

Bromeliad Society

Read your bulletin!



JULY 2025 Volume 58 Number 7



The President's View

Mike O'Neal



Cool Plants!

That is the answer to a question I probably should have been asking sooner. I was discussing making a Bromeliad Society sign for our booth at the Farmer's Market with my wife when she asked, 'Why?' I asked what she meant, and she said, '*It wouldn't make me want to stop.*'. Which gets me to the question I should have been asking... What would?



A Simple but Powerful Idea

Her answer made me rethink how we show off what we do. We all know that **bromeliads are cool plants**—but others don't. That's where the sign idea came in. She created one for the Farmer's Market that simply said "You can grow Cool Plants. We will show you how."



Education Is Our Mission

Education is a core part of our mission as a society. This sign idea begs you to come learn. We're lucky to have several wonderful educators and world-class growers in our group...

(continued next page)

Bromeliad Events Coming up:

Luncheon at Cheddar's

July 12 12:30 pm (see page 4)

July Program:

The Story of Tillandsias presented by Aaron Davila July 15, 2025 (see page 3)

August Program:

Dr. Sylvia Dee (Rice University)- Climate Change in General and its Effect on People and Plants August 19, 2025 (see page 11)

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—all eager to share their knowledge. So how do we market well to get more people in front of them to further our mission? Maybe the answer is...Cool Plants!

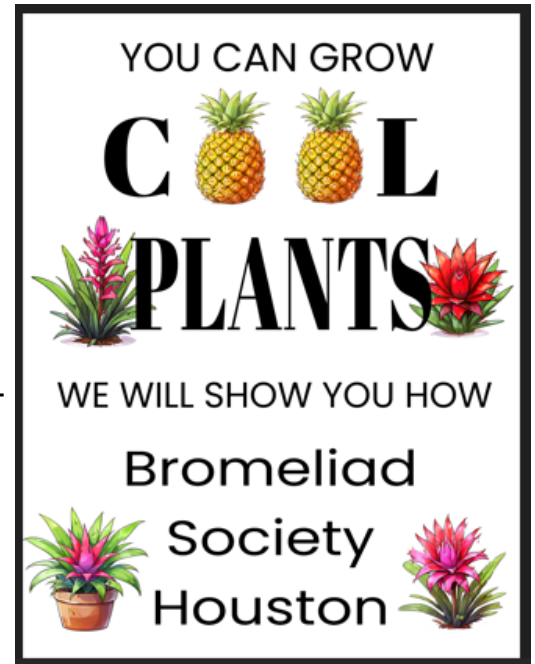


Farmer's Market Recap

Speaking of the Farmer's Market, Scherie did a great job of putting it together and I felt it was a great success given some challenging weather. Contact info for quite a few potential new members was acquired. There's a summary of it here in the bulletin. My own observations confirmed the interest in cool plants.

- The showy hanging tillandsia displays that Scherie brought attracted attention. They got eyeballs on us.
- The mini pineapple (on an Ananas) became a conversation starter and crowd favorite.

- We have a name recognition challenge. Using familiar names like 'Air Plants,' 'Spanish Moss,' and 'Pineapple' made bromeliads feel more accessible and familiar to visitors.



Planning Ahead: World Bromeliad Conference 2026

And where do several of our members get some of their cool plants? It's not too early to be thinking about attending the World Bromeliad Conference (WBC) next year. I was reminded of it in a few different ways last week and how much I have enjoyed every one I have attended. I strongly recommend it and I'm already thinking about going to California next year for it. You can find out more info about it at <https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>.



Until Next Time...As summer heat ramps up, I hope you—and your plants—stay:



Well-Watered



Sheltered from the sun



Cool and thriving

See you at the next meeting!

> Mike

moneal37@gmail.com



Happy Independence
Day

Farmer's Market Spring Branch June 14

We had a rousing success at the Farmer's Market on Saturday.

Scherie Townes and Debbie Taylor led the way to set up our first Farmer's Market appearance. Mike O'Neal, Sheila Ross, Don Greene and John Sarkesian helped man the station. A total of \$60 was brought in. Plants were donated by Mike, Mary Cinotto, Vickey Gurka, Don, Scherie and Christopher Goodgame. A great outpouring of time and caring for the society. Thanks to all who participated. Do it again on July 12 at the same location, **St. Christopher Episcopal Church 1656 Blalock Road, Houston, TX**



July Program The Mini-Exotics

THE STORY OF TILLANDSIAS

July's Bromeliad Society meeting is just around the corner, and it is always fun to join with other plant lovers at our meetings to learn from our monthly presenters/experts.

