

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



June, 2008

President's Message



WOW! What a great feast we all enjoyed last month. I thank all who brought a special dish to share with your fellow members. A special thanks to Steve & Eileen Prins for the delicious ham, Harold and

Beverly Sisco for the turkey and one of our brand new members, Paul and Claudia Ward for the great pork roast.

After stuffing our faces, we had time for the food to digest while bidding on the best array of plants we have ever had at our picnic auction.

Thanks to all who brought in quality plants for our annual fund raiser. Also thanks to Barrett Bassick for assisting me with the auctioneering and Bob and Paula Benway for keeping excellent track of the bidding funds. Bob really did a great job on the computer and we checked out super fast!

It was a fun evening, lots of lively bidding, and everyone going home with food and plants. Thanks again to all of you. We made \$1217.00!

Dues are due! \$25.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a family membership. See Paula Benway at the meeting or mail it to her: 1225 N. Riverhills Drive, Temple Terrace, FL 33617.

Also, I hope all of you have sent your \$45.00 each to Paula for your Extravaganza registration. We need all of you there Friday and Saturday evenings to assist in making all the out-of-towners feel at home. Don't miss this great event.

In addition, call the Sheraton Hotel and make reservations for Friday and Saturday nights. Be sure to tell them that you are with the Bromeliad Guild group to get the special rate before July 29th. Remember the rate covers a suite (two separate rooms with a single, double, or queen bed and a sofa bed in each unit).

There will be nominations from the floor at the June meeting for a new director to replace Paula Benway, who moved to Treasurer. To nominate someone, you need to contact them before the meeting to get their permission to nominate them and explain their responsibilities if elected. See Article IX and XI of the BGTB Bylaws.

Please save your grocery bags both paper and plastic for the Extravaganza. Also any cardboard boxes would be great.

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday, June 16, 2008,

Tom



May Picnic & Auction

Photography by Jim Stewart



Auction Table



Auction Table 2



I'm going to bid on this one.



By golly, this looks good!



Hey, leave some for us back here.



Now, you ladies need to bid on these.



Now for the auction



Lyla, tell me about this one.



Neo Morrisana Australian



Dues are due!

Yearly membership: May 1 to April 30. If you haven't done so already, please mail your dues to Paula Benway, 1225 N. Riverhills Dr., Temple Terrace, FL 33617

\$25.00 for Single Membership, \$30.00 for Family Membership

BGTB Program for June 16



Our own member, Jim Stewart, will be presenting a program entitled, "UNDERSTANDING NEO COLOR." There are various factors which effect colors in Neoregelia as well as all other genera. Jim will discuss what conditions change the color and growth of plants in your collection.

Jim is a longtime member but was busy for many years running his own business and unable to attend the regular BGTB meetings. He is a structural engineer having his own engineering business for many years. However, a few years ago after he retired, Jim returned to the Club and has been a faithful member ever since and staying busy sharing his bromeliad knowledge with us.

Please be sure to come and visitors and guests are always welcome!

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, carrots, celery, veggies of any kind, salsa, crackers, cheese, chicken wings, popcorn, favorite recipes, pies, pizza, 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 gift from the club.

May Birthdays: Judith and Leo Champagne, Caroline Fuller, Lisa Robinette, and Mary Louise Wojahn

June Birthdays: Merle DeLand, Phil Elting, Eileen Hart, Kathleen Ledbetter, and Alan Winton



Sunshine Greetings

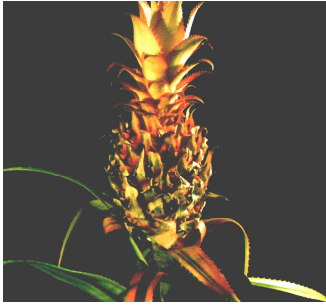
Please notify Eileen Prins of any illness, surgery, birth of a child, death in the family, or other concerns you or another member may have.

