

OCTOBER 2024 Volume 57 Number 10



FROM SCOTT SANDEL...Here are some photos of Vrieseas I grow under 50% shade-cloth, about 2 miles from the Pacific Ocean and 1.5 miles from San Diego Bay



OCTOBER *Cryptanthus* 'San Antonio'

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**REMINDERS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**October 15 at 6:30 PM  
A to M refreshment hosts**

**Metropolitan Multi-Service Center  
1475 West Gray  
Houston 77019**

Or [By Zoom](#)

**OCTOBER MEETING**

**Speaker: Dennis Cathcart  
Dennis selling plants**

**OCTOBER 12**

Houston Cactus & Succulent Society is  
planning a group visit to Jimbo's Nursery

**NOVEMBER MEETING  
Seedling**

**DECEMBER PARTY**

**BHS HOLIDAY PARTY  
SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER 7 . 6:00 P.M.  
9527 WESTHEIMER ROAD  
\$40 PER PERSON**

**RSVP TO ALLYN PEARLMAN  
(deliboy@comcast.net)**

## **FROM THE PREZ**



**I seem to be watering more than any other household job for the last three months. An hour after I finish the watering job the soil is bone dry. I am doing the best I can do with what we have to work with in Houston this season.**

**I have enjoyed getting back out into the cooler yard and working to plant the fall vegetable garden. That is a lot more fun than hurricane damage repair which is progressing at a snail's pace**

**I enjoyed our member plant sale in September. I spent more than I had budgeted but my excuse was that I did not have them and I NEEDED THEM URGENTLY.**

**We will have another sale in October with plants from Tropiflora along with our program presented by Dennis Cathcart.**

**Our election for Officers and board members will be held during our October meeting so be sure to attend the meeting.**

**Dues for 2025 are now due to Allyn Pearlman!!!**

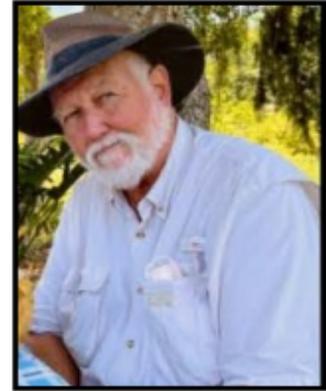
**Our job responsibilities are changing for the new year and soon you will get a call from the new board to fill the committee positions. Please take a small piece of our society committee responsibilities that make our society so special and rich.**

## **SPEAKER DENNIS CATHCART** **Bromeliad Collecting Adventures** **And review of Koulev**



### **Koulev** By Dennis Cathcart

A Book Review  
by Chris Bruce



Adventures of an American Snakehunter Book One is the subtitle for this new book in our library collection. Prior to this book, Dennis Cathcart was only known to Bromeliad aficionados as the founding owner of the famous Tropiflora Plant Nursery in Sarasota, Florida. But in this book, the author recounts his endless adventures that added to an expansive knowledge of snakes and snake behavior.

From an early age, he sensed adventure growing up in woody, rural Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The home of his youth backed up to 25 acres which he frequently explored. That is where his fascination with snakes began. By the age of six, he convinced his dad to build a cage for his first Red Ratsnake. His knowledge of snakes seemed to grow faster than school earned knowledge. By fourth grade he was allowed to keep a snake cage outside his classroom. Frequent absences were eventually accepted by his teachers since they recognized that he was learning while in the outdoors. Growing up in the 1960's, the world was a simpler place than today. The safe world around him allowed him to explore and discover the ocean, the forest and native fauna. Eventually he found other boys who shared his interests. Their friendship provided a sound base for an outdoor life.

By the age of fifteen, he was collecting snakes and riding with them on his bike to Wild Cargo, an animal store twelve miles from his home. There he was able to trade his snake finds for others he wanted to collect. His membership in the South Florida Herpetological Society introduced him to new relationships with scientists, professors and businessmen. Many of these people became lifelong friends and co-adventurers and advisors.

