Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc.

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(Continued on the inside back cover.)

Congratulations,
Bromeliad Society of South Florida
on the successful
2006 Bromeliad Extravaganza!
Thank you for hosting this event!

Thank you,
Members of the Affiliated Societies of the Florida Council,
for your support!

Thank you to the following societies and their members who contributed bromeliads for the Rare Plant Auction:

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida
Bromeliad Society of South Florida
Bromeliad Society of Broward County
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society
Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society
Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
Sarasota Bromeliad Society
Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

The 2007 Bromeliad Extravaganza will be hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Broward County.

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Catching Up … Staying Even

The 2006 Bromeliad Extravaganza is over and the members of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida deserve all the thanks for their hard work and many efforts in making this a successful event. At the Council's quarterly meeting in October, South Florida representative Juan Espinosa Almodovar stated that his society members were proud to contribute to the larger community of bromeliad enthusiasts by hosting this event. He reported that sales were brisk, with approximately $14,000 in gross sales. Thanks to the many donations from the affiliated societies as well as the generosity of individuals, the raffle raised about $900 and the Rare Plant Auction raised $3966.00. The auction directly benefits the Council and such programs as the Council's website (at fcbs.org), the Mexican Bromeliad Weevil project and this newsletter. The Council also thanks BSI president Joyce Brehm for her generous contribution of an
Orthophytum heleniceae for the auction.

Mr. Almodovar made a great point. We are all members of a larger community, and the Council provides an opportunity for us to network and share experience and information as well as social events.

Ours is a generous community that supports bromeliads on a global basis, as well as on a local and state-wide basis. It's easy to take the Council's website for granted; we have been using it for so many years now. But it really provides a wealth of information for the entire world to use and that's no mean feat. The Council newsletter, available only to members of affiliated societies and also to a limited exchange list, is another vehicle that reaches bromeliad enthusiasts beyond the state. Requests for information are often networked among our members, as well as assistance in finding guest speakers.

This is a vibrant organization whose members care about each other (remember the response to Katrina last year). The next time that

News from FCBS Affiliate Societies

The **Sarasota Bromeliad Society** will have its annual show and sale April 20-21, 2007. Any BSI member in good standing can show plants at this show. Plant entry is Thursday, April 18; judging is April 19, and plant sales are April 19-21 (Friday through Sunday). The banquet and rare plant auction will be Saturday night.

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Spring Plant Sale will be on April 14 and 15, 2007, at the Sanford Garden Club Building, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford, 9 AM - 4 PM both days. Call Sudi Hipsley (352) 504-6162 or Bud Martin (321) 363-7351 for more information. They will have new officers in January.

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society meets at the Council of Garden Clubs building in Daytona Beach. Recently members installed a bromeliad garden in this facility's "Secret Garden". Florida East Coast is experiencing an increase in its membership.

Members of the **Gainesville Bromeliad Society** participated in the annual Kanapaha Sale in October. Dr. Howard Frank was thanked for providing the location for the society's monthly meetings.

Florida West Coast recently realized $1000 in proceeds from the sale of a bromeliad collection belonging to a late member. On November 4, they had a field trip to Grant Groves' nursery. Members of the society maintain a bromeliad garden at Florida Botanic Gardens.

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida also has held field trips for its members. Recent trips were to Grant Groves' nursery, Deroose's Nursery and McCrory's Sunny Hill Nursery. The Christmas party this year will be held at Azalea Lane in Winter Park.

The Bromeliad Society of Broward County held its first covered dish dinner on August 20, and an auction featuring special bromeliads, bromeliad watercolors, rare books, and gardening accessories, including one landscaping boulder donated by Board

Director Larry Searle. The highlight of the evening was the bidding war for an Ae. 'Star of Linda' which finally sold for $250. All auction proceeds will benefit the 2007 Extravaganza event. Attendance exceeded the usual August meetings and members had an opportunity to get to know one another on a more personal level. Jay Thurrott brought his photos of the San Diego Conference and commented on the proceedings. Board director JoAnn Heyer chaired this event, which also featured an array of delicious homemade dishes.

On September 29, immediately preceeding the 2006 Extravaganza in Miami, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel featured a page and a half article with many colored photos of president Jose Donayre's bromeliad collection. The article discussed the Mexican Weevil and its impact on Florida's native bromeliad populations. The timing could not have been more perfect in promoting the 2006 Extravaganza staged by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida.

