

Bromeliad Society **HOUSTON** **Inc.**

Vol 54 No 1

JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY 2021



Cryptanthus 'Powder Puff' - Earthstar Designs

Tuesday, JANUARY 19, 2021

TIME: 7:00 P.M. to .

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

PROGRAM SPEAKERS: Richard Edie
"Making Our Gardens Bird Attractors"

MEETING AGENDA:

- Social Time at 7:00 to 7:30
- Meeting Welcome and Announcement
- Program
- Show and Tell presented by John Schmidt

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: Christy Brenner on
"Venezuelan Teupis where Bromeliads First Evolved"

NEXT BOARD MEETING: January 21, 2021
(Zoom information will be provided to Board Members prior to meeting)

The Zoom Meeting on

JANUARY 19

7:00 to...

Topic: Bromeliad Society Houston January Meeting

Time: Jan 19, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85065531598?pwd=UVhFSWc1U0xLcUFTNGFaUjRBTjlVQT09>

Meeting ID: 850 6553 1598

Passcode: 215690

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,85065531598#,,, *215690# US (Houston)

+12532158782,,85065531598#,,, *215690# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

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+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 850 6553 1598

Passcode: 215690

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kW8rv8yaw>

Show and Tell

**If you have plants you'd like to show,
please send .jpg photos to
mary@edmonsonphoto.com**

Also, please renew your BSHI dues.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Hello Everyone and Welcome to BS/H 2021!!! I am certain we are all looking forward to a returning normalcy in the coming months. With any luck at all we will be able to meet face to face soon.

Having said that, I can not discount the wonderful events and zoom meetings that we have successfully held amid the COVID-19 crisis. This is truly a resilient organization! An immense thank you to Cheri Lee, Michael O'Neal and all who assisted in providing the technological support.

As most of you know, I am relatively new to the world of Bromeliads. It did not take long for me to see the allure of these fascinating plants. They are not only unusually beautiful, but they are SURVIVORS! Andrew Steens, in his book *Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden*, pointed out, "Bromeliads are some of the more recent plants to evolve; consequently, they are still rapidly evolving." I love this most about



them. I know I have much to learn and I will dedicate this year to just that, learning all that I can from each of you.

Just as I have defined my priority for the coming year, your elected Board of Directors will soon be establishing 2021 priorities for our organization. Their first meeting will follow the January 19th general meeting and will be held on Thursday, January 21. Please feel free to share your ideas at the general meeting so that we can develop a full and meaningful scope of work and activities. As expected, both meetings will be held via Zoom so be sure to log in.

I expect we will soon be able to resume all the activities that we have established in years past, so I urge you to stay healthy and participate as much as you possibly can.

See you all at the January meeting when our program will be provided by Wild Birds Unlimited – Our Gardens and the Birds that Visit.

Shirl Stowe

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Scott Sandel	1/3
Debbie Bragg	1/10
Bob Kirby	1/13
Ellen Baskerville	1/15
Lynn Friedman	1/16
Malcolm McCorquodale	1/17
Betty Garrison	1/19
Derek Sandberg	1/19



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

MALCOLM ANDERSON	2/4
LAURIE SKOV	2/17
VIKEY GURKA	2/18



Bromeliad Society/Houston, Inc.
Minutes - Regular Meeting
DECEMBER 15, 2020

Location: Zoom Meeting

Members were able to join the meeting at 7:00 am. Many did. They practiced using the Zoom features and worked on eliminating technical problems. There was also a fair amount of visiting.

Call to order: President Cherie Lee at 7:29 pm

Plant Sale: None

Visitors: Paul Wingert, Lyn Wegner, Dawid Botha, Melanie Yuen, and Jarrett Stowe

New Members: None

Attendance: 25 (connections some were multiple) members 26 visitors 5

Announcements & Committee Reports:

Cherie Lee reminded the members that:

their 2021 dues will be due soon. Look forward to an email from Mary Cinot-
to giving pertinent information.

reminded members that Cryptanthus dues should be mailed to Carole Richt-
myer when due.

the BSI has several levels of membership. She gave some of the classes of
memberships and their cost.

board members and officers must be members of the BSI

WBC 2021 is a go. Check the BSI website for more information.

Cherie Lee thanked the board members, officers and committee members who
had served last year. She gave a special thanks to those who would be leaving
the board or moving to a different position at the end of 2020. The list included
Vice-President Linda Whipkey, Past President Don Green, and board members
Scherie Townes, Gordon Stowe, and Shirl Stowe.

Cherie Lee welcomed the newly elected officers and board members for 2021.
President Shirl Stowe, Vice-President Scherie Townes, Treasurer Alyn Pearl-
man, Secretary David Whipkey, and new board members Alicia Baker and John
Schmidt.

Cherie Lee passed the ceremonial hat and gavel on to incoming president Shirl
Stowe.

Cherie Lee thanked the members for her gift certificate to Michael's Bromeliads.

Treasurer's report: none

Program: There was none

Show & Tell: Mary Cinotto presented the pictures of the plants and John Schmidt talked about them. The plant photos were provided by:

Alicia Baker
John Edmonson
Cherie Lee
Mike O'Neal
Alan Raymond
Carole and Rick Richtmyer
Scott Sandel
David Whipkey

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Mary Cinotto and seconded by David Whipkey. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Plant Raffle: there was none



Melenie Yuen
melenie.c.yuen@gmail.com

Jarrett Stowe
okanella@gmail.com

Thank you Malcolm McCorquodale for your greenhouse construction information on the following pages. This is quite a journey and well written. Hope it inspires folks to go forth and build.

My Greenhouse / Shade house

By Malcolm McCorquodale

About 10 or 15 years ago, I decided that I needed a greenhouse. Lee Rowell gave me the idea of building a greenhouse out of cyclone fence top tubing and special connectors. I figure this was a good idea as it would shelter the plants for the winter and wouldn't be permanent (in case I decided I did not want it later).



SHADE HOUSE

Parts List to build the shade/green house.

- Cyclone fence top tube – 11 pieces, 4 additional (optional) for hanging plants. These are each 10 ½ feet long and are available at any hardware/home improvement store.
- Top Tube Connectors – High Peak.
- Brace clamps, 8 sets, if adding optional top tubes for hanging plants.
- Welded wire (48" wide) to put on top and optionally on one or more sides (for hanging mounted plants).
- Mosquito netting on top of welded wire to keep out tree leaves.
- Snap clamps ABS 4" x 1", to hold plastic on top tube.
- Clear roll of plastic, 100' long by 20' or 24' wide. The 6-mil thickness is better than the 4-mil thickness. Make sure it really clear. At Home Depot clear is more white than clear. I have had good luck with the plastic that Southland Hardware sells.
- Screen door, wood to build frame around door, hinges and door handle.

Suggested Tools

- Reciprocating saw with "metal" blade to cut the top tube to desired length. If you use a "wood only" blade it will work, but take ten times longer...
- Ladder, 6 feet tall
- Battery powered drill with ¼" "selfstarting" or "pilot point" drill bit, and a screwdriver bit. I wish I had known about a pilot point drill bit before I had completed this project.
- Wrench

Generalized Instructions



Using the skilsaw, I cut the uprights to about seven feet long. The exact length doesn't matter as long as they match.

I cut the top tubes that attach the uprights to the peak to about eight feet or so. The exact length doesn't matter as long as they match.

Do a test fit on each connection to see where in the top tube you will have to drill a hole for the bolt. Do the roof part first – its easiest to build the roof when it on the ground – no ladder involved. (I learned that it's not really possible to do it the other way.)

When the roof is assembled add each upright.



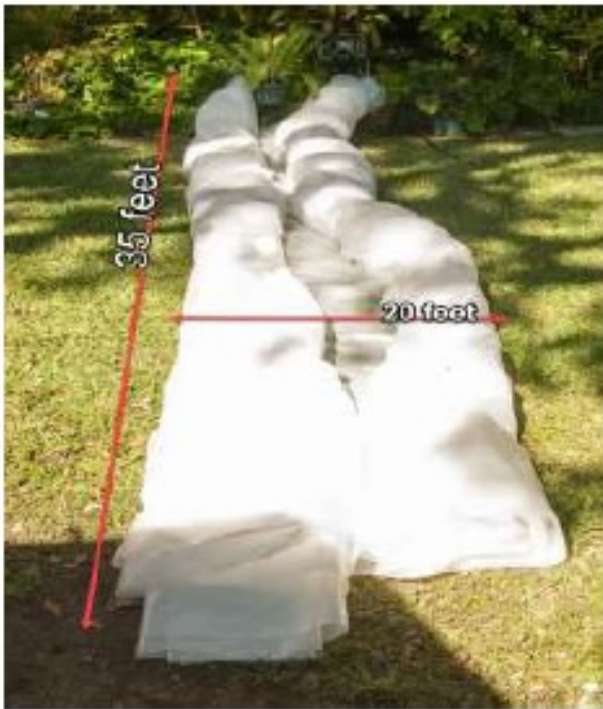
Using the brace clamps, attach one or more tubes to the roof tubes. See Photos 1 and 2 of the shade house for examples.

Put the welded wire over the top of the green house and tie down with a plastic strap. This helps to support the plastic and provides a place to hang light weight plants. Since the welded wire is 48" wide there will be a gap in the middle. See picture on left.

Place mosquito netting on top of the welded wire. This reduces the number of leaves that fall into the greenhouse.



Putting up the Plastic



In order to put up the plastic with just one person, its important to fold it correctly.

Step 1 is to fold as shown in the photo on the left. The measurements are approximate, be sure to double-check your setup.

Step 2 is to roll-up what is in the photo, starting at each end and meeting in the middle.

Now standing on a ladder in the middle of the greenhouse, it should unfold. (This takes a little practice and while not easy, it's easier to do than to explain.)



After the plastic has unfolded it should look something like this.



Use the snap clamps to secure the plastic to the cyclone fence top tubes.

The Greenhouse Door



I purchased a screen door and covered it in plastic.

Made a door frame out of 2x4 treated lumber as shown in the photo on the left.

After the door is finished attach the door to a horizontal tube on the short end of the greenhouse using a "pipe strap".



Final tips

- The vertical tubes are sunk about 4" to 6" into the ground. I did not use any cement until this year.
- One corner of the structure is anchored to a large crepe myrtle tree. There is also a fence near two sides of the greenhouse, so wind is not too much of an issue.
- Angle of the peak needs to be 90 degrees. Shallower angles are likely to result in structural failure after one or two strong rain storms.

Top tube connectors are available from: <https://www.canopiesandtarps.com/10x10-high-peak-canopy-box-kit-1-3-8-inch.html>

Snap clamps are available from: <https://www.circoinnovations.com/circo-direct/Snap-Clamp-ABS-4-inch-X-1-inch-p56718160>

Plastic covering, Southland Hardware: <https://www.southlandhardware.com/>

What's Blooming January 2021



Aechmea orlandiana 'Ensign' - Edmonson



Aechmea orlandiana 'White Knight' - Edmonson



Aechmea 'Purple Dragon' - Lee



Aechmea (unknown) - Edmonson

What's Blooming January 2021



Bill. amoena stolonifera albomarginated—Lee



Billbergia 'Nita' - Lee

(top and bottom)



Billbergia 'Can Can' - Lee



What's Blooming January 2021



Canistropsis billbergioides 'Cinnamon' - Lee (top and bottom)



Pitcairnia corcovadensis –Lee



Nidularium antoineanum—Lee



Lemeltonia narthecioides—Lee

What's Blooming January 2021



Aechmea nudicaulis plurifolia—Whipkey



Aechmea recurvata unknown cultivar—
Whipkey



Aechmea 'Red Dragon' - Whipkey

*Sincoraea
ophiuroides*
- Whipkey



What's Blooming January 2021



Billbergia 'Fiesta' - Whipkey



Tillandsia 'Sweet Isabel' - Whipkey



Deuterocohnia brevifolia - Whipkey

What's Blooming January 2021



Billbergia leptopoda – Whipkey



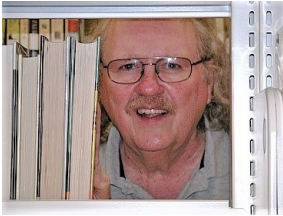
Quesnelia liboniana—Whipkey

What's Blooming January 2021

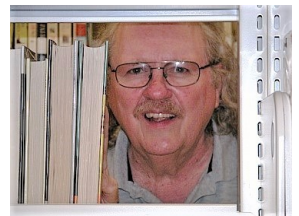


ALL PHOTOS: *Dyckia burle-marxii* X *Encholirium Horridum* - Whipkey





Whipkey's Word January 2021 *Pest*



As I work on this column late into the night on New Year's Eve, my mind keeps replaying a part of a song from the movie ***The Sound of Music***.

And up in the nursery an absurd little bird
Is popping out to say "cuckoo"
Cuckoo, cuckoo
Regretfully they tell us Cuckoo, cuckoo
But firmly they compel us Cuckoo, cuckoo
To say goodbye...
Cuckoo!

. . . to you **2020, with your pandemics, politics, and hurricanes. You are a pest that I will be glad to see fly away.**

I can't help myself; the first Whipkey's Word for 2021 must be **pest**.

Dictionary.com defines **pest** as:

- an annoying or troublesome person, animal, or thing; nuisance.
- an insect or other small animal that harms or destroys garden plants, trees, etc.
- a deadly epidemic disease, especially a plague; pestilence.

Pushing 2020 out of my mind, I think I will choose definition number two.

The Bromeliad grower will face a number of **pests**. The foremost **pests** are spider mites, aphids, thrips, scale, mealybugs, slugs, snails, and heaven forbid, the Mexican Bromeliad Weevil. To try and avoid **pest** infestations, I place new plants into quarantine for 3 or 4 weeks. Careful observation of these quarantined plants will allow me to spot and deal with **pests** before they spread to other plants. When possible, check the leaf axils, beneath the leaves, and on the surface of the soil. Unfortunately, many of our plants are in their winter quarters where they may be growing under less than perfect conditions. These plants are very susceptible to **pests** and it might be harder to do a decent inspection.

Let's take a look at some of these **pests**. One of the most common **pests** is scale. Mature scale insects look like a small brown or black speck. They can be found on most any aboveground portion the plant. They damage plants by sucking fluids from the plant. Small infestations can be removed by scraping them off with a finger or a cotton swab. Immature insects are much harder to see. In most cases you will probably need to use an insecticide. Be sure to choose one that is approved to kill scale and apply according the manufactures directions.

Aphids are small insects that suck fluids from plants. They can be white, brown, green, red, black or multicolored. They usually attack in mass. They can be treated much the same of scale.

Mealybugs are insects that look like white cotton masses. They can be found on the aboveground portions of the plant. They too damage plants by sucking fluids from the plant. An infestation should be treated much as you would an infestation of scale.

Slugs and snails are gastropods that eat leaves. They only come out at night, so you usually know you have them when you see the damage they have caused. If there are holes in the plant's leaves or some of the leaves are missing their edges, you most probably have slugs or snails. You can use baits, but the easiest way to get rid of them is to place a trap near your plants. Slugs and snails are much like college kids in that they can't resist beer. Place a 2 inch deep container of beer near your plants. The critters smell the beer, crawl in, and happily drown.

Less common **pests** are spider mites and thrips. They too are sucking insects. They are small, mobile, and they attack in large numbers. Thrips fly around and spider mites crawl. Distorted and discolored leaves are a good indication that you have a problem. Some suggest the use of an insecticidal soap to kill them. Unfortunately, I have found that eventually I have to resort to stronger measures and use an insecticide.

Remember to use insecticides as little as possible, mixed exactly as directed, and only for the pests listed on the label. While the insecticide may help eliminate the pest for a time, it can also harm natural predator populations.

Last, but not least is a special case. The Mexican Bromeliad Weevil (*Metamasius callizona*), known in Florida as the "Evil Weevil", is about as bad as it gets. While most of the other pests seldom kill their host, this insect destroys the plant by eating its base. This invasive species is decimating the native Bromeliad population of Florida. For more information check the Florida Council of Bromeliads website located at <http://www.fcbs.org>. To my knowledge this insect has never been found in Texas. If it ever is found here, I hope the person finding it immediately burns all traces of the infected plant.

Annual Membership renewal is here.

Individual	\$20.00 per year
Family	\$30.00 per year

All memberships begin with January of the current year.

**Please send your check to Allyn Pearlman
6422 Bankside Drive
Houston, TX 77096**

Also, if you are a member of the Cryptanthus Society

**Mail to:
Carole Richtmyer
18814 Cypress Mountain Dr.
Spring, TX 77388**

Single	\$20
Dual	\$25



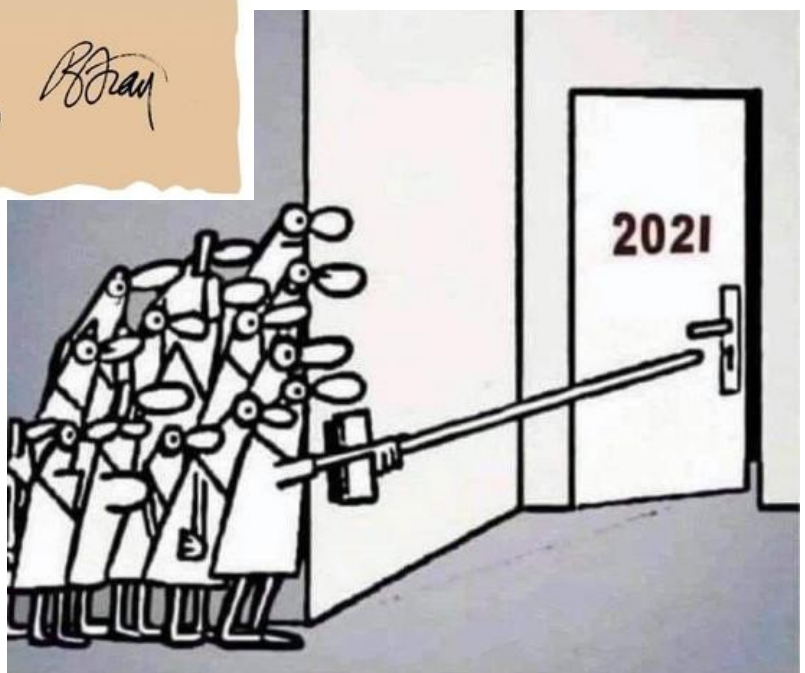
Jimbo's Nursery

15019 8th St., Santa Fe, TX 77517, 409-925-6933

www.Jimbosnurserytx.com; email: Jimbos3@earthlink.net

We have a large selection of Aechmea, Billbergia, Cryptanthus, Dyckia, Neoregelia, and Tillandsia. Please compare our prices and our quality.

COVID RELIEF CENTER 2021
For a Few Laughs More



**I've never related more to
a plant in my life.**



When the client asks if you can do
it for cheaper...



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
Family	\$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 available online 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.

Please have articles to the editor
mary@edmonsonphoto.com before end of the month.

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:

Mary Cinotto
16023 Pebble Bend Drive
Houston, TX 77068
mary@edmonsonphoto.com

AFFILIATED WITH THE
BROMELIAD SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL



MEMBER OF
SOUTHWEST BROMELIAD
GUILD



AFFILIATED WITH THE
CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL



Officers and Chairmen

President	Shirl Stowe 6514 Blue Hills Road Houston, TX 77069 birddogL19@outlook.com
Vice President	Scherie Townes
Secretary	David Whipkey
Treasurer	Allyn Pearlman
Past President	Cherie Lee

Board of Directors

	Term Expires 12/31/21	12/31/22	12/31/23
Vickey Gurka	Madge Donaldson	Alicia Baker	
Frank Lee	Scherie Townes	John Schmidt	

I. Standing Committees

1. Publicity	Allyn Pearlman
2. Bulletin Editor	Mary Cinotto
3. Plant Sales Chairman	Allyn Pearlman
4. Programs Chairman	Linda Whipkey
5. Standing Committees	Ex-Officio Members: Don Green / Cherie Lee

II. Committees of the Board Representatives

1	Annual Show	David Whipkey
2	Bromeliad Culture	David Whipkey
3	Courtesy	Midge Gorman
4	Directory	Mary Cinotto
5	Email Communications	Mary Cinotto
6	Garden Tours	Gordon Stowe, Shirl Stowe
7	Historian	David Whipkey
8	Holiday Party Chairman	Allyn Pearlman
9	Hospitality Coordinator	Verna Powers
10	Members & Visitor Register:	Ken Gardner, Noreen Tolman
11	Membership	Allyn Pearlman
12	Raffle Plants	Cherie Lee, Frank Lee
13	Seedlings	Allyn Pearlman
14	Show & Tell	John Schmidt
15	Virtual Communications	Mike O'Neal
16	Webmaster	Joy Reynolds

Southwest Bromeliad Guild

Bromeliad Society International

**David Whipkey,
Ray Johnson
Annette Dominguez,
Cherie Lee,
Margo Racca**

HOUSTON Bromeliad Society, Inc.

Bromeliad Society

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Mary Cinotto
16023 Pebble Bend Drive
Houston, TX 77068



FIRST CLASS