

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



March, 2010

President's Message



Our next event will be the USF Sale April 10 and April 11th, one week before our show. Please come to support and help with the sale. This will be the last monthly meeting prior to our Annual Show & Sale. We will have the Show Schedules at this meeting and we will go over the schedules and give you a short refresher course on how to complete the entries sheets.

Dave Johnston and I will again go over the “How to’s” of preparing your plants for the show. I would strongly encourage you to bring in a bromeliad that you might think is show worthy and let us critique it for you. If you would like suggestions on potting, spacing of the plants, removing leaves, multiples, or other advice, please bring these plants to the meeting for assistance.

Kay Miller and Jan Stoffels, our members who are also Flower Show Judges, will be going over the points that make “winning flower arrangements.” We appreciate their demonstrations at last month’s meeting and their helpful hints on making the arrangements. This will be another opportunity to learn flower arranging. Come and learn from the BEST Flower Show Judges in the State!

Our show Committee is as follows:

Chairman: Tom Wolfe

Co-Chairpersons: Paula Benway and Verna Dickey

Classification: Dave Johnson and Tom Wolfe

Clerk’s Chairman: Eileen Kahl

Entries: Paula Benway,

Hospitality Chairman: Beverly Sisco

Hospitality Judges & Clerks Breakfast: Eileen Prins

Judges Chair: Tom Wolfe

Photography: Carol Wolfe

Placement: Eileen Prins

Plant Sales: Dave Johnston

Publicity: Tom Wolfe and Jo Anne Hartzler

Schedule: Tom & Carol Wolfe

Staging: Dave Mracek

Special Effects: Dave and Mary Fulkerson

Treasurer: Paula Benway

Raffle: Harriet Gord



My thanks go to the members that have taken on these responsibilities and the Chairs may be asking you for help, so please volunteer. We need all members to help set up the show and dismantle after the show.

Another thank you goes to Shirley Perez for taking over as Raffle chair at the monthly meetings. Let's continue the generosity in donating bromeliads and bring in some nice plants for the raffle this month.

Harriet Gord is receiving any bromeliad or horticultural related items for the show raffle. Things like garden tools, pineapple items, gardening books, a nice bromeliad or plant, cards, or anything else you think appropriate to go into a basket to be raffled. This is a fund raiser for the Club and Harriet did a great job at the Extravaganza last year with the baskets. She needs everyone to bring something for the baskets! So, tie a string around your finger and remember to bring it to this meeting so she will have time to prepare the baskets.

We will vote on the slate of Officers that was presented to us by the nominating committee in February. They are as follows:

OFFICERS:

President	Beverly Sisco
Vice President	Verna Dickey
Secretary	Steve Byram
Treasurer	Paula Benway
Newsletter Editor	Marilyn Byram

DIRECTORS:

Tom Wolfe (as immediate past President)
Eileen Hart
David Mracek
Harriet Gord
Bob Benway

Just a reminder of the things you need to bring to the meeting this month:

- 1) Plants that you want critiqued or you need help with for the Show
- 2) Raffle Plants
- 3) Items for Harriet's raffle baskets
- 4) Refreshments – if it's your birthday this month
- 5) Plants for Show & tell.

Our meetings are always open to the public, so invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers or anyone interested in learning more about bromeliads.

Tom Wolfe

DONATE AN AWARD: You may donate an award for our Show in Memory, in Honor, or just donate it in your own name. The list of donors and honorees will be listed in the Show Program. Awards are \$35.00 for Best in Show Awards or \$25.00 for Best in Division Awards. You can mail a check to the Treasurer with the information or give it to her at the meeting. Thanks for your consideration.

Tom Wolfe, Show Chairman

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Minutes of Meeting

February 15, 2010

President Tom Wolfe called the meeting to order.

Eileen Kahl welcomed Rachel Sweet who was visiting to ask for donations of plants for an auction to raise money for her and her brother in the Bloomingdale High School Band's trip to London to play for the Queen on New Year's Day.

We also welcomed one new member, Janice Somerset.

Secretary's Report: Harriet Henry made a motion to accept the Minutes as written in the Newsletter and it was seconded by Paula Benway. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Paula Benway reported we have a total of \$1930.45 in our checking account, plus \$10,000.00 in a CD. A motion was made by Lyla Shepard to accept the Treasurer's Report as read, seconded by Harriet Henry and all approved.

Old Business: Tom Wolfe said he forgot to mention Livia Popovich in the Newsletter as a helper with the State Fair Exhibit. We will receive \$250.00 for putting in the exhibit but did not get a prize ribbon. Anyone who can help break down the exhibit is welcome.

