

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Newsletter



www.bromeliadguildoftampabay.org

April 2024

Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society of Tampa Meeting: Monday, April 15, 2024 Speaker: Ray Hernandez "Chamaedorea Palms"



Ray Hernandez

Our speaker for the April 15 meeting will be long-time member, Ray Hernandez. He will be speaking to us on the topic of Chamaedorea Palms.

The second rocket scientist elected as President of the International Palm Society (IPS). Ray served as President from 2016 to 2021. He is the longest tenured president in the history of the IPS, helping the Society for an additional year during the pandemic. Previously Mr. Hernandez served as President of the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society.

He first took an avid interest in palms upon seeing Thomas Edison's Royal Palms in Ft. Myers, Florida. Thirty one years later, he grows over 300 species of palms in 120 genera and his passion for palms is as strong as ever.

Ray Hernandez is a graduate of the University of South Florida School of Engineering and works in aerospace technology.

He is a native Floridian, born and raised in Tampa, Florida.





Carol Wolfe - President

Our thanks to Ken Stokes for last month's program, "Everything Your Mother Didn't Teach You About Water, Air, Light and Soil." As usual, Ken entertained us with an interesting program and shared his beautifully grown blooming bromeliads with us. Thanks, Ken, for another good program!

We are excited to have Ray Hernandez give us a program on Palms this month. Ray has served as Past President of the International Palm Society and is very knowledgeable about palms. He is growing a collection of palms at his home in Tampa. We are looking forward to his program!

We were planning to "work" at the USF sale this coming weekend, then we were made aware of the parking situation on Saturday night. We were informed that the normal fields we parked in were fenced and a sports complex is being built. We drove out to the USF Botanical Gardens the next day and saw all the fences in the usual parking lots and the distances we would have to walk as vendors and our members would be parking even further away. Since the parking will not be on campus, they informed us that they will not be able to assist the customers with using the golf carts to carry plants to their cars.

We felt it was asking too much of us and our membership, health-wise and time-wise that it would take to participate in the sale; therefore, we cancelled our participation.

We have been preparing plants for the event and if we can find a place in the area, off a busy street, we can have our own bromeliad sale. If you have a suggestion for a good bromeliad "yard" sale, please let Tom know.

The World Bromeliad Conference is fast approaching and will be held at West Palm Beach Marriott, West Palm Beach, May 22-25, 2024. The registration has been extended and there will be no price increase. If you plan to go be sure and register soon! Go to www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Carol Wolfe



Beginner's Corner

By Tom Wolfe

It's time to remove pups or offsets that you may want to remove. The nighttime temperatures are now warm enough to allow your pups to get a good start. The pups should be one-half to one-third the size of the parent plant.

Sterilize a sharp clipper or pruning saw and try to remove the pup as close to the parent plant as possible. If the pups stay on the parent plant too long, the confirmation of both plants gets distorted from pushing against each other.

For pot culture, use a well-drained mix. I use approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ Canadian peat, $\frac{1}{4}$ agriculture perlite, and $\frac{1}{2}$ wood chips.

In the landscape, I plant them on top of the ground in 3 to 4 inches of cypress/pine mulch. Then add a pinch of time release fertilizer to give them a healthy start. Plant them in bright filtered light until they get established. Don't discard the parent plant. Place it in the hospital area of your yard or in an empty pot and hopefully it may produce another pup or two for you.

Remember Cryptanthus, Dyckia, Hechtia, Deuterocohnia and Encholirium, Puya and Pitcairnia are all terrestrial genera so a heavier mix is required. The heavier mix should be 60% Canadian peat and 40% perlite.

Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society of Tampa
Minutes of Meeting March 11, 2024

Program was presented by Kenneth Stokes, "Everything Your Mother Didn't Teach You About Water, Air, Light and Soil"

Refreshments.

President Carol Wolfe called the meeting to order. Carol asked if there were any changes or corrections to the February minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. There were no changes.

Treasurer's Report by Shellie Sweet. Report will be filed for audit.

USF Plant Festival April 13,14; 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Set-up on Friday, April 12. Sign-up sheet for volunteers was passed around at the meeting.

Florida Council Report: Council voted to donate \$1,000 Scholarship for Bromeliad School in Costa Rica, \$600.00 for the Volunteer Room at the World Conference in May, and buy a 1/2 page ad in the World Conference Program for \$200.00.

Show 'n' Tell: Taira Hoopes - *Tillandsia utriculata*; Kenneth Stokes - *Aechmea recurvata*, *Aechmea araneosa*, *Ananas paraguayana*, *Hohenbergia*, *Bromelia que Serra*, *Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii*, *Neoregelia elutherapetala*, *Hohenbergia biblilii*

Door Prize was given to Marcia Hunter

Birthday Plant was given to Robert Nelson

Meeting adjourned.

Raffle.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Byram, Secretary

Bromeliad Society International Presents
World Bromeliad Conference 2024

May 22-25, 2024 • West Palm Beach, Florida

WBC 2024 will feature an exciting slate of events including a welcome reception, botanical tours, a banquet dinner, several world-renowned speakers & guests, the world's largest bromeliad sale and a professionally judged bromeliad show.

Conference registration for attendees includes:

- Welcome Reception — International poolside barbecue
- Historic WBC 2024 tote bag
- World conference banquet dinner with speaker Andrew Devonshire on 'Hybridising: The Kiwi Way'
- Mounts Botanical Garden tour by luxurious motor-coach
- Access to world renowned speakers & honored guests
- World's largest bromeliad sale
- Professionally judged bromeliad show



Don't wait — register and reserve a hotel room online soon to save!

(Special reduced rates are available to all current BSI members.)

Grant's Farm Nursery Tour



Join us for a special, behind-the-scenes tour to Florida's oldest bromeliad nursery! Reserve your space online for only \$25.

WBC 2024 World-Renowned Speakers



Find the latest WBC 2024 news and registration links online:

www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/

We look forward to seeing you at WBC 2024!

Conference Chairman Tom Ramiccio (Tramiccio@aol.com) & Conference Co-Chairman Alex Belio

Post-Conference Ecuador Field Trip with Plant Expeditions



Complete your conference experience with a 15 day tour through Ecuador. See over 150 bromeliad species in their native habitat!

Also see wildlife—butterflies, birds, insects and monkeys! For more tour information and to reserve your space visit:

www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2024/ecuador



Snapshots of Meeting - March 11, 2024



Call to Order - Carol Wolfe



Door Prize won by Marcia



Raffle Table Review



Show 'n' Tell - Taira
Tillandsia utriculata



Speaker - Kenneth Stokes



Bromeliads from Kenneth's Garden



Raffle Time - "Drum Roll, Please"



Martha's New Plant



Shellie's New Plant



Refreshments

Refreshments for the April meeting will be provided by Martha Kirby, Shellie Sweet and Carol Wolfe



No April Birthdays



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 2024

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Bromeliads Online

Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay www.bromeliadguilddoftampabay.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.
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