Bromeliad Society HOUST

VOL 56 / 02 February 2023 bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY / HOUSTON



From the Prez



Well, hope springs eternal in my heart that we would have an early spring. Sigh. It got warm, I put away the heaters in the greenhouse so that I could water and work on pups. I cleaned and folded all of the frost cloth and put them away in boxes. I moved a gillion plants from my den back outside and now, back in.

Then there was today, a huge storm blew in, knocked down plants and broke pots and brought the news of near freezing temperatures this week. It was fun while it lasted.

We have a lot going on this year and a few changes one of which is that our plant sale date will be on March 18 instead of March 11th. West Gray double booked our date and we had to change the date.

But we are troopers. Get ready for spring by dividing your plants and potting up a few to sell at our plant sale on **March 18**. You have plenty of time to prepare a good selection to spread the joy of our plants to the public and to fellow members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 21, 7:30PM

Regular meeting Metropolitan Multi-Service Center

Metropolitan Multi-Service Center 1475 West Gray, Houston 77019

MARCH 18, 9:00A M

Spring Bromeliad Plant Sale Metropolitan Multi-Service Center 1475 West Gray, Houston 77019

MARCH 21, 7:30PM

Regular meeting Metropolitan Multi-Service Center 1475 West Gray, Houston 77019

Did you Renew?



Interested in Joining BS/H?

There are two classes of membership:

Individual \$20 per year **Family** \$30 per year

All memberships begin with January of the current year.

Visit our website at

www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org for more information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Upcoming February program	2
Our previous January meeting	4
BROMELIAD SALE MARCH 18TH	5
Cultural tips: An introduction	6
How to be a Show and Tell Rock Star	9
What's Blooming?	11

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming February program



There will be a Raffle for the February meeting!



Meeting Date:

Tuesday, February 21st, 2023 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

(ZOOM login/social time at 6:30 p.m.)

Meeting Place:

Metropolitan Multi-Service Center 1475 West Gray St., Houston, TX 77019 and on ZOOM.

Program Presenter: John Schmidt

My first experience with bromeliads was a sample pack from Tropiflora. The plants were kept indoors and did not survive for long. Some time later, I met Jack Wilson on a pond tour in Wichita, Ks. We became friends and he gifted me several neo. hybrids. That's when the spark became a flame. Fast forward to 2007 when Gale and I moved to Spring. I joined the BSH in 2011. My interest once again focused on Tillandsias and I

probably have 150 or more species and cultivars in my collection. I am on my second stint as a board member and have done Show and Tell the for several years. All in all, the friends made in BSH are my greatest treasure.

Program: The Dirty Little Secrets of Bromeliads

Meeting Agenda:

Social time/login
President's Welcome + Announcements
Committee reports
Program
"Show and Tell" with John Schmidt and Gordon Stowe
Adjournment

There will be a raffle, please donate a plant :)

Deadline for the March bulletin: March 3, 2023

Member meeting

Third Tuesday, February 21st at 7:00pm.

Masking preferred.

Zoom will be available.

Refreshments

Refreshments duties reserved for members with **last names N-Z** please, thank you!

Show & Tell

Bring your plants in-person to show off and talk about them!

Or send photos of your plants to **Gordon Stowe** to show off photos. Let's take a look at them and discuss!

For a refresher on how we do Show & Tell, see page 9.

RAFFLE TIME!

Please share a plant or two for the Bromeliad RAFFLE!

For raffle etiquette see page 13.



Metropolitan Multi-Service Center 1475 West Gray St., Houston, TX 77019



February Zoom details

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

Topic: Bromeliad Society Houston February 2023 Monthly Meeting

Time: Feb 21, 2023 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84235014228?pwd=QjljZjVsc1ZiVENZQ1RMS2ZCd3INdz09

Meeting ID: 842 3501 4228

Passcode: 764748

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,84235014228#,,,,*764748# US (Houston)

+16694449171,,84235014228#,,,,*764748# US

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 646 931 3860 US

Meeting ID: 842 3501 4228

Passcode: 764748

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbX1tugQA

President's message continued...from page 1

The Southwest Guild show in October is a big job for our society and I know that you will be willing to help with the duties that our society has in running the show. Please be kind and accept the jobs and do what you do best with what comes your way from the Show Chairman.

