

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

August 2025

MEETING PLACE:

**Bill Castens Gymnasium Conference Room
Northdale Park and Recreation
15510 Hooting Owls Place, Tampa, FL 33624
Sunday, AUGUST 17, DOORS OPEN at 2:00 p.m.**

SPEAKER: 2:15 TO 3:00 p.m.

MEETING IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OFF THE GYM

Speaker: Kenneth Stokes

“Making Sense of Botanical Names”



Kenneth Stokes has been asked again by our president, Carol Wolf, to conduct the meeting and present the program. Tom fell and broke his right wrist and can't even feed himself until he learns to use his left hand. With the left knee and right wrist out of commission, he needs Carol's constant attention.

Kenneth's program will be “Making Sense of Botanical Names”. The long and unprounceable names are called bi-nomials. That means two names, the genus and the specie. They will no longer be like a foreign language to you. Information on name tags, pronunciation and inventories will also be covered.

Kenneth brought some delicious fresh mangoes last month to share with us. This month, he will be bringing carambolas (star fruit) for everyone. His tree is loaded and he would like to share. He also bring some rare plants for the door prize and birthday plant.

Kenneth is a life-long Floridian. He was born in Melbourne, moved to Miami as young man, and was then transferred to Tampa by his employer to open a new business. He eventually started his own furniture manufacturing business, selling to the national



interior design trade. He continues in the same field today doing antique restoration and operating a gallery of art, architectural, and interior furnishings.

Following in the footsteps of his grandmother and mother, he has always been interested in plants. He began collecting wild plants as a child to put in their large rural garden. He now has an extensive collection of tropical plants in his south Tampa garden. He has been involved in many plant societies and joined the BGTB in 1995. He has also been a member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and has served in a number of positions in both. He has been doing public speaking for most of his life in business, religious, and social organizations. He is also the author of four literary novels. He uses the skills he developed over the years to pull together fresh presentations, utilizing real examples to illustrate what is being said.

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa

Minutes of Meeting - Date 7/20/25

Meeting was called to order by Kenneth Stokes. Kenneth asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. There were no changes.

Meeting adjourned.

Program was presented by Kenneth Stokes. Title - "Naming of the Parts" Kenneth gave a hands-on demonstration of the parts and functions of bromeliads as well as other tropical plants.

Respectfully submitted Steve Byram, Secretary

SNAPSHOTS OF THE JULY 20 MEETING



The Purpose and Goals of Plant Societies

By Kenneth Stokes

Plant societies generally fall into the category of non-profit educational groups. Their goal then is to teach their members about the plant families that they represent. The primary method is by inviting knowledgeable people to present programs about plants at their meetings. The secondary methods are articles in their newsletters and by members bringing plants for show-and-tell. Some clubs even plan tours of botanical gardens, private gardens and natural habitats for their members. Shows and sales work as an outreach to the public, to bring attention to their plants. New people are then intrigued by unique plants that they have never seen and this becomes an excellent way of building membership. Such shows are labor intensive and many competent growers with large collections are needed to provide enough high-quality plants for the exhibit. For this reason, small clubs have difficulty in presenting shows.

The Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Club of Tampa primarily educates its members by inviting Bromeliad enthusiasts to speak at the meetings. Unless a member has been a president or vice-president, most members don't have a clue to what is involved. At present, the number of speakers available and capable of making a worthwhile presentation is quite limited. Speakers do get a fee for speaking, but it is insufficient to cover program development, travel time and expenses, such as gas, meals and hotels. Those things are covered by the selling of plants. So, speakers have to have plants to sell to make the travel worthwhile. The other factor involved is that the club has to have members that buy plants. As an example, one woman drove four hours to do a presentation at a club to find only six people present. Not only was it insulting that few showed up to hear an excellent program, but no one bought any of her plants. She vowed to never return. I recall when a person from across the state came to Tampa to speak and sold two plants. I bought one that I already owned and talked another member into buying one. It is a two-way street and both speakers and members should benefit. I am often thanked by my host club for giving their members access to plants not commercially available.

Good speakers are dying or becoming infirmed and no one is filling the void. Members need to develop programs and become speakers or one of the best ways to disperse knowledge will be lost. One of the best ways to develop the knowledge and skill to be a good speaker is to do show-and-tell. Learn about a plant in bloom, bring it to the meeting, and tell us about it. I have made such presentations my major way of contributing to the club and I encourage others to do the same.



Have you noticed the *Billbergia pyramidalis* blooming all over the region?

UPCOMING BROMELIAD EVENTS

September 26-27 Bromeliad Extravaganza. Ramada Gateway, 7470 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway 192, Kissimmee, FL. Book your room by August 26 for a special room rate on BromeliadX.com

Sponsored by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and hosted by the Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society

FIGHTING BLACK FLYSPECK SCALE

by Mike McMahon

Perhaps the one pest everybody finds on broms raised outdoors is the Black Flyspeck Scale.

They hide on the underside of the leaves and can cause serious damage as well as being unsightly. It thrives when plants are crowded and in moist conditons. I've not found any good, easy way to get rid of it.

For regular garden plants, oil sprays are effective (if you spray the undersides of the leaves). But, oil sprays should NEVER be used on broms. They clog pores in the leaves and can literally smother the plant.