Call 727-546-9590 or email at sprins1012@earthlink.net



2008 Bromeliad Extravaganza

August 29-31, 2008



Friday evening reception for registrants, Plant Sales, Seminars
Raffle & Saturday evening Banquet followed by
Rare Plant Auction, Sunday morning home bus tours!

**Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies &
Hosted by Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay**

SHERATON SUITES TAMPA AIRPORT

4400 W. Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33607

www.sheraton.com/tampaairport

(813) 873-8675 Toll Free: 1-800-325-3535, Fax (813) 879-7196

Ask for Special BGTB Extravaganza Rate \$99.00 Double or Single

Group rates available to July 29, 2008.

All accommodations are room suites includes sofa bed

Airport shuttle complimentary 24/7 on the hour

REGISTRATION

*\$45 Registration for reception & banquet
Make check payable to BGTB and mail to:*

*Paula Benway
1225 N. Riverhills Dr.
Temple Terrace, FL 33617
(813) 985-3584 email: rebenway@aol.com*

SCHEDULE

Sheraton group rate July 29, 2008
Banquet Reservation deadline August 24, 2008
Friday, 6:30 p.m., August 29, 2008: Reception
Saturday August 30, 2008 6:30 p.m. Banquet &
FCBS Rare Plant Auction
Sunday, August 31, 2008
Home Bus tours 9:00 a.m. to noon

For Reception and Banquet Reservations complete the following:

Name/s: _____

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Select your Entrée: all meals include salad, rolls, butter, Chef's choice of seasonal vegetable and beverages:

Choice of one entrée per person:

_____ Grilled marinated portobello mushroom can (Vegetarian) stuffed with season vegetable medley and served over a bed of angel hair pasta with herb marinara

_____ Flame seared marinated breast of Chicken-Served with roasted tomato and basic cream sauce topped with a thick slice of creamy fresh mozzarella

_____ Queen cut of slow roasted prime rib of beef served with jus natural and creamy horseradish.

_____ **Home Bus Tours on Sunday morning, August 31, 2008 Add \$10.00 per person.**

_____ Total amount \$'s enclosed.

**2008 EXTRAVAGANZA HOME GARDEN TOURS PRESENTED
BY BROMELIAD GUILD OF TAMPA BAY**

The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay is pleased to introduce you to four unique “hidden” gardens in South Tampa. All of our members are bromeliad enthusiasts, and the below mentioned gardeners share with you their passion not only of the world of bromeliads, but their love of all living specimens. We hope you share in the beauty of their gardens.

GARDEN NO 1 - RHODA AND JIM SMITH
2909 West Fair Oaks Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33611

This lushly landscaped garden features all elements of *Feng Shui* principles inspired by Rhoda and Jim’s travels to Bali and China. *Feng Shui* is the ancient Chinese art of placement in which we can transform outdoor spaces into private sanctuaries of peace and positive energy. These include water, wood, fire, earth, and metal. Water is noted in the koi pond and opulent bird baths, black, gray and meandering paths; wood represented by green of the trees, logs, furniture; fire being represented in shades of red, pink, purple, orange, arrows, pointed leaves. Yellow, brown and beige represent earth as do rocks and stones. Metal is contained in copper and ironwork seen throughout the garden. A container of bamboo in the garden symbolizes longevity and good health. A magnolia tree symbolizes good fortune. There are fragrant flowering plants like gardenia and frangipani. When your garden is attractive to birds, butterflies and other small creatures, you invite good *Chi*. By creating pathways leading to benches, rocks, statues, and water as well as meandering walkways Qi is embraced. An uncluttered garden allows energy to travel unencumbered. As in most Chinese gardens, flowers are not utilized, and so Rhoda incorporates bromeliads and crotons which give the color she is looking for. The garden was featured on the Bromeliad Society International World Conference Garden Tour in the summer of 2002. The 3,500 gallon koi pond and stream were installed by Pondscaapes of Tampa in the summer of 1996. Approximately 36 koi (Chinese karp) keep company with ferns, bromeliads, anthuriums, gingers, and heliconias together with Asian sculptures. The Smiths have recently enlarged their home to include a room specially designed for their two macaws, Mango (Hyacinth) and Chrissy (Greenwing). Located on the property are carambola (star fruit), macadamian and lychee nut trees, the fruit of which are given to Mango and Chrissy when in season. The birds also have an aviary outside. Be sure to say hello to them on your visit.

