

# Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



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

November, 2014



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There were 19 of us hitting the trail Saturday morning via DynamicTours at 8:00 AM. The bus was very comfortable and the driver was top notch. Our first stop was Harry P. Lew Gardens in Orlando on beautiful Lake Rowena. The Harry P. Leu Gardens are semi-tropical and tropical gardens in Orlando, Florida, USA. The gardens contain nearly 50 acres of landscaped grounds and lakes, with meandering trails shaded by 200 year-old oaks and forests of camellias, rose gardens, butterfly gardens, vegetable gardens, museum and much more. After a morning at the gardens viewing the many trees and plants with lots of winding walking trails, we had a picnic lunch on the garden patio. Then off to Color Zone Tropicals and then Russell's Bromeliads. There were many plants that went to good homes from the latter two stops. I believe everyone had a good time and enjoyed the fellowship and being saturated with brom exposure. Color Zone Tropicals and Russell's Bromeliads were very accommodating and we appreciate their staying open for us on the weekend. We had some members that didn't want to leave!

The Christmas party is coming up soon, Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 PM. It will be held at our regular meeting place. There are 10 members who offered to decorate one table each.: The Byrams, Ken Stokes, Susan Fuentes and Jeff Donnelly, the Wolfe's, Maria Warner, Dave Johnston, Robert Nelson, Susan Weekes, Rusty Beasley, and Paula Benway. Beverly Sisco will roast a turkey and Robert Nelson will cook a pork roast and the BGTB will provide condiments, drinks, and paper goods for the party. Members are to bring their favorite casserole, salads, desserts and breads. We had a great time last year and this year will be just as much fun!



Be sure to groom a couple of plants to donate to the auction. This is one of the two annual fund raising events that the BGTB holds and this subsidizes our club's treasury and keeps the membership fees low. Also, if you would wish to participate in the plant exchange please bring at least a \$10 retail value plant to exchange.

We have Dr. Terrie Bert as our speaker this month. I know you will want to hear her presentation. She always presents an interesting and fast moving program. Please invite others to come to the meeting to hear Terrie and to our December meeting as well.

See you at the meeting next Monday!

Tom

## **Next Meeting November 17, 2014**

### **Speaker: Terrie Bert, Research Scientist**

Terrie Bert is a research scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. She is a member of both the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and the Sarasota Bromeliad Society, is a director of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) Board, and a BSI internationally accredited judge. She has published six articles in the Journal of the Bromeliad Society International and coauthored with Harry Luther, a website fact sheet for the genus *Aechmea*.

Terrie Bert informative lecture and power point presentation will touch upon genera of the bromeliad world which includes the letter "P" – part 2 of "The Outstanding & Ostentatious and Particularly Picturesque." In this lecture, Terry does a thorough review of *Pitcairnia*, *Portea*, and *Puya* plants.

#### **Review of Previous Terrie Bert Presentation:**

When the lights dimmed, the crowd's uniform silence was followed by Bert's thorough review of *Pitcairnia*, *Portea*, and *Puya* plants. Enhanced by visual graphics received from the ever-faithful Florida Bromeliad Registry photographs, as well as other sources, Bert's power point presentation danced with visuals accompanying her scientifically delivered presentation (Bert holds a Ph.D. in biology from Yale).

Interesting facts from the lecture include the following.

*Pitcairnia*. Eponomynously delivered in honor of Dr. William Pitcairn [1711-1791]. Has a whopping 336 species – second only to *Tillandsia*. Can grow like weeds. Many bloom in red and at Christmas, hence making them the poinsettia of the bromeliad world. Pollination is commonly handled by humming birds. Young foliage can be stiff, and then grow as maturation advances.



Rare versions have white and yellow flowers, and *Pitcairnia stevensonii* wowed the audience with a 30-foot inflorescence, And, the only known non-American (New World) bromeliad is *Pitcairnia feliciani*. *Portea*. Named after Marius Porte. Only has 9 species. Because of the latter fact, all nine were displayed on slides. Many are shy bloomers, thus making them less desirable. Loves inhabiting sand dunes, making them a natural lover of Florida's environment.

*Puya*. A high altitude bromeliad. Has 219 species. Is an elder of the bromeliodeae – what we see as *Portea*, *Aechmea*, *Canistrum*, *Nidularium*, or *Neoregelia* – many others as well. Like pine trees, many grow where other flora will not. Two subgroups: (a) “core *Puya*” of the Andes, and (b) Chilean *Puyas* of the dry desert. The plants vary from large to small, to soft to firm, from delicate to indelicate, and pretty to warlike ugly. One had a 10 meter spike which awed the audience.

## Minutes, October 20, 2014

**The meeting was called to order by President, Tom Wolfe**

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to accept the minutes as written in the newsletter made by Robert Nelson. Seconded by Steve Byram.

**Old Business:** Bus trip on November 8, 8:00 a.m. \$33.00 per head to Dottie Kellogg - nonrefundable.

The Bromeliad show that was scheduled for March has been postponed till next fall.

**Show and Tell:** Plans were shown by Ken Stokes - Mystery Tillandsia, *Nidularium*, Nana “Pink Form”, *Vriesea Sucrei* and Tom Wolfe - *Aechmea Nudicalis*, var. *Cuspidata*.

### **Refreshments and Raffle**

**Program:** Dennis Cathcart of Tropiflora Nursery. “New Explorations and Discoveries in Brazil - Part One.”

Respectfully submitted by Ray Hernandez, Secretary

## Meeting Refreshments

The food table supplies are running a bit low for a few of the items that we use monthly. Please bring small or large dinner plate size paper plates, bowls or paper napkins to the next meeting.





## Meeting Snapshots - October 20, 2014



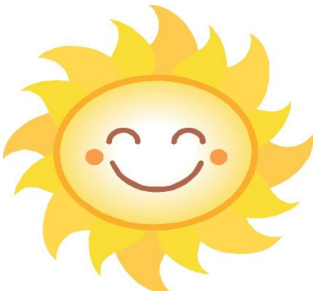
## Field Trip - November 8, 2014



## **Upcoming Events:**

**Holiday Lights in the Garden. Over 750,000 sparkling lights, refreshments gift shop. \$4.00 donation. Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. 5:30-9:30. November 28 - December 31.**

## **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)



***November Birthdays:*** Marilyn Byram, Bill Carr, Marcia Hunter, Eileen Kahl

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 2014-2015**

**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)

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### **Committee Chairs:**

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### **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  
Visitors welcome!

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