

Volume 23 Issue 1 Support Your Local Bromeliad Society

April 2004 Issue

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



Hechtia argentea

Photo by Len Harrison

<http://www.fcbs.org>

FCBS REPRESENTATIVES

BOCA RATON BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Ken Marks
22690 Lemon Tree Lane
Boca Raton, FL 33428-5514
561-451-3046 kema@adelphia.net
Mark Havlik
747 Camino Lakes Cir
Boca Raton, FL 33486
561-368-6275
M.havlik@worldnet.att.net

BROMELIAD GUILD OF TAMPA BAY

Tom Wolfe
5211 Lake LeClare Rd.
Lutz, FL 33558
813-961-1475
bromeliadsociety@juno.com
Bob Teems
6805 Mooring Way
Tampa, FL 33615
813-855-0938
teems@worldnet.att.net

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF BROWARD COUNTY

Polly Pascal
4413 SW 38th Terr.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312
954-962-0018
Maureen Frazel
12500 Lake Rd.
Davie, FL
33325-4420
954-474-1349

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Karen Andreas
617 Fifth St.

Merritt Island, FL 32953
Karen@digital.net
Betsy McCrory
3615 Boggy Creek Rd.
Kissimmee, FL 34744
407-318-2139
betsymccrory@aol.com

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Ed & Moyna Prince
11220 SW 107th Ct
Miami, FL 33176-3902
305-251-5289
MoynaP@aol.com

CALOOSAHATCHEE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Vicky Chirside
951 Southland Road
Venice, FL 34293
941-493-5825
vickychir@aol.com

FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Jay & Calandra Thurrott
713 Breckenridge Dr.
Port Orange, FL 32127
386-761-4804
Cajat@aol.com
Calacat@aol.com

FLORIDA WEST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Bob Dalzell
1983 Belle Air Rd
Clearwater, FL 33764
727-535-9273
blueberryvolvo@aol.com
Roland Schnabel

5106 E 127th Ave. I
Temple Terrace, FL 33617
813-988-7046
rschnabe@gte.net

**GAINESVILLE
BROMELIAD SOCIETY**

Carolyn Schoenau
P. O. Box 12981
Gainesville, FL 32644
352-372-6589
bsi@nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu
Al Muzell
P. O. Box 14442 Univ. Sta.
Gainesville, FL 32604
352-372-4576

**SARASOTA BROMELIAD
SOCIETY**

Inez Dolatowski
2509 25th Ave West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-748-2120
ldolatow@tampabay.rr.com
turtle1657@yahoo.com

**SEMINOLE BROMELIAD
SOCIETY**

Ed Hall
1111 Glen Garry Cir
Maitland, FL 32751
407-647-2039
Palmbrom@aol.com

**TREASURE COAST
BROMELIAD SOCIETY**

Lindy Wise
2928 Rainbow Dr
Ft. Pierce, FL 34981
772-466-1275
lindyjay@aol.com
Adele King
209 St. Lucie Blvd
Fort Pierce, FL 34946
772-467-9036

aking@joytcmurphy.com

CHAIRPERSON

Carolyn Schoenau

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Roland Schnabel

SECRETARY

Vicky Chirnside

TREASURER

Ted & Peggy Nuse
3 Rocky Creek Trail
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
386-673-2648
Tednuse@mindspring.com
peggynuse@aol.com

EDITORS – Leonard & Inez

Dolatowski

WEBMASTER

Michael Andreas
617 5th St.
Merritt Island, FL 32953
312-453-0366
webmaster@fcbs.org

WEEVILMASTER

Howard Frank, Ph. D.
1711 NW 10TH Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32605
352-375-3821
jhfr@mail.ifas.ufl.edu
Http://
bromeliadbiota.ifas.ufl.edu/~frank/
bromel.html
Barbra Larson, Ph. D.
Univ. of Florida,
Entomology & Nematology Dept.
Box 110620
Gainesville, FL 32611
352-392-1901 x122
bclarson@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

Photo from: <http://members.austarmetro.com.au/~syndock/bromania/awards>



BROMELIAD GROWER EXTRAORDINARY HONOURED

Grace Margaret Goode, 86, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia by Her Majesty the Queen in the Australia Day 2004 Honors List. The citation reads that

she is "officially recognized for service to horticulture through the cultivation and hybridization of bromeliads."

