

# Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



September, 2008



## President's Message

What a great weekend we all enjoyed at the Sheraton. Because of all of you who pitched in and helped, we were able to pull off one of the best Extravanzas ever. It's an honor to be a member of such a hard working enthusiastic group of people. Everything went smooth from the Friday reception to the Sunday morning bus tours. The weather was beautiful with a balmy breeze blowing from the bay which was so out of character for our usual hot, high humidity that causes you to sweat! A big "thank you" to all of you who worked to make this memorable event a success.

The Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., has redone the floors at our meeting place so we have been asked to observe the following:

- (1) Do not drag the tables and chairs across the floor. Lift them up and carry them.
- (2) All bromeliads for sales, show & tell, and raffle must be clean and their pots must be clean. Wash off the plant, wash the pot and dry it.
- (3) Root bare plants – all of the dirt must be washed off the root system. Do not bring in loose plants, bare roots that have not had the dirt washed off them, or in paper bags that can break and make a mess.
- (4) All plants must be free of scale and any other diseases.



- (5) Please label with the correct name if possible. If you don't know the name, bring a blank tag with you and we'll have someone ID it for you and you can add the name to the tag.

Our upcoming speakers are Michael & Karen Andreas with a live presentation (they will be online during the program) on the internet. They will teach "you" how to surf the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Website (FCBS.org) and give you much information that you did not know about the website. They are entertaining and fun as well.

Other upcoming speakers are Bruce Holst from Marie Selby Botanical Gardens for October and Dr. Terri Bert for November and then our Christmas Party/Auction early in December followed by George Aldrich at the January 2009 meeting.

Again, our thanks to all you volunteers – it was your Extravaganza – You made it a success and I thank each one of you that made the sacrifices to serve.

Looking forward to seeing you at an exciting meeting in September.

Tom Wolfe  
President

## **Minutes from August 18**

President Tom Wolfe welcomed visitors and new members.

Minutes were accepted as published in newsletter.

Treasurer's Report was given by Paula Benway.

Dave Johnston presented a workshop on the importance of the right soil for bromeliads. He recommended "Faford" soil available at "Southern Agricultural Products" in Palmetto.

Committee reports were presented for the Extravaganza.

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

Australian Books \$20.00, October 10-12.

Announcements: Earl Conner passed away as well as Jerry Griffin. Jim Stewart has been diagnosed with cancer and will have surgery. Don Nores is in very bad health and Helen is not doing well.

Show and Tell: Verna Dickey, Tom Wolfe, and Eileen Kahl

Motion to conclude business meeting.

Break for refreshments

Program: Jay Thurrott

Raffle

Respectfully Submitted,

Beverly Sisco, Secretary



# Bromeliad Extravaganza 2008



Registration with a Smile



Dave's Bromeliad Tree



Dave and his Entrance Centerpiece



Reception



Reception Conversation



Dave Makes a Sale



Jason with a Customer



Three Check-out Tables



Raffle





Seminar Speaker -  
Carole Richtmyer



Harry Luther & Dennis  
Cathcart waiting to Speak



Extravaganza Banquet



Silent Auction?



Who'll give me 50?



There's a bid.



Sunday Morning Bus Tour



Tropical Paradise



Rhoda's Peaceful Garden



## Tips for wise watering . . .

We can conserve the use of our time and water by being a little more observant of the plants' needs. Since the plants take water in through the leaves as well as the cup and roots, frequent spraying with water could defer the need to water thoroughly. If we are lucky, some of the thorough watering needs can be met with rainfall. I have been spraying in the mornings when I have time and the plants seem to like it, especially the small neos which have little holding capacity in their small cups.

As I mentioned, we need to be more observant to be sure that this procedure is working. Some of the Terrestrials, such as *Cryptanthus*, may need more frequent thorough watering than the other genera. *Cryptanthus* feeder roots are more fragile and do not like to become dry.

If you are growing indoors you need to mist the plant about twice a week in addition to your watering in order to prevent drying of the leaves by the low humidity.

Generally, plants that are equipped with a cup should not be allowed to become empty. This is not critical but when it happens any salts in the water used and any fertilizer that may be in the cup will become concentrated and could damage the center of the plant. You will also lose the lower leaves much faster when the plant is dry. Some plants prefer to grow wetter than others. This applies to most terrestrials and *Guzmanias*. Experience in growing in your medium and environment will help you recognize these specific needs.

Bromeliads are like most other plants in that they will tell you when they become stressed from being too dry. Leaves will begin to curl and the plant will become dehydrated and look sick. You can correct this condition if you catch it quick enough but it will take some TLC. You can take your dehydrated *Tillandsias* and immerse them in a bucket or tub of water and let them stay there for several hours. Set terrestrials such as *Cryptanthus*, *Dyckias* and *Hechtias* in a container of water and allow the medium to remain saturated for a few days. (This is my normal watering procedure for these plants when they are in individual pots. It is difficult and sometimes impossible to water well from the top when the plant has clumped).

Dehydrated plants whose leaves form cups will normally require special attention from both the bottom and the top of the plant. First, pour water in the top of the cup. You may need to pour water in several times. You can also assist the water flow by placing your hands around the base of the plant and squeezing it a few times. If the center leaves have quilled (stuck together) extra steps will be required. After pouring water in the restricted cup, let it set for awhile then try opening the leaves by sticking your finger down through the center. Don't force too hard or you will split the leaf. When difficult, try putting in a drop of detergent. Usually, plants in this condition will take up water faster than normal and you will need to water more frequently for awhile. The roots also need to be saturated by either continuous wetting from the top of the pot or by setting it in a container of water.



Even though the odds are pretty good for saving the plant's life it is better to avoid long periods of stress. These can cause permanent cultural damage to the leaf structure. Providing our plants increased water requirements during our hot summers is very important. I am going to try the frequent spraying for awhile to see if it is effective and more efficient. You may want to try it.

*From article by Odean Head, Bromeliad Society/Houston Bulletin, Vol 41 No 7, July, 2008*

## **September 15 Program**

This month we will be privileged to have Michael and Karen Andreas from Merritt Island, Florida as our speakers. As most of you know, Michael is the Webmaster for the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website, FCBS.org. He created the world-renowned website and continues to upgrade and maintain it. Karen, his wife, is Michael's capable assistant and helps to monitor the site, maintain, and upload pictures and information.

Karen is the Newsletter editor for the FCBS and is doing a remarkable job. She is also involved in her home society and has worked on such special projects as the Evil Weevil and fine tuning of the Extravaganza Guidelines. They are known the world over for their work with the website having received many awards and recognition for their work.

Michael and Karen will be showing us how to use the FCBS website and will have a live on-screen program. This will be a great opportunity to learn and see all that our website has to offer.

## **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.

*September birthdays:* George Aldrich, Verna Dickey, Ed Konczeski, Kay Miller, Beverly Sisco, Walter Stahl



## **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)



## 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)  
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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!

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