

Bromeliad Society

Read your bulletin!



MAY 2025 Volume 58 Number 5

President's View



Mike O'Neal

moneal37@gmail.com

As summer approaches, I hope you've had time to clean up your collections and get your bromeliads looking their best. Personally, I keep wondering—where does all the time go? I certainly could have used more of it to prepare my plants for the show. Fortunately, I had prepped quite a few for the spring sale and was able to bring the leftovers to the show sale—most of which found new homes.

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered for the show! It was wonderful to see so many of our friends and out-of-town members join in. These events require a lot of effort, and every contribution truly matters. Thanks also to those who brought plants to enter—we had over 130 entries this year, even more than last! With so many beautiful specimens and some truly artistic displays, I'd call it a rousing success.

And of course, thanks to everyone who came to the dinner and auction and helped make it a great event. I've enjoyed serving as our auctioneer over the past year, thanks largely to the enthusiastic participation of our members. (Continued page 2)

From the sewing room to the show room, *Tillandsia exserta*. This last minute grab won a blue ribbon.



See more show pictures inside.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

[Happy Birthday](#)
[May Meeting Information](#)
[Reminders](#)
[Summary of April Meeting](#)
[Congratulations](#)
[Poison Ivy](#)
[Cultural Tips](#)
[Bits and Pieces](#)
[May Show](#)
[Bulletin Board](#)
[More News](#)
 [May Meeting Zoom Link](#)
 [ABC's](#)
 [Dutch Lunch](#)
[Officers, Directors, Committees](#)

(Continued)

What makes this society so special is the commitment everyone brings to making our events not just successful, but also fun and rewarding. I really enjoy every moment of it, and I hope you do too.

We are currently looking for a webmaster who can help keep the website up to date. We need someone with some Wordpress knowledge and experience to do maintenance and create new pages as we look to update it. A volunteer member, of course, would be great, but we are willing to pay someone for some of this work on an hourly basis or something similar as well. Let me know if you know someone who might be a good fit. I'd love to hear from you! We have quite a bit to catch up on including pictures from the show.

Looking ahead, I'm especially excited about this month's program—it's like getting free landscape design advice! Be sure to send in your yard photos so Joanne can help you create a beautiful plan that incorporates bromeliads and other plants—many of which they can supply from Jimbo's, I'm sure.

To cap off the month, I hope to see you at Jimbo's for their 50th anniversary party on the 31st. It's a bit of a drive for most of us, but always well worth it. I know we'll be organizing a group to head down, and I definitely plan to attend. Look for more details in the bulletin and upcoming emails.

Enjoy your May before the summer heat starts to set in! I know I have more things starting to bloom than I've had in a few years and I hope to see yours at Show and Tell at the meeting.

See you there!

Mike

moneal37@gmail.com

Bromeliad Events Coming up:

<u>May Meeting</u>	<u>May 20</u>
<u>Trip to Jimbo's Nursery in Santa Fe</u>	<u>May 31</u>
<u>PowerPoint Class</u>	<u>June 14</u>
<u>ABC's</u>	<u>June 21</u>
<u>Luncheon</u>	<u>July 12</u>

See inside for
more info.

YIKES!! LANDSCAPING WITH BROMELIADS... IN HOUSTON??????

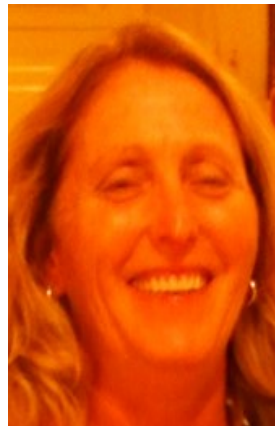
May Program

Are you stumped for plant ideas in that sunny spot in the middle of your yard? Would you like ideas for the entry to your house? What about the shady spots that never seem to get enough sun?

Well...May 20th the monthly meeting of the Bromeliad Society/Houston will be filled with ideas for your yard and beyond. The program, presented by Joanne Woolsey, landscape and Bromeliad expert at Jimbo's Nursery, will be centered on finding ways to showcase your bromeliads (and perhaps some other plants) in your yard.