The award marks the culmination of thirty years of de-

votion to this remarkable family of plants and climaxes a list of other honors received along the pathway to producing some 800 cultivars. Grace Goode is a Life Member of several Australian Bromeliad Societies, a Charter Member of the Cryptanthus Society (USA), and an Honorary Trustee of the Bromeliad Society Inc. (USA). She has visited the USA as a bromeliad expert on several occasions.

Grace recalls the beginnings. "If a sixteenth century Czechoslovakian Monk can produce beautifully colored sweet peas, surely I can do it with bromeliads." People like Olwen Ferris, another bromeliad pioneer in Queensland, encouraged and helped her. She read a small book by Joan White, then a member of the Bromeliad Society of Australia, in which she depicted a few neoregelias. She commented "They were nothing like the lovely colored neoregelias of today"; but she fell in love with them. They were enough to spur her on; and the long journey of hybridization began at "Bromania", her

home at Alexandra Headlands where she has lived for fifty years.

In the early 1970's, there were only about twenty species of bromeliads available in Australia, not many to begin with. Untrained as she was apart from some basic plant knowledge gained at school and with a little help from her friends, she began to play the part of the birds, bees, and bats initially with Billbergias and Cryptanthus. *Billbergia* 'Doreen Johnson', 'Red Glory', 'First Love', 'Yayee' are but some of her *Billbergia* hybrids. Some of her better-known *Cryptanthus* hybrids are: - 'Black Magic', 'Black Power', 'Dark Zone' and 'Cloud Cover'.

Grace succeeded with a most unusual cross between *Cryptanthus* 'It' and the intergeneric *xCryptbergia* 'Rubra' (now 'Red Burst') which is named *xCryptbergia* 'Goodale'. She also dabbled with other intergenerics i.e. *xNeolarium* 'Something Special' and

xNeolarium Thor' both of which came from a (*Nidularium fulgens* Neoregelia 'Vulcan') cross. *Nidularium* and a few *Aechmeas* also received some attention. Another intergeneric was *xNidurnea* 'Beacon' (*Aechmea weilbachii* x *Nidularium billbergioides* (now *Canistropsis*)).

While Grace has always said that her favorite plants were Cryptanthus, most who know her associate her name with Neoregelias. Space limitations prevent a listing of all her well-known cultivars in this genus, but some of the more notable ones deserve mention. From the *Neoregelia* 'Sheer Joy' grex have come 'Amazing Grace' (after the song), 'Blackie', 'Red Plate'..... Other cultivars that come to mind are: - *Neo*. 'Break of Day', 'Mandella', 'Small Wonder', 'Claret', 'Charm', 'One and Only', and 'Hal Ellis'. Her hybrids are well documented in articles in Bromeliad magazines and, of course, in the Bromeliad Cultivar Register.

Many visitors to 'Bromania' have been awestruck by the brilliant carpet of vibrantly colored Neoregelias, which are always on display in her garden. Always the obliging hostess, all her visitors have been invited to share in the joy of these plants as she describes them and points out the latest cultivars.

Another ever present feature was the rows of trays and saucers along the veranda; all full of healthy seedlings at various stages of growth. There was always evidence of the patient disciplined care and attention; necessary qualities in the long process to bring the plants to maturity. Recently, to a reporter, she said, "You can't rush the creation of bromeliads, you know". Grace has what it takes. She has received and given much by growing so many intriguing and colorful bromeliads.

The members of the Bromeliad Society of Queensland Inc, warmly add their congratulations to the many she has already received; includ-

ing those from the Premier of Queensland, The Minister assisting the Minister for the Status of Women, The Lady Mayoress of the Maroochy-dore Shire Council, and the Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society Inc. where she is a valued Life Member.

The bromeliad world has not seen the last of Grace's cultivars. She is still cultivating the offspring of some of the more interesting and spectacular parents!

May this generous, hospitable lady, with the sometimes wicked sense of humor, Grace Margaret Goode OAM, enjoy many more years of health and happiness; and of course bromeliad growing.

