

FEBRUARY 2024 Volume 57 Number 2



Photo from Edmonson Cinotto greenhouse



HAPPY VALENTINES...*NEOREGELIA*  
'TANGERINE'

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## REMINDERS

### ♦ ANNUAL DUES

Individual - \$20  
Family - \$30

Allyn Pearlman  
BSH Treasurer  
6422 Bankside Drive  
Houston, TX 77096  
or  
Zelle to:  
deliboy@comcast.net  
713-858-3047

### ♦ REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 20 6:30 PM

Metropolitan Multi-Service Center  
1475 West Gray  
Houston 77019

[Or By Zoom](#)

ALSO Mark the dates:

MARCH 16  
BSHI Sale

MAY 3 TO MAY 5  
BSHI 50th SHOW AND SALE

MAY 22 TO MAY 25  
BSI World Conference in Florida

(more details on Shows and Sales  
to come)



## **FROM** **THE** **PREZ**

I am writing the February article the last week of January. It is a first for me being just a bit early. I am trying to fulfill one of my New Years resolutions to not procrastinate. The devil is in the details and this job has a lot of details.

I have started my engine and am ready to press the accelerator to get started on spring tasks. I am so very tired of preparing for freezes, carrying plants inside the house that are too cold sensitive, putting on layer after layer of freeze cloth to hope that it is enough. I am ready to put up shade cloth once more and enjoy sitting outside in the wonderful spring weather.

It is time to begin removing pups for our spring plant sale. March 16th is our plant sale at the West Gray location where we meet. With all of the freeze time we have had the last two winters it is time for new customers to replace what they have lost. I hope that we hit the right advertising plan for our sale and get a lot of new prospects for our plants and a few new society members as well. I know that I do not want to take any of my plants home as I am overflowing in my greenhouse and I need to adopt out some of my extra plants.

We had a very informative board meeting this week and we are planning our upcoming year. The beginning of a new year always brings excitement to me for my garden and our society. I always want exciting programs and new knowledge about my chosen hobby. I also like to interact with our new members as they bring a fresh perspective to growing and solving greenhouse issues for their new hobby.

I keep a growing diary for each year that lists the tasks for the month to remind me what needs to be done for success. I list lawn care, seed planting times, fertilizing schedule, take down heaters, put up fans, and many other mundane tasks that can be done at my leisure if I start early or if I start late I end up in 90 degree heat when plants are panting and the fans needed to be on a week ago.

I have been reading my 2023 plant diary and I find that my plants are my complete social life. I do not have time to go shopping because I have to turn on the fans, turn off the fans, turn on the heaters, turn off the heaters, put up the shade cloth, take down the shade cloth, water through the heat, carry the plants into the house for winter etc. What would I do if I did not have the outdoors to entertain me. I would be bored as I really do not like to shop for clothes and knick knacks. I am really doing what I like to do. I am watching the birds, feeding the squirrels, picking up bugs, collecting dropped feathers and taking in the sunshine and good outdoor feelings. All of this part of gardening and a real pleasure in my life.

# **MORE..FROM THE PREZ**

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND FUN**

During the holidays I thought about how much fun we had at our society Christmas party and plant auction. Members pay a portion of the cost of the party. Their \$40.00 ticket pays for a lovely buffet chicken and beef fajita dinner with all the fixings: beans, rice, an appetizer of super chips and guacamole and cheese dips. They receive coffee or tea and a dessert.

Each member receives a beautiful bromeliad and a lucky member at each table wins the table decoration that includes a bromeliad as well.

After the dinner and visiting we have an auction of donated bromeliads. Some of the plants are individually donated and a consortium of members donates money and additional plants are purchased for auction. This auction is a fun event.

I want to encourage our new members to attend our end of the year event as it is a lot of fun for \$40.00. It is also a bargain because the meal is nice, the service is wonderful, and you can add to your plant collection both with your gift and through the lively plant auction.

