

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

Vol 54 No 3

MARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH 2021



*Cryptanthus* 'Tickled Pink' - Earthstar Designs

**Tuesday, MARCH 16, 2021**

**TIME: 7:00 P.M. to .**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS...**

**PROGRAM SPEAKER: Charlie Birdsong on  
"20th Australasian Bromeliad Conference"**

**MEETING AGENDA:**

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

**APRIL PROGRAM: Christy Brenner on  
"Venezuelan Tepuis where Bromeliads First  
Evolved"**

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

**The Zoom Meeting on**

**MARCH 16**

**7:00 to...**

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

Topic: Bromeliad Society Houston March  
Monthly Meeting

Time: Mar 16, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US  
and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86893399434?  
pwd=cDZhY0M5ZE1ZZmh3NHdRcWNYaU5oU  
T09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86893399434?pwd=cDZhY0M5ZE1ZZmh3NHdRcWNYaU5oUT09)

Meeting ID: 868 9339 9434

Passcode: 252660

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,86893399434#,,,,\*252660# US  
(Houston)

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(Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

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+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 868 9339 9434

Passcode: 252660

Find your local number: [https://  
us02web.zoom.us/j/86893399434?pwd=cDZhY0M5ZE1ZZmh3NHdRcWNYaU5oUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86893399434?pwd=cDZhY0M5ZE1ZZmh3NHdRcWNYaU5oUT09)

**Show and Tell**

**If you have plants you'd like to show,  
please send .jpg photos to  
[grstowe@comcast.net](mailto:grstowe@comcast.net)**

**Also, please renew your BSHI dues.**

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Hello Everyone,  
What turmoil February brought to all of us, the least of which was the cancellation of our monthly meeting. I missed our interaction very much. We have much to catch up on at our March meeting. Don't forget to "zoom in".

I hope you were able to manage the freezing temperatures and precipitation that hit. I'm certain not all of the beautiful bromeliads made it through. Even with our greenhouses and minimal heat there was freezing through the plastic on the sides of the structures. Most of the plants left outside were severely damaged.

My sympathy goes out to those of you who fell during this time and to those who have home damage, leaks etc. I hope you are soon able to return to normal. Due to Mary Cinotto's fall and broken arm, this newsletter is being



completed by Cherie Lee. (Thanks so much, Cherie, for pinch hitting). Thanks to Gordon Stowe, also, who will fill in to work with John to present Show and Tell at our next meeting. Be sure to send your photos to Gordon at [grstowe@comcast.net](mailto:grstowe@comcast.net). Even photos of frozen results from our troublesome week are welcome. It is good to know how you are handling the damaged plants.

At our March 16 meeting I hope to learn your thoughts regarding a sale this spring and holding the ABC's at an outdoor venue in the fall. The Board will meet on March 18 and attempt to tentatively schedule a few events. For the present, we will continue all meetings on zoom as the West Grey Community Center will be closed until the COVID-19 situation improves significantly.

Now!!! Let's look forward to a beautiful "pre-spring" filled with warmth and sun.

See you all on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Shirl Stowe

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

<b>Roxana Nielsen</b>	<b>4/14</b>
<b>Verna Powers</b>	<b>4/17</b>
<b>Larry Friedman</b>	<b>4/23</b>
<b>Faye Stansberry</b>	<b>4/23</b>
<b>Lee Rowell</b>	<b>4/26</b>
<b>Jan Liang</b>	<b>4/29</b>
<b>Gene Powers</b>	<b>4/30</b>



## March Program



**Charlie Birdsong  
speaking on:**

### **“20th Australasian Bromeliad Conference”**

I developed my interest in Bromeliads from my parents in the late 1960's in New Orleans. I moved away from the plants to Baton Rouge in 1963 to attend LSU and have lived there ever since. After college I started my collection with Mulford Foster plants my parents and I had been given by Erik Knoblock. I brought my small collection to Baton Rouge and moved them in and out when the cold weather came.

In 1975 we started the Bromeliad Society of Baton Rouge. As a charter member I have served in

every office over the years and still serve the Society today as President. I also serve as the Vice-president of the Southwest Bromeliad Guild. I co-chaired the Southwest Guild and Cryptanthus Show in Baton Rouge in 2009 and I also chaired the 2018 Southwest Guild Show also in Baton Rouge.

