

# Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



[www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org](http://www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org)

June, 2019



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JUNE, 2019

We hope you all enjoyed last month's picnic and auction. Thank you to all who brought the scrumptious food and drinks and to those who brought plants and wallets as well. Great team effort! Oh, we don't want to forget to thank Tom, Dave, and Mike for their excellent auctioneering!

I'm sure our bromeliads are appreciating this end to our dry spell! Please remember, they don't like wet feet and to put some rocks or broken clay pot shards in the bottom of your pots or holes for your outdoor plants to help prevent root rot. I personally like to use lava rocks as they also provide a little natural fertilizer as well.

Have you registered yet for the 2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza? It's in Orlando (near Disney Springs) on September 20-21. There will be a Friday night dinner with conference attendees getting the first stab at plant sales that evening. Saturday will have four speakers, another buffet, and a rare plant auction. Call Spring Hill Suites (407-635-8500) or Towne Place Suites (407-239-4005) and ask for the \$85.00 Extravaganza hotel rate. See all the details at [BromeliadX.com](http://BromeliadX.com).

Please remember to bring a nice clean plant for the silent auction at the next meeting.

Steve

P.S. To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.



— Audrey Hepburn —





**Next Meeting: June 17, 2019**  
**SPEAKER: Dave Johnston**  
**“100 Bromeliads on a Card Table”**  
**Explore the World of Mini Bromeliads.**

Dave Johnston has been growing bromeliads since 1985 and at one time had a collection of up to 2,000 different species and hybrids. He is currently focusing on hybridizing bromeliads in the genus *Billbergia*. In 1990, he started Exotic Landscapes, a full-service landscaping service and Bromeliads Galore, a bromeliad nursery.

Dave has served our club in many capacities including President for three terms. He has hosted board meetings, has been sales chairman, donated plants to all our functions, served as auctioneer, and over the years, he has presented us with many programs and workshops. He does speaking engagements around the state at various bromeliad societies and garden clubs.

## **Separating Pups**

When is a good time to separate bromeliad pups? When should we repot existing bromeliads – either to a larger pot size or just to replace the “worn-out” potting mix? When are the oak tree leaves finally going to stop falling into my bromeliads so I can clean all of the fallen debris out of the leaf axils? That time is here! It’s summertime and if you plan your workdays in the garden so that you can avoid the mid-day heat of Florida’s summer, you can accomplish a lot in the garden. Summer in Northeast [West Central as well] Florida is when our bromeliads are in their most active growth period and you can take advantage of that in many ways.

First, if you have always wanted to try your hand at mounting a bromeliad on a favorite piece of driftwood, this is the perfect time to do it. A well mounted plant now will set its roots into the wood much more quickly than at other times of the year and in a very short time you should have a beautiful epiphytic display that will appear to have been growing on that wood for most of its life. Just be sure to start out with a young plant – older, more mature bromeliads are less likely to product new roots for attachment.

Reprinted from FECBS Journal June 2014

By Jay Thurrott

## Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Annual Picnic and Plant Auction

Date: Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Members enjoyed a nice meal of chicken, with all the potluck sides and desserts. Good cooks from our club put together a great meal.

The picnic was followed by the plant auction. The auction was conducted by Dave Johnston and Tom Wolfe. Mike Sweet displayed the bromeliads and it was a great fundraiser.

President Steve Byram presented member Paula Benway with a beautiful plaque for her many years of service as the club treasurer. Paula was also awarded a life-time membership to the club as a thank you for the great job she did.

Thanks to all members who brought quality plants and good food for a fun evening. We would also like to thank members and guests who bid on the bromeliads.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Hunter



Honoring Paula Benway



Auctioneer Tom Wolfe



Auctioneer Dave Johnston



Assistant Mike Sweet



**June Birthdays:** Happy Birthday to Phil Elting, Eileen Hart, June Hill, Kathleen Ledbetter, and Kenneth Stokes!



### **REFRESHMENTS FOR THE JUNE MEETING . . .**

will be provided by Eileen Hart, Livia Popovich, Kenneth Stokes, and Carol Wolfe.



2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza, September 20-21, Orlando, FL



### **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 813-600-9771 or email at [taxxmaam@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:taxxmaam@tampabay.rr.com)

### **Officers for 2019**

- President:** Steve Byram 813-361-4035 [byramsteve@gmail.com](mailto:byramsteve@gmail.com)
- Vice President:** Julie Lessard 813-600-9771 [taxxmaam@gmail.com](mailto:taxxmaam@gmail.com)
- Treasurer:** Rick Hunter 813-657-2305 [rg.hunter@verizon.net](mailto:rg.hunter@verizon.net)
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- Directors:**
- Paula Benway 813-985-3584 [rebenway@aol.com](mailto:rebenway@aol.com)
  - Verna Dickey 813-685-1055 [vernaald@verizon.net](mailto:vernaald@verizon.net)
  - Tom Wolfe 813-391-1542 [BromeliadSociety@juno.com](mailto:BromeliadSociety@juno.com)

- Publicity Chair** - Bill Carr 813-323-1166 [wcarr1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:wcarr1@tampabay.rr.com)
- Membership Chair** - Jill Zakaroff 813-689-1899 [joatrades.zakaroff@gmail.com](mailto:joatrades.zakaroff@gmail.com)

### **Bromeliads Online**

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay [www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org](http://www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org)



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

Bromeliad Society International— [www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org)

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies— [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org)

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens— [www.selby.org](http://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.  
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**