



# GRANDE

the magazine for bromeliophiles





## JANNES ELMORE'S PRISMS

**THE PLANT:** Is *Neoregelia meyendorffii* cv 'Medallion'. "I saw a picture of 'Medallion' on the cover of the *JOURNAL*'s Nov. '75 issue," recounts Elmore, "and I knew I had to own the plant if possible. Last year I was on a shooting assignment in California, and, after making a number of calls, found the only possibility of getting one of the plants was from Dr. Donald Rock. Kelsey Williams owned the first 'Medallion' and it had four pups. He kept one and moved away from California. Kathy Dorr, Arla Rutledge, and Don Rock each got one of the other three pups before it was evident what a spectacular mutation 'Medallion' would turn out to be. 'Medallion' never blooms, and of the four owners, only Rock has managed to root the plant and get any pups from it past the original four. To my count there are only 11 of the plants in the world, and that includes my large plant and its two pups."

"Anyway, I contacted Rock, and at first there was no possibility of sale of the plant at any price. Then he began to sense my enthusiasm and finally he decided he might part with one plant, as he had the three at that time. His asking price was \$1,000, and while I'm not at liberty to say just what it did cost, it was less than that but several times the next most expensive thing on the market — but it is really worth it — there is no other plant in my collection like it — and I have — at the moment — 327 different clones of neos, not counting my own hybrids. The depth and brilliance of the red is amazing and there are dark green-black lines — the reverse of variegations — that run up into the red."

**THE PHOTOGRAPH:** was taken with a specially modified 18 sided prism mounted 6mm in front of a 24mm Nikor wide angle lense on a motor-driven Nikon F-2. Lighting was by three electronic flash units with diffusers. Film used was Ektachrome EPR and the reproduction print was made on Cibachrome print material.

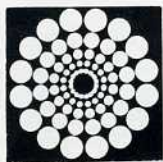
**THE PHOTOGRAPHER:** James V. Elmore is an advertising photographer who works out of Florida and New York, specializing in travel accounts. In the bromeliad world he collects and hybridizes neoregelias and is Editor of this magazine.

# CONGRATULATIONS

William G. Carr, President



Photographs by Bob Puterbaugh



**Crystals International Inc.**

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# GRANDE

the magazine for bromeliophiles

Volume One Number One Summer, 1978

Published by the FLORIDA COUNCIL  
OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES, INC.

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# COUNCIL COMMENTS

It's finally arrived! This publication has come full term from its conception last August to the healthy, robust infant delivered in May. A few thought that miscarriage was a certainty. Others sent congratulatory messages and monetary support many months in advance of delivery. The majority, though, are either not yet aware of the event, or have assumed the attitude of "Let's wait and see what the kid looks like". Well, here it is. A brand-spanking-new bromeliad magazine.

The publishers of GRANDE would like to provide pure and absolute satisfaction to all bromeliophiles. We cannot. We would like to provide a forum for *every* Botanist, Taxonomist, hybridist, hobbyist, and sometime grower to state his or her views. We will not. We would like to be the best media in which to advertise bromeliads and supportive paraphernalia. We may well be. We would like to show the true enthusiast as much as possible of what is new and exciting in bromeliads. We think we can. We would like to supply the best available color photography, absorbing articles and features, growing information, show schedules, ads and news in our field. We shall!

To those who would ask (as some have) if we are trying to replace or compete with The JOURNAL OF THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY, INC. we say, "pineapples!!!".

THE JOURNAL has its very well established and deserved place in each plant library, and we shall have ours. And, they are different.

Those of us who have spent years waiting for the second volume of Wilson's book, have suffered through trying to translate from Richter's German and other foreign texts, have agonized over what is not available in English, what is not photographed in black and white, let alone color, have been frustrated by trying to re-index reprints to make them minimally usable, and have endured nervous heebie-jeebies over getting our hands on every bit of bromelore are thoroughly aware of the importance of the JOURNAL. Its steady scientific and documentary role cannot be overstated and we support it fully.

GRANDE is a second generation magazine. With the JOURNAL already doing the basic job of covering the mechanics of the bromeliad world, we are free to look for the new, the exciting, the truly fine, and the esoteric wherever we can find it. And, we are determined to bring it to you in photos and in copy conceived and executed on a GRANDE scale — a graphic celebration of the grandeur that is the world of the plants themselves.

