

# Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



August, 2008

## President's Message



Hello Folks,

By the time our August meeting rolls around, we will be ten (10) days from Extravaganza "D" day. I hope all of

you will register and come and enjoy all the fun and fellowship. We have one couple coming from as far away as Australia and others coming from New Orleans, Louisiana, Texas, Illinois, California, The Bahamas and Puerto Rico.

It's great the way you are all pulling together to make this Extravaganza the best ever. Thanks for your help.

Thanks to Dave Johnston for an informative workshop on forcing our broms to bloom.

The Florida district for BSI Judges is in the process of starting another BSI Judges School. They need 15 or more

students to start a school. If you are interested, contact Vicky Chirside, 951 Southland Road, Venice, FL 34293 or [vickychir@aol.com](mailto:vickychir@aol.com).

Eileen Prins informed me that she is in the process of installing two small bromeliad beds at her church as a living memorial to Steve. If any of you have a special bromeliad you would like to donate, please call Eileen.

If you bring raffle plants, please make sure that they are clean, free of scale or any disease and tagged with the proper name. If you don't know the name, bring some tags with you and ask one of the experts at the meeting. Also bring plants for Show and Tell. The bromeliads don't have to be in bloom just something that you think your fellow members would enjoy seeing.

See you at the meeting.

Tom Wolfe, President



## **BGTB Program for August 18**

Jay Thurrott is presenting a program on the Bromeliad World Conference held in Carnes, Australia. This is the first World Bromeliad Conference held outside the continental USA. He will be bringing the Australian Conference to those of us who couldn't make the trip to Australia. I am sure this is a very different conference from our traditional ones in the States and the international members in Australia worked hard to present the best conference possible.

Jay resides in Port Orange, Florida with his wife Calandra and family. He is an active member and past president of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society which meets at Daytona Beach, Florida. He is also past Chairman of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, The Vice President of the Bromeliad Society International and an accredited BSI Judge. Jay is a knowledgeable speaker and has worked for the City of Daytona Beach for over 30 years. He has been growing bromeliads since the 70's and grows over 500 varieties in Port Orange.

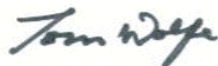
Jay Thurrott is Chief Chemist in the City of Daytona Beach Water and Wastewater Division. He is responsible for the city's environmental monitoring section and has duties ranging from supervision of the city's laboratories to advising water and wastewater operational staff in process control and selection.

Jay has been involved in two USEPA-sponsored programs investigating trihalomethane (THM) control in a lime softening plant and was principal investigator in a third USEPA project studying the effects of improved coagulation techniques on THM precursor removal using a mobile water treatment pilot plant.

In addition to his normal duties, he developed a water treatment operator training course and has been a part-time instructor for several years at a local community college. Jay earned a B.A. in chemistry from the New York State University College at Cortland and relocated to Daytona Beach, Florida upon graduation. He currently is certified by the state as an "A" level plant operator and at the "B" level as a wastewater plant operator. Jay has been an active member of the American Water Works Association, where he has served on the joint task group on the review of standard methods for the examination of water and wastewater. He is currently on the standards committee on softening and conditioning chemicals.

Don't forget to invite friends, relatives, or neighbors to this meeting. Our meetings are always open to the public to learn more about bromeliads.

See you at the meeting.



# July 21 Meeting Snapshots

## Photography by Jim Stewart



Sales and Conversations



I wonder how many raffle tickets I can sell ...



Extravaganza Raffle Items



Workshop on Forced Blooming



Show and Tell



## Minutes from July 21

President Tom Wolfe welcomed visitors and new members.

July minutes were accepted as published in newsletter.

Paula Benway gave the Treasurers Report. We have a balance of \$8,616.34.

Dave Johnston did a workshop on "Forcing Bromeliads to Bloom", using ethylene gas, brand name, "Florel".

Old Business: Dues are due now. \$25.00 for a single person, and \$30.00 for a couple.

Birthday plant was won by Dave Fulkerson.

