

Bromeliad Society HOUSTON Inc.



Vol 43 No 10

October, 2010



About our October Speaker: **Dennis Cathcart**

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 19, 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM SPEAKER: Dennis Cathcart

PROGRAM TITLE: “*Tropiflora’s Singapore Project*”

Dennis’s program is mainly about the plants Tropiflora is sending to Singapore and how they are doing it. The program has three parts, one on the plants and a short movie that is an animation about the proposed Gardens By The Bay project. Another part is a movie about Singapore being a ‘City in a Garden’. Dennis will bring plants to sell.

SEEDLING: *Neoregelia ‘Mercury in Love’*

Provided by David Meade. A medium sized Neo out of the “Red Planet” grex. David advises not to fertilize this plant to keep the red coloration.

MEETING AGENDA:

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

NEXT BOARD MEETING: 11/18/2010, 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: Gary Gallick

DEADLINE FOR NOV. BULLETIN: 10/23/10

Dennis Cathcart has always been a much-anticipated

speaker at our BS/H meetings.

Dennis comes to us from Sarasota, Florida, where he and his wife, Linda, are the owners of Tropiflora, one of the largest collector-oriented exotic plant nurseries in the United States. Dennis has made more than 100 collecting trips to more than 25 countries, resulting in the introduction of many new species (and a lot of really great programs). He is in great demand as a speaker and has given programs to plant societies across the U.S. as well as internationally. We are privileged, indeed, to have him in Houston!

At the St. Petersburg World Conference in 2002, Dennis was the first recipient of the Wally Berg Award of Excellence in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the world of bromeliads.

This is a meeting not to be missed. For those members who are online, check out Tropiflora’s Cargo Report at www.tropiflora.com to see just some of what the nursery has to offer. Tropiflora also sells many other tropical plants, including adeniums, succulents and orchids. But for the bromeliad collector, it’s as much a must-see when you visit Florida as Disney World

President's Page



September proved to be a busy and productive month for Bromeliad Society/Houston, Inc.

Judges' Symposium – On Saturday, Sept. 18, twenty three judges and student judges gathered at the Garden Center to learn more about Dyckias, Deuterocohnias, and Hechtias. **Charlien Rose, Carole and Rick Richtmyer** presented lots of information to help us judge these genera more fairly. For example, all Hechtias have male and female blooms which look different. Consider the time of year when judging the color of the plant and that some bromeliads like *Dyckia platyphylla* vary from plant to plant. Since Dyckias split, we discussed when to consider it a multiple or single plant. It was a very productive day for all participants.

Fall Sale – We experienced a steady flow of customers, on Saturday, September 25, for the Fall Sale. Tables were covered in beautiful blooming and foliage bromeliads. **Allyn Pearlman** (Sales

Chair extraordinaire) seemed pleased with the profits and the customers seemed very pleased with their purchases. BS/H volunteers were on hand to answer any questions and to carry plants to cars. Although Mother Nature forgot to honor my request for a cool front, she did give us a sunny day with no rain. All in all, it was a great fall sale. We appreciated everyone who brought plants/bought plants/worked the sale!

Mercer Garden Faire - The following day, several BS/H members promoted our beloved bromeliads at the Mercer Garden Faire. We talked “pineapple” with a number of interested families. We added 5 new people to our mailing list who want to attend our sales. Again, our information table was successful only because some of you gave of your time to man the booth. Thanks to all!

Member Sells on E-bay – **Chris Nguyen** recently sold a variegated Dyckia “Dakota” on E-bay. When I talked with him, he explained that he decided to try to sell the pup on-line. The pup came from a Dyckia ‘Dakota’ that **David Meade** owned. The Dyckia split and produced the variegated pups so Chris got one. Anyway, Chris hoped to sell it for \$400 and ended up selling it to someone in Thailand for appreciably more than he expected. You just don’t know what can happen when people are bidding on something they really want. Congratulations on your big sale, Chris.

October Speaker – Our old friend, **Dennis Cathcart**, will join us in October as our speaker. I always enjoy hearing about his adventures. Dennis will also be bringing along some select Tillandsias to sell.

