

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2007

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.

PROGRAM FOR MARCH 19, 2007

DENNIS CATHCART, SPEAKER

Topic: Epiphytic Tillandsias.

MARCH 19, 2007

Door open 7:00 PM

Meeting 7:30 PM



Dennis Cathcart will be our guest speaker for March 19th meeting at 7:30 PM. The door are open at 7:00 PM. Dennis will be speaking on Epiphytic Tillandsias. Dennis has been exploring the Caribbean, Latin America and Mexico for 40 years plus after becoming interested in bromeliads on a herpetology trip in 1968. He is well known for his “Cargo Report” and the interesting stories that he shares of collecting trips into these countries. Many of these stories include well known bromeliad hobbyist and collectors from around the world. Dennis is an excellent story teller and writer. It appears that there was never a dull moment on his trips!

Dennis and his wife Linda own Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota, Florida. Tropiflora is one of the largest bromeliad nurseries in the world was established in 1976. They recently celebrated its 30th anniversary.

Three species of bromeliads carry the specific epithel cathcartii and several cultivars have been named for Dennis and Linda. They both have been long-time members of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and the West Coast Bromeliad Societies and have made generous contributions to those societies and their activities.

Dennis and Linda have done much to promote bromeliads worldwide but they are never to busy to take time to visit our club and share their stories and adventures with us. Let’s pack the place for this meeting. Invite someone to come with you!

Tom Wolfe, Program Chairman

Tropiflora's web site is: www.tropiflora.com

March workshop will be given by Mike Gimeno on the use of the Guild's Library

OFFICERS FOR 2006-2007

President:	Dave Johnston	727-544-9187	johnston28@tampabay.rr.com
Vice President:	Carol Wolfe	813-961-1475	cwolfe5@tampabay.rr.com
Treasurer:	Verna Dickey	813-685-1055	verna.l.d@att.net
Secretary:	Stephen A. Prins	727-546-9590	sprins1012@earthlink.net
Directors:	Tom Wolfe	813-961-1475	bromeliadsociety@juno.com
	Bill Carr	813-752-8485	wcarr1@tampabay.rr.com
	H. T, Sisco	813-968-5726	siscof1@msn.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Parliamentarian: Lyla Shepard	Librarian: Mike Gimeno	Raffle: Randy Garcia	
Show: Tom Wolfe	Newsletter: Stephen A. Prins	Membership: Rhoda Smith & Eileen Kahl	
Publicity: Bob Teems	Programs: Tom Wolfe	Sunshine: Eileen Prins	Photographers: Jim Stewart
Workshops: Dave Johnston	Refreshment chair: Randy Wojahn	Don Nores, Kelly Fowler	

MEMBERS RESPONSIBLE FOR REFRESHMENTS AT MEETINGS

Donated refreshments are always welcome

March— Paula Benway, Phil Budworth, Elisa Carr, Leni Curd, Barbara Easton, Mike Gimeno, Ron Huff, Terry Larm, Michael Logan, Liz Mracek

(The Guild will reimburse up to \$30.00 total for all refreshments at each meeting)

Please contact Randy Wojahn (Refreshment Chair) to coordinate what needs to be brought to the meeting. 813-571-7695 or email—rwojahn@tampabay.rr.com

BROMELIADS ON LINE

Bromeliad Society International— www.bsi.org

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies— www.fcbs.org

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens— www.selby.org



SUNSHINE GREETINGS—PLEASE NOTIFY [EILEEN PRINS](mailto:EILEEN.PRINS@earthlink.net) AT 727-546-9590 OR AT sprins1012@earthlink.net . WE WOULD LIKE TO SEND OUT CARDS TO OUR MEMBERS, FOR ILLNESS, SURGERY, BIRTH OF CHILD, DEATH IN FAMILY ETC.

Events Calendar

March 18, 2007— Annual Bromeliad Bonanza at Blossom World Gardens, 4225 Bloom lane, Sanford, FL 32773 sponsored by the Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society

9am to 4pm

Plant displays and plant sales. Admission is free, and is open to the general public.

If you have questions, please call 321-363-7351

April 14 & 15, 2007— Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society Spring Plant Sale

Sanford Garden Club Building, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford, FL

9AM to 4PM both days

Contact Sudi Hipsley 352-504-6162 or Bud Martin 321- 363-7351 for more info

April 21 & 22, 2007— 26th Annual Sarasota Bromeliad Society Show & Sale. Theme: Pirated Bromeliads— Exhibits, sales, food, rare plant auction at world renowned Marie Selby Gardens, 811 S. Palm Ave., Sarasota, Florida. Hours 10:00—4:00

941-955-7553

Show Chair—Dr. Teresa Bert 941-795-6012 or Co-Chair Rob Branch 941-358-4953.