BOB PUTERBAUGH  
CHAIRMAN

GRANDE's first cover was shot at Charles  
Coolbaugh's EXOTIC BROMELIADS in Lakeland  
by James V. Elmore.



### The plants are:

1. Neoregelia carolinae cv. fuschia
2. Neoregelia x 'Beta'
3. Neoregelia x 'Oesser's #2'
4. Neoregelia carolinae cv. meyendorffii
5. Neoregelia x 'Takemura Grande cv. Silverado'
6. Neoregelia carolinae cv. meyendorffii hybrid
7. Vriesea fenestralis
8. Vriesea fosteriana (French selection)
9. Neoregelia princeps (David Barry selection)
10. Neoregelia x 'Alpha'
11. Vriesea x 'Nana'
12. Vriesea x poelmanii hybrid
13. Vriesea x poelmannata
14. Neoregelia x 'Oh No cv. Very Cherry'
15. Neoregelia carolinae - German hybrid
16. Neoregelia carolinae cv. meyendorffii hybrid
17. Neoregelia carolinae cv. 'Cherry Smash'
18. Guzmania lindenii
19. Canistrum leopardinum
20. Neoregelia x 'Grande' (Fantastic Gardens)
21. Neoregelia carolinae cv. tricolor 'Perfecta'
22. Guzmania zahnii cv. variegata

# MISSING ANYTHING?



Photography: James V. Elmore □ Model: Carl Peryn □ Studio: Ervin Wurthmann's Greenhouse

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  - I. machete
  - J. flashlight
- K. extra collecting pole sections
  - L. airplant net
- M. Kentucky Fried Chicken
- N. tree climbing spikes
  - O. keys to air boat
- P. extra 180mm and 350mm lenses
  - Q. knapsack
  - R. first aid kit
  - S. whistle
  - T. compass
- U. sunglasses
- V. binoculars
- W. camouflaged vest
  - X. pith helmet
  - Y. rubber boots
  - Z. rope
  - AA. gloves
- BB. Ecuadorean plant collecting basket

## AN ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT STATUTE FOR ENDANGERED PLANTS BY Maureen Frazel

The current Florida law concerning endangered plants is a very comprehensive one covering a number of plants which should be protected. Unfortunately, there seem to be loopholes in the mechanics of the law for the bromeliad *Tillandsia Utriculata* is still for sale. It has been on sale for the past three years as a boutique item. It is very difficult to prove whether the plants have been taken illegally. This particular *Tillandsia* reproduces almost exclusively from seed, rarely by offset. Since it grows mainly in populated areas and takes about seven years from seed to maturity, very few plants are being cultivated commercially.

