

# Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



February, 2010

## President's Message



When you receive this newsletter the Florida State Fair will be half over. The members that worked on the BGTB display did a great job even though we didn't receive any

special recognition. Many people who were passing by stopped and complimented us on the display. Those who helped were Steve and Marilyn Byram, Verna Dickey, Joe and Anna Hartman, Eileen Kahl, Dave Mracek and Tom Wolfe.

Also, thank you to those who came to sit at the booth to promote bromeliads and tell folks about the BGTB.

David Christiano did a great job showing us a power point program on the desolate areas of Northeastern Argentina. It was good of him and his wife to interrupt their vacation to give us a program.

Our show is coming up fast! Don't forget to block out April 15<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> on your calendar.

I also want to thank Harriet Gord for her unique presentation on innovative way to make worm tea.

Our nominating committee will present a slate of officers and directors for 2010/2011 year. If you are asked to serve please give it your sincere consideration. Any member may also nominate another member given they have solicited their permission first.

### February 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 BGTB Program:

Kay Miller and Janet Stoffels will demonstrate the art of assembling an artistic arrangement/design. They will be trying to inspire all of you to place an entry in the Artistic section of our show.

Also Dave Johnston and I will be demonstrating how to clean and prepare a plant to enter in the show. Learn the tricks and tips and find out what the judges look for.

This should be a fun hands-on program. We haven't had a show for five years so we need to brush up on all these techniques.

See you all soon,  
Tom Wolfe  
Program Chair



# **Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

**January 18, 2010**

President Tom Wolfe called the meeting to order.

Eileen Kahl welcomed 4 visitors to our meeting tonight.

**Secretary's Report:** Steve Byram made a motion to accept the November Minutes as written in the Newsletter and it was seconded by John Miller. All approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paula Benway reported that we made \$821.00 at the December Plant Auction and with all the expenses, we now have \$2,424.15 in our checking account, plus \$10,000.00 in a CD. A motion was made by Dave Fulkerson to accept the Treasurer's Report as read, seconded by Lyla Shepard and all approved.

**Workshop:** Harriet Gord did a workshop on Worm Tea. She uses 1 part worm castings to 50 parts water, which comes out to 5 ounces to 1 gallon of water. And you must use un-chlorinated water like rain water. An inexpensive pump is used to pump air in the tea. It must be used within 24 hours and can be used on any plants. Worm tea has anti-fungal and insecticidal properties and she even uses it to water her orchids.

**Old Business:** Tom talked about the State Fair exhibit. At the Board Meeting they came up with a Batman Cave for the exhibit. Marilyn Byram talked about the art department from the school where she works making the cave. A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to sign up for helping set up the exhibit on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM and also for manning the booth during the fair, which runs from February 4 - 15.

Tom also mentioned the Bromeliad Show we are having April 15-18. On Thursday, April 15, bring plants for judging between 1 and 9 PM. We also need clerks. Eileen Kahl talked about the duties of a clerk and said they are needed on Friday from 8:00 AM until 3 or 4 PM. Harriet Gord is in charge of the raffle and anyone who has items to donate for the raffle baskets should bring them to the next meeting. They can be books, tools, pineapple art, plants and etc. Tom said next month's meeting will be on artistic arrangements and how to prepare plants for judging.

**New Business:** Tom introduced the members of the Nominating Committee chosen at the Board Meeting: Beverly Sisco, Eileen Kahl and Carole Wolfe. Steve Byram made a motion to accept them and it was seconded by Paula Benway. All approved.

Verna Dickey announced that we are taking a field trip to Barbara Easton's home in Lakeland on January 25<sup>th</sup> and anyone who wishes to go along, meet at her house at 2 PM.

Tom answered questions about cold-damaged bromeliads. He said when you squeeze the base and it is mushy, throw it away. If it is firm, it should produce pups. Barret Bassick said to clean off the dead leaves and spray with fungicide.

**Door Prize:** Won by Tom Wolfe

**Birthday Plant:** Won by Harriet Gord

**Show and Tell:** Plants were shown by Verna Dickey, Eileen Hart and Tom Wolfe.

**Break for refreshments.**

**Program:** David Christiano from Missouri had a program on "Bromeliads of Northwestern Argentina."

**Raffle:** There was no raffle this month.

Respectfully submitted by Verna L. Dickey, Secretary



## Field Trip to Barbara and Carl Easton's Home



On January 25<sup>th</sup>, eight members of the Bromeliad Guild took a trip to Carl and Barbara Easton's Home in Lakeland.

