



The
Cryptanthus Society Journal

Vol. XXXVIII No. 4 Oct-Dec 2023

*A Publication Devoted to the Plant Genera:
Cryptanthus, Hoplocryptanthus, Rokautskyia, Forzzaea & Siqueiranthus.*



Society Officers

PRESIDENT— Ruby Harlan Adams
3906 Woodmont Circle Houston, TX 77045
radams13@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY—Carole M. Richtmyer
18814 Cypress Mountain Dr.
Spring, TX 77388
(281) 350-6809 PLANOBROM@aol.com

EDITOR—Dr. Larry Giroux
80 Skyline Drive
No. Fort Myers, Fl 33903
(239) 257-1414 (H) (239) 850-4048 (C)
DrLarry7@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT— Ed Edmiston
105 Sena Dr. Metairie LA 70005 210-378-7716
edmiston1@gmail.com

TREASURER—Allyn Pearlman
6422 Bankside Drive Houston, Tx 77096
713-858-3047-cell 713-772-7831-home
deliboys@comcast.net

WEBMASTER— Frank Jiannetti
fjiannetti@gmail.com

Directors

Calandra Thurrott 713 Breckenridge Dr. Port Orange, Fl 32127 386-761-4804 calandra.thurrott@att.net
Katie & Josh Smith 28275 S. Satsuma Rd. Livingston, LA 70754 225-413-4251
kbsmith.saints@gmail.com
Martha Goode 7533 E. Camino Salida del Sol Scottsdale, AZ 85266 815-459-1623
stevegoode1@ameritech.net
Gordon Stowe 6514 Blue Hills Drive Houston, TX 77069 grstowe@comcast.net
Moises Besalel Cra 16, #67-12 Apt. 202 Barrio La Victoria Bucaramanga, Santander
Columbia 67995m S.A. mbesalel@icloud.com

Committees

AFFILIATES Chair—Martha Goode 7533 E. Camino Salida del Sol Scottsdale, AZ 85266
815-459-1623 stevegoode1@ameritech.net

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Larry Giroux . These will be published in the CSJ and forwarded to Geoffrey Lawn in
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THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY JOURNAL

Vol. XXXVIII
No. 4



Oct-Dec
2023

Front Cover: Shown here are the two big winners of the International Cryptanthus Society Show, held in conjunction with the Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show and Sale, hosted by Bromeliad Society Houston. (Top) *Rokautskyia microglazioui*, exhibited by Ed Edmiston and (lower) an Artistic Arrangement entitled “Crypts on Old Wood” created by Dr. Larry Giroux. Throughout this issue are pictures of this event and *Cryptanthus Group* exhibits from these two shows as well as top *Cryptanthus* winners of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society’s biennial show. Photos by Dr. Larry Giroux

Back Cover: In the ICS Show Katie Smith, our newest Regional Director, won both the Warren Loose Best Cryptanthus Group Hybrid Award with a multiple of Jim Irvin’s hybrid, *Cryptanthus* Very Cold Tooth and the Bob Whitman Best Cryptanthus Group Species Award with *Cryptanthus fosterianus* ‘Lisa Vinzant’. Frank Lee won both awards also in the SWBG Show with multiples of *Cryptanthus* Strawberries Flambe and with the species *Cryptanthus colnagoi* (Green form). See page 106 for further details. Photos by Dr. Larry Giroux.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hope everyone has enjoyed this wonderfully needed holiday season and the joy of being with family and friends. Precious moments and the gift of love are priceless. Our present season of the year (winter) is my most challenging and difficult. Here in Houston, Texas, I am yet moving plants to protect from possible weather below 32-38 degrees F. Being the responsible parent to so many tropical loves keep me in an anxious mode of trying to keep all plants happy and smiling.

Our weather and water here are not the same as years past. We have experienced the hottest year of my lifetime, this 2023, and the city water produces a white residue on plants, soil and containers. Nevertheless, I continue to enjoy the births (pups) and purchases of new plant life, but not the \$400.00 water bills.

