



The President's View

By Michael O'Neal,
BSH President

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A Great Year Behind Us — and an Exciting One Ahead

As we kick off a new year, it's a great moment to look back and appreciate **what a fantastic year we had**. We enjoyed **great programs**, a **wonderful show**, our presence at the **farmers market**, a memorable **road trip and garden tour**, and so many chances to connect over our shared love of bromeliads.

All of that momentum makes me even more excited about what's ahead. I'm looking forward to **even more in 2026**—more new members, more learning opportunities, more plants, and more ways to enjoy this hobby together.



A Note on Winter Weather

We've already had a **couple of light freezes**, and hopefully they passed without any damage to your plants. That said, we all know that a **deeper freeze is always possible** in the next month or two.

I hope everyone is getting—or already is—**prepared to protect their collections** if colder weather arrives. I'll admit that I'm **not quite ready yet**, but I've been working on it. If nothing else, this is a good reminder that now is the time to (continued next page)

January Meeting

Let's turn and new leaf at the January 20 BS/H Meeting and



join our own Chris Nguyen as he shows us how to Hybridize Dyckias. Chris has successfully grown many plants (including Billbergias, Dyckias, and others) using this technique. Now you can become an expert in this amazing approach to propagation and learn how to emphasize desirable characteristics in a new generation of plants.

See you there!!!!

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double-check plans, supplies, and space before we really need them.



January Dates to Know

Our **first general meeting of the year** will be on **Tuesday, January 20**, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Before that, we'll have a **board meeting on Thursday, January 15**, which is a bit unusual in that it comes before our regular meeting. This will help us get organized early as we begin planning events and activities for the year ahead.



Society Assets & Getting Organized

As part of getting organized this year, the board wishes to inventory the society's assets. If you currently have anything that belongs to the society, please reach out to **me or Gordon Stowe so we can be sure it's included on our list**. This helps us stay organized and plan responsibly as we move forward.

VOLUNTEER



Get Involved

As we start planning our events for the year, I hope you'll find opportunities to **participate and get involved**. Whether it's helping at events, sharing your knowledge, or volunteering behind the scenes, every contribution helps—and **volunteers are always welcome**.



World Bromeliad Conference – April

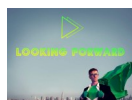
We also have a **World Bromeliad Conference** coming up in **April in California**, and BSH will definitely have a presence there, including **running the rare plant auction again**. I'll be attending, and I hope **many of you will be able to join us**.

If you're thinking about going, be sure to **register before January 14** to take advantage of the **early bird discount**. It's a great opportunity to see incredible plants, learn from experts, and connect with bromeliad enthusiasts from around the world.



A Friendly Reminder

Please remember to **get your dues in as soon as possible**, so **Allyn doesn't have to keep reminding us**. Staying current helps the society run smoothly and lets us focus on the fun parts of what we do.



Looking Ahead

I'm excited about the year ahead and grateful to be part of such a passionate and engaged group. In the coming months, **we'll continue to look for new opportunities for activities**, as well as new ways to **promote the society and share our love of bromeliads** with a wider audience.

Let's keep the energy going—welcome new members, try new things, and continue building a society that's active, welcoming, and growing in all the right ways.

See you at the January meeting—and until then, **happy growing!**



Artistic Challenge 2026



Linda Whipkey *Neoregelia* 'Angel Face'



Allyn Pearlman *Vresia*



Debbie O'Neal *Cryptanthus* "Moon River"



Margo Racca
Tillandsia rothii



Mitch Fontenot
assorted

Artistic Challenge (continued)



Shirl Stow

Neoregelia 'Magali'



Mitch Fontenot
assorted



Shirl Stowe

*Tillandsia 'Katie
Kay'* and

*Neoregelia 'White
Hot Ember'*

Freeze-Prep Checklist for Bromeliad Growers

Are you ready if a deeper freeze hits? A little preparation now can prevent a lot of damage later.