**FEBRUARY PROGRAM**  
**Speaker: Linda Whipkey**  
**Topic: BSHI'S 50th Bromeliad Show..How It Works**

**Linda Whipkey Bio**

Linda Whipkey is currently serving on the bromeliad society's board. She has been secretary, and vice president in the past. She started participating in bromeliad shows about 15 years ago and has won numerous awards.

Linda knows a lot about bromeliad shows and how they are structured because she has worked on various committees.

Her favorite competition at the shows is the decorative container artistic. At the 2023 show, she won the highest honor in the artistic category.



**BSHI'S 50th Bromeliad Show..How It Works**

We will look at the objectives of the society, the structure of a standard bromeliad show and the functions of volunteers. In addition, a review of documentation, preparation of plants and criteria for entering the show will be covered.

Bring your phones and/or notepads...a lot will be covered.

# 50TH BSHI SHOW MAY 3 THROUGH MAY 5 Theme Needed

Coming Soon

It is almost time for the 50th annual Bromeliad show. Circle these dates on your calendar: Friday May 3, 2024 through Sunday May 5, 2024. Planning is under way. The show committee is currently looking for a theme for the show. Why. Because the Bromeliad Society International rules require every show to have a theme, besides the show theme can be used as a guide for participants that want to enter artistic arrangements in the show. Besides it looks cool on the cover of the show schedule which should be available at the April BS/H meeting.

We want your input. What do you think would be a good theme for the next show? Can't think of anything? Possibly taking a look at some of the past annual show themes will kick your thought process into high gear.

- 45th annual show "Brilliant Bromeliads"
- 46th annual show "Golden Age of Bromeliads"
- 47th annual show "Bromeliads: Gems of the Plant Kingdom"
- 48th annual show "The Decade of Bromeliads"
- 49th annual show "Welcome to the Jungle"
- 50th annual show: It could be your suggestion

Your input may be chosen as the theme for the 50th annual show. Please email your suggestions to [dawhip49@hotmail.com](mailto:dawhip49@hotmail.com) by Sunday February 25, 2024. I will compile a list of your suggestions for the committee select from. Look forward to seeing the winner in the March Bulletin.

David Whipkey

# ZOOM INFORMATION FOR REGULAR MEETING

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

Topic: Bromeliad Society Houston February Monthly Meeting

Time: Feb 20, 2024 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82026343018?  
pwd=SE4za3JGbVFibFlvT2JuMEwvaHpRdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82026343018?pwd=SE4za3JGbVFibFlvT2JuMEwvaHpRdz09)

Meeting ID: 820 2634 3018

Passcode: 850610

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,82026343018#,,,,\*850610# US (Houston)

+16694449171,,82026343018#,,,,\*850610# US

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Dial by your location

- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +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)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US

Meeting ID: 820 2634 3018

Passcode: 850610

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

# **CULTURAL TIPS**

## **By Rick and Carole Richtmyer**

### **“Gorgeous Guzmania Species”**

#### **By Karen Andreas**

This month’s (February 2024) article (on the following five pages) was published in the November 2015 newsletter of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

Karen and her husband Michael Andreas have been active in the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies for many years and are instrumental in the creation of the Bromeliad Species and Cultivars Photo Index found on the website <https://www.fcbs.org>.

Guzmanias have some of the most outstanding and beautiful blooms and the plants are commonly found in ‘Big Box’ stores and grocery stores. But beware to those in the Houston area that Guzmanias are difficult for us to grow. The tips for growing the plants successfully are reviewed in Karen’s article.