Historically, the International Cryptanthus Society has conducted biennial Conferences with the Southwest Bromeliad Guild Shows. This past year, 2023, will indeed be one to remember. I am appreciative of the opportunity to have been asked to co-chair the Show of the Southwest Bromeliad Guild's 42nd Annual Bromeliad Show and International Cryptanthus Show with Donald Green as Chair and Shirl Stowe as Chair of the entire Conference. Sadly, the directors of the Southwest Bromeliad Guild voted to dissolve the SWBG due to dwindling affiliate societies and memberships. Hopefully, the near future will allow a resurrection of the SWBG.

The SWBG is presently dissolved, but the Cryptanthus Society remains vital and very much active. The Society is very thankful to Debbie Gerstner-Wolf for her desire to lead ICS, but also understands her need to provide extensive care for family members currently. Also, thanks to all ICS Officers and Directors, especially our new Directors, Katie and Josh Smith (replacing Ed Edmiston, now Vice President of ICS).

As president of our ICS, I hope to be a positive guide to improving our organization as we increase interested members in become loving growers of many cryptanthus. Our next ICS meeting options and future Show are being considered. Once discussion times are planned and held, a time and place will be shared. Also, please remember the BSI World Conference in West Palm Beach, Florida, May 22-25, 2024.

Ruby Harlan Adams, CS President



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all our members! I hope 2024 brings good fortune to everyone, as 2023 was certainly a challenging year.

I hope everyone who attended the Cryptanthus Society show held in conjunction with the Southwest Bromeliad Guild in Houston enjoyed the event. I was not able to be there myself due to health issues, but I've heard it was a lovely show. Lots of beautiful show plants and bromeliads to buy plus a banquet and good growing information to share. It was the first Southwest Guild/Cryptanthus show that my husband and I have missed for many – many – years, and we were very regretful not to be there. Our friends who attended have shared pictures and information with us so we can see what we missed, but it just makes me more determined to attend the BSI World Conference later this year. Larry will have lots of pictures from the Guild show in this issue of the Journal so you can judge for yourself if you were unable to be there in person. Then make plans to be in West Palm Beach, Florida, in May to enjoy the World Conference, where there will be lots of beautiful cryptanthus and other bromeliads.

Fall and early winter have been kind to the Houston area so far. It's not been too terribly cold, with enough rain and sunshine to make everyone, including the bromeliads, happy. Of course most of our bromeliads are in a greenhouse or covered with frost cloth against the cold so the rain hasn't had the same benefit as summer showers, but there also haven't been any extreme temperatures to worry about -- yet. We still have several months to worry about, but we appreciate our good fortune so far. The cooler temperatures actually bring out nice color in many plants in spite of shorter days. Some years will bring a string of cold, gray days, which brings its own set of problems.

I'd like to list the current Charter Members' names, those who were responsible for creating the Cryptanthus Society many years ago, in recognition of their ongoing support: the Baton Rouge Bromeliad Society, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; the Chicago Botanical Garden, Chicago, Illinois; Betty Garrison, Kingwood, Texas; Cynthia Johnson, Beaumont, Texas; Betty Ann Prevatt, Fort Myers, Florida; Margo Racca, Iowa, Louisiana; and South Bay Bromeliad Associates, Rancho Palos Verdes, California. We've lost two of our Charter members since I last listed their names: Ray Johnson and Charlien Rose. Both are missed.

Enjoy the start of 2024 by enjoying this Journal, and renewing your membership when it's due so no one misses any issues!

Carole Richtmyer, CS Secretary



The
World
Bromeliad
Conference
(WBC 2024)
will be held on
May 22-25, 2024
in
West Palm Beach,
Florida, USA.
The hotel venue
will be the
**West
Palm Beach
Marriott.**

WBC 2024 will include speaker presentations, a judged plant show, a special plant sale, a rare plant auction, bus tours, a banquet with keynote speaker, and more! For additional information and to register go to: www.BSI.org/new/conference-corner/



