

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

February 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FEBRUARY, 2020

We missed many of our regular members at the last meeting due to the date change. We are faced with that again this month as we have to meet on the 4th Monday instead of the 3rd Monday due to the holiday for President's Day. The church is not open on the Monday holidays. We will meet in the Mary Martha Building, 2nd Floor which is our old meeting room for the month of February.



Well, that's a lot of information but it will be worth every effort you put forth to come as our guest speaker will be Dennis Cathcart of Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota. He will be speaking on *Understanding Bromeliads*. Dennis and Linda are turning over the nursery business to their children and we are pleased that he will take the time to give us a program. Dennis gives one of the best programs in our industry so you don't want to miss it!

Tropiflora is well known in this area so it will also be a great opportunity to invite friends, relatives and neighbors to the meeting. Marilyn Byram, our Newsletter Editor, will send three newsletters via email to visitors and they would have three months to decide if they would like to join the club. We have a great lineup of speakers for the year! See the 2020 Calendar of speakers we have coming to our club. We are dedicating ten minutes of each meeting to a workshop to help newcomers learn about bromeliads. Ken Stokes is doing the first quarter workshops of the year and had an informative workshop in January.



Raffle: Please bring some nice bromeliads, potted or pups, for the raffle table. Our income for the club from raffle tickets has improved the last few months. Buy your tickets from Steve Byram as you come in the door to the meeting.

Members Choice: Please bring your best plants for Show & Tell. Julie Lessard will be giving you a ticket to vote on the best bromeliad. The bromeliad with the most tickets will take 1st place, next 2nd place, and then 3rd place. First place will receive a prize.

We installed a 8' x 10' display at the Florida State Fair on February 3rd. Our thanks to Verna Dickey, Mary Ann Szeja, Robert Nelson, Marilyn Byram, Chris Robinson and myself. The Florida State Fair pays our Society \$350 for putting in a display and an additional \$150 for members choice which is announced at the end of the fair. So when we get our check these are the folks you can thank for all their hard work.

I want to thank all the folks who donated their time to sit at our fair display and share information about our club and the wonderful family of bromeliads. It is a great opportunity to invite people to come to our meetings.

Just a reminder that dues are due \$25 for single and \$35 for more than one person at the same address.

See you at the meeting!

Tom

BGTB MEETING AGENDA

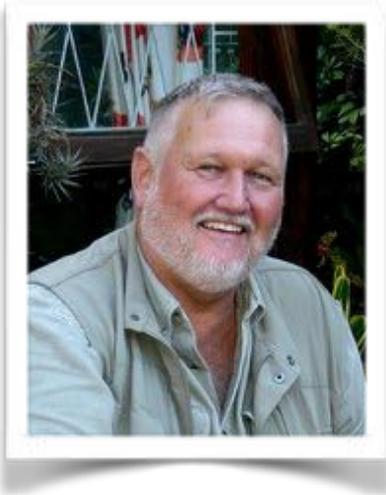
- Call to order
- Welcome to guests
- Welcome New Members
- Birthday wishes & drawing
- Minutes as published
- Treasurer's report
- Raffle table - review
- Introduce speaker
- OLD Business
- NEW Business
- Motion to close business meeting
- BREAK – Refreshments
- Workshop
- Show & Tell
- Raffle drawing



DUES ARE DUE!

It's time to renew your BGTB membership. Your membership expired on December 31. Please fill out the application/renewal form in this newsletter and bring it to the next meeting or mail it to Carol Wolfe, 5211 Lake LeClare Rd., Lutz, FL 33558. Only \$25.00 for single membership or \$30.00 for family. What a bargain!

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BROMELIAD GUILD OF TAMPA BAY, INC.



SPEAKER: Dennis Cathcart

PROGRAM: *Understanding Bromeliads*

MEETING DATE: Monday, February 24, 2020

**TIME: Doors open 6:30 PM and Meeting starts
7:00 PM**

**WHERE: Christ the King Catholic Church
Mary Martha Building, 2nd floor
821 South Dale Mabry, Tampa, FL 33609**

Guest speaker is Dennis Cathcart and he and his wife, Linda, are the owners of the Tropiflora nursery in Sarasota, Florida. Dennis started Tropiflora in the early '70s as an outgrowth of a bromeliad collecting hobby. A "hobby gone bad" he says.

Following years of collecting reptiles and traveling the Caribbean and Latin America, Dennis discovered bromeliads or they discovered him; and, the direction of his life was changed for evermore. Collecting and exploring were always his first interests in the plant world and over the years he and Linda have visited over 25 countries on more than 100 trips and expeditions. Together they have made travel, adventure, plant exploring, speaking, writing and the nursery business a way of life

Dennis and Linda have been providing bromeliads to other nurseries, gardens, conservatory, collectors and hobbyists around the world and have pursued different kinds of plants and especially bromeliads. One of their incredible projects was providing thousands of exotic plants to the newly developed Singapore Gardens and the results of this endeavor was spectacular as people from around the world visited the Gardens.

