

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay Newsletter

May, 2008



President's Message Tom Wolfe

Hello Folks,

This being the first month of a new BGTB Administration, I would like to thank all the Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs for their work and dedication over the past two years. We now have a new group of officers, most of which have been recycled or repositioned into different areas of responsibility. Please do your best to support your officers, directors, and committee chairs in the coming year. As always, we need all the help we can get. Also, please keep Steve Prins in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from his illness.

First and foremost is our main project for 2008 which is the upcoming 2008 Bromeliad Extravaganza. The Extravaganza is sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and we are the host club. We hosted the last Extravaganza in 1991. The location rotates around the state and our club voted about two years ago to once again be the host. The FCBS is composed of all the Florida Bromeliad Societies and this is our annual event where we all get together to

fellowship, sell and buy plants, have an auction for our state organization, and just have a great time together.

The hotel contract has been signed, and we obtained a good rate for a suite, the banquet food has been chosen, the garden tours are set up, we are working on getting some great seminars to be held throughout the day on Saturday, and now we need you to help us successfully pull it off!

We are enclosing a registration form for the Friday evening reception and Saturday evening banquet. I would like to see all of you support this event by registering. We need you on Friday night to welcome the out of town registrants and to help make this event a success.

Several of you are spending the night at the Sheraton. If you haven't made your reservations yet, call (813) 873-8875 or fax (813) 879-7196 or consult the web site that the Sheraton has set up for us:

www.sheraton.com/tampaairport





Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport

It's only \$99.00 per night for a suite. The suites are all equipped with microwave, foldaway sleeper sofa, coffee pot, refrigerator, wet bar, broadband internet, Sealy posturepedic plush top sleep system five hypo-allergenic pillows, 3 sheets, each with a 180 thread count and fleece and down blankets, heated indoor pool, hot tub and sauna, fitness center.

I am grateful to Rhoda Smith for overseeing the garden tours. She has done a grand job and it will be a pleasure to all of us and our guests. We will have buses on Sunday morning leaving the hotel about 9:00 A.M. and returning at noon for \$10.00 per person. We will be giving you more information on the garden tours in the next issue.

This meeting, May 19, 2008 will be our annual picnic and auction. We need some really special plants for the auction to raise some much needed funds for the extravaganza. Please be generous with your plants and your bidding.

Also, if you haven't signed up to bring food to the picnic; just bring a salad, a hot or cold casserole, or dessert. This should be a great time of fun and fellowship. Let's try to get the food there by 6:30 so it can be set up on the tables and we can eat promptly at 7:00 P.M. The auction will start after the meal. If you haven't stayed for previous auctions, you should stay as we have lots of fun getting people to bid against one another! There is no pressure, just fun and an opportunity to see some unusual bromeliads.

See you there,
Tom

Save your Bags!

Plastic or paper bags and boxes are needed for the sales at the Extravaganza in August. Bring as many as you can to the hotel on August 29.

New Director Needed

We will be taking nominations from the floor at the next meeting for a new director to replace Paula Benway who is our new treasurer.

Welcome New Members

Linda Lowe of Brandon
Paul and Claudia Ward of Tampa



April Meeting Snapshots – Photos by Jim Stewart



Show & Tell – Sideways Growth



Sales Tables



Red Ribbon – Blue Ribbon



Pres. Tom Wolfe calls to order



Show & Tell -- Ortho



Ae ludemanianna rubria



Minutes of Meeting – April 21, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Tom Wolfe. He welcomed 2 guests from Spring Hill and 1 new member – Linda Lowe.

Tom said the minutes were printed in the Newsletter and Steve Byram made a motion to accept them as printed and Eileen Prins seconded the motion.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Verna Dickey. She said \$8000.00 from the Certificate of Deposit was put in the checking account to be used for the upcoming Extravaganza in August.

The Sunshine Committee Chairman, Eileen Prins, reported that a past President of the Club, Jerry Griffin, was diagnosed with lung and brain cancer and is undergoing radiation treatment. She will email his address when she gets it so cards can be sent. She also reported that Steve Prins has a low red blood count but is OK and hoping to be at the May meeting.

Tom Wolfe announced that Dues are due now. He also thanked Marilyn Byram for the good job she did on her first Newsletter. Anyone with a change of address or email needs to notify her. Tom also passed out up-to-date flyers for the Extravaganza. He said reservations can be made now at the Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport for \$99.00 per night. The deadline for reservations for the Friday night reception and Saturday night Banquet is August 24. On Sunday there will be Bus Tours – 4 places to visit.

Tom mentioned the Picnic and Auction next month – May 19. A list was passed around for everyone to sign to bring a dish. Eileen Prins will bring ham and Beverly Sisco will bring turkey, dressing and gravy. Doors open at 6:30 and we will eat at 7:00.

Tom conducted Installation of Officers for 2008-2009 – they are as follows:

President – Tom Wolfe

Vice-President – Verna Dickey

Secretary – Beverly Sisco

Treasurer – Paula Benway

Directors – Jim Stewart, Bob Teems, Kathleen Ledbetter and Ed Konczeski

We will need another Director to replace Paula Benway who will be Treasurer.

Drawings were held for Birthday Plant (won by Linda Lowe) and Door Prize (won by Dave Fulkerson).

Show and Tell – Barrett Bassick, Tom Wolfe and Dave Johnston showed plants.

Break for Refreshments.

