

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

March, 2014

Meeting March 17, 2014 Speaker: Ken Stokes

Ken Stokes will present the March program on bromeliads. Ken has been a bromeliad collector for some 20 years and has an extensive collection of species and hybrids. He is a knowledgeable speaker and will present a program on "Common Bromeliad defects" (causes, prevention and corrections).

Tom Wolfe, Program Chair

News from the Membership Committee



Got neighbors?

I noticed that some of our new members are neighbors of current members. I know I pestered some of my neighbors for months about the bromeliad club before I finally wore them down and they came to a meeting. Of course they fell in love with us and became members! In my walks around my neighborhood I see bromeliads in neighbor's yards and I always want to tell them about our club. So, during your walks or outings in your area, invite a neighbor to the next meeting or two.

Julie Lessard
Membership Committee.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MARCH 2014



March Greetings:

It's my opinion that our display at the "Florida State Fair" was a great success. We had a good turnout of members to help set it up and one of the best turnouts in recent years to occupy our display and talk to folks about bromeliads and our club. Although we received honorable mention, we did better than some other clubs and many people said we should tweak the same display for next year's fair.

Bring a plant for "Show and Tell" this month. It can be a problem plant, a rare plant or special plant in bloom or one just for identification.

Raffle plants should be clean, including pots, free of diseases and labeled. If you don't know the name, bring a blank tag and get it identified at the meeting.

The nominating committee will be presenting the nominations for officers and directors at the meeting. Also, if you choose to nominate someone from the floor be sure to get the permission of that person before the meeting to nominate them and brief them on the details of that position.

We are back on our regular meeting schedule of the third Monday so look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Tom Wolfe
(Interim) President



Celebrating Birthdays in March:

Paula Benway, Elisa Carr, Robert Dickey, Barbara Easton,
Dottie Kellogg, Terry Larm, Robert Nelson



Death of Dr. Robert E. Benway March 4, 2014

For those of you that may not have heard, Bob Benway passed away on March 4, 2014. Our sympathy and love go to Paula during this time. Tom Wolfe

Dr. Robert E. Benway, October 25, 1931 - March 4, 2014, Temple Terrace, Florida

Robert Emphy Benway, MD

Robert "Bob" Emphy Benway, 82, of Temple Terrace died on March 4, 2014. Dr. Benway was born on October 25, 1931 in St. Louis, Mo to the late Emphy Frank and Euvera Stephens Benway. He graduated from Miami Senior High School in 1949 and received his BA and medical degree from the University of Miami in 1953 and 1957, respectively.

Following completion of medical school, he was commissioned as an officer in the Army Medical Corps. Leaving active duty after seven years, he settled in Durham, NC with his first wife, the late Marguerite Blanks. He moved to Tampa in 1972, and married Paula Kirby in 1976.

Dr. Benway was the first Chief of Anesthesia at the James A. Haley Veterans Administration Hospital (VAH), after having had that role at the Durham VAH. He was instrumental in the development of the VA's automated surgical computer system while at the Tampa VAH. He held an appointment as a professor of Anesthesia at both Duke University and the University of South Florida. Finally, he completed his service to his country after 28 years, retiring as a Colonel in the Army Reserves.

He is survived by his loving wife, Paula and his three children: Catherine Benway of Miami, FL; Bob Benway (Maureen) of Richmond, VA; and Valerie Benway Ely (Aaron), of Temple Terrace, FL. He is also survived by four grandchildren: Matthew; Mikaela; Connor (Bob and Maureen); and Aaralyn (Valerie and Aaron).

The family would like to gratefully acknowledge the superior attention and care that he was provided by the physicians and staff of the James A. Haley Veterans Administration Hospital during three years of illness.

Flowers and/or donations in memory to: Humane Society of Hillsborough County; Habitat for Humanity (HillsboroughCounty); or Feeding America (TampaBay).



50th Anniversary of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

BROMELIAD ROUND ROBIN

From the Archives

Beryl Allen

**BGTB Charter
Member in 1963
Known Worldwide
for her Round
Robins' Letters**

Those members who reside in an area where an affiliated group has not yet been formed might be interested in joining the Bromeliad Round Robin.

Under the very capable and enthusiastic guidance of Mrs. Beryl Allen, who acts as the director, several such Robins are winging their way around the United States and also as far away as South Africa. What do the members do? Here is what Mrs. Allen says: "You would be surprised, we have rules, just as a society in your city would have; we grow and study bromeliads, we talk plants and history, we visit, we give and exchange ideas, some times

seeds and what nots, we are a closely knit bunch in both Robins. I do not accept

as a member any person who can join a society in his or her own vicinity. I will tell you a secret — I would not change places for any office in any society, I have my Bromeliad Robins, and I sincerely hope they can say the same thing about their director." Mrs. Allen's address is 6814 Tenth Street, Tampa Florida, 33604. If you are interested in an exciting experience, write her.

(Reprinted from The Journal of the Bromeliad Society 1964 V14(4))

BROMELIAD PERSONALITY BERYL ALLEN OF TAMPA

By Glenna Simons, Photo: Rauh



Mrs. Beryl N. Allen has been a very active member of the Bromeliad Society since its beginning and of the Tampa Bay Bromeliad Guild since its formation in 1963.

