

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



August, 2009

President's Message



The July meeting was exiting and fun. Al Muzzell gave one of his best presentations about some of his favorite bromeliads. Al has a wealth of knowledge and is always willing to share it with fellow bromeliad growers. Good job Al.

The 2009 Orlandiana Extravaganza is coming up fast, November 13 – 15, 2009 to be held at the Renaissance Orlando Hotel – Airport with rates of \$109.00 per room. There will be several unique features to this Extravaganza (1) The best Pineapple Shirt or Blouse will receive an award (2) the sales will be open on Friday night for the registrants from 9:00 – 10:00 P.M. So you can be the early bird (although late evening) and get in on the first purchases. Be sure and ask for **Bromeliad CF** for the special hotel rate available until October 14, 2009. We are attaching a form with the newsletter for your convenience in registering.

When you read this the USF 'Bromeliad Bash' will be history. I hope you all came out to support the vendors.

Please stay a few minutes after the meeting to help clean-up. If we all pitch in it should only take five to 10 minutes. Our thanks to Verna Dickey and Bob

Teems, the faithful ones who are there long after everyone else has gone home, cleaning up the building so that we leave a good impression with the landlord. If you do not know what to do, ask Verna & Bob and they will direct you.

Don't forget your show and tell plants!

The raffle table has been fantastic with so many bromeliads available. Our thanks to everyone who generously contributes bromeliads to the raffle table each month. Remember, the second pup always comes back to the raffle table with a nametag of course. This insures that we will always have plants for new members and for members to add to their collection. Buy your tickets early!

Cheers!

Tom Wolfe, President

**BGTB PROGRAM, MONDAY,
August 17, 2009**

**Dennis Cathcart
World Traveler and Explorer**



Our speaker for Monday, August 17, 2009 will be Dennis Cathcart. He and his wife Linda own and operate Tropiflora, a bromeliad, orchid and succulent nursery in Sarasota, Florida.

Dennis is a world traveler and explorer as well as a hybridizer and grower. He has explored extensively in Central and South America looking for new species of bromeliads and other plant material. He is in great demand as a speaker throughout the United States as well as many other countries.

If you are on the Tropiflora's mailing list and receive the "Cargo Report", then you know Dennis is an excellent writer with many humorous stories of his and others' worldwide adventures, especially his bromeliad collecting trips.

We welcome Dennis to our meeting.

See you there.

Tom Wolfe
Program Chair

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Minutes of Meeting July 20, 2009

President Tom Wolfe called the meeting to order. Verna Dickey welcomed visitors and new members. New members: Jim Jackson, Douglass Wells, Bill Spradlin

Secretary's Report: Jim Stewart made a motion to accept the June Minutes as written in the Newsletter and it was seconded by Barret Bassick. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Paula Benway was absent so no Treasurer's Report.

Workshop: Tom Wolfe talked about all the rain we have gotten and we may have an excess of water in our bromeliads. Also, experiment with potting mix if you grow outside – it should not be a heavy mix.

Use orchid bark or pine mulch to grow your bromeliads – not cypress mulch since so many trees are destroyed to make it.

Old Business: Tom reminded the club that dues are now due. Also the Extravaganza is November 13-15 in Orlando – it is near the airport in a beautiful hotel. The Florida Council Newsletter will come out soon with all the information in it.

There will be a Southwest Guild Show in Baton Rouge, LA in September.

A Judges School is scheduled if anyone is interested – you don't have to become a judge – you can go just to get information.

New Business: There is a Bromeliad Bash at USF Botanical Gardens August 8 and 9.

Jim Stewart said he is glad to be back after his long bout with cancer and he is free of cancer now. He appreciates all the cards and calls from everybody.

Door Prize: Won by Marilyn Byram

Birthday Plant: Won by Jim Jackson, one of our new members.

Show and Tell: Plants were shown by Verna Dickey, Barret Bassick, Dave Johnston, Beverly Sisco, Jason Mellica and John McGrath.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Steve Byram and seconded by Dave Johnson. All approved.

Break for refreshments.

Program: Given by Al Muzzell from Gainesville, FL. His topic was "Some of My Favorite Bromeliads" and he had quite a few beautiful ones he brought to show us. He also had many for sale.

Raffle: We had many plants for the raffle table – thanks to everyone who brought them.