## **Gorgeous Guzmania Species By Karen Andreas**

**Named for naturalist Anastasio Guzman, the genus Guzmania was first described in 1802. Its range extends from Florida, the West Indies, and Central America to Brazil but is mainly found in Columbia, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Panama.**

**When Victoria Padilla wrote about Guzmania species in 1973, she lamented that, “despite their beauty and desirability, comparatively few are to be found in cultivation.” More than forty years later, Ulrich Baensch made the same observation. While we are all familiar with the eye-catching good looks of the ubiquitous Home Depot and Lowes’ Guzmania hybrids, it is worth taking a look at the species, which are, of course, the sources for these man-made beauties.**

**Guzmania is found in the damp and shady habitat of rainforests where it generally grows epiphytically (as an air plant) in trees and bushes. Larger species mostly grow as terrestrials (in the ground) on the rainforest and jungle floors. Guzmanias have smooth leaves – no spines – and the leaves grow upright to form a water tank. Baensch noted, “Fine reddish brown longitudinal stripes are particularly obvious at the bases of the leaves and typical for many species of this genus.” (This is often a defining characteristic that distinguishes Guzmania from Vriesea when not in bloom.)**

**The bracts are often brightly colored with shades ranging from yellow to orange to flaming red with flowers that are generally white or yellow. The inflorescence is especially long lived, making Guzmania and its cultivars so popular for the interiorscape.**

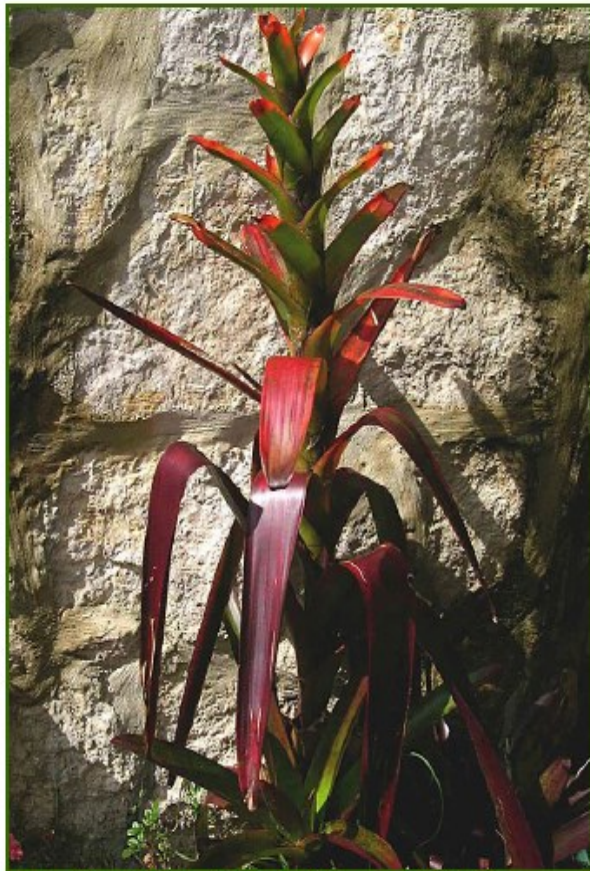
**Do not over-pot these bromeliads. Use a shallow pot just a bit larger than the existing root ball. The potting mix should be well draining but still retain some moisture. These bromeliads especially do not want wet feet in the winter because this can lead to rot. During winter, water early in the day. Not only can watering late in the day lead to wet feet and rot, wet leaves can result in “cold burn” during low temperatures.**

**During our hot summer months, do not water during the heat of the day as this also can burn the leaves; watering early to mid-morning is best. If your water is hard, alkaline or salty, consider flushing your Guzmanias with rainwater or bottled water. If you want to fertilize this bromeliad, use a low strength solution once a month during the warm growing seasons and not during the winter when the Guzmania rests. When grown indoors as a houseplant, mist two to three times a week. Keep water inside the cup formed by the leaves.**

**Guzmanias like light shade to semi-shade conditions. In my yard, they get morning sun filtered by oak trees. While Guzmania species do not tolerate cold well, the hybrids are a bit hardier. All the Guzmanias in my yard have been exposed to temperatures in the low forties and survived with some foliage damage. Still, it is best to protect Guzmanias from cold temperatures, cold wind and frost, which will damage the leaves and leave you with ragged foliage.**

**There are more than 200 species of Guzmania. Here is a sample of some of the glorious species in this genus.**

*Guz. conifera* (right) grows both as a terrestrial and epiphyte in rainforest habitat in Ecuador and Peru. Its cone-like inflorescence stays in color for months. Photo by Michael Andreas



*Guz. gloriosa* is found in Ecuador in dry sandy regions as well as in forests in Colombia and Peru. This large *Guzmania* grows 3-5 feet high. Its green leaves have dark red stripes at the base.