Tom introduced our speaker – Dr. Guillermo Rivera from Argentina. He was accompanied by Peter Wan from the California Bromeliad Society. Dr. Rivera conducted tours of South America with Cactus Societies and found out that there were a lot of people who were interested in tours to see Bromeliads. His presentation was “Bromeliads from Central Brazil” and he showed slides of many types of Bromeliads and some cactus located in this area of Brazil.

Meeting was adjourned and the plant raffle was held.

Respectfully submitted by
Verna L. Dickey, Acting Secretary



Guillermo Rivera



Neoregelia mucugensis
in natural habitat



2008 Bromeliad Extravaganza

August 29-31, 2008



**Friday evening reception for registrants, Plant Sales, Seminars
Raffle & Saturday evening Banquet followed by
Rare Plant Auction, Sunday morning home bus tours!**

***Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies &
Hosted by Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay***

SHERATON SUITES TAMPA AIRPORT

4400 W. Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33607
www.sheraton.com/tampaairport

All accommodations are room suites
Airport shuttle complimentary 24/7 on the hour
(813) 873-8675 Toll Free: 1-800-325-3535, Fax (813) 879-7196
Ask for Special BGTB Extravaganza Rate \$99.00 Double or Single
Group rates available to July 29, 2008.

Friday, August 29, 2008: Reception
Saturday August 30, 2008 Banquet
6:30 PM Reservation deadline August 24, 2008
Sunday, August 31, 2008 9:00 AM to noon

*\$45 Registration for reception & banquet
Make check payable to BGTB and mail to:*

*Paula Benway
1225 N. Riverhills Dr.
Temple Terrace, FL 33617
(813) 985-3584 email: rebenway@aol.com*

For Reception and Banquet Reservations complete the following:

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Select your Entrée: all meals include salad, rolls, butter, Chef's choice of seasonal vegetable & and beverages:

Choice of one:

- _____ Grilled marinated portobello mushroom can (Vegetarian) stuffed with season vegetable medley and served over a bed of angel hair pasta with herb marinara
- _____ Flame seared marinated breast of Chicken-Served with roasted tomato and basic cream sauce topped with a thick slice of creamy fresh mozzarella
- _____ Queen cut of slow roasted prime rib of beef served with jus natural and creamy horseradish.

_____ **Home Bus Tours on Sunday morning, August 31, 2008 Add \$10.00 per person.**

_____ Total amount \$'s enclosed.

Extravaganza News State-wide Event August 29-30 by Karen Andreas

Last month, the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay hosted the quarterly Council meeting at the same hotel where this year's Extravaganza will be held. It was an opportunity to see the facility, and everyone was pleased and excited about this venue. Council members ate a delicious lunch prepared by the hotel and served by its excellent staff.

Sales and seminars will be held on the first floor and in the lushly landscaped atrium of the hotel. There will be an ample sales area. The hotel rooms are all suites with sitting areas in the front portion.

There will be a \$45.00 registration fee which covers a Friday evening reception as well as the banquet on Saturday. Dinner selections are delicious – vegetarian, fish, chicken and beef are being offered. You can download the reservation at <http://fcbs.org> or look for it in the special mailing this summer.

Bus tours of four fabulous gardens are also being offered on Sunday morning for a nominal fee of \$10.00 per person. Please try to sign up in advance for the tours so the Guild can plan for buses.

Plan to come on Friday and join your fellow bromeliad enthusiasts for a great weekend of bromania!



May Birthdays:

Happy Birthday to: Judith and Leo
Champagne, Caroline Fuller, Lisa Robinette,
Mary Louise Wojahn

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

Since we are having our picnic this month, please bring refreshments to the June meeting.

Sunshine Greetings

Our condolences go to Lisa Robinette on the passing of her mother, Joyce Hancock. Mrs. Hancock, who was 90 years old, occasionally attended our meetings with her daughter.

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



Any Changes?

If your mailing address or email address changes, please inform Marilyn Byram at 21535 Northwood Drive, Lutz, 33549 or byramm@verizon.net

Dues are due!

Yearly membership: May 1 to April 30. If you haven't done so already, please mail your dues to Paula Benway, 1225 N. Riverhills Dr., Temple Terrace, FL 33617 \$25.00 for Single Membership, \$30.00 for Family Membership



About Our Organization . . .

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.

Officers for 2007-2008



President: Tom Wolfe 813-961-1475 bromeliadsociety@juno.com
 Vice Pres.: Verna Dickey 813-685-1055 vernald@verizon.net
 Treasurer: Paula Benway 813-985-3584 paulabenway@aol.com
 Secretary: Beverly Sisco 813-968-5726 siscofl1@msn.com
 Directors: Jim Stewart 813-281-0213 jimstewart@tampabay.rr.com
 Kathleen Ledbetter 813-228-0690 tedkathled@aol.com
 Ed Konezaski 813-871-3449

Committee Chairs

Parliamentarian: Lyla Shepard
 Librarians: Paula Benway and Verna Dickey
 Raffle: Randy Garcia
 Show: Tom Wolfe
 Newsletter: Marilyn Byram
 Membership: Rhoda Smith & Eileen Kahl
 Publicity: Bob Teems
 Programs: Tom Wolfe
 Sunshine: Eileen Prins
 Photographers: Jim Stewart and Kelly Fowler



Bromeliads Online

Bromeliad Society International— www.bsi.org
 Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies— www.fcbs.org
 Marie Selby Botanical Gardens— www.selby.org



Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Inc.

Established 1963

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, 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**