Respectfully submitted by Verna L. Dickey,
Secretary



Bromeliad Exposé by Larry Giroux (Part 2)

The picture to the right was taken by Fred Ross about 25 years ago; I don't know where he took the picture, but in one of the photos I received, there is a yard stick next to the plant and the top of the bloom reaches 3 feet in height. I initially thought it was *Bromelia balansae*. I planted a similar looking plant in my yard 15 years ago; 12 years ago I spent a bloody summer hacking the 20 or so 5 foot tall progeny from my garden and their borrowing stolons. Today for sentimental reasons, I kept one plant (which is actually three now) in a large cement pot, on top of concrete. Another reason I keep these obnoxious plants is to enjoy the explosion of color and textures during blooming.



Derek Butcher wrote an article for the FCBS web site concerning the various *Bromelias* growing in Florida. He said the following about *Bromelia balansae*.

“Several bromelias are common in Florida gardens, but it appears that their identities are open to question. The first example is the plant that everyone KNOWS is *Bromelia balansae* but may be *B. sylvicola* (see above picture) (I suggest you change your label to *B. aff sylvicola* - Uncle Derek) This plant in flower is a metre or so tall and the leaf rosette is 1 to 2 metres in diameter. The petals are maroon with white margins. The true *Bromelia balansae* is much larger, nearly 2 metres tall with leaves 4 to 7 metres long! The petals are violet with white margin.“



If Derek is correct about the size of the true *Bromelia balansae*, then I shouldn't complain about my brush with my 5 foot tall spiny“midgets”.

Photo bottom left - *Bromelia balansae* by Vern Sawyer, courtesy of fcbs.org

Photo bottom right - *Bromelia aff sylvicola* by K. Tan, courtesy of fcbs.org



In the photo of *Bromelia pinguin* by Marc Turner (courtesy of fcbs.org) is seen the incredible beauty, which prompted European explorers to bring back these plants for ornamental uses. *Bromelia pinguin* was brought back along with *Ananas comosus* (the pineapple plant) as early as 1690. And in 1755, three other *Bromelias* were included in a shipment destined for an Austrian Botanical Garden.

B. pinguin is a moderate sized *Bromelia* (leaves reach 3-5 feet tall) and although it is less spectacular than some of the other *Bromelia*, its smaller size and typical *Bromelia* red scape bracts and violet and white flowers has encouraged its place in Florida gardens. Just as with all the others, care must be taken to avoid the wide spreading by stolons (see picture below) throughout your yard.



In the picture to the left by Larry Giroux, is a large clump of *Bromelia pinguin* found growing on a garden slope overlooking a lake in Guatemala. When grown in full sun, the leaves, even when the plant is not blooming, can turn a bright dark red color. With control this can make a great landscape plant for a low traffic area of the garden. It is easy to see how farmers can create living fences by planting rows of these spiny plants to control intrusion of unwanted livestock.



It is very difficult when not in bloom to distinguish this albo-marginated form of *Bromelia pinguin* from the variegated form of *Ananas*. Below and center is a picture of the typical habitat in Bahia, Brazil where *Bromelias* were found growing among cactus and other bromeliads such as *Neoglaziovia variegata* and *Hohenbergia*. In this location were found large clumps of the *Bromelia* pictured below. To the right is the clump formed by their spreading stolons. To the left is a fruiting inflorescence. Based on its location and a drawing by Morren, I suspect this is *Bromelia antiacanthia*.

Although this species was felt to be restricted to Southern Brazil, Elton Leme has documented it throughout the northern portions as well. All photos by Larry Giroux.



Seeing a plant of *Bromelia scarlatina* prior to blooming and following anthesis, you would think that with its long unusual solidly green colored shaped leaves it is not a Bromelia. Once in bloom, however, the flattening of the plant, the red color changes of the leaf stems and primary bracts, its floral bracts covered with woolly tan to brown scales and white and purple petals characterize the plant as a definite Bromelia. It also forms berries; these are black and although these are smaller than some of the other berries of bromelias, they are also favored by birds who distribute them in their droppings. I would imagine if you can collect enough of these fruits they can be fermented as those from other species of this Genus. The liquor produced is like tequila. Bromelias with longer leaves are also used to make rope by striping lengths of fiber from the leaves. Related closer to the Pineapple (*Ananas*) than other bromeliads, Bromelia also have high concentrations of the chemical bromelain, which has had anti-infectious, anti-tussive, anti-inflammatory and appetite stimulating properties attributed to it.