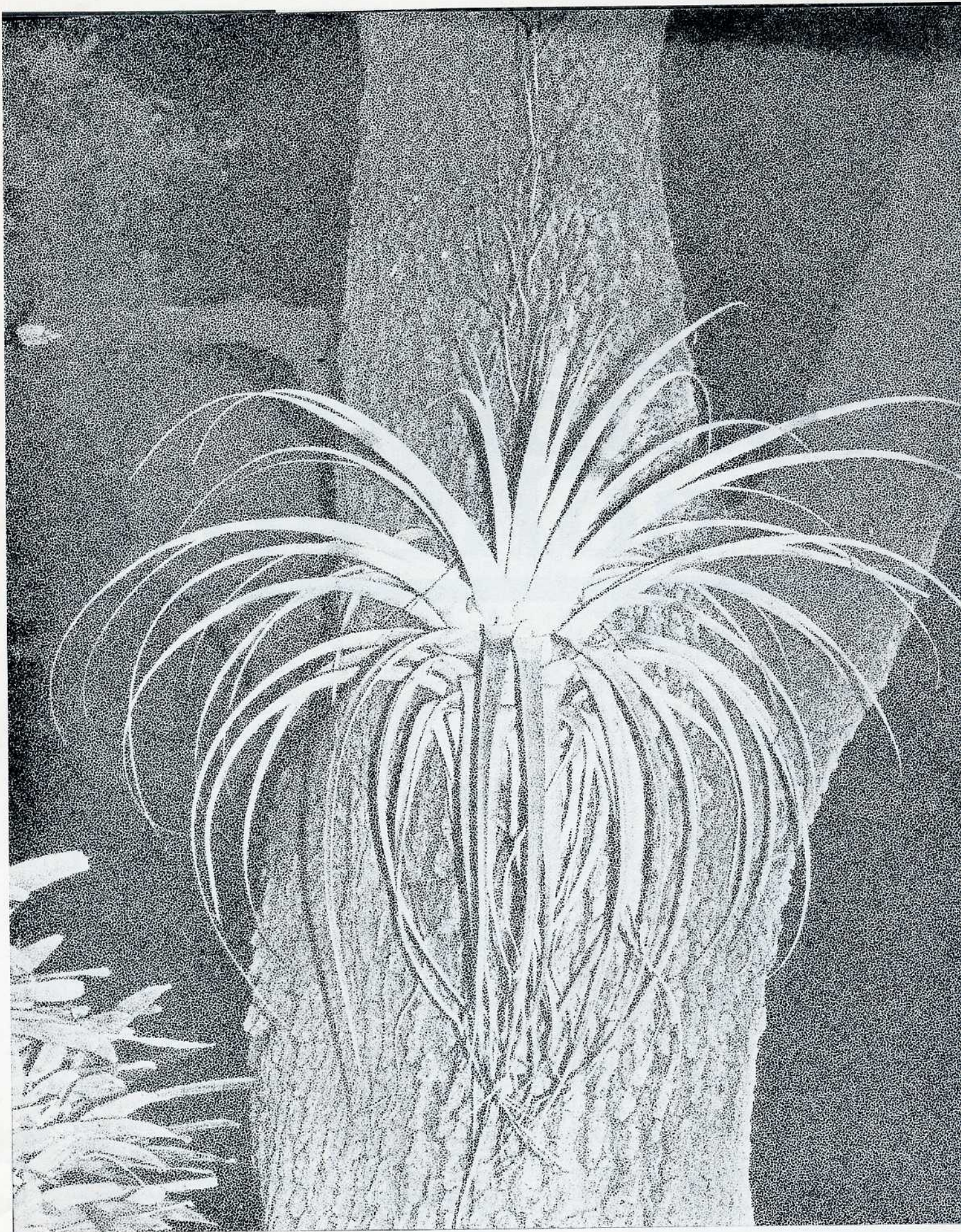
Tom Gustafson, Dem., Fort Lauderdale, is planning to file a bill which will set stricter regulations for selling these plants. It is draft #8834. His plan is to require written permission from the owner of the land to collect plants BEFORE applying for a Department of Agriculture permit to sell. This permit from the land owner would have to travel with the plant to a retail outlet, telling the buyer from what property the plant was gathered. Such a law would prevent someone from leasing land in the Everglades and stripping it of everything saleable.

Under the present law apprehension and conviction of an offender is almost impossible; a person would have to see someone in the act of illegally collecting for sale or destroying the plants, then call or find a police officer who would arrest the offender — and be willing to testify. If there is a conviction, it is a second degree misdemeanor. Rep. Gustafson proposes to make it a first degree misdemeanor. The new bill would give the enforcement authority to agents of the Division of Plant Industry.

Draft #8834 is not aimed at the licensed nurserymen but rather at the unscrupulous dealers who try to sell the department stores and boutiques.

The bill also proposes a nine member endangered plant advisory council appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture to advise the department regarding updating the endangered plant list.

If the bill fails in committee or on the floor, Rep. Gustafson plans to present another "mini-bromeliad bill" like the one Broward County Bromeliad Society suggested last year as an emergency measure. It would prohibit the sale of native bromeliads — a measure that would at least slow down the awful harvest while this plant is still a fad. I urge members of our Society to contact their legislators' offices. Resolutions from state groups are indeed influential. Although this problem involves us in South Florida the most, we enlist support of Bromeliad lovers state-wide.



# COLLECTING

## FLORIDA'S BROMELIADS

Harry Luther

The bromeliads are a conspicuous element of Florida's tropical flora. At present the sixteen species recorded as occurring in our state are, with one or two exceptions, presumably all migrants from Mexico and the nearby islands of the Caribbean.

The majority of our native bromeliads are restricted to the southern half of the state where a more or less tropical climate prevails. A few tillandsias, however, range into northern Florida and beyond. The *Tillandsia bartramii* complex actually appears to be better adapted to the more rigorous conditions of Central and North Florida and does not venture South of Lake Okeechobee.

