

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



July, 2009

President's Message



Thanks to Dave Johnston for an interesting program on species bromeliads. As Dave said, we all need species to make hybrids.

It is also one of the functions of the Bromeliad Society International and the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay to preserve their natural habitat as well as preserving them in cultivation.

This month has started off with some much needed rain. If you grow in pots with a heavy mix outside, you might want to consider dumping the water out of them after a one or two day rain so they can dry out for a couple of days. This will help prevent crown rot or some other fungus from forming.

I've gotten word that The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is having financial difficulties. If you can visit the gardens, make purchases from the bookstore and/or the plant shop and if you can send them a tax deductible donation it would be a great help to them at this time.

Don't forget your Show & Tell plants and also the second pup from your raffle plants should come back to the raffle table to help someone else get started with or add to their collection.

Your Board and I want to thank you for expediting the changes in the bylaws last month. This can, at times, be a tooth-pulling task but you all were great and as a result we have a set of complete and comprehensive bylaws. Thanks.

BOARD MEETING NOTICE: There will be a board meeting at my home on Monday, August 10 at 7:30 PM. The agenda will follow. Please put this date on your calendar. Board meetings are always open to the membership if you have any item that you would like to present to the Board, please let me know so I can put it on the Agenda. You are also welcome to audit the board meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting for a great night of fun and fellowship.

Cheers,

Tom Wolfe, President



BGTB PROGRAM, MONDAY, JULY 20, 2009

Speaker will be Al Muzzell from Gainesville, FL

“Al’s Favorite Bromeliads”

This month’s speaker will be Al Muzzell. Al has a bromeliad business in Gainesville where he sells from his greenhouses and brokers bromeliads around the Florida, Georgia area. He has been collecting bromeliads for some 40 years and has a thorough knowledge of the plant families.

Al is a Vietnam veteran and a graduate of the University of Florida in Gainesville, He always presents a program that is of interest to everybody. See you at the meeting.



Bromeliad Exposé by Larry Giroux

The photograph on the [previous page] is a plant of the *Genus – Bromelia*. It is unique as far as *Bromelias* go, being the only *Bromelia* found in the Peruvian and Ecuadorian Amazonia. As a matter of fact although it was described and pictures were drawn from live plants in the latter half of the 19th century, it was lost to cultivation for many years because it was felt to be a native of Amazonia Brazil. In an attempt to rediscover this gem, collectors were looking for it in all the wrong places. It was Dr. Tim Plowman, of *Quesnelia* ‘Tim Plowman’ and *Cryptanthus* ‘Tim Plowman’ fame, in 1977, who reintroduced it into cultivation during his collecting trips to Peru by depositing specimens at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.

It grows relatively easily as a terrestrial; preferring warmer weather, bright diffuse light and moist media. It can become pot-bound quickly so give it extra room for its roots. Removal of offsets at a decent size of 1/3 to 1/2 the adult size (the mature plant is about 24 inches tall) will stimulate additional offsets, which develop from short stolons. This is another difference *Bromelia scarlatina* has from other better known *Bromelia* such as *balansae*, *pinquin* and *humilis*, which have offsets on stolons, which sometimes extend long distances from the parent plant before erupting from the ground surface. The spines of *Bromelia* are classically curved and vicious; while although the spines of the distinct petiole leaf stems of *Bromelia scarlatina* are noticeable, the spines along the broad lanceolate leaves are much less obnoxious. The overall size of this species as well as the sparseness of leaves bordered by smaller spines, does not recommend these plants for use as “living fences”. However, long leaves bordered by sharp, prominent spines, quick growth and their spreading nature of other species like *Bromelia penguin* and *balansae* has been taken advantage of by ranchers in South and Central American countries where these plants grow to deter domesticated and wild animals from free movement within farms and gardens.

Pictured to the right are the cherry-sized fruit of *Bromelia balansae*. The product from the fermentation of these fruits is very similar to tequila from the agave plant. Photo by Larry Giroux





*Bromelia
scarlatina*



Drawings by
C. JACQUES
EDOUARD
MORREN, a 19th
century botanist,
horticulturist, artist,
professor, and writer
who has drawn over
200 horticultural
painting in his
career. Photos
of drawings by
L.B.Smith.

*Bromelia
antiacantha*
(Native to eastern
Brazil and
Uruguay.)



