

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

October, 2016



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OCTOBER 2016

Thanks so much to Dr. Rick Hunter for all his information on protecting our bromeliads and ourselves from Zika virus; bits it is. It was special that several members from the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society came to hear our program.

The nominating committee has a job to consider qualified members to function as club officers and board members for 2017. Our club is managed by all of our members and not just a few. If you are approached by the nominating committee to serve please accept the nomination as you were considered qualified. If you are interested in any of the positions please contact the nominating committee. Please participate in your club. I think you will find it rewarding; I know I have.

Hope everyone enjoyed the USF Botanical Gardens fall sale; it is such a great setting for plant sales.

Julie Lessard
President

SEPTEMBER 19 MEETING PROGRAM

Our speaker for the September 19 meeting will be our own Dave Johnston. He will be speaking on Billbergias.

Dave is a commercial bromeliad grower from Pinellas Park. He has been a member of BGTB about 32 years. Dave has filled almost every office and position with the BGTB including President for three terms. He does speaking engagements around the state at various bromeliad societies and garden clubs. This is sure to be a great program.



Minutes of Meeting September 19, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Julie Lessard, President

Visitors, Guido and Jill Zakaroff, Larry and Susan Sousa, Cheryl Kersey, and Mike Foley were introduced and welcomed. Mike Foley joined the club.

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter made by Jill Neill. Seconded by Bob Dickey.

Treasurer's Report: Paula Benway reported we have a total of \$4,644.22 in our checking account plus \$3,014.01 CD for a total of \$7,658.23. The report will be filed for audit.

Announcements: Our nominating committee for our 2017 officers: Linda Reynolds, Pam Slagg, Carol Wolfe.

Birthday Plant: won by Beverly Sisco

Door Prize Plant: won by Julie Lessard

Show and Tell: Plants were shown by Kenneth Stokes: *Aec. dyclamedia* bloom, *Aec. tayoensis* (2 varieties), *Aec. contracta*, *Aec. blanchetiana* bloom, *Aec. faciata*; and Tom Wolfe: *Aec. flavorosea* (species)

Meeting Adjourned

Break for Refreshments

Program was presented by Rick Hunter.

Program Title: "Zika Virus Precautions for Bromeliad Growers, Gardeners, and Homeowners"

Raffle

Respectfully submitted by Steve Byram
Secretary

BGTB Meeting, September 19, 2016



Checking out the Sale Table



Call to Order



Aec. tayoensis



Aec. faciata



Aec. contracta



Blooms of *Aec. blanchetiana* and *dyclamedia*



Aec. flavorosea



Refreshment Time



Speaker, Rick Hunter

Did "Ya ever wonder?"

Q. Tillandsias always look great when they're mounted on driftwood and their roots grow around and over the wood to securely anchor them. Whenever I buy a nice Tillandsia and set it on driftwood, the roots don't "grow in" the way I see them on pieces of wood in Bromeliad shows. What am I doing wrong?

A. There are several possible reasons why you are having this problem and, in a fine bureaucratic Tradition, we will answer your question with a question:



1. Is the Tillandsia that you purchased a young plant or a mature plant? Remember that the roots on these plants don't serve to absorb moisture or nutrients like a typical houseplant. Most members of the genus Tillandsia only produce roots when they are young...and, if you think about it for a minute, this makes sense. These plants are epiphytes and only use their roots as holdfasts to anchor them to a tree or rock surface. Once the young plant attaches itself adequately to the surface, why should it produce more roots? If the roots don't do a good enough job, the plant falls to the ground and, at this point the last thing it needs is more roots – it probably won't survive anyway. If they work as intended, the plant is anchored in position for life and can put its energy into maturing, flowering, and producing seeds. So...back to the question at hand – if you are going to mount a bromeliad on driftwood, start with a young plant.

2. Have you been securely fastening your Tillandsias to the driftwood? Unless the young plant is tightly fastened to the wood (no "wobble factor" allowed) it will not produce the roots you are looking for. There are many ways to do this. You can try one of a number of types of glue on the driftwood and then hold the plant in position until the glue sets. You may also use wire (please no bare copper wire though – this may kill the plant) to anchor the plant...or twine...or a heavy weight (if the plant is mashed flat – use a lighter weight next time). The main goal is to hold the plant in a fixed position long enough until the roots form and take over for the glue, wire or twine. Then you can remove these aids and the plant will look like it grew onto your wood all by itself.

3. One last point – if you have a difficult time keeping your Tillandsias looking nice as individual plants, you will probably have just as difficult a time keeping them looking nice when they are on driftwood. Just because some people call these plants "air plants" doesn't mean that they can get along without proper light levels, proper watering, proper air movement and everything else that goes into good culture of plants in this genus. That seashell on the refrigerator magnet with a Tillandsia glued inside is not going to thrive on the side of your refrigerator – unless you keep your refrigerator outside in a greenhouse.

Article by Jay Thurrott, Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society newsletter. July 2000 issue.



Sunshine Greetings

Please notify Julie Lessard of any illness, surgery, birth of a child, death in the family, or other concerns you or another member may have.

Call 813-662-7972 or email at taxxmaam@tampabay.rr.com



Happy Birthday!



October Birthdays: Rick Hunter, Ted Ledbetter, Nancy Stamm,

We will have a drawing at the meeting for one of the lucky birthday people to take home a nice bromeliad as a Birthday gift from the club.

Club members celebrating their birthdays also provide the refreshments at our meeting each month. This way everyone helps once during the year. If you have a May or December birthday, please bring refreshments the following month, since we have the picnic and Christmas parties those months. Suggestions: chips & dip, veggies, salsa, crackers, cheese, chicken wings, popcorn, favorite recipes, pies, pizza, brownies, fudge, cookies, cakes, candies, deviled eggs, sandwiches and beverages.



Officers for 2016

President: Julie Lessard 813-662-7972 Taxxmaam@tampabay.rr.com

Vice President: Ray Hernandez 813-832-3561 subtropicofcancer@hotmail.com

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Membership Committee Chair: Jill Niell lookiecookie@gmail.com

Refreshment Committee Chair: Selma Sappenfield ssappenfield2@gmail.com



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>

Any Changes?

If your mailing address, email address, or phone number changes, please inform Marilyn Byram at 21535 Northwood Drive, Lutz, 33549 or bgtbnewsletter@gmail.com



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

Where: Christ the King Catholic Church, Mary Martha Center, Room 201-202, 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**