

# Bromeliad Society



MARCH 2025 Volume 58 Number 3

## President's View



Mike O'Neal

moneal37@gmail.com

As we step into March, I am excited about all the activities coming up for the Society! With winter hopefully behind us, it's time to get back into the garden, get our plants in good shape, and prepare for an exciting spring season.

**Upcoming Events** We have a full calendar of events this month, so be sure to mark these dates:

- **March 1st – Luncheon:** I'm writing this before the luncheon, but I hope you were able to join us for a wonderful gathering to kick off the month. It's a great time to catch up with fellow members and talk about our favorite plants.
- **March 15th – Spring Sale:** Get your plants ready! This is a fantastic opportunity to share your extra bromeliads with the community and find some new treasures to add to your collection.
- **March 18th – Monthly Program:** Our monthly meeting will feature an interesting program on cloning that you

won't want to miss. See the write-up in the bulletin for details.

- **March 20th – Board Meeting:** If you're interested in getting more involved with the society, consider attending our board meeting to see how you can contribute.

**Time to Get Growing** Now that the cold is behind us, it's time to bring your plants back outside and get them in top shape for the spring sale. This is a great chance to showcase the beautiful bromeliads you've been growing over the winter and share them with others. A well-prepared plant not only sells better but also inspires others to grow and appreciate bromeliads more as well.

**Looking Ahead to the Show in May** It's not too early to start preparing for our annual show in May. Whether you're planning to enter plants or help with organization, now is the time to get started. Think about which bromeliads you want to display, start grooming them, and consider

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

[Reminders](#)

[Entering the Show](#)

[March Program](#)

[A Genus You May Not Know](#)

[When is the Worse Time to Water](#)

[Summary of Feb. Meeting](#)

[Cultural Tips](#)

[March Broms](#)

[Ask the Editor](#)

volunteering to help make this year's show the best one yet. Reach out to Vickey Gurka or Don Green to see how you can help.

**Growing Our Membership** One of the best ways we can continue to grow our society is by bringing in new members. Friends and family are a great place to start! If you've given bromeliads as gifts, invite those recipients to a meeting or the spring sale. They can learn how to care for their plants and maybe even pick up a few more. A thriving society depends on new faces and fresh enthusiasm, so let's all do our part to spread the love of bromeliads. Reach out to me or Linda Whipkey if you have other ideas on how to bring in new members.

**Membership Dues Reminder** Don't forget to get your dues in so you don't get dropped from the membership list and can continue receiving society communications. Staying current with your membership ensures you stay informed and involved in all of our activities. Plus you'll get free plants like our March seedling!

### March Seedling: Purple Passion

I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming events and working together to make this a great season for the Bromeliad Society. Happy growing!

Mike O'Neal

[moneal37@gmail.com](mailto:moneal37@gmail.com)

### Zoom link for March 18 meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85266221495?pwd=KM2UwUzh4LXcmRasBLIzYlQWkYUauc.1>

Meeting ID: 852 6622 1495  
Passcode: 625577

### Zoom link for Board meeting on March 20

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85454927012?pwd=KSnlb83lE4RP04BTXNlUmrJcYUSxmb.1>

Meeting Id: 854 5492 7012

Passcode: 667283

This seedling was mixed in with Tropiflora's very first batch of *Tillandsia* 'Eric Knobloch' and have been growing it, aside, for years. They finally separated it from the named hybrid and gave it its own name. This clone of *brachycaulos x streptophylla* is darker and more purple and just slightly smaller in size. An open rosette of light green, curling, silvery dusted leaves form a somewhat bulbous base. An inflorescence that has long, dark lavender blushing bracts and a tight cluster of violet branches rises about 5 inches above the foliage. A handsome, easy to grow and prolific plant. Give high light.



Tropiflora photo

## Reminders

Bring your friends:  
**Spring Sale**  
**March 15**

**West Gray Multi  
Service Center**  
**1475 West Gray**

**9:00 am to 4:00 pm**  
**Member sale and**  
**Jimbo's Nursery**

+++++

**51st Bromeliad Show  
and Sale**  
**May 3-4, 2025**

**Judson Robinson  
Community Center**  
**2020 Hermann Dr.**  
**Sat. 9 - 5**  
Show hours 2-5

**Sun. 11- 4**

## Volunteers

Now is the time to be thinking of volunteering for the Bromeliad show on May 2, 3 and 4.

