

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY / HOUSTON



HOWDY Y'ALL! IT IS TIME TO PARTY.

From the Prez



Our prayers have been answered. Our triple digit temperatures are a thing of the past for the year. Better still, our drought has broken with some very good showers the past week. I am hopeful that all of our members have been recipients of a good amount of the rain that has fallen in our area. I only hope that you have a few plants that do not have sunspots, water spots, and are free of withered leaves for our **Guild show and sale October 14 – 15.**

I have had a new uniform for the last 10 weeks which is my long sleeves, gloves, floppy hat and sunglasses that must all be worn to protect me from the murderous heat and sun. My poor hands are still cramping from squeezing the watering hose sprinkler many times a day to cool off my plants. I had better luck with the heat that I did the past two winters hard freezes. I did lose a few plants to the shake and bake heat but for the most part most survived.

It is not quite time to turn off the fans, or put away the shade cloth as we will have more normal hot summer temperatures next week. My plants are part of the reason that I retired and I still love it.

(Continued on page 3)

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 13, 14, 15

Southwest Guild Show 2023

Holiday Inn & Suites Conference Center

OCTOBER 17

Regular meetings

*Metropolitan Multi-Service Center
 1475 West Gray, Houston 77019*

NOVEMBER 21

Regular meetings

*Metropolitan Multi-Service Center
 1475 West Gray, Houston 77019*

DECEMBER 02

Regular meetings

*Metropolitan Multi-Service Center
 1475 West Gray, Houston 77019*

 Interested in
 Joining BS/H?

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 for more information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Upcoming October program	2
Minutes Regular meeting September 19th, 2023	4
Cultural Tips: October 2023	5
2024 Officer Nominations	9
ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER...	13

Member meeting

**Third Tuesday,
October 17 at 7:00pm.**
Masking preferred.

Zoom will be available.

Refreshments

Refreshments duties reserved for members with **last names A-M** please, thank you!

Show & Tell

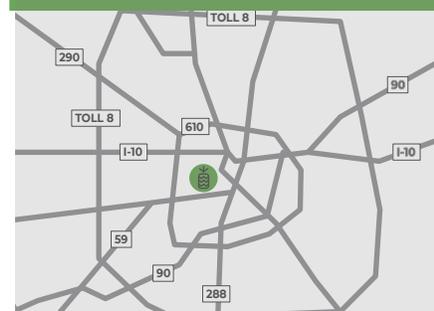
Bring your plants in-person to show off and talk about them!

Or send photos of your plants to **Gordon Stowe** to show off photos. Let's take a look at them and discuss!

Book sale

Check the next page for more information on the 3 printed versions you can get!

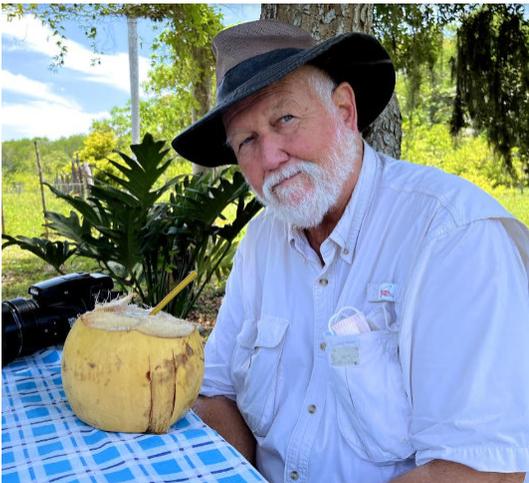
Metropolitan Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray St., Houston, TX 77019



Upcoming October program



Dennis Cathcart, traveler extraordinaire!



Meeting Date:

Third Tuesday, October 17th, 2023 at 7:00pm (ZOOM login/social time at 6:30 p.m.)

Meeting Place: Metropolitan Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray St., Houston, TX 77019 and on ZOOM.

