

MINUTES OF BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF MARCH 24, 2019

Kenneth Stokes from Tampa talked about "What's in a Name?" He referred to the printouts that were sent with the February newsletter and explained about genera. Plant naming uses Latin – plants can be named after people, location where found, physical description, etc.

The business meeting began at 2:55 with Howard Frank discussing the Florida Council of Bromeliad Society Weevil Project. Currently the weevil is distributed in Broward County. They are trying to develop a parasite of the weevil that was found on a resistant tillandsia – testing the DNA of the plant needs to be done to see if it is identical to local tillandsias.

The Mexican bromeliad weevil is now distributed from Broward County north to Volusia County and from Collier County north to Hillsborough County and almost all inland counties in between. In other words, it is in almost all counties that have *Tillandsia utriculata*, which is being extirpated by the weevil. A parasitoid fly (that kills larvae of this and related weevils) was discovered in a closely related weevil in Honduras in 1994. It was brought to a quarantine facility in Gainesville, but could not be reared reliably there; it was then imported to a new, quarantine facility at the IFAS research station in Ft. Pierce and by 2007 was ready to release at four parks/ preserves in Florida. Five releases were made at each of these sites in 2007-2008 (about 100 flies were released each time at each site). Unfortunately, populations of the fly did not become established most likely because the temperatures at the release sites were too high (its normal habitat in Honduras is cool cloud forests). Extensive exploration in southern Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama revealed no other parasitoids of bromeliad-eating weevils. However, in Belize in 2010 the same weevil species was detected coexisting with *Tillandsia utriculata* at low altitude suggesting perhaps the presence of a parasitoid. Instead, the reason for coexistence proved not to be due to a parasitoid but to the resistance of a central American form of *Tillandsia utriculata*. Documentation is given at <http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/frank/bromeliadbiota/wvbrom.htm> and in Journal of the Bromeliad Society 61: 112-115. The upshot is that the resistance of the central American form of *Tillandsia utriculata* may be used to impart resistance of the Florida form to the same weevil provided that the two forms really do belong to the same species as botanists have claimed. For this, we need DNA testing.

The minutes from February 24 were approved.

A new treasurer, Worth Auxier, was nominated, seconded, and elected by unanimous vote of the members present.

A dedication for Carolyn Schoenau (a redbud) was discussed. So far \$2,200 has been donated to pay for a tree with the rest going to club activities.