Last thing, when next you meet her, don't forget to bow!

Bob Paulsen

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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 10-15, 2004

2004 World Conference in Chicago

May 1st & 2nd, 2004

26th Annual Bromeliad Society of South Florida Show and Sale

Fairchild Tropical Gardens,
10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami. Entries on Thursday, 4/29, from noon until 8:00 p.m. Judging Friday, 4/30
Admission to the show is free with \$10.00 admission to Fairchild (\$9.00 for seniors)
There will be plants for sale grown by BSSF members and nine commercial vendors.

If you would like to send us something for this Newsletter, please do. You could use snail mail to :

2509 26th Av.

Bradenton, Fl. 34205-2950

E-mail to:

ldolatow@tampabay.rr.com

Show Chairman: Karl Green
305-255-4888

May 7th, 8th & 9th, 2004

The 29th Annual Bromeliad
Society of Central Florida

Show & Sale

Florida Mall, 8001 S. Orange
Blossom Trail, Orlando, FL

Fri. & Sat. 10:00 am to 9:30
pm, Sunday 11:00 am to 6:00
pm Exhibitors will be compet-
ing for many awards, includ-
ing the prestigious Best of
Show awards sponsored by the
Bromeliad Society Interna-
tional for horticulture and ar-
tistic entries. Hundreds of col-
orful and unusual plants will
also be for sale. Bromeliad
Society members will be on
hand to answer questions and
distribute free information.
Contact: Betsy McCrory 407-
348-2139 or betsym-
ccrory@aol.com

June 25th - 27th, 2004

24th Annual Sarasota Brome-
liad Society Show and Sale

Selby Botanical Gardens 811
S. Palm Ave, Sarasota, FL
34236

Sale only on June 25th

Sale and Show June 26th &

27th Rare Plant auction and
banquet 6:00 pm June 26th
Show chairman Rob
Branch 941-358-4953

August 11

SCHOOL II OF THE
WORLD CONFERENCE
BROMELIAD JUDGES
SCHOOL SERIES

World Bromeliad Confer-
ence, Chicago, IL. 8:00AM
- 5:00PM. There is a nomi-
nal fee and you must be
registered for the school
one week prior to the con-
ference. For more informa-
tion, contact Betty Ann
Prevatt, 2902 Second St.,
Fort Meyers, FL 33916.
Phone 239-334-0242 or
email bpre-
vattpec@aol.com.

August 21st & 22nd, 2004

Seminole Bromeliad Soci-
ety Display and Sale

9am - 4pm both days
Sanford Garden Club, 200
Fairmont Drive, Sanford,
FL

October 23rd & 24th, 2004

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies EXTRAVAGANZA
Hosted by the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society who will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary.

The plant sale will be at The Florida Botanical Garden located at 12175 125 Street North, Largo, Florida 33774. The plant sale will be held at the Florida Botanical Gardens, The sale hours 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm., a holding area is available for purchased plants. There will be guided tours of the Gardens at 10:00 am; 12:00 pm. and 2:00 pm. for a fee of \$1.00 per person. Food vendors will be on site from 11:30 am. until 4:00 pm. Banquet and Rare Plant Auction will be at the Holiday Inn nearby. For vendor/sales information contact Gary Lund 727-586-5865 or glund@tampabay.rr.com.

Terrestrial Bromeliads

by Phyllis Flechsig
from Cactus Courier, Palomar Cactus & Succulent

Society

Among the plants on the fringe of the succulent world-not actually very juicy but entirely compatible with succulents in a collection or landscape-are the terrestrial bromeliads. These are members of the large Bromeliaceae or pineapple family, native to the Americas from the southern United States all the way to the tip of Argentina, and growing from near sea level up to 14,000 feet. The epiphytic kinds are often found in misty rain forests (though some grow in deserts), but the terrestrial kinds generally grow in the open on rocks or in soil and are very drought-tolerant. (I am not covering *Cryptanthus*, which is a genus of terrestrial bromeliads that are not drought-tolerant.) The vast majority of bromeliads-pronounced bro-mee-lee-ads-are epiphytes, that is, air plants that perch on other plants, such as the familiar Spanish moss.