A blooming *Bromelia goeldiana* on display at the Selby Botanical Gardens. This is a native of Amazonian Brazil as well as Southern Venezuela. Although this species was first discovered in 1913, it was not appropriately described until 1958 by L.B. Smith. Photo by Larry Giroux



Enjoy it while you can! From left to right is the short life of a *Bromelia scarlatina* inflorescence. (Photo 1) It was Saturday, the day before the CBS meeting and we decided to bring in this beautifully coloring *B. scarlatina* in spite of the small button development of the inflorescence. The primary bracts were colored and fresh. (Photo 2) Sunday at the CBS meeting all enjoyed the intense color and the white floral bracts, unfortunately no flowers. Monday (not shown in a photo) there was 1 lavender flower and lots of scurfy floral bracts. (Front cover photo) Thursday, the peak of flower blooming, unfortunately the primary red bracts are losing color and drying up in spite of appropriate moisture. (Photo 3) Taken one week after the plant was brought to the meeting, this photo shows many of the primary bracts and floral bracts are desiccated and only two new flowers remain. Photos by Steve Hoppin and Larry Giroux.



Bromelia humilis, one of the earliest *Bromelia* to be described (1784), has the distinction of being described by taxonomists as a *Puya*, *Nidularium* and 2 other Genera, which no longer are recognized. Surprisingly, it was never considered an *Ananas*, as were other *Bromelias*. This species is relatively small compared to many other *Bromelias*; they seldom exceed 36 inches in width. By way of 18- 24 inch long stolons, a colony of these plants can cover a large area rather quickly. They have a limited natural habitat extending from northern Venezuela through the Windward Islands of the Caribbean. Until this past winter I would have said *B. humilis* was cold hardy; however, as the picture to the lower left attests to, these plants, which grow on the south side of the house, growing in full sun, 10 days following being sprinkled with the irrigation system for 20 minutes while the temperature remained at 28-29 degrees for 4 hours, were nearly completely destroyed. We have cleaned them up and are waiting to see if they will develop stolons.

Photos by Larry Giroux

From: “Bromeliad Exposé” (Part 1 of 2) by Larry Giroux. Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society’s Caloosahatchee Meristem, March 2008. <http://fcb.org>. To be continued next month.

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Minutes of Meeting

June 15, 2009

President Tom Wolfe called the meeting to order.

Eileen Kahl introduced 6 guests.

Secretary's Report: Dave Fulkerson made a motion to accept minutes as printed in the May Newsletter and it was seconded by Steve Byram.

Treasurer's Report: Given by Paula Benway. Ending balance is \$14,064.20. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Steve Byram and seconded by Lyla Shepard.

Old Business: A reminder was given that annual dues are now due.

New Business: Tom Wolfe handed out copies of the By-Laws changes that the Board of Directors recommended and they were approved as follows:

Article III – Motion made by Ed Konczeski and seconded by Lyla Shepard.

Article V – Motion made by Barret Bassick and seconded by Ed Konczeski.

Article VI, Section 3 – Motion made by Bob Teems and seconded by Carol Wolfe.

Article VI, Section 4 – Motion made by Steve Byram and seconded by Eileen Kahl.

Article VI, Section 4.5 – Motion made by Carol Wolfe and seconded by Verna Dickey.

Announcements: Tom Wolfe mentioned a show in September in Baton Rouge, LA and the Florida Extravaganza on November 13-15 in Orlando.

Drawings were held for the Birthday and Door Prize plants;

Birthday plant won by Eileen Hart

Door Prize won by Randy Garcia

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

A motion was made to close the business meeting by Bob Teems and seconded by Steve Byram

Break for Refreshments.

Program: Given by Dave Johnston – titled “You Must Have Species”.

Raffle

Respectfully submitted by Verna L. Dickey, Secretary



June 15 Meeting Snapshots



President Tom Wolfe



Looking over the Bylaws



Verna's Show 'n' Tell



Can you identify this?



Speaker - Dave Johnston



Hand in the Raffle Jar



Upcoming Bromeliad Events

USF Bromeliad Bash - Sat., Aug. 8, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Sun., Aug. 9, noon - 4:00 p.m.

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Society Sale, Sanford Garden Club - Aug. 14-15

Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show and Sale, Baton Rouge, LA - Sept. 25-27

Bromeliad Extravaganza, Orlando, FL - November 13-15

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.

July Birthdays: Dorothy Crossley, Dave Johnston, Beverly Millar, John Miller, Harold Sisco



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

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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 at the
Florida Aquarium*

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

