

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter



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October 2023

Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society of Tampa
Meeting: Monday, October 16, 2023
Speaker: Robert Nelson
Let's Do It (pots and fertilizing)



Our program this month will be given by Robert Nelson titled: "Let's Do It" (pots and fertilizing). Robert is a long-standing member of the club. He has grown bromeliads for many years and is a neoregelia and tillandsia enthusiast. Robert likes using many different mediums for 'potting' his vast assortment of plants.

Robert is always quick to lend a helping hand with the club's projects. If there is a problem, he always has a solution to our dilemmas! It is great to have such talented members in our midst.

We are sure that you will enjoy his program and pick up many good suggestions to help you grow and enjoy your bromeliads even more!





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carol Wolfe

Our thanks to Tom Wolfe for the September power point program, *The Benefit of Mounting Tillandsias*. In addition to the power point, Tom gave us many good tips on how to mount and care for our Tillandsias.

Thanks to all our members for their assistance in cleaning up the meeting space. I am so grateful when we finish and make our last inspection and the tables are clean and the ones we used up front are put away, everything is vacuumed, the kitchen is clean; and a very special thanks to all the guys that have carried the trash to the bin out back. Thanks to all of you for your help!

The USF Botanical Gardens sale is coming up on Saturday and Sunday, October 14 & 15, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Set up will be Friday, October 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Marilyn and Steve will be setting up the tents and if you have plants to bring please be there at 1:00 p.m. If you plan to sell plants, please call Tom Wolfe at (813) 391-1542 to get a sales number. We also have the plastic name tags to label your sales number and price to place in the pot with the plant.

When you come to the Gardens to help with the sales, please be sure and tell them you are a member of the club and you are going to our booth to work; otherwise you would have to pay the admission fee of \$10.00. Please come and help us sell for a few hours and you can also enjoy shopping with the other vendors. If you have your nametag, please wear it. You do not have to have it, but if you happen to have it at home with you, please wear it. I forgot to remind everyone to take their nametags home from the last meeting (if you were going to volunteer). Thank you for volunteering and helping the club.

If you want to join the gardens, here are the fees from their website: **Student Membership - \$25** Student ID; **Individual Membership - \$50 one card with name;** **Dual Membership - \$75 two cards with names;** **Family Membership - \$100** two cards with adult names and children free. I checked with the gardens a month or two ago and the entrance fee was \$5 and the membership fees were about one-half of what they are now. However, they are still a good purchase at the higher prices if you go to other gardens because you can get into reciprocal gardens around the country free with their membership card.

We are thankful that Cheryl Victor has volunteered to be the Chairman of our 2024 Horticultural Display for the Florida State Fair, February 8-19, 2024. Please check with Cheryl to see how you can help her.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Carol Wolfe



Tillandsia Culture **(continued from last month's newsletter)** **By Tom Wolfe**

Light: Most Tillandsias enjoy full sun to 39% shade. Plants with heavy trichomes (scurf) can tolerate more light. The soft leaf tillandsias with thinner green leaves need more shade.

Temperature: Ideally, night temperatures should be 50 to 60 degrees F and daytime temperatures 80 to 90 degrees. However, I have had them tolerate temperatures below freezing and up to 98 degrees F in mid-summer.

Fertilizer: Use a liquid fertilizer that has very low percentage of boron, copper, and zinc. These elements will kill bromeliads. Always use a weak solution, usually $\frac{1}{4}$ the recommended strength.

Container: Most tillandsias need to be mounted. Many will not survive any other way. Any type of wood should be suitable; however, cedar lasts longer than any other wood found in Florida. Never use pressure treated wood which is toxic to all bromeliads. Cork bark is another good choice for smaller plants. Choose a piece of wood that will be adequate for the plant when fully grown. Zip ties work well to hold them in place or for smaller plants a waterproof glue such as E6000 works well.

An excellent source for identifying your Tillandsias is a book "Tillandsia Handbook" by Huoyuki Takizawa and Hideo Shinizer.

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa **Minutes of Meeting September 18, 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: Motion to accept the minutes of the August 21 meeting as published in the newsletter made by Robert Nelson, seconded by Kenneth Stokes. Motion carried.

Birthday Plant was won by Mark Victor

Door Prize won by Verna Dickey

Raffle Table Review - Kenneth Stokes

Old Business: Our 60th Bromeliad Anniversary is in December. We will honor John and Kay Miller who supported our club in so many ways.

Our Christmas party will be December 18 at 6:00 p.m. Set-up and serve at 6:45 p.m. Fried chicken will be provided by the club. Members will bring casseroles, salads, and desserts to share.

Our annual auction after the dinner will be conducted by Tom Wolfe, Rick Hunter, Steve Byram, and Kenneth Stokes

New Business: Verna gave a report on the Yard Tours. The one at her house was Sept. 16. There will be one at the home of Kenneth Stokes on October 21. There will also be a tour at Paula Benway's. Date to be announced later.

Our nominating committee for this year is Steve Byram, Martha Kirby, and Taira Hoopes. They will submit a list of nominees for officers and directors for next year at the next meeting. Nominees' names will be published in the November newsletter.

USF Fall Sale: Set up 1:00 p.m. Friday, 10/13; sale on the 14th and 15th. Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. No admission fee if you are helping with the sales. Major change in commission from 10 to 20% and the sellers will need to up their prices by 10% to cover the additional commission to USF which will receive 20% and the club will receive 10%. Admission is \$10.00 for non-members of the USF Garden.

We will be participating with an exhibit at the Florida State Fair, Feb. 8 to 19, 2024. Set up is Monday, Feb 5, 6:00 p.m. and the fair opens Thursday, Feb 8. Free tickets to members for participating. Cheryl Victor will be the chair for the exhibit.

Announcements: There will be an open garden at the home of Kenneth Stokes on October 21 and 22, from 9:00 to 1:00. We are invited to see his bromeliads, aeroids, palm trees, ferns, orchids, etc.

November speaker will be Dennis Cathcart; January speaker will be Mike McMahon.

Show and Tell: Kenneth Stokes - *Aechmea farinosa* var. *conglomerata*, *Tillandsia on coquina*, lithophyte mounted on rocks; Robert Nelson - *Tillandsia tectorum*, *Tillandsia ionantha*

Motion to end meeting made by Verna Dickey; seconded by Rick Hunter.

Refreshments

Program: Speaker Tom Wolfe spoke on "The Benefits of Mounting Tillandsias".

Raffle conducted by Mark Victor

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Byram