This article deals with those that are not epiphytic but terrestrial, growing in the ground just as do agaves and aloes (which they somewhat resemble). The bromeliad family is divided into three large subfamilies: Bromelioideae, Tillandsioideae, and Pitcairnioideae. The great majority of the terrestrial species are in the last-named subfamily, though a few are in the other two. I am omitting those that are so uncommon in cultivation that you are not very likely to come across them. I will mention three from the Bromelioideae: *Acanthostachys strobilacea*, which grows on rocks in middling elevations of Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina; the only species in its genus, it has an inflorescence that looks like a tiny pineapple with orange-red bracts and yellow petals. It looks good in a hanging basket.

Another well-known plant from this group is *Ananas comosus*, the commercial pineapple, so long in cultivation that its origin is not known.

Columbus took pineapples back to Europe with him after his second voyage in 1493.

Third, there is the genus *Orthophytum*, native to Brazil, with handsome leaves, often colored greyish, reddish, or bronze. The inflorescence stands up straight, often with red or white flowers. Subfamily Tillandsioideae has very few terrestrial species, though there are one or two kinds that grow prolifically in the Peruvian desert sands. Most terrestrials are in the subfamily Pitcairnioideae. They range in size from very tiny to 35 feet high (*Puya raimondii* of the northern Andes). They are well armed with sharp teeth along the edges of the leaves, but those that collectors covet may have beautiful leaves in silver, black, or combinations of the two colors. Even green-leaved ones can be very attractive, for example, *Abromeitiella* (now included by some authorities in *Deuteroconia*), which in the garden makes a mound of tiny green rosettes and will fill even a

large pot in a few years. Its flowers are inconspicuous, but the plant is well worth growing. *A. brevifolia* is the nicest one. *Dyckia* (Dick-ee-a) is a large genus of 100 or more species and a great many beautiful hybrids, with more being introduced all the time. The species are mostly native to central Brazil, with a few from other nearby South American countries. *D. fosteriana* is a parent or grandparent of many of these hybrids but is worth growing for its narrow, spiny, curved leaves that are bronzy gray in a strong light. The flowers in this genus are yellow to bright orange to red-not spectacular but quite pretty, and the inflorescence appears laterally, not in the center, so the rosette does not die after flowering. Another plant used in breeding is *D. arnier-lapostollei*, extremely ornamental with silver leaves and native to Brazil. Because of its tropical origin it is a bit touchy about low temperatures, but many of the silvery hybrids descended from it are not at all temperamental and will grow

happily outdoors in our climate. The hybrids are too numerous to mention but are always worth looking for in bromeliad nurseries. Some have a wonderful undersea-life look, like a sea urchin or brittle starfish. Another popular genus-very spiny-is *Hechtia* (heck-tee-a).

Hechtias are mostly native to Mexico, with a few from Texas and northern Central America. *H. argentea*, from central Mexico, is beautifully silvery (all these plants get their color from silver scales on the leaves) but hard to find in cultivation. Marnier-Lapostolle, a French plantsman better known for his Grand Marnier liqueur, had a *hechtia* as well as a *dyckia* named for him, and *H. marnier-lapostollei* is another decorative silver-leaved plant.

Puya is a genus of hardy, rugged plants generally grown out in the garden. They are native to the Andean highlands. Of course, the most famous is *P. raimondii*, which takes many

years to bloom; a plant in the UC Berkeley Botanic Garden bloomed at about 35 years from seed and produced an inflorescence more than 20 feet tall. It is not common in cultivation. The most popular puya in gardens is *P. alpestris*, which has flowers of an unbelievable metallic blue-green color contrasting with bright orange pollen. The plants of this species at Quail Botanical Gardens cause quite a sensation whenever they bloom. *P. coerulea* has a four-foot stalk of bright blue flowers. Leaves on these plants are generally silvery green with sawteeth on the edges, and rosettes that flower will die later, though with luck the plant will form offshoots. A number of different puyas can be seen in the desert garden at Huntington Botanic Gardens. All these plants are easy to grow, accepting average water and well-drained soil. Division of rosettes is the standard method of propagation, though of course new hybrids must be started from