On July 15 we are honored to have our own Tillandsia expert, Aaron Davila, present the historical and scientific background of Tillandsias followed by some very practical information on care and nurturing of those that we have in our collections.

Aaron was a member of the Dallas Fort Worth Bromeliad Society from 2006. He joined Bromeliad Society International (BSI) and our own Bromeliad Society/Houston in 2014. He was director for the SW Bromeliad Guild and is an accredited Judge for BSI. He is acknowledged for his own beautiful show plants.

Let us all welcome visitors and members alike to our Houston meeting on July 15!!!

T. ionantha



T. 'Really Red'

Reminders



Dutch Luncheon for July

At Cheddars, 23948 Northwest Freeway (US 290 West).

The restaurant is on the feeder before you get to the Barker Cypress Exit. Stay in the right lane. Turn into the driveway in front of the restaurant.

12:30 July 12, 2025

RSVP by July 9

Enjoy each other's company and discuss plants.



Deadline for bulletin articles and pictures for August is July 28. Send me those pictures of your broms. Send a jpeg to me. I need your pictures for the bulletin.

lindawhipkey@ymail.com



XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Our New Board Member is:

Sheila Ross

Born and raised in New Orleans, LA

BS in Geology from the University of New Orleans

MS in Geology from Texas A&M University (emphasis in Petroleum Geoscience)

Career as Petroleum Geoscientist at Exxon. Worked in both the Development and Exploration arenas. Spent entire career with Exxon in Houston.

Married to Jim Piccolo. We met at Exxon. No children. We both enjoy traveling, cooking, hiking, and biking and try to do as much of those things as possible.

I love nature and being out-of-doors, and fill that need through gardening. My passion for all things tropical in the garden was fueled by my mother's passion for that. My first bromeliads were plants that my mom shared with me and they always seem to be the ones that continue to do the best! The bromeliads I have are mostly Aechmeas and Neos but through my short time with the Bromeliad Society Houston I've been introduced to others such as Billbergias and Cryptanthus which I'm thoroughly enjoying incorporating with my Aechmeas and Neos.

I look forward to serving on the Board with BSH and hope to contribute to the success of BSH through this position. I've still got a lot to learn and am encouraged knowing that I've got lots of experts at BSH to help grow my knowledge!

Thank you for volunteering as a board member!

Summary of JUNE ABC's June 21, 2025

The ABC's were lively and stimulating.

There was a bit of a snafu with West Grey assigning us to rooms not usually encountered. However, Gordon and Shirl Stowe came through to make it a successful event. Arts and Crafts took the stage when Linda Whipkey and Mary Cinotto shared information and knowledge about the skill of knotting and the art of sketching respectively.

About a dozen BS/H members attended the 'Preparing & Judging Show Plants' program presented by Don Green, Cherie Lee, and Rick Richtmyer which included five members who have never entered a plant into a BS/H show. The seven horticultural divisions in our show were discussed including the distinctions between single / multiple, blooming / non-blooming, and horticultural / horticultural displays. Judging parameters were also reviewed. Show plant selection and preparation were then discussed. This was followed by a group discussion of how to make show worthy plants from over a dozen bromeliads with various issues including old mothers, immature pups, leaf damage, etc. and also how to select the correct horticultural division for the entrees.

Mike O'Neal presented a review of the ways to identify unknown bromeliads using the internet. He explored the resources like the BSI registry to identify several plants. His program attracted many of our members.

Anniversary Party at Jimbo's Nursery (Santa Fe, TX)

May 31, 2025

A great time was had by all at the party. BS/H was well represented. The weather was nearly perfect. See pictures.



A Motley Dozen



Beautiful Broms



Festivities

Cultural Tips

For our
tropicals

Summer has definitely arrived. July brings mosquitos, sky high temperatures, and little rain unless we get a hurricane. The trees and grass are showing their vibrant shades of green. It does give us a good excuse to spend some time indoors where it is cool.

Education is one of the BS/H's major goals. We all need to continue to expand our knowledge. You either grow, or you stagnate and wither away. Which will you choose? I hope many of you attended Mike O'Neal's presentation on using the internet to identify plants at last month's ABC meeting. While you are enjoying a cooling break why not fire up the computer and put those new skills to good use. Why not do some research on an unfamiliar Bromeliad genus?