Lindsey

At a recent Judges Seminar, **Charlie Birdsong** discussed some different and interesting web sites relating to bromeliads. The following list is provided for everyone who might be interested in searching them out:

- The Cultivar registry "beta" site <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/bcr/index.php>
- The Dyckia site www.dyckiabrazil.com
- The old Bromeliad forum <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/bromeliad/>
- A new offshoot of the previous forum that is more interesting
- <http://www.bromeliadforum.za.net/forum/index.php>

Charlie noted that, “I know there are others but I find these interesting and informative.”

2011 Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee, chaired by **Don Green** has put forward the following slate of officers for 2011. **The election will be held at the October meeting.**

President — Gary Gallick

In real life, Gary is a Professor of Medical Oncology at M.D. Anderson, but we know him better as our stellar auctioneer and a fan of mean, sticky, green bromeliads. He has been a member of BS/H since 1993 and is primarily interested in terrestrial species, but a hybrid or two has been known to show up in his collection. Gary has served on the Board of Directors of both BS/H and the BSI, is a BSI accredited judge, and gives excellent and interesting programs.

Vice President — Rick Richtmyer

Rick joined the BS/H in 1981, then was transferred to Dallas in 1982 where he served the Dallas Society as President, Vice-President and Show Chairman. Rick is an International Accredited Master Judge, has served on the BSI Board of Directors, and acted as Judges Chairman for the BS/H annual show, Judges Co-chairman, along with Carole, at the 1996 World Bromeliad Conference, and General Show Chairman for the 1998 WBC. Since moving back to Houston in 1996, he has served the BS/H as a Director, President and Vice President, as Classification chairman for numerous BS/H shows.

Secretary — Charlien Rose

Charlien joined the BS/H in 1976 and has served the society and the Board of Directors in many different capacities since then. She has been General Chairperson of our annual show; at World Conferences, she has served as co-chairperson of the Judged Show in 1990, Show Chairperson in 2000, and Clerks Chairperson in 2002. Charlien is an International Accredited Master Judge and instructor, and past Chairman of the BSI Affiliates Show Committee. She is currently serving our society as Secretary.

Treasurer — Allyn Pearlman

Allyn joined the society in 1991. He was Editor of the Bulletin from 1992 to 2002, and has been Membership Chairman since 1993. He has served as a Director and President, and was Chairman of our annual show in 1995. Allyn is also an active supporter of the Southwest Guild and is currently the Treasurer of that organization as well as the BS/H and has agreed to take on the added responsibility of Treasurer of The Cryptanthus Society. Allyn is an International Accredited Judge, a member of the BSI and the Cryptanthus Society.

Director — Scherie Townes

Scherie is a native Texan that grew up in Houston. Her Mom grew bromeliads as she was growing up so it was natural that she became interested in the plants. She has maintained a serious collection for about 18 years, and her favorites are Billbergia,s Aechmeas and Neoregelias. Scherie is a science teacher. Gardening and working with her plants are pure relaxation after a day at school.

Director — Midge Gorman

Midge Gorman is a native Houstonian with a rural background. Gardening was learned at an early age, her childhood hobby was raising Begonia's. By adulthood, that interest developed into more exotic growing adventures. Her hobbies now include exotic birds and working with exotic plants which are perfect for the "rainforest setting" these interests require. Bromeliads, with all their exotic colors and textures, bring such beauty and tranquility into Midge's life. The Neo's are one favorite that seem to stand out in her collection. Becoming a member of BSH has been of immeasurable value in growing these beautiful plants.



CULTURAL TIPS

Growing from Seed - 2010

By Odean Head

Last month we talked about pollinating the flower of a bromeliad in an effort to produce a new hybrid. This month we will cover the growing of the seed when our pollination has

been successful. Our odds of success will increase when we pollinate more than one flower.