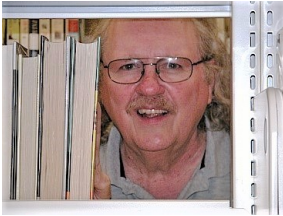
In 1975 I also joined the BSI. I have attended many World Conferences and have chaired the auction at five Conferences. I have been serving as the Chairman of the BSI Affiliate Shows Committee since January 2010 and I am a past BSI Director for the Central District.

After years of trying to get a judging school in New Orleans, I joined the school in Houston. I am now a Master Judge and have judged well over 100 Shows since accreditation in 1996. I serve the BSI on the Judges Handbook revision committee through the Judges Certification Committee from our District. I have the pleasure of working closely with the Judges in Australia.

I have had many opportunities to speak about my favorite plants at local Garden Societies and other plant groups and Bromeliad Societies throughout Louisiana, Texas, Florida and even Australia. I have also written articles for the BSI Journal and Local Society Plant bulletins. I have contributed a number of short articles for the Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Society bulletin *Potpourri*.

I grow many Genera and although *Billbergias* are favorites, most of my over five thousand plants are *Neoregelias*. I am fortunate to have daughters living in Florida. Under the excuse of a Grandpa visit I have been able to make many trips to see Society Shows and visit vendors every year and should continue in the future.

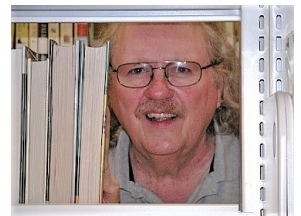




## Whipkey's Word

March 2021

### *Triage*



I think I'm on a roll this year. In January I talked about pests. In February I discussed diseases. I had planned on choosing a more cheerful word for March, but early on 02/16/2021 it was 10° F in the back yard, there was no electricity at the Whipkey house for about 40 hours, inside the greenhouses it was 22° F, and there was massive damage to many plants. Sorry, but it looks like another disheartening "Whipkey's Word" for the month for March. Let's give the word **triage** a whirl.

According to Definitions from Oxford Languages (<https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/>) **Triage** is defined as:

*noun*

(in medical use) the assignment of degrees of urgency to wounds or illnesses to decide the order of treatment of a large number of patients or casualties.

*verb*

assign degrees of urgency to (wounded or ill patients).

Not a bad definition if you are a Doctor in a MASH unit getting ready to patch up wounded soldiers, but I want to talk about freeze damaged plants.

David's definition of **triage**: (in horticultural use) the assignment of degrees of urgency to damage to decide the order of treatment of a large number of plants.

#### LEVELS OF DAMAGE

Dead – Its compost pile bound. Better start looking for a replacement.

Severe damage – If it is rare, clean it up, remove the damaged parts, and hope for a pup sometime in the future.

Otherwise, see level 1.

Minor damage – Clean it up, remove damaged parts, and move it to the hospital area for a little TLC.

No visible damage – It was lucky. Put it back where you found it and treat it normally.

I usually wait a week or two before I start the **triage** process. A plant that looks fine the morning after the big chill, can be ghostly white and totally dead at a later date. I keep the plants watered, even the ones that look dead, and sort them out later.

Odd things can happen when a cold snap hits. Two plants that are pups from the same mother plant, setting side by side can have two very different outcomes. One can be severely injured, while the other shows little or no damage. Survival sometimes comes down to a matter of inches.

As a rule of thumb in the Whipkey greenhouses, the closer the plant is to the floor, the better its chance of survival. One house was built on a 5 inch concrete slab. It is amazing how much heat that much mass can hold. The other house has a dirt floor, but the floor is covered with black lava rock. Another good example of a floor staying warm.

Another position that enhanced a plants chance of survival was if it was under something. Plants can act like freeze cloth. A pot of *Aechmea pectinata* had two pups still attached to the truncated stem of an old mother plant. The pup on the left was under a large *Alcantarea* the one on the right was not covered by anything. Care to guess which one survived? Of course you can, the one on the left suffered little damage, and the one on the right was dead. Sometimes life comes down to a matter of inches.

I am not going to go into a great amount of detail about the **triage** process. I am sure that John's "Show and Tell" will have plenty of graphic pictures that we can discuss at the March meeting.

Wishing warm weather and sunshine to one and all.



