

Bromeliad Society HOUSTON Inc.

Vol 53 No 4

APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 2020



Tillandsia 'Xerographica' by Earthstar Designs

Meeting dates suspended until further notice. (See President's Message...as there could be a May meeting and we will let you know...) However, we still plan to have bulletins and hear from you all.

Please submit anything you think the group might enjoy learning or hearing about so that we can "stay in tune" to the wonderful world of bromeliads.

This issue will be quite a change but we hope you all will enjoy the updates and we welcome comments and suggestions (now and always).

Cheers,
Mary, Cherie and David

UPCOMING EVENTS

WATCH THIS SPACE



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Well, a lot has changed in the past month. I hope you all are well and taking precautions to stay that way. No telling how long this epidemic may last or when we will be able to meet again but we will

try to keep you informed with the Bulletins and emails. I want to thank Mary Cinotto for putting the Bulletins together and emailing them out as well as sending out the additional emails to keep everyone informed.

I am sorry we had to cancel our March meeting and our Spring Plant Sale but with West Gray Metropolitan Multi-service Center closing to outside groups and the need for social distancing to prevent the spread of the virus, we had no option. In addition, the trip to Corpus Christi planned for March 20-22 to help spruce up the John Anderson bromeliad collection at the South Texas Botanical Garden has been postponed until the fall. We appreciate Shirl and Gordon Stowe coordinating this effort.

We have also canceled the April 18th ABC's and the April 25th Home Tour. I would like to thank Mary Cinotto and John Edmonson for offering to host our ABC's meeting at their home and Ruby Adams for offering to host the Home Tour. Perhaps we can take them up on this again next year or possibly a Home Tour later this year. I would also like to thank Linda and David Whipkey for planning and preparing the ABC's program "Mounting *Tillandsias*". I was really looking forward to it so I hope we will get to have it next year or as one of our meeting programs.

As I'm sure you noticed from the front page of the Bulletin, the Officers and Board of Directors have decided it is best to cancel the May 15-17th Show and Sale. Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center is currently closed to outside groups through the end of April but with the current situation, we expect this will be extended as well as the need for social distancing. We have not ruled out the possibility of a Fall Show and Sale but Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center is not available thus another venue would be required. We still have the issue of the uncertainty around the virus so any venue options will have to be weighed against the cost of having to cancel. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, please let me know.

At this point, we have not canceled our May 19th meeting at West Gray Metropolitan Multi-service Center. We will most likely make that decision within the next few weeks so please check the website for updates. We will also send out an email should we have to cancel and of course it will be in the May Bulletin.



And last but not least, the 2020 World Bromeliad Conference (WBC) in Sarasota, Florida planned for June 9-13, 2020 has been rescheduled and will now be the 2021 WBC and held on June 8-12, 2021. It will still be in Sarasota, Florida at the same hotel with essentially the same schedule. The trip to Selby Gardens and optional tours for purchase to Tropiflora and Michael's Bromeliads remain the same and they are working to confirm as many of the same speakers as possible. If you registered for the 2020 WBC, your registration will be transferred to the 2021 WBC. Should you prefer a refund, you may receive a full refund through the end of 2020 by contacting the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) Membership Secretary at membership@bsi.org. If you would like to register for the 2021 WBC, registration is \$315 per person through the end of 2020. You must be a BSI member to register. If you are a current BSI member, please register at <https://www.bsi.org/members/>. If you are not a member, you may join the BSI and register for the conference at <https://www.bsi.org/new/join-the-bsi-or-renew/>.

If you haven't done so already, don't forget to renew your BS/H and Cryptanthus Society memberships. Allyn Pearlman (deliboy@comcast.net) would be happy to help you with this. Also, please go to <https://www.bsi.org/members/> to renew your membership for the BSI online or <https://www.bsi.org/new/join-the-bsi-or-renew/> to join the BSI on line or to print a form to renew/join by mail. Don't forget there is a new electronic Journal membership option for only \$25 for individual memberships, \$35 for dual memberships. There is also a new low rate of \$15 for the first year for an electronic Journal membership for first time members, \$25 for first time dual memberships. Please let me know if you have any questions.

