

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

November 2025

MEETING PLACE:

Bill Castens Gymnasium Conference Room
Northdale Park and Recreation
15510 Hooting Owls Place, Tampa, FL 33624
Sunday, NOVEMBER 16, DOORS OPEN at 2:00 p.m.

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

MEETING IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OFF THE GYM

Speaker: Ray Hernandez

Program: A Comprehensive Guide to Bromeliad Potting Mixes and Containers



Our speaker for the November 16 meeting will be long-time member, Ray Hernandez. He will be speaking to us on the topic of **Bromeliad Potting Mixes and Containers**

You wander into a local garden shop just to see what they have. Suddenly, you see a plant you know nothing about but must have. You make the purchase and quietly but proudly leave with your new acquisition. Now what? If you're fortunate, you display the plant and it flourishes. Quite often however, the plant seems to have a setback once in your care.

Why? You didn't change a thing! Therein lies the problem. Reality check: Growers typically don't spend lots of money on potting mixes and/or pots. There's a very good chance your new acquisition won't last long in that original container. What to do? Before you head to Home Depot for that standard potting mix, consider there are many soil and container options, and one size does NOT fit all. From research to repotting, my focus is to provide a comprehensive look at potting mixes and containers to maximize success with your plant's specific needs.



Ray Hernandez is a native Floridian, born and raised in Tampa, Florida. In 1993, he received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Florida. Today, he is a Senior Project Engineer for an Aerospace company that develops and builds rocket, missile and satellite components. While his work is drastically different from his hobby, he has taken advantage of business trips to South America, Australia and Asia to see various palm species in their native habitat.

Ray first took an avid interest in palms upon seeing Thomas Edison's Royal Palms in Ft. Myers, Florida. Thirty two years later, he grows over 300 species of palms in 120 genera and his passion for palms is stronger than ever. Ray has served on the International Palm Society Board and was President of the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society.

BROMELIAD & TROPICAL PLANT SOCIETY OF TAMPA

Minutes of the Meeting Date: 10/19/2025

Meeting was called to order by Kenneth Stokes.

Program was presented by Peter Wan. Program Title: 2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza. Peter gave a powerpoint presentation showing highlights of the conference. It was held in Kissimmee at the Ramada Gateway. It was a 3-day event. 17 vendors at the plant sale. Three seminars with speakers: Dr. Leonarde Versieux, Chip Jones, and Dennis Cathcart.

Secretary's Report. Motion to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter made Steve Byram. Seconded by Peter Wan

Door Prize Plant - Philodendrum - Peru won by Julie Lessard

Birthday Plant - Jade Plant won by Robert Nelson

Show and Tell - Martha Kirby showed Neoregelia Pauciflora; Kenneth Stokes showed Aechmea 'Coppertone', Dyckia Coringii mesi with pups, Orthophytum Linguinesum zonii, Encolorium Spectabile, Hohenbergia Carla, Hohenbergia magnaspina; Peter Wan showed Neoregelia Pauciflora, Bilbergia 'Afterglow', Neoregelia 'Inferno', Cryptanthus 'Absolute Zero'

New Business - Kenneth suggested an exchange auction at our Christmas Banquet. Everyone would bring 5 plants and receive credits for their plants. Then they can use them to "buy" plants from others. Motion made by Robert Nelson to accept this suggestion, seconded by Peter Wan. Unanimous vote in favor of this plan. Martha Kirby will try to reserve the pavilion at Northdale Park. For dinner, meet at 1:00 p.m. Everyone bring a salad, dessert, or side. Date 12/21/25. RSVP in advance. We will meet in our room if there is inclement weather.

Announcement - Bromeliad World Conference will be April 14-18 in Costa Mesa, CA

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Byram, Secretary

October 19 Program Notes by Denise Provencher

Peter Wan gave an excellent, well-organized, and thorough talk on how to make the most of attending a Bromeliad Conference or Extravaganza.

By attending this type of event you will have the opportunity to speak with growers, meet many other people with the same passion as you about growing bromeliads, and hear great speakers.

There are also endless plants for sale! You may have to visit the sales area more than once to really take it all in, but be aware that if you fall in love with a plant, you better buy it when you see it or it may not be there later on.

There are also auctions to attend and bid on incredible and rare plants. First releases of plants are often available at this type of event as well.

Tours of local, gorgeous bromeliad gardens are a feature not to be missed.

Of course, the food is pretty good too! You may want to attend one, two, or all three days of such an event to see all you wish to see.

When you attend be sure to bring cash for your purchases, not all vendors take cards. Bringing a cart may also be helpful to transport your purchases.

Most of all, have fun! And don't drink alcohol before attending the auctions or you may find yourself bidding just a little too much!



**Snapshots from October's Meeting
Photos by the Provenchers**

Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Holiday Picnic and Exchange Auction

Hello Club Members,

This event will take place on our regular meeting date on Sunday December 21st, at our regular meeting place at Northdale Park. We will meet just a little earlier than a regular meeting, as it will be for our Sunday meal. All members plus their spouses, significant others and children are invited. This early notice and event description is being provided to determine the number of people that will be attending and number of plants to be auctioned. It is necessary for proper planning to know the numbers to have sufficient food and tables to put on the event.

NOTICE: You must RSVP by November 20th to participate.

Email the number of people in your party and number of auction plants to

Kenneth Stokes at mrklstpabay@gmail.com

The Club will be providing the food, so all you would need to bring would be your exchange auction plants. You will receive the proceeds from the sale of your plants to be applied to the purchase of the plants on which you bid and win. Each membership, double or single can bring up to five tropical plants. You can bring less or none at all. This early notice will allow you to select and prepare them now.

Those doing setup or bringing the food will need to arrive early, but for the rest, an arrival time of one o'clock would be good, with an eating time of 1:15. The auction would follow around two o'clock. The event will be held outside under a pavilion. Our indoor space will be available if there is bad weather. A playground for children is next to it in the beautiful setting of Northdale Park.

Typical auction procedures will be followed. Members will be assigned an auction number. Plants brought should have a tag with the botanical name and a piece of masking tape on the pot with the member's name and a blank area after it, where the winning bidder number will be written by the Auctioneer. A Porter will place all the plants from one winning bidder together. A Clerk will record the seller, winning bidder and price. When all plants have been sold, the clerk will need some time to make all the calculations, while the others will have time to enjoy dessert. When all the calculations are complete, the clerk will call out a bidder's number for them to pay in cash the amount spent over the amount their plants brought in. Bring small bills. All of one member's plants will be sold at one time, so they could add up how much they have to spend, if that is a concern. When the Clerk has received payment, PAID will be written on their bidder card. They will then take it to the Porter who will release the plants they won. The positions of clerks and porters will need to be filled by members as they also participate.



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 Sunday of every month.

Meeting 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bill Castens Gymnasium Conference Room, Northdale
Park and Recreation. 15510 Hooting Owls Place, Tampa, FL 33624

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

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



November Birthdays - Happy Birthday to Marilyn Byram, Clark Hull, and Rick Hunter



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

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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.

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

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
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21535 Northwood Dr.
Lutz, Florida 33549**