Ignaceo Moreno took this picture of a *gloriosa* in habitat, in a cloud forest in Bogota, Columbia.



*Guz. lingulata* is the base for many hybrids. Photo by Bob Spivey



*Guz. lingulata* v. *minor* is the most commonly grown form. It's an excellent beginner *Guzmania*. *Guz. lingulata* v. *minor* is both epiphytic and saxicolous (grows on and between rocks) in forest habitat. There are five varieties of this species, all having the star shaped inflorescence. Pups generously. Habitat photo in Ecuador by Wally Berg.



*Guzmania monostachia*  
Ecuador

1989 Ecuador  
© Wally Berg



*Guzmania monostachia*  
Ecuador

Ecuador  
© Wally Berg

*Guz. monostachia* "has the greatest geographical range of the genus," wrote Victoria Padilla. It grows epiphytically in the Everglades and is found in the West Indies, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Bolivia and Brazil.

Photos by Wally Berg.



© Michael Andreas

*Guz. monostachia* var. *variegata* is Florida's native *Guzmania*, with green and white leaves.

It is notoriously difficult to grow in collections. It is an endangered bromeliad, found in rockland hammock, slough and strand swamp.

Photo by Michael Andreas

*Guz. renyi*, found in Ecuador is easy to grow in a warm shady spot or in filtered sun. It is a faithful bloomer and pups well.

Photo by Michael Andreas



*Guzmania*  
*renyi*

© 2011 © Michael Andreas



*Guz. sanguinea* (left) and *Guz. sanguinea* v. *brevipedicellata* (below, right) have brilliantly colored foliage and they flower in their centers. They grow epiphytically in Costa Rica, Columbia, Trinidad, Tobago and Ecuador. Both are stingy with pups, generally yielding only one for *sanguinea* and two for v. *brevipedicellata*.

Photos left by Dorothy Berg; below,

Michael Andreas



*Guz. sprucei* grows epiphytically although sometimes is saxicolous in the forests of Panama and Columbia.



Photo by Michael Andreas

*Guzmania squarrosa* comes in several different colors. The one pictured here is the pink form, taken in Lita, Ecuador, photo by Bob Spivey. There also is a yellow form and a red form.





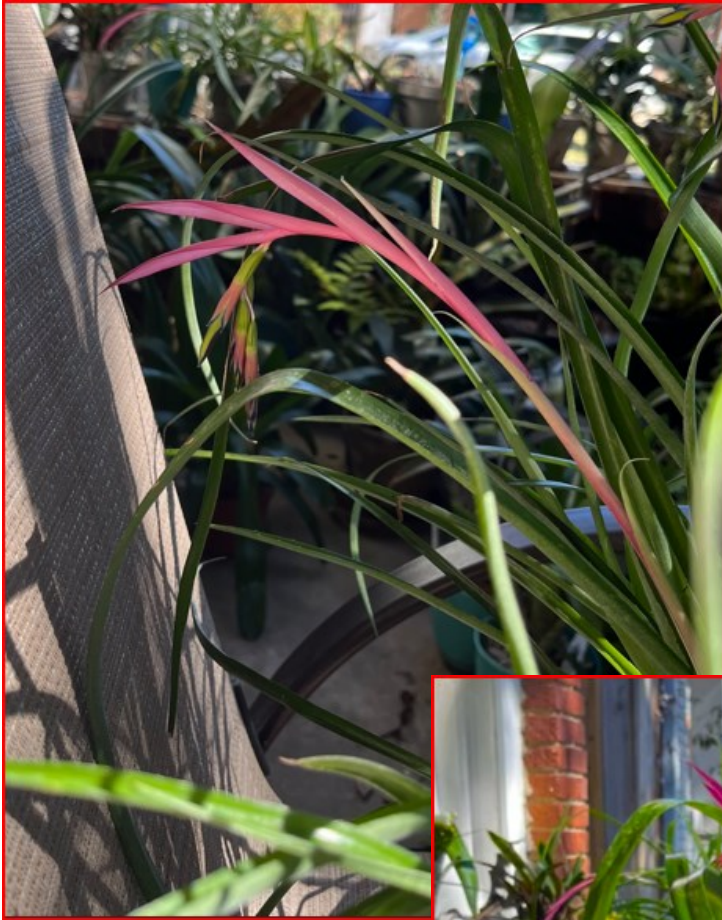
Found in Columbia and Peru, *Guzmania testudinis* is a stand out for its intense orange and yellow colors. Photos by Julian Londono Jaramillo.