When I first visited Mrs. Allen we walked about her many plants with pencil and paper, for her hearing aid was not functioning that day. We had become acquainted through the Society's Round Robins, of which she is chairman. She has kept as many as fifteen Robins going at one time—in the United States, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, etc. And what a job this is, especially trying to locate lost and delayed Robins.

Although she is 79 years old, she keeps very busy caring for her home and hundreds of bromeliads and other plants in her small backyard, which includes a large slathouse and a lean-to greenhouse. She lives alone with her big black poodle dog, Sable, who is good company but hard on the plants. Just now she is in the midst of potting up some 300 seedlings. She is also taking an evening refresher course in

gardening and landscaping at the courthouse. She entertains many out-of-town growers and keeps up a terrific correspondence with people all over the world, in addition to the Round Robins.



Mrs. Allen has been a widow since 1962. While running a small commercial nursery, she cared for an invalid husband for fifteen years and raised nine children and two grandchildren. She has so many great grandchildren she has lost count. She says they have "all turned out very well." Is it any wonder with such a mother? She and her husband, who was a railroad man, came to Florida in 1926 with six children in a 1914 Ford with a makeshift trailer attached behind it. Her father was a newspaperman back in Iowa where she grew up and married, so she comes by her love of writing quite naturally.

She started growing bromeliads in 1947 with the gift of an *Aechmea caudata* var. *variegata* and soon began adding them to her nursery stock. Later she began to grow them from seed sent to her from all over. Lee More, the collector, even named a bromeliad that he had collected in South America for her—*Aechmea Beryl Allen*. She gave up most of her commercial nursery some years ago; now she concentrates on bromeliads, although she still has hundreds of begonias and other plants in her greenhouse, having been an active member of the Begonia Society almost since its organization. (Reprinted from 1970 V20(2) *The Journal of the Bromeliad Society*) —Mount Dora, Florida.

Bromeliads Down Under (Excerpts from BSI Journal 1984 V34(3) Olwen Ferris

I have many people to thank for the plants in my collection and for the knowledge so ungrudgingly shared with me over the years.

In the early years of the Bromeliad Society of Australia I was asked if I would take over the running of our Seed Bank. I had read somewhere of a round robin among gesneriad growers in the United States and started robins among our bromeliad seed growers. This activity eventually reached the ears of Mrs. Beryl Allen of Tampa, Florida, who wrote asking to join with us. Imagine my surprise when I found that she was the person who had started the gesneriad round robin and later the bromeliad round robins in the United States.

Beryl and I corresponded until her death, swapping seeds and ideas. She sent me a few seeds of *Dyckia encholirioides* gathered for her in the wilds by someone who saw a magnificent clone, much taller and darker in colour than the rest of the plants which were growing over a fairly large area. This plant starts to flower at the top of the tall, branched inflorescence and has ripe seed before the last of the branches have finished their blaze of orange-red petals. The collector could see the petal colour when he harvested the seed from the top of the inflorescence. From seven seeds only one grew to maturity and the first offset was given to Grace Goode in Queensland. When we moved to southeast Queensland from Sydney, some plants were left to be picked up the following week. Only one plant was stolen and this was *Dyckia encholirioides* in a large decorative pot. We visited Grace after settling in and were given a large section from the original offset. This prospered in our new garden and flowered, fitting the description given with the seed. The branched inflorescence was over two meters high. One family noted the date of the flowering and timed their visits to coincide with the annual flowering.

**Tribute to Beryl Allen as a Charter Member during
BGTB 50th Anniversary, 2014, was researched and provided by Carol Wolfe**



The following pictures of *Billbergia amoena* 'Beryl Allen' were grown by Tom Wolfe in his greenhouse and photography by Carol Wolfe.



Billbergia amoena 'Beryl Allen'

Billbergia amoena 'Beryl Allen'



Minutes, February 10, 2014

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

Visitors: Jason, Twila and Rekki

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

Committee Reports: Julie Lessard asked that if any corrections are needed in membership list to let her know.

New Business: Our nominating committee for the 2014-2015 officers - Carol Wolfe, Robert Nelson, and Dottie Kellogg

Announcements: We received Honorable Mention for the State Fair display.

Birthday Plant won by Livia Popovich

Door Prize Plant won by Beverly Sisco

Show and Tell: Plants were shown by Ken Stokes - Aechmea Bromelifolia, Ursulea MacVaughtii, AE. Ramosa, AE. Distacantha, Fosterella, V. Tuitensis, Quesnelia Lieboloiana; Bill Carr - Ananas Comosus Marginata; Tom Wolfe - Mounted Quesnelia Marmorita w/ Narrow Tubes

Refreshments and Raffle

Program Question and Answer session for Bromeliad-growing amateurs - potting mixes, container types.

Respectfully submitted by Ray Hernandez, Jr., Secretary

Upcoming Events:

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

March 29-30. GreenFest. Plant sale & garden show. Plant Park, University of Tampa
www.tampagreenfest.com



Meeting Snapshots - February 10, 2014



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



March Birthdays: Paula Benway, Elisa Carr, Robert Dickey, Barbara Easton, Dottie Kellogg, Terry Larm, Robert Nelson

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 vernaled@verizon.net

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

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

Newsletter Editor: Marilyn Byram 813-949-0503 bgtbnewsletter@gmail.com

Directors:

Eileen Hart 813-920-2987 eplants@hotmail.com

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

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

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 vernaled@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**