

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

Vol 54 No 7

July 2021

## **July Meeting Topic: Bolivian Travelog**

Our July speaker, Scott Sandel, rejoined the BSH recently, after having been a member when he was a kid in the 1970's. Scott grew up in Dickinson and spent most of this childhood on the bayou. He started growing bromeliads that were giveaways, and since they were easily propagated, he became hooked on the Bromeliad family. After graduating from Texas A & M, Scott and his husband Jim moved to San Diego in 1985 where he grows a lot of broms in his modest-size yard. And what do you grow when space is limited? Maybe cute Tillandsias and mini Neo's? Yes, he has a few. Rather, he has a keen interest in growing big, bold Vrieseas and Alcantareas! It seems to work, and they are crammed in there in their frost-free garden. At our July meeting, Scott will give a travelogue-style slide show on a May, 2019 trip they made to Bolivia. Like Peru, its neighbor to the north, Bolivia is a land of multiple habitats – including coastal deserts, the high Andes Mountains, inland foothills and valleys, and finally the eastern jungles, which drain into the mighty Amazon River basin. The slideshow will show many different habitats and will introduce you to some of the area's archaeology as well.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The San Diego Bromeliad Society is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

July 10, 2021 10 am Pacific Time

Our featured speaker will be Carl Carte and his talk will be:

### **Roadside Bolivia**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83905277935>

Meeting ID: 839 0527 7935  
1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

**GARDEN TOUR AT THE HOME OF MALCOLM  
McCORQUODALE III Saturday, August 14**  
**Visiting Hours: 10AM-1PM**  
**29025 Drexel Drive**  
**Houston, TX 77027**  
**Refreshments will be served.**  
**Questions? Call Malcolm at 713 621 6217**

**ABC's**  
**Mercer Botanic Gardens**  
**October 16, 2021**

**Bromeliad Society / Houston**  
**2022 Show and Sale**  
**Judson Robinson Jr, Community**  
**Center**  
**May 20-22, 2022**

## President's Message

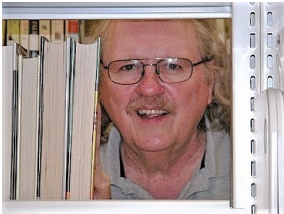
Hello everyone,

July is a busy month for our Society. I am certain there will be lively dialogue and planning at the Board meeting on July 15. Then on July 20 we will all be entertained with another wonderful program at our regular meeting via Zoom. Our very own member, Scott Sandel, will share his experience in Bolivia, where he encountered some beautiful bromeliad specimens. I am sure it will tickle a travel bug for some, after our long stretches at home.

Two events will also occur in August. Of course, our regular meeting will be on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Unless we hear from West Gray between now and then, it will probably be conducted via Zoom. I will keep you posted. Just prior to that meeting we are planning another garden tour. This time Malcolm McCorquodale III will host from 10 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, August 14. It is always a joy to see the way others nurture and present their plants. Maybe we can take photos for show and tell at the meeting that follows, for those who are not able to attend. Thank you, Malcolm, for opening your home to us.

See you at the Board meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July or at the regular meeting on the 20th. Stay cool ☺

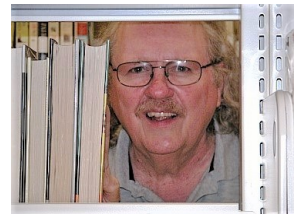
Shirl



## Whipkey's Word

JULY 2021

**Outlier**



A few months ago I was reading an interesting article about the average life expectancy of an American male. Lately I have developed an interest in such things. Many years ago, I taught mathematics, but I got lost trying to follow all of their calculations. All I basically understood was that the life span of the average American male at birth is about 79 years and that living past the age of 100 makes him an **outlier**. Let's make **outlier** our word of the month.

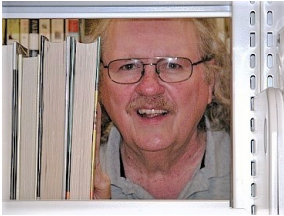
In mathematics, an **outlier** is a number that is at least 2 standard deviations away from the mean. I hear the yawns from the masses. Let's put it another way. An outlier is something that is completely different in some aspect from all other members of its group.