We had the highest attendance at our January meeting since the pandemic. It was fun to see our members that attended in person for the first time in about two years, We have some interesting programs planned and of course they are more fun in person. Hope to see you all in February and a few more.

Welcome to our new member, Christopher Goodgame & Sylvia Compton.

Watch our newsletter for upcoming events.

Scherie Townes

Our previous January meeting



Mike O'Neal introduced Tim Pylate, Executive Director of the Armand Bayou Nature center who presented a program titled "Why Urban Green Spaces are of Critical Importance to all of us".

Cherie and Frank Lee had a gift plant for all members attending the meeting. Each was given a pup of *Billbergia amoena* rubra.

Show and tell was presented by John Schmidt. Plants were shown by Kim and Troy Merchant, Mike O' Neal, Alicia Baker, Carole and Rick Richtmyer.

RAFFLE RESULTS!

Donors:

Don Green Cherie & Frank Lee Rick & Carole Richtmyer Alicia Baker Mike O'Neal Gary Gallick & Jan Liang

Winners:

Don Green
Patricia Buenaventura
Chris Goodgame
Vickey Gurka
Melenie Yuen
Alicia Baker
Rick Richtmyer

The raffle made \$93.



BROMELIAD SALE MARCH 18TH

Will need help with the Bromeliad sale on the 18th.

Need Bromeliads to sell Need volunteers to help with customers Need volunteers to help pull tags

FOOD, FOOD, FOOD

I (Allyn Pearlman) will bring the following to the sale: Deli meats, cheeses, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, condiments.

NEEDED. NEEDED:

Breakfast goodies: Donuts, kolaches, juice
Lunch goodies: salads, sides, chips, breads, sodas, water & ice.
Sweet goodies: cakes and cookies, please DON'T bring a bag of cookies,
BE CREATIVE!

Shirl and Gordon will be in New Zealand so we need someone to play hospitality chairperson on the 18th.

PLEASE EMAIL <u>deliboys@comcast.net</u> or call me 713-858-3047 with what you will be bringing so we don't duplicate.

First called will get that item, Second called will have to find another item to bring if already taken.

BOXES AND PLASTIC BAGS ALWAYS NEEDED/ Thanks!! Allyn Pearlman.

Cultural tips: An introduction

AN INTRODUCTION FROM RICK & CAROLE RICHTMYER

We in the Bromeliad Society of Houston were very fortunate to have Odean Head as a distinguished member as well as a respected friend, mentor and leader of our society for many years. Odean was recognized worldwide among bromeliad growers for his knowledge, hybridizing and statesmanship. Fortunately for us, during many of those years he wrote a monthly article for the Bromeliad Society of Houston Bulletin titled "Cultural Tips," first in hard copy for the bulletin and then online from the 2004 thru 2013 issues which can be found on the BS/H website and read at your leisure. Believe me, they are worth your while to re-read and copy so you have them to refer back to.

We (Carole and Rick) will do our best to continue in the tradition of Odean by providing our members with cultural tips and basic knowledge, this in the hope that life with your bromeliads will be easier and successful so you can grow more beautiful plants for your enjoyment.

We will begin with the basic concept of what is a bromeliad along with some other information which will enable you to answer the questions that might be asked when showing and describing your collection to friends and neighbors. Our intention is to follow this first article with others covering topics and tips to help us all grow better bromeliads. We expect this to be a learning experience for us, as well, as we conduct our research -- even after growing bromeliads for over 40 years, we're still learning. So, if there's something you'd especially like us to write about in future articles, let us know.