seed-it's fun to plant seeds and see what develops. Some plants cluster very quickly and can give the grower a real problem when it comes time to divide or repot them. I recommend a pair of long leather gloves (sometimes sold as "rose-pickers") and a sharp knife plus some sort of pry-bar. Weeding around them is best done with the "cactus-grabber" (actually a fishhook-disgorger) that most of us who grow spiny plants have bought in self-defense. The plants do not seem to be subject to many pests or diseases, though some from Brazil, as mentioned above, may be sensitive to low temperatures. Many are really beautiful and a great asset in the plant collection. Finally, I want to thank Dorothy Byer for supplying me with many of the terrestrial bromeliads that I grow as well as excellent advice on growing them!

LITERATURE CONSULTED: Padilla, Victoria. Bromeliads. Crown, 1973
Baensch, Ulrich & Ursula. Blooming Bromeliads. Tropic Beauty Publishers, 1994 Byer,

Dorothy, in Espinas y Flores (S.D. Cactus & Succulent Soc.), Jan., 1992
Latimer, Rick, *ibid.*, Nov., 1983

Reprinted from
Cactus and Succulent Society of America

<http://www.cssainc.org/>
CSSA ARTICLE
ARCHIVE: In Issue 28:

Weevil Report: April 10, 2004

Biological control/weevil research:

In Honduras, Alonso Suazo-Calix has focused his efforts during the last quarter on establishing a large colony of the bromeliad weevil *Metamasius quadrilineatus* (the weevil that the parasitic fly attacks in Honduras) in the laboratory at Zamorano and in reorganizing the rearing facilities. He and his assistant have succeeded in getting a colony of approximately 600 adult

M. quadrilineatus of different ages, with an average of 10 to 15 adults emerging daily. They are collecting eggs from this colony in sufficient numbers to start setting up experiments using pineapple-based diets to rear weevils. Also, they are collecting larvae from the colony to use for parasitism to maintain the fly colony. Fly cages were modified to make them safer for the flies. In early January, they lost an entire fly colony (~100) because the previous cages did not provide enough protection against small animals or large insects (for example, ants), which they suspect were responsible for the loss. It was therefore necessary to spend some time making the rearing operation more efficient.

Alonso set up a small experiment to determine whether small larvae could be reared on different parts of a pineapple crown, since he has had a problem rearing *M. quadrilineatus* larvae on artificial diets. Based on the results, he is testing a modification of one of the diets to improve the overall rearing process. He also continues to collect weevils

from the field to determine if there are any other natural enemies that could be used in Florida. In addition, he has contacted Standard Fruit Company for permission to collect bromeliad weevils on their pineapple plantations to check for natural enemies.

In Fort Pierce, Ron Cave's group has been rearing *M. mosieri* (the native Florida bromeliad weevil, which must be tested in order to apply for a release permit for the fly) and *M. calizona* (the Mexican bromeliad weevil) on *Tillandsia utriculata* seedlings, pineapple, black vine weevil diet and *Diaprepes* root weevil diet. Preliminary results show that it takes *M. mosieri* 75 to 105 days from the time eggs hatch until adults emerge.

They also exposed *M. calizona* and *M. mosieri* to the insect-attacking nematodes *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*, *Heterorhabdi-*

tis indica, and *Steinernema carpocapsae*. After a direct, topical dose of these nematodes was applied, the majority of weevils died. *S. carpocapsae* seems to be most effective both in terms of absolute mortality and speed of kill. Additionally, *Tillandsia utriculata* seedlings were dosed with these nematodes, and then infested with weevil larvae after 7, 14, and 21 days. Plants and weevils were kept outside under an oak tree to approximate natural conditions. Of the nematode species tested, *S. carpocapsae* appears to be the most effective against bromeliad weevils. Further testing is required to determine if the nematodes could be used as a biopesticide to control Mexican bromeliad weevil in nurseries or yards.

