

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

February, 2014

Note: Meeting Date Change

Due to the Presidents Day holiday, our meeting will be one week earlier this month. The meeting is on February 10, 2014.

BGTB PROGRAM: Monday, February 10, 2014

There will be a PANEL OF EXPERTS to answer questions from the audience. Discussed will be growing conditions, potting mixes, size and type of pots, plants in the landscape, fertilizer, shade cloth, frost cloth, insecticides and much more.

Bring your questions and any problem plants.

Tom Wolfe, Program Chair

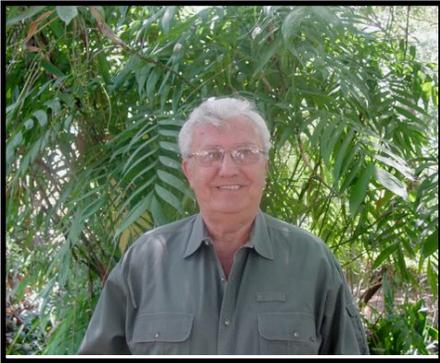


Celebrating Birthdays in February:

Nancy Buckley, Livia Popovich, and Tom Wolfe



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE February 2014



Again, Happy New Year and a reminder that our meeting will be one week earlier in February. In January, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa. From the archives and as part of our history, we would like to remember the 1963 charter members all who are now deceased:

Beryl Allen (world famous for her Round-Robin letters)
Billbergia amoena cv Beryl Allen was named for her.
Francis Allen

Harry & Catherine Cunningham (Known for their Everglades camping & collecting)

Charles Perez

Henry Voler (first newsletter editor)

Merle Watson (husband of Jane Watson who was daughter of Velva Dean [Wuthmann])

Ervin and Velva Wurthmann, Dean's Tropicals

Linnie Yarborough, long time faithful member of BGTB & garden clubs

Each month in 2014 as a remembrance of our 1963 beginning, we are going to go through the club archives and bring you some interesting information about the club beginning with this issue. We hope you will enjoy the history of the club.

Just a reminder that the Florida State Fair is upon us. If you haven't signed up to man our display for a three hour shift, please call Marilyn Byram (813) 949-0503. The week of February 12 through 20th has some vacant slots. The Fair will give us entrance tickets for club members that serve a three hour shift to answer questions about bromeliads and give out information about our club. So sign up and receive a free ticket to the fair and after your shift, enjoy the rest of the day and evening at the fair.

Your board met on January 21, 2014 to discuss plans for this coming year. Some of the things discussed was a possible spring field trip via bus. Several destinations were mentioned but still to be decided. Also, our nominating committee will be presented to you this month for your approval.

Be sure to attend this meeting as 2014 will be an exciting and fun year as we share our love of bromeliads throughout the coming year!

Tom Wolfe
(Interim) President



50th Anniversary of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

For your enjoyment, we will celebrate each month with an article from the archives of the Newsletter. Our first article will be on Velva Dean Wurthmann, one of the charter members and this article and photograph were published in May 1991 upon Velva's death.



IN MEMORIUM VELVA DEAN WURTHMANN 1907-1991

By Tom & Carol Wolfe

Velva was an integral part of the formation of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Inc. when it was chartered in 1964. Besides being a Charter Members, the Wurthmanns hosted the monthly Guild meetings in their home until it began rotating around to other members' homes. When the

membership grew too large for home meetings it became necessary to rent meeting space.

In 1988 at the Guild's traditional Christmas Party, Velva and Ervin were crowned as Queen and King for the Day (see photo). While dressed in their royal robes and enthroned in front of the group, many long time members gave warm and flattering speeches honoring them. Their great contributions to the BGTB were recounted. No matter what the occasion or need, Velva was always number one in hospitality and among the first to volunteer to help with refreshments and other projects.

The dozen red roses given to her at the 1988 Christmas Party was truly a symbol of the Guild Members' love and gratefulness for her contributions.

Velva was the founder of Velva Dean Tropicals. She designed and installed interior plant displays. She had a wide and varied knowledge of many plants and she loved working with them. She was always eager to share her plant knowledge with anyone seeking help.

Velva was a multi-talented lady who especially enjoyed painting. She was especially fond of watercolor and porcelain plate painting. She honored many of the BGTB past presidents by giving them one of her original porcelain painted plates. These special plates are a treasured possession of those who received them and a precious reminder of a great lady.

We will miss Velva's presence and help in carrying out Guild activities.

(Note from Carol: I remember going to look for the costumes and renting them for the Christmas party. Our children were small at the time and loved putting on the robes and crowns and I made pictures of them too. We told the Wurthmann's that they would be honored but they did not know anything about the costumes and crowns they would be wearing. Herb Hill, Tom Wolfe, Mike O'Leary, Carl Perryn, Roland and Jean Schnabel were just a few of the members that honored them with praise for their work. New officers were installed, Mike O'Leary was to lead the club as the new President, and I recall that it was a special Christmas party and a special night for the club members having had warm fuzzies and lots of good food and fun!)



