Bromeliad Society

Corrected version

HOUSTON Inc.

NOVEMBER 2026 Volume 59 Number 11

November President's View

Looking Back, Looking Forward

It's hard to believe that we're approaching the end of another year—and the end of my two years as president of BSH.

These past two years have been interesting, sometimes challenging, and certainly rewarding. We've tried some new things, brought back some old traditions, and spent a lot of time talking about how we can introduce more people to bromeliads and encourage them to become part of our community.

One of the things I've tried to emphasize throughout my presidency is that BSH is about more than the plants we grow. It's about the people who share our interest, the knowledge and experiences we exchange, and the friendships we develop along the way.

We've had some successes, and there are still plenty of opportunities ahead. I'm especially encouraged by the new connections we're making and the willingness of members to try different approaches to reaching people.

New Connections at Houston Botanic Garden

Gordon and I recently had a great visit with the folks at Houston Botanic Garden. We discussed several opportunities for BSH and the Garden to work together, including plant displays, educational activities, and possibly future sales or even a show.

Everyone agreed that there's a lot of potential and that we should continue developing the re

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November Program

See page 11

Zoom info:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89412131955?pwd=KcnmZawPlxsZ6M7Cgyaazm4pEbiX4h.1

Meeting ID: 894 1213 1955 Passcode: 194524

HOSPITALITY IS A-M

There will be NO raffle.
There will be no seedlings in November, but look for them in January.
Bring plants for SHOW AND TELL in

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ationship and exploring what we might do together.

Between our return to Mercer for next year's Show and Sale, the possibilities at Jimbo's Nursery, and now our conversations with Houston Botanic Garden, I'm excited about the opportunities we're developing for the future.

A New Chapter for BSH

Next year will bring something we haven't seen in quite a while: **new officers in every position on the BSH board**.

I'm grateful that we have members willing to step into these roles and take on the responsibility of leading the society. Every new group of officers brings its own ideas, experiences, and perspectives, and I think that's healthy for an organization like ours.

And while my time as president is coming to an end, I'm certainly not disappearing! I've agreed to serve as **Show Chair for our 2027 Show and Sale at Mercer**. It's something I've never done before, so I'll be learning as I go—and I'll need plenty of help from all of you - so be ready for my call.

I hope everyone will give our incoming board the same support and encouragement you've given me and the current board. There will be plenty of opportunities to help, whether it's volunteering at an event, sharing your knowledge, welcoming a visitor, or simply showing up and participating.

The future of BSH depends on all of us, and I look forward to seeing what the new leadership team will accomplish.

A Few More Things Before the Year Ends

We still have some activities ahead of us before we wrap up 2026.

Our November 7th meeting will be something special, with Graeme Barclay joining us from New Zealand via Zoom for a Saturday afternoon program at Plants For All Seasons. It's another opportunity to try something different and make our meetings accessible to more people. Unfortunately, I'll be out of town for this one, but Gordon will be taking care of things in my absence.

We have our final board meeting of the year on Thursday, November 19th.

And, of course, we'll finish the year with our **annual holiday party in December at Casa Dominguez**. I hope you'll join us for an evening of good food, good company, and a little bromeliad fun. It will also be my final BSH event as president, and I'm looking forward to celebrating the end of the year with everyone.

Thank You!

As I wind down my time as president, I want to thank everyone who has helped make these two years possible.

To our board members, committee chairs, speakers, volunteers, and everyone who has taken on a task large or small—thank you. So much of what BSH does depends on people who are willing to give their time and energy, often working quietly behind the scenes.

And to all of our members, thank you for your participation, your encouragement, your ideas, and your friendship. I've appreciated the opportunity to work with you and to get to know many of you better.

Being president has certainly had its challenges, but I've genuinely enjoyed it. I've learned a lot, had some great experiences, and gained an even greater appreciation for the people ho make this society what it is. I'm proud of what we've accomplished together, and I'm optimistic about where BSH is headed. I hope we'll continue to try new things, welcome new people, share what we know, and remember that the real strength of our society is the community we've built around our favorite plant obsession. (continued)

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Thank you for letting me serve as your president these past two years. It's been a pleasure, and I look forward to continuing to be part of BSH for many years to come

See you at the holiday party!

