

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

April 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Our thanks to Jeanne Manning for our program in March on Artistic Arrangements. She is a very talented designer and made two beautiful arrangements while answering questions from the membership.

We are looking forward to Mike McMahon's program on Tillandsias. Please plan to come as this will be a great program. Mike is the President of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida and does a fantastic job. They have a very successful club and Mike keeps everyone on schedule. Their monthly meetings consist of a spread of food that is similar to a holiday feast, they have auctions going on, monthly plant information, raffles, speakers, and the meeting place is full of enthusiastic members!

It has been awhile since we have had a Tillandsia program and you are invited to bring your blooming Tillandsias to share.

Thanks for the wonderful "meal" we had at the meeting. Mark and Cheryl Victor made a large pot of delicious chili and brought drinks, Diane Harder-Deminico made some great empanadas, Martha Kirby made a delicious chocolate cake and brought drinks and I brought the strawberry shortcake. Thank you for all the delicious food...it was all so good!

Our next event is the USF Annual Spring Sale which will be held April 15, 16 (prior to our meeting on Monday, April 17th) at the USF Botanical Gardens. If you would like to sell bromeliads, contact Tom Wolfe (813) 391-1542 or bromscape@outlook.com and he will give you a sales number and any information about labeling your tags in the plants. The set up will be on Friday, April 14th at 1 PM. The gardens assigned us the time so that there will not be so much congestion with the vehicles in the garden. Marilyn and Steve do a great job of putting up the tent. If you are selling, please bring your plants at that time.



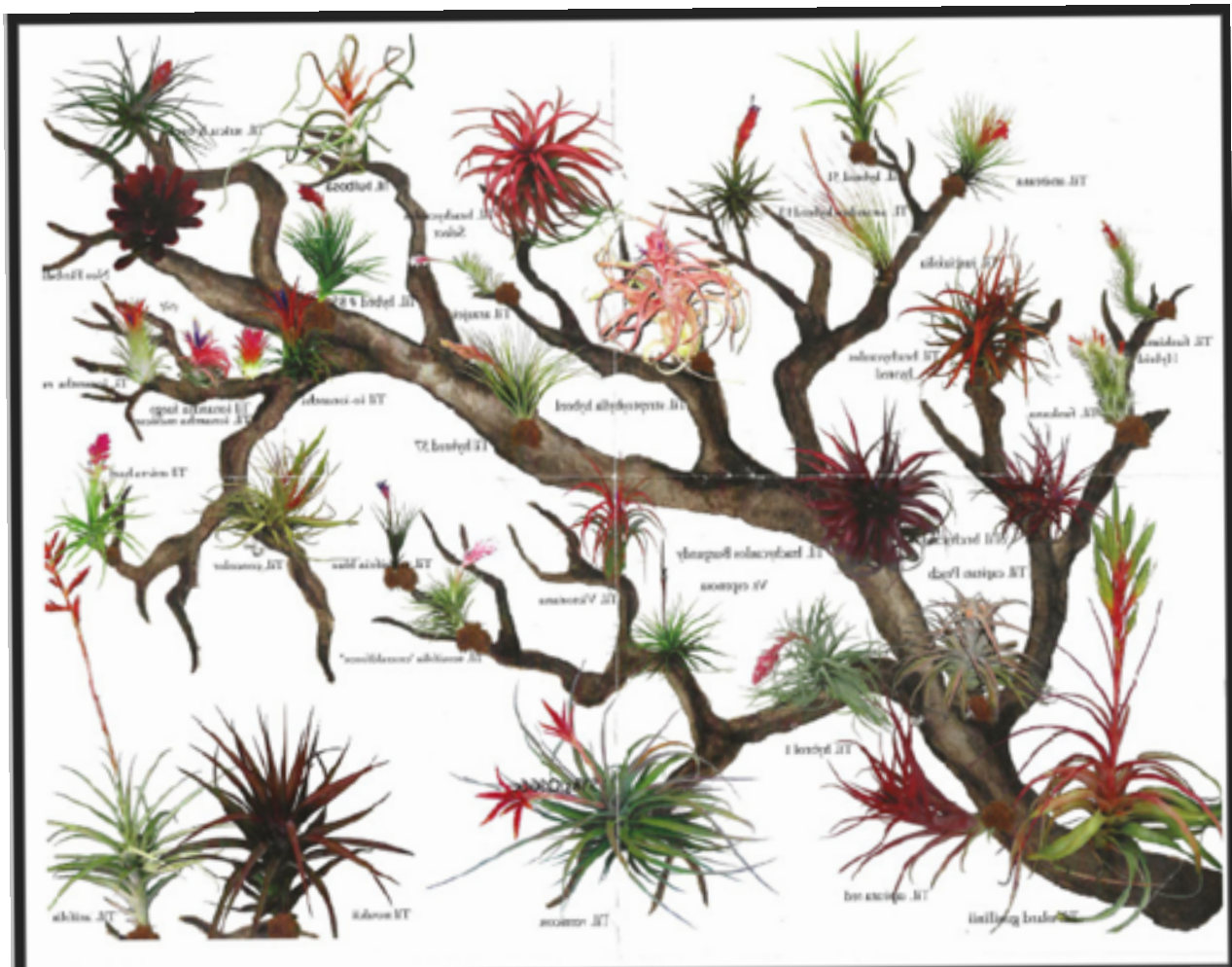
We need workers for the sales. If you can help a few hours, please come and you will also have an opportunity to shop. Tell the admissions at the gate that you are here to help with the club sales and you will be admitted free. If you can help anytime on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, a few hours of your help will be appreciated.