All of our native bromeliads are epiphytes, although they may survive on the ground in well drained hammocks. The pineapple, (*Ananas Comosus*), which several authors considered naturalized, is typically terrestrial. The epiphytic species are usually found on rough-

barked or twiggy shrubs and trees. These offer abundant snags for the bromeliads plumose, airborne seeds. Favored hosts are cypress (*taxodium distichum*); red cedar (*juniperus silicicola*); pop ash (*fraxinus carolinians*); cocoplum (*chrysobalanus icaco*); pondapple (*annona glabra*); saffron plum (*bumelia celastrina*); and various oaks (*Quercus spp.*). Old pondapples in the Fakahatchee Slough may be literally covered with *Guzmania monostachya*. The *Tillandsia bartramii* complex occurs in similar abundance on cedars and oaks in riverswamps to the North.

The recent, widespread interest in our native bromeliads has shown the need for a simple tool to identify those plants in the field. Older, traditional keys have relied on seasonal and rather transitory characters such as flower structure or required detailed measurements of plant parts. These keys have several drawbacks if one is hip deep in swamp water. The following key is meant to be used for mature, living specimens and is based on gross, more or less permanent features of the plants.

## KEY

- |  |    |  |    |
|--|----|--|----|
| 1. Plant vase shaped (leaf sheaths flat)   | 5  |  |    |
| 2. Plant psuedobulbous (leaf sheaths inflated)   | 13 |  |    |
| 3. Plant a cluster of needle-like leaves   | 16 |  |    |
| 4. Plant matted, slender and curling   | 18 |  |    |
| 5a. Leaves green   | 6  |  |    |
| b. Leaves grey or grey-green   | 9  |  |    |
| 6a. Leaves strap-like, tapering only near tips, inflorescence erect or leaning, simple and cylindrical                     |    |  |    |
|  |    | <b><i>Guzmania monostachya</i></b>                             |    |
| b. Leaves evenly tapering from base to tip   | 7  |  |    |
| 7a. Leaves completely bright green; inflorescence much branched, erect or leaning  |    |  |    |
|  |    | <b><i>Catopsis floribunda</i></b>                              |    |
| b. Leaf bases covered with white chalky powder   | 8  |  |    |
| 8a. Plant small, 4 to 8 inches high, leaves spreading, blades bright green, inflorescence simple & pendant                 |    |  |    |
|  |    | <b><i>Catopsis nutans</i></b>                                  |    |
| b. Plant larger, leaves upright, blades yellow-green; inflorescence compound and erect                                     |    |  |    |
|  |    | <b><i>Catopsis berteroniana</i></b>                            |    |
| 9a. Leaves stiff, straight, grey or reddish, inflorescence with short densely digitate branches.                           |    |  |    |
|  |    | <b><i>Tillandsia Fasciculata</i> var <i>densispica</i></b>     |    |
| b. Leaves arching and recurving  | 10 |  |    |
| 10a. Leaves spirally twisted, marked with silver bands   |    |  |    |
|  |    | <b><i>Tillandsia Flexuosa</i></b>                              |    |
| b. Leaves not twisted and banded   |    |  | 11 |
| 11a. Leaves soft and brittle, often flushed with pink; inflorescence simple or with 1 to 3 branches                        |    |  |    |
|  |    | <b><i>Tillandsia valenzuelana</i></b>                          |    |
| b. Leaves tough and leathery   |    |  | 12 |
| 12a. Leaves pale grey-green, plants single or in masses of separate seedlings; inflorescence erect, laxly paniculate       |    |  |    |
|  |    | <b><i>Tillandsia utriculata</i></b>                            |    |
| b. Leaves grey or reddish, plants often in clusters; inflorescence leaning or erect, densely pinnate                       |    |  |    |
|  |    | <b><i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i> (1)</b>                       |    |
| 13a. Leaf blades involute for entire length  |    |  | 14 |
| b. Leaf blades channelled, involute only near tip  |    |  | 15 |
| 14a. Plants covered with grey, scurfy cinereous scales, inflorescence short, simple, few flowered                          |    |  |    |
|  |    | <b><i>Tillandsia pruinosa</i></b>                              |    |
| b. Plants covered with silver-grey densely appressed, lepidote scales; inflorescence linear, simple, occasionally digitate |    |  |    |
|  |    | <b><i>Tillandsia circinnata</i></b>                            |    |
| 15a. Leaf blades and scape bracts twisted and recurved   |    |  |    |
|  |    | <b><i>Tillandsia balbisiana</i></b>                            |    |
| b. Leaf blades and scape bracts arching, not twisted   |    |  |    |
|  |    | <b><i>Tillandsia</i> taxon, <i>polystachya</i> sensu small</b> |    |