A few of the less common genera that grow well in Houston that you might find interesting include *Hohenbergia*, *Nidularium*, *Ortho-phytum*, and *Portea*. If bigeneric hybrids tickle your fancy you might research *xSincoregelia*, *xDyckcohnia*, or *xCryptbergia*. I wonder how many of you can pick which of the 3 bigeneric listed above no longer exists? Bonus points if you can tell me why that name is no longer used. If you don't know you can find the answer in the **Bromeliad Cultivar Register** (BCR) that is located on the Bromeliad Society International's website (www.bsi.org)

When you do go outdoors, take a good look at your plants. Hopefully you are growing them because you enjoy working with them, observing them, and learning about them. Like I said last month identify small problems early so you can correct them before they become big problems. One of the best things you can do to prevent problems is to keep your plants well groomed. Pull dead leaves and live weeds. If a plant is sun burning, move it to a shadier location. On the other hand, if it is getting leggy, move it to a sunnier location.

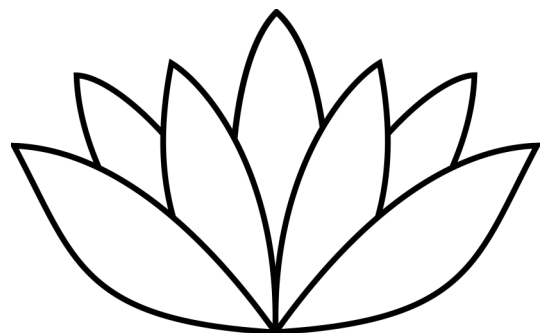
If a plant has a cup, keep it clean. Since, mosquitos love stagnant water, flush the cups on a

regular basis with clean water. To be on the safe side, you might want to consider using Mosquito Dunks, a product containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*, to kill the larva. To kill the adults you can use an insecticidal spray that is approved for use on mosquitos. Any time you use a commercial product, be sure to read the label and use only as directed.

If the weather is hot and dry, pay attention to the quality of your water. Rainwater is best. Reverse osmosis water is good, as is dehumidifier water. Depending on where you live, city water and well water can be great or terrible depending on its pH and mineral content.

While you are walking around the garden, keep an eye out for plants that have finished blooming. If you are not into growing plants from seed, remove the old inflorescence. I will warn you that some plants, such as *Deuterocohnias*, bloom again on the old spike. Remove it and you are removing some future blooms. If the plant still looks fine after removing the inflorescence, give it a little extra fertilizer to encourage the development of pups and leave it alone. However, if it is beginning to look a little worse for wear, you can move it to a less visible location after you fertilize it.

That's it for now. Stay safe.