I am still looking for one or two members to work with Verna Powers this year helping with the refreshments. Verna needs some help and we need some folks to learn from her so they can take over next year. If there are a couple of you who would like to share the position to lighten the load that would be great. Please let me know if you are willing to help out. If you enjoy the snacks and meals at our events, please consider helping out. It doesn't just happen on its own.

I miss seeing everyone but we need to stay safe and healthy. I will say that this has certainly freed up our schedule and we have more time to work on the bromeliads this spring. I will never catch up but such is life. Please take care and I hope to see you all at the May meeting or if not May then hopefully in June.

Take care,
Cherie

Preparing Your Plants After Winterizing

Contributed by M. Cinotto

Most of southeast Texas and Louisiana had a mild winter and for that, we are all very grateful. But winter is winter and many of our bromeliads have had less than adequate light or space while we protected them during the last several months. And many of our plants have “exploded” with pups. Now it’s time to get the plants in shape for their new extended locations. How do we start? For each plant, here is the “recipe”:

1. Check for insect problems. The most common problems are scale (which you will see as small white dots on the outside of the plant) and mealy bugs which are in the roots and soil.
 - a. Use a magnifying glass to thoroughly check.
 - b. If there are problems, you will need to either treat the problem or discard the plant if the problem is extensive.
 - c. Have the necessary insecticides on hand and prepared if you use a concentrate.
2. Get materials ready to start your assembly line process:
 - a. Tools for cleaning, trimming and assembling.
 - i. Large tweezers for removing debris.
 - ii. Good sharp shears and scissors are essential.
 - iii. Also, consider a bread knife for slicing through root bound plants.
 - iv. Dust Off in a can is another helpful tidy tool.
 - v. Chop sticks to prop the plant when repotted.
 - vi. Check the internet to see examples of what tools others may recommend.
 - b. Pots of all sizes (will you be preparing for show, garden or decorative?)
 - c. Soil mixture prepared and ready.
 - d. Type of fertilizer you generally use (again, the web is an excellent source)
 - e. Rooting powder or similar product to activate pups.
 - f. Tags and pencils to label the new plants (don’t forget this step!!)
 - g. A good set of gloves. You don’t want scratches as there may be harmful bacteria in the soil.
3. Next, determine the status of the plant and pups. This step can be tricky. One guideline suggests the pups should be half the size of the mother before removing the mother. Decide if you need to:
 - a. Groom the plant and leave the mother in place to nourish the pups?
 - b. Cut the mother out and leave the pups?
 - c. Pull the pups and hope mother puts out more pups?
4. Determine the location for your plants that will allow them to acclimatize to the increasing sun and heat. These plants are now used to less light and often less water. You want to gradually get them into their new environment.

Good care of your bromeliads ensures years of enjoyment. They are such wonderful plants with a huge variety from the scratchers to the scratchless...*Dyckias* to *Tillandsias*.. And they are highly prolific so that you can share your beauties with others from shows to auctions to just giving them to friends who may join the bromeliad lover ranks.

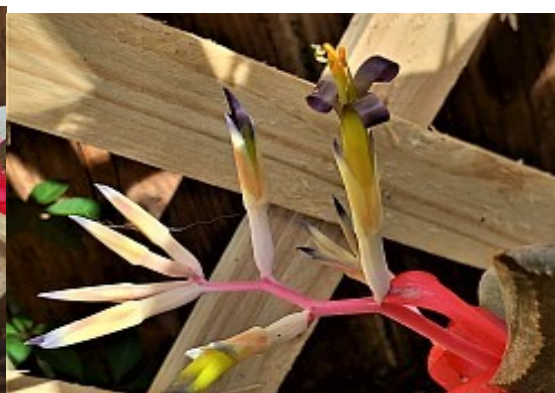
What's Blooming in April 2020



Aechmea brevifolia (A. Baker)