GARDEN NO. 2 - DEBBIE AND GUY KING
4507 Bayshore Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33611

Located on two deep lots on Tampa’s famous Bayshore Boulevard, the home of Guy and Deborah King is a tropical rainforest. The gardens were installed originally in 1999 by a mysterious, wealthy playwright who spent millions on the project. She commissioned world-renowned landscape architect, Raymond Jungles of Miami, a one time student of the father of modern landscape architecture, Roberto Burle Marx, to create a tropical paradise. Jungles drew up extensive blueprints that included buying the home to the north, tearing it down and installing a 70 foot jungle lap pool lined totally with French blue mosaic tile. The existing pool was also lined with this magical tile. The upper lanes of Bayshore Boulevard were closed for days as cranes were brought in to install tons of earth and boulders adding topography and texture to the grounds. A natural-stone mason from the mountains of North Carolina fashioned waterfalls that filled the air with the sound of rushing water. Next huge oaks, palms, and palm clusters were lowered into place by the cranes, giving the estate a mature appearance. Many types of invasive vines were planted at the bases of these trees to provide further screening and privacy. The owner moved away in late 2005 and quietly listed the home for sale. The landscape was allowed to run wild until Guy and Deborah purchased the home in June of 2007. They began remodeling the home and reclaiming the gardens from the jungle that had developed. Guy has spent months working to restore and improve the original plan with guidance from Mr. Jungles. There are fifteen types of bamboo on the grounds along with palms, orchids, and cycads. The grounds feature dozens of bromeliads including two giants, *alcantara imperialis* and *alcantara odorata*. A fern garden was installed this spring. Mr. King hybridizes hibiscus and may have some new cultivars to share with you.

GARDEN NO 3 - **MARILYN & GUS S. WEEKLEY, M.D.**

3619 Bayshore Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33609

The lovely home of Dr. and Mrs. Augustine Weekley, Jr., was built in 1924 by Mr. A. J. Knight for his wife, Ruby Marcum Knight (later Mrs. Weekley after Mr. Knight's death and her marriage to Dr. A. S. Weekley, Sr.). The Weekleys had a stable for their horses, which young Weekley rode on the vacant land quite abundant in the early days of his youth. One of those cherished horses was named Dixie.

When Dr. Weekley, Jr., was growing up, the Palma Ceia pools located in the adjacent Fred Ball Park (yes, there were two) were abandoned, but still used by neighborhood youths. There was also an open stream, now an underground culvert, that led under the Bayshore to the Bay. The stream was located between the Weekley property and the still-visible Palma Ceia ("little") pool which was fed by a sulfur spring adjacent to the little pool and runoff from both pools, thence emptying into the Bay. The "big" pool was huge for its day, but gradually filled up with cattails, frogs, small fish, snakes, rabbits, pond birds, and other critters, much to the delight of Augustine, Jr., and other youngsters in the neighborhood.

The Magnolia and Cypress trees in the front yard are among the largest in the Tampa area, planted in the 30's by Dr. Weekley, Jr.'s parents. The two small French Oaks along the front entrance path were brought in as acorns from Isle Sur La Sorge, Provence. Your eye follows the many tillandsias and bromeliads in both the Cypress and Live Oaks trees.

Fruit trees abound. Among the varieties sighted on the property are, among others: citrus, avocados, mangoes, papaya, canistel, banana, sapote, sugar apple, caimito, cherimoya, mamey, Barbados Cherry, Surinam Cherry, fig, Jaboticaba, and persimmon. Dr. Weekley's motto is, "If it does not feed me, I will not feed it." When Gus and Marilyn married in 1998, along with her came her affinity for tropicals, bromeliads, and crotons. The gardens are in constant flux. New acquisitions from travels and cuttings from other collectors change the panorama on a regular basis.