At the 2006 Extravaganza, members donated 6 rare plants for auction and assorted bromeliad items for raffles. BSBC members' table also had a successful sales event, selling more than 60 plants. By mid morning Saturday, half of the society's plants were sold out.

On October 16, BSBC held its annual October auction under the chairmanship of board director JoAnn Heyer. Almost 200 plants, a record, were donated by members and auctioned by society members David McLean and Larry Davis. There was a great turnout of bidders. The event raised $3,149 for the society's treasury, the most successful fundraiser in the history of the society.

On December 16, the society will hold its annual Christmas party at the new Plantation Preserve Golf Course and Club. Free distribution plants will be given to participants. A Chinese auction of special plants donated by those attending is also planned. By the end of the afternoon and after many trade offs, the most desirable plant is determined.

The Society's Bi-annual Bromeliad Show and Sale will be held April 13 – 15. Members and commercial vendors will be present for plant sales. The show chairperson is recording secretary

Ann Schandelmayer.

Culture Tips for the Fall

Summer's Over – What Should I Do Now?

by Jay Thurrott

The older I get, the more convinced I am that Einstein was really on to something when he developed his theory of relativity. Everyone knows that when you are a kid, having to sit quietly in a corner for 5 minutes is an infinitely long period of time and when you are an adult with a busy work schedule, a day, a month, or even an entire summer can seem to pass in the blink of an eye. It's all relative.

The summer of '06 is behind us now and winter rapidly approaching. What does this change of seasons mean to the Florida bromeliad grower? That depends of course on where you live in the state. To many of us, this means that we begin paying very close attention to the weather reports with an interest now in approaching cold fronts instead of the formation of tropical disturbances. A surprisingly large portion of Florida is subject to those "Canadian Clippers" that sweep through the state bringing brief, but strong rain showers, high winds and sudden plunges in temperatures. These winter events pose three quite different problems for our plants.

First, those sudden, intense rain storms that herald the approaching front frequently saturate the potting mix at a time when plants housed in that mix are least able to handle the increased moisture. Why is this different from a summer shower? For one thing, the period of daylight is much shorter and because of this, our plants are not in the same active period of growth that they were in a few months ago – they don't need as much water, and they won't put up with much excess. Follow this with a sometimes prolonged period of cool

weather, and conditions become ripe for fungal and rot organisms to become established. When are you most apt to lose a plant to a rot or fungus problem? Those same plants that were able to withstand a tremendous amount of neglect and abuse in the summer may suddenly fall out their pots and expire (or perhaps expire and then fall out of their pots?) in the winter.

Windy weather also can be a problem at this time of year. Potted plants are knocked over and tree limbs become dislodged and fall on unsuspecting plants. For those of you who anticipated the approaching cold weather and wisely covered your plants with frost blanket material, you need to be especially vigilant to see that these winds don't pick up the blanket and uncover your plants before the cold weather sweeps through. If you have covered your plants, make sure they stay covered!

Finally, there is the cool, cold, or freezing weather that follows the rain and wind. Talk to your fellow club members or look at past issues of the Council newsletter for guidance on cold-weather protection for your plants, or maybe even on selection of cold-hardy varieties that you should be growing. It can be very discouraging to survey your bromeliad collection after one of these cold spells passes and see nothing but white leaf tips or worse – all of your previously green plants now look like albino plants! Make your plans now to protect the more cold-sensitive plants in your collection and be prepared to implement them at the first indication of an approaching cold front. Yes, it is a lot of trouble, but unless you consider your bromeliads as a collection of annuals - to be replaced each spring - this can't be ignored.

It's probably safe at this point to state that we've had a mild hurricane season and a good summer. Let's hope that, likewise, we have a mild winter… but if we don't, be ready to protect your bromeliads from those renegade cold fronts that

Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Biological Control Report

by

Ronald D. Cave, J. Howard Frank and Alonso Suazo

The focus of research has been on establishing a *Lixadmontia franki* colony at the Biological Control Research and Containment Laboratory in Fort Pierce. We have received regular shipments of fly puparia (every two weeks) from the rearing facility in Honduras. The colony at the Panamerican School of Agriculture continues to be strong and produce a large number of puparia. However, very poor emergence of adult flies resulted from shipments received in August and the first two weeks of September. We do not know the cause of this but we suspect it is due to handling by FedEx and the USDA Plant Inspection Station in Miami because emergence from puparia in Honduras is excellent. Fortunately, emergence of adults from puparia in a third September shipment has been very good, and emergence from a shipment in October also has been good. Our caged fly population (currently about 40) is still growing and about 300 weevil larvae have been exposed for parasitism.