JULY Broms

EASY CARE EXOTICS



Aechmea nudicaulus
L. Whipkey



Aechmea chantinii 'Black'
Frank Lee



Billbergia 'Smokestack'
Frank Lee

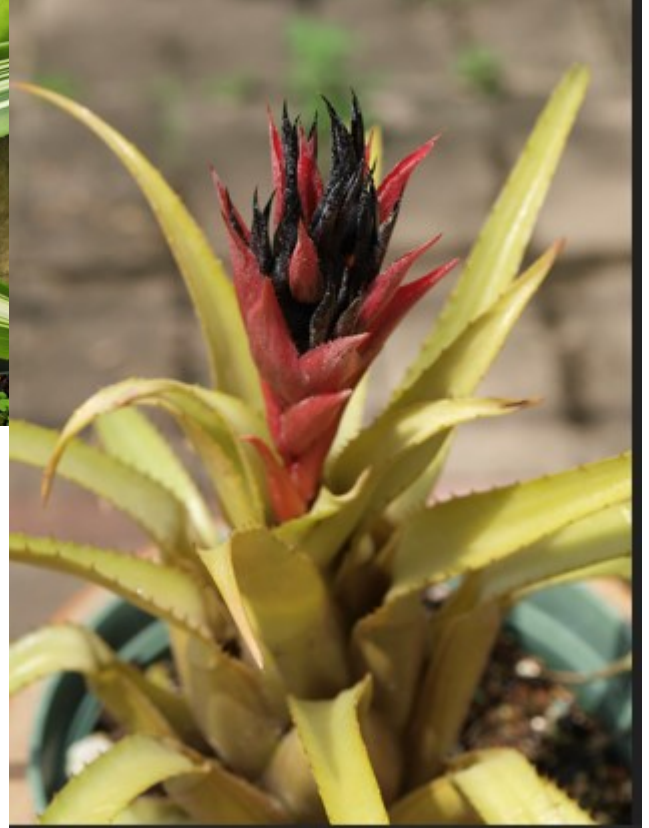


Cryptanthus bahianus rubra
Frank Lee

July Broms UNIQUELY BROMELIAD



Neoregelia johannis variegata
Frank Lee



Aechmea recurvata x orlandiana
D, Whipkey



Ananas erectifolius
D. Whipkey



Dyckia 'Yellow Glow'
D. Whipkey

More About Landscaping...

In May, Joanne Woolsey showed us how to add our exotic bromeliads to our common spaces around our property. She used a piece of software to add plants to spaces that needed bits of color and drama. Results were astounding. It should motivate us to re-do or start updating our living space outside.

Landscaping projects range from complex to simple, but anything you want to do costs some money. When you don't want to spend a fortune, a budget is critical. Can you improve your [outdoor living space](#) without breaking the bank? Fortunately, the answer is yes! Using your own bromeliads or some newly purchased ones, you can brighten a dull space (Editor). Here are some great backyard landscaping ideas on a budget.



Good fences make good neighbors, as the old adage goes, and they also are important features in garden landscaping. Fences can play many roles on your property, from delineating the borders of your land to keeping pets in and wildlife out. When you're looking for cheap backyard landscaping ideas for fencing, consider updating existing fencing, opting for [lower-cost fencing designs](#), or using repurposed materials for construction.

Why toss unused household items in the trash when you can recycle them into landscaping materials? This 'win-win' idea is one way to upcycle unneeded items and use them in the garden or larger landscape. Ready to get creative? It's time to look into ideas for using [upcycled materials](#) as garden fixtures or art.

More info at [Backyard Landscaping Ideas On A Budget: 6 Low-Cost Upgrades | Gardening Know How](#)

[Teo Spengler](#) copyright

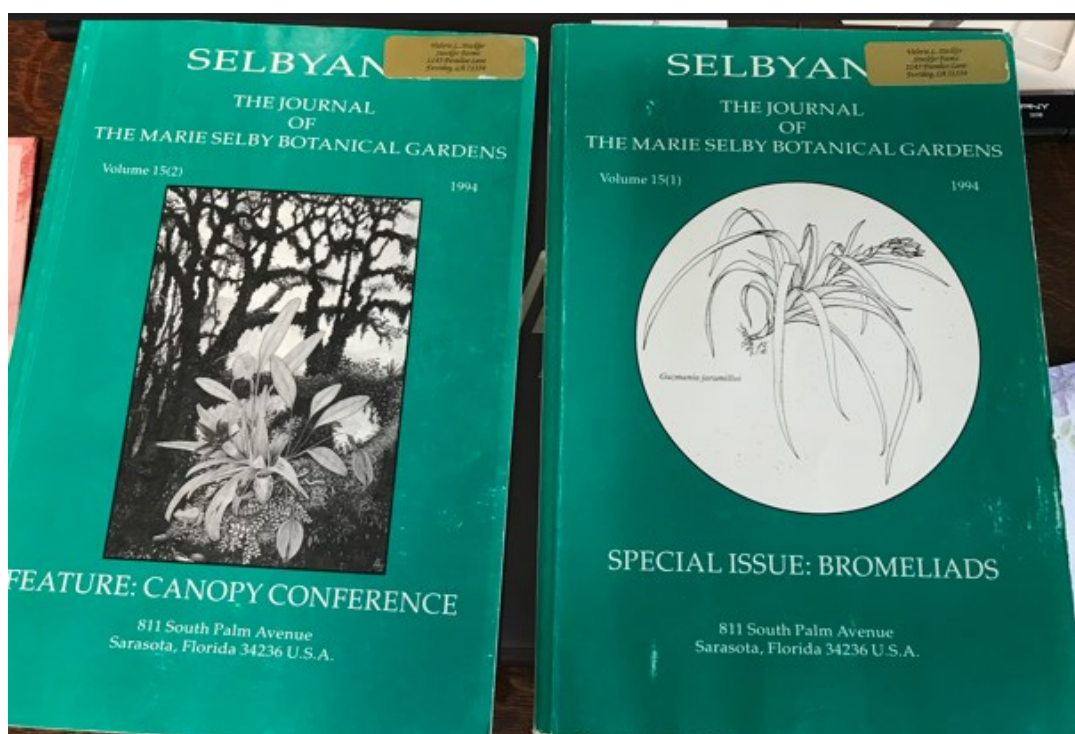


Images from Getty Images

From the Gardening Knowhow newsletter



Images from L. Whipkey



Add to your collection of botanical references or start one with this item, Volume 15 (booklet 1 and 2) of the Journal of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.