If you would like to join the USF Botanical Gardens the following membership rates apply: \$15 Student; \$25 Individual; \$35 Household; \$100 Patron. A USF garden membership will entitle you to free admission to the Gardens, early admission to the spring and fall plant sales, discount on workshops, admission to other reciprocal gardens, and discounts in the plant shop.

My thanks to everyone who helped clean and put the clubhouse chairs and equipment back in order after the meeting. Carmen, our rep. at the clubhouse, praised us for everything being returned to the original state. All of you deserve a “Big Thank You” and I am so proud of your response to help, and the work was done in about ten minutes.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the sale and the next meeting!

Carol Wolfe

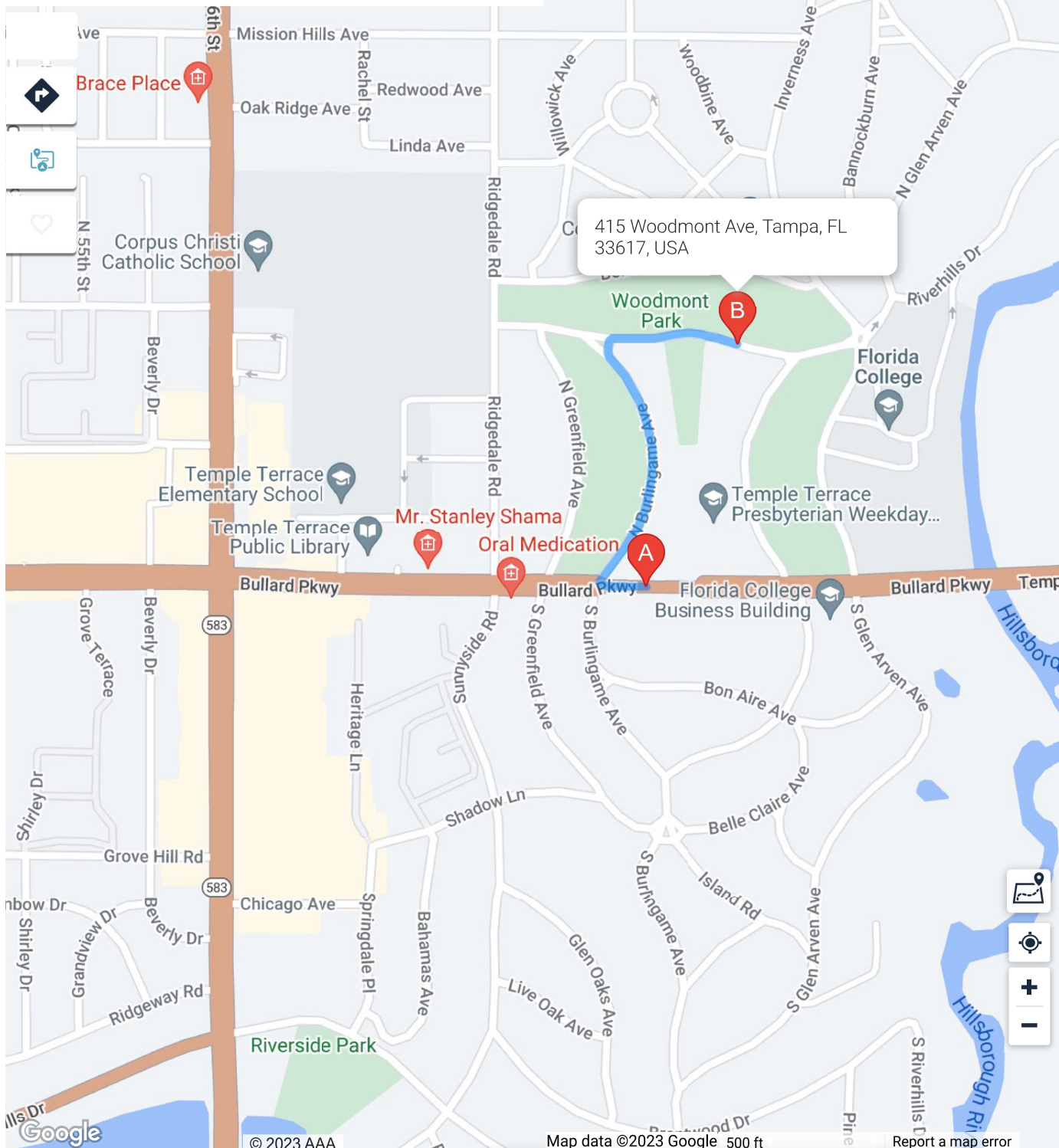


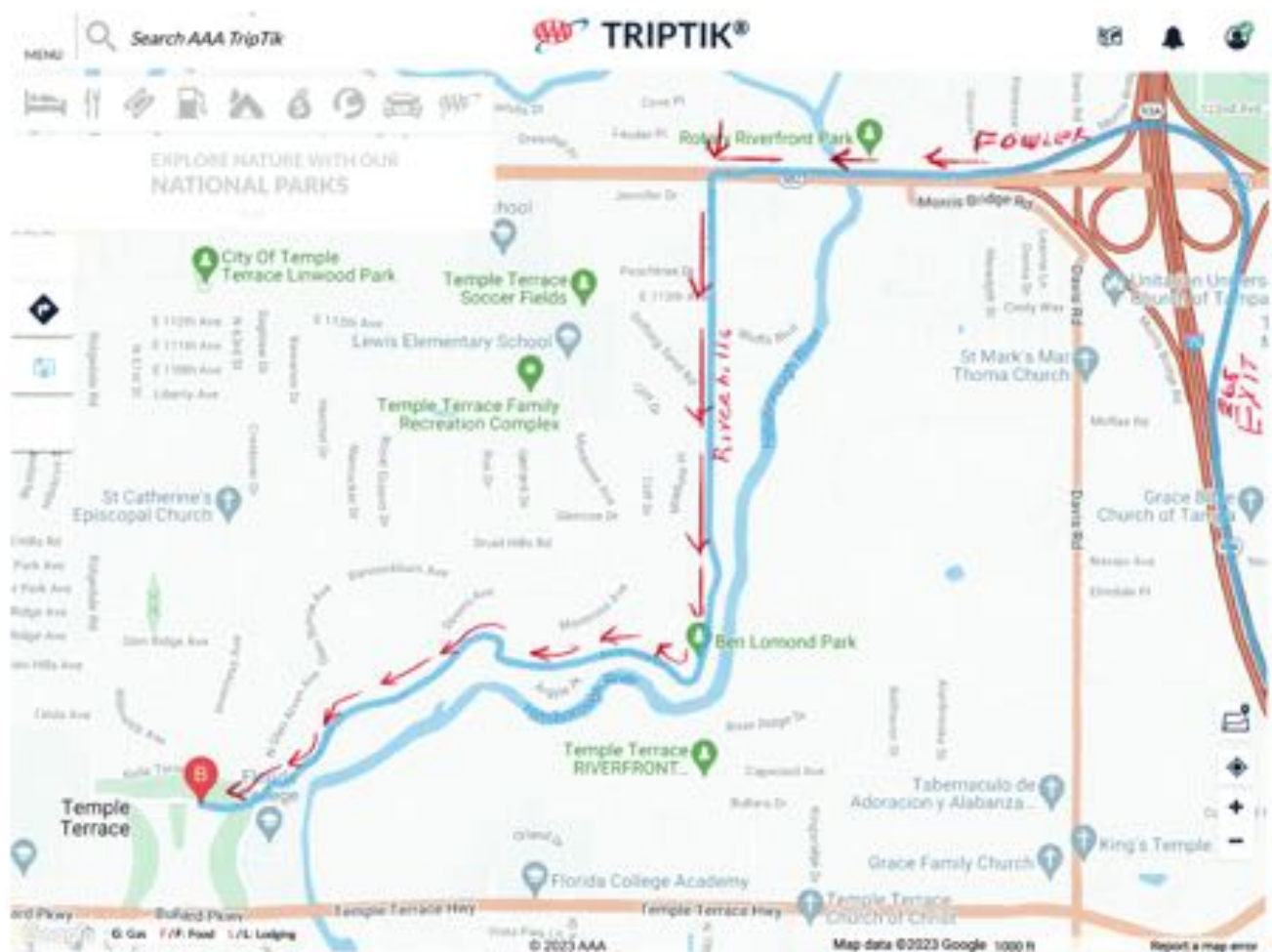
Bromeliad Society of South Florida Newsletter March, 2023