Beverly Sisco announced the slate of officers for the upcoming year:

President – Beverly Sisco, Vice-President – Verna Dickey, Secretary – Steve Byram, Treasurer – Paula Benway, Newsletter Editor – Marilyn Byram, Board of Directors – Tom Wolfe, Harriet Gord, Dave Mracek, Bob Benway, and Eileen Hart. There were no nominations from the floor so a motion was made by Eileen Kahl to close the nominations and it was seconded by Carol Wolfe. All approved. Voting on these nominations will be at the next meeting.

New Business: Tom mentioned the Spring Plant Sale at USF on April 10 & 11. And our Bromeliad Show will be on April 15 to 18 with entries on the 15th, judging on the 16th and open to the public on the 17th & 18th. Tom mentioned that we need a Raffle Chairman and Shirley Perez volunteered to fill that position.

Announcements: Harriet Gord announced she needs items for the raffle baskets for the Show, like tea or coffee or tea pots - bring them to the next meeting. She also mentioned the Chizler's Sale and Greenfest at University of Tampa.

Door Prize: Won by Eileen Prins.

Birthday Plant: Won by Tom Wolfe.

Show and Tell: Plants were shown by Verna Dickey and Lyla Shepard.

Break for refreshments.

Program: Barbara Easton showed decorative containers and baskets which could be used in the show. Janet Stoffels and Kay Miller demonstrated how to do artistic arrangements to be entered in the show. Dave Johnston and Tom Wolfe gave tips on how to groom plants to win ribbons at the show. Tom mentioned that if you have a unique plant, it can be entered under "For Display Only". It will not be judged but will be for education. You can bring plants to the next meeting and he will critique them for you.

Raffle: There were many plants on the raffle table but more are needed.

Respectfully submitted by Verna L. Dickey, Secretary



TIPS ON PREPARING PLANTS FOR THE SHOW

TIPS BY DAVE JOHNSTON AND TOM WOLFE:

Make sure the plant is in good shape – not lopsided. If variegated, make sure variegation is even. Remove dead or unsightly leaves from the bottom by splitting them in the middle and pulling apart. Take pups off – points are taken off if they are left on the mother plant. Make sure pots are clean – use new pots because they are judged also. Double potting is not allowed. Make sure plants are centered in the pot and the pot is the right size. Most Bromeliads are under-potted, which means a smaller pot is used.

You can enter plants grown outside – just make sure fallen leaves are removed -- long tweezers can be used for that. White vinegar or ginger ale can be used with a toothbrush to clean the plants. This will also remove hard water stains. Make sure you rinse with plenty of water and flush out centers. If you pull on the center of the plant and it comes out – you have cold damage. Remove the mother plant if you are entering a multiple. You can trim unsightly leaves with scissors and then use an aloe plant to rub on the cuts to seal them. Do not use leaf shine on plants – leave them natural.

Tom said the BSI provides plaques for Best of Show. Other prizes and ribbons will be awarded. We need plenty of plants – we will fill half the room with plants. If you have a unique plant - one that you do not think is in the best shape for a ribbon, it can be entered under “For Display Only” and that way we can educate the public.

Do your research to find the name of your plant, but if you do not know the name and want to enter it, we will have people at the show to help you identify it. We will have more information about the show at the March 15th meeting. You can bring your plants to be critiqued.

TIPS BY JANET STOFFELS AND KAY MILLER: Use an Oasis (drop it in water to soak) and decide on line and height of design for a traditional arrangement. Dried bromeliad blooms can be used in arrangements and can be spray painted – use Design Master Spray. Use the same color as the container for best results. A contemporary design uses containers with 2 or more openings or a unique shape.

By Verna Dickey

February Snapshots



Plant Sales



Bring Those Raffle Items, Please



One of Verna's Avalons



Lyla's Charm



Kay's Beautiful Creation



Janet's Design Demonstration



Janet's Finished Design



Barbara's Unique Baskets



Are These Ready for the Show?



Grooming Plants for Show

By Odean Head

It's almost show time again and we need to get started preparing our show plants. These shows provide our best means for educating the public about bromeliads and how beautiful they will grow here.

Putting on shows is not easy but can be very rewarding when we all work at it. Of course, having beautiful plants is the main ingredient for impressing the public. Each one of us probably have something that will add beauty to the show and our best effort will be attained if we all participate. So group, let's get motivated and start getting our plants ready.

Remember, they do not have to be worthy of top show awards in order to add beauty to the show. We will be discussing some of the criteria for selecting potential entries and grooming procedures that can add beauty and judging credits to the entry.

SELECTING PLANTS

Sometimes we have a problem getting started in our selection process because we are looking for a plant that is ready to be on the head table. I usually have to make several trips through my collection before I get very many plants to consider. I can move on faster with this process when I decide to defer making the final evaluations and selections until after the grooming has been attempted. This will allow me to be a little more lenient in my initial evaluation. We should also familiarize ourselves with the show schedule and try to get entries in as many of the categories as we can to make it a better balanced show.

