

Bromeliad Society HOUSTON Inc.



Vol 43 No 5

May, 2010



May
Announcements

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM SPEAKER: Tom Wolfe

PROGRAM TITLE:

"What's blooming in the Wolfe's Garden?"

See page 3 for more information about Tom.

SEEDLING: *Vriesea 'Ella'*

Provided by David Meade. A medium sized Deroose hybrid with a spectacular bloom. Picture by Gilbert Samyn, fcbs.org.

MEETING AGENDA:

- Greetings/Call to Order
- Show and Tell
- Cultural Tips
- Meeting
- Break/Refreshments/Buy raffle tickets
- Program
- Raffle
- Adjourn

NEXT BOARD MEETING: July 22, 7:30 p.m.

JUNE PROGRAM: ABCs Picnic at the Woolsey's
David Whipkey. Instructor

DEADLINE FOR JUNE BULLETIN: 5/23/10

Bromeliads in the Big Easy 19th World Bromeliad Conference 26 July to 1 August, 2010

There's still time to register for the BSI World Conference, but time is running out! Although the rate has increased to \$200, it is still a bargain.

Additional registration and hotel information can be found at the BSI and GNOBS websites (www.bsi.org or www.gnobromeliads.com).



Yearbooks are now available. If you require yours to be mailed to you, contact the Editor at 281-350-6809 or planobrom@aol.com. Please report any additions or corrections to the Editor.

The new electronic format for the bulletin continues to save the Society money in printing costs and postage and allows those receiving it to see everything in color. For those members receiving hard copies, the June show results issue will be one of the two color issues printed per year. Past issues of the bulletin will be posted on the BS/H website, although the current issue will be available to members only.

And, last but not least, it's never too late to pay your 2010 BS/H dues. Single memberships are \$20 and joint memberships \$30 per year. You can mail your check to **Allyn Pearlman** at 6422 Bankside Drive, Houston, TX 77096 or pay at the meeting.

President's Page



Last month, I shared the story of the Carolina Wren who is nesting in my greenhouse in a hanging basket of bromeliads (of course). The good news is the babies have hatched and I can hear them making little trilling noises. I see both parents going in and out of the greenhouse to feed them. I do love spring and the signs of new life everywhere.

Spring to a bromeliad grower usually means the plants shed their dull winter colors and put on a rainbow of colors (kind of like our show, *Bromeliad Rainbow*). The plants grow bigger and stronger. And bromeliad pups start popping out. Which means potting up pups and trying to get the mother plant to put on a few more offspring. I hope you're enjoying spring in your gardens as much as I am.

On Saturday, April 30, I attended the Presidents' Meeting at the Houston Garden Club. Of special interest, was the discussion about the new plans for the entire 16 acres in Hermann Park where the Garden Center is located:

- Architecture firm, Hoerr-Schaudt, from Chicago was selected and they've drawn up an initial plan for the 16 acres.
- Cost of the plan is in the millions so it will be built in 8 stages.
- Each stage will be funded based on donations.
- The Garden Center will be torn down only after the new Center is completely built.

There's an ordinance that states that the Parks must provide a place for garden clubs to meet and have functions.

- Design includes walkways, lawns, and lots of space for gardens.
- Japanese pagoda will be surrounded by water and a bridge.
- Long sweeping covered walkway, sculptor garden, and a dog park are mapped out on the property.
- Parking lot will add spaces but be in a ribbon shape sweeping across the back perimeter of the gardens in an arc.
- New garden center will be much larger.

It sounds like it will be beautiful and functional. If anyone has suggestions or concerns about the facility, let me know. I will send them to the committee via Mary Hughes.

If you are interested in selling bromeliads at the Mercer Plant Faire on Sunday, September 26, let me know right away. We need to reserve a space. (Keep in mind that we are having our fall sale on Saturday, September 25 at Gethsemane Methodist Church on Bellaire Blvd.)

Lindsey



Your ad could be here.

Contact a board member if you are interested in advertising in the bulletin.





Meet our May Speaker: Tom Wolfe

There isn't much that Tom Wolfe, our speaker for May, hasn't done when it comes to bromeliads over the past 45 plus years.

He joined the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay in 1965. Over the years he has held many positions in that organization, including serving as President many times. He has been a representative on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and served as Chairman several times. He served on the BSI Board of Directors as a Director and Secretary, 6 years as Vice President and 6 years as President. While Vice President, Tom was General Chairman of the successful 1992 World Bromeliad Conference, "Bromeliad Safari", hosted by the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay.