EXPLORE NATURE WITH OUR
NATIONAL PARKS

Default Terrain Satellite





Beginner's Corner

April 17, 2023

Tom Wolfe



Bromeliads are mainly epiphytic plants, yet we have given their root systems a whole new function by growing them in pots. The potting process is merely for the convenience of the grower. However, the plants we grow in pots and potting mix are a far cry from what is collected in their habitats. Using potting mixes and the

proper portion of fertilizers, it is possible to get large, healthy beautiful specimen plants. If you are starting by rooting your offsets (pups) you might try rooting in a pot or flat of moist perlite. I noticed that Neo. fireball will turn green when starting them in potting mix but in a bed of perlite, they never loose their color, providing there is adequate light, of course. A month to six weeks should be long enough to produce roots when starting in perlite. Do not shake all the perlite off the new roots when transferring them to their regular bromeliad mix. The new plants will not loose their color when handled this way.

Perlite is available in ½ cubic bags or 3 cubic feet bags (bag size about 1.5' x 3') at Home Depot. Also, Lowe's has bromeliad mix in one cubic foot bags.

BROMELIAD & TROPICAL PLANT SOCIETY OF TAMPA

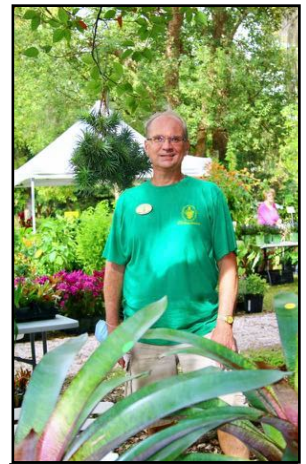
Meeting: Monday, April 17, 2023, 6:45 PM Doors Open / 7:00 Meeting
Woodmont Garden Club, 416 Woodmont Avenue, Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Program Speaker: Mike McMahon

“Tillandsias: When A Bromaholic Runs Out of Space”

The Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa will meet Monday, April 17, 2023 at the Woodmont Garden Club. The program will start at 7:00 PM. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Our speaker, Mike McMahon, first came across bromeliads in 1973 when he was in law school in Philadelphia. A biology professor at the University of Pennsylvania kept a personal collection of Billbergias in a corner of a small greenhouse hidden behind a classroom building. It was not open to the public, but that greenhouse was an escape from Philly's cold, wet and gray winter days. He acquired his first bromeliad in 1975 when he moved to Tallahassee, and has been acquiring them ever since.



Mike McMahon, Esq.

