

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

September 2025

MEETING PLACE:

**Bill Castens Gymnasium Conference Room
Northdale Park and Recreation**

15510 Hooting Owls Place, Tampa, FL 33624

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 21, 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
“The Genus Orthophytum”**



Tom Wolfe has encountered another setback in his recovery of his broken wrist, so Carol Wolfe will not be able to preside at the September meeting. She has asked Kenneth Stokes to fill in for her again and present another program one last time. Other speakers are being sought for October and November.

Kenneth has chosen to do the program on the genus *Orthophytum*. It is a unique genus that is indigenous to rocky terrain. The plants are grown primarily for their foliage and distinctive form. Kenneth will bring to the meeting examples of a number of species as well as some hybrids, some of which

will be for sale.

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.



By Tom Wolfe

Helpful Terms: Variegation in Bromeliads

Variegata: The white or yellow bands that have no clear organization, and usually do not extend to the margin of the leaf. The term “variegata” refers generically to any form of variegation (i.e. *Vriesea platnema* var. *variegata*). The term ‘straiata is also used here (i.e. *Nidularium innocentii* var. *striatum*)

marginata: The leaf margins are white (albomarginata) or yellow (flavomarginata) and the central part of the leaf is green (i.e. *Aechnea nudicaulis* var. *flavomarginata*).

Lineata: Thin white or yellow lines run along the leaf (i.e. *Nidularium innocentii* var. *lineatum*).

medio-picta: meaning “painted center”, this type is similar to “variegata” but with green stripes in the center of the leaf

Tricolor: three-colored; usually green, crème and rose (Ex. *Neoregelia carolinae* forma *tricolor*)

Quadricolor: four-colored; usually white, yellow, red and green (*Aechmea magdalenae* var. *quadricolor*).

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Minutes of Meeting - Date 8/17/25

Meeting was called to order by Kenneth Stokes.

New Members, Bryon and Denise were welcomed.

Kenneth asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. There were no changes.

Door Prize Plant - *Pyrrosia Splendens* fern won by Marilyn Byram

Birthday Plants - *Neo Cruentas* won by Mary Szeja and *Philodenron Mexicana* won by Steve Byram

Program was presented by Kenneth Stokes. Title - "Making Sense of Botanical Names" Kenneth shared with us the origins of plant names. They are mostly Latin, a few are Greek and some are from botanists' last names. He showed us some of his personal original resources for identifying plants. AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF BROMELIAD BINOMIALS, compiled by Harry Luther and Edna Sieff, July, 1998; THE BROMELIAD CULTIVAR REGISTRY, Compiled by Don Beadle, June, 1998; and FLORA NEOTROPICA, TILLANDSIOIDEAE, by Lyman B. Smith and Robert Jack Downs, September 23, 1977

Show and Tell - Mary Szeja - Japanese sickle garden tool she discovered on Amazon, Trailing fig, Neo Rosea, voodoo lily, Neo 'Red tiger', Trailing jade, Carrion plant, Neo Tiger hybrid, Neo 'Wild Rabbit', Japanese sickle, *Til. bartramii*; Kenneth Stokes - *Aechmea taylorensis*