EDITOR'S EDICT

In 2023 we saw several large scale bromeliad events including the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Extravaganza in West Palm Beach; although there was no show, *Cryptanthus* were prominent in the sales area; Bromeliad Society of South Florida, River Ridge Bromeliad Society, the Bromeliad Society/ Houston, the International *Cryptanthus* Society in conjunction with the Southwest Bromeliad Guild and my own Society, the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society hosted shows and/ or sales this year. Several international shows and sales were also held. It is nice to see our hobby is still drawing interest and enthusiasm. The *Cryptanthus* Society Journal continues to report on and publish photographs of its Affiliate Societies' events when they are made available to us. Please send information and pictures of your Society's Show's *Cryptanthus* exhibits to



Left is Carole Richtmyer, Secretary of the *Cryptanthus* Society and dear friend for many years standing next to CS member, Cherie Lee, the BSI Membership Secretary. Cherie and Frank Lee raise an incredible variety of plants including ferns, carnivorous plants and of course, bromeliads among dozens of other horticultural *Families*. Photo by Dr Larry Giroux.

our Affiliates Chair, Martha Goode or me, the CSJ Editor. This issue is devoted for the most part to the latest three Shows, the October combined SWBG Show and the ICS Show, hosted by the Bromeliad Society/ Houston as well as the biennial Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show, held in

Fort Myers, Florida in early December.

I served as the ICS Show Classification Committee Co-Chair along with CS member Cynthia Johnson. In spite of the relatively small number of entries, there were several new exhibitors, along with the repeat participants, who showed real enthusiasm and interests in *Cryptanthus*. I was also the Classification Co-Chair for my CBS Show. I'm sad to say that this year exhibitors seemed more enthralled with the flashy new *Neoregelia* hybrids and less so in *Cryptanthus* and the various ways of exhibiting them, i.e. artistic arrangements, decorative containers and horticultural displays. Let's hope that creativity is not fading and that more growers will experiment with the growing, breeding and exhibiting of the diverse *Cryptanthus* Group.

Take your time and enjoy this issue of the CSJ, overflowing with pictures of the winners and other blue and award of merit ribbon winners of the three latest shows as well as some of the accompanied activities.

David Klein, a member of the Bromeliad Society/ Houston is a collector of xeric and tropical plants. His enormous collection now encompasses environmentally adjusted greenhouses housing a diverse



Besides Cherie and Frank Lee's beautifully grown *Cryptanthus* collection, they grow most of the bromeliad genera and dozens of *Families* of other exotic plants in their climate controlled greenhouse in Texas. Photos by L. Giroux



Bromeliad Society/ Houston member, David Klein, hosted a tour of his multiple greenhouses and gardens. See more photos of his collections elsewhere in this journal. Photo by Larry Giroux.

variety of exotic plants. Don't miss pictures included in this issue.

I extended my stay in Houston following the Shows and visited with my dear friends Carole and Rick Richtmyer. Carole's love is for mostly *Cryptanthus* and *Tillandsias*, while Rick does an exceptional job with all the terrestrials among others. I was in Heaven...waking each morning during my stay with more areas of plants to explore. My many thanks to this special couple for their generosity and hospitality. Carole

and Rick also arranged for a great afternoon at the home of Cherie and Frank Lee. This is my third time visiting the Lee's home in the last several years and what they have created is absolutely amazing. I can't even begin to list the variety of plant *Families* they are growing and growing so well; their bromeliad collection rivals any I have ever seen. More thanks for Cherie and Frank for allowing me the pleasure of a visit.

Following the Board meeting of the Southwest Bromeliad Guild, it was announced that the Guild, which has lost many of their Affiliate Societies, has decided to dissolve after all these years. Dating back to the formation of the *Cryptanthus* Society, 38 years ago, the Guild and its Affiliate member Societies have been extremely generous in sponsoring the International *Cryptanthus* Society's Shows and Auctions. On behalf of the *Cryptanthus* Society, I want to sincerely thank the Southwest Bromeliad Guild and all its Affiliate member Societies, past and present, for all the support they have given the CS. Thank you!

Finally I want to wish all a successful and fun New Year. Get out there and buy, sell, give away, grow and experiment with your plants, it's a great depression and stress remedy and just a fun thing to do !

Dr. Larry Giroux, CSJ Editor.

