

# *Bromeliad Society*

# HOUSTON Inc.

Vol 55 No 3

Mar. 2022

Hello Everyone,



The plants and the greenhouses have a special allure for me right now. There... is a place I can exert a degree of control and stability as opposed to the chaos we see in the greater world. Somehow, I feel a sense of wholesome accomplishment as I pull the spent leaves and repot new pups. Who knows, perhaps a few plants will immerge as "Show" worthy. I can imagine all of you having similar thoughts and experiences. After our recent visit to Frank and Cherie Lee's garden, I am further inspired. Growing plants brings beauty to our surroundings and inner pleasure to those who nurture them. We are so fortunate to gather with like minds in our own Bromeliad Society. Thank you, Frank and Cherie, for providing that opportunity. I am sure you know we have additional "get-togethers" planned throughout the spring. On March 15<sup>th</sup> we will hold our regular 7PM meeting "in-person" at Grey Center. Again, it will be available via "zoom" as well. The 7:30 PM Board Meeting on March 17 will be held via "zoom". Our regular April meeting will be held on April 19. Then, on April 30 we hold our annual Spring Sale at West Gray from 9AM to 4PM. The Southwest Guild Show will be held May 13-15 in Kenner, LA at the Double Tree New Orleans Airport (contact Bryan Windham – brykool69@yahoo for more information). Then on May 21-22 our Houston Show and Sale will be held at Judson Robinson Jr. Community enter. From June 8-11 the World Bromeliad Conference in Sarasota, FL is scheduled at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota.

So many wonderful chances for us to come together!

Shirl Stowe

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March Program

**Don Green, co-chair of the 2022 Show, will discuss the how, what and when of entering the Houston Bromeliad Show.**

For those of you in town on May 14, Mercer Arboretum is having a:

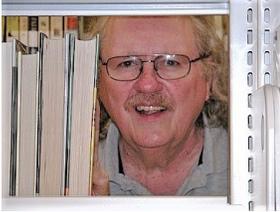
**Houston Plant Societies Spring Round Up**  
 Each society will be given a space for dispersing information about the society.  
 9:00 am—2:00 pm

### Bromeliad Society/Houston Show and Sale

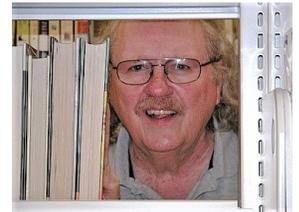
**May 21 - 22, 2022**  
**Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center**  
**2020 Hermann Dr.**  
**Houston, TX**

**Show: 2-5 Saturday**  
**Sale: 9-5 Saturday**

**Show: 11-4 Sunday**  
**Sale: 11-4 Sunday**



## Whipkey's Word Offset



What will happen in the Houston area on Sunday, March 20 at 10:33 AM? Of course everyone reading this knows the answer. It will be the 2022 Vernal (spring) Equinox. Next question: "Why should we care?"

That is simple. Spring begins. March 20<sup>th</sup> is when the Sun crosses the equator, heading north. On the equinox, the length of day and night is nearly equal. After this date, the Northern Hemisphere begins to be tilted more toward the Sun. This means that the daylight hours increase, the sunlight is brighter, and the temperatures are warmer. Now, as my father was fond of saying, "Spring has sprung. It's gardening time!" Spring is the time to propagate, repot, fertilize, and rearrange your plants. Let's make **offset** our word of the month.

According to Wikipedia, and it is never incorrect, an **offset** (aka pup) is defined as: a small, virtually complete daughter plant that has been naturally and asexually produced on the mother plant.

In orchid talk an **offset** is sometimes called a keiki, which is the Hawaiian word for child. Actually the **offset's** relationship to the original plant is closer than that of a mother and child; it is a clone. The **offset** is genetically an identical twin of the mother plant. Depending on the plant, the average person can clone a plant by potting and growing an **offset**, digging up and replanting a sucker, or taking a cutting. Unless you have lots of money and can afford to build a large lab, let's not even consider reproducing your plant by meristeming.

Just think of it, all of the Red Delicious apple trees that exist are exact copies of the single plant discovered in 1875 on Jesse Hiatt's farm in Peru, Iowa. One hundred and forty-seven years later it is still going strong. I wonder how many *Cryptanthus* 'Frostbite' plants will still be around in 2169.