The school librarian was always on the lookout to find books that would inspire him. His friends were a wholesome group with no smoking, drug taking or alcohol use. They stayed out of trouble and enjoyed an idyllic youth hunting, bagging, trading and selling snakes. At first, snake collecting took him on trips throughout Florida to obtain specimens. Soon he was in business and shipping snakes far away to Japan. By 1965 he began taking trips to Bimini, Mexico, Haiti, the Bahamas, and Costa Rica. He never seemed to refuse an opportunity to join the next adventure. He was saved from disaster and death many times, including being left on an uninhabited island with no food or water. His basic intelligence and life experiences gave him the common sense to solve ongoing challenges.

The author only mentions Bromeliads and orchids in passing descriptions of snake habitats. By the end of the book, the reader does not understand how he changes his focus and becomes a plant expert. This memory-filled recollection of a life from childhood to young adulthood describes a very unique individual.

Koulev, the Haitian word for snake, provides a fast-paced, exciting read. It is perfect for a late summer's day. And the reader is left with a thirst for Book Two.

**Article Reprinted from the Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society, Pup Talk, September 2022**

## Biographies for 2025 Officers and New Board Members

### **Malcolm McCorquodale – Board Position through 2027**

Malcolm McCorquodale is a candidate for the BS/H board of directors. He has been growing Bromeliads on-and-off since High School. Malcolm is a member of several local and national plant societies covering Orchids, Ferns, Begonias and of course Bromeliads. Malcolm also enjoys photographing plants and is the official photographer for the American Orchid Society's Houston Judging Center.

### **Noreen Tolman – Board Position through 2027**

Noreen Tolman is a long-time member of the Bromeliad Society/Houston. During her membership she has provided support in many vital areas, serving as Vice President and also as a Board Member for several years. She initiated and manages a Facebook page for our Society. She and her husband Ken handled membership information and greetings at our monthly meetings for many years. She is a qualified BSI Judge and has provided excellent support in many of our shows as well as shows in other parts of the country. She is willing and more than able to become a member of our Board of Directors once again.

### **Michael O'Neal – President**

Mike O'Neal has been around bromeliads most of his life. Growing up, his dad and many of his dad's friends were avid collectors of a wide variety of tropical plants with several specializing in bromeliads. He has been growing bromeliads himself for over 30 years starting with the classic *Aechmea fasciata* received from his dad. Along the way, he has had the opportunity to do almost everything wrong with them and still has a thriving collection. As a fairly recent member of the Bromeliad Society Houston, he continuously wonders why he waited so long to take advantage of the knowledge, experience and resources of a wonderful group of bromeliad growers and he has served as Vice President in the society his dad helped build. Now he is happy to serve as President for the Bromeliad Society/Houston.

### **Gordon Stowe – Vice President**

Gordon has been an avid Bromeliad enthusiast since 2009. He has built 2 greenhouses and a covered *Dyckia* structure in his yard in addition to planting bromeliads in ground garden areas. He has served on the board of directors for Bromeliad Society Houston more than once. Gordon assists with technology in program presentations and zoom productions. In addition he assists with auctions for the Houston Society and has also provided auction support for the SW Guild and several world conferences. He is happy to serve the Society as Vice President.

## Biographies for 2025 Officers and New Board Members

### **Don Green – Secretary**

Don joined BS/HI in 1993. He has served the Society as a member of the Board of Directors, as Vice-President and President. He is an internationally accredited BSI Judge. Don has served many roles in BS/HI and SWBG Shows. He has served as Co-Chair of the Show Committee, Chair of Placement Committee, Chair of Judges Committee and coordinated transportation for the 2016 World Bromeliad Conference in Houston. He is always willing to do what needs to be done for the Society.

### **Allyn Pearlman – Treasure**

For BS/H Treasurer: Allyn Pearlman Allyn joined BS/H Inc. in 1991. He was editor of the BS/H Inc. Bulletin from 1992-2002 and has been membership chair since 1993. He has served BS/H Inc. as a Director and President and was Chairman of our annual show in 1995. Allyn is an active supporter of the Southwest Bromeliad Guild and is currently Treasurer of that organization. Allyn also serves as Treasurer of the Cryptanthus Society International and for many years has served as Treasurer of BS/H Inc. He is a member of Bromeliad Society International and is an Internationally Accredited Master Bromeliad Judge.