Remember the objectives of the society.

- To extend recognition of bromeliads that may be grown outside of their natural habitats.
- To increase knowledge of bromeliads by dissemination of information
- To provide forums and media for the treatment of bromeliads

You can help achieve these objectives by your presence at the set up of the show on May 2. You may not see how important it is to set up tables, move plants into the show room and work as a clerk, but the show doesn't go on without these tasks.

If you are new to working at the show, be advised that people will help you. If you are new to entering an exhibit at the show, be advised that people will help you get set up and registered.

Please be a part of the community of bromeliad plant people. Whether it's a shift at the security desk or helping out with food for workers, no job is unimportant.

Remember that our society is a community. It takes many to make it work.

Come and help out at the show. We need your skills. Contact Vickey Gurka, the show chair, to volunteer  
[vickeyg18@gmail.com](mailto:vickeyg18@gmail.com)

Deadline for bulletin articles and pictures for APRIL is MARCH 24.

# Entering the show



## SELECTING PLANTS

- Read the show schedule for Divisions, Sections and Classes and their criteria



## CLEANING PLANTS

- Wipe leaves to remove dirt
- Take out all foreign materials from the cup
- Clean pot
- Trim dead material



## PAPERWORK

- Obtain entry cards and Entry sheet at meeting
- Complete cards and sheet before registration

## Taking an Exhibit to the show - Plants

Has exhibitor grown the plant for at least 6 months?

Is the plant free of insects and disease?

Is the plant properly classified?

Is the plant correctly named?

Is the plant eligible?

Has the original copy of entry sheet been given to the entry clerk?

Are entry cards in the order of the entry sheet?

Have plants been submitted in the order found on the entry sheet?

Has the carbon copy of the entry sheet been given to the exhibitor?

## Taking an exhibit to the show - Artistic

- For arrangements, register arrangement with Classification. Refer to The Elements of Design for criteria. Set up arrangement in the show area under supervision of the Placement chair.
- Decorative containers are registered with Classification.

## March Program

You will not want to miss the March 18 Bromeliad Society/Houston Meeting. Our program that evening will feature tissue culturing expert Antonio Garza. Mr. Garza is the General Manager of the TC Division at Magnolia Gardens Nursery. He will be sharing details about the fascinating process of creating plant clones and showing samples of the work done in his facility. He welcomes your presence and your questions

***Bring your interesting plants for Show and Tell***

### ***Zoom info:***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85266221495?pwd=KM2UwUzh4LXcmRasBLIzYlQWkYuauc.1>

Meeting Id: 852 6622 1495

Passcode: 625577

There will be a raffle for the March meeting.

Hospitality is letters A-M



## A Genus You May Not Know

**Alcantarea** is a genus of the **Bromeliaceae** family, known for its large, striking foliage and impressive size, reaching up to **2 meters** in height and **1.5 meters** in width. These bromeliads can tolerate both shade and sun, displaying green foliage in the shade and vibrant reds and purples when grown in sunlight. They are endemic to Brazil and are popular in landscaping due to their dramatic appearance and long-lasting flower spikes. Notable species include **Alcantarea imperialis**, **geniculata**, and **vinicolor**, which are readily available for cultivation.



*Alcantarea imperialis*

[Bing.com/images](https://www.bing.com/images)

## When is the Worst Time to Water Plants?

Mother Nature doesn't always provide sufficient rainfall, particularly during the growing season. Having a sensible supplemental irrigation method is key, and you can find plenty of good ideas like [retractable hoses](#). But when is watering the worst thing you can do?

Gardening needs for plants differ wildly, from expansive [lawns](#) to indoor [containers](#). Care and caution are required, but some things hold true – and timing, as with so many other things, is key. So before giving your garden a drink, make sure you're not watering at the worst times.

Mid-day is the time of day when the sun reaches its zenith. By noon, the sun is at its highest point in the sky and temperatures are ramping. In the hours just after noon, heat levels on the ground will start to amplify, and this is of particular concern over the summer months. If you were wondering about the worst time to water plants in summer, this is certainly one of the least effective and potentially most damaging.