Program Presenter: Dennis Cathcart is a lifelong naturalist with a deep interest in reptiles, amphibians, and plants. In 1976, following a decade of work in herpetology, he founded Tropiflora, LLC, a bromeliad and tropical plant nursery in Sarasota, Florida. An avid plant explorer, he

and his wife Linda made frequent expeditions to many countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean. Later, they expanded their travels to Africa, Madagascar, and Southeast Asia. Their travels led to the discovery of many species new to science and horticulture. Hundreds of specimens they contributed reside in various herbariums and botanical gardens worldwide.

Tropiflora supplied the anchor collection for the world-famous Gardens by the Bay in Singapore. In a five-year span, they shipped three hundred fifty thousand plants by airfreight to Singapore. They made a series of trips to help with their care and installation. Dennis is a frequent speaker. He has presented at venues in the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Venezuela, Brazil, and the Bahamas. These days he and Linda are (mostly) retired from the nursery business. These days, their daughter Robin and son Scott manage Tropiflora. Now a full-time, published writer, natural history remains Dennis' first interest. He and Linda continue to explore exotic lands far and near, maintaining the life of adventure they love.

Dennis will bring his book, *Koulèv: Adventures of an American Snake Hunter*, Book One and Book Two, to sell and sign. There are three printed versions of both volumes, all will be available:

- Professional Edition: Paperback, color photos, tables, index, glossary. \$35.00
- Collector Edition: Hardcover, color photos, tables, index, glossary. \$48.00
- Paperback Black and White Edition: glossary. \$18.00

President's message continued...*from page 1*

If you have not contacted the show committee to offer help please do. There is still a lot of work to be done on Friday to set up the show site, security positions to be filled during the show and of course take down on Sunday afternoon. Please let

Shirl Stowe or Don Green know that you are available.

We have a good friend, **Dennis Cathcart**, for our speaker this month. Come in person to the meeting to talk to our long-time

presenter and friend, buy a copy of his second book or a plant or two that he always brings from Tropicflora. A good time will be had by all.

Scherie Townes

My presentation: A Naturalist Visits Eastern Cuba, is an overview of various locations in Eastern Cuba assembled from two visits in 2023. There will be brief mention and photos of Cuban lifestyle, and people We will focus on plants, animals, and their habitats in the wild parts of Eastern Cuba. The varied terrain, from tropical forests, mangroves, desert, karst hills, mountains, seacoast, and caves. It features plants we encountered, along with reptiles, birds, and invertebrates.

NEW BOOK ALERT!

From Dennis Cathcart!

Koulèv: Adventures of an American Snake Hunter, Book One

440 pages.

140 photos and maps

124 chapters

Reading Guide, Glossary, Index, Reference Tables

Koulèv: Adventures of an American Snake Hunter, Book Two

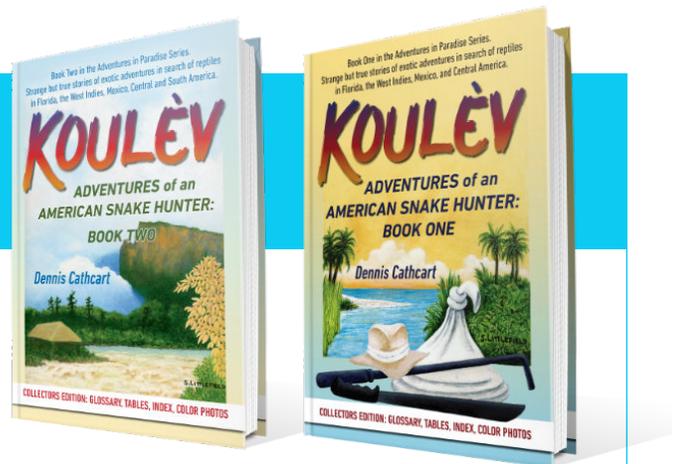
472 pages.

229 photos and maps

119 chapters

Glossary, Index, Reference Tables

Cost of both Koulèv: Adventures of an American Snake Hunter, Book One and Book Two, are the same.



