry Giroux made a motion to accept the agenda; Karen Andreas seconded the motion that was passed.

Ted Nuse presented the treasurers report. The present totals are: Weevil fund \$15,379.30 and the general fund \$4,754.06 for a total of \$20,133.36. No checks were written this past quarter. Ted reminded the group that dues are past due.

The fee is \$10.00 per society and \$3.00 per member. A copy of the membership roster is required also. Ted questioned who should be tracking the money from the field guide on native Florida bromeliads. Dr. Larson agreed to send Ted a tabulation of the amount of field guides sent to each society.

Mike Andreas submitted a report on the Web Site and mentioned it was relocated to a new server due to cost considerations. Payment of \$148.40 was made to the webmaster. This pays for the setup on the new server and pays for the server space until March 10, 2004.

Inez Dolatowski sent copies of the FCBS roster for distribution to each society. Karen Andreas moved to require the month and year on the cover of the Quarterly, Ed Hall seconded the motion and it was passed. Jay Thurrott moved and Karen Andreas seconded a motion to thank Inez and Leonard for the excellent first issue of the 2003 Quarterly. Motion was passed after some very positive discussion.

Dr. Larson presented a lengthy report on the weevil research. An 18-page final report was submitted for the FCBS contract with DPI. This report is available on the FCBS web site. A letter was submitted to Gulfstream with samples of the various items produced under the grant.

This completes all obligations on grants received by FCBS. The weevil is now present in Brevard County north of Melbourne. The weevil research is presently funded

by several grants. The \$54K state funds may cease due to state of Florida budget cuts. Dr. Larson reiterated that now is the primary seed collecting time. If you want to participate, contact her.

Polly Pascal and Maureen Frazel reported that Judges school #3 will be held in Ft. Myers on May 31. Each society and potential enrollees were notified. Anyone interested in becoming a judge may begin with this school. Contact Polly immediately. School #2 will be held next year at the World conference.

Karl Green indicated that the BSSF will probably host a 2003 Extravaganza at the Miccosukee Indian Village. The BSSF expects to announce the final decision within a couple of weeks.

A lengthy discussion occurred on the attendance at FCBS meetings due to conflicts. Several suggestions were put forth. They are: 1) All societies should plan ahead by about 1 year and put show dates on web site. 2) Send alternates if the regular reps are not able to attend.

Concern was expressed by several attendees for the lack of informing the local societies of the details of the FCBS meetings. Two suggestions made were: 1) Reps should take notes and plan to tell the attendees at the next society meeting the highlights. 2) Karen Andreas volunteered to write a press release on the FCBS meeting to assist local societies in get-

ting the word out better.

Ed Hall made a motion to drop the Carol Johnson Distinguished Service Award effort and suspend the committee. Motion was seconded by Peggy Nuse and passed unanimously. Karen Andreas distributed a survey form that will be sent to all FCBS members in the newsletter. Results are expected to be available by the fall meeting.

Roland Schnabel announced that the July FCBS meeting will be hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida and held at the home of John Boardman.

The meeting was adjourned and 2:30PM

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Hall, Secretary

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
Draft Minutes
July 12, 2003

Societies present: South Florida (Nat DeLeon); Sarasota (Len and Inez Dolatowski); Florida West Coast (Bob Dalzell); Tampa Guild (Tom Wolfe and Bob Teems), Florida East Coast (Jay and Calandra Thurrott); Treasure Coast (Adele King); Broward County (Maureen and Bill Frazel); Gainesville (Carolyn Schoenau); Central Florida (John Boardman and Karen Andreas); Caloosahatchee (Dale Kammerlohr).

Societies not represented: Boca Raton; Seminole.

Others present: Mike Andreas,

FCBS Webmaster; Ted and Peggy Nuse, FCBS Treasurers; Howard Frank, the Weevil project; Helen Dexter; Eloise Beach and Jim Pierce; Pam Flesher, BSCF vice-president.

The meeting was called to order at 1:20 PM by FCBS vice Chairman Carolyn Schoenau. The meeting was hosted by Bromeliad Society of Central Florida at the home of John Boardman in St. Cloud. Karen Andreas was acting secretary.