Fly emergence from puparia received from Honduras.

Date received	Number of puparia	% Emergence
July 13, 2006	60	70
August 3, 2006	60	0
August 18, 2006	100	5
September 1, 2006	90	11
September 14, 2006	100	0
September 28, 2006	99	86
October 5, 2006	50	25*
October 13, 2006	50	NA**

(*): Flies from this shipment are still emerging in good numbers.
(**): Data not yet available

Two new approaches are being tested for parasitism of weevil larvae. Previously, larvae were exposed individually in a portion of pineapple crown or *Tillandsia utriculata* stem. We are testing the possibility of using multiple (3-5) weevil larvae per pineapple crown and the possibility of rearing and parasitizing weevils in an artificial diet based on Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*). Previous parasitism levels using pineapple crowns were generally low (about 30%) compared to levels obtained with *M. quadrilineatus* in *Tillandsia* stems in Honduras. We hypothesize that Spanish moss will be more attractive to the flies than pineapple crowns because it is a species more closely related to the *Tillandsia* species normally attacked by *M. callizona*. We are currently evaluating the development of *M. callizona* in freshly ground and compacted Spanish moss and in freshly ground, compacted Spanish moss mixed with agar to preserve humidity and freshness. Weevil larvae placed on these diets are still in good condition and growing. We expect to expose some of these weevils to our fly colony in early November to evaluate parasitism. If this proves successful, it will save time in preparing larvae for exposure to flies and reduce our dependence on pineapple crowns generously but unreliably provided by Publix and Albertson's supermarkets. This experiment is being conducted, in part, with a high school student from St. Lucie Co., who will use the results for a science fair project.

Additional data for non-target testing with *Metamasius mosieri* are need for publication of results. In order to do these tests a colony of *M. moiseri* is being established in the laboratory.

A proposal for release of *Lixadmontia franki* from quarantine was prepared by H. Frank and R. Cave and submitted to a University of Florida committee for consideration. If approved, the proposal will be submitted to state and federal

A talk on the bromeliad weevil was presented at the Marine Resources Council in Palm Bay.

Publications:

Frank, J.H., T.M. Cooper, and B.C. Larson. 2006. *Metamasius callizona* (Coleoptera: Dryophthoridae): longevity and fecundity in the Laboratory. Florida Entomologist 89: 208-211.

Wood, D.M. & R.D. Cave. 2006. Description of a new genus and species of weevil parasitoid from Honduras (Diptera: Tachinidae). Florida Entomologist 89: 239-244.

Suazo, A. N. Arismendi, J. H. Frank, and R. D. Cave. 2006. Method for continuously rearing *Lixadmontia franki* (Diptera: Tachinidae), a potential biological control agent of *Metamasius callizona* (Coleoptera: Dryophthoridae). Florida Entomologist 89: 348-353.

Suazo, A., D. Pú Pacheco, R.D. Cave, and J.H. Frank. 2006. Longevity and fecundity of *Metamasius quadrilineatus* (Coleoptera: Dryophthoridae) females on a natural bromeliad host in the laboratory. Coleopterists Bulletin 60: (in press).

Cave, R.D., P.S. Duetting, O.R. Creel & C.L. Branch. 2006. Biology of *Metamasius mosieri* (Coleoptera: Dryophthoridae), with a description of the larval and pupal stages. Annals of the Entomological Society of America 99: (in press).

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Dr. **J. Howard Frank** is in the Entomology & Nematology Department, Gainesville, FL; his email is jhf@ifas.ufl.edu

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Extravaganza 2006

by Ed Prince

Chapter 1

This section is for those of you who have never experienced an extravaganza other than as an attendee. I am of the opinion (I'm sure there are many that don't share this opinion) that you typically view an extravaganza as an opportunity to:

A. Obtain plants;
B. Meet fellow bromeliad lovers;
C. Have a good time at the sales, seminars, banquet, and auction.

A fact you should consider is that an extravaganza is the responsibility of just one society. That society is, in effect, gambling that financially they will not lose money but rather make a reasonable profit for their efforts. Regardless of how successful the extravaganza turns out, the FCBS receives the proceeds from the rare plant auction, and this is good. The host society receives 25% of the vendor sales and this too, is good. What might not be so good is the possibility that any of the following might occur, which in turn, would probably make the host society regret ever getting involved:

A. Poor weather, or worse, an approaching hurricane;
B. Lack of support from other societies;
C. Not enough vendors;
D. Poor or no publicity;
E. Unreasonable hotel and banquet costs.