The seeds will form in a berry-like ovary located beneath the pollinated flower. The ovary will begin to swell in a month or two and will usually change to darker colors as the seeds mature. The best way to tell when they are ready to be harvested is to pull lightly on the seed pod. If it releases easily the seeds should be ripe. Most of my experience has been with neoregelias but the procedure should be similar for most of the genera in the bromelioideae and pitcairniodeae sub-families. Growing seeds from the tillandsioideae sub-family (Tillandsias, Vrieseas, Guzmanias, etc.) is quite different and its procedure is not included here

To harvest the seeds just squeeze the pod between your fingers and the seeds will squirt out the bottom end. The seeds will be in a sticky jelly substance that will make them harder to separate because some of them will try to stick together. Most people recommend that you wash and dry the seeds before planting. Squeeze the seeds into a small closeable container, add an inch or two of water and a drop of detergent, let them soak for an hour or two and shake it periodically. Strain the seeds and remove any pulp that came from the seed pod. Wash the seeds again with clean water and spread them on a paper towel to dry. When thoroughly dried spread them evenly on another paper towel cut to fit the container you are going to plant them in. If you prefer to plant them later just store in a dry, cool place and they should remain viable for several months. If you have more than you can use, Harvey Beltz would love to have them for the BSI seed bank. Just be sure to label

them properly so that he knows what he is distributing.

Usually I am either too lazy or in too much of a hurry to use the seed drying procedure. I just squeeze the seeds directly on to a paper towel for planting. I use a plant label for the mass spread and a toothpick to separate seeds that are stuck together and to remove any pulp squeezed from the pod. This has been successful for me and expedites the overall procedure.

The planting medium should have fine texture. I use a mixture of one-half peat moss and one-half vermiculite. Since this mixture is hard to wet I pre-soak it before using. A good preventative measure is to add some fungicide to the water when you pre-soak the medium. Since the germinating and growing area for the seedlings will remain very humid for a long time it is susceptible to growing fungus. Starting with a sterile medium will help prevent this. Fill the pot (I use a 5" or 6" pot) about half full and firm it so that the top is smooth. Place the piece of paper towel containing the seeds on top of the mix and smooth it out. Do not cover the seeds with the mix. Cut a piece of plastic or saran-wrap and fit it on top of the plastic pot securing it with a rubber band or strip of panty hose. I prefer the panty hose because it does not deteriorate like the rubber bands do.

Put the pot in a warm, reasonably good light location, not in full sun, and wait for the magic to begin. In about a week to ten days you should see the seeds begin to germinate. Very little care is needed in the next two or three months. The covered top will hold sufficient moisture in the pot for some time which will be evident by the moisture clinging to the cover. The seedlings like continuous humidity so if the mix appears to be drying out, don't wait too long to re-wet it. Watering at this stage should be done from the bottom by setting the pot in about an inch of water. Top watering when the plants are very small could wash up the tiny roots and cause considerable damage. When the plants get about one inch tall, remove the plastic and begin top watering using a weak fertilizer solution (one-fourth strength).

(Continued on page 5)

(Cultural Tips continued from page 4)

The plants are still fragile so use a suction cup (used in cooking or basting) and apply the solution very carefully around the tiny plants. Do this every two or three days.

When the plants become crowded in the pot, move them to a community tray to keep their roots from becoming too entangled. Plant them about one inch apart which will provide space for additional root development while staying close enough to aid in retaining desirable humidity. Continue to water with the baster, using the weak fertilizer solution, until the root systems get well established and the plants appear to be strong enough to support overhead watering. Don't let the mix dry out completely. If the seedlings are not already growing in good light (filtered sun), they should be moved there when placed in the community trays to prevent leggy

growth.

Let the seedlings grow a long time in this community tray. In fact some of them may never leave the tray. As the plants grow and start to crowd each other they began to differ in appearance. This is where the culling procedure should start. Select only those that are beginning to show good potential and pot them into individual pots. You may go back to the tray several times as the plants grow for more selections or you may decide to throw the rest away. Look closely before you throw them away because sometimes the runts become the best cultivars. You may grow most of the ones you selected to maturity before making the final selection(s). Grow them under ideal conditions so that you can be sure of their potential. This will make it easier to cull. Anyone should be able to grow from seed. It just takes time and a little patience. Try growing some.