## OCTOBER TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

What is a good way to ensure the hanging plants such a *Tillandsias* and others get a little extra nourishment from time to time...A sprayer. Adding a liquid fertilizer such as fish emulsion, Miracle Gro or whatever you choose for a liquid fertilizer to your sprayer, is the easiest way to go about it. Just be sure your sprayer is thoroughly washed from any other chemicals you may have used it in. And you may want to dedicate a sprayer to plant friendly materials only.

The sprayers below are fairly common. The pump bottle is filled with liquid, sealed and then pressure pumped. The “trombone” sprayer has the hose portion submerged in a bucket. The trombone will give you a wider range. And both can be found at hardware stores or on Amazon. They are easy to use and easy to store. And what’s more, they are rather fun to use.

Your hanging plants will appreciate this and you’ll see good results providing you following the directions on ratio of fertilizer to water.

Enjoy!



## ZOOM INFORMATION FOR REGULAR MEETING

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

**Topic: Bromeliad Society Houston October Monthly Meeting**

**Time: Oct 15, 2024 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81659453399?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81659453399?pwd=qwR6ZxTgsxJaP833uauK8LQpeHXnHF.1)**

**pwd=qwR6ZxTgsxJaP833uauK8LQpeHXnHF.1**

**Meeting ID: 816 5945 3399**

**Passcode: 399211**

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**One tap mobile**

**+13462487799,,81659453399#,,,,\*399211# US (Houston)**

**+12532158782,,81659453399#,,,,\*399211# US (Tacoma)**

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**Dial by your location**

- **+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)**
- **+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**
- **+1 669 444 9171 US**
- **+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)**
- **+1 719 359 4580 US**
- **+1 253 205 0468 US**
- **+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**
- **+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)**

**Meeting ID: 816 5945 3399**

**Passcode: 399211**

**Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcGwnlkf3P>**

## [BSHI Folks INVITED](#) TO JOIN Houston Cactus & Succulent Society

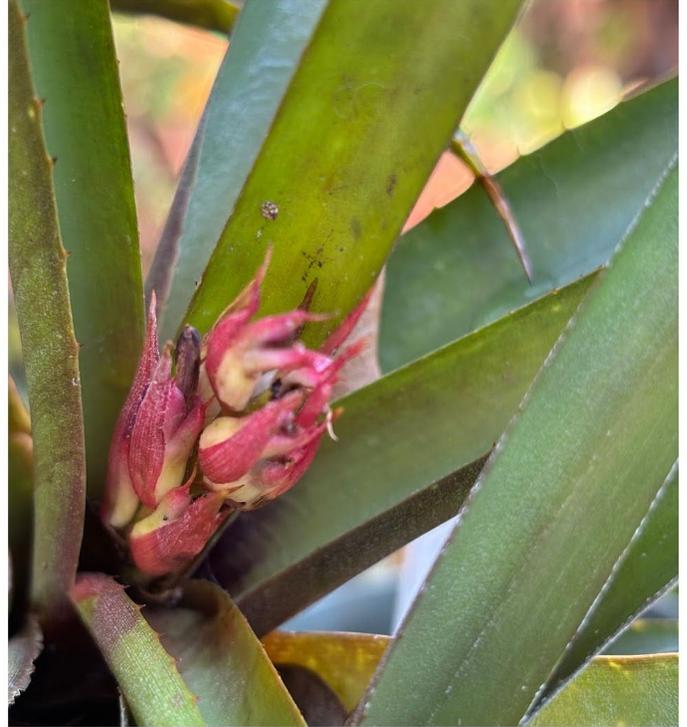


Last month, a number of folks from BSHI helped promote bromeliads along side of the Houston Cactus and Succulent Society. Those who volunteered to help were:

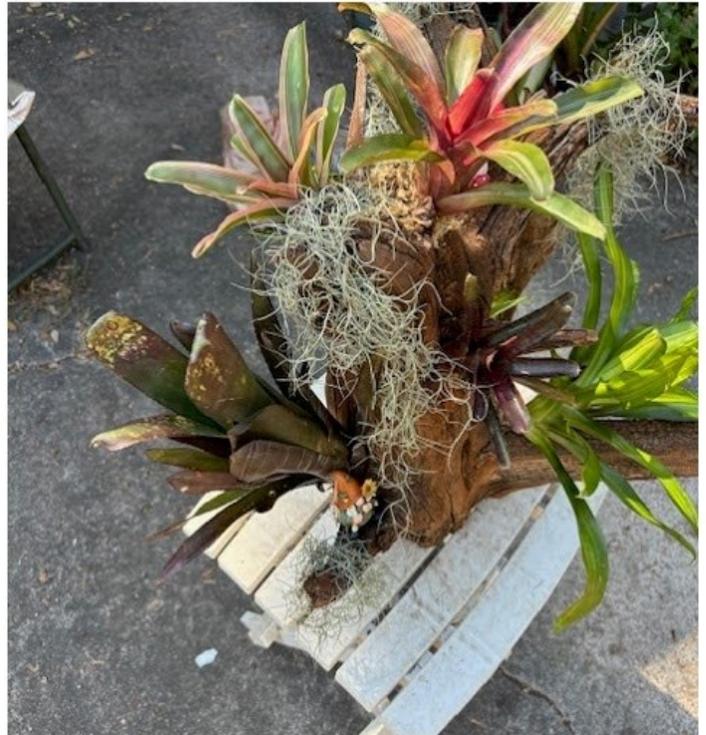
Ruby Adams, Alicia Baker, Don Green, Vickey Gurka, Frank and Cherie Lee, Mike O'Neal, Debbie Thomas, Scherie Townes and David and Linda Whipkey.

Also, check the email sent about the trip to Jimbo's on October 12. Another joint event.