Harriet Gord asked for donations for the raffle at the Extravaganza.

Verna Dickey talked about ordering T-shirts with the club's logo on them for the Extravaganza.

Tom Wolfe read a thank you note from Eileen Prins.

It was announced that the sales area will be open to the public at the Extravaganza, and admission will be \$3.00.

Tom Wolfe showed decorated clay pots for the silent auction.

Business meeting was adjourned.

Show 'n' Tell: Verna Dickey, Beverly Sisco, Joe Curd and Tom Wolfe showed plants.

Break for refreshments.

Program: Tom Wolfe showed slides of the 2007 Extravaganza in Dania, FL.

Raffle

Respectfully Submitted,

Beverly Sisco, Secretary

## 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.

*August Birthdays:* Steve Byram, Dave Fulkerson, David Mracek, Jean Schnable, Randy Wojahn, Carol Wolfe

## 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)



## **CALLING ALL SINGLE MEN TO THE NEXT BGTB MEETING**

Single women will be looking for single plant-loving men after reading the following article that was posted on the internet by Tribune reporter, Penny Carnathan at TBO.com ... (also married women should show up to protect their interest!)

### **Single Woman Looking To Meet An SPLM (single, plant-loving man)?**

Posted Jul 22, 2008 at 08:02 PM  
Updated Jul 22, 2008 at 08:36 PM

You heard it here first. Maybe.

Last night, I dropped in on a meeting of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. You don't find too many Tampa garden clubs meeting in July, and you certainly don't expect to find them packed. But the Bromeliad Guilders have a reason to meet right now (more on that in another post) and I got a good look at their membership.

There are a LOT of guys. I'm gonna guess 50 people showed up and half of them were men. Of all ages.

Forget the nightclubs, forget borrowing three dogs to take for walks on the beach. If you're a SSPLW (single serious plant-loving woman), your fertile ground for a SPLM (serious plant-loving man) is the bromeliad guild.

Even the president is a guy, Tom Wolfe. I don't know whether he's married, but he's nice-looking. (The point being: Good-looking guys like bromeliads.)

"Men are attracted to bromeliads," he told me. "And orchids. And rare fruits."

He doesn't know why, but does it matter? I think this is ground-breaking.

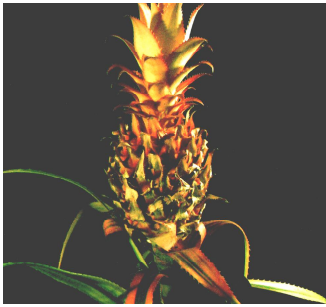
I'm not looking, but I do remember those days. And what if I were divorced or widowed? Where would I go to meet men I don't work with? I had no idea—until my big epiphany.

So, if you're a single woman and you like plants, check out the bromeliad guild. It meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month at the Tampa Garden Center, 2629 Bayshore Blvd. in Tampa.



# 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/tampairport](http://www.sheraton.com/tampairport)

(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](mailto: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.

## Officers for 2008-2009

President: Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 [bromeliadsociety@juno.com](mailto:bromeliadsociety@juno.com)  
Vice Pres.: Verna Dickey 813-685-1055 [vernaled@verizon.net](mailto:vernaled@verizon.net)  
Treasurer: Paula Benway 813-985-3584 [paulabenway@aol.com](mailto:paulabenway@aol.com)  
Secretary: Beverly Sisco 813-968-5726 [siscofl1@msn.com](mailto:siscofl1@msn.com)  
Directors: Barret Bassick 352-799-2652 [barretb@myway.com](mailto:barretb@myway.com)  
Ed Konezaski 813-871-3449 [josetteanded@hotmail.com](mailto:josetteanded@hotmail.com)  
Kathleen Ledbetter 813-228-0690 [tedkathled@aol.com](mailto:tedkathled@aol.com)  
Jim Stewart 813-281-0213 [jimstewart@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jimstewart@tampabay.rr.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  
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](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!

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