The drama is in the bracts of *Guzmania wittmackii*.  
Photo by Frank Sherman

For more pictures of *Guzmania* species, go to the Photo Index of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website, [fcbs.org](http://fcbs.org), the source for photographs in this article.



# FEBRUARY'S BEAUTIES 2024



**Christopher Goodgame's**

***Billbergia nutans***



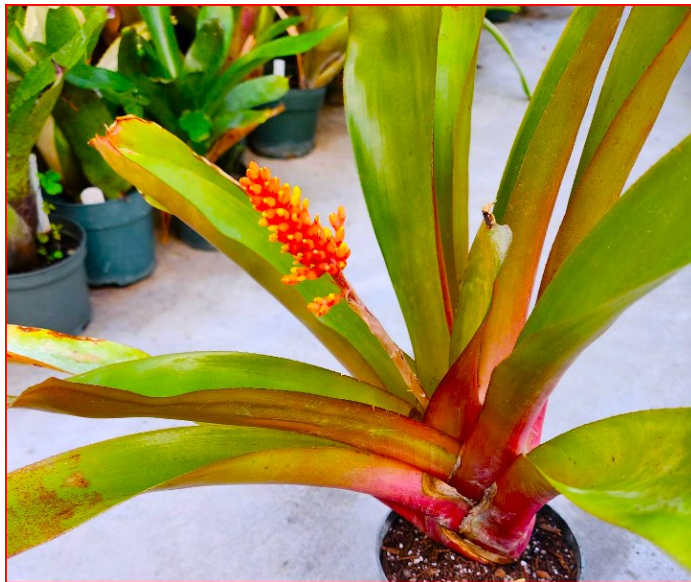
From Margo Racca's collection



*Aechmea orlandiana* 'Pickinanny'



*Aechmea recurvata* 'Artichoke'



*Aechmea* 'Big Stuff'

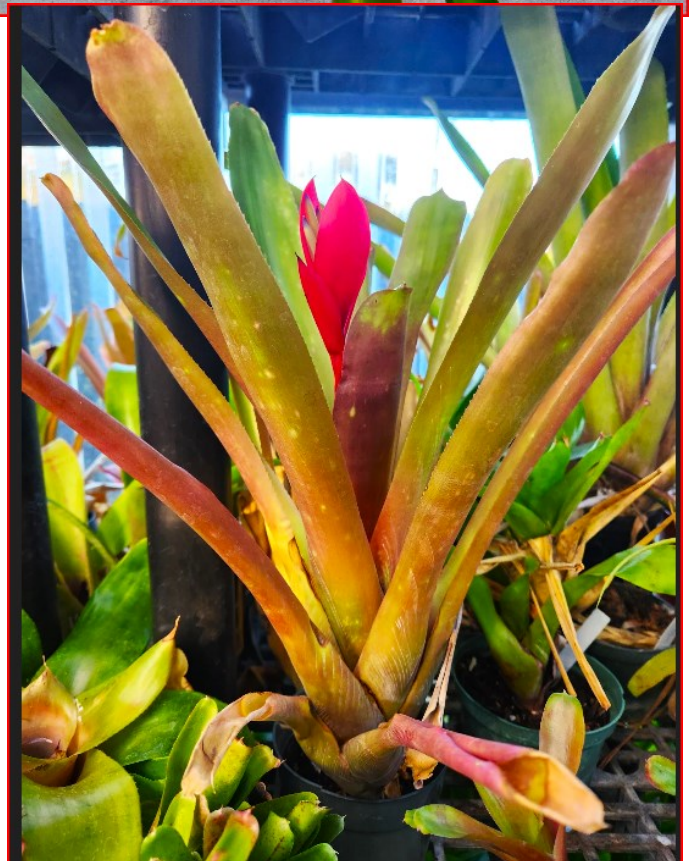
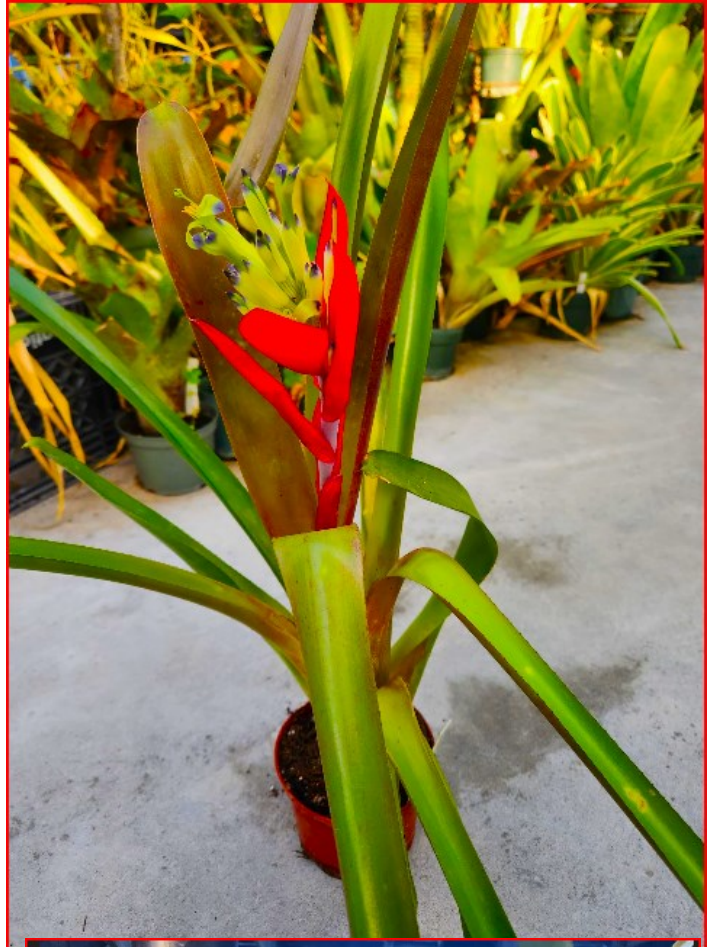
From Margo Racca's collection



*Tillandsia* 'Curly Slim'



*Tillandsia ionantha* var. *zebrina*



Top and Bottom...*Billbergias* UNKNOWN  
Tags lost in hurricane



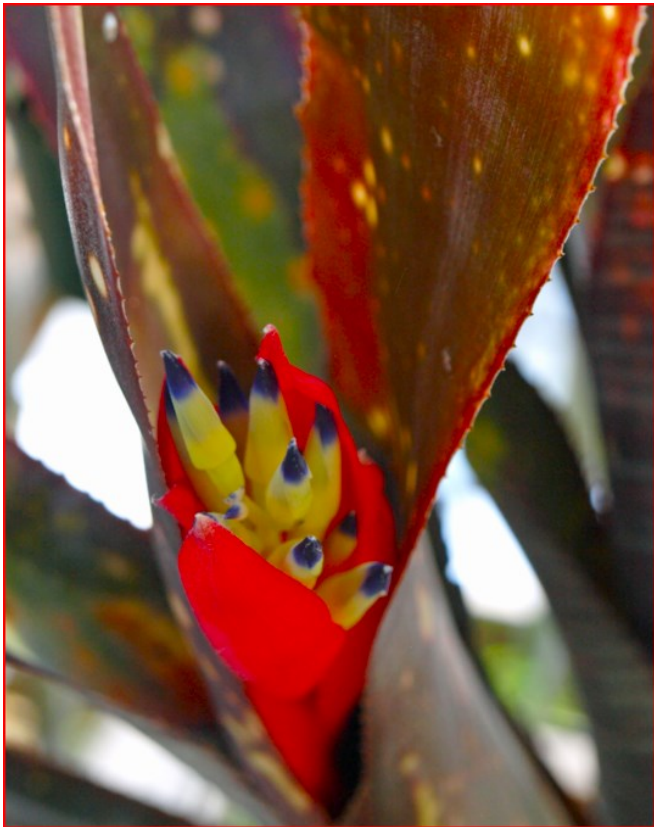
From the collection of Frank and Cherie Lee



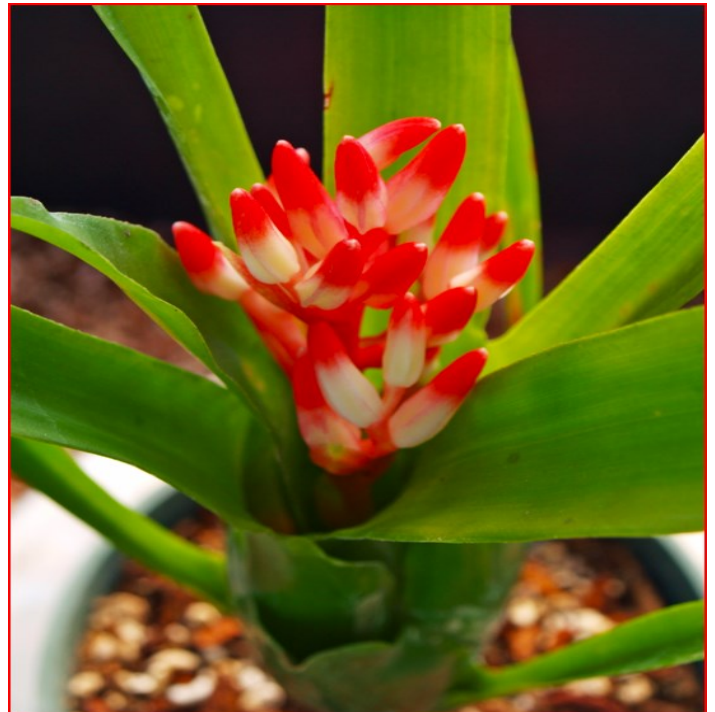
*Orthophytum* 'Red Frost'



*Pitcairnia atrorubens*



*Billbergia* 'Cancan'



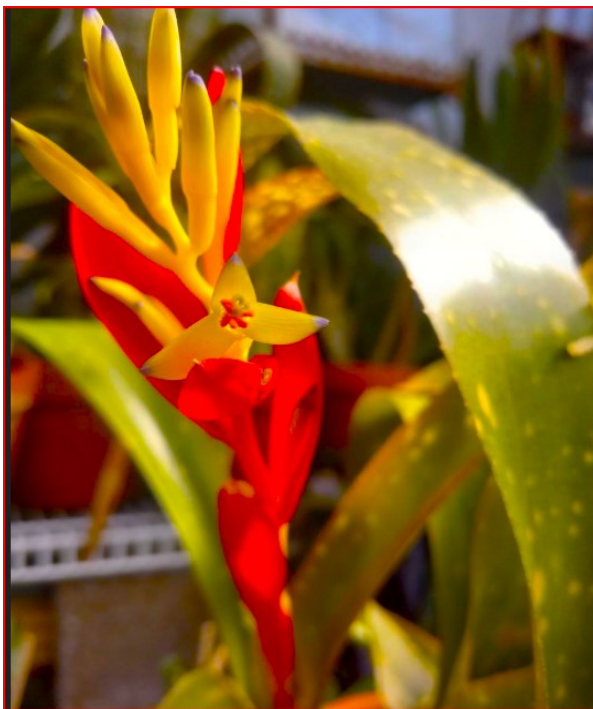
*Lymania corallina*



***Pitcairnia* 'Bud Curtis' (*Pitcairnia smithiorum* x *Pitcairnia corallina*) - Cherie Lee**



***Tillandsia* — Alica Baker**



***Billbergia* 'Ballerina' - Scherie Townes**



From the collection of David Whipkey—*Tillandsia ionantha*...





***Tillandsia ionantha* albo-marginated . David Whipkey**



***Tillandsia ionantha* var. vanhyningii  
David Whipkey**



**Bromeliads decorating Sue Softy's home**

# BULLETIN BOARD FEBRUARY 2024

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Laurie Skov 2/17  
Vickey Gurka 2/18  
Alicia Baker 2/26



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

Regular meeting fourth Wednesday of month at 7:00 PM

Metropolitan Multi-Service Center

1475 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019

**RAFFLE at the February meeting...bring plants.**

**Please bring Refreshments...  
If your last name ends  
N TO Z**



## **One Final Thought ...Growing Brooms Here...**

**If you're thinking about moving to the South, here's a little heads up. It's 75 degrees today. A week ago it was 5 degrees. Yeah, it's colder other places, you're getting snow, blah, blah, blah. Let me tell you something, if you're not emotionally prepared to go out in flip flops that morning to cover your pipes for the weather that night, then this ain't the life for you. We went through all four seasons twice in less than 2 weeks including tornadoes and we didn't know what we might land on. The National Weather Service is even winging it. It's like a giant roulette wheel of weather here in the winter.**

**Summers are predictable. It's hot or it's raining.  
Or it's hot and raining.**

**Winters though. We don't even know.**

## 2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT**  
Scherie Townes

**SECRETARY**  
David Whipkey

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Michael O'Neal

**TREASURER**  
Allyn Pearlman

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
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-----

**PUBLICATION**  
Allyn Pearlman

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN**  
Michael O'Neal

**EDITOR**  
Mary Cinotto

**STANDING COMMITTEES EX-OFFICIO**  
Shirl Stowe  
Cherie Lee

**PLANT SALES CHAIRMAN**  
Allyn Pearlman

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David Whipkey

**HOSPITALITY**  
Debbie Thomas

**BROMELIAD CULTURE**  
Carole and Rick Richtmyer

**MEMBERSHIP**  
Allyn Pearlman

**COURTESY**  
Midge Gorman

**SEEDLINGS**  
Allyn Pearlman

**DIRECTORY**  
Mary Cinotto

**SHOW AND TELL**  
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**EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS**  
Mary Cinotto

**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**  
TBD

### BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL-----

Annette Dominquez      Cherie Lee      Daniel Wolf

## BS/H membership

**There are two classes of membership:**

**Individual**      \$20 per year

**Family**          \$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:**

**Individual**      \$20 per year

**Family**          \$25 per year

**Please send your check to:**

Carole Richtmyer  
18814 Cypress Mountain Dr.  
Spring, TX 77388

## CALENDAR DATES TO NOTE:

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**BSHI Meeting**

**MARCH 16**  
**BSHI Sale**

**MAY 3 TO MAY 5**  
**BSHI 50th SHOW AND SALE**

**MAY 22 TO MAY 25**  
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**(More details coming)**