

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

January 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JANUARY, 2020



Congratulations to Steve and Marilyn Byram for receiving the 2019 BGTB outstanding service award.

Thanks to Dave Johnston for heading up the December auction which brought in \$758.00 for our general fund. Our thanks to all who donated plants and to those who purchased the plants in the auction. Also, thanks for all who brought in the delicious food for our banquet. You're a great group to work with.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THESE UPDATES:

January meeting will be the 4th Monday, January 27 at 7 PM

February will be the 4th Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7 PM

April meeting will be Monday, April 13, 2020 at 7 PM

The church is closed on the 3rd Monday of January and February due to the holidays falling on Monday, so our meeting had to be moved to the 4th Monday and the April meeting is changed due to a carnival at our regular date.

Our meeting time is now 7:00 PM beginning with the January meeting so please pass the word to our membership that it is a week later and a half hour earlier than last year's meetings. We will resume the 3rd Monday meeting in March, 2nd Monday in April and the rest of the year will be the 3rd Monday. I know that this is **challenging** but go to your phone or calendar and save the dates now! **We can do it!**

Next Event: **Florida State Fair Display** to be installed **Monday, February 3, 2020 at 7:00 PM**. We will meet at the Family Living Building. Use the Orient Road entrance to get to the building. The fair pays our club for having a display so we want to make it look good. Any nice plants you have that we can use, blooming or non-blooming, would be appreciated. We will need all the help we can get to set up the display and for volunteers during the **fair which begin February 6 and ends on February 17, 2020**. We ask that you sign up to volunteer for a few hours and the Fair will give us entrance tickets to enjoy the rest of the day. We will have a sign up sheet at the January meeting with the times and dates, so please decide what dates are best for you and sign up at the next meeting.



I will be speaking this month on Florida Natives at our January meeting. On February 24th, Dennis Cathcart of Tropiflora in Sarasota will be our speaker. Dennis is a collector, traveling all over the world in pursuit of collecting bromeliads for almost fifty years, he is a world renowned speaker, writer and his life has revolved around building his well-known nursery, Tropiflora. He and his wife, Linda have made over one hundred trips to twenty five countries collecting bromeliads. Pass the word now that he will be our February speaker and invite your friends, relatives and neighbors to come hear Dennis.

He will be followed in March by Teresa Eddy of Orlando. If you missed Teresa Eddy's great presentation at the 2019 Extravaganza, you have another chance to see her in action! Teresa is a florist that likes to stress that arrangements can be fun and easy using plant material that is available "in your backyard" or your neighbors.

April 10 to the 12th is the USF Plant Sale which will be Easter weekend. If you would like to sell plants see Dave Johnston for a sales number. Plants must be well groomed and free of diseases and priced in even dollars. The USF Botanical Gardens is planning an Easter egg hunt and some special events for families.

Jay Thurrott, Past President of the BSI will be our guest speaker in May. Jay has excellent programs and has given the Guild many programs for a number of years.

June 15th will be our annual picnic and auction this year instead of May. The World Bromeliad Conference will be held June 10-13 at the Hyatt Regency in Sarasota and several of our members are already signed up to attend. We hope that many of you will take advantage of the opportunity to attend.

July 20th our guest speaker will be Ray Lemieux of Tropiflora and the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and he will be bringing us one of his great programs.

September 21st will be Steve Littlefield, a great artist who will be sharing his artistic program, Bromeliad Images.

And to top the year off, November 16th will be the popular guest speaker, Dr. Terrie Bert, always a favorite with our club.

We still have a few slots to fill and we are waiting on some responses from a few others. It will be an exciting year for us as we learn together and enjoy fellowship in our club!

Happy New Year and see you at the January meeting.

Tom Wolfe, President

JANUARY 27 SPEAKER: TOM WOLFE
TOPIC: "Florida Native Bromeliads You Should Know"

This month's program will be a hands-on PowerPoint in-depth discussion on the native bromeliads that are found throughout the State of Florida. There are ten bromeliad species and two natural hybrids. All Florida growers should be knowledgeable about the state's natives.

Our meetings are open to the public and please invite your friends neighbors and relatives. They will receive a free newsletter for three months after their first visit and we hope they will join within that time period.

Tom Wolfe was born and raised in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and attended St. Pete Jr. College and Penn State. In 1955 he joined the U. S. Air Force and came to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. He served as an MP in Okinawa and North Africa. After service, he became a deputy sheriff in Hillsborough County and later worked as a chemist for the Jim Walter Research Corporation.

While looking for landscaping plants for his new home in 1964, he took an interest in bromeliads and to this day that interest has never wavered. Right away, he met members of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay and joined the Guild which was meeting in members' homes so he could learn more about bromeliads.