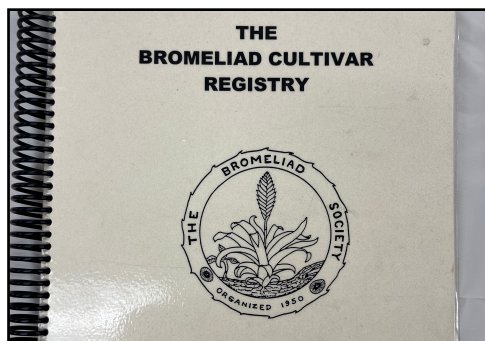
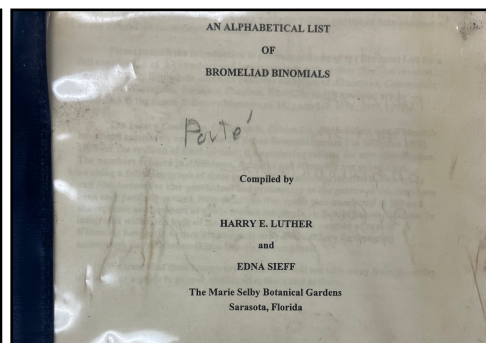
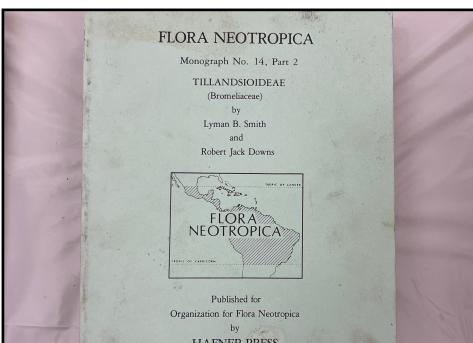
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Byram, Secretary

Kenneth shared the carambola fruit from his tree. Thank you, Kenneth!

SNAPSHOTS OF THE AUGUST 17 MEETING



Bromeliads are Exciting!

By Denise Provencher

My husband Bryon and I are new members to the Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Bay as of this year, and are excited to be here. With meetings now held on Sundays, we can finally attend after almost 20 years of wishing we could!

Bromeliads are one of our favorite groups of plants in our garden. Our first time seeing the many varieties of bromeliads was at a USF Plant sale almost 20 years ago. Upon arriving at one of the vendors selling bromeliads, I was in awe at the amazing collection of plants, the brilliant colors, different forms and sizes; it was inspiring. I purchased several of them and started a new collection, and a new addiction!

Seriously, where else can you find plants of such diversity and amazing leaf forms? There are stripes, polka-dots, even plaids! There are psychedelic patterns, and ones that look like a faraway galaxy. There are spiny ones, curly leaved ones, those that enjoy sun, and others that enjoy the shady parts of your yard. Of course,

there are bromeliads that produce one of the most wonderful fruits, the pineapple. Some have pretty incredible flowers as well. Everyone needs a black, yellow and pink bromeliad flower! There are even some varieties that attract hummingbirds that you can plant somewhere where you can watch these flying jewels from inside your home.

Add the fact that these plants are so easy to care for, and grow so easily, and you've got a winner for sure! You must agree that bromeliads are exciting!

Let's get the word out to others. I've noticed the Club's Facebook page is very under-utilized. Facebook is how people communicate today. Show off your amazing broms by putting pictures on Facebook. It's super easy to do, and there are so many people who would enjoy seeing them.



Aechmea blanchetiana attracts hummingbirds to its tall flower spikes.

Photo: Denise Provencher

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.



September Birthdays - Happy Birthday to Verna Dickey and Shellie Sweet



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

President: Carol Wolfe 813-376-5251 bromstudio@hotmail.com

Vice President: Tom Wolfe 813-391-1542 bromscape@outlook.com

Secretary: Steve Byram 813-361-4035 byramsteve@gmail.com

Treasurer: Shellie Sweet 813-661-8264 ninjasmmomshellie@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Marilyn Byram 813-563-1532 bgtbnewsletter@gmail.com

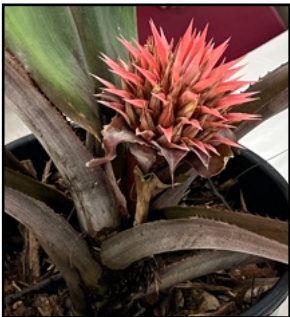
Directors:

Mike Foley 813-289-7888 MHF0813@aol.com

Taira Hoopes 321-230-1337 memispris@aol.com

Martha Kirby 813-810-7617 mjkirby21@gmail.com

Mark Victor 727-271-0498 chermar75@yahoo.com



Aechmea tayloriensis

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**