Mikemoneal37@gmail.com

December. 5

6:00pm Cash Bar, Social Time and Auction Plant Preview
6:30pm Dinner and Social time
7:30pm Rare Plant Auction

Casa Dominguez

5213 Cedar St.

Bellaire, TX

Members $35 each

RSVP to Shirl Stowe

Vice President

360. 509 5144 immediately



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The consortium of donors will volunteer for the money going to buy plants for the auction. This money goes toward buying unique plants . Bring your money donation to the November meeting

Give your money or check to Cherie Lee



Thanks

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EDITORIAL

"Almost nothing, living or otherwise, grows in the direction of simplicity"

Teamwork

by Carl Larson and Frank LaFasto

As a student of biology, I am struck by the scientific truth of the above statement. When tracing the development of groups of living things by studying system organization, one finds that as groups change through time and new groups arise, they become more complex.

Take the development of the human body, for example: Parts get more specialized; functions get more sophisticated; groups of cells organize into tissues. From there organs begin to take form and complete the systems that support complex life. This pattern of complexity is found throughout the evolution of both plants and animals.

I am also amazed at the truth of this statement relative to organizations. In today's organizations, technologies bring not only more power, but a set of more complicated problems to solve. These problems are usually solved though cooperation among people. The more complicated the problems become, the greater need for team efforts – organized individuals complete the solution system. The book, Teamwork by Carl Larson and Frank LaFasto, during the original study, the authors wanted to develop a system for monitoring how well a team functions and for providing feedback to help improve the team's effectiveness. The authors noted that there is a consistency in the features of effective teams. These features include:

- A clear elevating goal. The team has both a clear understanding of the goal and a belief that is it worthwhile. In addition, the goal is focused and undiluted by politics or individual agendas
- A structure driven by results. The structure is appropriate for the achievements of the objectives. The design must make sense to the team and it must move the team along toward the final results.
- A collaborative climate. The primary means of working well together are: clearly defined roles, responsibilities, accountabilities, clear lines of communication, documentation and accurate record keeping. Finally, a feeling that fosters collaboration. Boiled down, that feeling is trust. The authors include four elements of trust:

  Honesty – no lies, no exaggerations
  Openness – sharing and receptiveness to ideas
  Consistency – predictable behavior
  Respect – treating people with fairness and dignity

This coming year, let's adopt these features of a strong organization for the Bromeliad Society/Houston. It's a big job, however, with collaborating teams, we can break down the work. If you are asked to serve on a team, think about it before responding. What does the team need to accomplish? How can you contribute to the team? Think about the role that the team will have in uniting and improving the society.

The team for the monthly bulletin is a good place to start. That team includes all of you. Deadlines are critical if we want the membership to be informed. The **new 2027 Policy for the deadline for articles** to be published is the **LAST MONDAY** of the month with the exception of May 2027. That deadline is May 24. If you are submitting pictures to include in the bulletin, **send the jpeg to me by the 25th** of the month. These dates will allow for formatting, resizing, and proofing. For the January bulletin, the deadline for articles is December 28. If a deadline is missed, if necessary, we can send out a special email to the membership.

Members are important components of the bulletin. They deserve the finest communication. In turn, the bulletin needs to be complete, accurate and easy to read. To make this so, I need time to review, proof and I need another proof-reader to look at the entire bulletin.
The bulletin should notify members of up-and-coming events about 2 months in advance. This is especially true for speakers. We want to invite the members to come back. For each the

name of the monthly speaker, we need a short bio of the speaker, the title of the topic and 2 or 3 things ,that members will learn from the topic.

The bulletin is a major portion of communicating. However, there are several others. Inter- committee communication and intra-committee communication. This should be the committee chairs' responsibility to notify everybody about the events and responsibilities of team members. The notification includes the board and the Bulletin Editor.