Now accidents do happen in asexual reproduction. Sometimes the new plant differs slightly from the mother. In this case the new plant is called a sport. But most of the time, an **offset** is a carbon copy of the mother plant. This is the only way that the average grower can get a new bromeliad that looks just like the original if the original plant is a hybrid or sport. If you plant seeds from a hybrid, you never know how the seedlings are going to look. They can look like the mother, the father, or totally like any plant you have ever seen.

Our last frost in the Houston area usually occurs in late March or early April. This is the time when most plants wake up and start growing after a long winter's rest. The plant starts putting out new roots, the stems and leaves resume rapid growth, and if you are lucky, it starts producing **offsets**.

This is the time to start moving your plants into their summer home. Make the move gradually. Dennis Cathcart once told me to move a plant to a place where it receives 20% more light and leave it there for a month. If you want it to have more light, repeat the process. After each move to brighter light, give the plant a month or so to get used to the new light intensity. This is the time when your plants might appreciate a little more fertilizer and water than they have been getting.

Repot your plants if they have outgrown their current home. Knock off some of the old soil and repot in a slightly larger pot using fresh potting medium and a little bit of fertilizer. If the plant has **offshoots** that are about  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  as large as the mother you can carefully remove them and put them in their own pot. Watch your newly potted plants carefully. Make sure that they don't dry out. Don't increase the light until they have a chance to resume growth.

# A Magical Sunday Garden Tour at Cherie & Frank's

By Melenie Yuen

How magical. Those were the only thoughts in my head the entire time I spent in Cherie & Frank's greenhouse. Every plant carefully displayed and marked with numbers, a collection so meticulously cared for, quality unrivaled, better than any museum. As my jaw dropped in awe of seeing so many beautiful plants all at once, while carefully flipping through the reference sheet, I could feel all of the love and care and history for each of these fine specimens. What particularly struck me was how each plant had a note for its history - where it came from - who it came from. Rich history of all the people who cared for each specimen before finding its home in their greenhouse. It was inspiring and made me motivated to keep that legacy alive! I went home that day to look at each and every one of our plants, to make sure their labels were in the correct spaces. To start my own written catalog.

Thank you Cherie & Frank and BS/H for hosting such a wonderful and inspirational Garden Tour!



# Garden Tour 2/27/22



# Bromeliad Society/Houston, Inc. Minutes - Regular Meeting February 15, 2022

**Location:** Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, Houston 77019 and on Zoom

Members were able to join the Zoom meeting at 6:30 pm.

**Call to order:** President Shirl Stowe at 6:59 pm.

**Visitors:** Sibley Townes and John Ferguson

**New Members:** None

**Attendance: Via Zoom** – 13 logons, 16 members, and 0 visitors

In person – 10 members and 2 visitors

## Announcements & Committee Reports:

Shirl Stowe announced that:

the 21st Australasian Bromeliad Conference, "Kiwi Broms" has been re-scheduled. It will be held in 2023. Visit their website, <https://kiwibroms.bsnz.org/>, for more information.

the SWBG show will be held May 13-15, 2022 contact her for registration materials.

the WBC is scheduled for June 8-12, 2022. Check the BSI website for more information.

the Indigo Garden Club is looking for a speaker on Bromeliads. Contact Shirl if you are willing to talk to them.

thanked Midge Gorman for all of her hard work with the Courtesy Committee.

thanked Mary Cinotto for sending all the group emails.

reminded everyone that they are welcome to attend the board meetings. The next meeting will be March 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

there will be a gathering of area plant societies at Mercer Botanic Gardens on May 14. Linda Whipkey and other volunteers will represent our Society.

that Dick Dailey, the President of the Cryptanthus Society, passed away unexpectedly last week while on vacation.

Allyn Pearlman announced that:

the spring sale and the spring show and sale will be listed on the Lazy Gardeners calendar and the BSI Journal.

the Spring sale will be held on Saturday April 30, from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm.

the sale hours at the Spring Show will be Saturday from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm and on Sunday from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm.

many people have not paid their 2022 dues. This includes some board members. All officers, board members, and judges must be current with their BS/H dues as well as their BSI dues. Shirl has contacted each member who has not paid their dues.

Gordon Stowe announced that there will be a garden tour Saturday February 26 at the home of Frank and Scherie Lee. The tour will be from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

David Whipkey announced that he and Don Green would be contacting the committee chairs for the upcoming show so that they would have plenty of time to round up the needed volunteers.