**Archimedes** of Syracuse is an **outlier** among scientists. He died about 212 BC, and he is still highly respected. Babe Ruth is an **outlier** among baseball players. He consistently makes everyone's list of the top ten best baseball players of all time.

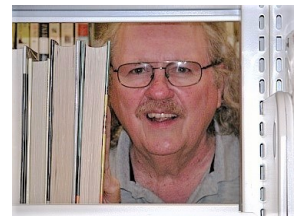
Let's look at some of the **outliers** in the Bromeliad family. Here is my list, feel free to add or subtract as you see fit.

### Odd balls of the Bromeliad family

- *Ananas 'Comosus'* – the pineapple is the only widely eaten Bromeliad. The edible plants



## Whipkey's Word (continued)



are considered cultivars instead of a species as they are of domesticated origin. I have heard that some eat other Bromeliads, but I don't think it is widely practiced.

- *Pitcairnia feliciana* – the only Bromeliad found in Africa. In fact, the only Bromeliad found outside the Americas. From the pictures that I have seen it, it looks much like Johnson grass with pretty red flowers.
- *Pitcairnia tabuliformis* – does not look like Johnson grass to me. It has a wide rosette of broad, light green leaves. (Remember *Cryptanthus warasii*? Most of us never thought it fit in with the other *Cryptanthus*, well, now we know why, it is a *Forzzaea*.)
- *Dyckia brevifolia* – occurs exclusively in patches on rocky banks of the Itajaí-Açu **River** in southern Brazil. It spends much time high and dry, but frequently is covered by flood waters for extended periods of time.
- *Tillandsia purpurea* – grows in the desert areas of Peru. In some areas there is no soil, only stones and pebbles. You have to look in the history books to see when it last rained. *T. purpurea* not only exists as the only form of life, but it also thrives. The mists at night provide water for these plants. (Science-Fiction Musings About Some Tillandsias by Dr. George Milstein The Bromeliad Society Bulletin Volume XVI # 1)
- *Puya raimondii* – it is the world's largest bromeliad. It grows high in the Andes mountains (not as far as I know in Houston). When it is in bloom, it is over 30 feet tall.
- *Brocchinia hechtii*, *Brocchinia reducta* and *Catopsis berteroniana* – are carnivorous. They are the only three bromeliads that are specifically adapted to trapping insects and using them for nourishment. When the soil is nutrient poor, eat bugs.
- *Neoregelia cruenta* – while not a true halophyte, it is darn close. It grows in full sun on rocks and in the sand on the seashore in Southern Brazil.

Bet you wondered why I didn't mention a smallest Bromeliad. Well, all are members of the *Tillandsia* subgenus *Diaphoranthema* are small. Some examples are:

*Tillandsia usneoides*, Spanish moss, is a contender as its leaves are very thin, but long and few in number.

*Tillandsia recurvata*, ball moss, it has multiple short leaves, but, they are rather thick.

*Tillandsia crocata* has multiple short leaves, but is smaller than *recurvata*?

See my problem? To be truthful, I could not decide how to define small. Do you look at the width, the height, the size of the leaf, the number of leaves, or even the weight of the plant? I can't decide. I will leave that decision up to you.

# **Bromeliad Society/Houston, Inc.**

## **Minutes - Regular Meeting**

### **June 15, 2021**

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

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

**Call to order:** President Shirl Stowe at 7:30 pm.

**Plant Sale:** None

**Visitors:** Kelly Moore and Christy Jones

**New Members:** Dianne Duggan

**Attendance:** 18 logons 19 members and 2 visitors

#### **Announcements & Committee Reports:**

Shirl Stowe announced that:

- John Schmidt would not be joining us this evening. He has been having some health issues.
- Zoom meetings will continue at least through August 2021. We will be moving our meetings back to the West Gray facility as soon as it reopens. This could possibly happen as soon as September.
- the next board meeting will be a Zoom meeting.
- that the BS/H 2022 spring show and sale will be held May 20-22 at the Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center.
- WBC is scheduled for June 7-11, 2022. Check the BSI website for more information. The 21st Australasian Bromeliad Conference, "Kiwi Broms" has been re-scheduled. 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.
- the October ABC program will be held at Mercer Arboretum, look for more information the coming months
- the annual holiday party will be held the first Saturday of December (12/04/2021) at Los Tios restaurant on Westheimer
- Gordon Stowe announced that Malcolm McCorquodale will be hosting a garden tour in the near future. Look for more details in next month's Bulletin.