Affiliate Show Reports, Photos and Awards

If you are a paid active Affiliate of the Cryptanthus Society, you are entitled to receive a Best Species Plaque and a Best Hybrid Plaque to be given out at your Show once a year. Also included in your Affiliate Dues are a printed or electronic Special Rules and Eligible Cryptanthus for Cryptanthus Show Awards Booklet to be used for Classification, a Reporting form and a master copy of the Cryptanthus Cultural handout. Societies, please contact Carole Richtmyer to check on your membership status. Requests for the plaques and information should be sent several weeks before your show to the new Affiliates' Chair,

Martha Goode 7533 E. Camino Salida del Sol

Scottsdale, AZ 85266

815-459-1623 stevegoode1@ameritech.net

If you are submitting your SHOW WINNERS' PICTURES and REPORT FORMS electronically (by email) please send a copy to BOTH: Dr. Larry Giroux, CS Editor: DRLARRY@COMCAST.NET or DRLARRY7@GMAIL.COM AND Martha Goode, Affiliates Chair STEVEGOODE1@AMERITECH.NET

International Cryptanthus Society Show

Hosted by the Bromeliad Society/ Houston

October 13, 14 and 15, 2023 Holiday Inn & Suites, Houston, TX

Photos by Dr. Larry Giroux Information by Cherie Lee



**The Morris Henry Hobbs
Best of Show—Artistic Award
“Crypts on Old Wood”
Cryptanthus Primrose
Exhibitor: Dr. Larry Giroux**

**The Grace Goode
Best of Show — Horticulture Award
Rokautskyia microglazioui
Exhibitor: Ed Edmiston
(See photo on front cover)**





**Division II &
Warren Loose Best Cryptanthus
Group Hybrid winners
Cryptanthus Very Cold Tooth
Exhibitor: Katie Smith**

**Division II Sec B &
Bob Whitman Best Cryptanthus
Group Species winners
Cryptanthus fosterianus ‘Lisa Vinzant’
Exhibitor: Katie Smith**



**Division I Winner
Cryptanthus Beau
Exhibitor: Ed Edmiston**



**Division V winner
Cryptanthus marginatus in a
Ceramic Decorative Container
Exhibitor: Ruby Adams**



**Division VII Sec A
Painting of
Cryptanthus Charlien Rose
Exhibitor: Mary Cinotto**



**Additional Blue Ribbon and
Award of Merit Ribbon Winners in the ICS Show**



Cryptanthus bahianus Clone B (B)

Exhibitor: Gordon Stowe

Cryptanthus argyrophyllus (B)

Exhibitor: Gordon Stowe



Cryptanthus Circuit Breaker (B)

Exhibitor: Gordon Stowe



Cryptanthus Earth Angel (B)

Exhibitor: Gordon Stowe



Cryptanthus Lindsey Stowe (B)

Exhibitor: Gordon Stowe



Cryptanthus Ruby Port (AM)

Exhibitor: Gordon Stowe





Cryptanthus acaulis (B)

Exhibitor: Patricia Buenaventura



Cryptanthus warren-loosei (B)

Exhibitor: Gordon Stowe



Cryptanthus Absolute Zero (B)

Exhibitor: Patricia Buenaventura



Cryptanthus argyrophyllus (B)

Exhibitor: Patricia Buenaventura



Cryptanthus bivittatus 'Ruby' (B)

Exhibitor: Patricia Buenaventura



Cryptanthus Strawberries Flambe (B)

Exhibitor: Patricia Buenaventura



Cryptanthus bivittatus 'Pink Starlite' (B)

Exhibitor: Patricia Buenaventura



Cryptanthus bahianus 'Rubra' (B)

Exhibitor: John Edmonson



Cryptanthus Strawberries Flambe (B)

Exhibitor: John Edmonson



Cryptanthus Durrell (AM)
In a Decorative Container
Exhibitor: John Edmonson

Cryptanthus Dragonfire (B)

Exhibitor: John Edmonson



Cryptanthus Artic Rainbow (B)

Exhibitor: John Edmonson



Cryptanthus Cranberry (B)

In a Decorative Container
Exhibitor: John Edmonson



Cryptanthus Absolute Zero (AM)