They are previously owned and there is a very slight water damage area on the top of the first couple pages of the second booklet.

They are for sale at \$8.00 to the first person to contact Shirl Stowe Birddog19@outlook.com or (360) 509 5144.

Don't miss your chance to have these in your library.

August Program

Dr. Sylvia Dee, an Assistant Professor at Rice University, is a climate scientist who evaluates climate data and simulations to understand future risks to human and natural systems. Her research focuses on how Earth's climate cycles like El Niño are affected by climate change. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering from Princeton University, and a Ph.D. in climate dynamics at the University of Southern California. She was named a Gulf Research Program Early-Career Research Fellow in 2021 for her work on climate change impacts on extreme heat, coastal rainfall and coral reef bleaching.

She will be speaking to us with an emphasis on how climate change affects people and plants.



Dr. Sylvia Dee

Come hear Dr. Dee speak and learn more about your planet.



BULLETIN BOARD



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Melon Lemar Adams	7/9
Mary Cinotto	7/25
Aaron Davila	7/23
Kay Gilbreath	7/24
Christopher Goodgame	7/22
Allyn Pearlman	7/12



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.tgcfersoc.org

Regular meeting third Sunday of month at 2:00 PM

Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center

2020 Hermann Drive., Houston, TX 77004



The PowerPoint Class June 14

The class was attended by: Rick Richtmyer, Ruby Adams, Shirl Stowe, Gordon Stowe and Mitch Fontenot.

After much work, PowerPoint was accessible to all attendees.

We learned about instructional design and its importance in adult learning. We also were able to start a content outline for a realistic presentation that could be delivered at a society meeting. Attendees created slides with pictures and music. Menu items in PowerPoint were demonstrated and music was in the air!

Snacks and lunch were available for attendees. The class was in session from 10-2.

Thanks to all who attended.



Maintain your *Neoregelias* by rinsing out the cups regularly.

Make sure your *Cryptanthus* are getting just enough water.

Dyckias love water in the summer.



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

Officers, Directors, Committees

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Michael O'Neal

SECRETARY
Don Greene

VICE PRESIDENT
Gordon Stowe

TREASURER
Allyn Pearlman

PAST PRESIDENT
Scherie Townes

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Through 2025
Frank Lee
Linda Whipkey

Through 2026
Vickey Gurka
Sheila Ross

Through 2027
Noreen Tolman
Malcolm McCorquodale

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PUBLICATIONS
Allyn Pearlman

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN
Gordon Stowe

STANDING COMMITTEES EX-OFFICIO
Cherie Lee & Margo Racca

PLANT SALES CHAIRMAN
Allyn Pearlman

COMMITTEES -----

ANNUAL SHOW
Vickey Gurka

HOSPITALITY (TBD)

BROMELIAD CULTURE
David Whipkey

MEMBERSHIP
Allyn Pearlman

COURTESY
Debbie O'Neal

SEEDLINGS
Allyn Pearlman

DIRECTORY and BULLETIN
Linda Whipkey

SHOW AND TELL
John Schmidt

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS
Linda Whipkey

RAFFLE
Cherie and Frank Lee

GARDEN TOURS
Gordon and Shirl Stowe

REGISTRATION
John Sarkisian

HISTORIAN
David Whipkey

ZOOM COMMUNICATION
Michael O'Neal

HOLIDAY PARTY CHAIRMAN
Allyn Pearlman

GROWTH AND ENGAGEMENT
Linda Whipkey

BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL-----

Don Greene
Margo Racca

Cherie Lee
Daniel Wolf

More News

A Dutch Lunch (pay your own way)
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 July 9.

lindawhipkey@ymail.com Come
eat and enjoy talking with us!

XX



Aechmea 'Fantasia'

A living art form