Professional Edition: Softcover, Color Photos, \$35.00

Collector Edition: Hardcover, Color Photos, \$48.00

Black and White Edition: Softcover, B&W photos, no index or tables, \$18.00

Please email: deliboys@comcast.net and specify which book you want to purchase.

Minutes | Regular meeting | September 19th, 2023

Location:

Metropolitan Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray, Houston 77019 and on Zoom

Members were able to join the Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm.

Call to order: President Scherie Townes 7:03 pm.

Visitors: Chase Menendez

New Members: Chase Menendez

Attendance:

via Zoom 6 logons, 8 members, and 0 visitors
In person – 24 members and 0 visitors

A member plant sale was held this month.

Announcements & Committee Reports:

- Frank Lee reported that David Whipkey would be speaking at the Houston Cactus and Succulent Society meeting on September 27th.
- All BS/H members are invited to attend. A Zoom link will be provided.
- BS/H loaned the Houston Cactus and Succulent Society 10 tables for use at their show and sale.
- Shirl Stowe announced the results of the nominating committee.
 - President – Scherie Townes
 - Vice-President – Mike O'Neal
 - Secretary – David Whipkey
 - Treasurer – Allyn Pearlman
 - Board of Directors – Mary Cinotto
 - Board of Directors – Don Green
- Shirl Stowe announced that there were 51 paid registrants for the SWBG show.
- Don Green announced that schedules, entry sheets, and entry cards were available for both the SWBG and Cryptanthus shows were available.
- Vickey Gurka announced that SWBG T Shirts are available for \$25.00.
- Gordon Stowe announced that:
 - he was coordinating the construction of a Society display at the SWBG show and sale in October. People interested in loaning plants or helping were asked to contact him.
 - people who wanted to donate plants for the SWBG auction should let him know what plants they would be donating so he could start creating a list. Please bring the plants to the registration area of the show.
- Name tag drawing winner – Scherie Lee
- Membership winner – Debbie Taylor
- Not able to get the treasurer's report.

Show & Tell: Chris Nguyen talked about the plant that he brought to the meeting.

Program: Mike O'Neal introduced our speaker, Charlie Birdsong. Charlie spoke on the genus *Goudea*!

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Malcolm McCorquodale III and seconded by Alicia Baker. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm..

Plant Raffle: None, because a member plant sale was held.

Cultural Tips: October 2023

FROM RICK AND CAROLE RICHTMYER

Odean Head's Cultural Tips article for January 2010 entitled "Winterizing" is especially relevant at this time of year. We have only slightly modified his article and updated the opening remarks. Our Texas weather is proving once again how unpredictable it can be. We have just barely ended our all-time record setting temperatures for any month in August and record setting September temperatures with little or no rain. It was brutally hot and limited our ability to work with our plants outside. The neighborhoods have lost many trees and shrubs reminding us of the summer of 2011. Now that October is here we have finally had some refreshing rain and our first cold front has come thru. Winter will be here soon so we need to begin preparations.



Some of the conditions that require more consideration in the winter are: temperature, crowding, lighting, watering, air circulation, pests and fungus. Some of the preventatives that we will discuss will certainly apply to more than one of the listed conditions. You may have others to add.

Temperature – Most of our bromeliads will tolerate lower temperatures without damage than we realize. Some will even take a few hours of freezing if the temperatures have been lowering gradually over a period of time. Sudden large drops in temperature can be more damaging. Cold slows down plant growth but with the high costs of heating I can wait a little longer to mature plants. Some plants are more cold hardy than others.

Crowding – Overcrowding can be a real problem. It reduces the precious light and air movement that the plants need. It also makes individual plants more difficult

to observe when checking for stress. Any insect problems will be magnified. Crowding can be reduced by adding more space or making better use of what we have. It may be too late to add space so let's look at the latter option. We can use our space better by growing on multiple layers. This can be done with shelves at other levels, including overhead. We can also install poles and put rings at multiple levels. Growing at multiple levels presents a trade-off. It provides better air circulation but reduces light, especially at the lower levels. It does accommodate more plants. This is a good time to cull (dirty word). We could leave some less desirable plants outside as well as those we have an abundance of (these kinds will probably survive anyway). Large pups on mother plants can be removed or left on the parent plant which has had its leaves trimmed to reduce space. I prefer not to take pups at this time unless they are from special plants that I want to propagate.