Dr. Marieta Braks has been working in Dr. Cave's laboratory since February to follow-up on the pilot experiment performed earlier by two students, Jerry Mozoruk and Laura Hunicutt, dealing with attractants for development of field traps for the Mexican bromeliad weevil. In laboratory tests, consis-

tently more weevils chose the test odor than the control. Dr. Robin Giblin-Davis (at UF's Ft. Lauderdale REC) has agreed to supply the four compounds to which *M callizona* has shown attraction. These compounds, along with commercially available pheromones for *Metamasius hemipterus* and *Metamasius dimidiatipennis*, will be tested for attraction in the lab and the field using traps.

Ray Creel continues to rear the native Florida bromeliad weevil for future testing of the biocontrol agent. The mated female *M. mosieri* population averages 12 adults, producing 110 eggs in February and 80 eggs as of March 20.

Weevil Monitoring in Florida:

Teresa Cooper has continued to measure bromeliad and weevil populations in Myakka River State Park, San Sebastian Buffer Pre-

serve State Park, and Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. Ron Cave, Patrick Duetting, Ray Creel and Natalie Balcer have continued to monitor weevils at the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and the San Sebastian Buffer Preserve State Park in conjunction with that research.

In addition to the regular bromeliad and weevil counts at the parks mentioned above, the following monitoring trips and observations were made during the past quarter:

Big Cypress National Preserve, January 15 and February 3, Heidi Rhoades and park biologist Billy Snyder: no weevil damage.

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Jan. 15-16, Heidi Rhoades: weevil damage
Lake Placid State Park, Jan. 22, Heidi Rhoades: no damage.

Canaveral National Seashores, southern Volusia County, February 7. Michael and Karen Andreas, John and Jimye Kaye Russell, Jay and Calandra Thurott, John Stiner, Resources Manager at Canaveral National Seashores, and park volunteer

Marilyn Torresson performed a weevil assessment at the Eldora Hammock and Castle Windy Trail, in the north district of the park, south of New Smyrna Beach. At Eldora Hammock, a healthy population of *Tillandsia utriculata*, in various stages of maturity, and one *T. simulata* were found. The Castle Windy Trail area was known for its dense population of bromeliads, specifically *Tillandsia utriculata*. Marker 13 on the trail originally was designated as a place to observe an abundance of bromeliads. This assessment was triggered when John Russell, on a recent visit to the site, realized there were no mature *T. utriculata* to be seen. *T. simulata* was discovered in the wooded area near the beach of the lagoon. Mature *T. utriculata* was not in evidence, with one exception, in spite of extensive searching. However, *T. utriculata* seedlings and young

plants are located at two points along the trail, on tree branches. Weevil damage was not observed, and the most likely explanation for the disappearance of the mature *T. utriculata* is unusually cold weather some years ago.

Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area, Osceola County, February 17, Heidi Rhoades and park biologist Ray McCracken: *M. mosieri* found.

Catfish Creek (Lake Kissimmee SP), Feb. 24, Heidi Rhoades, Ron Cave and park biologist Eric Egensteiner: No sign of bromeliad weevils (see photo below).

Triple N Wildlife Management Area, March 3, Heidi Rhoades: weevil larva found, being reared out.

Everglades National Park, March 11 and March 25, Heidi Rhoades and park biologist Craig Smith: No bromeliad weevils found.

Picayune State Forest, March 23, Heidi Rhoades: No bromeliad weevils found.

J.W. Corbett WMA, Palm Beach County, March 27, Ron

Cave: *M. callizona* and *M. mosieri* found.

Okechee Park and Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, Palm Beach County, April 5, Barbra Larson: no weevils, no *T. utriculata*, but healthy populations of *T. fasciculata* and *T. balbisiana*.

Seed Collecting:

John Russell reports that the seedlings he is growing out are doing well, and those that were damaged have recovered. While he has a lot of *T. utriculata*, we need to focus on rarer species like *T. flexuosa* and *T. pruinosa*. Anyone involved in seed collecting should be sure to send seed as soon as possible, because the biggest factor in successful germination is that the growers get fresh seed. Biologists of the Florida Park Service, South Florida Water Management District and Broward County Parks and Recreation Department have been busy collecting

bromeliad seeds on their properties. In addition, Heidi Rhoades continues to collect seeds and monitor for weevil damage under a contract from the University of Florida. During this quarter, she has collected seeds at Big Cypress National Preserve, Everglades National Park, and Picayune State Forest. There are a total of 150 seed collecting records in the database, with more to be entered.