Representatives introduced themselves and shared news from their societies. Bob Dalzell reported that Florida West Coast's membership is growing. Adele King, president of Treasure Coast, is working to build a bromeliad society in Indian River County. She is looking for guest speakers. Jay Thurrott told everyone about Florida East Coast members rehabilitating the bromeliad beds in a local botanical garden.

A motion was made by Bob Dalzell with the second from Ted Nuse to accept the April minutes with two changes. Dr. Frank made a correction in the ninth paragraph: "The weevil is now present in Brevard County south of Melbourne" was changed to "north of Melbourne." Karen Andreas requested a change for clarification about the survey forms: "Karen Andreas distributed a survey form that will be sent to all FCBS members" with the addition of "in the quarterly

newsletter." The motion carried unanimously.

Ted Nuse presented the Treasurer's Report. Present totals are: Weevil Fund \$16,707.30; FCBS general fund \$5168.18. The Gainesville Society is the only member society that has not paid dues. The Council finances are better than this time last year because of the Council's decision to use the proceeds from the Rare Plant Auction for operational expenses this year since the Weevil Fund has enough funding to sustain the program. Ted also reported letters of appreciation from Selby Botanical Gardens and the University of Florida for the Council's financial support. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Nat DeLeon and seconded by Bob Dalzell. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike Andreas gave the Webmaster's Report. More than 159,000 visitors have come to the website. A new database has been added, "Bromeliad Tank Dwellers," bringing the total number of databases on the site to six. Mike is working on a backlog of pictures; there is no shortage of contributors to the site. His report was filed with the secretary.

Inez Dolatowski reported that she and Len are waiting for details on the Extravaganza before sending out the next newsletter. Everyone agreed that was prudent. Inez has only received two requests for printed rosters. She also will email the roster file to anyone who asks

for it.

No one was present to give a Grant Report.

Dr. Howard Frank gave the Weevil Report. The Florida Park Service has renewed its grant with \$55,000. This grant will continue support for the researcher in Honduras, who is working with the flies, as well as Teresa Cooper's graduate study of bromeliads and weevil populations in several state parks. For more details on recent weevil research, visit <http://savebromeliads.ifas.ufl.edu/reports.htm>. The weevil has been found in Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park in northwest Okeechobee County. Seed collecting has been so successful that the two volunteer growers, John Russell and Phil Fenner, are overwhelmed at the moment. Volunteer growers are needed; John Russell has offered to assist any new grower in starting up the operation. Societies that have not done so need to pay Ted Nuse for the bromeliad identification packs. Please remember to include the number of decks for which you are paying as well as the name of your society on the check. Posters are still available.

Bill Frazel reported that 11 students attended the May 31 Judges School. There will be another Judges School before the World Conference next year, probably after January. The requirement for judges to attend symposiums to maintain their certification will be

satisfied this year by the judges' attendance at the seminars at the Extravaganza. There also will be a session on point scoring for those who need it.

Karen Andreas had no report on the membership survey; it is awaiting publication in the next newsletter.

Nat DeLeon reported on the Extravaganza. It will be held at the Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center (500 SW 177 Avenue, Miami 33194), on the second floor and away from the gaming area. Set up and registration will be on November 14. The Extravaganza will be held on November 15 and 16. Harry Luther will be one of the speakers. There will be one speaker for general bromeliad care and cultivation for the general public. A large exhibit will be at the entryway on the first floor to advertise the sale. There will be both commercial and member sales. Nat is looking into other hotels in the area to see if better rates are available; there is no obligation for a set number of room nights at the Miccosukee Convention Center. Sellers will need to get an identification number. Email karen@fcbs.org for information. The sales split will be 75-25%.

Nat requested that the sales tags be any other color than red. Eloise Beach pointed out how difficult it was to get tags to the sellers. Since the color of the sales tags is not specified in the standing rules

but it may have been established by a previous motion, Ted Nuse made a motion with a second by Tom Wolfe to leave the color of the sales tags up to the host society. Motion passed unanimously.

The Extravaganza banquet will also be held at the Convention Center, with a cash bar. Nat said they are working on airboat tours into the Everglades for Sunday morning. He confirmed that the FCBS pays for one mailing to promote the Extravaganza. Nat reminded the representatives that each society is responsible for providing five rare or unusual bromeliads for the Rare Plant Auction.