Aechmea wellbachia (A. Baker)



Billbergia
'Pink Champagne'
(A. Baker)

What's Blooming in April 2020



*Aechmea
brassicoides*
(Lee)



*Aechmea
melinonii*
(Lee)



What's Blooming in April 2020



Bromelia agavifolia
(Lee)



Orthophytum naviodides X *Lapanthus duartei*
(Richtmyer)



Sincoregelia 'Supernova'
(Richtmyer)



Cryptanthus 'Jean Nicol' (Edmonson)



Cryptanthus 'Anne Collings'
(Edmonson)

What's Blooming in April 2020



***Cryptanthus* 'Café Au Lait'**
(Edmonson)



***Cryptanthus* 'Cascade'**



***Cryptanthus* 'Ruby Port'**
(Edmonson)



***Hohenbergia* 'Karla' (Lee)**



***Neoregelia* 'Bubblicious'**
(Edmonson)



***Neoregelia* 'Hawaii' (Edmonson)**

**What's
Blooming in
April 2020**

*Quesnelia
quesneliana*
(Edmonson)



Neoregelia 'Juicy Fruit' (Edmonson)



Bromeliad x Androlaechmea 'Dean'
(Edmonson)

SHOW AND TELL

Not as good as John Schmidt's presentation, but it will have to do in a pinch.

When repotting *Bromelia* 'Que Sera', found a stolon cork screwed around the inside of the pot. Tied it up outside the pot and we will see if she still makes a new plant. (Cherie Lee) Editor's Note: This is one vicious plant.



Plant name: *Aechmea maculata*

Grown by: David Whipkey

Why of interest: It is blooming!

Maculata is endemic to the State of Minas Gerais in Brazil. I got my plant from Rick Richtmyer about 3 years ago. This is the first time it has flowered. It should flower in late winter or early spring. The flowering structure is gray and cone-like. The yellow flowers open from bottom to top over a period of three to four weeks.

Individual plants are two to three feet in height and about two feet wide. Leaves are stiff and armed with sharp spines on the edges. The plant has a vase like shape. Leaves are light green with banding that is brownish in color. There is a red leaf clone that is very attractive.

The plant grows well in a 6-8 inch pot. The mix should be well drained. Water the plant well when the mix is dry. Grow your plant in bright sunlight, but not full sun. I have found the plant to be a little cold sensitive. This is to be expected considering it naturally grows in an area that is 20 degrees south latitude, and somewhat north of the city of Rio de Janeiro.



SHOW AND TELL

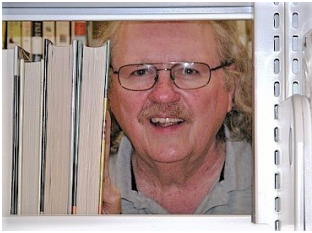
This is an example of *Neoregelia* 'Jill' who grew in the greenhouse all winter but some were in more light and others fairly dim. However, they all seem to be going full on now. (Edmonson) There are five different groupings in this photo.



We thought this was a *Canistrum* but the bloom shows otherwise. We've been told it is a *Vreisia* but not sure which one. Can someone name it? (Edmonson)

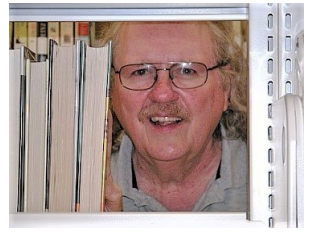


Tillandsia cacticola that wintered in the greenhouse producing an almost white bloom (Edmonson)



Whipkey's Word April 2020

GreX



Due to COVID-19 the April 2020 meeting is not going to be a normal meeting. Since the physical meeting at the Multi-Service Center was canceled, I like to think that we are going to have a virtual meeting. We can't be physically present in the same room, but we can still meet with one another. We can make phone calls, send emails or texts, and for those who do such things, use Facebook, Twitter, or other social media apps. For those who are really old school, you can mail some cards.