BGTB NEW MEMBER PROFILES

Tom and Sabrina Pride



I am a biologist, originally from Tennessee but have lived in Tampa for close to twenty years. Sabrina is a high-school geometry teacher and grew up in Alabama and Virginia. We've been married six years and enjoy just about anything outdoors, especially kayaking, hiking, and outdoor concerts in the park. Three years ago we bought a house in south Tampa. Along with the house came a bunch of bromeliads in the back yard. We had no idea what they were or how to care for them (some biologist I am, huh?). Sabrina relocated several of them and we discovered they were mostly hardy, very forgiving of our ignorance, and stunningly beautiful in bloom. We have since grown to appreciate them even when they are not in bloom. We were now hooked on bromeliads.

Well everyone in the neighborhood is always friendly, including this pleasant young man named Ray who would occasionally walk by and offer some friendly advice and sometimes a plant or two. Then last summer we met Dave sitting in a vendor stall with his bromeliads in Hyde Park. Dave told us about the Bromeliad Guild. It took us a few months to finally show up, but when we did, there was Dave and Ray. We instantly felt at home and among friends. We have thoroughly enjoyed the meetings and friends we have made thus far and look forward to learning so much about these fascinating plants.



Heather Carr

Thank you all for the warm welcome to the guild, especially Julie whose invitation and encouragement brought me to my first meeting. I thoroughly enjoyed it, so much so that I now drag a couple of my friends Ed and Twyila each month with me. And Bill, who's tour of his garden has inspired me to think outside of the box and expand my own plant collection.

I am a true native Floridian, born and raised in the Tampa Bay area. I am an agriculture teacher (more specifically a vet science teacher) at a local high school. I have always had a great admiration for both animals and plants. But I must admit that my secret shame has always been my brown thumb..... A terrible thing for an Ag teacher to admit. Well.... that is until I started experimenting with bromeliads. I planted a few around the oak tree in my front yard, where I could not get anything else to grow. To my surprise, they have flourished. So now I'm hooked. I am definitely just a beginning gardener but I'm eager to learn. My success with bromeliads has sparked an interest in orchids and African violets.



Minutes, January 13, 2014

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

Visitors: Twila and Hung, Heather

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Paula Benway reported we have \$2720.79 in our checking account plus \$4564.14 in the CD. Total is \$7284.93. The report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports: Julie Lessard gave the membership and visitor's report.

New Business: H.T. Sisco gave a report from the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. The editor is resigning. The council is requesting a report of the number of addresses in each club.

Marilyn Byram presented plans for our State Fair display and asked for volunteers to donate plants and other items needed. She also asked for volunteers to help set up on Mon., Feb. 3 and volunteers to man the booth during the fair - Feb. 6-17.

Birthday Plant won by Julie Lessard

Door Prize Plant won by Dottie Kellogg

Show and Tell: Plants were shown by Tom Wolfe, Ken Stokes, Dottie Kellogg, and Lisa Robinette.

Refreshments and Raffle

Program was presented by Dave Johnston. "Foliage Vriesea"

Respectfully submitted by Steve Byram, Acting Secretary

Upcoming Events:

February 22-23. Plant & Garden Festival. Orchids, bromeliads, succulents, aquatics, natives, edibles, expert advice, garden art, tools, bonsai, ikebana, demos, music, food. Selby Gardens, Sarasota. www.selby.org

March 19-23. American Begonia Society Convention. Tour, plant sale - selling begonias, gesneriads, bromeliads, and orchids, speakers, judged show. Tampa Marriott, 1001 N. Westshore Blvd.. www.begonias.org



Meeting Snapshots - January 13, 2014



Sale Table



Call to Order



Report from FCBS



Ken's Show & Tell



Dottie's Show & Tell



Lisa's Show & Tell



Tom's Show & Tell



Program by Dave Johnston



We Celebrate 50 Years!



MEMBERS ATTENTION:

Please make sure your pots and plants are clean with no dirt on the outside of pots and label with nametags.

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



February Birthdays: Nancy Buckley, Livia Popovich, Tom Wolfe

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 2013-2014

Interim President: Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 BromeliadSociety@juno.com

Vice President: Verna Dickey 813-685-1055 verna1d@verizon.net

Treasurer: Paula Benway 813-985-3584 paulabenway@aol.com

Secretary: Ray Hernandez 813-832-3561 subtropicofcancer@hotmail.com

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Robert Nelson 813-717-9224 CRBackfive@aol.com

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H.T. Sisco 813-968-5726 siscofl1@msn.com

Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 BromeliadSociety@juno.com

Committee Chairs:

Publicity: Bill Carr 813-752-8485 wcarr1@tampabay.rr.com

Show: Verna Dickey 813-685-1055 verna1d@verizon.net

and Paula Benway 813-985-3584 paulabenway@aol.com

Sunshine/Membership: Julie Lessard 813-662-7972 Taxxmaam@tampabay.rr.com

Telephone: Beverly Sisco 813-968-5726 btsgarden@msn.com

Raffle: Shirley Perez 813-920-5595 shirleyp2@yahoo.com

Program: Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 BromeliadSociety@juno.com



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

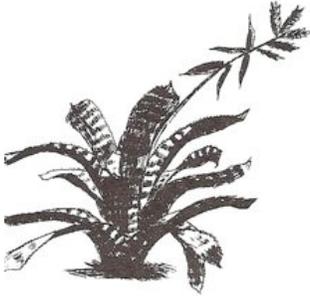
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens— www.selby.org

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

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





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**