

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

January/February 2026

December - Our annual Christmas dinner and auction was held on December 15, 2025 at Northdale Recreation Center. We had our event outside at a picnic pavilion. The food was delicious, the weather was perfect, and we had a good variety of plants that were donated for auction. We even had a woman at the park who was curious come over and buy a plant from us during the auction!

January - In lieu of our January meeting, the family of Harold and Beverly Sisco invited us to come to their home and take as many bromeliads as we wanted from their garden. We met on January 10 and their daughter-in-law, Patty, was their to welcome us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February - Our meeting in February will be a field trip to McCrory's Bromeliad Nursery in Eustis, FL. This will take place on our regular meeting day, February 15.

McCrory's Sunny Hill Nursery was started in 1977 by Buddy and Dolores McCrory in the hills of Lake County, Florida in Eustis. It started as a 5-acre Herb and Bromeliad Nursery and has now grown to 30 acres of just Bromeliads. They are one of the largest growers of Bromeliads in the country. They pride themselves on the size of their product and the amount of varieties that they grow.

In 2015 they changed their name to McCrory's Bromeliad Nursery and even though they have grown and changed in the last 40 years, they still remain family owned and run.

More details to come for this trip.



BROMELIAD & TROPICAL PLANT SOCIETY OF TAMPA

Minutes of the Meeting Date: 11/16/25

Meeting was called to order by Steve Byram.

Program was presented by Ray Hernandez. He led a discussion on bromeliad mixes and pots.

Secretary's Report. Minutes from October meeting were approved.

Birthday Plant - was given to Marcia Hunter

Show and Tell - Mary Szeja - Tillandsia; Peter Wan - Guzmanias from McCrory's Nursery in Eustis. He also announced an event at McCrory's in the spring and asked who was interested in going. He will get more details.

Announcement - Christmas Party and Auction, December 21 at 1:00 p.m., Northdale Park and Recreation, Outdoor shelter # 1.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Byram



WHAT IS THE BEST POTTING MIX FOR BROMELIADS! by Tom Wolfe

For terrestrials, which include dyckias, hectias, ananas, cryptanthus, etc., I use a regular commercial potting mix or a mixture of builders' sand, perlite and peat.

For epiphytes, I use a mixture of Canadian peat, perlite, and wood chips.

The following ingredients are some other products that you may want to try if available:

Fir bark

Chicken or turkey grit

Charcoal

Tree fern (chopped fine)

Manure

Coconut fiber

Sponge rock

Chopped osmunda (fern root)

Find whatever works for you and stick with it. Whatever you use, it needs to be well-drained.

There are some tillandsias that can be grown in pots with lava rock, wood chips large perlite (commercial grade).

If you want to grow tillandsias in pots, try T. Fasciculata, T. Capitata, T. Tricolor, T. streptophylla and other large tillandias.

November 16 Program Notes by Denise Provencher

Ray Hernandez shared his wisdom regarding the necessity of knowing what kind of soil the plant needs to grow in once you get it home and repot it. He also discussed different types of containers.

One of his key points was that whenever you buy a plant from the store or grower, realize that it has been growing in optimal greenhouse conditions with the best and most consistent conditions possible. That often means that the media the plant is growing in will support the grower's needs to get a healthy plant to market quickly, but may not be the best soil for the plant to continue growing in. Leaving the plant in that media can cause a plant not to thrive as it gets bigger, or even die. No one wants that to happen. Research that plant to see what it really needs. Most plants do want something that drains well, as most plants do not like continually wet roots. Don't be afraid to buy a prepared bagged mix and amend as needed. Perlite, charcoal, and peat can make good amendments.

Starting at the root level and providing what a plant needs is a great start to successful growing. The results will certainly be visible above the soil.

Snapshots from November 16, 2025



Call to Order - Steve Byram



Speaker - Ray Hernandez



Show n Tell - Peter Wan



Mary Szeja - Show n Tell - Tillandsia



Birthday Plant - Given to Marcia Hunter

Snapshots from our Christmas “Picnic” and Annual Auction December 15, 2025



Dues are Due

It's that time of year to pay due\$. Please fill out the form in this newsletter and mail it to Carol Wolfe at 5211 at Lake LeClare Rd., Lutz, FL



BROMELIAD & TROPICAL PLANT SOCIETY OF TAMPA

Membership Application/Renewal

Memberships: January 1 to December 31 each Year

Please Print

Date of Application _____
Name _____ Birth Month _____
Second Name _____ Birth Month _____
Phone (____) _____ Email _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Please check one:

_____ \$25.00 Single Membership
_____ \$30.00 Family Membership

Make checks payable to BGTB
Submit with application to:
Carol Wolfe
5211 Lake LeClare Rd.
Lutz, FL 33558

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

____ Friend ____ Newspaper ____ Facebook ____ BGTB Website
____ Plant Festival or Show ____ Other (Please specify)

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa
Established 1963 as Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay
Informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, door prizes, and raffle

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



December Birthdays - Happy Birthday to Martha Kirby



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 2025

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Bromeliads Online

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.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>

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter

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 Sunday of every month.

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: TBA

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

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