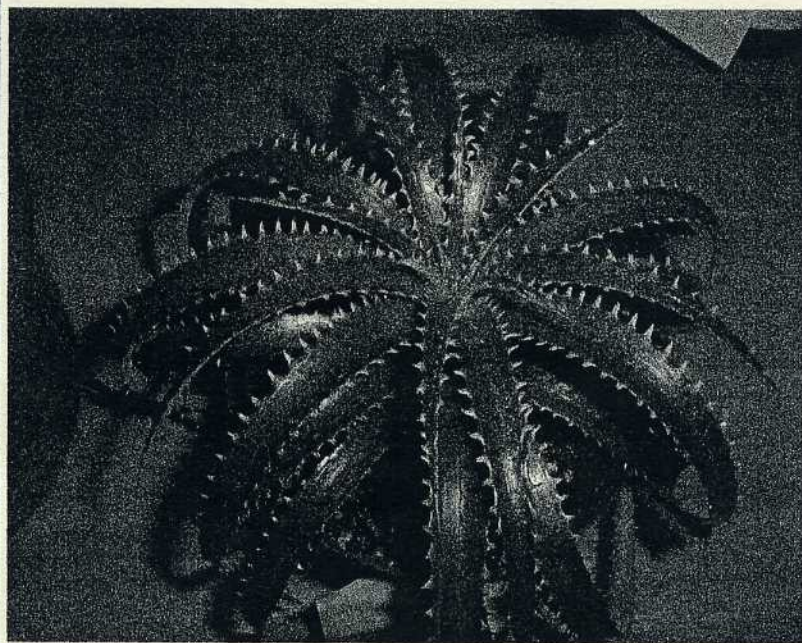


Volume 22 Issue 5 Support Your Local Bromeliad Society

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



Dyckia marnier-lapostollei x fosteriana

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**Florida Council
of
Bromeliad Societies
Draft Minutes
October 11, 2003**

Societies Present: Ted & Peggy Nuse (FEC, Treasurer); Jay & Calandra Thurott (FEC); Mark Havlik (Boca Raton); Mike & Karen Andrea (BSCF); Roland & Jean Schnabel (FWCBS); Karl Green (BSSF); Al Muzzell (Gainesville); Ed & Nancy Hall (SBS); Polly Pascal; & Maureen Frazel (BSBC); Vickie Chirnside (Caloosahatchee).

Others Present: Dr Howard Frank (the weevil project)

Societies Not Represented: Treasure Coast, Tampa Guild and Sarasota.

Call to order: Chairman Roland Schnabel called the meeting to order at 1:30PM at the home of Joel Meisner. The meeting was hosted by the Boca Raton Society. Each representative intro-

duced him or herself.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the July 12, 2003 were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Ted Nuse distributed the Treasurer's Report. He stated that the combined accounts total \$22,406.16 with \$5,678.86 in the general fund. Roland reported Terri Bert (past Chairperson) had just received notice that the Florida Corporation fees had not been paid and were past due. Roland asked her to forward the information to Ted Nuse for payment. Ted made a motion to have the state send the bill directly to him. The motion was seconded by Al Muzzell and passed.

Karen Andreas passed out a report on the Web Site. As of October 10, 2003 over 171,950 people have visited fcbs.org. She encouraged newsletter editors to freely use any material on the Web Site but be sure to acknowledge the source.

Inez Dolatowski was absent and thus the newsletter editor made no report.

Per Dr. Howard Frank, Dr. Barbra Larson will be phasing out of the weevil research because of a new job. Howard distributed a 2-page report. He mentioned that the Fort Pierce field office under Dr. Ron Cave is expected to be operational by mid 2004. Much of the weevil research will be transferred there.

Karen Andreas reported that only one membership survey had been received back. Polly Pascal made a motion to put the survey in the next newsletter. Al Muzzell seconded the motion that was passed.

Karl Green reported that the Miccosukee Resort sold the rooms out from under the SFBS. After some discussion on an alternate date in January 2003, Karl made a motion that was seconded by Ed Hall to cancel the 2003 Extravaganza. The motion carried. It was mentioned that the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

would host the fall 2004 Extravaganza and the Sarasota Bromeliad Society would host the 2005 event.

