

# Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter



March, 2011



## President's Message

Happy Florida Spring!

The flowering trees and shrubs (that didn't freeze) seem to be blooming extra heavy this year. They are so pretty. I hope your bromeliads are doing well.

At our next meeting we are going to be discussing how to get our plants ready for the show, so let's all try to be there. Remember our next meeting will be early (March 14th). Let's be thinking about which of our plants we want to enter.

Also, the club has two very pretty ficus trees, 7 to 8 ft. tall, that we want to sell to members. They are from our booth at the fair. See me or Tom or Paula if you are interested (\$28.00 each).

We also want to thank Dr. Howard Frank for enlightening us more about the evil weevil at our last meeting.

Sincerely,  
Beverly Sisco, President

## BGTB MONTHLY MEETING

March 14, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

### SHOW TIME

This month's meeting will be all about the Bromeliad Show on April 1, 2, & 3, 2011.

Please bring a plant or two that you think has potential to be entered into our show.

We will help you clean and groom it and advise you as to how you can best exhibit it.

We will cover the basics of decorative containers and go through the show schedule with you. We will try to answer all your questions about plants and how to complete the entry sheet.

We have had some great workshops leading up to our Show and now is the time for you to plan and prepare your plants to enter. Please help us have the biggest and best show ever!

Tom Wolfe, Program chairman



# **Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

**February 21, 2011**

**The meeting was called to order by President Beverly Sisco.**

**Secretary's Report:** Accepted as reported in the Newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paula Benway reported a total of \$1473.65 was put in the checking account from the CD and \$9000.00 was reinvested in a 1 year CD. Minus expenses for the last month, the total now in the checking account is \$1593.22.

**Old Business:** Eileen Hart of the Nominating Committee reported on the nominations of officers for the next year and they are as follows:

President: Beverly Sisco

Vice-President: Verna Dickey

Treasurer: Paula Benway

Secretary: Steve Byram

Newsletter Editor: Marilyn Byram

Directors: Bob Benway, Harriet Gord, Eileen Hart, Dave Mracek, Tom Wolfe.

Nominations for Committee Chairs are as follows:

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

There were no additional nominations from the floor and these will be voted on at the next meeting.

Tom Wolfe announced that the Florida State Fair went well. We received 4<sup>th</sup> place for the exhibit. Thanks to all who donated plants and helped set up the booth.

Beverly mentioned the MOSI exhibit on bugs and there was no interest in attending.

**New Business:** Beverly talked about the Show coming up. Staging is on March 30, entries on March 31, judging on April 1, and open to the public on April 2 and 3. We would like as many entries as possible. You must have the plants for 6 months before you can enter them. You can enter "for display only" if you do not want to compete in the show. The club would like to see a great variety of plants entered.

**Birthday Plant:** Won by Tom Wolfe who donated a plant for his wife to take home.

**Show and Tell:** Plants were shown by Tom Wolfe.

**Program:** Dr. Howard Frank spoke on Weevils in Belize.

**Raffle:** More plants are needed (clean pups – not old, dirty plants)

Respectfully submitted by Verna L. Dickey and Mike Sweet



# **Grooming Plants for Show**

## **by Odean Head**

### **CLEANING PLANTS**

I use a water hose with a spray nozzle that will furnish a good solid stream without too much pressure to wash out dirt, tree leaves and other debris. After the first wash, look deep into the plant for tree leaves and dirt that did not come out. Be careful about digging too much with your fingers because you may break or tear a leaf. It is best to use some long tweezers or a surgical hemostat to pull out the debris. You can loosen the stubborn dirt inside the base of the outer leaves with a small artist brush. Rinse the plant again to remove loosened dirt and debris. Clean the surfaces of leaves individually. The cleaning intensity will vary from plant to plant depending on how delicate the leaf is and whether it has scurf or not. If it has scurf, be careful not to remove any of it because it may not regenerate and will be obvious to the judges. On most of my plants I will suds each leaf with ivory soap and a heavy artist brush. If the leaves are not too treacherous I will pull each leaf through my fingers to loosen the more stubborn dirt. This should also remove any dead scale that might be attached to the leaf. If the scale does not rub right off it may still be alive and the plant should be treated with safer soap. Scale on show plants is a big NO. Next I rinse the plant with clean water again using the spray nozzle.

