

# Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



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

July, 2015

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JULY 2015



Our June meeting was switched to Room "C" in the main building where we will be July and August due to summer camps being held in the Mary Martha Center this summer. The September meeting will be back in the Mary Martha Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

Due to the five o'clock storm in south Tampa and possibly the lack of notification of the change in the meeting room, the attendance was sparse with only a small group of members and four visitors present. However, Ray Lemieux did a fantastic job teaching and demonstrating how to plant and grow bromeliads from seeds. Ray contributed plants

to our raffle table that we were anxious to have in our collections.

Ken Stokes gave a good workshop showing us an array of bromeliad blooms that he cut from his yard and discussed the various shapes, sizes and colors. After the demonstration, Ken gave the blooms to visitors and members.

Thanks to Ray and Ken for doing an excellent job with the program and workshop.

Upcoming bromeliad events that you should consider attending:

**August 1 Bromeliad Bash**, USF Botanical Gardens

**September 26, 2015 Extravaganza**, Doubletree by Hilton, Miami Airport Convention.

Registration is \$75 per person (sales, seminars, banquet and rare plant auction) and daily room rate \$107 (group rate). Optional bus tours to homes are \$22 per person or drive on your own to the home tours at no cost.

**October 9 – 11, 2015 Southwest Guild Show**, Crown Plaza, New Orleans Airport, Kenner, Louisiana.

Registration is \$65 per person and daily room rate \$115 (group rate).

**I am sure you would enjoy any or all of these events!**



Bruce Holst, a scientist at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota will be our July speaker. We are honored to have him as our speaker and you should make plans to attend. Don't miss this great program. Our meetings are always open to the public, so please invite guests.

Tom Wolfe, President

**BGTB Meeting: July 20, 2015**  
**Speaker: Bruce Holst**  
**Marie Selby Botanical Garden's Director of Botany**  
**PROGRAM: EXPEDITION BELIZE**  
**An Unexplored World of Botanical**  
**Mystery Beneath the Earth's Surface**

Bruce Holst is presently working as a Taxonomist/Scientist and Director of Botany at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida. He studies bromeliads and other floras of Belize, Venezuela and Florida. Bruce has led or participated in more than 20 international expeditions. Bruce, his wife and children, live in Sarasota and he has been an active member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society for many years.

An historic expedition of a 425' sinkhole located in Belize may prove to reveal rare and possibly never-before-seen plants from the heart of the ancient Mayan civilization.

Bruce Holst joined an international team for the first of several planned descents into the Sinkhole, one of the most biologically diverse and difficult to access natural environments in Belize.

The 10-day expedition marked the first step in a year-long process to gather and document botanical specimens.

The sinkholes in the area sit atop the estimated 540,000 square-foot Chiquibul Cave System, the largest in Belize and the longest in Central America. The entire region is a veritable treasure chest of botanical, geological, and archeological wonders. The area has been a recent source of political tensions and conflict with neighboring Guatemala due to trespassing activity that threatens the region – specifically habitat degradation, fire damage, illegal logging, hunting, and gold extraction.

Of the 10-day expedition in and around the sinkhole Holst explained, "Through gathering scientific information and documenting this unknown region of the world (via living and preserved plant collections, photos, and video), we have acquired the first scientifically documented collection from the sinkhole area which provides a baseline for further studies that will assist in the conservation of the Chiquibul wilderness. We hope to return at different times of the year to continue exploration of this vast area and document plants flowering in other seasons".

The only other known descent into the hole was by a group of British and Belizean explorers and biologists in 2000. While their trip was of shorter duration and did not yield biological collections, they painted a picture in their report summary of what would be found, including the presence of numerous epiphytic plants, which the current team was able to confirm. Work to study the collections is expected to continue over the course of a year and will result in a final report documenting the team's findings and recommendations to the government of Belize.

*(Information from the website <http://selbygardens.org>; please visit the website for more articles on this exciting expedition.)*

# Minutes, June 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Tom Wolfe

Visitors: Ed and Ronie Miller, Hazel Dawson, and Kathie Gorman

**Secretary's Report:** Group approved and seconded motion to accept the minutes as written in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paula Benway reported we have a total of 5,714.96. The report will be filed for audit.

**Workshop:** presented by Ken Stokes on bromeliad inflorescences, infructescences, and flowers. Various flowers from Vriesea, Guzmania, Aechmea, Billbergia, Cryptanthus, Hohenbergia, Deuterocohnia, Portea, Fosterella, Dyckia, Ananas, Hechtia, Orthophytum, Neoglaziovia, Canistrum, Nidularium, Androlepis were shown.

**Old Business:** 2015 Bromeliad Extravaganza in Miami. Members urged to attend for ideas to improve our 2017 program.

**New Business:** August 1, Bromeliad Extravaganza at USF

**Announcements:** Bus trip to Caladium Festival on July 24. Trip to Lake Placid from Riverview. Contact July Lessard.

Verna is cancer free!!!

Tom and Carol Wolfe had their 5th grandchild!

**Show and Tell:** Plants were shown by Ken Stokes

## **Refreshments and Raffle**

**Program** was presented by Ray Lemieux. "Growing Bromeliads From Seed"

Respectfully submitted by Ray Hernandez, Secretary



## **Watering**

The roots of most potted bromeliads like to be moist, but never soggy. Keep the central cup, if there is one, filled with fresh water. Don't allow the water to get too old or stagnant, or the plant may rot. The water should be at room temperature, and should be poured into the center of the plant, the cup, and allowed to run through the leaves into the soil, so that the roots are moistened. Watering once a week is often sufficient. Mist the plant every few days if the humidity is 50 to 60%, or daily, if the humidity is lower. Soft leafed plants require more water and humidity than stiff leafed ones. Most vrieseas, guzmanias, and nidulariums like high humidity. Mounted plants need frequent misting unless the humidity is high, and do better with a weekly dousing in a sink, tub or bucket to thoroughly soak them.



# BGTB Meeting June 15, 2015





USF Bromeliad Sale: Saturday August 1 from 9am-2pm at the USF Botanical Gardens.  
It is a free event.

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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!



**July Birthdays:** Heather Carr, Lindsay Eagle, Ray Hernandez, Dave Johnston, John Miller, Beverly Millar, Russ Powell, Harold Sisco

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 2015

**President:** Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 [BromeliadSociety@juno.com](mailto:BromeliadSociety@juno.com)  
**Vice President:** Eileen Hart 813-920-2987 [eplants@hotmail.com](mailto:eplants@hotmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Paula Benway 813-985-3584 [paulabenway@aol.com](mailto:paulabenway@aol.com)  
**Secretary:** Ray Hernandez 813-832-3561 [subtropicofcancer@hotmail.com](mailto:subtropicofcancer@hotmail.com)  
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### Committee Chairs:

**Publicity:** Bill Carr 813-752-8485 [wcarr1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:wcarr1@tampabay.rr.com)  
**Sunshine/Membership:** Julie Lessard 813-662-7972 [Taxxmaam@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Taxxmaam@tampabay.rr.com)  
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**Program:** Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 [BromeliadSociety@juno.com](mailto:BromeliadSociety@juno.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., National Council of Bromeliad Societies, 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

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