

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

April, 2014

BROMELIAD GUILD OF TAMPA BAY MEETING – APRIL 21, 2014

“Landscaping By the Numbers”

You may have heard of our April speaker. His name is Tom Wolfe and he has been a member of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay since 1966. Tom was in the landscaping and irrigation business for forty years. Tom promoted and specialized in bromeliads during his years in landscaping and has a bromeliad nursery in northwest Hillsborough County. He and his wife, Carol, live in Lutz.

Tom has served the BGTB in every capacity including President many times and has been the Chair of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies several times and served on the Board of the Bromeliad Society International for fourteen years including six years as President.

His program “Landscaping by the Numbers” will take you from formulating a plan through irrigation and on to the details of a finished product. Hopefully you will glean some ideas for your own landscape.

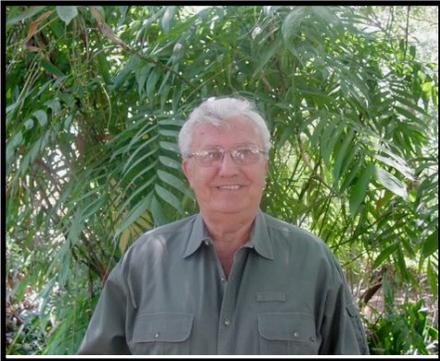


It's time to renew your membership. Please fill out the application/renewal form in this newsletter and bring it to the next meeting or mail it to our Membership Chair, **Julie Lessard, 807 Knight Street, Seffner, FL 33584.**

Your membership expires April 30.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE APRIL 2014



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month on our meeting night, the rains came down and bad weather was predicted. However, it was fairly calm by meeting time and the storm had passed. Thanks to a handful of all-weather members, we had a good and informative meeting with Ken Stokes as our speaker.

The nominations for officers and directors were made and will appear in this newsletter and will be voted on and installed at this month's meeting to take effect May 1, 2014.

Our thanks to the many members who bring in their extra bromeliads and donate them on the raffle table. We have had some great plants on the table during the last few months which have increased our raffle ticket sales. It is a win-win situation as it helps the club make money and gives members some nice bromeliads for their ticket purchase.

Don't forget your plants for show and tell.

See you at the meeting.

Tom

The American Begonia Society national convention was held March 19 - 23 at Westshore Marriott and sponsored by Begonia Society of Tampa Bay. The convention was attended by ABS members from around the country and as far away as France and Denmark. The convention included tours to Selby Gardens and Tropiflora, a judged show, horticultural lectures, boutique, and plant sale. Tom Wolfe was invited as only 1 of 3 vendors that offered orchids, gesneriads, and bromeliads, as well as begonias for sale. Our guild members, Allen Langworthy and Julie Lessard, are also local ABS members and entered plants in the show and both received awards. Allen's *Quesnalia Marmorata* "Tim Plowman" won 2nd place in the Other division of companion plants. Julie's Rex Red Robin won 2nd place in the novice division. Allen and Julie also won class distinction awards for begonias entered in the novice division. It was a great opportunity to participate in a national convention and show.



50th Anniversary of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

From the Archives
The First newsletter

Portrait of a Special Man H. ALTON LEE

Every plant society — indeed every organized group — seems to have a handful of people who do all of the work. A lucky group also often has one member whose enthusiasm and willingness to work motivates the others. The Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society lost such a member recently in the death of Henry J. Rahmlow (April 25, 1980).

Henry "retired" to Florida in the late 50's. Although he had had a lifelong interest in plants and worked many years as a horticultural agent in his native Wisconsin (after a career in teaching), bromeliads were an unfamiliar plant to him. That situation did not last long.

As recently as the early 60's, bromeliads were not all that common, even in Florida. After interest was sparked, Henry started searching for plants and people who shared his interest in them. This brought him to the Florida West Coast Society.

Although Florida West Coast is the oldest society in Florida — organized by Mulford Foster himself — and one of the two or three oldest societies in the country, like most societies, it has had its ups and downs over the years.