Obviously, putting on a successful or, perhaps, a not so successful extravaganza involves a lot of luck. But more importantly, the more volunteers you have who are willing to

The members of your society need to help plan, organize, and execute the many tasks associated with the event. So what am I raving about? Just this. The next time you are invited to participate in your society's public event, don't hesitate, jump in and make it a better event because of your participation.

Chapter 2

The bromeliad extravaganza held in Miami on September 30 was, by all accounts, a colossal (see our ads) success. The weather was perfect. Vendors arrived with oodles of plants and left with very few, if any. Gross sales exceeded $14,000. The seminars were well received. The rare plant auction raised almost $4,000. More than 145 guests forked over $30.00 for a so-so (I'm being kind) chicken dinner. The cheesecake was fabulous. Fifty-seven rooms and suites were rented. To offset publicity expenses of $504, we held monthly mini-auctions at our meetings and actually exceeded our publicity budget. Hotel expenses for ballroom rental, credit card hook-up, and cash bar costs were covered by our raffle that brought in over $700. The biggest contribution to our success was our fantastic MEMBERSHIP. They deserve so much credit. Talk about above and beyond. I will be forever indebted to the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. To each and everyone – my sincerest thanks.

Chapter 3

Now for the other guys. Except for the auction, just about every phase of the extravaganza was handled by our local membership. And what an exception. It went so smoothly. I hesitate to name names for fear of omitting someone, and if that is the case, please forgive me. However, the following folk not only traveled a long distance to come to Miami, they were instrumental in every phase of the auction. Michael and Donna Kiehl, Grant and Magali Groves, Brian Weber, Jose and Sara Donayre, Betty Ann Prevatt, Larry Giroux, Steve

Hoppin, Vicky Chirnside, Calandra and Jay Thurrott, Karen and Michael Andreas. I would be remiss if I didn't give thanks to the three very generous nurseries for the beautiful bromeliads and the Elton Leme books. Many thanks to DeLeon's Nursery, Kerry's Bromeliads, and Deroose Nursery.

What is the Florida Council?

The Council is a confederation of bromeliad societies in Florida; it is a non-profit organization registered with the state. Each member bromeliad society has two representatives to the Council, both of which are voting members. Any person belonging to any Florida bromeliad society affiliated with the Council is automatically a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

The meetings are held quarterly throughout the state and are hosted by a different society each time. (See page 20.)

Among its ongoing activities, the Council sponsors an annual Extravaganza, a state-wide gathering of bromeliad enthusiasts hosted by a different society each year. The Council supports the Bromeliad Encyclopedia, the number one bromeliad destination on the Internet. The Council also supports the ongoing program to control the invasive Mexican bromeliad weevil, an imported pest that imperils Florida's bromeliads, both native and in collections.

To learn more about Council activities, visit the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' website at fcbs.org or talk with one of your society's Council representatives.

Family: *Bromeliaceae*

Bromeliads belong to the family *Bromeliaceae* and are members of the Class *Liliopsida* (monocots). Monocots comprise one quarter of all flowering plants and include some of the largest and most well known groups of plants: orchids, palms, grasses. The family *Bromeliaceae* is divided into three subfamilies: *Pitcairnioideae, Bromelioideae* and *Tillandsioideae.*

Pitcairnioideae

This subfamily contains the most ancestral bromeliads; many resemble the grass family from which they evolved. Almost all are terrestrial and rely on an extensive root system for their moisture and nutrients. They generally have spiny leaves and dry capsules with small wingless seeds.

Bromelioideae

This subfamily is the most diverse containing the greatest number of genera (but the least number of species). Most species in this subfamily are epiphytic and characterized by a rosette-like form, many forming a water holding tank. They generally have spiny leaves and berry like fruits containing wet seeds, which are often distributed by birds and animals who consume the fruits.

Tillandsioideae

This subfamily contains very few genera but includes the most number of species. Most of the members of this subfamily are epiphytes. All have spineless leaves and their fruit is a dry capsule containing winged seeds which are usually dispersed by breezes. The feathery plumes also help the seed to adhere to a suitable epiphytic surface for germination. This subfamily is probably the most evolved with special adaptations for survival in very dry (xeric) conditions.

