

# Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



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

August, 2017



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AUGUST 2017

We had a great Extravaganza! Thanks, thanks, thanks, to all of you for your hard work to make it a success!  
Tom for overseeing the event from start (2 years ago) to finish and Carol for all her great publicity.

Paula for opening her house to our committee on many nights, to the public and the newspaper journalists, to the TV crews (at 6am!), to the Extravaganza tour guests, for getting all the plants for the banquet centerpieces, for manning the registration, for reconciling the funds and paying the bills.

Marilyn and Steve for securing ads and making the program, cleaning yards, stuffing bags, security, and photography.

Pamela for registering 160 guests and 50+ tour guests.

Ray for all his time and ideas at the meetings, help in stuffing bags, and vendor set ups.

Verna and Bob for providing a lunch for the vendors and workers and opening their yard to the Extravaganza tour guests.

Eileen and Bob for donating raffle basket items and opening their yard to the Extravaganza tour guests.

Selma, Elle, and Linda for all their hard work begging for donated items and putting together 13 lovely raffle baskets.

John and Kay Miller for the banquet table centerpieces.

Kenneth for providing a program, donating 2 dried flower arrangements, and setting up the beautiful bromeliad display in the lobby.

Thanks to all that donated to the raffle baskets and plants for the table centerpieces.

Thanks to all that brought bags and boxes for the plant sale.

Thanks also to all our workers before, during, and after: Rick and Marcia, Robert, Jill, Beverly, Lois, Lindsey, Dottie, Cheryl and Mark.



**AUGUST PROGRAM - A CELEBRATION OF THE SUCCESSFUL**  
**2017 BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA**

- 1, Extravaganza Report: Paula Benway, Tom Wolfe, Carol Wolfe, Julie Lessard
- 2, Workshop: Tom Wolfe "Growing from Seed"
3. Show & Tell - Bring new bromeliads acquired at the Extravaganza
4. BINGO FOR BROMELIADS: Carol Wolfe will lead in a romping round or



two of BINGO FOR BROMELIADS! Hope you win!

PRIZES: Bromeliads Donated by Bird Rock Tropicals, Pam Koide-Hyatt

- (1)Tillandsia grossispicata
- (1)Tillandsia streptophylla x novakii
- (2)Tillandsia merellana

5. REFRESHMENTS - Everyone please bring finger foods as we celebrate our successful Bromeliad Extravaganza! How about something with Pineapple in it...pineapple dip, pineapple upside down cake, pineapple slices, pineapple salsa, Pineapple casserole, pineapple cheese ball, pineapple chicken, pineapple-carrot cake, pineapple sandwiches...a prize for the best pineapple dish! A vote will be taken after refreshments for the grand prize winner!
6. Raffle
7. Plants for sale
8. Photos of Extravaganza activities on display throughout the evening



**EVERYONE, LET'S PARTY!!**

# BGTB MEETING, JULY 17, 2017



**Pre-meeting Plant Sales**



**Pre-meeting Plant Sales**



**Pre-meeting Conversation**



**Pre-meeting Conversation**



**Call to Order**



**Extravaganza Prep**



**Tom Wolfe - Till 'Corrinne' x capitata 'Red'**



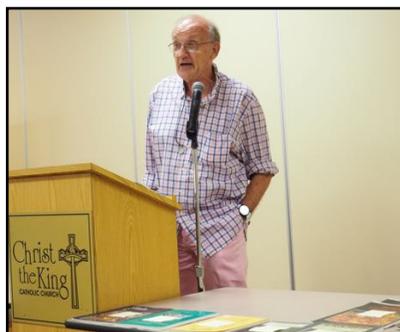
**Tom Wolfe - albino Neo**



**Robert Nelson - Vre & Crypt arrangement in seashell pot**



**Robert Nelson - Till & Vre arrangement in grapevine wreath**



**Speaker - Alton Lee**



**Raffle Time**

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING, JULY 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Julie Lessard, president

**Treasurer's Report:** The financial report was read and will be filed for audit.

**Old Business:** Extravaganza report from Tom Wolfe. Volunteer sign-up sheet was passed during the meeting.

**Door Prize** won by Marcia Hunter

**Birthday Bromeliad** won by Ray Hernandez

**Show and Tell:** Plants were shown by Tom Wolfe - Till corrine x capitata 'Red' and albino Neo.; Robert Nelson - Vresia and Cryptanthus arrangement in shell vase and Tillandsia and Vresia arrangement on a grapevine wreath

### Meeting Adjourned

Break for Refreshments

**Program was presented by Alton Lee, "What's in a Name?"**

Respectfully submitted by Steve Byram, Secretary

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### The Swedish Connection

by Alan Herndon

Tillandsia is named after Elias Tillands (1640–1693), a Finno-Swedish physician/botanist. This is hardly an isolated incidence. Billbergia, Bromelia, Lindmania and Wittrockia are all named for Swedish scientists. In addition, Vriesia is named for a Dutch botanist and the genus Neoregelia is ultimately named for the Superintendent of the Botanical Garden in St. Petersburg, Russia. It is natural to question how a group of plants as tied to the tropics as our bromeliads was given so many names based on people working in such northerly climes. In truth, this pattern of naming is largely a matter of historical accident.