Since the meeting is not normal, the April word will not be a normal word. The word this month is **grex**. It's a funny sounding word. Kinda sounds like it should be a dog's name. When I hear it I want to say things like "Roll over Grex" or "Sit Grex". Hopefully you orchid lovers in the audience will accept my apologies for making fun of a very serious word.

A Bromeliad Glossary defines **grex** as: a group of species or hybrids; applied collectively to the offspring of a given cross from one seed pod; literally a flock or swarm

If you go to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grex_\(horticulture\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grex_(horticulture)) you will get a whiz bang definition of the word **grex** as it is applied to orchids. As I understand it, it means that once someone crosses two orchids, gives that cross a **grex** name and registers that name with the Royal Horticultural Society, all future crosses between those two plants, crosses between the offspring of those plants, or crosses between clones of those plants will all be called by that registered **grex** name. Some plants might be aggregated into a named cultivar group; others might be given individual cultivar names. Doesn't matter; they all belong to the same **grex**. Bromeliad people see things differently. They don't follow the same rules.

We have a much more relaxed definition of **grex**. Back in the 1980's the Bromeliad world flirted with using the **grex** system. One example that comes to mind is a cross made by Mark Dimmitt from Arizona. Mark crossed *Tillandsia stricta* and *Tillandsia recurvifolia*. Over 100 plants came out of that one cross. He gave that group of seedlings the **grex** name Houston. But he didn't stop there. He gave several of the individual plants cultivar names. From this cross we got *Tillandsia* 'Houston Colossus', *Tillandsia* 'Flaming Spire', *Tillandsia* 'Flaming Cascade', *Tillandsia* 'Cotton Candy', *Tillandsia* 'Really Red', and *Tillandsia* 'Houston'. In the orchid world these names would include the **grex** name. For example, if *Tillandsia* 'Houston' were an orchid, it would be named *Tillandsia* Houston 'Houston'. It would have the genus name, followed by the **grex** name, followed by the cultivar name. These days in the orchid world, the **grex** and cultivar name can't be the same.

To further muddy the waters, about the same time G. Stewart in Queensland Australia was also crossing *Tillandsias*. Guess what? He also crossed *Tillandsia stricta* and *Tillandsia recurvifolia*. He gave several of the plants cultivar names. *Tillandsia* 'Southern Cross' and *Tillandsia* 'Ned Kelly' came into cultivation.

If you see a plant labeled *Tillandsia stricta* X *Tillandsia recurvifolia* you could have any of the above mentioned plants, or perhaps, none of them. All of the crosses usually differ in subtle ways. Perhaps they have slightly different bract colors or a slight variation in plant size. There is no way of telling exactly which plant you have unless you have the cultivar name for that plant.

Foxie's Health & Safety:

Coronavirus Prevention Tips



There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The Center for Disease Control always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of all respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Staying home when you are sick.
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Following CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
- CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
- Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

Who Should Seek Medical Evaluation for 2019-nCoV?

- Those with a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing and have traveled from China in the last 14 days, or
- Those with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing and have been identified by the Public Health Department as a recent close contact of a confirmed 2019-nCoV case or had recent close contact with someone who is being evaluated for 2019-nCoV infection.

People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

The CDS site with more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Susan Rice	4/14
Verna Powers	4/17
Larry Friedman	4/23
Faye Stansberry	4/23
Lee Rowell	4/26
Jan Liang	4/29
Gene Powers	4/30



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Midge Gorman	5/8
Jane Littell	5/13
Ruby Adams	5/15
Cynthia Johnson	5/18



World Bromeliad Conference 2021



Due to the Coronavirus (now known as COVID-19) outbreak in the USA, including Florida and the fact that the Florida Governor has declared a state of emergency, the World Bromeliad Conference from June 9-13, 2020 in Sarasota, Florida has been rescheduled to June 8-12, 2021. The host hotel will still be the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sarasota. You will have to change your reservation dates with the hotel. The registration that you paid for the conference will apply to the rescheduled conference with no changes in the rate. The bus tours will not change. We are in the process of verifying all the speakers. We hope that you still plan to attend the rescheduled conference. All the BSI board members voted unanimously to reschedule the conference since the safety of our members was more important than attempting to continue with the conference this year.