Watering around noon and mid-day is one of the big [garden watering mistakes](#) we tend to make, especially when the sun is beating down on us. We are tempted to think plants want what we want – a cool, refreshing drink! But if you water plants at midday, especially during the summer months, the water will rapidly dissipate. The heat will cause soil moisture to evaporate more quickly than the roots can uptake the water, leaving you with parched plants. Late evening is a bone of contention amongst gardeners when arguing the worst time of day to water plants. Some say it's fine to water in the evening, while others say no. Those who recommend watering in the evening believe it's the best time to irrigate since temperatures have cooled and the sun is setting, thus the plants can uptake the water without evaporation. However, the naysayers also have a point. They contend that late evening watering will open the plant up to fungal diseases, especially on stressed or damaged plants. If your plants are vigorous and healthy, you may well feel it's worth the risk. However, another aspect to evening watering that is well worth pondering is that it may well invite more nighttime visits from [garden slugs](#) and snails!

As with the hours after noon, the late afternoon is not recommended as a great time to water plants as a general rule, particularly during summer months. The rate of evaporation is at its fastest rate for those few hours between noon and late afternoon – so clearly any possible benefits of watering will become less effective (and can be rendered null and void) almost immediately. Another reason for not watering at this time of day is because any drops of water that might inadvertently have been splashed on leaves will trap the sun's rays – and in hot periods, these rays can be magnified and cause [leaf burn](#) and sun damage. If you are keen to keep that foliage dry, be sure to water at the roots of the plant. Use a drip irrigation system or [soaker hose](#), or hand-water at the base of the plant.

Wilting can sometimes be an indicator of [plant under-watering](#), this is true. Unfortunately, it can also be a sign of disease or pests – and it can even be a sign of over-watering in some cases! So unless you have checked moisture levels, and eliminated other possible causes for wilting, you need to proceed with caution. While wilting is a valuable visual, it isn't always reliable as a barometer for irrigation.

When is the Worst times to water? (continued p. 8)

Also, if you wait until your plants have wilted, your plants will be stressed. Stressed plants are more susceptible to disease, pests and environmental injury. Where at all possible, prevention is better than cure, so keep a close eye on plant appearance every day so you can intervene before things get too serious.

One good way to distinguish the leaves of under-watered plants as opposed to over-watered plants is to check the texture of foliage. While in both cases, leaves can change color (to yellow or brown), over-watered leaves will tend to be softer, while under-watered foliage tends to be crispy.



If you're really not sure when plants are ready for a drink, don't be afraid to test the moisture levels in the

ground around plants with a finger. It should be dry to at least two knuckles deep before watering again.

The best time to water your plants is early in the morning before temperatures have risen and the sun is still low enough on the horizon. Temperatures are still cool and the sun is just barely up, so root systems can absorb irrigation before the heat of the day dissipates it. Give your plants a good, deep draught of water at this time. Early morning is the best time to water during hot weather. Avoid watering during the heat of the day. Any efforts to give your garden and your plants a drink will be counter-intuitive, as the water will only evaporate.

Plants absorb the most water in the mornings or evenings, when temperatures are cooler, so water doesn't evaporate before the root system can uptake it. It stands to reason that mid-day and late afternoon are among the

worst times for this reason.

You can water at night, but it is risky. While you won't have to worry about high evaporation rates, there is a chance you might make your plants more prone to infections, particularly bacterial and fungal diseases. The best time to water is early in the morning.

From

Amy Grant  
*Gardening Know How*

### **Summary of February's Meeting**

February's meeting was informative and interesting. Bryan Wyndam presented a program on Bromeliad terrestrials. It included many of his crosses with **Dyckia** species and hybrids. He also displayed some Thailand species. At the end of the program, he demonstrated how to remove a **Dyckia** that was root bound from its pot. A sale of his plants was held.

### **Volunteers needed!**

We still need a hospitality chair and helpers. Duties are bringing coffee and drinks to the meetings and supervising the hospitality table at the Show. Contact Mike O'Neal to volunteer for this year:  
[moneal37@gmail.com](mailto:moneal37@gmail.com)



## Cultural tips

# Spring Is in the Air

Spring might be in the air, but it isn't here yet. It officially arrives on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:01 am CDT. In Rosehill, it often doesn't get here until much later. Houston weather during March is unpredictable. The average high is 73 degrees, with an average low of 56. Sounds great, but the nighttime lows can drop into the low 20s. The daytime highs can be in the upper 90s. Talk about a roller coaster ride!

