

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

June 2024

Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Meeting: Monday, June 17, 2024 Speaker: Jason Mellica



Jason Mellica

Our speaker for the June 17 meeting will be Jason Mellica. He will be speaking to us on the topic of “New Ways to Mount Neoregelia Bromeliads.”

Jason graduated from University of Florida in 1995 with a B.S. in Botany and served an internship at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.

Jason started his own business selling and growing bromeliads in Sarasota shortly thereafter. He has been growing plants for over 25 years.

He met Grant Groves and he taught him how to hybridize. He has greenhouses in Sarasota. Currently he has over 5000 Bromeliads, most of which are his own hybrids. He has over 150 registered hybrids.

He is a past president of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and is currently the Vice President.





Carol Wolfe - President

We are welcoming Jason Mellica from Sarasota, Florida as our guest speaker. He will be speaking on New Ways to Mount Neoregelia Bromeliads.

We hope you enjoyed the picnic and auction in May. We enjoyed a delicious meal followed by the auction. We had lots of great bromeliads to bid on and we hope everyone went home happy with some desirable bromeliads. Thanks to all of you for the delicious

food and beautiful bromeliads you donated to the auction!

Our member, Herb Hill, presented an outstanding seminar at the World Conference held in Palm Beach, Florida, on developing a host of colorful Vriesea hybrids. His bromeliads hybrids are grown in the Netherlands and distributed world-wide.

We had a good time seeing many friends at the conference and attending the bromeliad show and sale. The next conference will be hosted by the Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society located in Mission Viejo, California in 2026.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Carol Wolfe



By Tom Wolfe The Disappearing Mangroves

There are three species of mangroves: red, black, and white. The red mangrove margins the coastal perimeters of the Florida Keys and continues around most of the Florida peninsula.

The red mangroves are on the outer perimeter facing the ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. They catch the debris washed in from tidal changes and storms. They grow directly in salt water and brackish water,

Black mangroves frequently fringe the coast but more commonly mixed with white mangroves grow in low, more inland areas, where salt content of the soil is usually higher than sea water.

White mangroves occur in large stands resulting from flooding waters which float seeds and humus forming hammocks.

The buttonwood is commonly found mixed through the mangroves accumulating humus deposits where they can grow a few inches higher than the mangroves. Epiphytes are frequently found growing on these mangroves such as bromeliads and orchids.

The mangroves are nature's way of protecting our shoreline from erosion but are rapidly being destroyed by developments.

Literature cited – *Orchids and Other Airplants* by Frank C. Craighead
Florida List of Protected Plants by Lubbers, Gilbert & Milks

Snapshots of Plant Auction - May 20, 2024



Patriotic Banquet



Auctioneers - Kenneth Stokes
and Tom Wolfe



Plant with the Highest Bid



Bidding War



Bidding War



Last Plant



Refreshments

Refreshments for the June meeting will be provided by Marcia and Rick Hunter and Jill Zakaroff



June Birthdays - Happy Birthday to Larissa Bursa, Phil Elting, Keith Santner, Kenneth Stokes, Alessandra Thor, and Jill Zakaroff



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

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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>





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
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TROPICAL PLANT
SOCIETY OF TAMPA
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