

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

April 2026

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, April 19, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

At the home of Tom and Carol Wolfe

5211 Lake LeClare Rd.

Lutz, FL 33558

Speaker - Steve Byram

“Made in the Shade”

(Design on a Dime where the Sun Don't Shine)

Do you need help growing plants in the shade? Steve will give you some helpful and inexpensive pointers on growing plants in shady areas. Learn what plants do well in the shade, where to find landscape ideas, where to get recycled materials, and where to purchase shade-loving plants for your yard.



Steve Byram is a retired physical education teacher and former Pasco County Master Gardener. He has been a member of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay for 19 years, has served as secretary, president, and vice president. Steve has given talks at many garden clubs, nurseries, public libraries, public gardens, bromeliad societies and OLLI Life-Long Learning Institute at the University of South Florida. Much of this talk is based on his own experiences with his shade-challenged yard.



President's Message:

Tom and I enjoyed hosting the March meeting of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Inc., in our home. We had not seen most of you since May of 2025, which was the last meeting we were able to attend.

There are many reasons that membership in the Guild has declined. The main one for our club is three or four years of stress over covid during which time we made several moves to new monthly meeting places, thereby displacing some members with each move. Also, the rent for commercial meeting space tripled as the Tampa population was booming. The local news cited Tampa as the #1 city to live in, the #1 city for young professionals, #1 of the ten top places to live, etc. Although Tampa was popular, the number of people volunteering in all non-profit organizations was declining, and the interest in attending bromeliad meetings in our area dwindled. The internet also makes it easy to get information for growing and purchasing bromeliads. There were many good suggestions at the meeting for solutions, but we would need leaders who could devote some time and effort to building the organization and providing the monthly maintenance that a group like this requires. At present, we do not have leaders or members who are willing or physically able to accept the jobs; therefore, the decision was unanimous to dissolve the corporation. I followed through on the decision by filing a Dissolution of Corporation with the State of Florida. The filing cost \$35.00, so the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay is no longer a corporation

Although there may not be funds to rent monthly meeting spaces, that does not mean the group cannot meet. As Tom and I shared with you, the original bromeliad members met in homes for many years before renting public meeting facilities. The majority of members at the March meeting expressed their desire to continue meeting in homes, and they can share bromeliads in their collection or landscape. As long as we have someone hosting the meetings, there is no reason that you cannot meet for as long as you like. If it doesn't work out monthly, there is always the option of meeting quarterly or semi-annually, to keep in touch with those who are interested in continuing.

Our thanks to Ken Stokes for cleaning out the warehouse rental and disposing of the stored items. Also, we did not renew the liability insurance for shows and sales, as it was no longer needed.

The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc., meets three times a year and rotates the meetings to cities hosted by the member clubs. It requires two representatives from each club, and the membership fee is \$100.00 per year. Tom has been the senior representative for 25 plus years, and of course he cannot continue at present. We certainly miss our contact with the Council and the interested bromeliad members and growers who represent our state. Marilyn and Steve have also represented the club well and attended many meetings in our place; however, at present, we do not have any representatives on the Council, so we will drop our membership with them. You will still be able to stay abreast of their activities by going to the website: <http://www.FCBS.org>. The FCBS is the sponsor of the Bromeliad Extravaganza every two years, and I am sure you will always be welcome to attend these events to see old friends, buy bromeliads, attend speakers' lectures, and attend auctions.

The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay has a charter from the Bromeliad Society International and can continue as a club under the charter but not as a corporation. This would require an annual membership in the BSI, if you would like to continue.

The affiliate society membership is \$35.00 per year. We can discuss this at the next meeting and you can decide if this is the route the group wants to go in.

If you are not a member of the BSI at present, the BSI is commemorating its 75th Anniversary with a special price opportunity, seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) for an Electronic Membership, and this price will be effective from August 1st, 2025, through July 31st, 2026.

Join the Bromeliad Society International today and receive these benefits at \$7.50 for one year:

1. Quarterly Bromeliad Journal and searchable digital archive
2. Access 40,000+ Bromeliad species photos and resource files
3. Access to the BSI Seed Bank
4. Attend the bi-annual World Bromeliad Conference at a Discount
5. BSI Online Store discounts
6. Access to the BSI worldwide member directory

This is a great deal for bromeliad lovers, so take advantage of it and enjoy *The Journal* online! If you have any questions about this, please let me know.

Also, on the subject of the Bromeliad Society International, the World Bromeliad Conference, *California Dreaming*, will be held April 15-18, 2026, at the Hilton Hotel, Costa Mesa, California. The conference will have an amazing BSI Judged Bromeliad show, international speakers, the largest bromeliad sale in the USA this year, a bromeliad auction, dinner banquet and many more exciting activities as they celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the BSI. It's not too late to catch a flight and register for the conference! Go to BSI.org!

On a personal note, Tom has been scheduled for surgery on June 11th to reattach the torn tendon, and will be in recovery several months. But in the meantime, we look forward to hosting those who would like to meet in April and we look forward to Steve's program.

Carol Wolfe, Your April Host



**Beginner's
Corner**

Plant Diseases by Tom Wolfe

Plant diseases cause physical damage to the plant, like the damage by grasshoppers or squirrels. The only solution is to physically remove them. Most diseases that affect bromeliads are classified as fungal infections, such as leaf spot, rust, root rot, and crown rot. Also, fly spec scale or brown scale may be a problem.

If the plants develop small, round yellow spots that turn into larger brown spots and then start to sag, it's probably leaf spot. Remove the infected leaves and treat with a fungicide. The label should list leaf spot. Move the plant where it can receive good air circulation.

Rust first appears as rust-colored lumps on the underside of the leaves. The rust will, with time, eat through the leaf or create a yellow spot on top of the leaf. Treat the same as for leaf spot.

Root rot is a pathogen called a parasitic pathogen. Remove the plant from the container and examine the roots. If they are mushy, it is probably root rot. Cut off all the diseased roots and replant in all fresh soil. Don't overwater.

Crown rot is a fungus found in all commercial potting soils. The problem starts when the soil becomes waterlogged and oxygen is reduced. The plant center is mushy and brown and has a foul odor. Then the center comes out with a slight tug. Usually, at this point, it's probably too late to save the plant. Remove the rotten leaves and treat with a broad-spectrum fungicide. If there is enough of the caudex left, it may produce a pup or two.

For scale spray Cygon 2 E under the leaves or any insecticide that is used for scale.

To prevent these conditions, give the plants plenty of air circulation and don't overwater.



April Birthdays - Denise Provencher



Bromeliads Online

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/366210778024864>

Bromeliad Society International— www.bsi.org

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens— www.selby.org

Bromeliads Online - <http://www.bromeliads.co.nz/index.html>



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.,
and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL.

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

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