Genera by Subfamily

Taxonomists continue to work on the bromeliad family, describing new species (and sometimes reducing an existing species to synonymy with another species). Occasionally a new genus will be described or a subgenus will be elevated to the rank of genus; at other times an entire genus will disappear, incorporated into another genus. Any taxonomic listing must be viewed as the current state of the art in an ongoing process of refinement. The listing on the back of this page follows LUTHER & SIEFF (1998) but is by no means final (much work needs to be done in the genera *Aechmea*, *Guzmania*, *Tillandsia* and others).

This information came from the Bromeliad Society International website (bsi.org) and was edited in some places for style. On the next page you will find a list of bromeliad genera.

Pitcairnioideae

Ayensua
Brewcaria
Brocchinia
Connellia
Cottendorfia
Deuterocohnia
Dyckia
Encholirium
Fosterella
Hechtia
Lindmania
Navia
Pepinia
Pitcairnia
Puya
Steyerbromelia

Tillandsioideae

Alacantarea
Catopsis
Glomeropitcairnia
Guzmania
Mezobromelia
Racinaea
Tillandsia
Vriesea
Werauhia

Bromelioideae

Acanthostachys
Aechmea
Ananas
Androlepis
Araeococcus
Billbergia
Bromelia
Canistropsis
Canistrum
Cryptanthus
Deinacanthon
Disteganthus
Edmundoa
Fascicularia
Fernseea
Greigia
Hohenbergia
Hohenbergiopsis
Lymania
Neoglaziovia
Neoregelia
Nidularium
Ochagavia
Orthophytum
Portea
Pseudaechmea
Pseudananas
Quesnelia
Ronnbergia
Ursulaea
Wittrockia

In addition to the genera listed on the previous page, there are also "bi-generics", bromeliads created by man by crossing bromeliads from different genera. Bromeliad bi-generics include the following:

Bi-Generics

xAechopsis
xAnagelia
xAnamea
xAnananananas
xAndrolaechmea
xBillmea
xBillnelia
xCanegelia
xCanmea
xCryptananas
xCryptbergia
xCryptmea
xDeuterocairnia
xDyckcohnia
xDycktia
xGuzlandsia
xGuzvriesea
xHechcohnia
xHohenelia
xHohenmea
xHohentea
xNeobergia
xNeobergiopsis
xNeomea
xNeophytum
xNeorockia
xNeostropsis
xNeotanthus
xNidbergia
xNidulistrum
xNidumea
xNiduregelia
xOrtholarium
xOrthomea
xOrthotanthus
xPitinia
xPortemea
xPseudanamea
xPuckia
xPucohnia
xQuesistrum
xQuesmea
xQuesregelia
xUrsumea
xVriecantarea
xVrierauhia
xVrieslandsia

The information above is from the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (fcbs.org).

Upcoming Events

2006

November 7
Bromeliad Society of South Florida Annual Auction
Tuesday at 7 pm
Fairchild Tropical Gardens, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami.
Call Moyna Prince (305-251-5289) or email
MoynaP@aol.com for more information

November 17 -19
Independent Plant Breeders Conference(IPBC)
Orlando
http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/IPBC/

November 18 - 19
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Annual Sale
Terry Park, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers
For more information contact Larry Giroux,
email:DrLarry@comcast.net
or Betty Ann Prevatt, email: bprevattpcc@aol.com

2007

March 15-18
Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society
Everybody's Flower Show
Ocean Center, 101 N. Atlantic Avenue (A1A), Daytona Beach

March 31
Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society
Volusia County Master Gardeners Sale

April 14 - 15
Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Spring Plant Sale
Sanford Garden Club Building, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford
9 AM - 4 PM both days
Contact Sudi Hipsley 352 504-6162 or Bud Martin 321 363-7351 for more information.

April 14-15
Broward Bromeliad Society Show and Sale
Location to be announced.

April 20-21
Sarasota Bromeliad Society

April 21-22
Bromeliad Society of South Florida Show and Sale
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Rd., Miami,

May 11-13
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Show and Sale
Orlando Fashion Square, Orlando

June 30
Deadline for early registration for the World Bromeliad Conference.

2008

June 17-23
Bromeliad Society International World Bromeliad Conference
Cairns, Australia

Next Florida Council Meeting

January 13
Hosted by Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society
See your Council representative
for more information.

Officers for 2007
will come from the following societies:

Chairman: Florida East Coast
Vice Chairman: Bromeliad Society of Broward County
Secretary: Bromeliad Society of South Florida

Meetings in 2007
will be hosted by:

Florida West Coast (January 13)
Bromeliad Society of South Florida (April 14)
Gainesville Bromeliad Society (July 14)
Sarasota Bromeliad Society (October 13)

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Happy Holidays!