Plant sale only on April 20th. Show and sale on April 21st & 22nd. Show and Sale included in General admission of \$12.00. Rare Plant Auction to be held Saturday night.

August 18&19, 2007—

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plan Society and the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society Judged Plant Show. A standard judged plant show to include bromeliads and other tropical plants.

Sanford Garden Club Building, 200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford, FL

9am—4 pm both days. There will be plant sales and plant displays. Admission is free, and is open to the general public.

If you have questions, please call Bud Martin at 321-363-7351

June 17—23, 2008— 2008 world Bromeliad Conference, “Bromeliads Downunder”.

Cairns, Australia. Registration form will soon be on the BSI website. WWW.bsi.org

The following is a reprint from the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida's Newsletter, Orlandiana, March 2004, written by Dennis Cathcart to Karen Andreas regarding his history in bromeliads.

**About our Speaker:
By, Dennis Cathcart**

DOB: August 19, 1948, Lifelong Florida resident.

For many years herpetology was my avocation, and in pursuit of this interest I spent many happy days on field trips to the Caribbean and Latin America. It was here that I became acquainted with exotic plants, sparking a new interest that has spanned 30 years both as a collector and grower.

Linda and I own and operate Tropiflora, established in 1976, which remains one of the largest collector-oriented exotic plant nurseries in the United States. Tillandias and other bromeliads are a specialty as well as a wide assortment of orchid species and hybrids, rare succulents, myrmecophytes, cycads and more. Through our publication, the Cargo Report, we stay in touch with our customers throughout the world and try to bring them into the world we know, a fascinating one of adventure and beauty.

Our work with exotic plants, collecting, studying, photographing, writing and speaking about them takes us to many countries around the world. Exploring for new plant varieties is still one of our favorite activities, and we have made over 100 collecting trips to more than twenty five countries from the Caribbean and Latin America to Australia and Southeast Asia. Linda is often part of these travels and has been in many different countries, roughing it alongside of me. Our explorations have resulted in the introduction of a number of new species of bromeliads to science and cultivation. Three species of bromeliads, an *Aechmea*, a *Neoregelia* and a *Vere-sea*, carry the specific epithet *cathcartii*.

Lecturing takes us to many fascinating places and we have traveled widely throughout the U. S. and to such far away places as Australia, Venezuela, Brazil, Bahamas, Philippines, Java, Singapore and Thailand for speaking engagements. I was the keynote speaker for the 2003 Australian Bromeliad Conference held in Auckland, New Zealand. Aside from the Cargo Report, I am also freelance writer for various publications and had been a regular columnist for the regrettably, out of print House Plant Magazine.

Tropiflora facts:

Tropiflora was established in 1976. Specializing in rare and exotic plants, featuring bromeliads, and includes cycads, caudiciforms, succulents, ferns, palms and more. Tropiflora maintains the largest variety of bromeliads, especially Tillandias, available in the U.S.A. Our stock of exotic plants runs well over 7000 varieties, with an inventory in excess of one million five hundred thousand plants.

Tropiflora's plants come from around the world, many of which were collected on over 100 collecting expeditions spanning 30 years and over twenty five countries. Linda and Dennis both make frequent forays to the world's wild places in search of new plant treasures, which are then painstakingly cultivated and propagated for the collector market. Most of our stock is produced by Tropiflora, the rest being imported from other nurseries in various countries abroad.

Tropiflora clientele run the gamut from interiorscapers and landscapers to serious collectors and hobbyist. Most sales are by mail order and plants are shipped worldwide daily. Live on arrival and complete satisfaction is guaranteed or money refunded. Customer satisfaction is a goal and Tropiflora is constantly striving to find better ways to serve its customers.

Tropiflora advertises nationally in many magazines, various technical journals and trade papers. Tropiflora publishes its own newsletter, the Cargo Report, with detailed accounts of travels, growing tips, taxonomic information and lists plants for sale, complete with information and instructions. Through the Cargo Report articles the reader can accompany the Tropiflora crew on their exciting travel adventures, and gain an insight to the origin of many of their favorite houseplants.

Visitors are welcome at Tropiflora, which has become a Mecca for serious collectors and lovers of unusual flora. Don't be in a hurry! It will take many hours to peruse miles of aisles in over 200,000 square feet of greenhouses. Tropiflora's knowledgeable staff, most of who are veterans of collecting expeditions to exciting tropical countries, can answer your most detailed questions.

Happy March Birthdays

Paula Phil Elisa Leni Barbara Mike Ron Terry Michael Liz
Benway Budworth Carr Curd Easton Gimeno Huff Larm Logan Mracek

A decision was made that an easy way to have all the club members participate in bringing refreshments would be to have members bring refreshments to the monthly meeting on the month of their birthday. Anyone with a birthday in May or December should bring refreshments the month after their birthdays, since we have the picnic and Christmas parties. This way everyone helps provide refreshments once during the year!