Karen Andreas handed out a packet of information on the FCBS. She requested feedback.

Roland Schnabel noted the 2004 incoming FCBS officers will be as follows:

Chairman-Gainesville Bromeliad Society
Vice-Chairman-Seminole Bromeliad Society
Secretary-Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society.

The Chairman begins serving at the end of the January 2004 meeting. Ed Hall, the present Secretary mentioned he expected the new secretary to assume the job at the start of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30PM.

Respectively submitted,

Ed Hall, Secretary

**Florida Council
of
Bromeliad Societies Web
Report**

October 11, 2003

<http://fcbs.org>

As of October 10, there have been more than 171,950 visitors to fcbs.org.

Newsletters from Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society and Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society were posted for the months of July, August, September and October.

The meeting and officer rotations for the Council are now posted online, under About FCBS.

Pictures from several shows and sales were put online: Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Bromeliad Society of Broward County and Bromeliad Society of South Florida. In addition, pictures were contributed by: David Shiigi; M. Patterson; Michael Andreas; Lynn Fieber; Michael

Schmale; Peter Tristam; K. Woods; Derek Butcher; Oscar Ribeiro; and Vic Przetoeki

Derek Butcher contributed an article for "Uncle Derek says: on Tillandsia hybrids with *T. albertiana* as one of the parents

An international source was added to the Bromeliad Resources section of the Links page. Bromeliad Resources, Bromeliario Imperialis, the bromeliad nursery of Oscar Ribeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was added. Oscar Ribeiro is also a frequent contributor of pictures for the Photo Index.

The website was mentioned as a resource in an article in the gardening section of Florida Today newspaper in Brevard County, September 6. There was a sidebar to the main article on bromeliads about the Mexican bromeliad weevil.

Karen is writing a series of short articles about the con-

tent of the Council website. These articles are being written for the newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida. Member societies may use them (with credit) and/or they can be included in the Council's newsletter. A copy of the first article is included with this report. Karen can send them via email if your newsletter editors are interested.

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,

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Weevil Report October, 2003

Biological control/weevil research:

The renewal of the weevil grant by the Florida Park Service has funded the hiring of a new post-doctoral researcher, who has begun his work in Honduras. Alonso Suazo-Calix, a graduate of El Zamorano, received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida, Department of Entomology and Nematology, and most recently worked at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Australia. He has experience rearing several insect species. Alonso will be developing rearing methods for the fly in Honduras, building up a colony there instead of having small amounts of flies shipped to Florida.

Nolberto Arismendi, the project's assistant at El Zamorano, Honduras, had continued to maintain

emerging flies in cages to start a colony. He has observed flies mating in the lab and has found them to parasitize weevil larvae that were collected from the field while very young (and therefore not parasitized in the field). Nolberto will assist Alonso in developing rearing methods that do not depend on field collections, to improve efficiency of rearing of the weevils and flies, and to begin the non-target testing that is required for a permit to release the flies in Florida.

Ron Cave and Patrick Duetting (UF Indian River Research and Education Center at Fort Pierce) have been experimenting with the possibility of using olfactory attraction to field trap *M. calizona*. If a system can be worked out to reliably trap the weevil, it could be used to monitor population size and/or decrease pressure on bromeliad populations. The system being tested is modified from that of the systems designed for the trapping of other *Metamasius* weevils.

They have also been working

(together with Olan Ray Creel) on alternate rearing methods for *M. mosieri* collected for experimentation and rearing of potential parasitoids. They have tried artificial diets, as well as pineapple leaves and ground ball moss mixed with agar. Until they find an efficient rearing method, they are looking for a source of host plants of the native weevil (small plants of *T. utriculata*, *T. setacea*, *T. balbisiana*).

Weevil Monitoring in Florida:

Teresa Cooper, with the help of park volunteers, as well as Ron Cave and Patrick Duetting, has continued to monitor weevil and bromeliad populations at several state parks. She has analyzed her data over the past two years and concluded that the greatest numbers of live weevil larvae and adults are found in the field in May and June. This information will be useful when a biological

control agent is ready to be released in the field.