Tom Wolfe offered a list of bromeliad speakers that he has compiled. Everyone was most appreciative. Tom reported on the BSI Board Meeting that was held in Chicago at the same hotel where the World Conference will be next year. It is within five minutes of the airport, and the hotel offers shuttle service every half hour. It also is close to a stop for the commuter train to go downtown. Most of the chairs for the World Conference planning committees are filled but there are a few that are in need of a chairman: Banquet, Raffle. Commercial Displays, Security and Rare Plant Auction. Harry Luther has most of the speakers committed for the Taxonomic Seminar.

Tom announced a new BSI affiliate in Queensland, Australia. A new California society from San Bernardino is working towards affiliation.

The BSI continues to work with Selby Botanical Garden for the BSI headquarters. Selby is providing an office in its new building; the BSI will make a donation to solidify its arrangement with Selby. In a policy change for the BSI, the officers of its affiliated societies will no longer be required to be members of the BSI, only encouraged. This policy was never enforceable and often difficult for overseas societies to meet. Everyone agreed this was a good change.

Karen Andreas asked if representatives found the meeting summary helpful and if they wanted to continue to receive them after the meetings. The summaries can be used for FCBS reports to its member societies as well as in newsletters. The draft minutes will be posted on line within a day or so. Karen said she would remove the personal contact information from the posted minutes, if the representatives approved. The consensus was to continue with the summaries and to approve the removal of personal contact information in the web site version of the minutes.

The October meeting will be hosted by Boca Raton; the January meeting will be hosted by Florida East Coast. There being no further business, Bob Teems made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Ted Nuse. The motion was approved unanimously and Carolyn adjourned the meeting at 2:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Andreas

Acting Secretary

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies
Web Report
July 12, 2003
<http://fcbs.org>

As of July 11, there have been more than 159,000 visitors to fcbs.org.

The June and July 2003 newsletters of the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society have been posted; also a Newsletter Archive Page for past newsletters of the FWCBS has been created. The May 2003 newsletter of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society also was posted.

We are pleased to introduce the "Bromeliad Tank Dwellers Database." It is a database of organisms that live in or use bromeliad tanks and was compiled by Evelyn Skidmore, Dorothy E. Tuthill and Gregory K. Brown, Bromeliad Research Lab, Department of Botany, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming, U.S.A.

Articles posted to the site during the last quarter are: *Neoregelia* 'Plutonis'/'Proserpine,' added to "Uncle Derek Says"; *Neoregelia* 'Tour Eiffel,' with photos by Oscar Ribeiro of Bromeliario Imperialis, Brazil, added to the 'Believe It Or Not' page; and an article about Augusto Ruschi by Derek Butcher, added to the Bro-

meliad Information page, Bromeliad People section.

The May 22 Bromeliad Seminar at Selby was advertised on the Upcoming Events page.

Most of the pictures posted during the last quarter were pictures submitted to the BSI Cultivar Registrar as part of the registration process; these pictures were added to the Photo Index as well as to the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry which, as most of you know, is maintained by the FCBS webmaster and is located on the FCBS site.

Bossa Nova Bromeliads was added to the Links Page. This is the Site of the collection of Roberto Menescal and Luiz Felipe Nevaes de Carvalho in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. People who signed the Guest Book during the last quarter were from Germany, New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, South Africa, Hong Kong, Japan, Philippines and Malaysia, as well as from the United States.

Visitors to the site often leave questions, either through a Guest Book signing or via email to the webmaster. Depending on the type of question, Michael either answers the query or sends it on to Derek Butcher (BSI Cultivar Registrar) or to Karen. Generally these questions are answered within 24-48 hours.

As always, articles, photographs and announcements for the web site are welcome. Pictures can be emailed to the webmaster who also can scan photographs and slides.

All materials sent via snail mail will be returned to the sender.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Andreas, Webmaster
Karen

Andreas
webmaster@fcbs.org

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617 Fifth Street, Merritt Island, FL
32953 321-453-0366

Upcoming Events

October 11 & 12 – USF Fall Plant Sale, Tampa, FL

November 1 – 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM
18th Annual Civil Conservation Corps Festival, Highlands Hammock State Park, Sebring, FL.
FCBS will be having a weevil display at their festival.

November 7 – 9th Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society show and sale “Bromeliads USA”
Terry Park, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Ft. Myers, FL Show and Sales area open to the public Nov. 8th from 9AM to 5PM and Nov. 9th from 10 AM to 4PM. For additional info contact Larry Giroux 239-997-2237 or Brian Weber at 239-591-4268.