The beautiful and colorful inflorescences are typically disappointing in that from the time that the central primary bracts turn red until the last flower opens is extremely short. Accompanying pictures show that the development of the floral bracts to the bloomed out flowers lasted about 7 days. And in spite of sufficient moisture, the colorful primary bracts immediately began drying up and turning brown. In Florida this process occurs December through early March; all too late or too early to exhibit in a bromeliad show. Several years ago I purchased instead of a poinsettia for the Holidays, a *Bromelia scarlatina* in mid December whose primary bracts were already changing. To my surprise it bloomed out before Christmas and as typical of Bromelia prior to developing fruit, the center of the plant turned into a clump of dirty looking, decaying floral parts.

Most Bromelia are not house or patio plants due to their prominent spines, their size and growth patterns. *Bromelia scarlatina* is an exception to this rule. The unusual shaped leaves and rosette, which are characteristic of this species, makes this an attractive foliage plant. Add the two to three weeks during which the bracts explode with color, and the plant earns a visually prominent place in your collection. With minimal care it will continue to reward you with a supply of new plants and a seasonal display of color.

Bibliography

Bromelia scarlatina by Harry Luther. Journal of the Bromeliad Society, Vol.XXXII, Nov-Dec 1982, No.6.

Bromeliads by Francisco Oliva-Esteve. Armitano Editores, C.A., Caracas, Venezuela - 2000.

Bromeliads in the Brazilian Wilderness by E.M.C.Leme and L.C.Marigo. Marigo Comunicacao Visual, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1993.

From: "Bromeliad Exposé" (Part 2 of 2) by Larry Giroux. Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society's Caloosahatchee Meristem, March 2008. <http://fcbs.org>.



July 20 Meeting Snapshots



Our Speaker, Al Muzzell



Questions for Al



Beverly's Show 'n' Tell



John's Auction Buy is Blooming



Refreshment Time



Abundance of Raffle Plants



Upcoming Bromeliad Events

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

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

USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Festival, Oct. 10-11

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.

August Birthdays: Steve Byram, Dave Fulkerson, Randy Garcia, David Mracek, Jean Schnable, Mary Louise 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



2009 Orlandiana Extravaganza

Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

Hosted by Bromeliad Society of Central Florida Inc



November 13-15

RENAISSANCE ORLANDO HOTEL-AIRPORT

5445 Forbes Place, Orlando 32812

Just north of the Orlando International Airport off SR 436/Seminole Blvd.

(407) 240-1000 Toll Free : 1-800-545-1985 Fax (407) 240-3602

www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mcora Group code: Inobroa

24 hour Airport Shuttle Service

Friday

8:00-9:00 Dessert Social

9:00-10:00 Plant sales

Open to Conference Registrants Only

Saturday

9:00-6:00 Plant Sales, Seminars, Raffles,

Silent Auctions, Saturday Evening Banquet

Followed by Rare Plant Auction

Sunday Morning

9:00-12:00 Home bus tours

PULL OUT YOUR
BEST PINEAPPLE SHIRTS
an award will be given

Extravaganza Rate \$109.00 per room.
Be sure to ask for rooms for Bromeliad CF
Group rates available until
October 14, 2009

REGISTRATION: \$60 for Reception, Banquet and *Early plants sales.*
\$50 for Saturday Sales and Banquet.

Checks payable to: BSCF.

Send to: Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Any questions please contact:

P.O. Box 536961 Orlando FL 32853-6961

Joanne or Rick Rector (407) 886-8441 or rector@cfllr.com

Name/s _____ Email _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Society _____

Each entrée will be served with Tossed garden salad with choice of dressing.

Chef's selection of starch, vegetables and dessert, Rolls and butter,

Coffee/tea service, iced tea/water

Please list any diet concerns

_____ 1) Citrus Chicken with a Cilantro, Pineapple & Cucumber Salsa

_____ 2) Rum-Glazed Pork Loin with Mango Chutney

_____ 3) Penne Pasta with Seasonal Vegetables and Marinara

Total Number Dinners _____ Total amount enclosed _____

Officers for 2009-2010

President: Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 bromeliadsociety@juno.com
Vice Pres.: Ed Konczeski 813-871-3449 josetteanded@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Paula Benway 813-985-3584 paulabenway@aol.com
Secretary: Verna Dickey 813-685-1055 vernaled@verizon.net
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
Eileen Hart 813-920-2987
Kathleen Ledbetter 813-228-0690 tedkathled@aol.com
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

**BGTB will be participating in the October 10 & 11
USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Festival
Saturday 10 am-4 p.m. Sunday 10 am-3 p.m.**



*Bromeliads at the
Sarasota Garden Club*

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