- ✓ **Know your priorities**
Identify your most cold-sensitive or valuable plants and decide ahead of time which ones get protected first.
- ✓ **Check covers & supplies now**
Make sure frost cloths, sheets, plastic, clips, stakes, lights, and extension cords are easy to find *before* a freeze is forecast.
- ✓ **Manage moisture**
Keep soil slightly moist, but avoid overwatering. Do **not fill the central cups with water before a freeze**, as ice formation can damage plants. Reducing excess moisture helps prevent rot and cold injury.
- ✓ **Plan for heat sources**
If you use lights or heaters, test them now. Make sure cords, timers, and outlets are ready—and that heat sources are used safely.
- ✓ **Plan your space**
Know which plants can move into garages, patios, greenhouses, or indoors—and realistically how many you can fit.
- ✓ **Watch the weather closely**
Pay attention not just to the low temperature, but **how long temperatures will stay below freezing** and whether multiple cold nights are expected.
- ✓ **Have a backup plan**
Power outages and sudden forecast changes happen. Decide ahead of time what you'll do if heaters or electricity aren't available.

Even if you're not fully ready yet for a freeze, taking a few of these steps now can make a big difference when colder weather arrives.



The Off-Season Advantage

At our November meeting, Gordon Stowe guided us through his greenhouses. You may have the itch to build your own soon or have a contractor do it.

Most gardeners start shopping for greenhouses in March or April, when the gardening itch begins each year. But spring is *exactly* when demand peaks. That's also when supply is tight, delivery times are long, and prices tend to be highest.

Consider the advantages of pre-ordering a greenhouse in fall or early winter:

- Save big time—upwards of 40%—and think of everything you could grow with those savings!
- Secure your preferred greenhouse model, which may otherwise be sold out in spring.
- Get your greenhouse delivered before the spring rush, and have plenty of time to assemble it for spring growing.

Continued on next page

Reminders



At the January meeting, there will be a drawing for a free 2026 membership to those who signed up at Mercer in October. This includes:

Jenn Smith

Monica Day

Donna Johnson

Whitney Grey

Carol Gaas

Jerri L Duplissey-Dorr

Marilyn Cochran

Allison Vallesteros

Ravyn Wallace

Carlos Duroteo

David Foster

Ren Lawson

Christine Hood

If your name is on this list, please attend the January meeting.

Who will be the winner?

Continued from previous page

Why scramble to order, assemble, and get growing when every other gardener is doing the same? Smart gardeners know ordering in the off-season allows them to dive into what they love doing most—growing their plants.

Some factors to consider when choosing a greenhouse are:

- **Size and layout.** Think about your current needs and your plans for the future. A slightly larger footprint can accommodate more potting benches, storage, and, of course, more plants.
- **Frame strength:** Look for a frame design that is specifically engineered for your region's wind and snow conditions.
- **Glazing material:** Polycarbonate panels offer the best mix of light, insulation, and impact resistance.
- **Ventilation and climate control:** Vents, automatic openers, and integrated fans help maintain ideal growing conditions.
- **Warranty and support:** Greenhouses are a big investment— it's important to have a warranty that protects your purchase and gives you peace of mind.

From
Gardening KnowHow

BULLETIN BOARD



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dru Anne Lundquist	12/1
Chris Nguyen	12/26
Bianca O'Neal	12/11
Carole Speer	12/20
Audrey Van Wright	12/7

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ellen Baskerville	1/15
Debbie Bragg	1/10
Leigh Farmer	1/10
Lynn Friedman	1/16
Betty Garrison	1/19
Malcolm McCorquodale	1/17
Scott Sandel	1/3

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:

Allyn Pearlman
6422 Bankside Drive
Houston, TX 77096

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.



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



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

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ASK the EDITOR

What is the best water to use for your bromeliads?

Well, first of all you must consider Rain water as the best. After all, it is the natural watering system. It contains the nitrogen from the air and only minute impurities. Collection tanks are used for major watering tasks. But, in periods of drought, the supply can be depleted.

The next best type of water is city water from your faucet. It has some impurities, including metals. But it's ph should be usually neutral or slightly acidic. Our plants in general thrive with this ph.

The worst water type is that coming from an underground well. It usually contains lots of calcium and other metals. This calcium in the water can build up on the leaves of the bromeliads after evaporation. This calcium must be removed when presenting your plants in a Plant show and, depending on the amount of build up, can be difficult to do without damaging the leaves.