Name tag drawing winner – Vickey Gurka

Membership winner – Madge Donaldson

**Program:** Scherie Townes introduced our speaker John Ferguson. John is the owner of Nature's Way. The topic of John's talk will be "The Dirt on Soils". He talked about the benefits of using compost.

**Show & Tell:** Gordon Stowe and the plants owners talked about the plants. The plants were provided by:

Mike O'Neal  
Gordon Stowe  
Chris Nguyen

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Scherie Townes and seconded by Chris Nguyen. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.



2022 Membership Dues are Over Due

Get your check to Allyn Perlman,

See page 8 for information.

# What's Blooming - March 2022



*Hohenbergia correia-araujo* 'Fudge Ripple' - Lee



*Goudea ospinae* var *gruberi*  
'Smudge Pattern' - Lee



*Canistrum sandrae* - Lee



*xBilltanthus* 'Red Burst' -Gurka



*Bromelia flemingii* - Lee



*Canistrum montanum* - Lee

## ABC Projects



*Tillandsia ixioides*, *T. bergeri* and *T. ixioides* X *T. bergeri*



*Tillandsia stricta* hard leaf form  
- Gurka



*Tillandsia ixioides*, *T. bergeri* and *T. ixioides* X *T. bergeri*  
M. McCorquodale



*Tillandsia ixioides*, *T. bergeri*  
and *T. ixioides* X *T. bergeri*  
L. Whipkey

## March Birthdays

**Sue Softy** 3/3  
**Annette Dominguez** 3/18  
**Odean Head** 3/22



## April Birthdays

<b>Roxana Nielsen</b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>Lee Rowell</b>	<b>4/26</b>
<b>Verna Powers</b>	<b>4/17</b>	<b>Jan Liang</b>	<b>4/29</b>
<b>Faye Stansberry</b>	<b>4/23</b>	<b>Gene Powers</b>	<b>4/30</b>
<b>Larry Friedman</b>	<b>4/26</b>		

### BS/H 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 8<sup>th</sup> St., Santa Fe, TX 77517, 409-925-6933



www.Jimbosnurserytx.com; email: [Jimbos3@earthlink.net](mailto:Jimbos3@earthlink.net)

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

**BROMELIAD SOCIETY/HOUSTON INC.**



AFFILIATED WITH THE  
BROMELIAD SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL



MEMBER OF  
SOUTHWEST BROMELIAD  
GUILD



AFFILIATED WITH THE  
CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL



**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](http://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 Linda Whipkey [lindawhipkey@ymail.com](mailto:lindawhipkey@ymail.com) before the end of the preceding month.

An electronic 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. Periodic electronic updates may also be distributed during the year.

Please address any correspondence regarding this publication to:

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Tomball, TX 77377  
[lindawhipkey@ymail.com](mailto:lindawhipkey@ymail.com)

**Officers and Chairmen**

**President**                    **Shirl Stowe**  
6514 Blue Hills Road  
Houston, TX 77069  
[birddogL19@outlook.com](mailto:birddogL19@outlook.com)

Vice President	<b>Scherie Townes</b>
Secretary	<b>David Whipkey</b>
Treasurer	<b>Allyn Pearlman</b>
Past President	<b>Cherie Lee</b>

**Board of Directors**

	Term Expires	
12/31/22	12/31/23	12/31/24
<b>Madge Donaldson</b>	<b>Alicia Baker</b>	<b>Gordon Stowe</b>
<b>Michael O'Neal</b>	<b>John Schmidt</b>	<b>Melenie Yuen</b>

I. **Standing Committees**

1. Publicity	<b>Allyn Pearlman</b>
2. Bulletin Editor	<b>Linda Whipkey</b>
3. Plant Sales Chairman	<b>Allyn Pearlman</b>
4. Programs Chairman	<b>Scherie Townes</b>
5. Standing Committees Ex-Officio Members:	<b>Shirl Stowe/Cherie Lee</b>

II. **Committees of the Board Representatives**  
Southwest Bromeliad Guild                    **Don Green**

1	Annual Show	David Whipkey
2	Bromeliad Culture	David Whipkey
3	Courtesy	Midge Gorman
4	Directory	Mary Cinotto
5	Email Communications	Linda Whipkey
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

Bromeliad Society International                    **Annette Dominguez,  
Cherie Lee,  
Margo Racca**

# HOUSTON INC. NOTS



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**FIRST CLASS**