We met at Verna Dickey's home in Brandon and traveled in a 2-car caravan to Lakeland. The house was on the Lakeland Women's Club Tour of Homes during the Christmas Season and Barbara invited us to come before she took down the decorations at the end of January. When we arrived, we were greeted at the door and ushered into a beautiful home filled with gorgeous Christmas Decorations in every room. The entry was done in red, the living room in pink, the family room in purple and the master bedroom in burgundy. We especially liked the Shell Room with beautiful coral on shelves and a tree decorated with sea shells. The kitchen and dining room was filled with ceramic items and snowmen hand-made by Barbara. There was also a Fishing Room with all kinds of decorations pertaining to fishing. Even the bathrooms were beautifully decorated.



Then we went out to the Plant Room which was a beautiful greenhouse with sliding glass panels on the sides. This is where all the beautiful bromeliads were growing. There were many beautiful containers holding the bromeliads and pavers separated different kinds of plants. A grapevine Christmas tree was decorated with sea shell ornaments and Tillandsias. We all gathered around it for a picture. Pictured are: Beverly Sisco, Nancy Buckley, Florence Russ, Harriet Henry, Carl Easton, Barbara Easton, and Shirley Perez. Julianne Papp, Steve Byram and Verna Dickey kneeling.



Our thanks go to Carl and Barbara for hosting all of us and sharing their beautiful home with us.



## January Snapshots



Where's the Mic?



Harriet's Worm Tea Workshop



These Survived the Freeze!



Our Speaker, David Christiano



Working on Our State Fair Exhibit



Batman's Bromeliads



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## Upcoming Bromeliad Events

April 10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	Sale at University of South Florida USF Botanical Gardens
April 16 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup>	2010 Bromeliad Judged Show and Sale at the Tampa Garden Club
July 26 <sup>th</sup> – August 1 <sup>st</sup>	World Bromeliad Conference New Orleans, Louisiana

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## Member Exchange

**Pots** - Dottie Kellogg has extra 2” and 4” pots, new and used, to give away. Contact her at [dottiekellogg@yahoo.com](mailto:dottiekellogg@yahoo.com) or 813-920-3598

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## Happy Birthday!



Every month, club members celebrating their birthdays provide the refreshments at our meeting. 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. Suggestions: chips & dip, veggies, salsa, crackers, cheese, chicken wings, popcorn, favorite recipes, pies, pizza, brownies, fudge, cookies, cakes, candies, deviled eggs, sandwiches and beverages.

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

**February Birthdays:** Harriet Henry, Jason Mellica, Tom Wolfe



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## Sunshine Greetings

Please notify Eileen Prins of any illness, surgery, birth of a child, death in the family, or other concerns you or another member may have. Call 727-546-9590 or email at [sprins1012@earthlink.net](mailto:sprins1012@earthlink.net)



## Officers for 2009-2010

President: Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 [bromeliadsociety@juno.com](mailto:bromeliadsociety@juno.com)  
Treasurer: Paula Benway 813-985-3584 [paulabenway@aol.com](mailto:paulabenway@aol.com)  
Secretary: Verna Dickey 813-685-1055 [vernaled@verizon.net](mailto:vernaled@verizon.net)  
Newsletter Editor: Marilyn Byram 813-949-0503 [byramm@verizon.net](mailto:byramm@verizon.net)

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Kathleen Ledbetter 813-228-0690 [tedkathled@aol.com](mailto:tedkathled@aol.com)  
Beverly Sisco 813-968-5726 [siscofl1@msn.com](mailto:siscofl1@msn.com)  
Bob Teems 813-855-0938 [teems@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:teems@tampabay.rr.com)

## Committee Chairs

Parliamentarian: Lyla Shepard  
Librarians: Paula Benway and Verna Dickey  
Show: Tom Wolfe  
Membership: Eileen Kahl  
Publicity: Bob Teems  
Programs: Tom Wolfe  
Sunshine: Eileen Prins  
Photographers: Jim Stewart and Carol Wolfe



*Color Zone Tropicals*

## Bromeliads Online

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)

## Any Changes?

If your mailing address or email address changes, please inform Marilyn Byram at 21535 Northwood Drive, Lutz, 33549 or [byramm@verizon.net](mailto:byramm@verizon.net)





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

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

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

Where: Tampa Garden Club, 2629 Bayshore Blvd., 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**