I mention these statistics as a warning. When the weather warms and the sun comes out, gardeners want to go into overdrive. Don't fall into that trap. Take your time. Think things through. It will help you avoid a ton of misery.

Transitioning your plants from cold weather quarters to warm weather quarters can be intimidating. Let me give you a few suggestions.

- Pre-moving Tasks
  - ◇ Check plants for pests and diseases.
    - > Treat affected plants.
    - > Toss any plants that are dead or beyond hope of recovery.
  - ◇ Clean the space where the plants will be residing during warmer weather. Do any needed repairs.
  - ◇ Stock up on potting supplies. Spring often brings sales at nursery's and big box stores.
  - ◇ Clean your tools. Sharpen any that appear to be dull.
  - ◇ Groom your plants.
    - > Remove dead leaves.
    - > Pull those pesky weeds.
    - > Cut out old dead mother plants.
  - ◇ Decide what you want to do with the pups.
    - > Leave them with the mother if you want to grow the plant as a multiple.
    - > Remove and pot the larger pups if you want to propagate the plant.
  - ◇ Cull your collection
    - > It takes as much effort to care for an ugly plant that you don't like as it does to care for a beautiful plant that you love.
    - > Think about each plant. To paraphrase The Clash, should it stay or should it go.
      - If it stays, repot it if the mix in the container has deteriorated or if the plant has outgrown its container.
      - If it needs to go, decide what to do with it.
        - \* Put it on the raffle table.
        - \* Sell it at one of the Society's plant sales.
        - \* Give it away.
        - \* Plant it in the yard.
        - \* Compost it.
- Moving Plants To Their Summer Home
  - ◇ Survey the locations where you will summer your plants.
    - > Put your sun loving plants such as *Dyckias*, *Hechtias*, *Ananas*, and most *Tillandsias* in the sunniest locations. *Cultural Tips continued on p. 10*

- > Save your shady locations for *Guzmanias*, *Vrieseas*, and most *Cryptanthus*.
- ◇ Do the move in stages.
  - > Move cold tolerant plants such as *Dyckias* and *Aechmea recurvatas* first.
  - > Next move *Neoregelias*, *Billbergias*, *Tillandsias* and the remaining *Aechmeas*.
  - > Move *Ananas* and other warm growing species last.
- ◇ Do it slowly.
  - > You can't safely move a plant directly from a shady location to a sunny one. The plant will probably sunburn. You should do the move in stages.
  - > The light at the plant's new location should be about 20-25% brighter than it was at the old location.
  - > It will take about 2 months for the plant to adjust to the light at its new location.
  - > To go from shade to full sun could take 2 or 3 moves taking 4 to 6 months.

Last, but not least, enjoy your plants.



Needs major clean up



This plant needs a lot of grooming

### Don't Confuse Them

In the roller coaster weather we've been having, I move my succulents alternately from the patio to my sewing room. I mentioned to my husband that I had better move my plants inside because of the forecast. He immediately said to put them into the greenhouse, not the sewing room. Why? "because you'll confuse them." I had to chuckle for this personification of plants. He replied that moving the plants inside where its warmer make them think its time to grow. Then, putting them into the colder outside, tells them to stop growing. "You confuse them." The greenhouse on the other hand has a constant temperature and humidity for them.

The Editor

# Identify Me E. Kouzounis

Can you identify these for Elayne?



#1



#2



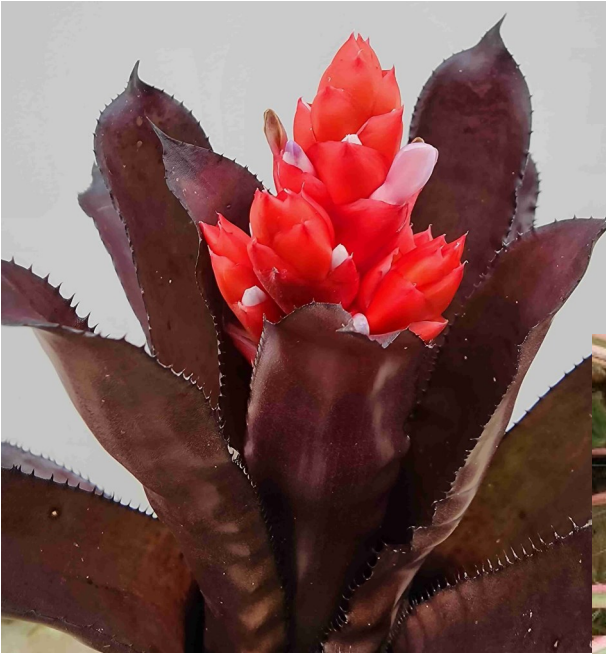
#3



#4

# MARCH BROMS

## The Lee's



*Quesnelia edmondoi* 'Black Form'