Tom is currently Chair of the World Headquarters Committee, which is an effort to establish a permanent home for the Bromeliad Society International at The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida. Tom became an accredited BSI Bromeliad Judge in 1982 and is now a Master Judge.

He and his wife Carol live in Lutz, Florida, outside Tampa, and grow their bromeliads on their 2.5 acres of land and greenhouses. In his landscaping business, he has designed and installed many residential and commercial landscapes featuring bromeliads. He is in demand as a speaker throughout Florida and the United States presenting programs on bromeliads to Garden Clubs, Bromeliad Clubs, and at the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens. And when he is not judging or giving a program, you can find him selling his plants at society sales and plant events.

Tom's program will include pictures of blooming bromeliads photographed by his wife, Carol, over a period of several years. The collection includes sun, shade and night blooming bromeliads. Some bromeliad photographs were taken in early morning light, noonday sun, afternoon and even midnight.



CULTURAL TIPS

Our Beautiful Bromeliads

By Odean Head

You may wonder how I can brag on a show that has not even been held as of this writing. Well, my confidence has been

growing over the last many years and we continue to produce beautiful shows. A lot of credit for this is our continued improvement in growing and in our increasing number of growers. Of course, the most credit should be given to the fact that 'Bromeliads are Beautiful'. That said, more than anything else, I want to express my appreciation to those who entered their treasures and to the dedicated efforts that made the show happen.

Sometimes it's hard to understand what could make a certain plant so pretty. That's what causes our col-

lections to grow. That's also what gives the most excitement to our hobby. I hope that you added some of this kind of excitement at our show with either purchases or wish lists. Fortunately, these kinds of opportunities keep coming. The biggest one in our area for some time will be the World Bromeliad Conference in New Orleans the last of July. Information on the conference has been published in our bulletin, the BSI Journal and on the bsi.org website. Our best choice is to register for it and enjoy all its activities. If this is not possible, go down to the show and sale.

I went to New Orleans for their first WBC in 1977 and that is when the bromeliad world really opened up for me. Our sources in Houston were so limited at that time that I could not believe there were so many beautiful bromeliads in the world. I also attended their 1986 WBC and am looking forward to attending this one. They suffered a devastating flood and are still recovering. However, they're good growers and I'm sure that we will be pleased with their progress. They also know how to pass a good time.

Houston, Texas

The Succulent Bromeliads, Cultural Information

One of the best-kept secrets among succulent enthusiasts is the existence of succulent bromeliads. At least that's the impression I get after glancing at a few of the books on succulents. The fact that many writers give them very short shrift — or none at all — probably reflects a certain lack of appeal. Their flowers do not dazzle like mesembryanthemums, there are no elephantine caudexes among them, and as to far-out form, they simply can't compare with the extra-terrestrial denizens of the African desert. Still, they do have an appeal of their own. Hybridizers have been enhancing this appeal, so that there are a number of very handsome hybrids available. In general, they are very tough, drought resistant plants which make ideal houseplants and which (properly acclimated) can be put out in the summer without fear of sun damage. The following paragraphs will introduce a few of major genera.

Bromeliads began as terrestrials. Most of them, in their struggle for light, moved from the dark forest floor up into the trees or onto open rock where there was no competition. Having adopted this epiphytic (or saxicolous) style of life, they developed a reservoir or "tank" in the center of their rosettes, in which they stored water from rain to rain. They began to depend more on their leaves than on their roots for the procurement of water and nutrients. The atmospheric tillandsias, the true "air plants," began to use their roots only as a holdfast to bark or stone, some (e.g. Spanish moss) stopped producing roots at all under ordinary circumstances. Some bromeliads to be sure were quite happy with their forest floor habitat. The beautiful earth stars (cryptanthus) flourished in the dank and deeply shaded environment. They did not develop a tank because they didn't need one. One cryptanthus species, however, *C. warasii*, was forced to adapt to a more rugged way of life. *C. warasii* survived under arid and sunny conditions that would quickly have killed off any of its rain forest cousins. It adapted by developing thickened leaves (a tank would have been useless!) in which it could store water and armed it self with teeth to keep animals at bay. In short, it became a succulent.