Joanne has collected yard photos from members who need advice and hopes to receive more yard shots for inclusion in the program. You can send them to Jimbosnursery75@gmail.com as soon as you are able.

It will prove to be an interactive and informative program for all.
Be sure to attend



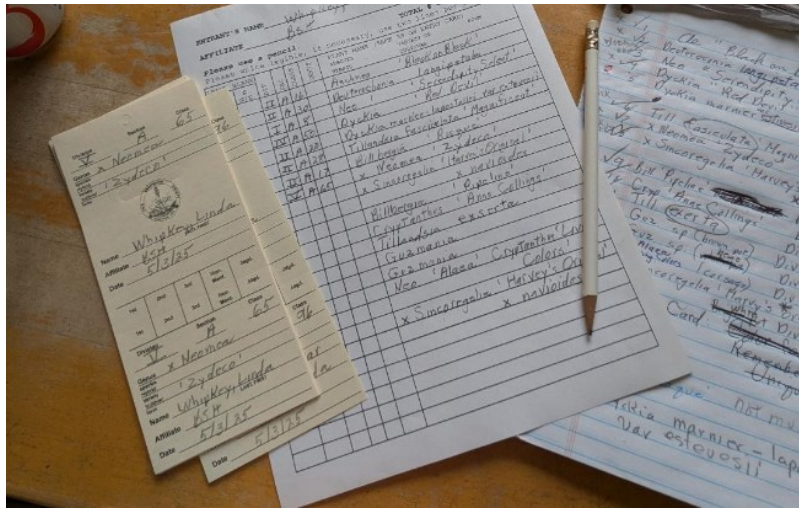
Joanne Woolsey



MAY 20, 2025
7PM

West Gray Multiservice Center
1475 W Gray St, Houston, TX 77019
The Public is welcome

Getting ready for the show



The 2025 Bromeliad Standard Show



Some of The Head Table



Photos by Noreen Tolman

Reminders

There will be a free PowerPoint class on June 14 held at the West Grey Multi-service center. Bring a highlighter, a pen and your laptop. We will be covering instructional design and the PowerPoint functionality. 10 am to 2 pm.

Email Lindawhipkey@ymail.com to RSVP
Let me know by May 20.
Come join us.

Jimbo's Celebration
Cheers to 50 years. We've been growing since 1975. Join us as we celebrate our 50th birthday with the community.

Workshops | Live Music | Giveaways
Free Beer & Wine | Bounce House

MAY 31ST

11AM-3PM

JIMBO'S NURSERY
15019 8TH STREET
SANTA FE TX 77517

NOTE: This celebration will be considered our May Dutch Lunch.

Deadline for bulletin articles and pictures for JUNE is MAY 26. Send in your pictures of the Show!

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX MAY Meeting Zoom Link

Bromeliad Society Houston 2025 Monthly Meeting
Time: MAY 20, 2025 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
Every month on the Third Tue, until Nov 18, 2025, 11 occurrences

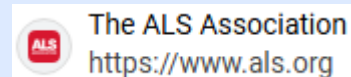
Monthly Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85266221495?pwd=KM2UwUzh4LXcmRasBLIzYlQWkYUauc.1>

Meeting ID: 852 6622 1495
Passcode: 625577

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

The Bromeliad Society /Houston will be donating to the ALS Association in memory of **Carole Richtmyer**. If individual members would like to donate as well, the address is: **ALS Association, POBox 37022, Boone Iowa 50037** for checks.

Or, in your favorite search engine, search for **ALS ASSOCIATION**. Scroll until you see :



Select that item. In the right hand upper corner, select your **state** and click **Donate**. Enter your information and click **Yes** to Tribute gift. Use the drop down arrow to choose Type of gift.

Is this a tribute gift?

☒ Yes, this is an honor or memorial gift

Honor gift type

In Memory of

*Honoree Full Name:

Carole Richtmyer

Then complete the form with your card number.

You may also give to the charity of your choice in Carole's name.

Thank You.

Summary of April's Meeting

For the April meeting, Dr. Larry Giroux presented a nostalgic look at the life of Carole Richtmyer.

Many of us didn't know all of her interests including bird watching. And we certainly didn't know that she and Rick were as adventurous enough to go caving.

It was a remembrance very well done.