continued on page 26

# Growers

## COMMERCIAL BROMELIAD GROWERS BY STATE AREAS:

### CENTRAL FLORIDA:

**BAMBOO NURSERIES:** Orlando, Fla.; Tel. 305-293-0280; Wholesale Only

**ELOISE BEACH, BROMELIADS;** P.O. Box 1054; Apopka, Fla.; Tel. 305-886-8892; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

**BLOSSOM WORLD BROMELIADS;** Bud Martin; Sanford; Tel. 305-321-0838; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

**CHAS. DE FRANCE;** 827 N. Garfield; Deland, Fla. 32720; By Appointment; Wholesale; Retail.

**BERT FOSTER;** Orlando, Fla.; 305-425-1528; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

**W. C. (BILL) FRASE;** Orlando, Fla.; 305-851-7094; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

**LAKE FAIRVIEW NURSERY;** Orlando, Fla.; 305-293-7571; Hwy 441 N; Retail Nursery

**LAND OF BROMELIADS;** Gotha, Fla.; 305-295-0623; Wholesale Only.

**JULIAN NALLY ESTATE;** Gotha, Fla.; 305-293-0303; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail

**PINEAPPLE PLACE;** Carol & Jeff Johnson; Longwood, Fla. 305-322-7945; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

**SOPER'S FLORIDA GARDENS;** Ken Soper; Orlando, Fla.; 305-855-4454; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

**AL WICHMAN;** Altamonte Springs, Fla.; 305-834-0199; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

**SARA & MARTIN WITTBOLD;** Holly Hill, Fla.; 904-252-1345; Retail, Business Hours.

### LAKELAND AREA:

**EXOTIC BROMELIADS;** Chas. & Bernice Coolbaugh; 813-683-388; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail; Specializing in Neoregelias.

