

# Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



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

September, 2016



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2016**

Thanks to Kenneth Stokes for the August program "Creative Ways to Incorporate your New Bromeliads into your Garden". I know that we all learned some new ideas on what to do with our newest prizes even indoors.

We welcome a new speaker in September, Rick Hunter, a newer member to our club, who will speak on bromeliads and how to deal with mosquitoes.

September will welcome the first day of fall, which often means a one degree temperature difference and possible hurricanes! Hope everyone and their gardens made it through Hurricane Hermine OK.

October 8 - 9 is the USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale and we will participate as a club; please continue to get your plants ready for our sale with a name and price tag. The sale is a great time to come out for free and tour the gardens, spend a few hours at our booth talking with other plant fiends looking for great plants, and to give out info about our club; some of you may have joined because of seeing us at USF Botanical Gardens and it is a great opportunity to let the public know about our club.

Julie Lessard  
President

## **SEPTEMBER 19 MEETING PROGRAM**

"Zika Virus Precautions for Bromeliad Growers, Gardeners and Homeowners," will be presented by Richard Hunter, Ph.D. retired public health professional who served as Florida's Deputy State Health Officer.



## Minutes of Meeting August 15, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Julie Lessard, President

Visitors, Carla Savage, Leonard Dolney, Julie Benedict, Lisa Benedict, Debbie Empitini, Lorraine Smith, Oscar Westerfield, and Jill Zakaroff, were introduced and welcomed.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter made by Ruck Hunter. Seconded by Ken Stokes.

**Extravaganza Committee Report: Save the Date:** July 21 and 22, 2017. Contract with the hotel is being negotiated. Contact Julie Lessard for a vendor number if you wish to sell plants at the Extravaganza. There will be a sign-up sheet for Extravaganza volunteers at the next meeting.

**Birthday Plant:** won by Maria Warner

**Door Prize Plant:** won by Marilyn Byram

**Show and Tell:** Plants were shown by Mike O'Leary - Ananus Mini (Pineapple), Neo (Princess), Cryptanthus; Rusty Beasley, Vriesia

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Break for Refreshments**

**Program** was presented by Kenneth Stokes, "Creative Ways to Incorporate your New Bromeliads into your Garden."

**Raffle**

Respectfully submitted by Steve Byram, Secretary

**OFFER FROM DOTTIE KELLOGG:**

Dottie is offering one or two Philodendron Selloum for anyone who would like them. "They are crowding my plants, and I would like for anyone who wants them to have them."

[dottiekellogg@yahoo.com](mailto:dottiekellogg@yahoo.com) or 813-920-3598

## BGTB Meeting, August 15, 2016



Checking out the Speaker's Table



Display at the Speaker's Table



Call to Order



Refreshment Time



Mike's Show & Tell



Rusty's Show & Tell



Speaker Introduction



Speaker, Ken Stokes



Ken Stokes

Have your plants been producing pups this season? If you have extras, please bring them to share at the raffle table next meeting. Make sure they are clean and have no scale.



## USF FALL PLANT FESTIVAL – October 8-9

One of our fund-raising opportunities is just around the corner and there are several ways you can help us make money and promote our club.

**1. Donate plants.** Now is the time to look for potential plants in your collection that we can sell. We need good quality plants that are clean and free of scale. Please remember that the plants we are selling at our booth are a reflection of BGTB and we want to make a good impression. Arrangements can be made to transport your plants if need be.

**2. Prep donated plants for sale.** Get together with other members to clean up and pot the plants.

**3. Volunteer at the festival.** Help set up our booth on Friday afternoon, Oct. 7. Help with sales on Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Take down. We will have a sign-up sheet for specific time slots at the Sept. 19 meeting.

**4. Donate money for expenses.** Rental fee, supplies for potting and publicity.

Call or email Steve Byram (813-361-4035 or [byramsteve@gmail.com](mailto:byramsteve@gmail.com)) for more info or if you can help in any of these ways.

## Recognizing Stress in your Bromeliads by Alan Herndon

Any number of different factors can stress your plants, but the earliest signs of stress almost always involve a change in leaf color. The color change may occur over the entire leaf, or be restricted to parts of the leaf. The color in stressed plants is always lighter (at least initially). In the early stages, the color change is very slight. You need to recognize the changes as early as possible so you can take corrective action. Left untreated, the stress will quickly lead to irreversible changes in leaf color or distortion of leaf shape.

