

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



November, 2008



President's Message

Thanks to Harriet Gord and Bruce Holst we had a great October meeting.

Harriet presented an informative workshop on “Earthworm Trivia”. This included how to get started on earthworm production, how they benefit plants and the environment and what species are best for fishing. A big thanks for a job well done.

Bruce Holst presented a program on plant habitats in the gold mine area of Venezuela. His program was like a documentary from National Geographic. He did a great job showing us what some of the explored and unexplored areas of Venezuela look like and what plant life you can expect to see. It was an excellent program.

We are blessed to have Dr. Terrie Bert, a research scientist for the Florida Marine Research Institute, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as our speaker this month. She developed and led the Commission's crustacean research and genetics program for 20 years and is the world's foremost expert in this area. We look forward each year to having Terrie speak to us. Please be sure to come and welcome Terrie as she presents a new, fresh, and exciting program. More details about her program can be found in this newsletter.

We recently had speakers that told me they received the most compliments for their programs when they are given at our club meetings. They are impressed with our friendly group and the warmth with which you welcome them. You have been generous in your compliments to the speakers and they are impressed with the way our club members appreciate them. Our speakers spend hours preparing their programs, drive many miles to get here, literally spend hours in traffic, and arrive

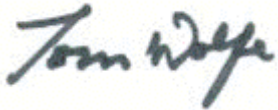


home at midnight or they spend the night away from home in order to give us their programs. I am very proud of each of you for extending Tampa hospitality to them.

The Christmas Party is Monday, December 8th. Doors will open at 6:00 PM. There will be a plant exchange, a gift plant for all who attend, a rare plant auction, and of course, plenty of food. Please bring some nice plants for the auction. If we make a sufficient amount of money this will prevent us from having to increase our yearly dues. You have been most generous in the past and we have not raised the dues in many years.

The Florida State Fair will follow close after the Holidays and will be held February 5 to the 16th. Ed Konczeski is in charge of design and set-up so if you are asked to help, please be willing to do so. The set up will be Saturday morning, January 31, 2009 around 10:00 a.m. until finished. Many plants and helping hands will be needed so just show up with bromeliads, driftwood, or anything we might use in the display. If we don't need them, you can take them home with you. We should bring our best blooming plants to share with the hundred of thousands of people that will be coming through the Fair. We also will be competing for a prize for our display and we hope to win first place with Ed in charge.

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting and invite a friend, neighbor or co-worker to come with you.



President

Do you know . . .

why Latin is used as the language for naming plants when this language is no longer spoken? Latin was the internationally accepted language when the first printed books were circulated. By the 18th century, plant descriptions were short descriptions in



November Workshop

“Worm Tea”

Presented by Harriet Gord

We are delighted to have Harriet Gord returning again and presenting a follow-up workshop entitled, “Worm Tea”. This should be interesting to say the least! She is knowledgeable, entertaining, and you will gain much knowledge from her!

November Program

“Growing the Jewels of the New World”

Presented by Dr. Theresa (Terrie) Bert

**Research Scientist for the Florida Marine Research Institute,
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**



In this presentation, I talk about the types of plants in eight commonly grown bromeliad genera (Aechmea, Billbergia, Cryptanthus, Dyckia, Guzmania, Neoregelia, Tillandsia, and Vriesea). For each genus, I review their natural distributions and habitats and growing conditions. Then I describe how they can be grown outdoors, give tips on their propagation, and provide information on how to deal with common bromeliad pests.

Dr. Theresa ((Terrie) Bert

Dr. Terrie Bert is a longstanding member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society (SBS) and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and has held multiple offices in the SBS. She also served the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) as a representative and officer for eight years. For the Bromeliad Society International, she has been a Florida Director and Nominations Committee Chair and she currently is Affiliate Programs Committee Chair, Librarian, and internationally accredited Master Judge. She's given over 60 presentations on bromeliads to numerous Florida bromeliad societies and other groups and has authored 12 articles for the BSI Journal and the FCBS website and newsletter. She cultivates approximately 1,200 different bromeliads in 24 genera. She's won multiple top awards in local bromeliad shows and BSI world conferences and is a volunteer for and contributor to the BSI Bromeliad Identification Center.



Minutes from October 20 Meeting

President Tom Wolfe called meeting to order and welcomed visitors.

The minutes were accepted as published in the newsletter.

Harriet Gord presented a workshop on worm culture for the garden and its usefulness in the soil and to plants.

Program: Bruce Holst gave a very interesting slide presentation on "Exploring for Botanical Gold in the Lost World of Venezuela."

Break for refreshments.

Door prize was won by Beverly Sisco. Birthday plant was won by Barret Bassick.

Plants were given to the remaining people that helped with the extravaganza.

USF sale sold over \$1,000 worth of plants.

Tom Wolfe announced that we now have the weevil in our area and flies are being released to control them. The plants can also be sprayed.

BSI Membership: All officers should be members of BSI.

Eileen Hart spoke about the last amendment on our ballot and encouraged us to vote YES.

Show 'n Tell: Barret, Lyla and Tom showed plants.

Lyla requested a new updated roster.

Extravaganza shirts are still available.

Meeting adjourned.

Raffle.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Sisco, Secretary

Do you have a Fire Ant problem?



If you're looking for an environmentally friendly cure for fire ants, you may wish to try this. Simply pour two cups of club soda (carbonated water) directly in the center of a fire ant mound. The carbon dioxide in the water is heavier than air and displaces the oxygen which suffocates the queen and the other ants. The whole colony will be dead within about two days. Here's the good side: club soda leaves no poisonous residue, doesn't contaminate the ground water, and doesn't indiscriminately kill other insects. Moreover, it isn't harmful to your pets and soaks in ground. Each mound must be treated individually. A one-liter bottle of club soda will kill 2 to 3 mounds.

From article in Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Society Newsletter

According to Tom Wolfe, there is also a chemical called Bifenthrin which is about \$75.00 per gallon, but works very well.



Meeting Snapshots, October 20



Dave & Steve admiring the Purple Star



Harriet's Workshop on Vermiculture



Please pass the worms.



Harriet's Raffle Gift



Show & Tell with Barret



Show & Tell with Lyla



Refreshment Time



Our Speaker, Bruce Holst



Q & A with Bruce Holst



Other News

Our sympathy to Lois Conner in the loss of Earl. Earl was a faithful, hardworking member for many years. In addition to building us our library at cost for the materials, he also made the cabinets for our nametag boards. We all loved Earl and will miss his longtime support of the club and his friendly face at our monthly meetings.

Our sympathy to Tom & Carol Wolfe in the death of Carol's father in North Carolina.

Our sympathy to Verna Dickey in the death of her uncle in Pennsylvania.

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 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.

November Birthdays: Marilyn Byram, Bill Carr, Eileen Kahl, Bob Teems



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 2008-2009

President: Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 bromeliadsociety@juno.com
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Jim Stewart 813-281-0213 jimstewart@tampabay.rr.com
Bob Teems 813-855-0938 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: Eileen Kahl
Publicity: Bob Teems
Programs: Tom Wolfe
Sunshine: Eileen Prins
Photographers: Jim Stewart and Kelly Fowler



Bromeliads at Sunken Gardens

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





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**