

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

October, 2018



Rick Hunter presented a great program on hardscaping with bromeliads. It's amazing what can be done with landscape blocks and a skill saw in creating new bromeliad beds. Rick gave a step-by-step explanation of construction a new bed (minus the sweat, sawdust, mosquitoes, heat and aching feet). Good job, Rick. I can "hard"-ly wait for his next program!

USF Fall Plant Festival is this weekend, October 13-14. Saturday 10:00 - 3:00 and Sunday 10:00 - 2:00. BGTB members are welcome to sell bromeliads at our booth. It is also a good opportunity to talk to people about our club. Come on out and join us.

Seven of our members attended the party for Dennis and Linda Cathcart on October 8 at beautiful Selby Gardens overlooking Sarasota Bay. The party "blossomed" into a fabulous event with the help of Dennis' "buds."

See you at the meeting,

Steve

P.S. How do you know you are a gardening nut?
You always visit botanical gardens and arboretums on your vacations.





How much light do bromeliads need?

That depends a lot on the type of bromeliad. Knowing the genus that the plant belongs to within the bromeliad family can tell you a lot about its requirements. A simple rule of thumb that works for most cases is: "Soft leaf - soft light, hard leaf - hard light." If the leaves of your plant are soft and flexible and especially if they are spineless (like *Guzmanias* and *Vrieseas*), they probably grow in the shady understory in the wild and would do best in a lower light area. Those plants with stiffer (usually spiny) leaves (like *Aechmeas* and *Neoregelias*) or "airplants"

like *Tillandsias* enjoy bright, filtered light. There are some plants that will tolerate full sun but most like a little protection.

Pay attention to your plants and they will tell you if they are unhappy. If a plant is being grown in too little light, it will often lose the bright colors that it had when you bought it. In addition to turning greener (adding chlorophyll) to make the most of the lower light level, many plants will start growing much longer leaves increasing their surface area to compensate. If your plant starts getting "leggy", try moving it (gradually) to a brighter area. The plant will respond by regaining its color and "tightening up" to form a dense rosette with shorter leaves.

On the other extreme, too much light can be the culprit if the plant's color starts fading or "bleaching". If brown, sunburned spots start appearing on the portions of the leaves, it is a clear indication that the plant is getting too much light. Sometimes a plant that should be able to take more light fades or burns when placed in a sunny area. The plant might have been living in dimly lit conditions before you obtained it. You can work it out into brighter conditions in stages to acclimate the plant.

San Diego Bromeliad Society

Next Meeting: October 15, 2018
SPEAKER: Ray Hernandez, Tampa

Bromeliads and Social Media:

How Plants and Technology Blend Today

Our speaker at the October meeting will be long-time member and bromeliad grower, Ray Hernandez. Ray is administrator of our BGTB Facebook page.

This program offers basic information on how to access and utilize various forms of social media to gain information about bromeliads: find out what that plant is, show pictures of prized plants, how to grow them, when to fertilize, and when to share.

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Minutes of Meeting September 17, 2018

Meeting called to order by president, Steve Byram.

Welcoming of new members: Bonnie and Elise Bertolino

Secretary's Report. Motion to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter with the following corrections made by Verna Dickey, seconded by Julie Lessard.

Vriecantero changed to Vriecantereia and Folgens changed to Fulgens

Treasurer's Report by Paula Benway. The report will be filed for audit.

Workshop: Presented by Kenneth Stokes. How to display various bromeliads with driftwood and other wood arrangements. He gave tips and techniques and explained details of the process involved in making them look natural on the wood.

New Business: October 8 - 7:00 p.m. Party to honor Dennis and Linda Cathcart at Selby Gardens. RSVP by October 1 at mmkennell @verizon.net. BGTB voted to rent a van for members to ride together to the event. Cost will be \$10.00 for members to ride on the van.

October 13-14, 2018 USF Fall Festival - Sign up sheet was sent around for members to work at the event.

Announcements: Eileen Hart talked about the evil weevil damage to bromeliads. She explained what to watch for.

Show and Tell: Kenneth Stokes - Dyckia "Silverback"; Tom Wolfe Ananas Lava Burst, Tillandsia flexuosa

Door Prize won by Bonnie Bertolino

Birthday plant won by Lois Said

Motion to Adjourn the meeting: Robert Nelson. Seconded by Eileen Hart

Refreshments and Raffle.

Program was presented by Richard Hunter - Hardscapes with Bromeliads. Rick gave a presentation and slide show on how to construct a flower bed with landscape blocks and explained the process.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Hunter

SNAPSHOTS FROM BGTB MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 2018



Speaker, Rick Hunter - Hardscapes with Bromeliads



Workshop -Displaying Bromeliads on Driftwood,
by Kenneth Stokes



Raffle Time



Show and Tell
← Tom Wolfe - Tillandsia flexuosa
Kenneth Stokes - Dyckia 'Silverback' →



REFRESHMENTS FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING . . .



will be provided by Rick Hunter, Ted Ledbetter, Mark Randall, Diana Robinson, Jose Rosado, Nancy Stamm, and Cheryl Victor

Suggestions: chips & dip, veggies, salsa, crackers, cheese, chicken wings, popcorn, favorite recipes, pies, pizza, brownies, fudge, cookies, cakes, candies, deviled eggs, sandwiches and beverages.



October Birthdays: Rick Hunter, Ted Ledbetter, and 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.



Tropiflora Nursery Fall Festival

October 26-28; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. Barbecue lunch & hourly door prize drawings and raffles. Vendors from all over Florida.

Tropiflora Nursery, 3530 Tallavast Road, Sarasota, FL (tropiflora.com)

Sarasota Bromeliad Society's Annual Auction 'Fall-ing for Bomeliads' on Monday, November 12th at 7 p.m. in the Great Room at Selby Gardens. There will be plants donated by Tropiflora, Selby, Michael's Bromeliads, Plant Parents and from members' private collections. There will also be an original art piece, driftwood, and baskets of bromeliads and bromeliad-related items. The famous auctioneer, Ray Lemieux will be presiding.



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

Officers for 2018

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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>