**PETERSON'S NURSERY;** 225 New Auburndale Hwy; Lakeland; 813-683-4011; Retail Nursery.

**WHIT-MAR NURSERY;** W. H. Merrin; 813-754-3136; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

### LAUDERDALE AREA:

**ALBERTS & MERKEL;** Boynton Beach, Fla.; 305-732-2071; Retail-Wholesale Nursery; USI.

**JERRY ELLIS;** Islamorada, Fla.; 305-664-4861; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

**MRS. ROBT. FENTON;** Stuart, Fla.; 305-287-1096; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

**VIRGINIA LOERKE;** Miramar, Fla.; 305-987-0648; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

**MERCEDES TOPLEY;** Miami, Fla.; 305-949-7011; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

### MIAMI AREA:

**BROMELIAD BARN;** 13700 SW 99th Ave.; 305-235-0752; Retail Nursery.

**FANTASTIC GARDENS;** 9550 SW 67th Ave.; 305-661-1217; Wholesale-Retail Nursery.

**HIDDEN VALLEY NURSERY;** 7890 SW 117th Ave.; 305-595-1335; Retail Nursery.

**HERBERT HILL, SR.;** Miami, Fla.; 305-443-6502; By Appointment.

**JERRY HORNE;** Miami, Fla.; 305-270-1235; 10195 SW 79th St.; Retail.

**KERRY'S NURSERY;** 16245 SW 304th St.; Homestead; 305-247-5990; Wholesale-Retail.

**ORCHID JUNGLE;** 26715 SW 147th St.; Retail.

**JUNGLE ORCHIDS;** 2335 NW 20th St.; 305-635-3077; Wholesale-Retail.

**HAROLD THOMPSON;** Miami, Fla.; 305-232-0627; By Appointment.

**BERT ZUCKERMAN;** Miami Beach, Fla.; 305-531-3598; By Appointment.

### SARASOTA, BRADENTON - SOUTHWEST AREA:

**DENNIS & DARRIS CATHCART;** Bradenton, Fla.; 813-755-6567; By appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

**FRANK CORNELISON;** N. Ft. Myers, Fla.; 813-995-4206; By Appointment; Wholesale, Retail, Mail Order.

**"Q" GARDENS - R. M. QUILHOT;** Ellenton, Fla.; 813-722-2683; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

### TAMPA - ST. PETERSBURG AREA:

**HERBERT H. HILL, JR.;** Lithia, Fla.; 813-685-2392; By Appointment; Wholesale-Retail.

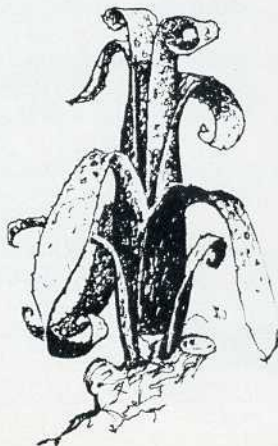
**HOLMES NURSERY;** Tampa, Fla.

**MIDNIGHT NURSERY;** 2720 9th St. S; Tel. 894-6916 or 345-4378; By Appointment.

**ERVIN J. WURTHMANN;** Valrico, Fla.; 813-685-5801; By Appointment; Wholesale, Retail, Mail Order.

**JOHN BECKNER;** 736 Myrtle Way So., St. Petersburg, Fla. 33705; 867-1919; By Appointment.

**SNOWDEN'S NURSERY;** Highway 19 A So., Tarpon Springs, Fla.; Weekdays except Wednesday.



#### The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Inc.

Program Chairman Brian Wood has given this affiliate an outstanding series of spring programs on growing bromeliads from seed, hybridizing and registering the hybrids.

In April the society held a seminar covering a variety of bromeliad related subjects. This meeting was open to the public as well as to members.

The membership accepted an invitation to landscape a portion of the conservatory of Leu Gardens. This is a great bromeliad display of choice plants.

Summer plans will include programs on collecting bromeliads in foreign countries, and information on Florida bromeliads.

#### Seminole Bromeliad Society

The newest affiliate of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies draws its membership from quite an extensive area of central Florida north of Orlando. The members of this group choose to keep their business to a minimum and to emphasize the exchange of ideas and plants.

Starting at the first of the year, each monthly meeting focused on a different genus - Aechmea, Vriesea and Cryptanthus.

The April meeting changed from study to a field trip to the beautiful Marie Selby Gardens in Sarasota.

The Seminole Society meets on the third Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. in the County Agricultural Agents Building four miles south of Sanford on Highway 17-92. Visitors are welcome.

#### The Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

For this affiliate the great excitement of the year was the February meeting when Miss Victoria Padilla gave a beautiful slide presentation and confessed to a thirty year love affair with bromeliads. It was a treat for each member who had the opportunity to hear and to meet a person of such great stature in the bromeliad world.

The exhibit committee, headed by Eric Graf created a blue ribbon display for the Pinellas County Fair in March. In the competitive display of the fair, the "Best of Show" rosette went to a beautiful Vriesea tessalata.

The Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the community room, First Federal Savings and Loan, at Tri City Plaza on East Bay Drive in Largo. Visitors are invited.

#### Bromeliad Society of Broward County, Inc.

In April the Bromeliad Society of Broward County conducted a sale of miscellaneous plants in conjunction with a City Recreation Dept. sponsored Country Fair. This was a first-time effort for us. We had fifteen sellers with a large number of plants sold on a 75-25 basis. Our club realized \$84. profit.

Our society meets at the Holiday Park Social Annex at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. On May 15th the program will be on tissue culture. The guest speaker will be Larry Strobe from Oglesby Nursery in Hollywood. Visitors are welcome.

# NEWS

# A VISIT TO A PRIVATE COLLECTION

Nat De Leon's reputation precedes him. It can be heard echoing through the overtones of bromeliad circles across the country.

Mike Kashkin at Fuschia Land in Los Angeles shuffles through the packed aisles of his nursery, plucks from a hidden corner a rarely seen De Leon hybrid, and sums it up, "I've got lot's of plants, but if you really want to see *SOME* Neo's, you should see Nat De Leon's personal collection, not the one in the Parrot Jungle, the one in his yard — man, that guy has really got 'em". Traveling on across the Bromeliad Belt to New Orleans where Neos are King, Nat is held in the same awe as such big guns of that area as Mal Mele and Cliff Sivert. And when you get to South Florida, Nat is not to be rivaled.