As soon as Henry joined, his organizational mind and penchant for detail and follow through began to benefit the society in a lot of ways.

While his own bromeliad collection grew and was refined, Henry worked tirelessly to interest new members in the group and to spur older members to stay active. Incredibly, Henry was among the three oldest members in the group when he joined and the only really active of the three.

It was very soon after Henry became active in the bromeliad society that he saw the need for a publication that would offer a rallying point for members. Incredibly enough, his suggestion was not initially received with anything approaching enthusiasm. Some members said it was unnecessary to have a newsletter. Others fretted about the costs. Most were too apathetic to have an opinion. Henry was not apathetic. He buttonholed members one by one until his will prevailed. The society voted to have a newsletter with Henry as the editor. There were not lines of competition for the job. But Henry didn't mind. He had plenty of leisure time, financial security and editing and writing gifts. He made the newsletter uniquely his own.

Immediately, the publication caught on. The Tampa Bromeliad Guild (just across the bay) decided to share expenses and a joint newsletter came into being with a slightly different front page for each group. The newsletter was soon reaching several hundred members in the two groups. Henry rarely missed meetings of either group.

Through it all, Henry did most of the writing himself, occasionally getting a contribution and often pulling information from the experts via a series of time-consuming phone calls.



He shared his own experiences with the novice and sophisticate alike. Some disagreed with his methods, especially his potting medium of Canadian peat, cypress mulch and lots of cow manure and used for everything. But no one denied that Henry consistently had some of the biggest and best looking plants around. Even his vrieseas grown in the mix — to the horror of some local experts — flourished. Blue ribbons at local shows and fairs were a common event for Henry.

Henry sold his plants to other members at give-away prices at the local meetings and sales. The low prices often angered some of the greedier sellers, even though the range of plants Henry offered was fairly limited. His prices won the wide approval of new, younger and sometimes not very affluent members. Scarcely a newcomer to the Florida West Coast Society failed to buy *Aechmea fasciata*, *Neoregelia* 'Catherine Wilson', *Neoregelia carolinae tri-color* and *Nidularium* 'Casmir Morobe' from Henry. They got glorious, blooming plants at bargain prices, and their bromel fever had begun. The value and far-reaching effects of Henry's generosity in this area was not always fully appreciated.

Henry's interest in plants was hardly limited to bromeliads. He was active in the rose society and grew the plants expertly, though roses are alleged to be difficult in Florida. Henry dabbled with orchids and gesneriads and had become very interested in aroids in recent years.

One morning while puttering in his garden, Henry had a bad dizzy spell, which proved to be a stroke. Although it was a slight stroke it greatly slowed and impaired him.

But Henry didn't give up. It would have been utterly unlike him. Four days before his death, he attended the Tampa Guild meeting and happily sold his plants. He was busy planning the next newsletter and intending to attend his class of 1915 reunion in Wisconsin when the end came.

Henry's death is not just a major blow to the Florida West Coast and Tampa Guild Societies who have lost at least 50% of their work force with his passing. It is a loss to all who love bromeliads. In time a half-dozen others may be able to accomplish some of the work Henry did, even putting out a newsletter (that largely thankless task).

But Henry's warm friendship to everyone, his contagious and irresistible enthusiasm for life and all things horticultural are gone. They will be greatly missed for they are so rare. Henry was a special person. And how rare they are, too.

Gulfport, Florida

(BSI Journal Portrait of a Special Man – 1980 V30(6) and our special thanks to Alton for giving us permission to rerun the article)

Did you know? When Henry Rahmlow was newsletter editor it only cost \$1.50 entrance into Selby Gardens. It cost \$2.00 admission into Fairchild Tropical Gardens. James Stewart was President of BGTB. Dues were \$5.00 per year.