The following article 'What Are Bromeliads?" is gratefully reprinted with permission of the Bromeliad Society International and can be found on the website address of https://www.bsi.org/new/what-are-bromeliads/.

The article has been slightly updated and modified.

WHAT ARE BROMELIADS?

Bromeliads are members of a plant family known as Bromeliaceae (bro-meh-lee-AH-say-eye). The family contains over 3700 described species in approximately 80 genera. The most well-known bromeliad is the pineapple. The family contains a wide range of plants including some very un-pineapple like members such as Spanish Moss (which is neither Spanish nor a moss). Other members resemble aloes or yuccas while still others look like green, leafy grasses.

In general, they are inexpensive, easy to grow, require very little care, and reward the grower with brilliant, long-lasting blooms and ornamental foliage. They come in a wide range of sizes from tiny miniatures to giants. They can be grown indoors in cooler climates and can also be used outdoors where temperatures stay above freezing.

Bromeliad History

Bromeliads entered recorded history some 500 years ago when Columbus introduced the pineapple (Ananas comosus) to Spain upon return from his second voyage to the New World in 1493. On that voyage he found it being cultivated by the Carib Indians in the West Indies. Within 50 years this tropical fruit was being cultivated in India and other Old World countries.

It took some time for additional bromeliads to enter cultivation. It wasn't until 1776 that another bromeliad (Guzmania lingulata) was brought to Europe. Aechmea fasciata followed in 1828 and Vriesea splendens (now Lutheria splendens) in 1840.

Within the last hundred years, bromeliads have become more widely used as ornamental plants. Originally only found in royal botanical gardens or the private greenhouses of wealthy Europeans, their popularity has spread to the masses. Today bromeliads are more available to the enthusiast than ever before. New species are still being discovered and plant breeders are developing ever more stunning hybrids to choose from.

Uses for Bromeliads

Although the pineapple is the only member of the family cultivated for food, several species including Caroa (Neoglaziovia variegata) are cultivated as a source of fiber. Pineapple stems are a source of the protein-digesting



Tillandsia recurvata growing on wires, together with another species, possibly Tillandsia usneoides (Spanish Moss). Image credit: By 0+000 - panoramio, CC BY 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=24344140

enzyme bromelain used as a meat tenderizer. Because fresh pineapple also contains bromelain, it cannot be used in gelatin molds since the enzyme breaks down the congealing proteins. Spanish Moss (Tillandsia usneoides) contains a tough, wiry core that was once used as a material for stuffing upholstery.

Where they Grow

Bromeliads are a Neotropical family which means they grow virtually exclusively in the New World tropics (and subtropics). Most come from South America with the greatest number of species found in Brazil. They range from Chile and Argentina in South America through Central America and the Caribbean reaching their northern limit around Virginia in the southeastern United States. A single species (Pitcairnia feliciana) is found in western Africa. Bromeliads altitude range is from sea level to over 14,000 feet. They can be found in a wide variety of habitats from hot, dry deserts to moist rainforests to cool mountainous regions. There are two bromeliads which grow in nature in the Houston area. These are Tillandsia

usneoides (Spanish Moss) and Tillandsia recurvata (Ball Moss). In addition, three other bromeliads can be found in South Texas, Tillandsia baileyi on the King Ranch and Hechtia texensis and Hechtia glomerata both dry growing spiney plants found along the Rio Grande River in South Texas and in the Big Bend region of West Texas.

They are found in a variety of growing situations:
Terrestrial species are found growing in the ground (the way we expect most plants to grow). They may be found growing in bright sun along sandy beaches to the shady understory of a forest among the leaf litter and debris.
Saxicolous species are found growing on rocks. They may grow on hard rocky outcrops where their roots may penetrate cracks and fissures to locate moisture or organic nutrients or sometimes, they are found growing tenuously on sheer cliff faces. Epiphytic species are found growing on other plants, usually trees, shrubs or cactus but sometimes they can be found on telephone poles or even on the telephone lines themselves. This capability to take their nutrition and moisture from the atmosphere has earned these bromeliads the name "Air Plants".