Lighting – Crowding into our limited space also reduces the availability of good light. If additional space is not a viable option, we need to decide how to best utilize the light we have. As a general rule I like to give first consideration to my best plants and those that are reaching their prime rather than those that are already past prime.

Watering – Watering is more difficult when the plants are crowded but is required less frequently. How frequent will depend on temperatures. Maybe once a week when it is warm to hot and only once every two weeks or more when temperatures are cool to cold. I grow drier and never fertilize in the winter in an effort of prevent leggy growth. Remember also that the plants do not like to stay wet so it is best to water in the morning and give the plants a chance to dry before night.

Air Circulation – Bromeliads need good air circulation and we should provide some additional fans for air movement during these crowded times. Placement of plants by size can help in reducing crowded conditions. We also have occasional warm days during the winter causing extreme heat buildup in our closed structures. We need doors and windows or panels that we can easily open and close to reduce the heat on those days. Without

some added air circulation this heat and light combination can cause burning on plant leaves.

Pests – Most of us grow at least a part of our collection outdoors so we will be taking plants into a crowded area. Before taking plants in, we need to check for scale and mealy bugs. If only a few plants are infected, isolate and treat them. If the problem is more widespread, we need to treat the whole collection. Otherwise, under crowded conditions a little problem can become a big one. When treating a few plants, a contact insecticide such as Safer Soap or plain soapy water can be effective. We need to use a systemic when treating large numbers.

Fungus – Fungus problems, just like pest problems, will multiply faster in crowded conditions. Before crowding, we need to check closely to see if there is any evidence of fungus on a plant. It is in the form of a dark, circular, moist spot that enlarges and expands through the inner leaves of the plant. This plant should be destroyed or in the case of a special plant, isolated and treated. I strip off all of the infected leaves and if there is enough plant left, wash it well and treat it with a fungicide. I am sure that there are fungicides that are acceptable for use on bromeliads.

October Zoom details

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

Topic: Bromeliad Society Houston September Monthly Meeting

Time: October 17, 2023 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87815673957?pwd=TEFPbTgyTnhoMUZJSkl6QWFoeE5PZz09>

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87815673957?pwd=TEFPbTgyTnhoMUZJSkl6QWFoeE5PZz09>



IT'S AUCTION TIME

The SW GUILD and CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL can use your plant donations for the October 13-15 Show. Not only will the donated plants enhance the Auction on Saturday night, but donations are a great way to contribute to the Show expenses. Simply bring your groomed plant(s) with their name and your name attached. We will do the rest. There will be an auction check-in table in the conference center foyer.

E-mail Gordon Stowe at grstowe@comcast.net to let him know what you plan to bring.

ALL DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

HOWDY Y'ALL!

SOUTHWEST BROMELIAD GUILD SHOW 2023

OCTOBER 13-15th | HOUSTON, TX



Hello Everyone,

Great news - the SWG and ICS Show and Sale hosted by the BS/H is right around the corner, October 13-15 , and we've got some exciting news:

- 1) We exceeded our expectations for registrations (57 people have registered) so you can count on lots of action.
- 2) Dozens of additional member attendees will be present throughout the event to enjoy the show, sale, seminars and displays.
- 3) Eager volunteers have stepped forward for related duties and chores during and in preparation for the event.

AND

- 4) Extensive advertising promises to bring in many plant lovers from all around.

Thank you all for your involvement.

See you at the Holiday Inn

Houston NW- Willowbrook, 18530 State Highway 249, Houston, TX 77070

Shirl Stowe,

Shirl Stowe

Conference Chair

2024 Officer Nominations

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES ON THE CURRENT NOMINATIONS

For President: Scherie Townes

I am the candidate for president this coming year. I am the past Vice President for the past two years. I was a board member the year before I was elected Vice President. I cannot remember the two years but I was also a Board Members for two additional years.