I would like the recommendations to be implemented throughout 2027for the good of the bulletin and the society in general. I would also like to see the features of effective teams adopted and followed throughout 2027. We can start organizing teams now. We have several events to plan for and if teams were organized before the new year, we'd be that much more ahead of schedule.

Thanks

Linda Whipkey
Editor of the Monthly Bulletin
Board of Director Secretary
lindawhipkey@ymail.com

BY-LAW II OBJECTIVES FOR BS/H ESTABLISHED 1976

This organization shall be a non-profit educational, scientific, literary and charitable association and its objectives shall be:

1. to extend recognition of Bromeliads as tropical plants that may be grown and propagated in environments outside their natural habitat.
2. to increase the knowledge of Bromeliads through interchange and dissemination of information.
3. to provide forums and media through which experiences in propagation, care, feeding and other treatment of Bromeliads may be reported, discussed and published for the common good.
4. to encourage study and research of Bromeliads.
5 to utilize such funds as may become available for the purpose of research, for purchase of educational aids for use in institutions, private or governmental, and/or for the purchase of scientific equipment for use in institutions of higher learning.







Bromeliad Glossary LAST CHANCE to catch up with all glossary items and to review Tell Me More on the website.

Study the following terms and interact with the "Tell Me More" on the website for a future competition.

ABC's - a workshop usually held in the spring for members; basics of bromeliad care are covered
Annual Elections – at the October Meeting an election takes place for officers and board members whose terms have expired. The newly elected take over in January.
Annual Show Party - a gathering of members held after the Annual Show in which there is an auction for rare plants.
Anther -the male part of the flower containing pollen
Bi-generic- the result of crossing two different genera
Bract - a modified leaf or scale, typically small, with a flower or flower cluster in its axil. Bracts are sometimes larger and more brightly colored than the true flower, as in poinsettia.
Bromeliad Annual Show and Sale =- an exhibit of bromeliads and their artistic arrangements based on a BSI standard show in which awards are given; plants are available for purchase.
Bromeliad Cultivar Register (BSR) - a listing of bromeliads with descriptions and pictures for identification of plants; found on the BSI web site (bsi.org)
BSI - Bromeliad Society International; parent society of Houston society; membership required for board members and officers.
Bulletin - the monthly newsletter for the society; it contains information about growing, pictures of blooming plants, a President's page and important announcements.
Christmas party - the gathering held in place of a monthly meeting in December; at a restaurant and with an auction for plants.
Common genera for the Houston Area =

- *Aechmea*
- *Ananas*
- *Billbergia*
- *Cryptanthus*
- *Dyckia*
- *Guzmania*
- *Neoregelia*
- *Tillandsia*
- *Vriesia*

Conformation - When viewed from above, plant is symmetrical.
In profile, the typical shape of the species is present
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Cultivar – a word derived from “cultivated variety;” a plant that is selected and reproduced by man.

Epiphyte - a plant that grows on another plant but is not parasitic, such as the numerous ferns, bromeliads, air plants, and orchids growing on tree trunks in tropical rainforests.

Family (In biological classification) - family is one of the eight major taxonomic ranks; it is classified between order and genus; bromeliads belong to the *Bromeliaceae* family of plants.

Floridanus - referring to Florida

Fulgens - referring to shining

Genus - Genus encompasses a group of species that are closely related; Example *Canus lupus* (wolf), *Canus familiaris* (dog)

Genera - plural of genus.

Grex - a group of species or hybrids; applied collectively to the off spring of a given cross from one seed pod.

Habitat - living location; bromeliad habitats in nature include tropical cloud forests, rainforests, semi-deciduous forests, savannahs, rocky, sunny areas and more.

Hospitality - attendees of meetings volunteer by bringing in snacks for the meeting. Last names are broken into two sections, A-M and N-Z; sections alternate months; the bulletin announces which section has the current month.