If you have just a couple of plants, you can scratch them off with your fingernail & then lightly spray with an insecticidal soap to kill off the larval stage that has not formed the hard black shell of the adult stage. But, who has just a couple of broms? Insecticidal soap can work without the work of scratching off the scale, but spraying it on the underside of the leaves is impractical when the plants are in the ground, and an unpleasant task if you have a lot of pots of broms. Plus, the insecticidal soap has to be repeated to get all the scale. Otherwise, it just keeps coming back stronger than before.

Systemic insecticides work, but be sure you are using one safe for broms. It seems that over the past 40 years, whenever I found a systemic that does the trick and was safe for the broms, it got removed from the market due to human health risks. The systemic currently being most recommended is Safari, which is effective, but too expensive for a lot of folks. I have had good results using Bayer Tree & Shrub liquid systemic pesticide. The directions say to use it as a soil drench & not to spray on foliage. But, that does not work well with broms in fast draining potting mix & in the garden you can't drench the soil without drenching the foliage. So, I mix about two tablespoons per gallon of water and give a light spay to the foliage. And, I do mean

light. I do not try to wet the entire leaf surface, just a light misting. I do NOT pour into the cup of the plant. I spray once per year in the late Spring and later in the year I may spray again if there seems to be more than an isolated scale here or there.

The only broms I've had a problem with are *Vriesea splendens* (*Lutheria splendens* now), *glutinosa* and their hybrids. I do not know if the spray caused them injury or something else, but it is enough of a suspect that I do not use it on those.



Also, with any systemic, no plants visited by bees or butterflies should be sprayed. The nectar is poisoned by it for an indeterminate period of time, perhaps a month or longer. You risk injuring a whole colony of pollinators. So, flowering broms should not get sprayed unless in a screened enclosure where pollinators can't get to them.

Killing the scale does not get rid of the black spots. The black shell of the individual adult scale insect is hard-glued to the leaf. It does not fall off on its own. You know you are getting control when the new foliage is free of the wretched critters. So, before thinking the spray did not work, wait a while for new growth. If it is free of scale, you know you are on the right track. And, after a month or so, if the hard black scale is dead, it will come off much more easily, which is a sure sign of success.

2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza



Friday & Saturday September 26–27, 2025

Registration: \$125 per person

After September 15, 2025: \$135 per person

Registration fee includes the two meals and all listed events.

Guest speaker information to be available soon.

Sponsored by the **Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies**

Hosted by the **Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society**

Friday Evening

- Barbeque buffet
- Bromeliad sale for registrants only

Saturday

- Huge all day Bromeliad sale open to the public
- Three seminars with guest speakers

Saturday Evening

- Italian buffet
- Rare plant auction open to the public

Hotel Info:

Ramada Gateway

7470 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy 192
Kissimmee, FL 34747

**For room reservations, call 407-396-4400 or 407-997-6662
from 9am to 5pm and ask for the Bromeliad Extravaganza rate**

- **\$85.80** plus tax for Courtyard Room or
- \$105 plus tax for Deluxe Tower Room
- Discounted Breakfast (\$5 off to \$12.95)
- Free parking
- Rates are guaranteed by the hotel until August 26, 2025

For Registration, please complete the following:

Name #1 _____

Name #2 _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Credit Card # _____

Expiration date: cvv _____

_____ of Extravaganza registrations @ \$125 each = \$ _____

Make check payable to SBTPS and mail to:

Gregory Kolojeski
660 Saranac Dr
Winter Springs, FL 32708

or register online at:
<https://sbtps.square.site/>

For more information:

BromeliadX.com
seminolebromeliadsociety@gmail.com

2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Hosted by the Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society

Schedule of Events

Friday September 26

Noon–6:00 PM Vendor Sales Set Up (Convention Center)

Noon–5:30 PM Registration Open

6:00–7:30 PM Barbeque Buffet (Covered Patio)

7:30–9:00 PM Registrants Only–Plant Sales Open

Saturday September 27

8:30 AM–1:00 PM Registration Open

9:00 AM–4:00 PM Plant Sales Open (Convention Center)

9:00 AM–5:00 PM Rare Plant Drop-off (Hospitality Room)

2:00–2:45 PM *First Seminar: Leonardo M. Versieux (Brazil)*
Topic: Brazil: Bromeliads of the Tropics

3:00–3:45 PM Second Seminar

4:00–4:45 PM Third Seminar

4:00–5:00 PM Vendor Breakdown

6:00–7:00 PM Pre-Banquet Cash Bar (Covered Patio)

7:00–8:30 PM Italian Buffet Banquet (Convention Center)

8:00 PM Rare Plant Auction (Convention Center)

Schedule Subject to Change

Ramada Gateway Hotel

7470 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy 192, Kissimmee, FL 34747

BromeliadX.com



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

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month.

Plant sales at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, door prizes, raffle & refreshments

BTPST is affiliated with Bromeliad Society International, The Cryptanthus Society, Inc., Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc., and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL.



August Birthdays - Happy Birthday to Steve Byram, Herb and June Hill, Maryann Szeja, Karen West, and Carol Wolfe



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

Officers for 2025

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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 Sunday of every month.

Where: Bill Castens Gymnasium Conference Roo
Northdale Park and Recreation
15510 Hooting Owls Place, Tampa, FL 33624

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Informative programs, workshops, Show & Tell, plant sales, door prizes, raffle
Visitors welcome!

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