November 8-10th Selby Botanic Gardens fall plant sale.

November 15 (Saturday) Annual Extravaganza. For the first time the

Bromeliad Society of South Florida will be the host of this annual event. To be held at the Miccosukee Resort, 500 SW 177 Ave., Miami at the intersection of Krome and the Trail. Bromeliads grown by affiliate members and nurseries will be sold all day Saturday. There will be seminars and workshops. Saturday night there will be a banquet and rare plant auction to benefit the Florida Council of Bromeliads societies. There is also a plan to have a judges symposium at the Extravaganza. Arrangements are still being worked out and more details will be provided in a special mailing.

July 27 – August 2, 2004 16th World Conference hosted by the Greater Chicago Bromeliad Society at the Westin O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont, Ill. More info online at BSI.org or contact jack Reilly, 217-486-5874 or email jar56@one-eleven.net

Affiliate News

Steve Wagner is the new editor of *Orlandiana*, Newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Several societies have had visits to nurseries or gardens recently including Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society who recently had a tour of Russell's Bromeliads in Sanford, Florida; Bromeliad Society of Broward County visited Sunshine Ranches, Josefa Leon in Ft. Lauderdale. Michael Kiehl invited the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society to

an open house. Richard Kosmaki's garden was open to the Sarasota Bromeliad Society in July.

Mote Marine plans on having a "Bromeliad Garden" set up with plants donated by Tropiflora. Sarasota Bromeliad Society members Rob Branch, Ray Lemieux, Bob Stickney, and Dan Beswick offered their assistance in helping to maintain the display.

BSSF long time members Jim and Virginia Schrenker are moving to South Carolina and can be reached at virgl17@gzinc.com

Sugar Mills gardens has expressed their appreciation to The Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society for their restoring of a bed of bromeliads in the garden.

Muareen Frazel of the Bromeliad Society of Broward County and her Davie garden was the feature story in the July 4th Lifestyle section of the Sun-Sentinel.

The Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society has a great picture on the cover of their August newsletter of a Bromeliad Dragon topiary at Epcot in Orlando taken by Jim Boynton. You can view this picture at <http://fcbs.org/fwcbs/newsletter.htm>

Audrey McCrory 1922-2003

BSCF Life Member Audrey McCrory passed away on May 19, 2003

Audrey and her husband Bill came to Florida in 1952 from Chicago. A friend gave her a bromeliad, and thus her passion for bromeliads was born. Soon afterwards, Ed and Dot McNulty told Audrey and Bill about a bromeliad society that was forming: Audrey and Bill accompanied them to their first BSCF meeting, held at what is now known as the John Young Science Center.

Audrey and Bill started selling bromeliads at arts and craft shows all over the Orlando area. In 1978, realizing they needed more room, for their growing enterprise, they bought land in Kissimmee. Bill built the greenhouses and they opened Boggy Creek Bromeliad Nursery. Known mainly as a nursery for collector, they specialized in Aechmeas and Neoregelias.

Audrey was a tireless promoter of bromeliads, speaking at bromeliad societies and garden clubs everywhere. Many Boggy Creek bromeliads were donated to Cypress Gardens; Disney used Boggy Creek bromeliads in their displays and flower shows. Audrey also volunteered at Leu Gardens and taught bromeliad mounting classes there. She held every office except for treasurer in

our society and for years, with Dot McNulty, planned all the society's holiday parties. The very first BSCF bromeliad display was at the Colonial Plaza and was manned by Audrey, Bill and Dot and Ed McNulty. Audrey worked in all of BSCF's shows, at the Altamonte Mall (where the first three were held), Winter Park Mall where Audrey was show chairman for most of the shows, and at the Florida Mall, until bad health limited her participation. She worked at the Entries Chairman for the BSI World Bromeliad Conference in Orlando in 1980 and was an active participant in the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

Audrey and Bill's children share their parents' passion for bromeliads. Daughter Betsy took over the primary operation of Boggy Creek Bromeliads about six years ago and continued the McCrory tradition of promoting and selling bromeliads at arts and craft shows. Son Buddy started McCrory's Sunny Hill Nursery in the 1980s with Aechmea seeds given to him by his parents. His children, Georgia and Evan, are familiar faces at BSCF sales and functions. Several bromeliads have been named for Audrey, including Neoregelia 'Audrey' and Guzmania 'Audrey.'