C. warasii typifies the succulent bromeliads. It is a rosette of many leaves spiraled around the central axis, it forms new offshoots in the leaf axils, soon forming a clump. It could be taken for an aloe or agave when it is not on bloom. However, instead of being hoisted on a lofty scape, its flowers are nestled in the center of the rosette like all cryptanthus. Like *C. warasii* the succulent bromeliads often resemble an agave, aloe, or haworthia. One difference is in the leaf surface. The scales (trichomes) which produce the silver banding and the often velvety surface characteristic of many bromeliads are found also in the succulent bromeliads. *C. warasii* despite its tough looking exterior is velvety to the touch. The leaves of *C. warasii* are edged with well-defined teeth (cf. the fine teeth of its rain forest relatives). The leaves of succulent bromeliads are usually

armed, often viciously.

Unlike their epiphytic relatives the succulent bromeliads develop a prodigious root system and require good-sized pots in order to grow well. Many of them tolerate full sun. Although they are succulent they require a good deal of water during the growing season. During the winter they are best kept, like other succulents, on the dry side at cooler temperatures. Some can get through the winter with no watering but most need to be watered occasionally, especially if they show signs of dehydration. They may be fertilized during the growing period but weakly as with other succulents. Their character is best developed under "hard" cultivation: lots of light, moderate water, little fertilizer.

The following list is limited to succulent terrestrial bromeliad species which can grow under the same conditions as cacti and other desert succulents, often growing in company with them in their natural habitat.

- **Cryptanthus:** Succulents among the Earth Stars are the exception: *C. warasii*, as described above, and *C. bahianus*, which, though not as succulent as *warasii*, flourishes in sun and sandy soil.
- **Deuterocohnia:** *D. brevifolia* and *lorentziana* (formerly *Abromeitiella*) form large mats or cushions of small rosettes in the Argentinian and Bolivian Andes. Their tubular green flowers (1"+) emerge from leaf axils. *D. longipetala*: mat-forming rosettes with 4"-12" leaves, flowers borne on a scape 2 1/2"+ high. Scape, if left uncut, will bloom again in following years (unique among bromeliads!).
- **Dyckia.** Native to arid regions of Brazil, found also in neighboring countries to the southwest. Winter temperatures down to low 40's. Clump- or mat-forming with small yellow, orange, or red flowers borne on a short scape (but *D. remotiflora* has a 12"-16" scape). Seed borne in capsules.
- **Encholirium:** Native to dry areas in northeast Brazil. Similar to *Dyckia* in habit. Flowers green or yellow-green. *E. spectabile* named for its inflorescence, 16" long, covered with 1 " yellow flowers.
- **Hechtia:** Native to Mexico, found also in southern U.S., Guatemala, and Honduras. Inflorescence intricately branched carried on long stem. Flowers white, green yellow-green, pink. Blooming shoot does not die immediately after blooming. This together with prolific pupping produces large clumps: *Hechtia tillandsiodes* (ca. 12" diam.) has soft gray leaves and like tillandsias (air plants) no teeth.
- **Orthophytum.** Native to Brazil, so-named (ortho+phytum=straight plant) because at maturity (in some species) the stem carrying the inflorescence also bears normal leaves, giving the plant an upright appearance.

It's Show Time!

This is it, folks, it's show time! On Friday, May 14, entries and classification will be set up in the Mercer Visitors' Center Courtyard from **1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**; on Saturday, May 15, classification will be open from **8:00 to 8:30 a.m. by prior arrangement**. Please try to come as early as possible on Friday to enter your plants, as we have a limited amount of time due to Mercer Visitors' Center hours. Show plants can be unloaded from the parking lot in front of the Visitors' Center; sales plants can be unloaded from the employees' parking lot.

Judging will begin Saturday at 9:00 a.m. Show hours will be from the end of judging to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Sale hours will be 12:00 noon to 5:00 on Friday, 9:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and 12:00 noon to 4:00 on Sunday. Be sure that your sale plants are double-tagged with price and your sales number, and please bring boxes or plastic bags for the sale area.

Lunch will be provided for workers in the Mercer Volunteer Cottage on Friday and Saturday. Those members who have agreed to bring food, please take your donations directly to the Volunteer Cottage, which is located next to the sales area. For food-related questions, please contact **Louise Epperson** or **Darryl Page**. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