Hybrid - the offspring of two plants or animals of different species or varieties, such as a mule (a hybrid of a donkey and a horse).

Hydric (of an environment or habitat) - containing plenty of moisture; very wet: Compare with mesic and xeric.

Inflorescence - the complete flower head of a plant including stems, stalks, bracts, and flowers.

Mesic (of an environment or habitat) - containing a moderate amount of moisture. Compare with hydric and xeric.

Microclimate - a division of a climate area; Houston is in a humid, subtropical climate. There is climate variation within the Houston metropolitan area.

Photosynthesis- process by which green plants, convert light energy into chemical energy. During this process, these organisms use sunlight, carbon dioxide, and water to produce glucose (a form of sugar) and oxygen

Pistil—the female part of the flower

Pup - an asexually produced plant; pups can be separated from the mother plant when they are about one-third the mother’s size; it usually has the same genetic traits as the mother plant.

Raffle – that part of the monthly meeting in which attendees buy chances to win plants

Rhizome - an underground stem

Saxicolous - living among rocks

Scale – an infection of tiny insects that forms on leaves and stems of bromeliads; parasites.

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Show and Tell – portion of the bromeliad meeting in which individuals bring plants to exhibit or identify
Species - the level of scientific classification, which typically groups animals that are so similar that, when they breed, they produce fertile offspring.
Sport - a plant that is morphologically different from the parent; Sports may differ by gene, foliage shape or color, flowers, fruit, or branch structure. The cause is thought to be a chance genetic mutation
Stoloniferous - plants with a creeping horizontal plant stem or runner that takes root at points along its length to form new plants.
Stoma - a tiny opening on a leaf for the exchange of gases
Streptophylla—"twisted leaf"
Terrestrial - a plant that grows on or in land supported by soil. Other types of plants are aquatic (living in water), epiphytic (living on trees) and lithophytic (living in or on rocks).
Trichomes - from the Greek *trikhōma* meaning "hair", are fine outgrowths or appendages on plants; on bromeliads they often give a silvery appearance.
Tropiflora - a vendor in Florida which provides plants for the show auction and the seedlings given away; many members purchase plants here.
World Bromeliad Conference - an international conference of bromeliad enthusiasts usually held in early summer in Florida; sponsored by Bromeliad Society International.
Xeric (of an environment or habitat) - containing little moisture; very dry. Compare with hydric and mesic
Zoom - each monthly meeting is transmitted to the internet via Zoom; members get the link in the monthly bulletin.

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C O R R E C T I O N:

Membership dues in the Bromeliad Society Houston are $20 for individual $30 for family.
The membership goes from January to January.

To join, send your check to:
Shirl Stowe
6514 Blue Hills Road
Houston, TX 77069

With your check, include your address, cell phone/home/work phone numbers; your birthday month and day and your email address. The email allows you to receive the monthly bulletin and important communications. Also, designate a phone number to call in case of an emergency cancellation of the meeting.

COMING EVENTS

Change of Venue and Day
Nov. 7
Meeting at Plants for All Seasons
21328 TX-249, Houston, TX
2:00 pm
Speaker: Graeme Barclay

Join us for a **special Saturday afternoon meeting** as internationally known bromeliad speaker **Graeme Barclay** joins us **live via Zoom from New Zealand**. We'll meet **November 7 at 2:00 PM at Plants For All Seasons** in the mobile building behind the store
Map on next page

SUNDAY, NOV.15

LET'S GET TOGETHER!!!!

FINAL 2026 QUARTERLY BRUNCH/ LUNCHEON

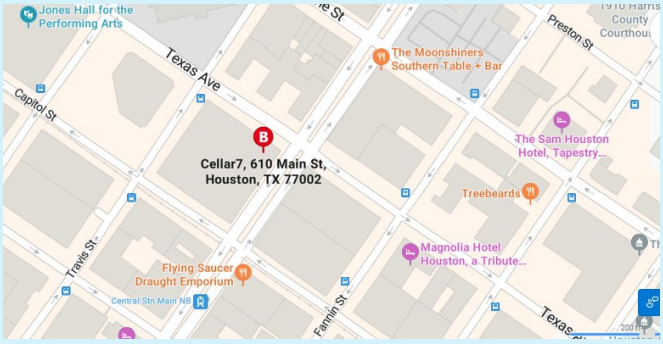
AT CELLAR7

610 Main Street
Houston, TX 77002

(713) 222-0119

Sunday, November 15

1:00 PM Incredible Brunch selections in a central location.

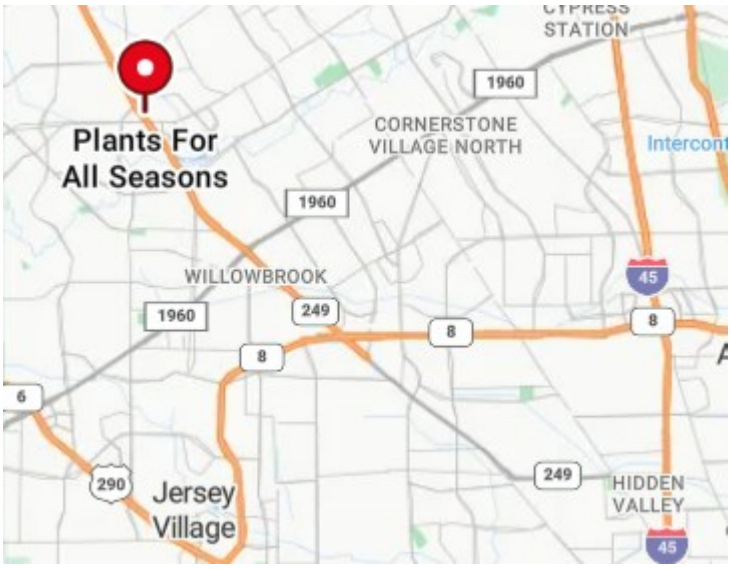


Annual Christmas party
Dec. 5 at Casa Dominguez, 5213 Cedar St.

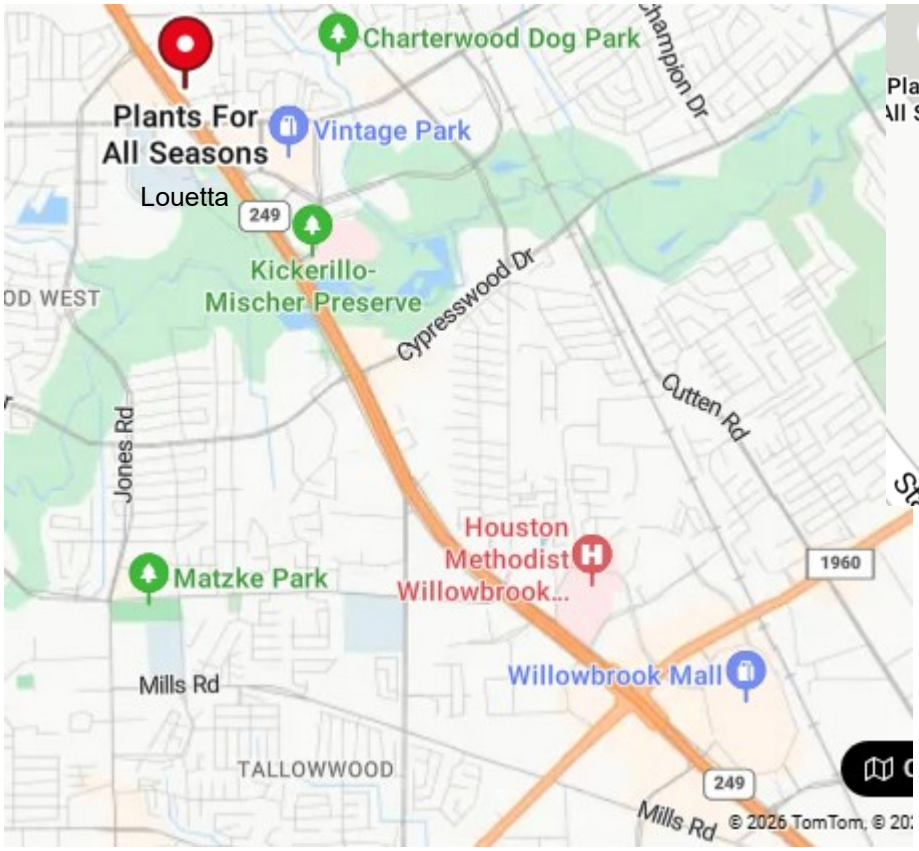
Bellaire, TX

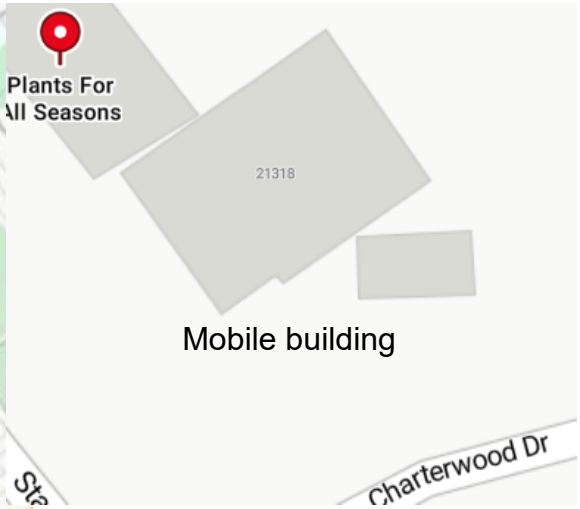
Members $35 each; Map page 10

6:00pm Cash Bar, Social Time and Auction Plant Preview
6:30pm Dinner and Social time
7:30pm Rare Plant Auction



From Beltway 8 (both ways) take the 249 exit. Follow 249 to Louetta Exit





Mobile building

From 1960,take Louetta exit on 249

Congratulations to All

Board of Directors for 2027

President Gordon Stowe member since 6/17

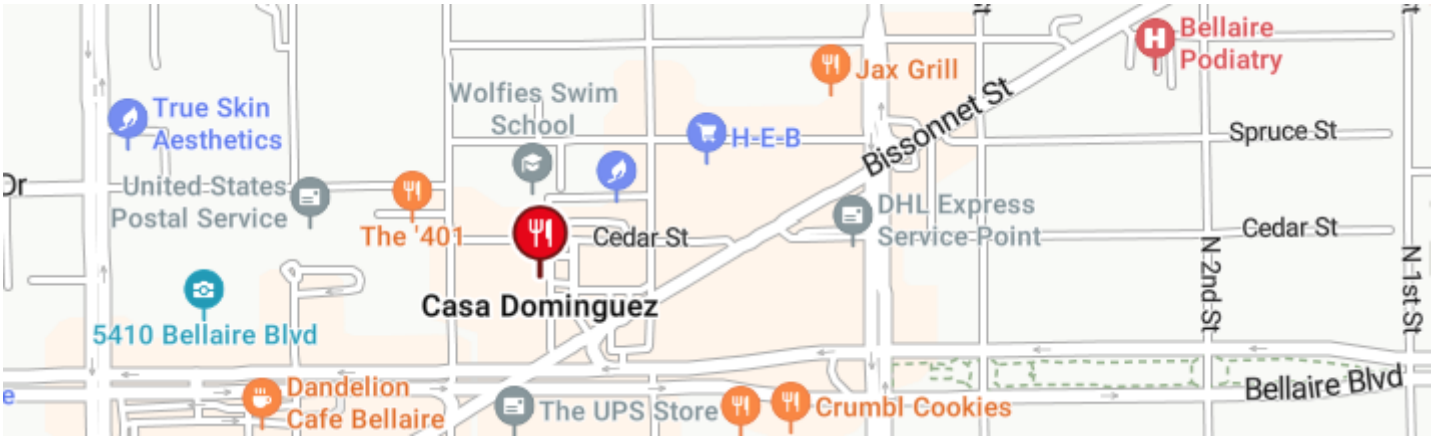
Vice President Sheila Ross active member since 2024!

Secretary Linda Whipkey joined society in 1984, current bulletin editor and chair of Growth and Engagement.

Treasurer Shirl Stowe has been a member of the Bromeliad Society Houston since 2016

Director 2027-2029 Dru Lundquist. Dru Anne joined Bromeliad Society/Houston in 2024

Director 2027-2029 Chris Goodgame member since 2023



Map to Casa Dominguez

Speaker: Graeme Barclay

We'll gather at Plants For All Seasons, where Graeme Barclay of New Zealand will join us live via Zoom for a special presentation. Graeme is the current Registrar of the BSI Bromeliad Cultivar Register and a regular speaker at World Bromeliad Conferences. He was the keynote speaker at the 2026 World Bromeliad Conference in Costa Mesa and has been growing bromeliads for more than 20 years, with a particular interest in species.

You will learn about:

- the Cultivar Register and how it is used
- The speaker's history

Meeting Date

Saturday, November 7, 2026
Time
Social Time: 2:00 PM
Location
Plants for All Seasons
21328 TX-249, Houston, TX

Show & Tell
Share something from your collection!
Bring an interesting bromeliad to share with the group. Whether it's a show-stopper, a recent acquisition, an unusual species, something currently in bloom, or a plant with an interesting story, we'd love to hear about it. Show & Tell is a great opportunity to celebrate successes, learn from each other, and exchange growing tips with fellow members.

Refreshments
Members whose last names begin with **A–M** are asked to bring refreshments to share with attendees. Thank you for helping make our meetings welcoming and enjoyable for everyone.

Social Time
Catch up with old friends, meet new growers, exchange tips, and talk bromeliads before and after the meeting.

BULLETIN BOARD



NOVEMBER Birthdays

James Billimek	11/10
Cristy Brenner	11/30
Elayne Kouzounis	11/9
ADE Oluyemisi	11/14
Shirl Stowe	11/1
Mary Wood	11/15
Elizabeth Woods	11/15

Jimbo's Nursery
& LANDSCAPING

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.tgcfernsoc.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

Regular meeting fourth Wednesday of month at 7:00 PM

Metropolitan Multi-Service Center

1475 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019



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Officers, Directors, Committees

PRESIDENT Mike O'Neal
SECRETARY Don Green

VICE PRESIDENT Gordon Stowe
TREASURER Allyn Pearlman
PAST PRESIDENT Mike O'Neal

BOARD OF DIRECTORS——————————————-

Through 2029	Through 2028	Through 2027
Ross Thyer	Malcolm McCorquodale	VickeyGurka
Mitch Fontenot	Noreen Tolman	Sheila Ross

STANDING COMMITTEES——————————————-

PUBLICATIONS Allyn Perlman
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN Gordon Stowe
STANDING COMMITTEES EX-OFFICIO Cherie Lee

PLANT SALES CHAIRMAN Allyn Perlman

COMMITTEES ——————————————————

ANNUAL SHOW Vickey Gurka, Don Green Ruby Adams
HOSPITALITY Shirl Stowe

BROMELIAD CULTURE Rick Richtmyer, Scherie Towens
MEMBERSHIP Allyn Perlman

COURTESY Debbie O'Neal
SEEDLINGS Allyn Perlman

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 Perlman
CONSERVATION Ross Thyer

GROWTH AND ENGAGEMENT Linda Whipkey

BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL————————-

Don Green Cherie Lee Daniel Wolf

Editorial

See all the blank spaces for committee members and chairs in the left column?

Now's the time to step up to something that interests you.

There can be more than one chair and more than 2 members of the committee.

Be a Leader this year!

Contact Gordon **713-201-7899** or Sheila **281-752-9779**