I have grown Bromeliads since I was in elementary and I helped my Mother with her collection. When my Mother died I inherited her entire collection. I lost her collection and most of my own collection to a fire in my greenhouse. I have enjoyed starting over and have a lovely collection of my favorite genus, Billbergias. I have many other genera. I always smile when lead a new friend through my greenhouse and they ask "How many plants do you have?" and I am grateful to be able to say with all honesty "I do not know, but not enough."

For Vice President: Mike O'Neal

Mike O'Neal has been around bromeliads most of his life. Growing up, his dad and many of his dad's friends were avid collectors of a wide variety of tropical plants with several specializing in bromeliads. He has been growing bromeliads himself for over 30 years starting with the classic Aechmea fasciata received from his dad. Along the way, he has had the opportunity to do almost everything wrong with them and still has a thriving collection. As a fairly recent member of the Bromeliad Society Houston, he continuously wonders why he waited so long to take advantage of the knowledge, experience and resources of a wonderful group of bromeliad growers and he is honored to serve as an officer in the society his dad helped build.

For BS/H Secretary: David Whipkey

I live on the prairie west of Tomball with my wife Linda. We grow a variety of Bromeliads and other plants. I have been gardening as long as I can remember. In November of 1984 I joined the Bromeliad Society/Houston, Inc. Hopefully I have learned a little bit about growing Bromeliads since then. I have served the Society as President, Vice-President, board member, and chair of various committees. I am currently serving as the society's Secretary and Historian.

I am a member of the Bromeliad Society International and have earned the designation of Master Judge. I am currently a Student Instructor and am serving as the Judges Certification Committee Registrar for the Central Region.

For BS/H Treasurer: Allyn Pearlman

Allyn joined BS/H Inc. in 1991. He was editor of the BS/H Inc. Bulletin from 1992-2002 and has been membership chair since 1993. He has served BS/H Inc. as a Director and President and was Chairman of our annual show in 1995. Allyn is an active

supporter of the Southwest Bromeliad Guild and is currently Treasurer of that organization. Allyn also serves as Treasurer of the Cryptanthus Society International and for many years has served as Treasurer of BS/H Inc. He is a member of Bromeliad Society International and is an Internationally Accredited Master Bromeliad Judge.

For BS/H Director: Mary Cinotto

Mary has had an interest in plants from the time she was a tyke and would chatter excitedly to her German neighbor about his flowers. As a child, she helped her parents and grandparents with their gardens. In college, she had house plants while living in an apartment and learned how finicky many plants can be.

However, her real treat was seeing bromeliads when she and John were visiting an orchid vendor in Florida. The variety of colors was mesmerizing. So, when they returned to Houston from the Florida trip, John found a notice in the paper about the Bromeliad Society Houston's ABC's and they attended, joined the society, and shortly made their first international show in Hawaii.

For BS/H Director: Don Green

Don joined BS/HI in 1993. He has served the Society as a member of the Board of Directors, as Vice-President and President. He is an internationally accredited BSI Judge. Don has served many roles in BS/HI and SWBG Shows. He has served as Co-Chair of the Show Committee, Chair of Placement Committee, Chair of Judges Committee and coordinated transportation for the 2016 World Bromeliad Conference

in Houston. He is always willing to do what needs to be done for the Society.



Member musings...



**SEE YOU ON THE
OCTOBER 13-15
WEEKEND!**

**SOUTHWEST BROMELIAD
GUILD SHOW 2023**

OCTOBER 13-15th | HOUSTON, TX



Looking for contributors

Interested in writing for the BSH Bulletin?

We are looking for passionate plant lovers who are interested in sharing their wisdom.

Please also send over any communications you would love to share - announcements, classifieds, etc.



Follow us at

@bromeliadsocietyhouston

Editor's notes

I'm just about ready to have some fun and replenish my dead plant collection from the brutal summer.