How They Grow

All bromeliads are composed of a spiral arrangement of leaves sometimes called a "rosette". The number of degrees between successive leaves varies from species to species with a few having a 180-degree separation between leaves. This causes the plant to grow in a flattened configuration with its leaves lined up in a single plane. The bases of the leaves in the rosette may overlap tightly to form a water reservoir. This central cup also collects whatever leaf litter and insects happen to land in it. The more ancestral terrestrial bromeliads do not have this water storage capability and rely primarily on their roots for water and nutrient absorption. Tank bromeliads (as the water storing species are often called) rely less heavily on their roots for nourishment and are more often found as epiphytes. The roots of epiphytic species harden off after growing to form holdfasts as strong as wire that help attach the plant to its host. Even though bromeliads are commonly called parasitos in Spanish-speaking countries, these epiphytes do not take sustenance from their host but merely use it for support. In some species, the bases of the leaves form small chambers as they overlap and these protected spaces are often home to ants. In exchange for shelter, the ants' waste may provide the bromeliad with extra fertilizer.

All bromeliads share a common characteristic: tiny scales on their leaves called trichomes. These scales serve as a very efficient absorption system. In species found in desert regions where the air is hot and dry and the sun beats down relentlessly, these scales also help the plant to reduce water loss and shield the plants from the solar radiation. These plants are so covered with scales that they appear silvery-white and feel fuzzy. On many species (especially in more humid areas), the scales are smaller and less noticeable. Sometimes the scales can form patterns and banding on the leaves that add to the plant's beauty.

With few exceptions, the flower stalk is produced from the center of the rosette. The stalk (or scape as it is called), may be long with the flowers held far away from the plant (either erect or hanging pendantly) or the scape may be short with the flowers nestled in the rosette. The scape may produce a single flower or many individual flowers and may have colorful leaf-like appendages called scape bracts that serve to attract pollinators and delight bromeliad enthusiasts. With rare exceptions, bromeliads only flower a single time – once the plant stops producing leaves and produces its flower, it will not start making leaves again. It will, however, vegetatively produce new plantlets called "offsets" or "pups". These plants will feed off the "mother" plant until they are large enough to set



Hechtia texensis Image source: Courtesy of Agaveville Xeric Plant Discussion Forum

roots of their own and survive as a separate plant. The mother may sometimes survive a generation or two before finally dying off. Pups are usually produced near the base of the plant – inside the sheath of a leaf. Sometimes, however, pups may be produced on long stolons or atop the inflorescence (flower spike) of the mother plant. The green, leafy top of a pineapple is in fact a pup that may be removed and planted to start a new plant.

Used with permission from

The Bromeliad Society International

https://www.bsi.org/new/what-are-bromeliads/

References:

Eric J. Gouda and Derek Butcher, 1-2-2023, A List of Accepted Bromeliaceae Names;

https://www.bsi.org.

© 2023 | Bromeliad Society International

How to be a Show and Tell Rock Star



BY MICHAEL O'NEAL & JOHN SCHMIDT

etting to see plants that are blooming or in full color and showing off your own is one of the best things about the monthly meetings.

In order to make it as fun as possible for everyone, we would like to get back to a few things we used to do.

First, feel free to bring in plants that show off something interesting. It doesn't have to be blooming, but if there is something to see or talk about, then it's fair game. If you want help identifying it, that works too.

Make sure your plants are cleaned up enough to show them off and not make a mess. Unless it is there for identification, make sure each one has a label as well.

Try to get there a little earlier to get them set up and answer any questions (and get to see what else is there too!). For each plant you bring, please fill out a card (that will be provided) identifying you as the one who brought it, what it is, and anything that might be unique or interesting about it.

Be sure to pull them out of crates, bags or other containers and set them on the table where they are sturdily supported and can be easily seen. Make sure John is aware of any special handling that might be needed to SHOW it off. And last, be prepared to TELL what is interesting about it when John picks it up to show it.

