

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

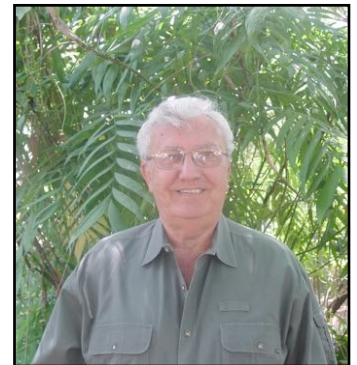
September 2023

Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Meeting: Monday, September 18, 2023

September Speaker: Tom Wolfe

Subject: The Benefits of Mounting Tillandsias

Tom has been mounting bromeliads on driftwood, cedar, and in hanging pots for many years. The mounted tillandsias grow well. This is the way they are found in their natural habitat. Tom hangs them in the greenhouse, yard, lanai, trees, and everywhere outside. They have returned his investment of time and effort with beautiful blooming tillandsias! Tom will share pictures from Carol's collection of 3500 plus photos!



As most of you know, Tom joined the BGTB the year after it was formed in December 1963. He has a long history with the club. Tom has represented the club with the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies for many years and Carol became the second representative for the club after she became editor of the FCBS Newsletter in 2014. Tom served as an officer of the Bromeliad Society International for fourteen years, including serving as President for six years. Tom has served our club as President off and on for many years and has lost count of the number of years served!





PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

Our thanks to our longtime member, Dave Johnston, for his program in August bringing us up to date with the latest nomenclature.

My thanks to all who helped with the clean-up afterwards and we were cleaned up and out in record time.

We wish that more of you could have attended the 2023 Extravaganza. It was a great event with excellent speakers, good food, and lots of beautiful bromeliads for sale! I hope you read the article by Maureen Adelman, Editor from the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, printed in the last FCBS newsletter that you just received from Marillyn Byram. Maureen does a great job reviewing the speakers and events. Also, Mike McMahon, who is President of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida (Mike gave us a program in the spring), wrote an article explaining the FCBS to his membership and I thought you would enjoy reading his article published in the same FCBS Newsletter.

The FCBS Newsletter is on the <http://www.fcbs.org> and the three latest issues are right on the front page. Just click on the picture icon and it will take you right to that issue. The newsletters can also be found on the sidebar, on the left, under "What's new" and again on the same sidebar near the bottom that says "Newsletters". The newsletters, except for a few missing issues, have all the FCBS newsletters since the beginning. If you aren't familiar with the site, try the mouse clicks. Also, on the same side bar, is "Member Societies", where the editors send their newsletter to Mike Andreas, webmaster, and he posts their newsletter for anyone interested in reading. So if you want to know what's going on with another bromeliad society, you can click on their newsletter.

Our next event will be the USF Botanical Garden sale, so I hope you have it marked on your calendar to help us! The dates are set up at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, October 13th; and the sales are Saturday and Sunday, October 14th and 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It's located on the USF Campus at 12210 USF Pine Dr., Tampa, FL 33620. If you have plants for sale, contact Tom Wolfe and he will help get you set up for the sale.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Carol Wolfe



By Tom Wolfe

Tillandsia, named for the Swedish physician Elias Tillandsias, is the largest genus in the subfamily Tillandsioidae. There are over 500 species of Tillandsias and more are being discovered every year.

Tillandsias are a unique genus. Some people love them and others don't. However, they are easy to grow and maintain, so give them a try.

Tillandsias are the most widely dispersed of all the bromeliads. They range from coastal Virginia, through the southern United States, through Central America and the West Indies, and as far south as southern Argentina. They can be found growing at sea level or as high as 9,843 feet (3000 meters). Species of this genera can thrive in almost any exposure; from deep shade to full sunlight. When camping and hiking through the Big Cypress Swamp in the Everglades, I found them growing in full sun such as *T. fasciculata*, *T. flexuosa*, *T. usneoides* and *T. utriculata*; to full shade such as *T. pruinosa* and *T. bartramii*. They also grown on beaches and deserts. They grow in trees, shrubs, cacti, rocks, cliff faces and even sometimes in soil. Most members of this genus are epiphytic; however, some are saxicolous and a few are terrestrial. They have very small root systems to robust root systems functioning more to hold the plant to the host than to absorb nutrients. Their sizes vary almost as much as their range. Some forms of *T. ionantha* can be one inch tall, while a large *T. utriculata* and *T. fasciculata* can be 38 inches tall.