Nat's private collection is just that — a very, very private, fenced-in, guard-dog-guarded, nothing-for-sale private collection. (Although, he will trade if you should, by chance, have something he doesn't). Anyway, you have to see it. And we hope, since that is rarely possible in person due to Nat's limited time — his days are filled as chief horticulturalist at Miami's famous Parrot Jungle — that these photos will serve that purpose.

For openers, the quality of the plants is spectacular. You will see bromeliads here that can be found in no other collection in the world — many of them Nat's own hybrids. And species from Brazil that you did not expect to exist . . . all superbly well colored and conformed, growing under palms and in company with sagos, the showpieces of the tropical splendor of his yard/garden/jungle. But what really gets to you on top of all this quality is the quantity. A bed of 30 or 40 selfings of Richter's 'Vulcan', all broad leaved, glowing bright pink here, broad areas of his famous Takemura-look-alike *concentrica* plutonis from the botanical garden at Liege, Belgium, there . . . hundreds of a clone unique of *compacta*, all in bloom, scaling up the palms . . . thousands of 'Fireballs' in beds by the jungle . . . and the list goes on and on. It is almost maddening.

With all this going for him, THE MAN comes on very soft spoken, very modest, and very very careful to be sure that whatever he says leads to no botanical inaccuracy. He will decline to identify a plant, rather than give it a name he is not sure of. He is tall and craggy faced, and imposing, and when in Nat's presence you know you are with one of the bromeliad greats.

The focal point of his endeavors are his hybrids. "I am not doing this for money," Nat intones with the riteousness of an AAU athlete. "I am hybridizing because of my own curiosity with bromeliads . . . from the standpoint that I might produce something horticulturally acceptable, also from the standpoint of learning more about the end result of those hybrids so that I can go on to the next step."

To these ends Nat hybridizes principally with species, or with hybrids only when they are established and accepted by a certain name. He has not yet named each of his hybrids, but all are carefully documented as to parentage. One of Nat's early interests in hybridizing was to break the 'cycle barrier' of having a plant bloom at only a certain time of year, and he was successful with one of his early *Aechmea* hybrids, *Ae. ramosa* x *Ae. fulgens* *discolor* — the hybrid of which flowers in the winter. He has made a number of *Vriesea* hybrids, and has worked out a trade with De Meyer in Europe whereby Nat produces the seed and De Meyer sows it, later splitting the plants with Nat.

Another of Nat's claims-to-fame is the introduction of Neo. 'Fireball'. It is a very interesting story to hear Nat tell; he begins by explaining how he and the late great Ralph Davis became friends, and, seeing no sense in duplication of their efforts at importing plants, worked out a plan to share pups of whatever 'finds' each other should stumble upon.

"It came in as a miscellaneous plant — just one single plant," begins Nat, with a nod toward a sea of small red Neos growing up a tree, "from a collector in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He never mentioned the exact location where the plant was found . . . but it was a collected plant, and I did receive the first plant, and the first sucker of that plant went to Ralph Davis. We both agreed that we would not part with any of the plants until we could get a good identification on it . . . unfortunately, 'Fireball' was the sort of thing that did not flower very often in South Florida. As a result, clumps were getting larger and we were still not seeing any flowers. Finally I was able to find one plant out of a fair number after at least three or four years (in flower). I sent (the plant in flower) to Lyman Smith and he did mention that it was a species, but he never really committed himself. Ralph Davis thought up the name 'Fireball' . . ."

"Well, you need new things to trade with other people and after Ralph and I talked things over we decided we might just as well start letting the thing go because there was a great deal of interest in the plant, and I said we have got to put some sort of name on the plant because otherwise it's going to get all fouled up — at least we have some reference point so that if Lyman Smith did identify it we could go ahead and say such and such is now new species so and so."

Finally, Nat is a worker in his local societies. Nothing can be more entertaining than to hear him in his bassy, musical voice at the South Florida chapter's annual plant auction encouraging the audience to up their bids, or to work with him on this year's Florida International Bromeliad Show, of which he is the Show Chairman.

And there you have him: Nat De Leon: collector, hybridizer, worker, horticulturalist; a more fitting candidate for GRANDE's first 'visit' could never be found!!!