Audrey leaves behind a legacy of her love for bromeliads, her passion to promote them, and her

tireless efforts at volunteering and supporting the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. She will be missed.

Systemic Insecticide Application (Marathon) to Bromeliad Species for Weevil Control

Bruce W. McAlpin, Miami, FL

Three to four years ago, I notice mature *Tillandsia utricularia* plants were falling apart and falling out of my oak trees in the small community of Muse, in western Glades County. Investigation at the base of what was left of these plants revealed chewed leaf bases and insect frass. My conclusion was that the Bromeliad weevil was well established in my location. I was even able to remove several white, grub-like larva that I saved in a glass jar, to see if they would mature into adults. They just died. A year later, I notice dying leaves in the center of a juvenile *Alcantarea imperialis* plant and found the same insect frass and concluded that this species too was susceptible to this weevil's attack.

John Banta, a good friend, horticulturist and neighbor, suggested that I might try Marathon, systemic granular insecticide, to attempt to control the weevils. I started to apply small amounts (1/2 teaspoon or less) of Marathon granular systemic insecticide to the water held in the *Alcantarea* leaf bases and to the empty leaf bases in the center of native *Tillandsia* plants two years ago, and have had very good results keeping all

the treated plants alive. Untreated *Tillandsia* plants, up in the oak canopy, continue to die. Now the once very common species (*T. utricularia*) is almost expatriated in this location and even *Tillandsia setacea*, another extremely common plant in this location, is now being attached, as is the more uncommon, *T. fasciculata*. This year I am treating with the granular Marathon all the young plants I can find of *T. utricularia* and *T. fasciculata* that I have moved into my garden so I can monitor them. I will continue to treat the *Alcantarea* as well. So far, I have seen no phytotoxicity or other adverse reactions in the treated plants. I have treated the plants twice a year, once in early spring (March or April) and again at the beginning of the summer rainy season (June or July).

Only a few weeks ago I discovered dying juvenile pineapple plants in my garden falling apart and discovered insect frass in the decaying base of each plant. I am reluctant to treat edible fruit with a systemic insecticide, but might this be the only way to save my pineapple crop?

Also, three years ago, I found frass in the dying bases of several Tillandsia plants at my town-home, in the Kendall area of Miami (SW 104 Street and 112 Ave). I started treating all my Tillandsia plants with Marathon after that discovery and have not lost any more plants in this location.

2003 Extravaganza

Host: Bromeliad Society of South Florida

When: November 15-16-17, 2003

Where: Miccosukee Resort and Gaming Casino

500 S.W. 177th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33194
1-877-242-6464

Just minutes west of the Turnpike on S.W. 8th Street and Krome Avenue in Miami this resort and casino is located along the southeastern edge of the beautiful Florida Everglades. Providing Extravaganza guests with luxurious hotel, convention, and special event accommodations, child care, pool, numerous dining and shopping facilities, daily live entertainment, big name shows, and 24hr. a day gaming facilities, this 300+ room resort offers a host of activities that will complement an outstanding Extravaganza itinerary that will include:

Friday: Morning set-up for vendors /Welcome table for early arrivals

Saturday: Plant sales, Judges symposium, Guest speakers (min. 3 with Harry Luther being one), Raffle (some items will include BSI World Conference registration package, Rare Out-of-print Bromeliad books, etc.), Dinner with cash bar (delicious menu to be announced in \$20-22.00 range), and Rare Plant Auction.

Sunday: Opportunity for extravaganza guests to take an exiting 3hr airboat ride/tour of the everglades and visit a Miccosukee Indian village (15.00 per person-pick-up and return provided by resort).

Room Cost: \$90.00 for deluxe two bed room. (cable, movies, minibar in rooms) Note: Additional motel locations near resort will be provided at later date for budget-minded folks!

The B.S.S.F. promises to make the 2003 Extravaganza an event to remember!!

Questions: Contact Peter Kouchalacos, Show Chair (305) 461-2367
Email- cpkouch@cs.com

Catching Up Staying Even

We couldn't think of something clever to write for this issue or anything of interest to read, hope this reprinted article will encourage other people to submit articles to us on your plant wanderings.