**Program:** Shirl Stowe introduced our speakers, Christy Jones and Kelly Moore, from Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens. Their presentation was titled "Mercer's Harvey Recovery and Master Plan"

**Show & Tell:** Gordon Stowe presented the pictures of the plants. Rick Richtmyer and the plants owners talked about the plants. The plant photos were provided by:

- Alicia Baker
- Vickey Gurka
- Cherie Lee
- Malcolm McCorquodale III
- Gordon and Shirl Stowe
- David Whipkey

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Cherie Lee and seconded by Scherie Townes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

**Plant Raffle:** there was none

## Zoom Meeting Information

Topic: **Bromeliad Society Houston July 2021 Board Meeting**  
Time: Jul 15, 2021 07:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82104296797?pwd=TitXWHVvVWZxTTICRDFKaDloM2hxQT09>

Meeting ID: 821 0429 6797

Passcode: 782858

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,82104296797#,,,,\*782858# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 821 0429 6797

Passcode: 782858

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82104296797?pwd=TitXWHVvVWZxTTICRDFKaDloM2hxQT09>

Topic: **Bromeliad Society Houston July Monthly Meeting**  
Time: Jul 20, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85464443488?pwd=bFdxMzk1K1lVFE4d2Jpa041YkZ0dz09>

Meeting ID: 854 6444 3488

Passcode: 321366

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,85464443488#,,,,\*321366# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 854 6444 3488

Passcode: 321366

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85464443488?pwd=bFdxMzk1K1lVFE4d2Jpa041YkZ0dz09>

### Notes from the Picky Proofer

When you send in pictures for the bulletin, try to have the file size fairly large. I can always shrink the file size, but I can't make it larger. 1

### Show and Tell

Don't forget to send pictures to Gordon Stowe for the Show and Tell this month!

**[grstowe@comcast.net](mailto:grstowe@comcast.net)**

## Abc's

How many of you are going to the ABC's on Oct. 16 at Mercer Arboretum? It will be a great chance to get outside, visit with 3-dimensional human beings and create! Our plan is to mount ***Tillandsias*** on Cedar planks. In addition, a free spinning hanging *Till* with beads will be available for assembly.

We will be asking you to commit soon. All materials will be provided.