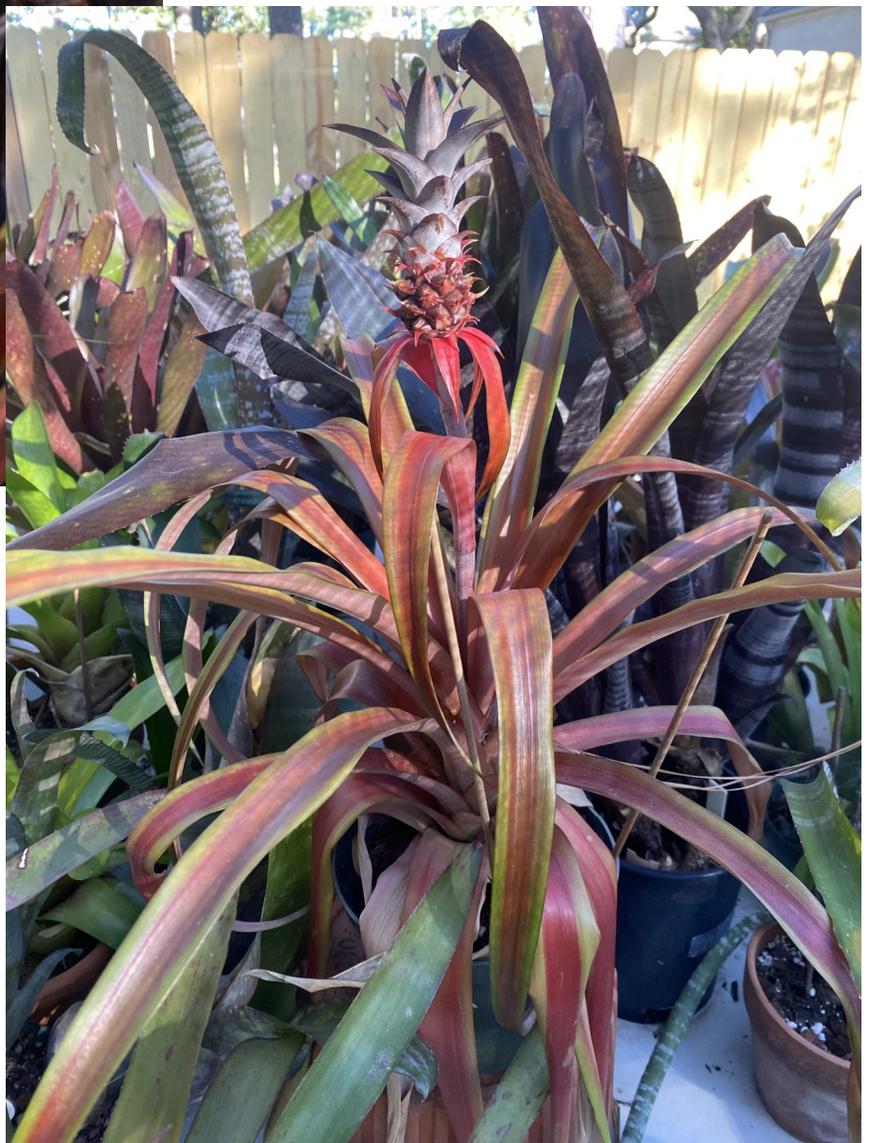
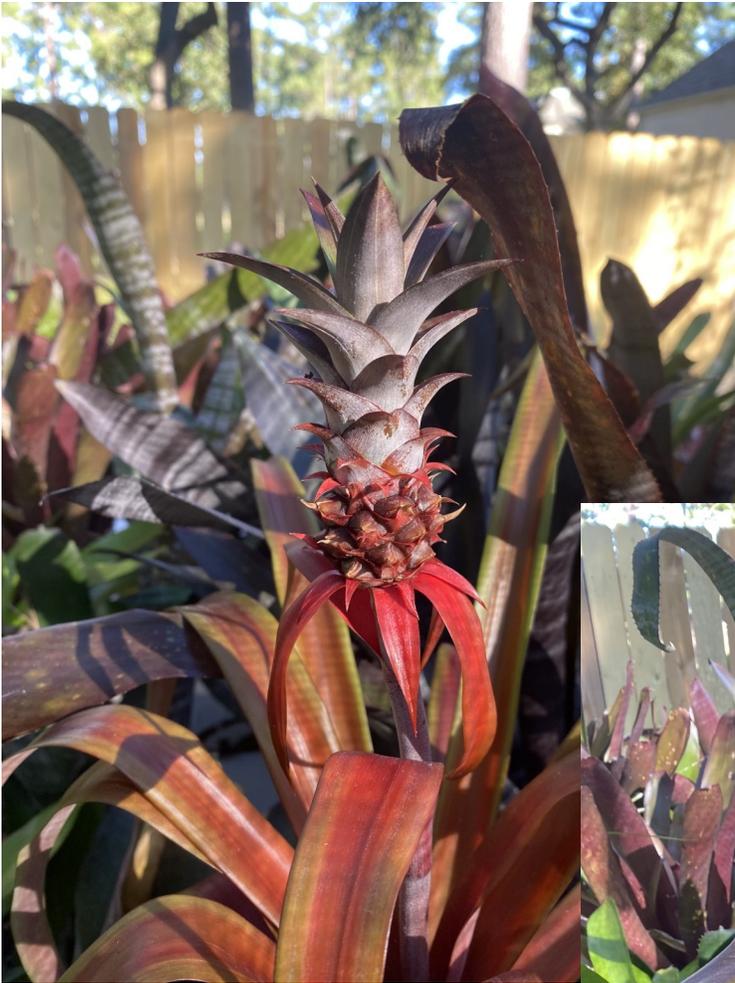
OCTOBER IN VICKIE GURKA'S GARDEN



**AND A MOUNTED DISPLAY VICKIE MADE IN MEMORY OF BARBARA**  
**It will be donated to Barbara's church auction in her memory**



**From Gordon and Shirl Stowe**  
*Ananas lucidus*



# BULLETIN BOARD

## OCTOBER 2024

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

John Edmonson	10/3
Frank Lee	10/5
Linda Whipkey	10/6
Melenie Yuen	10/20
Margo Racca	10/23
Rick Richtmyer	10/24
Laura Lovato	10/27
Kenneth Gardner	10/28
Marsha Krumrey	10/29
Daniel Wolf	10/30



**A TO M Bring Refreshments**

### NOTICE:

**If you would like to purchase one or both of Dennis' books, please let Mike O'Neal know.**

**He will ask Dennis to bring books for you. Mike's email and phone number are the directory.**



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](http://www.jimbosnursery.com)

### Houston Orchid Society

[www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://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.tgcfersoc.org](http://www.tgcfersoc.org)

Regular meeting third Sunday of month at 2:00 PM

Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center

2020 Hermann Drive., Houston, TX 77004



### Houston Cactus and Succulent Society

[www.hcsstex.org](http://www.hcsstex.org)