After moving to Orlando in 1977, Mike joined the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida and volunteered to write a monthly article on different bromeliads for the newsletter, which back then was on actual paper, hand assembled into a booklet with color photos hand pasted into each copy mailed to members. He held various positions, including serving as president during the 1980 World Conference. He chaired the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies when it completed publication of its glossy, full-color Grande magazine. Subscribers had been promised four issues, but only two had been published and there was no money for refunds. Getting the third and fourth issues published was Mike's proudest accomplishment with FCBS. Family and career responsibilities grew and it became rare for Mike to attend meetings, but he remained a BSCF member. He became active again in 2015 as he was heading into semi-retirement. He was elected President of BSCF in 2021 and is now serving a second term.

At one point in the 1990s, Mike's collection numbered over a thousand species and hybrids in many genera, much grown outdoors among a wide variety of other plantings. As his garden became increasingly shaded by large oaks, Mike's focus shifted to raising mostly Vrieseas and Guzmanias, and eventually nearly only Vrieseas. After Hurricane Charlie took down several trees in 2004, what had been shade gardens became full sun overnight. Much of the bromeliad collection was lost, except for Vrieseas, some Tillandsias and 'oddballs' kept in a 300-square foot shadehouse. New gardens were established, together with a large koi pond. Mike's bromeliad collection became mostly composed of Vrieseas and about 350 varieties of Tillandsias, with other sorts of bromeliads spotted around the garden. His other horticultural interests include cycads, camellias, begonias and epiphytic ferns. Mike will display some of his prize winning tillandsias at the meeting.

USF: Spring Festival



Saturday/Sunday

April 15/16, 2023

Hours: 10:00 AM to 3 PM

Admission: General: \$5,
Children: \$3, Free with USF ID

Rules: Smoking & vaping
prohibited, Pet friendly
(leashed), Photo friendly

Phone: (813) 974-2329;

Contact Us:

botanicalgardens@usf.edu

Mapping Address: 12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL 33620

Over 40 vendors selling plants and plant-related items. Vendors at this event are commercial growers and local clubs from throughout the state and are expert growers, who are available to field your questions.

USF is the [fastest-rising university](#) in America, according to U.S. News and World Report's (U.S. News) 2023 Best Colleges rankings. Over the past 10 years, USF has jumped a remarkable 52 spots among public universities, from No. 94 to No. 42, and 73 spots among all universities, from No. 170 to No. 97.

The USF Botanical Gardens is part of the College of Arts and Sciences' ECORE (Environmental and Conservation Outreach, Research, and Education) System. The ECORE System brings the Botanical Gardens, the Forest Preserve, and Geopark under one leadership team to better serve faculty, student, and community needs.

The Botanical Gardens consists of 16 acres of gardens and greenbelt on the Tampa campus of USF and maintains a living collection of more than 3,000 plants, animals and natural habitats. The Gardens serve as an important outreach component of the University that attracts thousands of visitors annually. Plant festivals and other events bring enthusiasts from around the state to shop for rare and unusual plants.

The Gardens also support ongoing research and serves as a living classroom for education. Studies in citrus greening, biology, engineering, and many more take place on site in the Research Park and classes from regenerative agriculture to botany are taught on site. There are many opportunities for researchers, teachers, student groups, and community members to get involved.

2023 FCBS Extravaganza

July 28-29, 2023

West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel

1001 Okeechobee Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL

fcbsextravaganza.org

Register by April 30 (\$150)

Many of you have received the save the date card from FCBS. The weekend promises to be a fun one. There is a Friday night BBQ followed by a registrant plant sale from 7:30 to 9:30pm.

On Saturday there are afternoon lectures including what is billed as Chester Skotak's final lecture.

The Saturday night banquet includes a live auction and a silent auction.

On Sunday there is an optional \$25 Garden Tour and Brunch.

Registration is \$150 by April 30, \$175 after May 1.

Rooms at the Marriott are \$139 until June 30. Parking is \$8/day.

You can register online.

Mark your calendars and plan ahead.