Also can't wait to check out the greenhouse tour on Sunday! So excited for that. Always an inspiration to see how everyone nurtures their plants.

Bromeliad Society HOUSTON Inc.



Our October birthdays...

Happy Birthday to...

John Edmonson

Frank Lee

Linda Whipkey

Margo Racca

Rick Richtmyer

Melenie Yuen

Kenneth Gardner

Marsha Krumrey



Welcome newest member

Chris Todd

We hope to see you at the next meeting!

SAVE THE DATES

- Oct 13-15** **2023 Southwest Guild Show**
Holiday Inn & Suites
Conference Center
NW Willowbrook,
18530 TX-249
Houston, TX 77070
- Oct 17** **Regular member meeting**
Metropolitan Multi-service center
1475 West Gray, Houston, 77019
- Nov 16** **Board meeting**
7:30pm (zoom only)
- Nov 21** **Regular member meeting**
Metropolitan Multi-service center
1475 West Gray, Houston, 77019
- Dec 02** Holiday Party

2024

May 03-05 **BS/H Annual Show & Sale**

Ready for next year?



Note: This calendar page looks a bit different this year. Trying something a bit different. Check this page out for any updates or changes through the year on the bulletin.

2023 Officers and Chairmen

President Scherie Townes	Secretary David Whipkey	Past President Shirl Stowe
Vice President Michael O'Neal	Treasurer Allyn Pearlman	

Board of Directors

Through 2023 Alicia Baker John Schmidt	Through 2024 Gordon Stowe Melenie Yuen	Through 2025 Frank Lee Linda Whipkey
---	---	---

Standing Committees

Publications Allyn Pearlman	Programs Chairman Michael O'Neal
Bulletin Editor Melenie Yuen, bsh.editor@gmail.com	Standing Committees Ex-Officio Shirl Stowe Cherie Lee
Plant Sales Chairman Allyn Pearlman	

Committees of the Board of Representatives

Annual Show David Whipkey	Hospitality Coordinator Shirl Stowe
Bromeliad Culture Rick & Carole Richtmyer	Members & Visitors Register Noreen Tolman
Courtesy Midge Gorman	Membership Allyn Pearlman
Directory Mary Cinotto	Seedlings Allyn Pearlman
Email Communications Mary Cinotto	Show & Tell John Schmidt & Gordon Stowe
Garden Tours Gordon Stowe, Shirl Stowe	Raffle Plants Frank & Cherie Lee
Historian David Whipkey	Virtual Communications (zoom) Mike O'Neal
Holiday Party Chairman Allyn Pearlman	

Bromeliad Society International

Annette Dominguez Cherie Lee Daniel Wolf

Southwest Bromeliad Guild

Don Green Shirl Stowe

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 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



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

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER...

The Bulletin is published monthly and is available online prior to monthly meetings. Articles and any other information pertinent to bromeliads are solicited. Articles may be reprinted with proper acknowledgment given to author and publication.

Please have articles to the bsh.editor@gmail.com before the end of the preceding month. An electronic Yearbook is published annually based on the membership roll at the end of the regular February meeting of each year and distributed to members of the BS/H, Inc. Periodic electronic updates may also be distributed during the year. Please address any correspondence regarding this publication to: bsh.editor@gmail.com



BROMELIAD SOCIETY/ HOUSTON INC.

This corporation is organized exclusively for purely public charity and strictly educational purposes. Specific goals of the Society shall be to: Increase knowledge of bromeliads through interchange and dissemination of information. Use such funds as are available for the purpose of research and/or equipment in institutions of higher learning within the State of Texas.



Affiliated with the
Bromeliad Society
International



Member of
Southwest Bromeliad
Guild



Affiliated with the
Cryptanthus Society
International

ON THE BACK COVER...

Time to party with our favorite plants and friends!

If you'd like to join in and contribute any photos, a written column, or ideas for improvement, please send along your thoughts and feedback (with a ton of gentle reminders please) to bsh.editor@gmail.com.