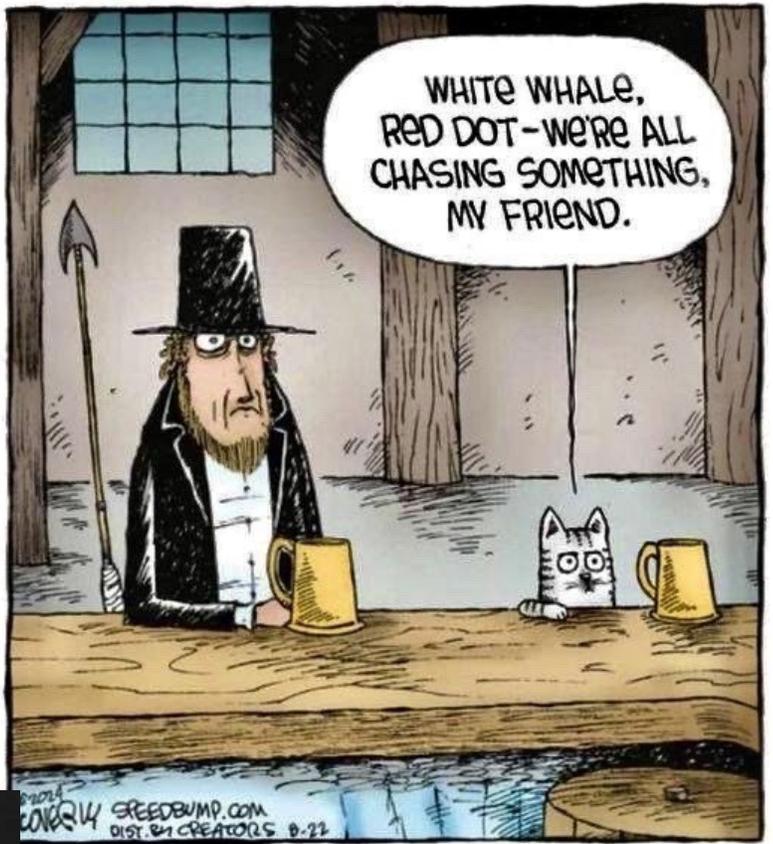
Regular meeting fourth Wednesday of month at 7:00 PM

Metropolitan Multi-Service Center

1475 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019

# BULLETIN BOARD

Humor  
OCTOBER 2024



## GLOSSARY

Aegeotropic	Aegeotropic means growing in all directions ie not affected by gravity. <i>Tillandsia bulbosa</i> is an example of an ageotropic plant
Bigeneric	A plant that is the result of crossing two different genera. It will have an 'x' in front of its name, eg: x <i>Anamea Scorpio</i> . The bigeneric name will be a cross between the genera involved in the parentage, as in the above case: <i>Ananas</i> and <i>Achemea</i> = x <i>Anamea</i> .
Bract	This is a specialized leaf found below a flower or on the stalk of a flower cluster and sometimes brightly coloured
Caulescent	Stem-like growth
Compact inflorescence	Branched inflorescence.
Digitate inflorescence	'Finger-like' with 'branches' coming from one point. <i>Tillandsia disticha</i> has a digitate flower spike
Discolor	Having two different colours. In a bromeliad leaf it usually means a green leaf with red underside
Epiphyte	An epiphyte is plant that grows attached to another plant/tree but it is not a parasite
Flavo	Yellow margin on the leaves
Fenestration	The white spaces between the coloured markings on foliage <i>Vriesea</i> that let the light into the leaf, like little windows
Grex	A group of plants with the same parents
Hemiepiphyte	This is a plant that spends part of it's life cycle as an epiphyte
Inflorescence	Includes the flower stem and the flower head with usually small, sometimes insignificant flowers
Imbricate	Overlapping sections eg, on the inflorescence of <i>Tillandsia concolor</i>
Lanceolate	Large at the base then tapering to a point
Lithophyte	A plant that grows on and/or between rocks and crevices
Mesic	A growing habitat containing a moderate amount of moisture
Myrmecophyte	Ants inhabit the base of bulbous <i>Tillandsia</i> varieties. An example <i>T. bulbosa</i>
Novar	A variegated or albomarginated plant that has lost it's variegation
Pedicel	Flower stalk
Rupicolous	Living or growing on or among rocks
Semi sessile	Flowers on a short stem
Simple	A single un-branched inflorescence
Stolon	Long woody runner or stem from a mother plant that a new pup develops on
Stoloniferous	Pups/plants form at the end of a stolon
Saxicole	A plant that grows on and/or between rocks and crevices
Xeric	A growing habitat containing little moisture or very dry