*Ananas variegata*



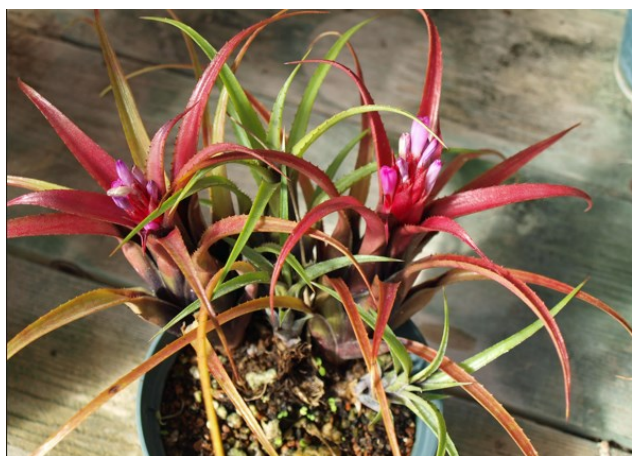
*Dyckia estevesii*



*Sincorea navioides*

## **MARCH BROMS**

### **The Whipkey's**



*Aechmea recurvata var benrathii x*  
*Ae. orlandiana*



*Tillandsia ionantha var vanhyningii*



*Dyckia 'Red Devil'*



*Billbergia 'Fantasia'*

# **MARCH BROMS**

## **Aaron Davilla**



*Tillandsia ixiioides*



*Tillandsia 'Rechoncho'*

## ASK THE EDITOR



I have *Tillandsias* that I usually hang in the south side of the house. They get good sun in the spring but in the summer they don't because the sun moves north and the tills end up in shade.

My question is can the tills take west sun? That would be sun from noon on. I worry about the summer and burning. But maybe they need that to color up. But there is nothing to block the sun in the direction until early evening.

The Tills should do ok in the west if they have been acclimated to the sun. Don't take them out of the garage and put them on the west side. Once they have been exposed to the southern sun for a while, they should do alright on the west side.

Thanks for your question

# BULLETIN BOARD



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Annette Dominguez	3/18
Alma Gordon	3/1
Eileen Ihlanfeldt	3/13
David Klein	3/17
Anita Lovato	3/2
Sue Softy	3/3

## Spring Sale at 1475 West Grey

**March 15, 2025**

When participating at a sale, make sure you have a number that has been approved by Allyn Pearlman. Then prepare your plants by weeding and cleaning them. Place two labels in the pot with your plant. One label will have your number and the price. The other label will have your number with the name of the plant. Prices should be in whole dollar amounts (ex. \$4). Only bromeliads or bromeliad-related materials are accepted.

Members receive 80% of their total sales.



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

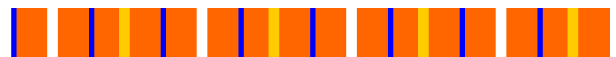
## Houston Cactus and Succulent Society

[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



Hospitality for the March meeting will be provided by letters A-M.

There will be a raffle for the March meeting.



## 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

## **2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

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Don Greene

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
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**Through 2026**

Vickey Gurka

tbd

**Through 2027**

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Allyn Pearlman

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**HOSPITALITY (TBD)**

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Linda Whipkey

### **BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL-----**

Annette Dominquez

Margo Racca

Cherie Lee

Daniel Wolf

## **MARCH Meeting Zoom Link**

Bromeliad Society Houston 2025 Monthly  
Meeting

Time: MAR 18, 2025 06:30 PM Central Time  
(US and Canada)

Every month on the Third Tue, until Nov  
18, 2025, 11 occurrences

Monthly Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85266221495?pwd=KM2UwUzh4LXcmRasBLIzYlQWkYuauc.1>

Meeting ID: 852 6622 1495  
Passcode: 625577



**Happy St. Patrick's  
Day**