That's it! While seeing them on zoom is nice, there is nothing like being able to get close to one, see it from all angles and discuss it with its owner. It's easier to let them know you want one when it is available that way too.



Tillandsia kautskyi

See you and your plants at the next meeting!

Coming soon: Bromeliads in the Southwest



The Bromeliad Society/Houston, Inc. is delighted to announce that we will host the 2023 Southwest Guild Show and Sale **October 13, 14, 15, 2023** at the Holiday Inn & Suites Conference Center NW Willowbrook, 18530 TX-249, Houston, TX 77070.

The Cryptanthus Society will hold their Biennial International Cryptanthus Show in conjunction with the SW Guild Show, so it will be a doubly wonderful event. Both groups will provide opportunities for members to show their plants and take home awards. Members and vendors will offer bromeliads for sale throughout the weekend. Other exciting plans are in the works as well!

The hotel has blocked rooms from October 12-17 (extra days for those who wish to stay longer) at the following rates:

Standard King rooms \$97+

Standard (2) Queens \$110+

King Suite \$115+.

A complimentary breakfast is included with the booked rooms each morning. Registrants will be informed far in advance of when rooms may be reserved.

We will need your help with various assignments and duties.

Please contact Ruby Adams, Don Green, or Shirl Stowe to volunteer for the event.

Keep and eye out for registration details and more in future bulletins.

What's Blooming?

PHOTOS COLLECTED FROM BSH MEMBERS, JANUARY 2023

Submit your photo!

Want to share some of your spectacular broms? Send along high-resolution

photos along to <u>bsh.editor@gmail.com</u> before the end of the month for them to be featured in the newsletter.

When sending along your rock-star image, be sure to name your image file for easy identification like the example below:

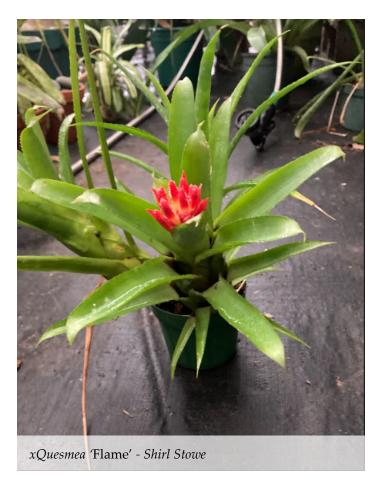
Plantname_OwnerName.jpg



Billbergia 'Can Can' ('Carrone's Black Bill' X 'Arriba') - Scherie Townes

What's Blooming?

CONTINUED





Won this from last month's raffle From Mike O'Neal.

It bloomed!



Member musings...



\$10

will buy four lovely books on Bromeliad Culture, Hybrids, and plant recognition.

They may be old, but they are great!

Call **Shirl Stowe** if you are interested.

(360) 509 5144



Looking for contributors

Interested in writing for the BSH Bulletin?

We are looking for passionate plant lovers who are interested in sharing their wisdom.

Please also send over any communications you would love to share - announcements, classifieds, etc.





Follow us at

@bromeliadsocietyhouston

Please follow our adventures and keep up with news on our **Instagram** page!

Editor's notes

The raffle is so fun! It is such a fun way to source new plants!

For March, there must be some Blooms coming up soon? Please send over some of your awesome photos, its one of my favorites to see from month to month:)

Bromeliad Society HOUSTON



Our February birthdays...

Happy Birthday to...

Malcolm Anderson

Laurie Skov

Vickey Gurka

Alicia Baker



Welcome newest members!

We hope to see you again!