Education/Outreach:

Exhibits:

Inez and Len Dolatowski presented a weevil display at Highlands Hammock State Park in November in conjunction with their CCC reunion. They gave out handouts on the weevil and had the card sets available for sale (this was inadvertently omitted from the last report).

Talks on the weevil problem:

January 28, Marine Resource Council, Titusville, 9 people attending (Ron Cave).
March 24, Seminole County

Master Gardener Training
(part of a talk on IPM), 20
people (Barbra Larson)

Distribution of educational
materials:

Monitoring protocol for the
Mexican bromeliad weevil
was provided to Everglades
National Park and Big Cy-
press National Preserve bi-
ologists, who will be doing
weevil monitoring and seed
collecting

Bromeliad and weevil iden-
tification decks (cardsets)
were provided to Canaveral
National Seashore biolo-
gists, Orange County Exten-
sion, and various parks

Posters on the weevil were
provided to Orange County
Extension and Rookery Bay
NERR

Weevil vials were provided
to Rookery Bay NERR and
various parks.

Affiliate Society News

**The Florida West Coast
Bromeliad Society** is hav-
ing a picnic and workday at

the Florida Botanical Gardens
in Largo.

**The Bromeliad Society of
South Florida** has a website
at

<http://www.timewolf.net/BSSF/>

**The Caloosahatchee Brome-
liad Society** held an auction
on March 21st benefiting
"Evil Weevil" research raising
over \$1300 which was sent to
the Florida Council of Brome-
liad Societies for continuing
research for the eradication of
the "Mexican or Evil Weevil"
in the state of Florida. Bill
Timm was auctioneer. A spe-
cial thank you to all who do-
nated plants as well as partici-
pated in the auction.

Caloosahatchee Society re-
ports that the "Evil Weevil" is
present in Lee, Collier and
Charlotte Counties and at last
check was nearing the Orlando
area.

**The Florida East Coast Bro-
meliad Society** had a repre-
sentation of nearly 30 entries
in the recent Ocean Center in

Daytona Beach Flower Show

The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay held an exhibit at the Florida State Fair, receiving an Award of Merit for their exhibit. They also participated in the USF Spring Plant Sale in April as well as the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society.

Erwin Wurthmann, founding member of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay passed away recently.

The Florida West Coast Bromeliad society reports that Fay O'Rourke has suddenly passed away. To honor Fay they would like to purchase a brick, paver, plant, or even a stone bench in Fay's name at the Florida Botanical Gardens. All donations are tax deductible and should be made payable to the Florida Botanical Gardens and mailed to Kathy Risley, 1601 Grove Street, Clearwater, FL 33755. For any of you who knew Fay or had the opportunity to work

with her on any shows, conferences, etc. she was a very dedicated, efficient person and it was always amazing to see how much devotion she gave not only to the FWCB society but to BSI endeavors as well.

The Bromeliad Society of Broward County now has member golf shirt with their insignia. Available at a cost of \$25 and you can contact Colleen Hendrix at 954-530-7273 for more info.

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BSI MEMBERSHIP

After reading the newsletters from several or so bromeliad societies, I see that we are getting back into the groove of forgetting there is a BSI. So I thought I'd get back on the bandwagon again and mention the importance of belonging to the BSI.

Some societies in the past raffled off a membership to the BSI every month, or subsidize the cost of joining for new members. That's a start

but as a society we can't buy everyone a membership.

You should join the BSI on your own if:

If you take the time to come to the meetings, bring plants for show and tell. Take part in annual shows and sales, Get involved in some part of the meetings or the show Read the newsletter that your society sends out every month If you enjoy talking to people about your plants You know it's more fun when you're involved, you also get more out of it.

So let's do it, send your check for \$30. single, \$35. family to John Atlee, 1608 Cardenas Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110 or membership@bsi.org.