The voyages of Columbus, starting in 1492, inaugurated a long period of intensive exploration and exploitation of the American hemisphere by Europeans. Explorations were driven largely by the growing importance of trade in European society. The growing trade demanded a constant supply of new products and new sources for old products. At the same time, the old medieval society was largely overturned. The old aristocrats were generally content to allow a new class of merchants to control the new trade (after all, overseas trade was quite risky in an era of small boats plying uncharted waters without weather forecasts). As a result the wealth and influence of the old aristocracy began to decline while the wealth and influence of the merchants increased. As merchants gained wealth, they became interested in collecting artifacts that displayed their newfound status. A natural history cabinet became commonplace among successful merchants. After all, what better way to demonstrate the reach and strength of your trade network than to bring home a collection of colorful seashells

or colorful insects or plants that could only be found in some far distant, rarely visited spot on the globe. Of course, it became a matter of pride and a mark of status to have artifacts that no one else was able to obtain.

For most merchants, the natural history cabinet never grew beyond an accumulation of objects for show at parties, but some merchants became interested in the objects in their own right. This led to a demand for specialist scholars who could classify (organize) and publicize the collections. Such specialists came from the field of medicine, where study of medicinal herbs was already well established. Before long, larger collections, based in Universities or Scientific academies developed, but the basic need in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries was still to classify and publicize the growing collections.

The basic approach was to sort the collection into groups of related objects, describe the individual objects and publish the results in book form. Descriptions were written in Latin, the language of science throughout Europe at that time, and, since book production was expensive even then, there was considerable pressure to keep the descriptions concise. These condensed descriptions were also used as names for the plants (a system called polynomial nomenclature).

Problems quickly arose with the polynomial nomenclature. Different scholars often worded descriptions differently for the same plant, so there were many different names for the same plant. In addition, since word order is relatively flexible in Latin, there was no easy way to index the names. This made it difficult to determine when a specimen in hand had already been described or to retrieve all past descriptions of a single species. This problem, along with the steady influx of new types of plants from continuing explorations, threatened to make systematic progress impossible.

A solution was found in the mid- eighteenth century when Karl Linne (Carolus Linnaeus in latinized form) proposed and promoted a binomial system of nomenclature. In this system (the same in use today), each specimen was labeled using two names (binomial nomenclature): a genus name and a species epithet. The genus name indicated a group of related organisms, while the species epithet indicated distinct objects within the genus group. This scheme provided a way to uniquely label distinct organisms in a manner that was highly amenable to filing and retrieving data. The utility of the system was so apparent that virtually all works on plants published after 1753, when Linnaeus first used the system consistently in his *Species Plantarum*, adopted this form of nomenclature.

The accidental part in this history comes from the fact that in the mid-eighteenth century, the field was still sufficiently small that a single person could dominate. Linnaeus was dominant during his generation in terms of publications in the field and in the number of students he sent on collecting expeditions to newly opening areas in the world. Linnaeus was also Swedish. It is not surprising that he tended to use the names of people he dealt with on a regular basis when in need of a new generic name.

A century earlier, the center of botanical activity was in Oxford, where Roger Bacon reigned. A century later, the center(s) had moved to the large herbaria of Kew, Berlin, Paris and St. Petersburg (Russia). Had the binomial system of nomenclature been introduced in either of those periods, we could expect a completely different set of generic names.

Traces of this historical anomaly still linger. During the period contemporaneous with and immediately following Linnaeus, small institutions associated with the Nordic countries (in such cities as Copenhagen, Leiden, Stockholm, Uppsala and Utrecht) were among the most active centers of botanical study. They accumulated important collections of early type material that, despite being overshadowed by the much larger and better funded institutions that have arisen since then, still beckon a steady stream of researchers to their doors.

From *BromeliAdvisory* December 2008

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**August Birthdays:** Steve Byram, Mark Darby, Randy Garcia, Kathie Gorman, Darlene Hannan, Herb Hill, June Hill, Becky Houston, Marisela Lopez, Dave Mracek, Shirley Perez, Robert Putnam, Maria Warner, Carol 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.



### **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)

## Officers for 2017

**President:** Julie Lessard 813-662-7972 [Taxxmaam@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Taxxmaam@tampabay.rr.com)

**Vice President:** Tom Wolfe 813-391-1542 [BromeliadSociety@juno.com](mailto:BromeliadSociety@juno.com)

**Treasurer:** Paula Benway 813-985-3584 [rebenway@aol.com](mailto:rebenway@aol.com)

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Linda Reynolds 813-989-3346 [ltreynolds@gmail.com](mailto:ltreynolds@gmail.com)

**Membership Com. Chair:** Beverly Owen 813-767-8421 [owenbeverly@yahoo.com](mailto:owenbeverly@yahoo.com)

**Refreshment Committee Chair:** Selma Sappenfield [ssappenfield2@gmail.com](mailto:ssappenfield2@gmail.com)



## 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)

**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, 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**