

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



July, 2011

President's Message



With all the much-needed rain we've had the last few days our bromeliads should be thriving.

We do have the evil weevil in the Tampa area, so you need to check your plants more carefully - especially your Vrieseas and Guzmanias. If the center pulls out easily and the bottom of the leaves look chewed on you may have the weevil.

We also need to start thinking about getting our plants ready for the Extravaganza in a few months.

Just a reminder to bring plants for show and tell and for the raffle.

Sincerely,

Beverly Sisco, President

Program for July 18 Meeting

Dr. Jose "Pepe" Donayre will be speaking on "More than you want to know about Billbergias."

Dr. Donayre is a BSI accredited judge and has been growing bromeliads for 20 years. He and his wife Sara are very active in the Bromeliad Society of Broward County and the South Florida Bromeliad Society (Miami).

They live in Hollywood, Florida where they have an extensive collection. Sara is the present secretary of the BSI.

They are a great couple and we are honored to have them in our midst.

Tom Wolfe, Program Chairman

The gardens of Beverly Sisco and Tom Wolfe were featured recently on Channel 8 News. If you missed it, here are the links: Beverly's Garden - <http://tbo.ly/lunniv> and Tom's Garden - <http://tbo.ly/lmNVT>. Congratulations, to both of them!



Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Minutes of Meeting

June 20, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Beverly Sisco.

Welcome to: visitor, George Martinez and new member, Robert Nelson

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter made by Robert Nelson, seconded by Shirley Perez.

Treasurer's Report: Paula Benway reported that we have a total of \$1,773.25 in the checking account plus \$9,000 in CD.

New Business: Verna has weevils in her vriesias (in Brandon). Treatment: Use the Rose solution made by Bayer mixed with Sevin (half and half). Apply once a week in a spray.

Announcements: Paula announced it is time to pay dues for membership renewal. Verna will send Mike reminders regarding newspaper announcements.

Birthdays Plant: Won by Randy Wojahn

Door Prize: Won by Robert Nelson

Show and Tell: Plants were shown by Barret Bassick

Motion to adjourn made by Steve Byram, seconded by Harriet Gord

Refreshments

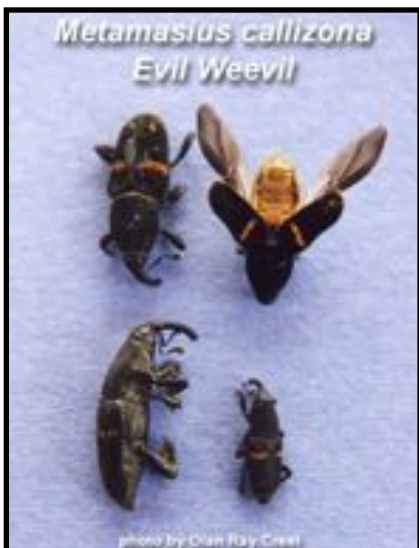
Program: Dave Johnston presented the program: "My All Time Favorite Bromeliads" which includes Aechmeas, Bilbergias, Guzmanias, Hohenbergias, Neos, Bigenerics, Tillandsias, and Vriesias

Raffle

Respectfully submitted by Steve Byram, Secretary

Fighting the "Evil Weevil" (Metamasius callizona)

Among bromeliad growers who have successfully fought the Mexican bromeliad weevil, the chemical of choice is imidicloprid, made by Bayer and often called Merit; it is in Advantage Garden, which you can find at garden centers as a spray. This is a systemic chemical, which means that it will last for several months in the bromeliad leaves. The larvae of the Mexican bromeliad weevil will ingest imidicloprid as it eats the bromeliad leaves and will die. Imidicloprid is not harmful to birds or animals (it actually is an ingredient found in some flea medicine). You can use the rose formula straight from the bottle. For the tree and shrub formula, use 1-2 teaspoons per gallon. There is no point in treating your entire collection if you do not currently have a problem. Treat only new plants coming into your collection or only if you have a confirmed infestation.



By the way, one beneficial side effect of imidicloprid is that it works wonders on black scale.