You'll be happy you did

**October 23, 2004
Extravaganza**

The Florida Council invites you to attend the Bromeliad Extravaganza being hosted

by the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society. If you don't know what an Extravaganza is, all the Bromeliad Societies in Florida get together and have a great big plant sale. This year it will be held at the Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo. There will be guided tours of the gardens as well as sales. The garden is a terrific garden and well worth the visit even if you aren't attending a special event. There are numerous gardens, at least ten I'd say, including palm, bromeliad, shade, jazz and topiary to name a few. There is also Pinewood Cultural Center, located attached to the garden which has 24 historic buildings dating back to the 1850's and has demonstrations, vegetable gardens and other events as well.

These plant sales are special sales. They are not plants you will find at Home Depot, and no, you might not find them very often at your local bromeliad society meeting. There are many plants that collectors

are selling to get rid of some of those "extra pups" and often some rare and unusual plants will be found at very reasonable prices.

As part of the garden there is also the Gulfcoast Museum of Art which houses art from the 1960's of various Florida artists.

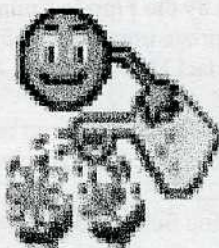
A banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn Select in Clearwater starting at 6:00 pm at a cost of \$19.95 for a Florida Style Buffet followed by a rare plant auction (proceeds go to the Florida Council). Auction plants are provided by the Florida Council by individual societies and members. To make a donation contact Michael Kiehl at 941-488-4011. There are very few rare plant auctions held in Florida and there are always new and exciting plants and other items to be bid on and is a great time to be involved in.

You may also stay at the hotel for a reduced rate of \$79.00 per night by contact-

ing the Holiday Inn at 727-577-9100 and mention the "Bromeliad Extravaganza."

These events are almost like mini-world conferences and we've never been disappointed in one. Each one is different, some have seminars, some special programs, some are held at hotels, some in parks. They are all different and each one is unique and has something to offer. A reservation form is enclosed and additional info will be sent out later. Mark this day on your calendar!

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OCTOBER 23, 2004 EXTRAVAGANZA

PLANT SALE

The plant sale will be held at the Florida Botanical Gardens, located at 12175 125 Street North, Largo, Florida 33774. The sale hours 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm., a holding area is available for purchased plants. There will be guided tours of the Gardens at 10:00 am; 12:00 pm. and 2:00 pm. for a fee of \$1.00 per person. Food vendors will be on site from 11:30 am. until 4:00 pm. For vendor/sales information contact Gary Lund 727-586-5865 or glund@tampabay.rr.com.

BANQUET

The Banquet is being held at the Holiday Inn Select, 3535 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater Florida 33762. The Banquet, a "Florida Style Buffet" starts @ 6:00 pm., the cost is \$19.95 for each individual.

The Menu:

Cheese and fruit, fresh vegetable tray with dip, selection of salad, roast beef carved by the Chef, crab legs, chicken, baked potato with all the trimmings, medley of vegetables, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee, decaf and tea. The reservation form is at the bottom of this page.

RARE PLANT AUCTION

The Auction will start @ 7:30 pm. in the banquet room, auction plants are provided by the Florida Council via individual clubs, additional donations of appropriate plants and items are respectfully requested. To make donations contact Michael Kiehl, #941-488-4011. mikesbroms@direcway.com

ROOMS

Are available for a reduced rate of \$79.00 per night, contact the hotel for reservations, mention the event the "BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA on October 23rd.

Holiday Inn Select, 3535 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater, Fl. 33762, 727-577-9100

THERE WILL BE A CASH BAR AVAILABLE FROM 6:00 P. M.
THROUGHOUT THE BANQUET, TILL THE END OF THE AUCTION.

BANQUET REGISTRATION
\$19.95 each
Checks ONLY made payable to
F.W.C.B.S.

of people _____ X \$19.95 = amount of check
\$ _____

1st Name _____

2nd Name _____

Please attach others to second page.

Your Contact Address _____

Your Phone # _____

SEND RESERVATION REQUESTS TO

JANET BANKHEAD
1367 SUMMERLIN DRIVE
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA
33764
PHONE 727-536-5098