### **REPOTTING**

It is usually easier to repot a plant than to clean the pot. This is also a good time to select a pot size that is in proper proportion to the plant. A larger pot will also make it easier to center the plant and cover any exposed caudex caused by leaf removal. Do not pot it too deep unless you have something to hide because the judges may assume you are hiding something and take off accordingly. Also be aware of what constitutes a standard pot. A pretty pot will probably be classified as decorative and be placed in the Artistic Container Division under a different set of judging rules (If you have some pretty or unusual pots, you should consider entering this division). Set the plant down and look at its conformation both from the top and from the side. Straighten the plant if needed and firm the soil around it so that it will stay straight. Be sure the mix on top is neat. Some use a special top dressing, but I don't think it's necessary so long as it is neat.

### **TRIMMING LEAVES**

Leaf damage is a common cultural problem in growing bomeliads and you can bet money that the judges will see any that exist. They can also usually see where you have trimmed. If you have done a good trimming job they may not take off any points at all unless too much was required. Before you start cutting, try to visualize what effect the cut will have on the plant's appearance. If you have to cut a leaf tip back too far it could change the overall shape of the leaf



as well as its conformation. Normally you should trim a leaf tip to its natural shape but how should you treat a fingernail tip? Analyze the damage and the effect of the trim before you act. You may want to only trim the brown, changing its shape rather than take off the color. You may decide not to trim it at all if it will do more harm than good. In those cases the judges can usually see your dilemma and will be lenient if there is little else wrong with the plant. Some trimming of leaf edges close to the base can also be done where there are no spines, but try to keep a smooth leaf edge.

## **FINAL EVALUATION FOR SHOW ENTRY**

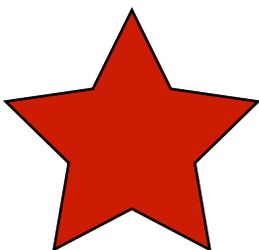
Look at the overall appearance of the plant. Does it appear healthy and well grown? Does its foliage have the good sheen or scurf appropriate for the plant? Are the colors rich and the markings clear? How about its symmetry, is it appropriate? Is the size close to maturity? Check the leaf damage. Is it too severe? Does it need more grooming?

*CAUTION* - Do not be overly critical. You can expect to be short in one or more of these areas since there are few if any perfect plants.

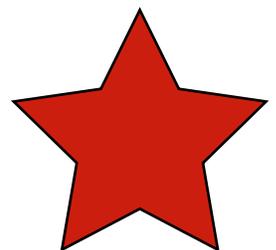
## **TRANSPORTING PLANTS**

Getting all your plants groomed for the show can be frustrating enough without any trauma on the way to the show. Take some extra time in packing your plants to make sure they do not damage each other or topple over. You would be smart to take some of your cleaning tools and maybe some extra mix with you for a last minute check just in case you have a little mishap on the way.

*Excerpt from Bromeliad Society/Houston Newsletter, "Cultural Tips -- 2007", by Odean Head.*



**Don't forget -  
The March meeting will be one  
week earlier than usual. It will  
be March 14.**



# Florida State Fair BGTB Display



## Upcoming Bromeliad Events

**Bromeliad Show at Tampa Garden Club in conjunction with the Federation of Garden Clubs Annual Flower Show. Set-up - March 30, Entries - March 31, Judging - April 1, Open to Public - April 2-3**



### 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.

**March Birthdays:** Paula Benway, Barbara Easton, Dottie Kellogg, Terry Larm, Jason Mellica



### 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](mailto:sprins1012@earthlink.net)



## **Officers for 2010-2011**

President: Beverly Sisco 813-968-5726 [btsgarden@msn.com](mailto:btsgarden@msn.com)  
Vice President: Verna Dickey 813-685-1055 [vernald@verizon.net](mailto:vernald@verizon.net)  
Treasurer: Paula Benway 813-985-3584 [paulabenway@aol.com](mailto:paulabenway@aol.com)  
Secretary: Steve Byram 813-949-0503 [byramsteve@gmail.com](mailto:byramsteve@gmail.com)  
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Dave Mracek 813-968-3666 [VENFLDJM@hotmail.com](mailto:VENFLDJM@hotmail.com)  
Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 [BromeliadSociety@juno.com](mailto:BromeliadSociety@juno.com)

## **Committee Chairs**

Parliamentarian: Lyla Shepard  
Librarian: Harriet Gord  
Show: Paula Benway and Verna Dickey  
Membership: Eileen Kahl  
Publicity: H.T. Sisco  
Programs: Tom Wolfe  
Sunshine: Eileen Prins



## **Bromeliads Online**

Bromeliad Society International— [www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org)  
Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies— [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org)  
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens— [www.selby.org](http://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](mailto:byramm@verizon.net)





**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.**

**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, 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**