If you are unable to attend your registration will be refunded following our conference refund policy. Up to the year the conference is to be held you get a 100% refund, once the year of the conference begins you get a 50% refund, and within 30 days of the conference there is no refund. Since the date of the conference was moved by one year, you can get a 100% refund until January 1, 2021.

Again, we are sorry for any inconvenience that this change may have created for you and appreciate your patience. We look forward to seeing you in 2021 and having a wonderful and safe time in Sarasota.

The World Bromeliad Conference 2021 will be held in Sarasota, Florida, USA from Tuesday, June 8, 2021 through Saturday, June 12, 2021 at the [Hyatt Regency Sarasota](#). We will celebrate the 24th World Bromeliad Conference! Events will include tours of two of the world's leading Bromeliad nurseries ([Michael's Bromeliads](#) and [Tropiflora](#)), a visit to the renowned [Marie Selby Botanical Gardens](#) (with free admission for conference registrants), a number of notable speakers, an opening conference reception and welcome address, a banquet with a rare plant sale and auction, a plant sale with numerous sellers, a fantastic judged plant show, and more.

The BSI has arranged for a special \$149 room rate at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota (with no resort fees, normally \$24+ daily) with free parking for hotel guests and conference visitors. All the rooms at the Hyatt provide water views and the hotel has a central downtown location with easy access to gardens, restaurants, museums, shopping, cultural activities, and world-renowned beaches. In order to catch all the planned events for WBC 2021, you would check into the hotel on Tuesday night, June 8th and stay through Saturday night, June 12th (checking out on Sunday). Of course, with all there is to do in Sarasota and other nearby areas in Florida, you may want to extend your stay.

BSI Members may register for the hotel and conference by going to the [members section](#). Others may sign-up for memberships and registration at the [registration page](#). We recommend reserving your hotel room early since a limited number of rooms at the special rate will be available. Hotel registration will begin in April 2020.

We are hard at work planning for World Bromeliad Conference 2021 and will be posting additional information on the WBC Menu on the [BSI homepage](#) as it becomes available. To contact the Conference Co-Chairs with any questions, you may email them at TheWBC2021@gmail.com

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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BROMELIAD SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL



MEMBER OF
SOUTHWEST BROMELIAD
GUILD



AFFILIATED WITH THE
CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL



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Vice President	Linda Whipkey
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Treasurer	Allyn Pearlman
Past President	Don Green

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	Term Expires 12/31/20	Term Expires 12/31/21	Term Expires 12/31/22
Gordon Stowe	Vickey Gurka	Madge Donaldson	
Shirl Stow	Frank Lee	Scherie Townes	

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

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2	Bromeliad Culture	David Whipkey
3	Courtesy	Midge Gorman
4	Garden Tours	Gordon Stowe, Shirl Stowe
5	Historian	David Whipkey
6	Holiday Party Chairman	Allyn Pearlman
7	Hospitality Coordinator	Verna Powers
8	Members & Visitor Register:	Ken Gardner, Noreen Tolman
9	Membership	Allyn Pearlman
10	Raffle Plants	Cherie Lee, Frank Lee
11	Seedlings	Allyn Pearlman
12	Show & Tell	John Schmidt
13	Webmaster	Joy Reynolds

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Southwest Bromeliad Guild	David Whipkey, Ray Johnson
Bromeliad Society International	Annette Dominguez, Cherie Lee, Margo Racca

HOUSTON BROMELIAD SOCIETY/INC.



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FIRST CLASS