The Cordova shell pathways and the solid poured landscaping blocks keep these details in the flavor of the period of this historical home and gardens. Now surrounded by commercial buildings and condominiums, this is the last single family home between Howard Avenue and Bay to Bay.

Providing the squirrels cooperate, you will be welcome to whatever seasonal fruit is ripe on the trees.

GARDEN NO 4 - **EMILY BLACK & JOSEPHINE (JOSIE) BLACK**

4611 Hawthorne Road, Tampa, FL 33611

A circular driveway greets you and carries your view across to the front of the brightly melon colored home. The gardens contain a myriad of Bromeliads which also includes among others ti, crotons and various palms. Ever popular painted *Dracaena reflexa* "Song of India" also known as pleomele, a native of Madagascar, gives a lush tropical frame to the entrance. Please note the wide range of driftwood taking up residence on the grounds. There are many different gardens leading around the home; and, if you're not sure which path to follow, it really doesn't matter; just meander around and be sure to see it all. Just enjoy yourself as did Tom Wolfe when he carefully landscaped this beautiful property. The homeowners show their passion for the felines inside and outside of their residence. Before you leave, we wonder if you can count the number of ceramic and porcelain cats located throughout the grounds.

Extravaganza Program Ads



If you would like to place an ad in our Extravaganza program for your business, your society, or a personal note, the price is as follows:

\$35.00 for 1/4 page - (business card size)

\$60.00 for 1/2 page

\$100.00 for full page

Send camera ready to

Marilyn Byram

21535 Northwood Dr.

Lutz, FL 33549

Stephen (Steve) Prins

On Sunday, June 1, 2008, one of our stalwart and devoted members, Stephen (Steve) Prins, lost his battle with cancer. He was 63 but acted much younger. Steve was also a retired Pinellas Park firefighter and was President of the Tampa Bay Storm fan club which is Tampa's arena football team.

He and his wife Eileen attended our May 2000 picnic and auction. I don't know if Steve was won over by the plants or the food but they joined and have been active hard working members ever since. Steve was also an excellent cook and provided some great food for the Society. He was one of the first people to volunteer to cook a ham or turkey for our special functions or bring hotdogs and hamburgers with all the condiments to our monthly meetings. Steve enjoyed people and enjoyed feeding them!

Steve served as a director, secretary, then as newsletter editor and became President in May of 2007 until May 2008. He wasn't able to do much for the last five or six months.

He was also co-chair of the Extravaganza 2008. He was looking forward to working and helping put on a great extravaganza. He and Eileen attended the Extravaganza last year in Broward and came away very enthusiastic but his health prevented him from being able to fully participate in the planning. He was able to help choose the hotel for the event. He also served as a representative to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies as long as he was able.

There will be a celebration of Steve's life on June 21, 2008 at 11:00 AM at the Saint Vincent Episcopal Church, 5441 9th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida and all his friends are invited to attend.

As you can imagine, he will be greatly missed by all of us.

Tom & Carol Wolfe



Officers for 2008-2009

President: Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 bromeliadsociety@juno.com
Vice Pres.: Verna Dickey 813-685-1055 vernaled@verizon.net
Treasurer: Paula Benway 813-985-3584 paulabenway@aol.com
Secretary: Beverly Sisco 813-968-5726 siscofl1@msn.com
Directors: Jim Stewart 813-281-0213 jimstewart@tampabay.rr.com
Kathleen Ledbetter 813-228-0690 tedkathled@aol.com
Ed Konezaski 813-871-3449 josetteanded@hotmail.com

Committee Chairs

Parliamentarian: Lyla Shepard
Librarians: Paula Benway and Verna Dickey
Raffle: Randy Garcia
Show: Tom Wolfe
Newsletter: Marilyn Byram
Membership: Rhoda Smith & Eileen Kahl
Publicity: Bob Teems
Programs: Tom Wolfe
Sunshine: Eileen Prins
Photographers: Jim Stewart and Kelly Fowler



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, 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**