Exhibitor: Ruby Adams



Cryptanthus 'Living Colors' (B)

Exhibitor: Ruby Adams

Cryptanthus Burgundy Blast (AM)

Exhibitor: Ed Edmiston



Cryptanthus Burgundy Blast (B)

Exhibitor: Ed Edmiston

Cryptanthus Mars (AM)

Exhibitor: Ed Edmiston



Cryptanthus Terry's Wild Heart (AM)

Exhibitor: Ed Edmiston



Cryptanthus Lindsey Stowe (AM)
In a Decorative Pot
Exhibitor: Ruby Adams



Cryptanthus Ellie K's Star (B)
Exhibitor: Katie Smith



Cryptanthus Burgundy Blast (AM)
Exhibitor: Katie Smith



Cryptanthus Don Garrison (B)
Exhibitor: Katie Smith



Rokautskyia odoratissima (B)
Exhibitor: Ed Edmiston

Cryptanthus Thelma O'Reilly (AM)
Exhibitor: Katie Smith





Additional Division VII Entries by Mary Cinotto

Paintings of *Cryptanthus*



Photo of the approximately 45 Horticultural and Artistic entries of the ICS Show. Unfortunately, several long time exhibitors were unable to participate limiting total numbers. Photo by Dr Larry Giroux.

**Non-US Subscribers to the Cryptanthus Society Journal ...before you send in your renewal dues by international money order, please check with the CS Treasurer– Allyn Pearlman
6422 Bankside Drive Houston, Tx 77096
713-858-3047-cell 713-772-7831-home
deliboy@comcast.net
to see if there is a less expensive alternative.**



The Officers, Directors and members of the International Cryptanthus Society, The Bromeliad Society of Houston and the Southwest Bromeliad Guild all stepped up to bring about a very enjoyable and successful, albeit, the last Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show. The Cryptanthus Society will be searching for a host society for our future shows. Picture 1. shows Allyn Pearlman, who wore many hats during this combined conference. As Treasurer of the CS, BS/H and the SWBG Societies he took on the roles of Sales Co-Chair along with Vickey Gurka and Ken Gardner as well as Co-Chair of Publicity and Awards. Next to Allyn in the photo is CS member John Edmonson, who with wife Mary Cinotto contributed numerous entries to the two shows. 2. Among local vendors, Dennis Cathcart traveled from Florida and Tropiflora to provide a large

diversity of plants including numerous *Cryptanthus species* and hybrids for sale. 3. Two of the Shows' judges— John Boardman and Eloise Beach traveled from Florida to join the two teams judging the two Shows. 4. Charlie Birdsong, besides being the Judges Chair with CS member Don Green, also filled in for Rick Richtmyer as the SWBG Show Classification Chair; the ICS Show Classification was Co-Chaired by Cynthia Johnson and Dr. Larry Giroux. Bryan Windham, next to Charlie in picture 4, is the current President of the SWBG and the RRBS in Louisiana. Next are Katie Smith and Josh Smith, who will be working together as the newest CS Directors from Louisiana. Katie made a great showing in the CS Show, taking home several top awards. 5. CS Vice-President Ruby Harlan Adams, seen here with her Division winning Decorative Container with *Cryptanthus marginatus*, served as the Shows' Co-chair with Don Green. She also filled in for CS President Debbie Gerstner-Wolf, who was unable to participate due to family concerns. At our Board meeting held on October 14, 2023, Ruby was elected the CS' new President. Additionally, Ed Edmiston is the new Vice-President, Katie & Josh Smith will take over Ed's previous position on the Board as Regional Director, Carole Richtmyer remains as Secretary along with Ailyn Pearlman as Treasurer, Dr. Larry Giroux as Editor, Martha Goode as Director, Gordon Stowe as Director, Casandra Thurrott as Director and Moises Besalel as International Director. 6. To the left is David Klein, who provided his home and gardens as a featured tour during the conference. (See elsewhere in this issue pictures of his exquisite estate.) Husband and wife team Gordon and Shirl Stowe made major contributions to the Sales and Shows, assuming Conference Co-Chair, Placement, Show Schedule, Auction Donations and Auction Chairs. In addition, Ed Edmiston, Cherie and Frank Lee, Alicia Baker, Vicky Gurka, Melenie Yuen, Barbara Szmczak and all the volunteers deserve recognition and thanks for their contributions and hard work. Thank you.



**Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show and Sale
“Bromeliads in the Southwest”**

**October 13, 14, 15, 2023 Holiday Inn & Suites Houston, TX
Photos by Dr. Larry Giroux Information by Cherie Lee**



**The Warren Loose Best Cryptanthus Group Hybrid Award
Cryptanthus Strawberries Flambe Exhibitor: Frank Lee**



**The Bob Whitman Best Cryptanthus Group Species Award
Cryptanthus colnagoi (Green form) Exhibitor: Frank Lee**



Division III Sec A Winner

***Cryptanthus* Ruby Port Exhibitor: Frank Lee**



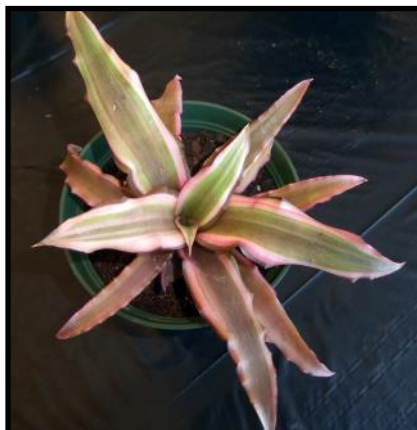
**The Lindsey Stowe Cryptanthus Sweepstakes Award
Represented by *Cryptanthus* Rick Richtmyer
Exhibitor: Frank Lee**

**Additional Blue Ribbon and
Award of Merit Ribbon Winners in the SWBG Show**



***Cryptanthus* Black Mystic (AM)**

Exhibitor: Frank Lee



***Cryptanthus* Jean Nicole (B)**

Exhibitor: Ed Edmiston



***Cryptanthus* Dr Steve (AM)**

Exhibitor: Frank Lee

***Cryptanthus* Thriller (B)**

Exhibitor: Frank Lee



***Cryptanthus* Strawberries Flambe
(AM)**

Exhibitor: Patricia Buenaventura



Cryptanthus
Faux Menescal
(B)

Exhibitor:
John Edmonson



Cryptanthus
Jimmy Antle
(B)

In a Decorative
Container

Exhibitor:
John Edmonson

Painting of
Cryptanthus
Crystal Jackson
(B)

Exhibitor:
Mary Cinotti



**The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society
Show and Sale**

December 1, 2, 3, 2023 Edison/ Ford Winter Estates Ft Myers, Fl
Photos by Dr. Larry Giroux Information by Dr. Larry Giroux



**The Morris Henry Hobbs Best of Show—Artistic Award
Cryptanthus Black Raspberry in a Decorative Container
Exhibitor: Dr. Larry Giroux**



**The Bob Whitman Best Cryptanthus Group Species
& Div III B Winners
Cryptanthus 'Margie Lee' Exhibitor: Dr. Larry Giroux**



Division IV Winner
“Flames in the Wind”

Pitcairnia smithiorum,
Cryptanthus acaulis

Exhibitor:
Dr. Larry Giroux

NO PICTURE
AVAILABLE
The Warren Loose
Best Cryptanthus
Group Hybrid
Cryptanthus
Strawberries Flambe
Exhibitor:
Suzanne Bogacki



Division IV Sec A—Decorative Containers
***Cryptanthus* Corinne in a Bicycle Cart**
Exhibitor: Dr. Larry Giroux



**Sweepstakes
Award**

**Represented by
*Cryptanthus
bahianus***

**Exhibitor:
Dr. Larry Giroux**

**Division IV Sec B
—Artistic
Arrangements**

***Cryptanthus brevifolius*
“Glowing Embers
Under the Sea”**

**Exhibitor:
Dr Larry Giroux**



**Additional Blue Ribbon
and
Award of Merit Ribbon
Winners in the CBS
Show**

***Cryptanthus ubairensis* (B)
Exhibitor: Dr Larry Giroux**

Cryptanthus warren loosei
(AM)