Congratulations are in order for our member:

Maylon Lemar Adams
Graduating in the Class of 2025
Wake Forest University



Bachelor of Science Degree in
Biology and specialization in
Economics

Good Luck in all you do!

How to Identify Poison Ivy

If you love being outdoors, learning how to identify [poison ivy](#) is a necessary skill. The experience of spending a few days with itchy, stinging, blistered skin from this innocent-looking plant can bring home how important it is to acknowledge its presence and avoid any contact with it in the garden or out on a hike. Every part of poison ivy is coated with urushiol. That means the leaves, stems and roots can have the same irritating effect on human skin wherever it's touched by any part of the plant and the oil can cling to clothing. Some people are not allergic to urushiol, but caution is always advised.

The poison ivy plant release urushiol whenever it is bruised, brushed against, broken or damaged, or even when it's burned. Direct contact with or inhaling smoke from the plant can cause a rash or worse.



The tricky aspect of identifying poison ivy is that it blends in beautifully with other woodland understory plants like shrubs, vines and saplings. It doesn't appear the slightest bit threatening or remarkable and would not normally catch your attention. What do poison ivy leaves look like? You may expect this notorious plant to have a dramatic or more noticeable presentation, but it looks like many other low shrubs or climbing vines. Here are some features to look for: They grow on a vine. Each leaf has three leaflets, generally oval, roughly toothed and pointed. Sometimes the two side leaflets appear to have a "thumb" or a point on one side of the leaf. The middle leaf in the trio is the largest. The leaves are alternate, meaning they do not appear directly across from each other along the stem but are staggered. Poison ivy leaves are shiny and red-

tinged in spring, but become dull and green as they mature. In autumn, the leaves turn a mahogany red-brown. You might see yellowish flowers in early summer, followed by white berries. Poison ivy is deciduous, which means it loses all its leaves and berries in winter. Be careful out there!

From Gardening Know-How

Cultural Tips

I am really enjoying the lovely weather we have been having lately. Sometimes I get so wrapped up in doing my gardening chores that I forget to “stop and smell the roses”. Most of us probably spend a large amount of time working with our plants. Now is a great time as many of the plants are at their prime. Unfortunately some plants will lose some of their color and start to exhibit signs of stress later this month as the temperatures begin to hit the mid to upper 90s. Before the heat takes its toll, you can have coffee with your favorite *Canistrum* or supper on the patio with a beautiful *Sincoraea*.

May is a good month to evaluate your collection of plants. If you are like me, your taste tends to change over time. Plants that I loved in the past might have lost their allure. Some things that you might want to consider during your evaluation are:

Are there plants that you really like?

If so you might want to grow more of them.

Can you rearrange your garden so that your favorites are prominently displayed.

Are there some plants that you don't like?
Consider giving them away, or relegating them to the trash.

Are there plants don't grow well for you?
You might want to ask other growers what you might be doing incorrectly or you could just get rid of them.

Is your space limited?
You might want to get rid of your larger plants and replace them with something smaller. For example replace your large *Neoregelia concentrica* with a group of miniature *Neoregelia* hybrids.

In May, your plants have probably shifted their growth into overdrive. They will appreciate a bit more fertilizer. If rain is sparse, be sure to wa-

ter well. You will still need to watch your plants for signs of sunburn and be ready to move them into an area that has more shade. Near the end of the month sun loving plants moved from 50% light to 70% in early spring, can be moved into almost full sun. Days will probably still be mild but the daytime high temperatures will definitely be increasing.



Sincoraea rafaellii

Tropiflora photo

Now is a good time to work on some of those gardening tasks you have been putting off. Finish the majority of your pupping and potting chores. Look around your garden to see if there is a new area where you can display plants.

One last topic you might want to think about. We are heading into summer, but you might want to consider how you are going to store your collection this winter. Is it possible to construct a small greenhouse? Can you enclose your patio? Act now while you still have plenty of time to finish any projects before the temperatures start to plummet.