## What's Blooming March 2021



*Billbergia 'Teng Ee' - Lee*



*Billbergia debilis - Lee*



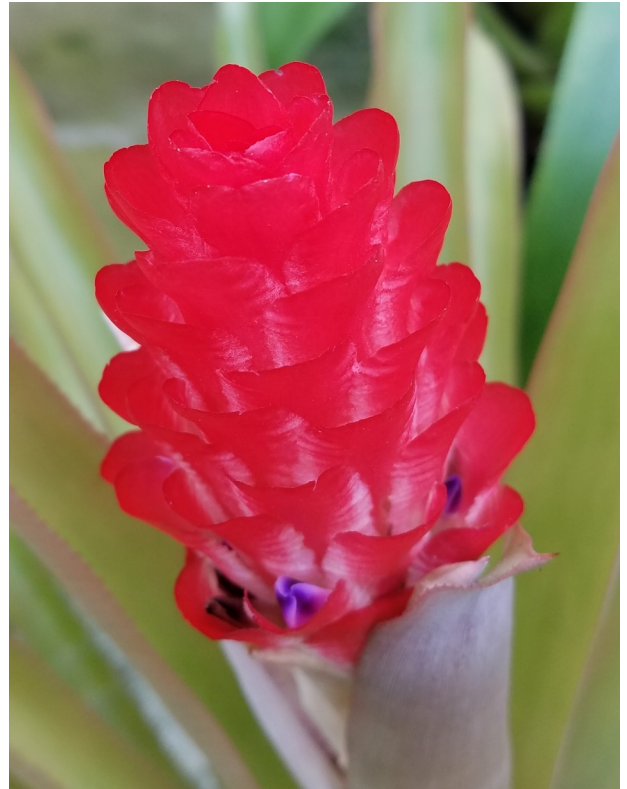
*Billbergia 'Muriel Iki' - Baker*

Survived in the garage with no heat for 44 hours.





## What's Blooming March 2021



*Quesnelia quesneliana* - Lee

*Aechmea* 'Frosty the Snowman' - Lee



*Aechmea*  
*pineliana* var. *minuta*  
Lee



## What's Blooming March 2021



*Aechmea*  
'Big Mama Recurvata'  
Gurka



*Aechmea recurvata* x *Aechmea fasciata* - Lee



*Aechmea* 'Covata' - Lee  
*Aechmea comata* x *Aechmea recurvata*



*Aechmea recurvata* 'Artichoke' - Lee



## What's Blooming March 2021



*Tillandsia* 'Candy Corn' - Gurka



*Tillandsia flabellata* - Gurka



*Tillandsia* Unknown - Gurka





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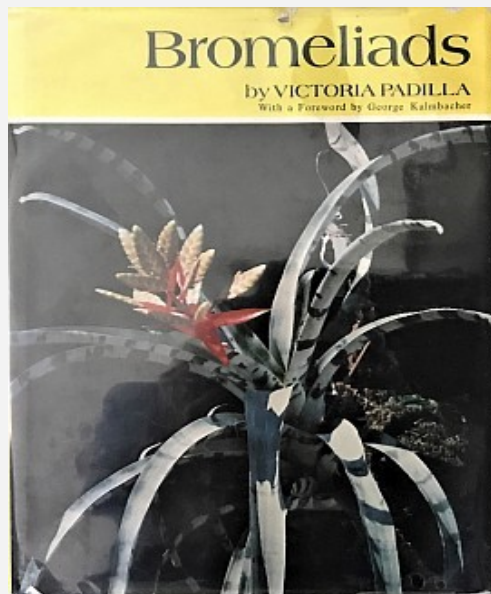


## BOOK SALE

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



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

www.Jimbosnurserytx.com; email: [Jimbo3@earthlink.net](mailto:Jimbo3@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.



### 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  
[mary@edmonsonphoto.com](mailto: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



### Officers and Chairmen

President	Shirl Stowe 6514 Blue Hills Road Houston, TX 77069 <a href="mailto:birddogL19@outlook.com">birddogL19@outlook.com</a>
Vice President	Scherie Townes
Secretary	David Whipkey
Treasurer	Allyn Pearlman
Past President	Cherie Lee

### Board of Directors

	Term Expires 12/31/22	Term Expires 12/31/23
12/31/21		
Vickey Gurka	Madge Donaldson	Alicia Baker
Frank Lee	Michael O'Neal	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:	Shirl Stowe/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

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Ray Johnson  
Annette Dominguez,  
Cherie Lee,  
Margo Racca



# HOUSTON Bromeliad Society, Inc.

## *Bromeliad Society*

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**FIRST CLASS**