Dennis will also be selling plants at the meeting. So come prepared to hear a great program and add a few bromeliads to your collection!

Pots and Potting Mixes for Bromeliads

By Kenneth Stokes

Bromeliads are most often potted for several reasons. First, the pot provides drainage for epiphytes, and allows them to be portable for sale and exhibition. Pots also make spiny desert Bromeliads easier to groom as well as provide drainage, because they naturally grow without wet roots. Pots also allow growers to move them to a better light level or to protect them from freezing or frost.

Terra cotta pots look better for display out of doors and provide for good ballast. Orchid pots have large slits on the sides and provide excellent drainage for epiphytes. Single holes in the bottom work well for terrestrials, if the hole is not clogged by roots. Terra cotta pots are heavier and more fragile than plastic. Keep this in mind if transportation or moving may be needed.

Black plastic pots are preferable, because they last longer and are visually recessive in the landscape. When recessed in a little mulch, they can barely be noticed. Dark green ones also work well. The plastic pots referred to as Azalea pots, have side drains and function well for Bromeliads. Typically, a six-inch pot is used although eight-inch pots are better for multiple plants or for larger plants. They do cost twice as much and require twice as much potting mix, so that is why commercial growers don't use them.

It is possible to grow some large epiphytes in a pot with no potting mix. This is referred to as the "dry-pot" method. Mounting epiphytes on surfaces where their roots can attach is also a possibility.

All Bromeliad mixes are not the same. Epiphytes require a fast draining mix that would mimic vegetative mats on tree limbs or the litter on the ground under trees. A tri-part mixture of wood chips or mulch, perlite, and humus, such as Canadian peat or compost works very well. Caution: do not use red dyed mulch around Bromeliads as it contains both copper and arsenic to prevent decay. Both are heavy metals and will kill Bromeliads.

Terrestrial Bromeliads grow in the soil, although the conditions are quite varied, from desert to seashore to the moist tropics. Each kind of natural environment requires a different kind of mixture. Succulent and spinney desert plants usually grow well in a tri-part mix of coarse sand, perlite and humus. Cryptanthus and related Bromeliads that grow on the moist forest floor require a uniformly moist soil. Plants grown in a greenhouse with an irrigation system can thrive in a well-draining soil, but in the natural Florida garden, topsoil or topsoil with vermiculite added works well. Bromeliads in the *Pitcairnia* and *Fosterella* genera like moist garden soil. They are usually grown in pots when offered for sale, but grow best planted in the landscape. They then can develop a root system that can carry them through the seasonal changes in rainfall and moisture.

Potted plants with sand or perlite visible, can be made more attractive for display by using a top dressing. Dyckias and Hechtias look good with pea gravel or crushed stone. A fine wood chip or bark can also look good. Rain forest varieties can look attractive with a topping of Sphagnum moss. The rule of thumb should be, the smaller the plant, the finer the top dressing. Big wood chips look fine around a thirty-inch tall plant but are too much for one with three-inch long leaves.

Re-potting is necessary as plants grow and re-produce. Plants that are not tubular can become so crowded that their form is distorted. Potting mixes also break down in time and can turn into muck. This process is helped along by earthworms. That is why commercial growers use raised platforms or growing tables. Plants grown on the ground may need to be repotted every year, or at least have the muck removed and wood chips added on the bottom.

BGTB Meeting January 27, 2020



2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BGTB

President - Tom Wolfe
 Vice President - Steve Byram
 Secretary - Marcia Hunter
 Treasurer - Rick Hunter
 Newsletter Editor - Marilyn Byram
 Directors - Verna Dickey, Mark Victor, and Carol Wolfe

Meeting Place: 7:00 PM Christ the King Catholic Church, 821 S. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa, FL 33609
McLoughlin Center, Room C except February and May Meeting will be in the Mary Martha Bldg. 2nd Floor

BGTB 2020 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS & EVENTS

Meeting Day	Month	Speaker	Location of Event
27	JANUARY (date changed due to holiday on regular meeting date)	BGTB Meeting: Tom Wolfe Florida Native Bromeliads	Building C
3	February	Florida State Fair Display to be installed Monday, February 3, 7 PM	Meet at the Family Life Building Bring blooming bromeliads Free Tickets to the Fair
6-17	February State fair begins February 6 and ends February 17, 2020	Florida State Fair At Fairgrounds	We need members to volunteer a couple of hours to give information on the club
24	FEBRUARY (date changed due to holiday on regular meeting date)	BGTB Meeting: Dennis Cathcart: Understanding Bromeliads	Meet Mary Martha Bldg 2nd Floor
16	MARCH	BGTB Meeting: Teresa Eddy "The Backyard Florist"	Building C
11-12	APRIL (Easter weekend)	USF Plant Sale	USF Botanical Gardens
13	APRIL	BGTB Meeting TBS Staff at Selby Gardens Will present a program on Conservation efforts in Florida	Building C
18	MAY	BGTB Meeting: Jay Thurrott, Daytona, FL	Meet Mary Martha Bldg 2nd Floor
10-13	June	WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE	Hyatt Regency Sarasota, Florida
15	JUNE	BGTB Meeting: PICNIC AND AUCTION	Building C
20	JULY	BGTB Meeting Ray Lemieux, Tropiflora Sarasota, FL	Building C
17	AUGUST	BGTB Meeting John Boardman, Grower & Hybridizer, Orlando, FL	Building C
21	SEPTEMBER	BGTB Meeting: Steve Littlefield, Artist, Clearwater, FL	Building C
10-11	OCTOBER	USF SALE	USF Botanical Gardens
19	OCTOBER	BGTB Meeting Mike O'Leary, Clearwater, FL	Building C
16	NOVEMBER	BGTB Meeting: Terrie Bert, Scientist	Building C
21	DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS PARTY	Building C