Bits and Pieces

Taken from The Spruce newsletter

A BROMELIAD IS A GOOD CHOICE FOR YOU IF:

- You have pets and want a stunning non-toxic plant to have around them.
- You want an indoor plant that can survive in even 40°F temperatures.
- You have an east- or west-facing window that can provide bright, indirect light

Bromeliads prefer temperatures between 60°F and 85°F. Some cold-hardy types can survive temperatures down to 20°F but generally, they can't thrive under 40°F.⁴

They grow well indoors in 40-50 percent humidity. In many climates, bromeliads can be moved outdoors during the summer.

Some bromeliads tolerate drought conditions, but they prefer moist, not soggy, soil. In a typical house, it's usually not necessary to keep the central cup of the plant constantly filled with water unless you have bright light and high temperatures in your home.

Flush the central cup every so often to remove built-up salts. Water the soil sparingly when the top 2 inches feel dry to the touch. Water weekly during the growing season and reduce frequency during the winter.⁴

Epiphytes (air plants without soil) need misting and a good soaking by submerging them in water once per week.

Provide bright, indirect light unless your bromeliad prefers a different light level. Generally, varieties with soft, flexible, spineless leaves usually prefer lower light levels, while those with stiff, hard leaves prefer bright indirect light. Some even withstand full tropical sun, while others quickly scorch.

Plants that turn yellowish might be getting too much light, while dark green or elongated plants might receive too little light.

Bromeliads grown indoors thrive in fast-draining [potting soil](#) that holds moisture. A mixture of 2/3 peat-based soil and 1/3 sand is ideal. Or use orchid mix, charcoal, or soilless potting mix.

Hardiness Zones	10-11 (USDA)
Native Area	North America, Central

Houston: Growing Zone 9



Look at the plant labels in your big box stores.

What are the limitations of the zone map? From Gurney's Nurseries

The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is based on **average temperatures**. If you are growing a plant that is marginally cold hardy for your zone, a winter with below average temperatures could damage or kill the plant. Also remember **microclimates exist** within each zone. An unprotected area in a field is likely to experience lower temperatures than a protected area on the south side of your home.

What other factors determine plant survival and growth?

Sunlight: Some plants prefer full sun (six or more hours of sunlight daily) while others grow best in the shade (less than two hours of direct sunlight daily).

Soil types and structure: Soil can vary from region to region and even in different locations in your yard or garden. Some plants need loamy, well-drained soil while others will grow in clay and other types of soil.

Soil pH: Some plants, like blueberries, require acidic soils. Others grow happily in neutral or alkaline soil.

Summer temperatures: Some plants thrive in hot summer temperatures while others prefer cooler climates.

Water: While all plants need water, some require more than others. Drought-tolerant plants are able to go a little longer without water.

Air circulation: Some plants, like roses, need good air flow, while others don't need as much.

BULLETIN BOARD



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Ruby Adams	5/15 our new octogenarian
Cynthia Johnson	5/18
Jane Littell	5/13
Jarrett Stowe	5/23
Linda Thomas	5/26
Audrey Wanger	5/4



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



Houston Orchid Society

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

Regular meeting third Sunday of month at 2:00 PM

Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center

2020 Hermann Drive., Houston, TX 77004



June 21 ABC's

The 2025 ABC's will be held at the West Grey facility. It will be composed of small workshops and it takes the



place of the June monthly meeting. One of the workshops will be a class in macrame, the art of tying knots. You will leave the class with your plant hanger fit for any brom or houseplant. Bring an empty 6

inch pot.

If you are interested in taking the class, let me know by sending me an email:

lindawhipkey@gmail.com by May 20.



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

There will be a raffle for the meeting.



Houston Cactus and Succulent Society

www.hcsstex.org

Regular meeting fourth Wednesday of month at 7:00 PM

Metropolitan Multi-Service Center

1475 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019

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More News

MAY Meeting Zoom Link

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(US and Canada)

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Meeting ID: 852 6622 1495

Passcode: 625577



A **Dutch Lunch** will be held on July 12, 2025

At Cheddars on the 290 West feeder just before the Barker Cypress exit. Get there around 12:30 pm. Please RSVP with Linda by June 28. lindawhipkey@gmail.com



Raffle Winners from April meeting:

Rick Richtmyer
Mike O'Neal
Troy Merchant
Marianne Canevaro

Donors to the Raffle include:

Gordon Stowe
David Whipkey
Cherie Lee

The Raffle made \$42