Sylvia Compton

Christopher Goodgame



Feb 21 Regular BSH meeting

7:00pm TBD

Mar 18 2023 BSH Spring Bromeliad Sale

Saturday @ 9:00am

1475 Metropolitan Service center

Houston, TX 77019

Mar 21 Regular meeting

7:00pm TBD

Mar 23 Board meeting

7:30pm (zoom only)

Mar 23-26 21st Australasian Bromeliad

Conference

Waipuna Hotel, Auckland, NZ

Apr 18 Regular meeting,

7:00pm TBD

May 6-7 49th BSH Annual Show & Sale

Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center 2020 Hermann Dr. Houston, TX 77004

H2 TBD

Oct 13-15 2023 Southwest Guild Show

Holiday Inn & Suites Conference Center NW Willowbrook, 18530 TX-249 Houston, TX 77070

Dec 02 Holiday Party



Note: This calendar page looks a bit different this year. Trying something a bit different. Check this page out for any updates or changes through the year on the bulletin.

2023 Officers and Chairmen

President

Secretary

Past President

Scherie Townes

David Whipkey

Shirl Stowe

Vice President

Treasurer

Michael O'Neal Allyn Pearlman

Board of Directors

Through 2023

Through 2024

Through 2025

Alicia Baker

Gordon Stowe

Patricia Buenaventura

John Schmidt Melenie Yuen

Linda Whipkey

Standing Committees

Publications

Allyn Pearlman

Bulletin Editor

lletin Editor

Melenie Yuen, <u>bsh.editor@gmail.com</u>

Plant Sales Chairman

Allyn Pearlman

Programs Chairman

Michael O'Neal

Standing Committees Ex-Officio

Shirl Stowe

Cherie Lee

Committees of the Board of Representatives

Annual Show

David Whipkey

Bromeliad Culture

Rick & Carole Richtmyer

Courtesy Midge Gorman

DirectoryMary Cinotto

Email Communications

Mary Cinotto

Garden Tours

Gordon Stowe, Shirl Stowe

-

David Whipkey

Holiday Party Chairman

Hospitality Coordinator

Shirl Stowe

Members & Visitors Register

Noreen Tolman

Membership

Allyn Pearlman

Seedlings

Allyn Pearlman
Show & Tell

John Schmidt & Gordon Stowe

Raffle Plants
Frank & Cherie Lee

Virtual Communications (zoom)

Mike O'Neal

Allyn Pearlman

Allyn Peariman

Bromeliad Society International

Annette Dominguez

Cherie Lee

Daniel Wolf

Southwest Bromeliad Guild

Don Green

Shirl Stowe

BS/H membership

There are two classes of membership:

Individual \$20 per year Family \$30 per year

All memberships begin with January of the current year.

Visit our website at www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org for more information.

Please send your check to:

Allyn Pearlman 6422 Bankside Drive Houston, TX 77096

Cryptanthus Society membership

There are two classes of membership:

Individual \$20 per year **Family** \$25 per year

Please send your check to:

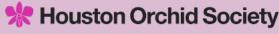
Carole Richtmeyer 18814 Cypress Mountain Dr. Spring, TX 77388



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

15019 8th Street West, Santa Fe, TX 77517 ■ 409-925-6933

www.jimbosnursery.com



www.houstonorchidsociety.org

Regular meeting first Thursday of month at 7:30 PM First Christian Church | 1601 Sunset Blvd



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

www.tgcfernsoc.org

Regular meeting third Sunday of month at 2:00 PM Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center 2020 Hermann Drive., Houston, TX 77004

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER...

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 <u>bsh.editor@gmail.com</u> 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: <u>bsh.editor@gmail.com</u>



BROMELIAD SOCIETY/ HOUSTON INC.

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.



Affiliated with the Bromeliad Society International



Member of Southwest Bromeliad Guild



Affiliated with the Cryptanthus Society International

ON THE BACK COVER...

How is this seedling doing? We got these not too long ago last year, has yours pupped yet? Ours did, and they're looking great. One of the awesome benefits of being a part of the BSH and the society in general is enjoying seedlings from not just members, but from the society too!

If you'd like to join in and contribute any photos, a written column, or ideas for improvement, please send along your thoughts and feedback to bsh.editor@gmail.com.