He became President of the Guild in 1969 and after serving twelve terms, he quit counting and he has been elected again as the 2020 President of the Guild. Tom became a BSI Accredited Judge in 1982 and is now a BSI Master Judge. He has enjoyed judging shows throughout the United States making and renewing friendships along the way. He has served on the FCBS as a representative and Officer for many years and his wife, Carol has served as the editor of the FCBS Newsletter for the last five years.

He was Chairman of the successful 1992 World Bromeliad Conference with 570 people in attendance. Tom served on the BSI Board from 1991 to 2005. Six of those years, he served as President of the BSI. He and his wife, Carol, were made Lifetime Members of the BGTB in 2004 for their years of tireless work with the Guild. Carol served two terms as President and eight years as Newsletter editor as well as many other positions with the Guild.

Tom believes in the importance of the local bromeliad society. He said, "The local club is the beginning point for introduction to bromeliads and is vital to the future of bromeliads. It is in the local club that interest in growing bromeliads is nourished, information is disseminated, bromeliads shows are sponsored, and the enthusiasm for bromeliads is encouraged through monthly meetings."

Tom's interest in the use of bromeliads in landscaping eventually led him to change careers and develop a business specializing in landscaping with an emphasis on bromeliads. He is well known in the Tampa Bay area for beautiful landscaping and specialty landscaped bromeliad beds. He has 10,000 square feet in greenhouses and 2.5 acres in Lutz, Florida for growing bromeliads indoors and outdoors.

Tom has developed many programs on bromeliads using a combination of live plants and power point programs giving excellent talks to garden clubs, plant societies and bromeliad societies in Florida and beyond. He has been promoting bromeliads for over fifty years through bromeliad organizations: Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay (BGTB), the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) and the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) and he hopes that the work, effort, and the investment of time and energy will make a difference in future generations being able to enjoy bromeliads.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BGTB

President - Tom Wolfe
 Vice President - Steve Byram
 Secretary - Marcia Hunter
 Treasurer - Rick Hunter
 Newsletter Editor - Marilyn Byram
 Directors - Verna Dickey, Mark Victor, and Carol Wolfe

Meeting Place: 7:00 PM Christ the King Catholic Church, 821 S. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa, FL 33609
McLoughlin Center, Room C except February and May Meeting will be in the Mary Martha Bldg. 2nd Floor

BGTB 2020 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS & EVENTS

Meeting Day	Month	Speaker	Location of Event
27	JANUARY (date changed due to holiday on regular meeting date)	BGTB Meeting: Tom Wolfe Florida Native Bromeliads	Building C
3	February	Florida State Fair Display to be installed Monday, February 3, 7 PM	Meet at the Family Life Building Bring blooming bromeliads Free Tickets to the Fair
6-17	February State fair begins February 6 and ends February 17, 2020	Florida State Fair At Fairgrounds	We need members to volunteer a couple of hours to give information on the club
24	FEBRUARY (date changed due to holiday on regular meeting date)	BGTB Meeting: Dennis Cathcart	Meet Mary Martha Bldg 2nd Floor
16	MARCH	BGTB Meeting: Teresa Eddy	Building C
11-12	APRIL (Easter weekend)	USF Plant Sale	USF Botanical Gardens
13	APRIL	BGTB Meeting	Building C
18	MAY	BGTB Meeting: Jay Thurrott	Meet Mary Martha Bldg 2nd Floor
10-13	June	WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE	Hyatt Regency Sarasota, Florida
15	JUNE	BGTB Meeting: PICNIC AND AUCTION	Building C
20	JULY	BGTB Meeting: Ray Lemieux	Building C
17	AUGUST	BGTB Meeting	Building C
21	SEPTEMBER	BGTB Meeting: Steve Littlefield	Building C
10-11	OCTOBER	USF SALE	USF Botanical Gardens
19	OCTOBER	BGTB Meeting	Building C
16	NOVEMBER	BGTB Meeting: Terrie Bert	Building C
21	DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS PARTY	Building C

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Minutes of Meeting November 18, 2019

President Steve Byram welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Program: Program was presented by Dr. Terrie Bert. Sun, "Sand, and Sea: Bromeliads that Rise to the Occasion". Dr. Bert gave a very good slide show presentation of many bromeliads that can thrive in Florida. She showed many of the bromelias that can tolerate our sunlight and drought conditions during certain periods of the year. She also gave suggestions of how they can be used in the landscape.

Show 'n' Tell: Plants were shown by Robert Nelson - Tillandsia Antonio, and Tom Wolfe - Tillandsia simulata, Tillandsia capitata Mexican Red form, Aechmea pubescens, x cannea, Tillandsia duratii, Tillandsia fasciculata

Break for Refreshments

Business Meeting Called to order by Steve Byram

Secretary's Report. Motion to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter made by Tom Wolfe. Seconded by Paula Benway.

Treasurer's Report by Rick Hunter. The report will be filed for audit.