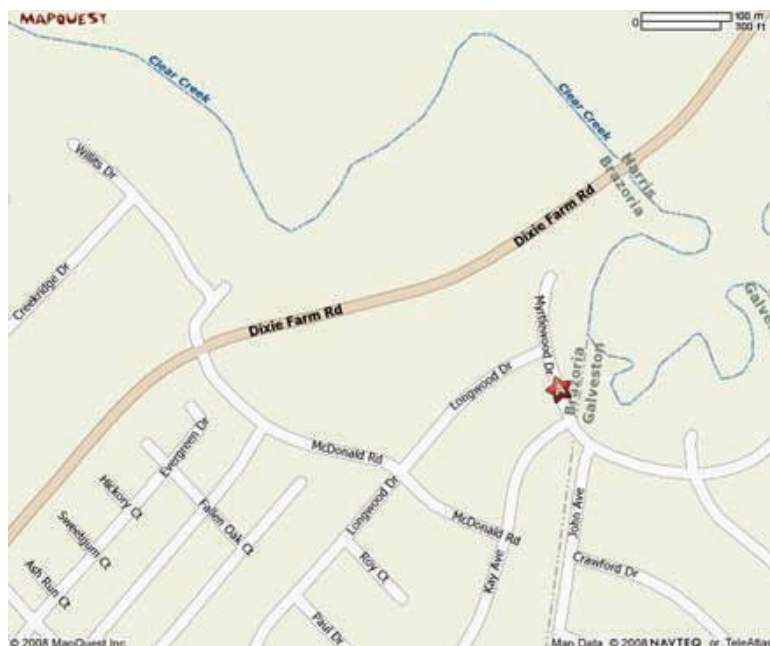
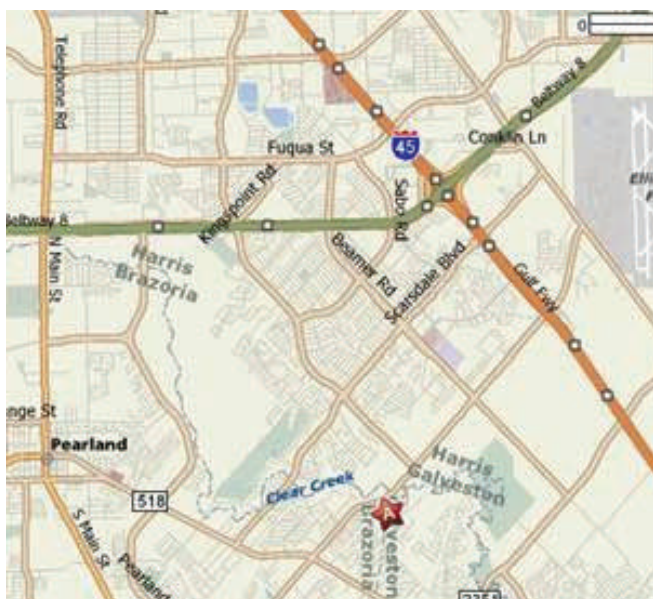
Don't forget to join us at the after-the-show party at **Richard and Joan Beaubouef's** home in Pearland on Saturday, May 15. Master Chef **Doug Trahan** and his assistants will again be cooking a special dinner for us.

Gary Gallick will be our auctioneer at the Rare Plant Auction on Saturday evening. Please contact **Lindsey Stowe** if you have a plant or bromeliad-related item you would like to donate.

MAP TO AFTER-THE-SHOW PARTY 6:30 P.M. UNTIL IT'S OVER

Richard and Joan Beaubouef's:
1402 Myrtlewood, Pearland 77581
281-482-3880

For those coming from Houston, go south on Gulf Freeway, exit Dixie Farm Road. Head south on Dixie Farm. Go over Clear Creek, which is the second bridge, and turn left on McDonald. One block to Longwood Drive, and turn left. One block to Myrtlewood, and turn right. 1402 Myrtlewood is on the right, at the end of the first block. Brick house with brown trim.





Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

www.tgcfernsoc.org

Regular meeting third Sunday of month at 2:00 PM

Houston Garden Center

Next meeting: June 20, 2010



May Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Nelwyn Anderson | 5/02 |
| Midge Gorman | 5/08 |
| Javier de la Garza | 5/11 |
| Jarka Trojan | 5/12 |
| Ruby Harlan Adams | 5/15 |
| Cynthia Johnson | 5/18 |



The Houston Orchid Society, Inc

The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.

www.houstonorchidsociety.org

Regular meeting first Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

Houston Garden Center

Next regular meeting: July 1, 2010

Dates to Remember

- **BS/H Show and Sale**, Mercer Arboretum, May 14-16
- **ABCs Picnic**, Joanne and Jimmy Woolsey's, Sante Fe, TX, Saturday, June 19
- **BSI World Conference**, New Orleans, Louisiana, July 26-August 1, see page 1
- **Judges Symposium**, Houston Garden Center, 8:00 a.m.—5 p.m., September 18
- **BS/H Fall Sale****, Gethsemane Methodist Church, September 25
- **BS/H Judges School VI**, Azalea Room, Houston Garden Center, November 6
- **BS/H Judges School Final Exam**, Azalea Room, Houston Garden Center, November 7
- **BS/H Holiday Party**, Saturday, December 4, 2010