## What's Blooming - JULY 2021



**x Anagelia 'Minnie Belle' — Lee**



***Tillandsia streptocarpa* - Sandberg**

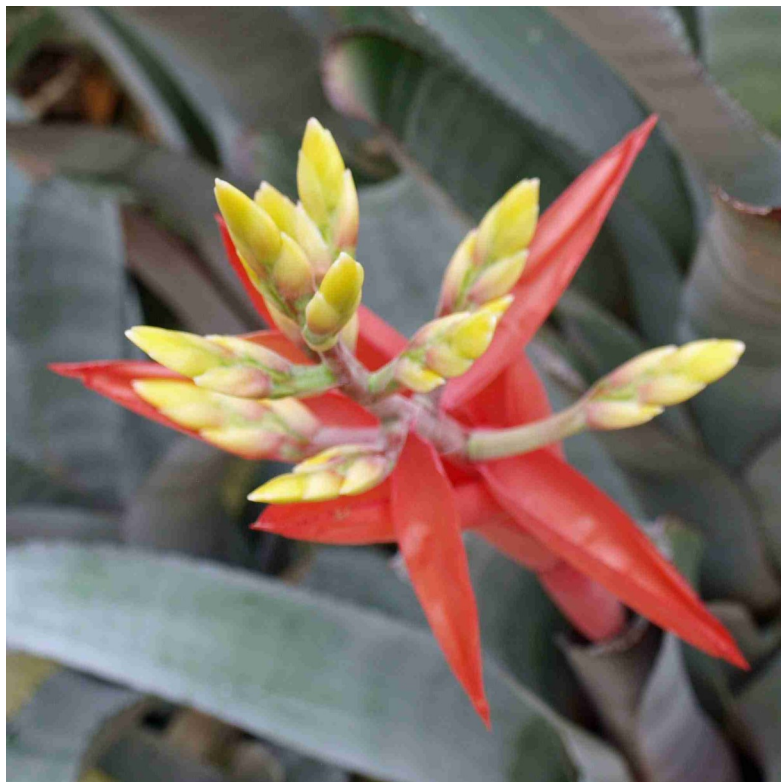


***Billbergia* 'Cold Fusion' - Lee**

***Billbergia 'Hallelujah' Variegated* —Lee**



***Aechmea tillandsioides* —Lee**

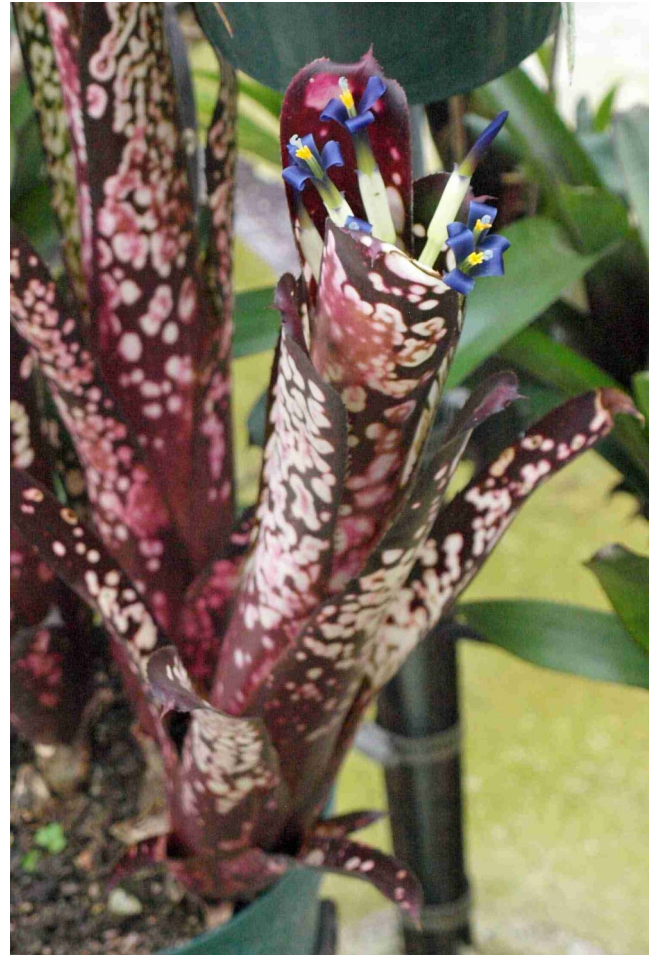


***Aechmea 'Grey Ghost'* — Lee**





***Neoregelia* 'Superball' x *pauciflora* - Baker**



***Billbergia* 'Hallelujah' - Lee**



***Neoregelia* 'Blueberry Muffin' - Gurka**



***Walesia cyanea* cv. *Walmartii* — Whipkey**



## **JULY BIRTHDAYS**

<b>Rev. Dave Schneider</b>	<b>7/1</b>
<b>Maylon Lemar Adams</b>	<b>7/9</b>
<b>Allyn Pearlman</b>	<b>7/12</b>
<b>Aaron Davila</b>	<b>7/23</b>
<b>Mary Cinotto</b>	<b>7/25</b>
<b>Seth Nicolas</b>	<b>7/26</b>



## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

<b>Scherie Townes</b>	<b>8/13</b>
<b>Gordon Rowell</b>	<b>8/17</b>
<b>Joanne Woolsey</b>	<b>8/24</b>
<b>Charlien Rose</b>	<b>8/31</b>



## **BSHI Membership**

<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$20.00 per year</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>\$30.00 per year</b>

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

## **Cryptanthus Society Membership**

<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$20.00 per year</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>\$25.00 per year</b>

**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.



### 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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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 <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	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	Linda Whipkey
3. Plant Sales Chairman	Allyn Pearlman
4. Programs Chairman	Scherie Townes
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	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

Southwest Bromeliad Guild

Bromeliad Society International

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

# HOUSTON NOTES Inc.



*Bromeliad  
Society*

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FIRST CLASS