Exhibitor:
Dr Larry Giroux



Cryptanthus Earth Angel (B)
Exhibitor:
Dr Larry Giroux

Cryptanthus Tumbleweed (AM)
In a Decorative Pot
Exhibitor: Dr. Larry Giroux



Cryptanthus Gypsy Rose (AM)
In a Decorative Pot
Exhibitor: Alison Ackerman



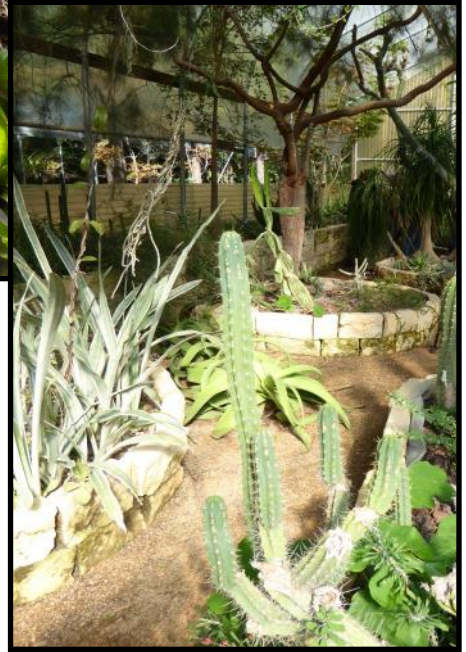
The Cryptanthus Society Website
WWW.CRYPTANTHUSSOCIETY.NET



Please send any correspondence concerning the Website to:
DRLARRYG@gmail.com (Dr. Larry Giroux, CSJ Editor) or
FJIANNETTI@gmail.com (Frank Jiannetti, CS Webmaster)

**David Klein's Home and Garden Tour
Houston, Texas Oct 15, 2023**





On Sunday morning, David Klein and his family hosted a “brunch” and tour at their Houston home. This magnificent estate includes forested acreage featuring greenhouses devoted to collections of tropical and xerographic plants. An interesting area is “Jurassic Hill” where David is growing “pre-historic” plants. Photos by Dr. Larry Giroux.



CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP REPORT
Vol. XXXVIII No 4 Oct-Dec 2023

New:

Katie and Josh Smith
28275 S. Satsuma Rd.
Livingston, LA 70754
225-413-4251

Renewals:

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society
Barbara Gardner
Mary Kim Halbert
Frank and Cherie Lee
Missouri Botanical Garden
Tom and Carol Wolfe

Earth Star Exchange

**Your Best Source for Cryptanthus Species and the
Older and Newest Cultivars - Please
support Cryptanthus Growers**

Moderator- Virginia Schrenker
Email: virgl7@yahoo.com (“L”7 not “one”7)

**Participation in the Earth Star Exchange is open to both Commercial
and Non-commercial Cryptanthus growers for the exchange or sale of
Cryptanthus. Contact Virginia Schrenker or Larry Giroux for
information on how to join.**

Carole Richtmyer

18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring, Texas 77388
(281) 350-6809,
PLANOBROM@aol.com

Rainforest Flora Inc.

19121 Hawthorne Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503
Phone: (310) 370-8044
<http://www.rainforestflora.com>

Ed Edmiston

105 Sena Dr.
Metairie, LA 70005
210-378-7716
edmiston1@gmail.com

Dr. Larry Giroux

80 Skyline Drive
North Fort Myers, FL 33903
239-850-4048, DrLarry7@gmail.com

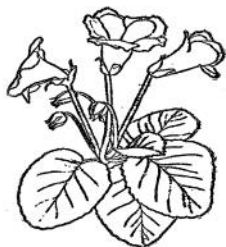
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3530 Tallevast Rd.
Sarasota, FL 34243-3940
Phone: 941-351-2267,
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Jimbo's Nursery

15019 8th St. W
Santa Fe, Texas 77517
409-789-1277
Jimbosnursery75@gmail.com

**Members of the Cryptanthus Society
who have excess Cryptanthus group
plants for exchange or sale are
welcome to submit their contact
information for other members.**



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