Blooms tend to be tubular and grown on one or more spikes. The branches can range from almost colorless gray to flaming red. The flowers can be violet, blue, pink, or yellow. Most are not fragrant but some like *T. crocata* (cinnamon), or *T. duratii* (grape), or *T. streptocarpa* (perfume) have a strong scent.

Like most bromeliads, tillandsias prefer temperatures from 50° to 60°F at night, to 80° to 90°F during the daytime. However, some will tolerate low 20's for a short period of time to 100's on the hottest days of summer.

Other aspects of Tillandsia culture will be continued in next month's column.

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa
Minutes of Meeting August 21, 2023

Business Meeting Called to Order by President Carol Wolfe

Treasurer's Report: by Rick Hunter. Report will be filed for audit.

Secretary's Report: Minutes as published in the newsletter were accepted with one correction. The plant shown by Verna Dickey at the July meeting was *Neoregelia Sybil* bibble.

Birthday Plant was won by Steve Byram

Raffle Table Review - Tom Wolfe

Old Business: The Bromeliad Extravaganza in West Palm Beach was a huge success. Florida Council appreciated the plants donated by our club for the auction.

New Business:

1. We have a date for the USF Fall Plant Festival, but no details yet: October 15-16.
2. Garden Tour - Verna Dickey will let us know when her *billbergia pyramadalis* begin to bloom. She has invited us to come see the spectacular show.

Show and Tell: Kenneth Stokes - *Cryptanthus 'Dynasty'*, *Cryptanthus bahianus*, *Aechmea lamarychei*; Clark Hull - unidentified bromeliad from Brazil.

Motion to end meeting made by Kenneth Stokes, seconded by Verna Dickey

Refreshments

Program: Dave Johnston presented "xBiogenetics Part 2 - The Final Chapter"

Raffle conducted by Steve Byram

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Byram

Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

This article was printed in 2014 in the Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society Newsletter - exact date unknown; however, Ashley Graham served on the FCBS as Chairman and a representative for many years and knows the history of the FCBS. In the minutes included with the article, our own Tom Wolfe made the motion to disband the State Show and have a yearly Extravaganza. The motion passed unanimously. Thus, the Extravaganza was born!

We hope you enjoy Ashley's article and detailed information regarding the Council and its activities and plans which are still going forward today.

The first of our two speakers, **Ashley Graham**, gave us insight into the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (the Council, FCBS). Our society is one of the now nine Florida bromeliad societies affiliated with the Council, and Ashley is currently serving as the Council Chairman.

The Council is a confederation of bromeliad societies in Florida and each society has two representatives to the Council, both of whom are voting members at Council meetings. The Council meets four times a year, with meetings hosted by member societies at different locations throughout the state on a rotation basis. Our society will host the October 2014 quarterly meeting.

Established in 1977, the Council is incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in the State of Florida. Its goal is to share bromeliad information throughout the affiliated societies and globally and it does that through various means that include:

- Sponsorship of state-wide bromeliad conferences such as the Bromeliad Extravaganza®
- Compilation and maintenance of educational programs and materials, articles, and lectures, primarily through its website, fcbs.org
- Unification of member bromeliad societies so that they may act as a single body in achieving goals established by the Council. The Council's first publication was the magazine *Grande* (aka *The Magazine for Bromeliophiles*) in 1978-1979. It was an ambitious periodical, full of color pictures and articles about bromeliad collections and collectors. Publication expense proved to be prohibitive and only four issues were produced. In 1981 *Quarterly Newsletter* began publication with Carol Johnson as editor, and since 2000 Karen Andreas has been editor. For more than 30 years the newsletter was printed in black and white and then mailed to all affiliated societies' members. Starting with the first issue of 2014, the Council newsletter is now produced in electronic form and sent to members via email.

Since the late 1980s the Council has sponsored the annual Bromeliad Extravaganza with a member society serving as host. The Extravaganza started out with plant sales, a banquet, and a rare plant auction that serves as an FCBS fund raiser. In later years bromeliad-related seminars were added to this event. The Council is considering revising the Extravaganza concept and/or frequency but no firm details are available yet.