Reprinted from

BPT

PLANT WANDERINGS

This past Saturday we decided it was time for another plant wandering. We decided to head to the Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo. We hadn't been there in almost a year and wanted to see if anything was new or changed since our last visit. This garden consists of about 182 acres with something for the plant lover in everyone. We especially enjoyed walking around the several ponds at the garden. There was quite an assortment of aquatic plants and plants surrounding the ponds that enhanced them. Some of these were water hickory, swamp lily, wax myrtle, different types of cannas, sand cordgrass (opartina bakeri), dahoon holly, lance leaf arrowhead, and shield ferns to name some of them. I especially liked the cordgrass and hope I can find some to add to our ponds.

One area of the garden had various tropical fruits including a great variety of bananas including ice cream, Cavendish, lady finger, Hawaiian plantation. If you plan on putting any bananas in your yard, this is a good place to check and see how big they get. We have a Cavendish in our front yard and it will get bigger than we thought. They also had a luffa plant which was nice to see as well as a variety of other tropicals.

Neoregelia 'Yellow Devil' were growing by the tropical fruit garden and

bromeliads lined the path. In back of the maintenance area, almost hidden were *Ananas Comosus* 'tricolor', numerous water plants, hoyas and some nice pompass grass.

The herb garden was especially enjoyable. There were scented geraniums, flowering kale, datura, castor oil plants and all kinds of herbs. If you go make sure you rub your hands against some of the leaves and smell. What a treat!

We came across a thorn less kapok tree 'bombax ceiba' that was very attractive. There is an Extension Building on the property with many bromeliads surrounding it. They have quite a few brochures available there as well as a nice little gift shop with garden books and books about Florida landscaping and parks, etc.

Some of the other gardens there are a butterfly garden, sensory garden, topiary garden, compost demonstration area, and a bromeliad garden to name a few. It is easy to spend a day there meandering among the gardens and boardwalks and trails. Around the ponds you can see many turtles and birds besides the little fish swimming around. The garden is next to the Heritage Museum where there are about a dozen or so cracker houses that are on

display and quite frequently there are different events held there. The day we went was a folk festival and besides seeing the houses, there was music, food and story telling.

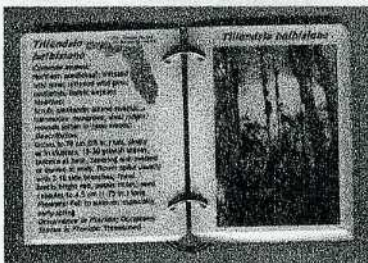
Survey Says

The Florida Council has put together a survey. The Council really wants to know what the membership would like to see happen and the importance of some of the activities the Council is now involved in. If you are not happy of the activities of the Florida Council, please remember that you pick your Council Representatives. If nothing gets done, ask your Council Representatives what they are doing to get it done. If they are not involved in the Council by heading up some kind of activity, why do they go to the Florida Council Meetings? The Florida Council actually needs representatives that want to do some and not just show up for a free lunch.

Please take the time to read and fill it out.

Len & Inez

On the next page is a survey



Bromeliads and Bromeliad Weevils of Florida

A field guide to Florida bromeliads and bromeliad weevils. All pages are laminated with color photographs of all native Florida bromeliads, brief species descriptions, and county distribution maps. The 4"x 3" deck is held together by clip-rings.

The identification deck is available for \$5.00 from any Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies representative

Representatives of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies would appreciate you taking a few moments of your time to give your viewpoint on how the Council can better serve you. You are welcome to include your name and contact information if you would like a response, but it is not mandatory.

Thank you. Return survey to: Karen Andreas, 617 Fifth Street, Merritt Island, FL 32953.

Your Bromeliad Society is _____

Please use a scale of 1-5 when answering the following questions; "5" indicates important/enjoy" and "1" indicates "not important/do not enjoy."

How important is the Council's quarterly newsletter for the dissemination of information?

1 2 3 4 5

Suggestions/comments:

Do you use the Council's website at fcbs.org?

1 2 3 4 5

Suggestions/comments:

Is the annual Extravaganza an important event?

1 2 3 4 5

Suggestions/comments:

How important is the Council's support of the effort to control the invasive Mexican Bromeliad Weevil – the "Evil Weevil" in Florida.

1 2 3 4 5

Suggestions/comments: