

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

Vol 54 No 2

FEBRUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEBRUARY 2021



Cryptanthus 'Ruby Slippers' - Earthstar Designs

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

TIME: 7:00 P.M. to .

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

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

MEETING AGENDA:

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

MARCH PROGRAM: Charlie Birdsong on his
2019 experience at 20th Australasian Bromeli-
ad Conference

NEXT BOARD MEETING: March 18 2021
(Zoom information will be provided to Board
Members prior to meeting)

The Zoom Meeting on

FEBRUARY 16

7:00 to...

Bromeliad Society Houston is inviting you to a
scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bromeliad Society Houston February
2021 Meeting
Time: Feb 16, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US
and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83211893167?
pwd=TFE5TUk4Y0lsYUMxbnF0VlVaRjhFUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83211893167?pwd=TFE5TUk4Y0lsYUMxbnF0VlVaRjhFUT09)

Meeting ID: 832 1189 3167

Passcode: 720109

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Find your local number: [https://
us02web.zoom.us/j/83211893167?pwd=TFE5TUk4Y0lsYUMxbnF0VlVaRjhFUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83211893167?pwd=TFE5TUk4Y0lsYUMxbnF0VlVaRjhFUT09) v

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.

I am facing our back garden as I write this message, enjoying the birds that seem to have taken up residency here. At our general meeting last month Richard Edie from Birds Unlimited inspired us to spruce up the feeders and attract additional species. AMAZING! Our new birds are loving his recommended birdseeds and suets. Now we are itching to move our large bromeliads back into the yard and make it beautiful once again. Thank you Scherie for arranging for the wonderful program.

Lack of face-to-face meetings has not seemed to thwart member enthusiasm or involvement. The Zoom platform allows us to have a social time at 7PM (even snacks if you choose). Then at 7:30 we launch into the meeting and program, ending with our Show and Tell presentation. The



photographs and descriptions of member's plants are phenomenal. I urge those of you who have not joined in to give it a try at the February 16 meeting. If you are unfamiliar with zoom and how it works, feel free to contact Michael O'Neil at moneal37@gmail.com. From there, you can establish a phone contact if you like. He will walk you through the steps to join zoom. It really IS as easy as clicking on the link that Mary Cinotto emails to everyone. Michael is a wonderful resource and can put you at ease in using this platform.

At our January Board Meeting we discussed the possibility of holding a sale this spring at an outdoor venue. We also discussed having our ABC class at a location like Mercer. The ABC topics discussed previously were Tillandsia cultivation and/or mounting. There seems to be great interest in these areas. Please share your thoughts at our February 16 meeting regarding these events. And...don't forget to "zoom in". I cannot wait to see even more faces this month!!!!

Shirl Stowe

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

MALCOLM ANDERSON	2/4
LAURIE SKOV	2/17
VICKEY GURKA	2/18
ALICIA BAKER	2/26



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Sue Softy	3/3
Theresa Sandberg	3/15
Annette Dominguez	3/18
Odean Head	3/22



“Bromeliad Adventures in the Venezuelan Tepuis” by Cristy Brenner

Cristy is a retired community college geography teacher who has been addicted to Bromeliads since 1995, when a colleague invited her to a meeting of the Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society in Mission Viejo, California. She has not missed a meeting since, unless traveling, and is the current president of the society. As a geographer, she has visited all of the continents, but in recent years has concentrated on traveling to regions where Bromeliads are located. She has photographed Bromeliads in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. In addition to being a member of all of the Southern California societies, she is a BSI board member and judge, and has spoken at several BSI conferences.

Cristy has visited the Venezuelan Tepuis on two separate trips. The first, which we will see, included a lowland tour near the Orinoco river, followed by a helicopter expedition to the top of Auyun Tepui, famous for Angel Falls (world’s highest waterfall). The second trip included a grueling hike to the top of Roraima Tepui, famous as “The Lost World.” These “islands in the sky” rise above the Guyana shield and are very unusual because of their long isolation, which has led to the evolution of many endemic plants and animals. The Guyana shield region is now known as the location of the first Bromeliads, from which all other Bromeliads have evolved and dispersed. We will see Bromeliads from a number of different genera. Some will be familiar, but others are very “exotic” and will only grow on the unique and exceptionally beautiful Tepuis.





Venezuelan Tepuis

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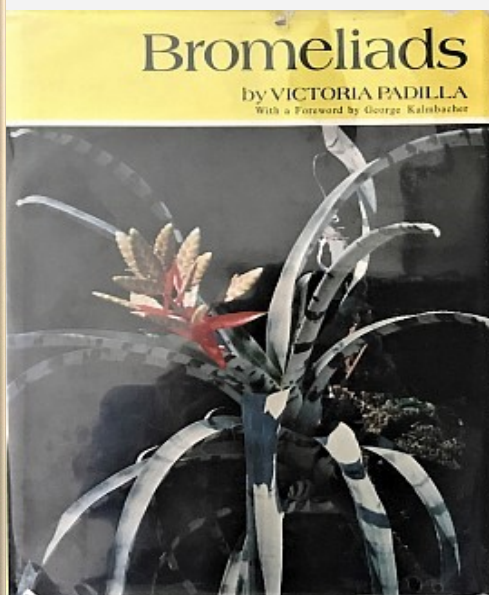
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BOOK SALE

Our library is sharing its books with members. We hope to find homes for every one.

This month we are highlighting **BROMELIADS** by Victoria Padilla (1988 printing). It is in good condition with a plastic cover. Previous owner's name is inside the cover and there are a few highlights and underlines. \$7.00 will buy this gem. Call Shirl at 360



Bromeliad Society/Houston, Inc.
Minutes - Regular Meeting
January 19, 2021

Location: Zoom Meeting

Members were able to join the meeting at 7:00 am. Many did. There was also a fair amount of visiting.

Call to order: President Shirl Stowe at 7:28 pm.

Plant Sale: None

Visitors: Georgia Traylor and Rich Edie

New Members: Melanie Yuen and Jarrett Stowe

Attendance: 26 logons (30 members and 2 visitors)

Announcements & Committee Reports:

- Shirl Stowe announced the death of Doug Trahan. Rick Richtmyer talked a little about how Doug had been involved in the society.
- Shirl noted that all the committee chairs had consented to continue to serve for another year with the exception of hospitality. If anyone would be willing to chair the hospitality committee for 2021 Shirl would appreciate you contacting her.
- Allyn also reported that the annual holiday party will be held the first Saturday of December (12/04/2021) at Los Tios restaurant on Westheimer.
- The WBC is scheduled for June 9-13, 2021. Check the BSI website for more information.
- Shirl reported that for the foreseeable future all of our meetings will be held on Zoom. She has been in contact with the personnel at the Multi-Service Center and they have no idea when we will be able to hold meetings there.
- The Kiwi Broms conference has been rescheduled. It will be held April 7 - Sunday April 10, 2022 in Auckland, New Zealand. Please visit their website, <https://kiwibroms.bsnz.org/>, for more information.

Treasurer's report: Our treasurer, Allyn Pearlman, stated that he would submit the same budget as last year to the board for approval.

Program: Scherie Townes introduced our speaker Richard Edie from Wild Birds Unlimited. He gave a program titled "Creating a Backyard Bird Habitat". Richard talked about preparing our gardens so that they will be inviting too many species of birds.

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

John Edmonson
Kathy Stahl
Cherie Lee
John Schmidt
David Whipkey

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Cherie Lee and seconded by David Whipkey. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Plant Raffle: there was none

**What's
Blooming
February
2021**



***Aechmea* 'Del Mar' - Baker**



***Pitcairnia* 'Sparkler' - Lee**



***Hectia* (unknown) - Lee**



What's Blooming February 2021



Billbergia mutants miniate - Lee



Nidularium procerum var rosa — Lee



*Tillandsia
Aeranthos
'Major'*

- Gurka



What's Blooming February 2021



Cryptanthus argyrophyllus - Edmonson



Cryptanthus 'Burgundy Blast' - Edmonson



Cryptanthus 'Honeysuckle' - Edmonson



Cryptanthus 'Peachy Keen' - Edmonson



Cryptanthus 'Tickled Pink' - Edmonson



Cryptanthus 'Tobasco' - Edmonson

What's Blooming - February 2021



Cryptanthus 'Jennifer' - Edmonson



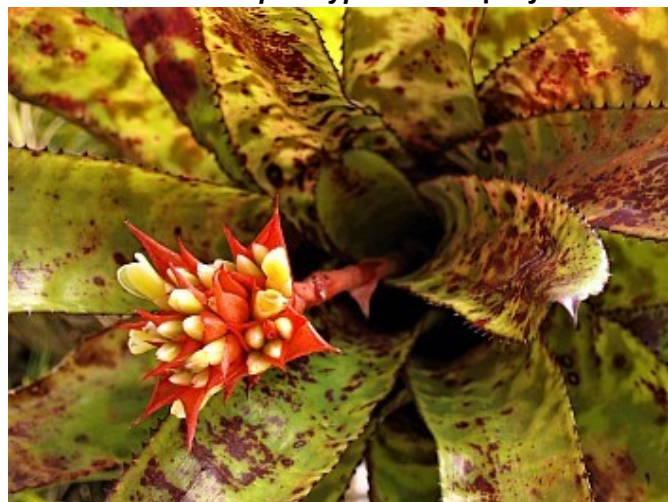
Cryptanthus 'Snow Drift' - Edmonson



Aechmea apocalyptica—Whipkey



Aechmea 'Gympie Gold' - Whipkey



Aechmea orlandiana—Whipkey

What's Blooming - February 2021



Aechmea recurvata 'Maroon' - Whipkey



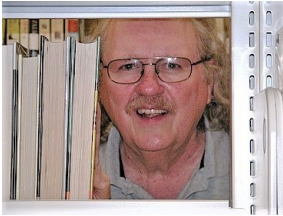
Aechmea recurvata X *calyculata*
Whipkey



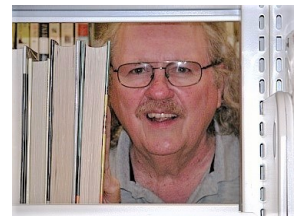
Tillandsia tenuifolia 'Purple' - Whipkey



Tillandsia ionantha - Whipkey



Whipkey's Word February 2021 *Disease*



Last month I talked a little about pests. Let us be clear, pests usually disfigure plants. There are worse problems than pests. Have you ever heard of **disease**? In these days of Covid-19 everyone is thinking about **diseases**. If you think in biblical terms, we have a pale horse wondering around. Let's make this month's word **disease**.

According to *Oxford Languages* (<https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/>) **disease** is defined as: disorder of structure or function in a human, animal, or plant, especially one that produces specific signs or symptoms or that affects a specific location and is not simply a direct result of physical injury.

To me, that means any damage to a plant that is not the result of physical harm is caused by a **disease**. In my experience, bugs chew, slugs chew, even grasshoppers do, but a **disease** usually kills the plant. There are many **diseases** that can affect plants. Since my last class in Botany was in the mid 70s, I spent an evening on the internet researching plant **diseases**. I quickly found out that I was in way over my head when I started to read most of the articles I found. I gave up on plant **diseases**, and searched for Bromeliad **diseases**. I found articles that were much more useful when I narrowed my search criteria.

Most of the **diseases** I read about that usually affect collector plants were fungal infections. The most frequently reported problems were:

- Leaf spot
- Rust
- Root rot
- Crown rot

Leaf spot is caused by the organism *Exserohilum rostratum*. You should suspect leaf spot if the plants leaves develop small round yellow spots that over time develop into larger stretched out brown spots. In the worst of cases the entire leaf turns brown and is limp.

Treatment consists of removing infected leaves and moving the plant to a location that has better air circulation. In extreme cases, you can use a fungicide. There are several available at your local garden center or big box store. Choose the one that is recommended to treat leaf spot. Read the label and follow all instructions.

Rust first appears as rust colored bumps on the underside of the leaves. As time goes on the rust eats through the leaves and appears as a light yellow spot on the top of the leaf.

Treatment is the same as the one recommended for leaf spot.

Root rot is caused by a pathogen called *Pythium*. It used to be classified as a fungus, but has been reclassified as a parasitic oomycete. (Looks like not only Bromeliad people have to put up with reclassifications.) You should suspect root rot when the plant wilts, and the soil is wet. Knock the plant out of its container and examine the roots. If they are mushy and discolored it is probably root rot.

If some of the roots still look white and healthy, cut off the diseased roots, and repot the plant in fresh potting medium. Be careful to not over water the plant.

Crown rot, caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* it is a fungus found in many commercial potting soils. It is usually controlled by *Trichoderma* another common fungus. The problem starts when the soil is waterlogged and the aerobic (needs Oxygen) *Trichoderma* is killed off, allowing the anaerobic (does not need Oxygen) *Phytophthora cinnamomi* run rampant. Recognizing this malady is easy. The plant's center is mushy and brown, it has a fowl odor, and the center comes out with a gentle tug.

Unfortunately, by the time crown rot is usually discovered, it is too late to save the plant. If you want to try to save it, remove the rotten leaves, and treat with a fungicide. If you are lucky, there might be enough of a stem to put out a pup or two.

Most diseases in Bromeliads can usually be prevented by good cultural practices. Give your plants good air circulation and be careful to not overwater.

The single biggest thing I learned was from an indigenous elder of Cherokee descent, Stan Rushworth, who reminded me of the difference between a Western settler mindset of "I have rights" and an indigenous mindset of "I have obligations." Instead of thinking that I am born with rights, I choose to think that I am born with obligations to serve past, present, and future generations, and the planet herself.

BSHI Membership

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

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

Cryptanthus Society Membership

Individual	\$20.00 per year
Family	\$25.00 per year

Please send your check to Carole Richtmyer
18814 Cypress Mountain Dr.
Spring, TX 77388



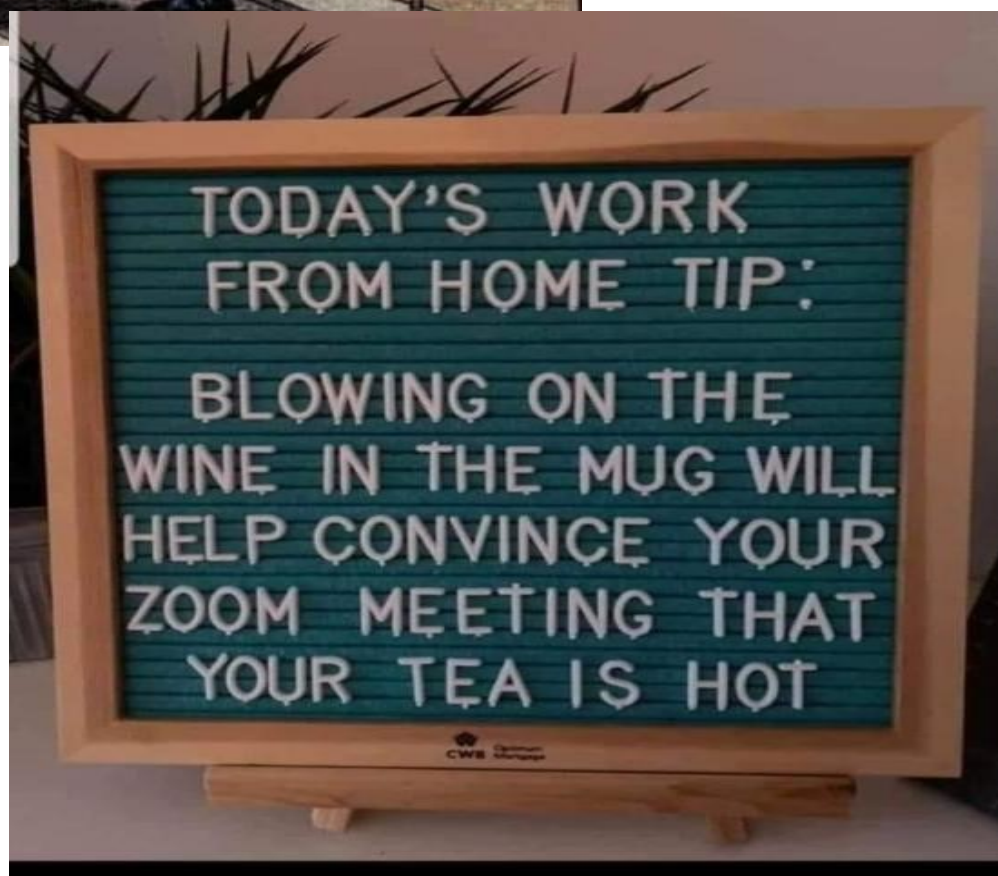
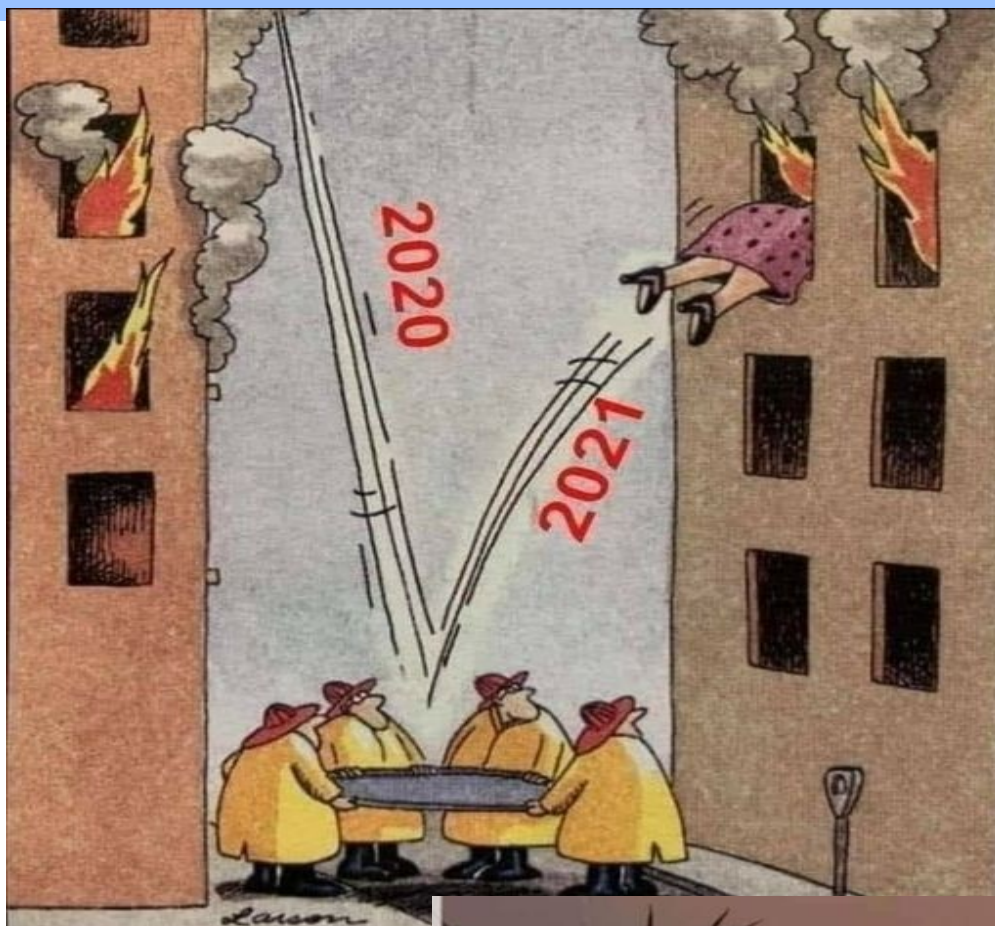
Jimbo's Nursery