Suggestions: Chips& dips, carrots, celery, veggies of any kind, salsa, crackers, cheese, chicken wings, popcorn, favorite recipes, pies, pizza, cookies, cakes, candies, deviled eggs, & any kind of sandwiches and of course some beverages.

We will have a special drawing for one of the *“lucky birthday people to take home a nice bromeliad”* from the club.

Randy Wojahn is our Refreshment Chair. Please contact him if you are bring refreshments to the meeting.



813-571-7695 or rwojahn@tampabay.rr.com

WEAR YOUR NAMETAG AND HAVE A CHANCE AT WINNING A FREE BROMELIAD!!

MEMBERSHIP WILL HAVE A TABLE SET UP WITH YOUR NAMETAGS. PLEASE STOP AND GET YOUR NAMETAGS.

The Nomination Committee has proposed the following Slate of Officers for 2007-2008
They are to be voted upon at the March meeting,, installed at the April meeting then assume their Offices on May 1st.

President—Stephen A. Prins

Vice President— Tom Wolfe

Secretary— Beverly Sisco

Treasurer—Verna Dickey

Directors— Jim Stewart

Kathleen Ledbetter

Paula Benway

Ed Konezaski

Bob Teems

Many thanks to the Nominating Committee: Bill Carr, Beverly Sisco, and Verna Dickey

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Inc

Minutes of February 19,2007

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by vice President Carol Wolfe.

All visitors and guests were welcomed.

Door prize was won by Stephen Prins

Birthday drawing won by Tom Wolfe

Minutes of January 2007 accepted as published in newsletter.

Treasurers Report postponed until March meeting.

March workshop will be done by Mike Gimeno on books available and use of our library.

April workshop will be done by Steve Bryam on Neo's as shade plants in landscape.

Sunshine Report given by Steve Prins for Eileen Prins. It was brought to our attention that Rhoda Smith is fighting a returning health problem.

Tom Wolfe reported that the display at the Florida State Fair was awarded 5th place with a prize of \$300.00.

Tom also reported that a bromeliad handbook from Australia will be for sale in the near future for approximately \$16.00.

New Business— Bill Car presented the proposed slate of officers from the nominating committee. The list will be published in the March newsletter.

Nominations from the floor were opened and none were presented.

Motion was made by Steve Byram to have Verna Dickey serve a third year as Treasurer. Motion passed.

Refreshments were served

Show & Tell—Tom Wolfe, Jim Stewart, Stephen Prins, Eileen Kahl, Barbara Easton, Barret Bassick, Mike Gimeno, and Randy Garcia presented their plants.

Program—Karen Andreas gave a very interesting program on "Trekking for Bromeliads" the program focused on bromeliads in the landscape.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Stephen A. Prins, Secretary

Pictures from February meeting



Speaker Karen Andreas and husband Michael



Stephen Prins



Barbara Easton



Tom wolfe

SHOW & TELL

Photos by Jim Stewart



Eileen Kahl

President's Message March 2007 by Dave Johnston

I would like to use this column to recognize our members efforts on behalf of the Guild.

First, I would like to recognize and thank Bill Carr, Beverly Sisco and Verna Dickey for serving as the nominating committee for the election of Officers and Directors. This committee is a thankless job and a difficult job that requires lots of phone calls often resulting in a no or no-thanks answer. So thank you Bill, Beverly and Verna for putting together a terrific slate of officers and directors. The actual elections occur at the March meeting.

I recently received some paperwork concerning the Judges scoring of our display at the Florida State Fair. I will share that information with you at the meeting. This year we did have an impressive educational feature of our display so thanks go out to Steve and Eileen Prins for putting together the easels and to Carol Wolfe for the educational information.

Also thanks go out to the following people for bringing plants and or helping put together the display, Verna Dickey, Jim Stewart, Ed Konczeski, the Garcia Family, Tom Wolfe and myself. Thank you to all of the members that manned the booth and promoted the club. I don't have a list of your names, but you know who you are and the club appreciates your efforts. Spring has sprung, Happy Growing and we will see you at the meeting.

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROMELIAD GUILD

OF TAMPA BAY, INC.

Stephen A. Prins, Editor

7224 56th Ave. N.

St. Petersburg, FL 33709

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

WORK SHOP AND MONTHLY PROGRAM SPEAKERS

7:30 PM

**THIRD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH
MONTHLY MEETINGS ON**

1963

ESTABLISHED

TAMPA BAY, INC.

OF

BROMELIAD GUILD