In the late 1980s a Mexican weevil (*Metamasius callizona*) that feeds on bromeliads was accidentally imported into south Florida and it then steadily moved north through the state, threatening Florida's native bromeliads along with other bromeliads as well. For many years the Council, along with some of its member societies, provided sole funding to find a control or management plan for the weevil through research conducted at the University of Florida.

In 1996 the Council created a website, fcbs.org, to promote bromeliads, bromeliad research and bromeliad interest. Under its webmaster, Michael Andreas, the site has blossomed into a wealth of bromeliad information that is used world-wide. The following can be found at fcbs.org:

- FCBS history
- Bylaws and Standing Rules
- FCBS meetings minutes
- Schedules for meetings and officer rotation
- Current and previous FCBS newsletters
- Information about member societies, including their newsletters
- Upcoming bromeliad events
- Photo Index; with more than 25,000 pictures of bromeliads, it is the largest collection of bromeliad photographs on the internet
- Links to other sites of bromeliad interest and resources
- Articles on culture, notable bromeliad people, classification and taxonomy, book reviews
- Information about the Mexican bromeliad weevil
- Resource databases: Photo Index, Species, Neoregelias, Natural Hybrids, Seed Collection, and Bromeliad Tank Dwellers

1990 F.C.B.S. OFFICERS - The following Societies are responsible for providing the Officers for 1990.

President - Central Florida

Vice President - Tampa

Secretary - Sarasota

STATE SHOW - Tom Wolfe made a motion to disband the Florida Council sponsored State Show concept and instead, have an annual "Extravaganza" to be rotated from one affiliate to the other around the State as was done with the State Show. Also, the money from the plant auction would be split 50/50 between the Bromeliad I. D. Center at Selby Gardens and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

Ed McNulty seconded the motion and much discussion followed. Tom stated that the reasons for the change were to try and achieve better participation from around the State as far as meeting one another, learning from one another and having a good time together. This was hampered by the 3 to 4 day duration of most shows. Most people just couldn't spend that much time away from home and the expense of a motel.

Carol Johnson suggested that it be held in late March or early April to kick off the growing season and so as not to conflict with any local shows. Charles Tait suggested selling advance tickets for the meal so money is not lost on the food. Most arrangements will be left to the discretion of the host Society. However, the basic format, as it stands now, is a plant sale, a plant auction, a plant display and a meal.

Question was called for and the motion unanimously passed.

Jane Dahlin is going to poll the Sarasota society to possibly host the next Extravaganza. Bob Steiger will check with the West Pasco Society.

Jane Dahlin made a motion that all Florida Council Representatives will continue to be responsible to bring or send three plants to the Extravaganza for the auction (6 per society). Donors' names should be submitted. Motion seconded by Ed McNulty, question was called for, and motion passed.

Ed McNulty stated that an honorary plaque was presented to Racine Foster at the State Show party on behalf of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and the Central Florida Bromeliad Society of which she is a member.

Meeting Snapshots August 21, 2023



Dave's Sale Plants



Call to Order - Carol Wolfe



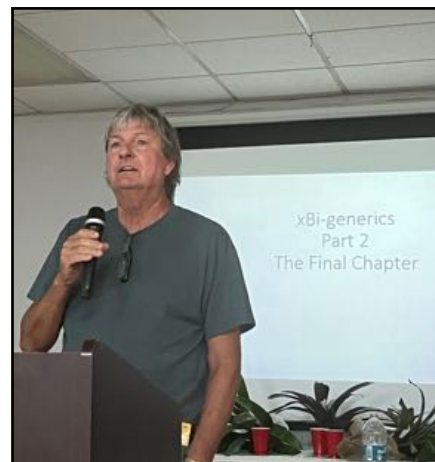
Raffle Table Review - Tom Wolfe



Kenneth Stokes - Show 'n' Tell



Clark Hull - Show 'n' Tell



Our Speaker - Dave Johnston



Refreshments

Refreshments for the September meeting will be provided by Mark and Cheryl Victor and Marcia and Rick Hunter.



September Birthdays: Happy Birthday to Verna Dickey, Kay Miller, Shellie Sweet, and Cheryl Victor



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 2023

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