CLEANING PLANTS

I use a water hose with a spray nozzle that will furnish a good solid stream without too much pressure to wash out dirt, tree leaves and other debris. After the first wash, look deep into the plant for tree leaves and dirt that did not come out. Be careful about digging too much with your fingers because you may break or tear a leaf. It is best to use some long tweezers or a surgical heostat to pull out the debris. You can loosen the stubborn dirt inside the base of the outer leaves with a small artist brush. Rinse the plant again to remove loosened dirt and debris. Clean the surfaces of leaves individually. The cleaning intensity will vary from plant to plant depending on how delicate the leaf is and whether it has scurf or not. If it has scurf, be careful not to remove any of it because it may not regenerate and will be obvious to the judges. On most of my plants I will suds each leaf with ivory soap and a heavy artist brush. If the leaves are not too treacherous I will pull each leaf through my fingers to loosen the more stubborn dirt. This should also remove any dead scale that might be attached to the leaf. If the scale does not rub right off it may still be alive and the plant should be treated with safer soap. Scale on show plants is a big NO. Next I rinse the plant with clean water again using the spray nozzle.

I then set this plant to one side and work on the next plant while that one is drying. You really can't tell whether some plants are clean or not until they dry. You may have to go back and touch up some spots that you missed and rinse again (be sure to get all of the soap out).

REPOTTING

It is usually easier to repot a plant than to clean the pot. This is also a good time to select a pot size that is in proper proportion to the plant. A larger pot will also make it easier to center the plant and cover any exposed caudex caused by leaf removal. Do not pot it too deep unless you have something to hide because the judges may assume you are hiding something and take off accordingly. Also be aware of what constitutes a standard pot. A pretty pot will probably be classified as decorative and be placed in the Artistic Container Division under a different set of judging rules (If you have some pretty or unusual pots, you should consider entering this division). Set the plant down and look at its conformation both from the top and from the side. Straighten the plant if needed and firm the soil around it so that it will stay straight. Be sure the mix on top is neat. Some use a special top dressing, but I don't think it's necessary so long as it is neat.

TRIMMING LEAVES

Leaf damage is a common cultural problem in growing bromeliads and you can bet money that the judges will see any that exist. They can also usually see where you have trimmed. If you have done a good trimming job they may not take off any points at all unless too much was required. Before you start cutting, try to visualize what effect the cut will have on the plant's appearance. If you have to cut a leaf tip back too far it could change the overall shape of the leaf as well as its conformation. Normally you should trim a leaf tip to its natural shape but how should you treat a fingernail tip? Analyze the

damage and the effect of the trim before you act. You may want to only trim the brown, changing its shape rather than take off the color. You may decide not to trim it at all if it will do more harm than good. In those cases the judges can usually see your dilemma and will be lenient if there is little else wrong with the plant. Some trimming of leaf edges close to the base can also be done where there are no spines, but try to keep a smooth leaf edge.

FINAL EVALUATION FOR SHOW ENTRY

Look at the overall appearance of the plant. Does it appear healthy and well grown? Does its foliage have the good sheen or scurf appropriate for the plant? Are the colors rich and the markings clear? How about its symmetry, is it appropriate? Is the size close to maturity? Check the leaf damage. Is it too severe? Does it need more grooming?

CAUTION - Do not be overly critical. You can expect to be short in one or more of these areas since there are few if any perfect plants.

TRANSPORTING PLANTS

Getting all your plants groomed for the show can be frustrating enough without any trauma on the way to the show. Take some extra time in packing your plants to make sure they do not damage each other or topple over. You would be smart to take some of your cleaning tools and maybe some extra mix with you for a last minute check just in case you have a little mishap on the way.

Excerpt from Bromeliad Society/Houston Newsletter, "Cultural Tips -- 2007", by Odean Head.

Upcoming Bromeliad Events

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

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.

March Birthdays: Paula Benway, Elisa Carr, Barbara Easton, Mike Gimeno, Dorothy Kellogg, and Terry Larm



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



Officers for 2009-2010

President: Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 bromeliadsociety@juno.com
Treasurer: Paula Benway 813-985-3584 paulabenway@aol.com
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Newsletter Editor: Marilyn Byram 813-949-0503 byramm@verizon.net

Directors: Barret Bassick 352-799-2652 barretb@myway.com
Bob Benway 813-985-3584 paulabenway@aol.com
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Beverly Sisco 813-968-5726 siscofl1@msn.com
Bob Teems 813-855-0938 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



Bromeliads Online

Bromeliad Society International— www.bsi.org
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies— www.fcbs.org
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens— 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





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**