Houston, Texas

BROMELIADS BY THE NUMBERS

58 GENERA
2 NOTHOGENERA
3248 SPECIES

Acanthostachys.....	2	Edmundoa.....	3	Nidularium.....	45
Aechmea.....	260	Eduandrea.....	1	xNiduregelia.....	3
Alcantarea.....	28	Encholirium.....	23	Ochagavia.....	4
Ananas.....	7	Fascicularia.....	1	Orthophytum.....	55
Androlepsis.....	1	Fernseea.....	2	Pepinia.....	57
Araeococcus.....	9	Fosterella.....	31	Pitcairnia.....	336
Billbergia.....	64	Glomeropitcairnia.....	2	Portea.....	9
Brewcaria.....	6	Greigia.....	36	Pseudaechmea.....	1
Brocchinia.....	20	Guzmania.....	210	Pseudananas.....	1
Bromelia.....	58	Hechtia.....	54	Puya.....	219
Canistropsis.....	11	Hohenbergia.....	57	Quesnelia.....	21
Canistrum.....	14	Hohenbergiopsis.....	1	Racinaea.....	65
Catopsis.....	18	xHohenmea.....	1	Ronnbergia.....	14
Connelia.....	6	Lapa.....	2	Sequencia.....	1
Cottendorfia.....	1	Lindmania.....	39	Steyerbromelia.....	6
Cryptanthus.....	67	Lymania.....	9	Tillandsia.....	626
Deinacanthon.....	1	Mezobromelia.....	9	Ursulaea.....	2
Deuterocohnia.....	18	Navia.....	93	Vriesea.....	266
Disteganthus.....	2	Neoglaziovia.....	3	Werauhia.....	87
Dyckia.....	141	Neoregelia.....	113	Wittrockia.....	6

*This list was provided by **Charlie Birdsong** at the Judges Seminar and is current as of July 2010.*

Thanks to the following donors to the September raffle table: **Cherie Lee, Odean Head, Daryl Page, Chris Nguyen, David Meade, Sam Chism, Carole Richtmyer, Fred and Mary Ellen Rinebold, Faye Stansberry, and Jimmy Woolsey.**

And the lucky winners were: **Louise Epperson, Ruby Adams, Suzanne Milstead, Fred Rinebold, Billie Emanuel, Kevin Perry, Vickey Gurka, Burnell Curtis, Tommy Emanuel, Noreen Tolman, Martha Burg, Rick Richtmyer, and Beth Whitley.**

The raffle brought in \$168.

And once again, please be sure that your signature is legible when you sign our raffle table list. There's one donor who is not being recognized this month because the Editor couldn't decipher who it was!



The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.
www.houstonorchidsociety.org

Regular meeting first Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

Houston Garden Center

Next regular meeting: November 11, 2010

DON'T Forget
THE MEMBER PLANT Sale
COMING at the NOVEMBER Meeting!

Meeting Refreshments

The year is winding down, but there's one more chance for the A-Ms to shine and bring refreshments to the October meeting. Drinks



October Birthdays

Ed Doherty	10/03
Frank Lee	10/05
Linda Whipkey	10/06
Johnny Williams	10/10
Wray Page	10/14
Paula Cross	10/16
Margo Racca	10/23
Rick Richtmyer	10/24
Judith Neufeld	10/27
Marsha Krumrey	10/29
Martha Burg	10/29



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

www.tgcfersoc.org

Regular meeting third Sunday of month at 2:00 PM

Houston Garden Center

Next meeting: October 17, 2010

Dates to Remember

- **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
- **2011 BS/H Show and Sale**, to be scheduled for either April 29-30 and May 1 or May 13-15, so save the dates!

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:

Carole Richtmyer
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring, TX 77388
planobrom@aol.com

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 **Allyn Pearlman**
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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Carole Richtmyer
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring, TX 77388

FIRST CLASS