## RESOURCES

### **BROMELIAD SOCIETY HOUSTON WEB PAGE**

[Bromeliad Society /Houston – Sharing the love of Bromeliads in the Space City... \(bromeliadsocietyhouston.org\)](https://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

### **BROMELIAD SOCIETY HOUSTON FACEBOOK**

[\(20+\) Bromeliad Society Houston | Facebook](#)

### **BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL**

[BSI | The Bromeliad Society International](#)

### **FLORIDA COUNCIL OF BROMELIAD SOCIETIES**

[https://fcbs.org/ index.php](https://fcbs.org/index.php)

### **BROMELIADS IN AUSTRALIA**

[Bromeliads in Australia](#)

### **NEW ZEALAND BROMELIAD SOCIETY**

[Welcome to the BSNZ Website](#)

### **BROMELIAD THAILAND**

[\(20+\) Bromeliads Thailand | Facebook](#)

### **BROMELIADS SOUTHERN AFRICA**

[\(20+\) Facebook](#)

### **CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY**

[CryptanthusSociety.net](https://CryptanthusSociety.net)

### **WIKIPEDIA**

[Bromeliaceae - Wikipedia](#)

**Please feel free to let the editor know of other sites you've found.**

## 2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Scherie Townes	<b>SECRETARY</b> David Whipkey	
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Michael O'Neal	<b>TREASURER</b> Allyn Pearlman	<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b> Shirl Stowe

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS-----

<b>Through 2024</b> Gordon Stowe Melenie Yuen	<b>Through 2025</b> Frank Lee Linda Whipkey	<b>Through 2026</b> Don Green Mary Cinotto
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### STANDING COMMITTEES-----

<b>PUBLICATION</b> Allyn Pearlman	<b>PROGRAM CHAIRMAN</b> Michael O'Neal
<b>EDITOR</b> Mary Cinotto	<b>STANDING COMMITTEES EX-OFFICIO</b> Shirl Stowe Cherie Lee
<b>PLANT SALES CHAIRMAN</b> Allyn Pearlman	

### COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD-----

<b>ANNUAL SHOW</b> David Whipkey	<b>HOSPITALITY</b> Debbie Taylor
<b>BROMELIAD CULTURE</b> Carole and Rick Richtmyer	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> Allyn Pearlman
<b>COURTESY</b> Midge Gorman	<b>SEEDLINGS</b> Allyn Pearlman
<b>DIRECTORY</b> Mary Cinotto	<b>SHOW AND TELL</b> Gordon Stowe
<b>EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS</b> Mary Cinotto	<b>RAFFLE</b> Cherie and Frank Lee
<b>GARDEN TOURS</b> Gordon and Shirl Stowe	<b>REGISTRATION</b> John Sarkisian
<b>HISTORIAN</b> David Whipkey	<b>ZOOM COMMUNICATION</b> Michael O'Neal
<b>HOLIDAY PARTY CHAIRMAN</b> Allyn Pearlman	
<b>BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL-----</b>	
Annette Dominquez	Cherie Lee
Margo Racca	Daniel Wolf

## BS/H membership

**There are two classes of membership:**

<b>Individual</b>	\$20 per year
<b>Family</b>	\$30 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.

**Please send your check to:**

Allyn Pearlman  
6422 Bankside Drive  
Houston, TX 77096

## Cryptanthus Society membership

**There are two classes of membership:**

<b>Individual</b>	\$20 per year
<b>Family</b>	\$25 per year

**TO:** Ruby Adams  
3906 Woodmont Circle  
Houston, TX 77045-3514

**FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING:**

**Dennis Cathcart. Author of:**

**Koulèv: Adventures of an American Snake Hunter, Book One**

**AND**

**Koulèv: Adventures of an American Snake Hunter, Book Two**

**And Dennis will be selling plants from Tropiflora Nursery**