Henry Rahmlow had a good sense of humor and prepared a 1 to 4 page newsletter of typed materials with the only picture which was a logo of the BGTB. Remember this was before computers and typed on a typewriter and printed on a mimeograph machine! It was terrible if you made a mistake and had to retype the page. However, in addition to all the information about the club activities, fertilizers, potting mixes, pages for amateurs, etc., he also included historical facts as well as humorous materials at the end of the newsletter. Some are printed below for your entertainment:

RANKING OF FLOWER BUYING HOLIDAYS: From Penn State University comes an interesting study of the leading “flower buying holidays”. Would you believe that National Secretary’s week ranks higher than Thanksgiving or Fathers Day. Here they are: 1. Mother’s day; 2. Christmas day; 3. Valentine day; 4. Easter 5; National Secretary’s week; 6. Thanksgiving day; and 7 Father’s day.

SOME PINEAPPLE HISTORY. By the year 1500, the pineapple, corn and tobacco were introduced to Spain. The first mention in print of the pineapple was in 1516. The first pineapple to fruit in England was given to Charles II, in 1680 and was of such import that a painting was made that still hangs in London’s Victoria and Albert Museum. So taken with the pineapple were the Europeans, that imported fruits used for decoration, they often rented pineapples for an occasion before they were finally used as a food.

The automobile has not completely replaced the horse. You have not seen a bronze statue of a man sitting under a steering wheel!

A congressman had a nervous breakdown – he dreamed all the money he was spending was his own!

There was a day when Uncle Sam could live within his income and without ours.

It is said the FBI has over 70 million fingerprints. So has every home containing small children.

(Research: Carol Wolfe The above was researched from old newsletters when Mr. Rahmlow was Newsletter editor)



Minutes, March 17, 2014

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

Visitors: Paul Ward, Hung Chau

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

Old Business: Our nominating committee submitted officers and directors for members consideration and vote.

Officers

President: Tom Wolfe

Vice President: Eileen Hart

Treasurer: Paula Benway

Secretary: Ray Hernandez

Newsletter Editor: Marilyn Byram

Directors

Allen Langworthy

Julie Lessard

Tom Pride

Sabrina Pride

Robert Nelson

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Dottie Kellogg

Carol Wolfe

Robert Nelson

New Business: Nominating committee member, Robert Nelson, stressed the need to mix long-time members with news members on the board in order to ensure BGTB's survival.

Announcements: The FCBS Newsletter is now available in electronic format only. One copy of the February 2014 issue was printed to share among our members who do not have internet access.

Birthday Plant won by Robert Nelson

Show and Tell: Plants were shown by Ken Stokes - Ananasas "Mango"; Eileen Hart - Neoregelia "Wild Rabbit" and Vriesea "Pink Feather"

Refreshments and Raffle

Program Kenneth Stokes - "Bromeliad Care"

Plants discussed were Neo "Hannibal Lector", Edmundoa Lindenii, Aechmea Caudata

"Blotches", Fosterella, Aecumea Caudata x Recurvata, Aechmea Pectinata, Orthophytum

Vagans "Variegata", Dyckia Estevesii

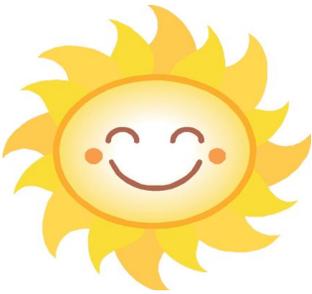
Respectfully submitted by Ray Hernandez, Jr., Secretary



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



April Birthdays: Virginia Barthelemy, Carl Easton, Anna Hartman, Eileen Prins

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

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 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





BROMELIAD GUILD OF TAMPA BAY

Membership Application/Renewal

Memberships: May 1 to April 30 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:**

**Julie Lessard
807 Knight St.
Seffner, FL 33584**

How 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.

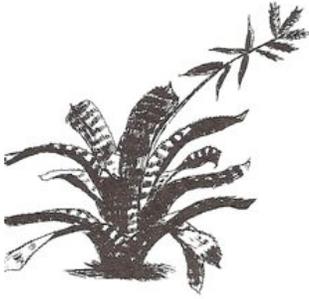
Plant sales at 7:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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., National Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc., Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc., and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL.



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**