

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

February 2024

Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Meeting: Monday, February 19, 2024 Speaker: Dennis Cathcart A Naturalist Visits Cuba



Dennis Cathcart
Bradenton-Sarasota area.

Dennis began this program at our meeting on November 13, 2023. Due to technical difficulties, he was unable to finish. He has graciously agreed to come again this month to continue this fascinating presentation.

The title of Dennis's program is *A Naturalist Visits Cuba*. Of course there are parts on the bromeliads he found on three trips to Cuba last year, but it will also feature reptiles, birds and general habitat shots, as well as Cuban lifestyle and culture photos. Dennis has spent a lifetime exploring the jungles, mountains, and deserts of the world's tropics in pursuit of exotic plants. He established Tropiflora, LLC in 1976, a world-renowned plant nursery in the

A recognized world authority on bromeliads, he lectures worldwide on their habitats, culture, and conservation. His plant discoveries are many, three bear his name, and his collections grace herbaria, botanical gardens, and private collections across the globe. Dennis Cathcart is also a pioneer in the history of reptile collecting, having lived the life during the 1960s and -70s when the hobby was relatively obscure.





President's Column
Carol Wolfe

We are happy to welcome Dennis Cathcart back this month. At the last meeting when Dennis was here, the members asked so many good questions about Cuba and its people. We appreciated the information Dennis shared and his in-depth knowledge of the people, their country and current events. We apologize to Dennis for the faulty equipment at the club which delayed his program and he will share the rest of his program with us. We look forward to having him with us.

The Florida State Fair is in full swing and our exhibit at the Fair is fantastic. Be sure to go by and to vote for our exhibit as the Peoples Choice. The fair pays \$300 for the exhibit and an extra \$150 for Peoples Choice award. So go by the Fair booth and vote. Anyone in the public can vote. Let's win it!

Thanks to Cheryl and Mark Victor for the artistic design of our exhibit. Thanks for all their hard work in bringing bromeliads and yard furniture for the exhibit. Thanks to Marilyn and Steve Byram for bringing the supplies from the storage unit. Also, thanks to our members who assisted them with putting in the display: Paula Benway, Peggy, Mike Foley, Rick and Marcia Hunter, Martha Kirby, Robert Nelson, Shellie Sweet, Jill and Guido Zakaroff, and Tom Wolfe.

We have renewed our contract with the Woodmont Clubhouse through May, 2024. It is more difficult to find a Sunday location at the same price as a weekday. The weekends are more desirable for events on Saturday and Sunday and therefore the rent is higher.

Next month's meeting will be one week earlier, which will be Monday, March 11th. Temple Terrace elections will be held at the club on the 3rd Tuesday so the third Monday is reserved to get their election booths set up for voting beginning early on Tuesday morning.

Guests are always welcome at our meetings. Please invite someone to come to the meeting with you, and we look forward to seeing you!

By Tom Wolfe



Catopsis

Catopsis is a rather obscure genus in cultivation especially since there are only three species of Catopsis native to Florida: *Catopsis berteroniana*, *Catopsis floribunda* and *Catopsis nutans*. I collected all three in the Big Cypress swamp in the late 60's and early 70's. None of them were in abundance but often during a hard day's hike you might come across one or two of them usually high in the canopy except for nutans which was usually found in dense brush close to the swamp water.

It has been observed that *Catopsis berteroniana* is a carnivorous plant. Carnivorous means flesh-eating or in this case insect-eating. The inside surface of the leaves are covered with a waxy substance which provides a slippery slope for some insects. The insects are trapped in the cup and die creating an organic soup for the plant to feed on. The plant doesn't actually eat the insects; therefore, it's rather a stretch to call them carnivorous.

Catopsis berteroniana has a powdery scurfing on the outer side of the leaves which helps protect them from the sun. All the ones I observed in habitat have been growing high on the trunks of bald cypress. Since this tree is deciduous, they receive full sun in the winter months.

Catopsis berteroniana is stingy about pupping, producing one or two pups after blooming. Growing from seed seems difficult in cultivation. It's hard to get them past the two to three inch size. Because of over-collecting of the plants during the last 30 years, all of the three Florida native *Catopsis* species have become rare.