Temperatures that are too high usually cause a bleaching of the leaf colors in a plant. If the leaf is normally green, it becomes much more yellow. If the leaf is normally red, it becomes a much lighter red. High temperature stress is usually the result of a combination of high air temperature, insufficient water and insufficient shade.

As soon as you see any bleaching of leaf color, you need to determine the probable proximate cause. Is there water in the cups of the plants? Is the soil mix completely dried out? Has a seasonal change in sun position allowed direct sunlight to reach your plant during some part of the day? If the plants are dry, you will need to increase watering frequency. If the cups have plenty of water, but the soil is dry, you will probably have to modify the way you water. Make sure the soil mix is thoroughly soaked each time you water (if you are not using a well-drained mix, you will soon have many more problems). If water does not seem to be a problem, you should try moving the plant to a shadier spot. If you detect this form of stress early and correct the growing conditions appropriately, the plant will usually recover fully.

The most likely time for high temperature stress is during the last few weeks of the dry period. During these periods, air temperature is not moderated by cool air brought down during rains, and plants can dry out very quickly. Be especially careful to keep watch on the moisture levels in your soil at these times.

Low temperatures can also cause problems for your bromeliads. There are two distinct problems associated with cold weather. First, cold-sensitive plants such as *Aechmea fulgens* start to suffer damage when the air temperature falls



below 45F. The damage shows up as small discolored spots on the leaves (particularly the surfaces most exposed to the night sky). More generally, cooler air is often associated with dry air, and a cool, dry wind can suck the moisture out of a susceptible leaf. Damage in these cases, is mostly confined to the edges of the leaves, and most extensive on plants more exposed to the wind. Albomarginate plants are particularly susceptible to damage from dry winds. Unfortunately, the damage caused by both conditions seems to be irreversible by the time it is seen.

Too much water can also damage your plants. Here the problem usually arises when organic detritus retained in the leaf axil remains wet due to frequent rains (unless you water daily, you are unlikely to be the direct cause of this problem), and a fungus infects the leaf near the base. Once you see the leaf starting to change color, it is too late to save, but you can minimize the spread of the infection to other leaves by draining the water from the rosette, pouring some Hydrogen peroxide into the leaf axils around the infected area, pouring this off and giving the plant an opportunity to dry. You will probably want to put a small amount of water in the center of the cup to protect the newly forming leaves from excessive drying.

Even insect infestations are often first evident through color changes. Scale insects are often inconspicuously restricted to the lower surface of the leaf, but the damage caused by their feeding usually results in a small yellowish dot on the upper surface of the leaf opposite each insect. When you see these dots, it is time for a close inspection of the leaves (especially the bases of the leaves) on the plant. The scale may be killed chemically or scraped off mechanically.

The take home message is simple: Mother Nature still holds the cards. All we can do is adapt to whatever conditions She deigns to provide. The first step is watching your plants with care.

Excerpt from [BromeliAdvisory](#), August 2009

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## 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](mailto:taxxmaam@tampabay.rr.com)



# Happy Birthday!



**September Birthdays:** Verna Dickey, Joy Langworthy, Kay Miller, Linda Reynolds, Lois Sadd, Beverly Sisco, Bill Spradlin, Douglass Wells

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](mailto:Taxxmaam@tampabay.rr.com)

**Vice President:** Ray Hernandez 813-832-3561 [subtropicofcancer@hotmail.com](mailto:subtropicofcancer@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Paula Benway 813-985-3584 [rebenway@aol.com](mailto:rebenway@aol.com)

**Secretary:** Steve Byram 813-361-4035 [byramsteve@gmail.com](mailto:byramsteve@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Marilyn Byram 813-361-4035 [bgtbnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:bgtbnewsletter@gmail.com)

### Directors:

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Robert Nelson 813-717-9224 [CRBackfive@aol.com](mailto:CRBackfive@aol.com)

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Douglass Wells 813-335-4651 [douglass9754@aol.com](mailto:douglass9754@aol.com)

Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 [BromeliadSociety@juno.com](mailto:BromeliadSociety@juno.com)

**Publicity Committee Chair:** Bill Carr 813-752-8485 [wcarr1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:wcarr1@tampabay.rr.com)

**Membership Committee Chair:** Jill Niell [lookiecookie@gmail.com](mailto:lookiecookie@gmail.com)

**Refreshment Committee Chair:** Selma Sappenfield [ssappenfield2@gmail.com](mailto:ssappenfield2@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>

### 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](mailto: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!

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