

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

September 2024

Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Meeting: Monday, September 16 Speaker: Dr. Terrie Bert “Hands-On Demonstration of Bromeliads”



Dr. Terrie Bert is a longstanding member of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society (SBS) and the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and has held multiple offices in the SBS. She also served the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) as a representative and officer for eight years and has authored multiple articles for the FCBS Newsletter. For the Bromeliad Society International, she has been the librarian, a Florida Director, and World Conference Show Chair. She has also chaired several

international committees, judged several shows, contributed articles to the BSI Journal, and has been an invited speaker at world conferences. Currently she is Curator of the Wally Berg Award of Excellence, a Master Judge, and member of the Judges Certification Committee. Terrie has given over 175 presentations on bromeliads to numerous U.S. and international bromeliad societies and to other groups, including regional and international bromeliad conferences. She cultivates more than 2,000 different bromeliads in about 35 genera. She's won multiple top awards in local bromeliad shows and BSI world conferences. She also recently obtained her Master Naturalist certification from the Manatee County Extension Service. Terrie has a Ph.D. in marine biology and recently retired from her position as a research scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.



President's Message

By Carol Wolfe



My apology to you because I did not remember that our contract called for us to meet a week earlier than usual in August and I failed to let Marilyn know the correct date for the meeting. The clubhouse was needed for the Temple Terrace elections which conflicted with our last meeting date. As soon as Tom and I drove into the parking lot and I saw all the election workers cars, I remembered that our meeting date was changed. Tom and I stayed in the parking lot to let everyone know that the facility was not available. Ken Stokes very graciously passed around his fruit platter and we missed Paula Benway's coconut cake. I thank all of you for your understanding and our speaker, Dr. Terrie Bert, was very gracious about rescheduling for September.

By coming in September, she said she is bringing a lot of special bromeliads for sale! Be sure and bring your checkbook and credit cards and buy some of her great plants. If each person purchases a plant from our speakers it would help to subsidize their hard work and travel to bring us such great programs. I am sure you can find a plant from her collection that you can love! Please come to the meeting and support her with your attendance. Let's have a big turnout for the meeting!

We don't have anyone signed up for Refreshments, so everyone can bring refreshments!

Please invite someone to come with you. We always welcome visitors attending the meetings with you and Dr. Bert will not disappoint!



The Art of Removing Pups

By Tom Wolfe

1. When is the best time to remove pups?

It is best to remove pups in early spring. This will provide them a long growing season in which to get well established. Try to remove them when they are 1/2 to 1/3 the size of the parent plant. Pups will grow faster if left on the parent plant. A pup that is too small may not root.

2. Should pups always be removed from the parent plant?

The answer is yes, especially if you desire the plant to produce more pups. However, sometimes bromeliads are more showy when grown in multiples. Removing pups will usually force the parent plant to produce more new offsets.

3. What is the best way to remove pups grown from the leaf axils or at the end of a stolon?

Removing pups from the leaf axils from plants such as Vrieseas or Guzmanias, are difficult without harming the parent plant. The best way is to remove the leaves that surround the pup and carefully pry it away from the parent plant. If the pup appears at the end of a stolon, one can use a sharp clipper to remove the pup. Cut the stolon close to the parent plant and if the stolon is too long one can cut as much of it away as necessary to accommodate the desired pot size.

4. How are pups rooted?

Pups may be placed in regular potting mix in a pot that will accommodate the size of the plant when it matures. The pup should be placed deep enough to keep it from wobbling so as not to injure the tender roots. If necessary, place three support sticks around the pup until it is somewhat established. However, if you have several pups of like kind, place them in a common tray until rooted, then transfer them to a plastic azalea pot with good drainage holes.

5. Are there any bromeliads that never produce pups?

Yes, there are some such as *Puya raimondii*, *Tillandsia complanata* or *Tillandsia lucida* and *Tillandsia utriculata*. *Alcantarea* produce "grass pups" on the caudex or trunk of the plant. These are grassy pups which need to be grown in a mixture of 50% perlite/Canadian peat and kept damp until rooted.



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

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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.
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