Old Business: Election of Officers. The following were elected at officers and directors for 2020: President - Tom Wolfe, Vice President - Steve Byram, Secretary - Marcia Hunter, Treasurer - Rick Hunter, Newsletter Editor - Marilyn Byram, Directors - Verna Dickey, Mark Victor, Carol Wolfe

New Business: The Christmas party will be an auction fundraiser. A sheet of paper was passed around to the membership so members could sign up for sides of salad, vegetables, or dessert. The club will furnish the meat dish. This year will feature a table centerpiece competition. The winner will win a cash prize of \$25.00. Please let Julie know if you are participating.

Announcements: Our board of directors met recently and made a few changes to our rules. Robert Nelson asked if we could explain some of the changes to our business meeting and for more details.

Brief summary:

1. Starting January, the meeting time will be 7:00 p.m.
2. During Show and Tell, please give the basics so the speaker or workshop participants will have enough time for their presentations. Please limit the workshops to 10 minutes.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Verna Dickey. Seconded by Rick Hunter.

Raffle: The following plants were donated for the raffle/silent auction: Neoregelia Carolinae 'Tricolor' by Steve Byram; Neoregelia 'Royal Cordovan', Neoregelia 'Lila', Neoregelia 'Grace' by Verna Dickey; Billbergia 'Beadleman', Ananas luceda varigata by Robert Nelson; 'Billbergia Hallelujah' by Pam Slagg; Aechmea aquilega varigata by MaryAnn Szeja; Aechmea Ramosa by Mark Victor; Tillandsia ionantha (Guatemalan), Quesnelia undescribed species, Neoregelia chlorosticta by Tom Wolfe

Respectfully submitted by Marcia Hunter

Christmas Party and Auction December 16, 2019

President Steve Byram welcomed all members and thanked members for donated plants for the auction fundraiser.

A delicious potluck supper was enjoyed by members with turkey and pork as the main course. Vegetables, salads, and desserts rounded out to be a great meal.

Members had a contest to decorate the tables with centerpieces. The tables were lovely. Verna Dickey won the competition and was rewarded a \$25.00 cash prize. It was interesting to see the different varieties of arrangements for the tables.

Each member in attendance was given a bromeliad plant provided by the club.

Tom Wolfe presented the Distinguished Service Award for our Bromeliad Guild to Steve and Marilyn Byram. They were honored by their names being engraved on the plaque for 2019. We thank them for their service and appreciate all that they do for our bromeliad club.

Auction Fundraiser: Tom Wolfe, Dave Johnston, and Mike Sweet conducted the auction. It takes a team of members to accomplish the event. Thanks to all members for participating in the fundraiser.

Respectfully submitted by Marcia Hunter



Membership Renewal Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

It's time to renew your BGTB membership. Your membership expired on December 31. Please fill out the application/renewal form in this newsletter and bring it to the next meeting or mail it to Carol Wolfe, 5211 Lake LeClare Rd., Lutz, FL 33558. Only \$25.00 for single membership or \$30.00 for family. What a bargain!

BGTB Christmas Party and Auction December 16, 2019





BROMELIAD GUILD OF TAMPA BAY

Membership Application/Renewal

Memberships: January 1 to December 31 each Year

Please Print

Name _____ Birth Month _____

Second Name _____ Birth Month _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date of Application _____

Please check one:

_____ \$25.00 Single Membership

_____ \$30.00 Family Membership

Make checks payable to BGTB

Submit with application to:

Carol Wolfe

5211 Lake LeClare Rd.

Lutz, Florida 33558

FOR FIRST-TIME MEMBERS: did you hear about BGTB?

___ Friend ___ Newspaper ___ Facebook ___ BGTB Website ___ Plant Festival or Show

___ Other (Please specify) _____

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Inc.

Established 1963

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month.

Plant sales at 7:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Christ the King Catholic Church, Mary Martha Center, Rooms 201-202

821 S. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa

Informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, door prizes, raffle & refreshments

BGTB is affiliated with Bromeliad Society International, The Cryptanthus Society, Inc., Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc., and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL.



Refreshments for the January meeting will be provided by Julie Lessard, Jose Rosado, Pam Slagg, and MaryAnn Szeja



January Birthdays: Happy Birthday to Julie Lessard, Jose Rosado, and Pam Slagg



Sunshine Greetings

Please notify Verna Dickey of any illness, surgery, birth of a child, death in the family, or other concerns you or another member may have.
Call 813-685-1055 or email vernald@verizon.net.

Officers for 2020

President: Tom Wolfe 813-391-1542 bromscape@outlook.com

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Flagler Park
West Palm Beach, FL

Bromeliads Online

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/562988247096958/>

Bromeliad Society International— www.bsi.org

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies— www.fcbs.org

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens— www.selby.org

Bromeliads Online - <http://www.bromeliads.co.nz/index.html>

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Inc. was organized in 1963. BGTB is affiliated with the following: Bromeliad Society International, The Cryptanthus Society, 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, McLoughlin Center Room C, 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**