I grow this plant exclusively as epiphyte on cedar driftwood. They need a well-drained root system and plenty of sunlight.

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa
Minutes of Meeting January 15, 2024

Program was presented by Mike McMahon. "Vrieseas: What's to be Afraid Of?" Mike also had some of his prized Vrieseas and Tillandsias for sale.

Refreshments.

President Carol Wolfe called the meeting to order. Carol asked if there were any changes or corrections to the November minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. There were no changes. Tom Wolfe made the motion to accept the minutes as written and the motion was seconded by Richard Poole. Motion carried.

The Treasurer, Shellie Sweet, was called on for the Treasurer's Report. There were no questions on the report and a copy will be filed for future audit.

Carol welcomed new member, Greer Peters.

Florida State Fair will be February 8-19. Carol announced that Cheryl Victor will head up the Florida State Fair Exhibit and will need your help and plants for the exhibit. Setup will be on Monday, February 5 at 6:00 p.m. Please use the Orient Road Gate entrance to the Fairgrounds and go to the Family Life Center where our horticultural display will be set up. We need members to sit at our exhibit and pass out information to the public. We will have two time slots: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day of the fair. Each person signing up for one shift will receive a free ticket and you will be able to enjoy the other features of the fair, either before or after your shift.

Kenneth Stokes, Cheryl Victor, Robert Nelson, and Greer Peters will do 30-minute demonstrations on mounting bromeliads on Saturdays and Sundays during the Fair.

Meeting adjourned.

Snapshots of Meeting - January 15, 2024



Speaker - Mike McMahon



Vrieseas for Sale!



Tillandsias for Sale!



Introduction to Raffle Table
Tom Wolfe



Robert Nelson Show n Tell
Tillandsia bartramii



Tom Wolfe Show n Tell
Aechmea ornata var. *nationalis*

Florida State Fair Booth Setup - February 5, 2024



BROMELIAD & TROPICAL PLANT SOCIETY OF TAMPA

Membership Application/Renewal

Memberships: January 1 to December 31 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 BTPST

Submit with application to:

Shellie Sweet

3015 Waylon Lane,

Valrico, FL 33596

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

___ Friend ___ Newspaper ___ Facebook ___ BTPST Website ___ Florida State Fair

___ Plant Festival or Show Other (Please specify) _____

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa

Established 1963 as Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month.

Plant sales at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

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



Refreshments

Refreshments for the February meeting will be provided by Jill Zakaroff, Peter Wan, and Richard Poole



February Birthdays - Happy Birthday to: Mark Randall and Tom Wolfe



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 2023

Interim President: Carol Wolfe 813-376-5251 bromstudio@hotmail.com

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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>





LET'S HAVE A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY!

February 19th is Tom Wolfe's 88th birthday as well as President's Day!

Tom joined the club around 1964/65 after it was formed and has served as President many times during the last 60 years. He was our bromeliad sales chair for many years, led in the set up of the exhibits at the Florida State Fair for 35-40 years for the club, was Show Chairman numerous times for our local shows as well as Chairman for the Extravaganzas held by our club over a number of years. He was the 1992 WBC Chairman, President of the BSI for 6 years and served on the Board for 14 years. He was Senior Representative from BGTB for the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies for many years and he produced and presented numerous informative programs for our club.

We'll bring the birthday cake (and no candles - so many it might cause the sprinklers to go off) If you want to bring a funny birthday card, we'll take a few minutes to let you read them to Tom! Or if you have a birthday wish or words of appreciation, you can also share. Let's have some fun! Feel free to tell any stories about Tom, write or read a poem, or share a personal experience with the members.

We will do this at the beginning of the meeting and then turn it over to Dennis Cathcart for his program, followed by birthday cake!



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 Monday of every month.

Where: Woodmont Clubhouse, 415 Woodmont Ave., Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
BROMELIAD &
TROPICAL PLANT
SOCIETY OF TAMPA
21535 Northwood Dr.
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