Get Well Wishes

- **Dohn Brotherton**
- **Mike Burnett**
VA Hospital, 2002 Holcombe Blvd. Rm. #196, Houston, TX 77030
- **Sara Chumley**
- **Annette Dominguez**
- **Don Garrison**
- **Ray Johnson**
- **Steve Reynolds**

With Deepest Sympathy

- **Midge Gorman**

**Please note the change of location for the Fall Sale on September 25 to Gethsemane Methodist Church on Bel-laire. Originally we had planned to have it at the Houston Garden Center.

Thanks to the following donors to the April raffle table: **Sam Chism, Wray Page, David Whipkey, and Jimmy Woolsey.**

And the lucky winners were: **Bill Keiser, Vickey Gurka, Jean Keiser, Charlien Rose, Lindsey Stowe, Cherie Lee, Lynn Friedman, and Jan Garver.**

The raffle brought in \$59.

Meeting Refreshments



Time once again for the A-Ms to bring refreshments to the May meeting. Drinks will be furnished by the club.



BROMELIAD SOCIETY/HOUSTON INC.



About the Bromeliad Society/Houston

This corporation is organized exclusively for purely public charity and strictly educational purposes. Specific goals of the Society shall be to:

Increase knowledge of bromeliads through interchange and dissemination of information.

Use such funds as are available for the purpose of research and/or equipment in institutions of higher learning within the State of Texas.

There are two classes of membership:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Individual | \$20.00 per year |
| Husband and wife | \$30.00 per year |

All memberships begin with January of the current year.

Visit our website at www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org for more information.

The Bulletin is published monthly and is mailed or e-mailed to members of the BS/H, Inc. prior to monthly meetings. Articles and any other information pertinent to bromeliads are solicited. Articles may be reprinted with proper acknowledgment given to author and publication.

A Yearbook is published annually based on the membership roll at the end of the regular February meeting of each year and distributed to members of the BS/H, Inc.

Please address any correspondence regarding this publication to:

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AFFILIATED WITH THE
BROMELIAD SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL



MEMBER OF
SOUTHWEST BROMELIAD
GUILD



AFFILIATED WITH THE
CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL



Officers and Chairmen

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| President | Lindsey Stowe 16301 Tahoe Drive Houston, TX 77040 713-896-4009 g_l_stowe@comcast.net |
| Vice President | Rick Richtmyer |
| Secretary | Charlien Rose |
| Treasurer | Allyn Pearlman |
| Past President | Don Green |

Board of Directors

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | <i>Term Expires</i> | |
| 12/31/10 | 12/31/11 | 12/31/12 |
| Frank Lee | Gene Powers | Chris Nguyen |
| Cherie Lee | Ken Gardner | Jim Woolsey |

I. Standing Committees

1. Publicity **Allyn Pearlman**
Bulletin Editor **Carole Richtmyer**
2. Plant Sales Chairman **Allyn Pearlman**
Members: **Phil Speer, Lynn Schermerhorn, Ken Gardner**
3. Programs Chairman **Rick Richtmyer**
Members:
Standing Committees Ex-Officio Members:
Lindsey Stowe/Rick Richtmyer

II. Committees of the Board

1. Annual Show **Charlien Rose**
2. Bromeliad Culture **Odean Head**
Members **Chris Nguyen**
3. Holiday Party **TBA**
4. Garden Tours **Don Green/Gene Powers**
5. Hospitality Coordinator **Louise Epperson**
Members: **Daryl Page**
7. Librarian **Joan and Richard Beaubouef, Ruby Adams**
8. Membership **Allyn Pearlman**
9. Raffle Plants **Cherie and Frank Lee, Wray Page**
10. Seedlings Provided by **David Meade**
11. Show & Tell **Gary Gallick, Malcolm McCorquodale**
12. Members' and Visitors' Registrar **Ken Gardner, Noreen Tolman**
13. Webmaster **Mike Burnett**

Representatives

Southwest Bromeliad Guild **Charlien Rose, Ray Johnson**
Bromeliad Society International **Gene Powers**

HOUSTON BROMELIAD SOCIETY/INC. INC. JAN. 1976

*Bromeliad
Society*

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FIRST CLASS

