

# Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



January, 2009



## President's Message

I would like to wish all of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I hope we can start the New Year with a renewed enthusiasm to make

2009 the best year ever for the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. We have the talent and expertise to do it so let's all pitch in and help one another with renewed vigor.

In previous years when the economy has been slow, statistics show that people become more involved in hobbies, especially plants. This is a great opportunity so let's focus on enjoying our monthly meetings, learning and sharing all we can about bromeliads, and continuing to invite and add new members to our guild monthly. As of January, new members can join for one-half of the yearly membership fee.

Dr. Terrie Bert did a great job in November of explaining the natural distribution and habitats of some of the more common genera and how to deal with growing problems and pests. Thanks, Terrie for a great program.

The December Christmas party was a huge success with an impressive display of food, as usual, on the serving table. Our heartfelt thanks to: Eileen Prins, who prepared a ham; Kay Miller, who arranged all the beautiful Christmas table center pieces and made the great arrangement on the serving table; and Verna Dickey who coordinated all the food, drinks, table set-ups, etc. The auction brought in close to one thousand dollars with Barret Bassick and myself as auctioneers. My thanks to Barret for helping with the auction and to Bob and Paula Benway for doing a great job of keeping up with the prices and handling the monies. I was very pleased with the great display of plants all of you provided.

Our next project is the Florida State Fair. Please give Ed Konczeski your cooperation in setting up which will be either January 31<sup>st</sup> or February 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>. We can decide the exact time and dates at the next meeting. The theme for the fair this year is "Touchdown Tampa Bay" which is in celebration of the Super Bowl to be played in Tampa on Sunday before the State Fair's opening the following Thursday. While the visitors are in town, we want them to stop by the Florida



**BGTB Speaker for  
January 19, 2009  
George Aldrich**

State Fair and see our display. It should be a record number of visitors this year since people tend to stay after the Super Bowl and participate in local attractions and activities. So get your best bromeliads ready to display and share with the public.

Your Board met and decided on a nominating committee. I will present the suggested committee members from the board for your vote of approval. After they are elected, when they ask you to accept a position for the coming year, starting May 1, 2009, please give it your serious consideration.



George Aldrich will be our speaker for the January 19th meeting. George and Irene, his wife, live in Ocala, Florida where they have a bromeliad nursery. They are BSI accredited bromeliad judges and have been growing bromeliads for many years. They specialize in Neoregelias and have entered their prize-winning plants in our shows in recent years.



This month's speaker will be George Aldrich. Please see the following article for more details on this program. Above, courtesy of the FCBS.org website is one of George's show-winning bromeliads. You don't want to miss this program.



See you at the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Wolfe".

*President*

The title of George's program is "The Sights and Sounds of the Chicago World Bromeliad Conference". Since most of you didn't attend this conference, I am sure this will be new and informative information for you. It was one of the best conferences ever and a first for the Chicago Bromeliad Society.



## **Minutes from November 17 Meeting**

President Tom Wolfe called meeting to order and welcomed visitors.

Paula Benway gave the Treasurer's report. We have a total of \$13,629. Bob Benway made a motion to bring our CD total assets back to \$10,000. It was seconded and approved.

Eileen Hart suggested using "Bayer" brand spray on shrubs for the weevil.

Harriet Gord presented a workshop on worms, part 2, How to make worm tea to use on your plants.

Ed Konczeski will be in charge of our booth at the state fair. Set up will be January 30.

Verna announced that we still have tote bags and Extravaganza shirts for sale.

Tom asked that we bring 3 or 4 plants for the auction and also bring an exchange plant.

Bob Teems won the birthday plant and Paula Benway won the door prize.

Show 'n' Tell: Dave Johnston, Barret Bassick, Verna Dickey, and Lyla Shepard showed plants.

Break for refreshments.

Program: Dr. Terri Burke presented a video on common bromeliads for our gardens. She suggested spraying with "Sevin" 3 or 4 times for the weevil.

Meeting adjourned.

Raffle.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Sisco, Secretary

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### **FROST CLOTH FOR SALE:**

15' WIDE WILL SELL FOR \$1.20 LENIAL FOOT. CALL ME PRIOR TO THE MEETING AS I WILL NEED TO CUT IT TO THE SIZE YOU WANT.  
TOM WOLFE (813) 961-1475



# Snapshots: November 17 Meeting & Christmas Dinner & Auction



What is this?



Harriet's Workshop  
on Worm Tea



Tea Time



Treasurer's Report



October Speaker,  
Theresa Bert



Time to Eat



Verna Dickey, Distinguished  
Service Award, 2007



Paula Benway, Distinguished  
Service Award, 2008



Who'll give me \$10?



## **After-the-Cold-Care**

By Karen Andreas

*From the "Orlandiana" January 2006*

**We've had our first round of seriously cold weather so now is a good time to talk about after-the-cold-care for bromeliads.**

**If you covered your bromeliads in freeze cloth, you can leave the cloth on for as long as is necessary. The bromeliads will still get air and light and moisture; the fabric of the freeze cloth will not damage any foliage. If you cover with plastic, make sure that the plastic does not touch any foliage as that can cause burn. As soon as the cold has passed, remove the plastic so your bromeliads do not bake.**

**You may notice foliage damage; it may be apparent immediately or it may take some time to show up. The leaves may look burned or very dry. Do not trim away any of the damage – it may help to insulate the leaf from further damage in the next cold snap. It will be some time before you know if your bromeliads have survived. Even if they are burned, in all likelihood, by spring you will have pups popping up.**

**One phenomenon we have noticed in our yard: after a cold snap, we noticed that the centers of almost every *Ae. blanchetiana* appeared to have detached from the plant. We left them alone and by spring, the centers had reattached and new growth was coming up. So be patient and don't give up on bromeliads that appear to be damaged.**

**During the warmer months, we are very aware of our bromeliads' water needs. While it is not necessary to water as often as we do during July and August, the cooler air this time of year can dehydrate bromeliads, especially when conditions are windy. You want to water only when it is a sunny day and the leaves will dry before nightfall. Also, tree leaves can clog up the centers of bromeliads, absorbing water or preventing enough water from being maintained in the cups. An occasional flush with the garden hose can help. (Billbergias and oak leaves are a bad mix. As the oak leaves deteriorate, they will burn through the leaves, so it is especially important to keep Billbergias flushed clean.)**

This time of year, refrain from thinning out bromeliads, removing pups or trimming any over story that provides protection. Be aware especially of the cold spots in your yard and where you need to provide extra protection (such as freeze cloth) from the cold or frost. It's good to stay on top of the weather and know the long-term forecasts for cold systems. During conditions like we just had, where temperatures preceding the cold snap were in the mid-70s and the days were sunny, give your bromeliads a thorough watering.

The ground around them, when wet, will also absorb heat more readily. The bromeliad will be healthy and hydrated and better able to withstand the cold when it comes.

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## 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.

*December Birthdays:* Mary Fulkerson, Harriet Gord, Marylynne Jones, Jim Stewart  
*January Birthdays:* Lyla Shepard, Janet Stoffels, Paul Ward



## 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)  
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: Eileen Kahl  
Publicity: Bob Teems  
Programs: Tom Wolfe  
Sunshine: Eileen Prins  
Photographers: Jim Stewart and Kelly Fowler



*Tillandsia ionantha*  
at Marie Selby Gardens

## 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**