Karen and Michael Andreas (Seminole Bromeliad Society) have surveyed several Brevard County parks for bromeliad weevil damage. They found two large *T. utriculata* on the ground with what appeared to be damage from larger animals, but no direct evidence of weevil presence at Enchanted Forest (Titusville), and no evidence of bromeliads other than ball moss and Spanish moss at Lori Wilson Park (Cocoa Beach) and at Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary and Kelly Park West (Central Merritt Island). Their informative description of these parks and accompanying pictures are available on the project's website, at <http://savebromeliads.ifas.ufl.edu/reports.htm>.

Seed Collecting:

John Russell reports that some to many of the germinated seeds he is growing out for the project may not survive. He will report back on the extent of loss once he has something

more concrete. This makes seed collecting next spring more urgent, particularly in the Fakahatchee Strand and parks with rarer species.

Education/Outreach:

Teresa Cooper gave a talk on her monitoring research, and a poster on the weevil was presented, at the annual meeting of the Florida Entomological Society in Stuart on July 28-29. Teresa won third prize in the student talks contest.

Karen and Michael Andreas have been educating park personnel, Master Gardeners and the public throughout Brevard County about the weevil. Their efforts were the focus of a major article in Brevard County's newspaper, Florida Today, on September 6. We thank them both for the dedication and time they have given to educational and monitoring efforts.

Barbra Larson
email: BCLarson@ifas.ufl.edu

Affiliate News

Members of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida recently had a tour of Color Zone Tropicals, Grant & Magali Groves wholesale bromeliad nursery.

Moyna Prince has resigned as editor for The Bromeliad Society of South Florida after nine years. Nick Crespo has volunteered to be their new editor.

The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida has been invited to put in a display and sales booth at the Central Florida Fair's horticultural exhibits area from February 26th until March 7th.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and Sale was held November 8th & 9th. Best of Show Horticulture was won by Grant & Magali Groves for a *Vriesea hieroglyphica* x *Vr. Fosteriana*. Best Cryptanthus Species Award was a *Cryptanthus lacerdae* 'Menescal' entered by Eloise Beach who also

won Best Multiple Cryptanthus Award with a *Cryptanthus* 'High Voltage.'

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society will have an educational display at Everybody's Flower show in Daytona Beach from March 11-14th.

The Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society is also losing their editor James Boynton after ten years.

Twenty-two Central District judges were in attendance at the Judges Symposium in Lafayette, Louisiana on November 8th.

The Sarasota Bromeliad Society had some unexpected guests at their November meeting. Odean and Betty Head of the Bromeliad Society of Houston were surprise visitors and it was great to see them again.

The Bromeliad Society of Broward County is celebrating their 30th anniversary of affiliation with the Bromeliad Society International.

The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay recently had Carole Richmeyer from Houston present a program on *Cryptanthus* at their November meeting.

Catching Up Staying Even

It has been one heck of a year. It has been a confusing year with the Extravaganza and the World Conference changing dates.

This year has seen an increase in membership for some of the affiliate societies. It is good to see the interest in plants seems to have grown. More societies are getting involved in events such as community events, participating in group outings to bromeliad nurseries, etc. This has also been a sad year for some due to the passing on of some well loved members.

Education and Outreach concerning the Evil Weevil project has been ongoing this year and we need to keep up the momentum. More people

are needed to get involved in seed collecting, growing seedlings, writing articles and making the public more aware of the problem. You can't just wait for a handful of people to do all the work. Get involved. Contact your rep or even come to a Florida Council Meeting for more information.

The Web site has gotten bigger and better this year and is a terrific site. You should visit this often as you never know what new info you can obtain from it.

We are again attaching the survey that was run in the last issue. Please take the time to complete it, as soon as possible and mail to Karen Andreas. Your input is important.

We hope that the upcoming year finds you happy, healthy and your bromeliads blooming!

Len & Inez