Remember, the main way the Mexican bromeliad weevil is distributed is by people transporting bromeliads from an infested area. Do not take, swap or buy plants from areas of known infestation unless you know they have been inspected and treated for the Mexican bromeliad weevil. Most commercial growers already have a management program in place; many small growers and hobbyists do not. If you find that one fabulous bromeliad you just have to have and the source gives you no reassurance about the weevil, isolate it from your collection when you get home and treat it with imidicloprid.

Never take bromeliads from their habitat. Many of Florida's bromeliads are endangered or threatened. Collecting plants from lands such as parks is illegal. In addition, you could be helping to spread the Mexican bromeliad weevil.

Excerpt from “The Weevil is in my Collection! Now What!” by Karen Andreas

[\(http://fcbs.org/\)](http://fcbs.org/)

Tips from Eileen:

Our own BGTB member, Eileen Hart, had an infestation of the evil weevil three years ago. She lost thousands of plants. If you suspect that you have the weevil, inspect your damaged plant. If the damaged area is smooth and slimy, it is just rotting, but if it is rough and ragged-looking it has probably been chewed by the weevil. She had success with using both imidacloprid to kill the developing larvae and liquid Sevin to kill the fully developed weevil. Imidacloprid is the active ingredient in Bayer's Rose Spray.

Eileen suggests going to the internet for information on the weevil. Just Google “*Metamasius callizona*”. If you do not have access to a computer, try the public library. The librarians will be glad to help you research this topic.



June 20 BGTB Meeting Snapshots



Photos by Randy Wojahn





Have you put off renewing your membership because you just haven't gotten around to it? Well, here's a ROUND TUIT for you. Fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and bring it to the next meeting or mail it to Paula Benway, 1225 N. Riverhills Dr., Temple Terrace, FL 33617. Do it today!



Happy Birthday!

Every month, club members celebrating their birthdays provide the refreshments at our meeting. 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. Suggestions: chips & dip, veggies, salsa, crackers, cheese, chicken wings, popcorn, favorite recipes, pies, pizza, brownies, fudge, cookies, cakes, candies, deviled eggs, sandwiches and beverages.

We will have a special drawing for one of the lucky birthday people to take home a nice bromeliad as a Birthday gift from the club.

July Birthdays: Dorothy Crossley, Dave Johnston, Mudra Kumar, Beverly Millar, John Miller, H.T. Sisco,



Sunshine Greetings

Please notify Eileen Prins of any illness, surgery, birth of a child, death in the family, or other concerns you or another member may have. Call 727-546-9590 or email at sprins1012@earthlink.net



Officers for 2011-2012

President: Beverly Sisco 813-968-5726 btsgarden@msn.com
Vice President: Verna Dickey 813-685-1055 vernald@verizon.net
Treasurer: Paula Benway 813-985-3584 paulabenway@aol.com
Secretary: Steve Byram 813-949-0503 byramsteve@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Marilyn Byram 813-949-0503 byramm@verizon.net

Directors: Bob Benway 813-985-3584 paulabenway@aol.com
Harriet Gord 813-727-6567 lrcq@tampabay.rr.com
Eileen Hart 813-920-2987
Dave Mracek 813-968-3666 VENFLDJM@hotmail.com
Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 BromeliadSociety@juno.com

Committee Chairs

Parliamentarian: Shellie Sweet
Librarian: Harriet Gord
Show: Paula Benway and Verna Dickey
Membership: Eileen Kahl and Harriet Henry
Publicity: Mike Sweet
Programs: Tom Wolfe
Sunshine: Eileen Prins



Bromeliads Online

Bromeliad Society International— www.bsi.org
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies— www.fcbs.org
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens— www.selby.org

Any Changes?

If your mailing address or email address changes, please inform Marilyn Byram at 21535 Northwood Drive, Lutz, 33549 or byramm@verizon.net





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 _____

Make checks payable to: BGTB

Please check one:

_____ \$25.00 Single Membership

_____ \$30.00 Family Membership

Submit with application to a member or mail to:

Paula Benway

1225 N. Riverhills Dr.

Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Referred by:

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: Tampa Garden Club

2629 Bayshore Blvd, Tampa

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



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.

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Visitors welcome!

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
BROMELIAD GUILD
OF TAMPA BAY, INC.
21535 Northwood Dr.
Lutz, Florida 33549**