OTHER FLORIDA EVENTS

April 14-15, 2023 Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Plant Sale 200 Fairmont Dr. Sanford, FL Hours 8:30—4:00

April 15—16, 2023 USF Botanical Gardens Spring Sale 12210 USF Pine Drive Tampa, FL 33612 2023 Hours: Sat. 10 – 4, Sunday 10 – 4

July 28-29, 2023 FCBS Extravaganza 2023 West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel 1001 Okeechobee Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL fcbsextravaganza.org Register by April 30 (\$150) Plant Sale open to the public July 29th 9 - 4

August 19-20, 2023 Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Plant Sale 200 Fairmont Dr. Sanford, FL Hours 8:30 – 4

October 14—15, 2023 USF Botanical Gardens Fall Sale 12210 USF Pine Drive Tampa, FL 33612 Hours: Sat. 9 – 3, Sunday 10 – 2

May 22—25, 2024 World Bromeliad Conference 2024 West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel 1001 Okeechobee Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa
Minutes of Meeting March 20, 2023

Business Meeting Called to Order by President Carol Wolfe

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

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the minutes from last month's meeting as published in the newsletter made by Verna Dickey, seconded by Tom Wolfe

Old Business: Set up for USF Plant Festival - Friday, April 14 at 1:00. Any member who wants to sell, please see Tom Wolfe

Announcements: This December our club will be celebrating our 60th anniversary. The history of the club was given to everyone. We will be planning a special event for December.

Birthday Plant was won by Robert Nelson.

Show and Tell: Jill Zakaroff shared a Tillandsia and a Neo. that were mounted on interesting pieces of wood that she purchased at a place in Waldo, FL. Kenneth Stokes - two Deuterchonia lorentzonia, Dyckia fragans, Hechtia guatamalensis X with Hechtia macdougallii. Hechtia guatamalensis, Dyckia hebdingii, and an unidentified Dyckia

Meeting to end meeting:made by Robert Nelson, seconded by Rick Hunter

Refreshments

Program: Jeanne Manning presented an interesting program on flower arranging. She designed two arrangements and kindly donated one to our raffle table.

Raffle conducted by Steve Byram

Respectfully submitted, Steve Byram

MEETING SNAPSHOTS, MARCH 20, 2023



Call to Order - Carol Wolfe



Show 'n'Tell - wood-mounted bromeliads - Jill Zakaroff



Show 'n' Tell - Dyckia
Kenneth Stokes



Refreshment Time!



Speaker - Jeanne Manning



Jeanne's Finished Arrangement



Jeanne's Finished Arrangement
donated to Raffle Table



Tom Wolfe Introducing Raffle
Table offerings



Raffle Transaction
Steve Byram and Cheryl Victor

HAVEN'T PAID YOUR DUES YET?

Renew your membership this month to continue receiving your monthly **BTPST Newsletter** and your quarterly **Florida Council Newsletter**. Just fill out the application on the following page and bring it to the next meeting or mail to Rick Hunter.

BROMELIAD & TROPICAL PLANT SOCIETY OF TAMPA

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 BTPST

Submit with application to:

Rick Hunter

2105 Colewood Lane

Dover, FL 33527

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

___ Friend ___ Newspaper ___ Facebook ___ BGTB Website ___ Florida State Fair

___ Plant Festival or Show Other (Please specify) _____

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa

Established 1963 as Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

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

Plant sales at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

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



Refreshments

Refreshments for the April meeting will be provided by Rick and Marcia Hunter and Taira Hoopes.



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 813-244-3637 or email vernadickey@aol.com

Officers for 2023

President: Carol Wolfe 813-376-5251 bromstudio@hotmail.com

Secretary: Steve Byram 813-361-4035 byramsteve@gmail.com

Treasurer: Rick Hunter 813-657-2305 rg.hunter@verizon.net

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Jill Zakaroff 813-689-1899 joatrades.zakaroff@gmail.com

Bromeliads Online

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay www.bromeliadguilddoftampabay.org



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/366210778024864>

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>





The Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa was established in 1963 as the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay. In July, 2022, it expanded its focus to include other tropical plants. BTPST 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.

Where: Woodmont Clubhouse, 415 Woodmont Ave., Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Informative programs, workshops, Show & Tell, plant sales, door prizes, raffle & refreshments
Visitors welcome!

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
BROMELIAD &
TROPICAL PLANT
SOCIETY OF TAMPA
21535 Northwood Dr.
Lutz, Florida 33549**