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

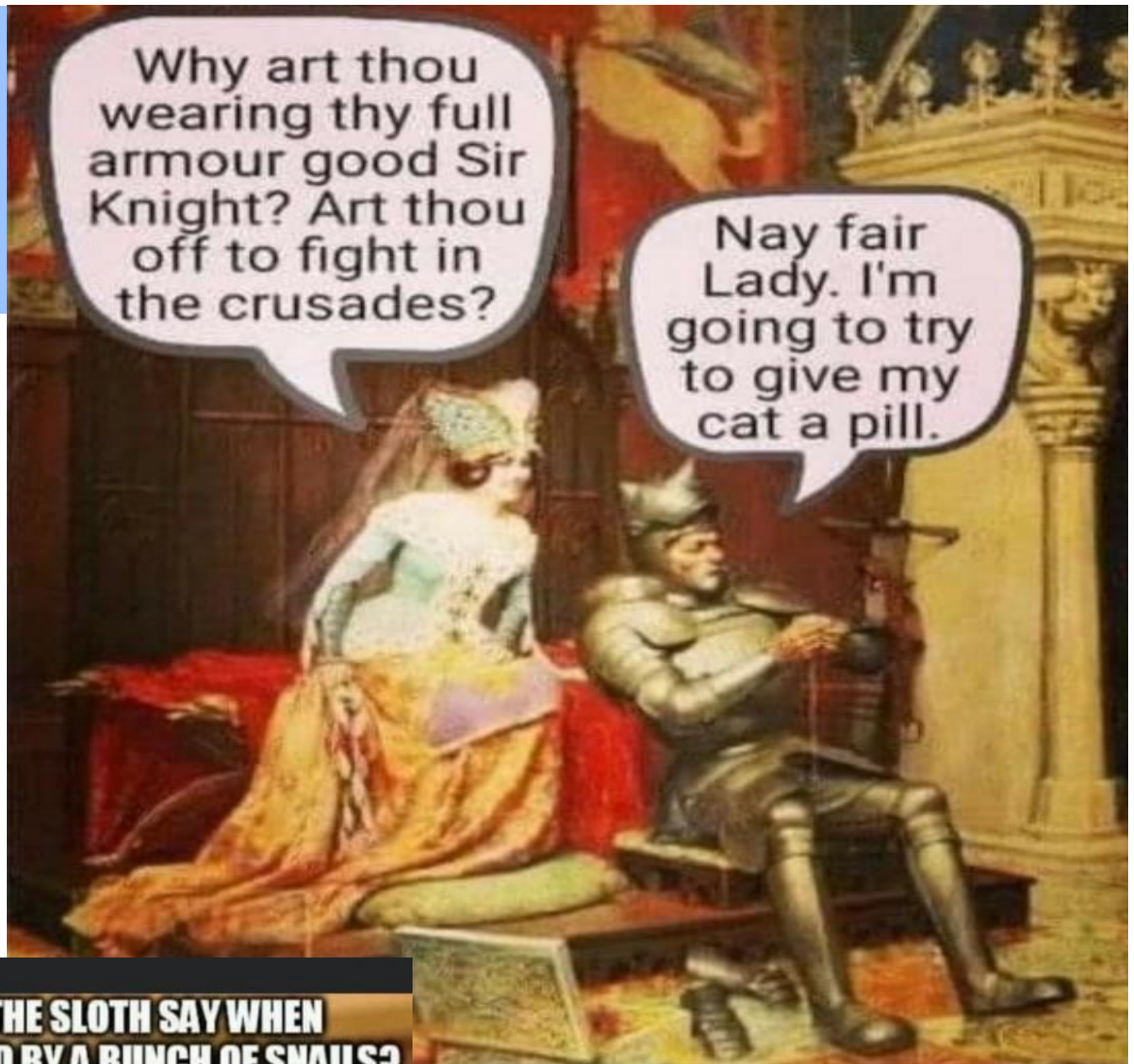
www.Jimbosnurserytx.com; email: Jimbos3@earthlink.net

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



COVID RELIEF
CENTER 2021
For a Few
Laughs More



**WHAT DID THE SLOTH SAY WHEN
HE WAS MUGGED BY A BUNCH OF SNAILS?**



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:

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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	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

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2	Bromeliad Culture	David Whipkey
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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
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FIRST CLASS