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay
Minutes of Meeting January 27, 2020

Call to Order by President, Tom Wolfe

Welcome to Guest - Allan Mora

Birthday wishes & drawing - Pam Slagg won a gift basket with garden supplies.

Minutes: Rick Hunter moved we accept minutes of the Nov.- Dec. meetings as they appeared in the newsletter. Verna Dickey seconded the motion

Treasurer's report: by Rick Hunter. Will be filed for audit.

Workshop: Kenneth Stokes gave a very good basic workshop on how to pot up bromeliads. He told about mulch, containers, and what mix to use. He showed many examples of bromeliads and told of his experiences. The bromeliads can also be used in the landscape.

Raffle Table review

Program: Well-known speaker, Tom Wolfe gave a presentation and powerpoint discussion on native bromeliads found in the state of Florida. He had a handout on 16 native bromeliads and two natural Florida hybrids. Tom spoke of his experiences in collecting native bromeliads and had many examples, some mounted on driftwood. Tom said they faced some dangers while collecting the native bromeliads - snakes, heavy mosquitoes, weather, and other forces of nature. He also showed pictures of wildlife on his property.

Old Business: World Bromeliad Conference in Sarasota June 10-13, 2020. Handouts were available and more information can be found at www.bsi.org. Members were urged to attend if possible because the location is convenient and close to Tampa.

New business: Florida State Fair - Feb. 6 through Feb 17. Set up Feb. 3 at 7:p.m. A sign-up sheet was passed around the room. Blooming bromeliads and workers are needed. Workers get free tickets to the fair and club will get a set cash reward for having a booth at the fair.

Meeting adjourned

Refreshments

Show 'n' Tell: Kenneth Stokes showed a ceramic dish garden with a large agatized coral, surrounded by *Dyckia chorostaminea*. The rock was surmounted by a Japanese bronze crane and a bronze turtle sunning itself. He also showed a double *Aechmea recurvata* mounted on a red lava rock.

Raffle drawing

Respectfully submitted, Marcia Hunter



BROMELIAD GUILD OF TAMPA BAY

Membership Application/Renewal

Memberships: January 1 to December 31 each Year

Please Print

Name _____ Birth Month _____

Second Name _____ Birth Month _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date of Application _____

Please check one:

_____ \$25.00 Single Membership

_____ \$30.00 Family Membership

Make checks payable to BGTB

Submit with application to:

Carol Wolfe

5211 Lake LeClare Rd.

Lutz, Florida 33558

FOR FIRST-TIME MEMBERS: did you hear about BGTB?

___ Friend ___ Newspaper ___ Facebook ___ BGTB Website ___ Plant Festival or Show

___ Other (Please specify) _____

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Inc.

Established 1963

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month.

Plant sales at 7:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Christ the King Catholic Church, McLoughlin Center, Room C

821 S. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa

Informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, door prizes, raffle & refreshments

BGTB is affiliated with Bromeliad Society International, The Cryptanthus Society, Inc., Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc., and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL.



Refreshments for the February meeting will be provided by Steve Byram, Livia Popovich, Nelson and Carole Priede, and Tom Wolfe



February Birthdays: Happy Birthday to Livia Popovich, Nelson and Carol Priede, and Tom Wolfe



Sunshine Greetings

Please notify Verna Dickey of any illness, surgery, birth of a child, death in the family, or other concerns you or another member may have.
Call 813-685-1055 or email vernaled@verizon.net.

Officers for 2020

President: Tom Wolfe 813-391-1542 bromscape@outlook.com

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Mounts Botanical Garden
West Palm Beach, FL

Bromeliads Online

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/562988247096958/>

Bromeliad Society International— www.bsi.org

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies— www.fcbs.org

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens— www.selby.org

Bromeliads Online - <http://www.bromeliads.co.nz/index.html>

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Inc. was organized in 1963. BGTB is affiliated with the following: Bromeliad Society International, The Cryptanthus Society, Inc., Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc., and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL.

When: Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month.
Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Christ the King Catholic Church, McLoughlin Center Room C, 821 South Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa

Informative programs, workshops, Show & Tell, plant sales, door prizes, raffle & refreshments
Visitors welcome!

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
BROMELIAD GUILD OF
TAMPA BAY, INC. 21535
Northwood Dr. Lutz,
Florida 33549**