



**BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO**

# **THE BSGC NEWS**

**November/December 2019**

President	Lori Weigerding	(630) 888-7516
Vice President	Martha Goode	(815) 459-1623
Treasurer	Paula Dering	(847) 295-2559
Secretary	OPEN	
Newsletter Editor	Steve Goode	stevegoode1@ameritech.net

**WEB SITE**

<http://bromeliad-chicago.org>

**Webmaster**

Lori Weigerding

This is the last newsletter of 2019. We want to wish Jeff Weigerding a speedy recovery. He was in the hospital during the holidays.

Our first meeting for our Society is March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Chicago Botanic Garden at 2 pm. We hope to see you there.

### *President's Column*

*Hi everyone. I hope everyone had a happy & safe Christmas! Crazy weather we had this year, no snow for Santa. I want to thank everyone for their contributions to our club! Without you, there wouldn't be one! Special thanks to Martha and Steve for all they do!*

*Look forward to seeing you all in 2020.*

*Lori Weigerding*

In October, Steve and I were fortunate to be able to visit Australia. Our first stop was Adelaide. Since they are in the Southern Hemisphere, it was springtime. They have been drier than normal this year They can have frosts in the winter and the temperature can get up to the 100° ,s F. In the summer. While we were there the temperature was in the 60°s and 70°s F. Since they can get strong sunlight many of the plants need to be covered with shade cloth. Adelaide has a Mediterranean climate and has the lowest rainfall of any of the Australian cities.

I had corresponded with the President of the Bromeliad Society of Australia, Adam Bodzioch before going on our trip and he volunteered to pick us up at our hotel and show us his collection. He has been a member of their Society for 30 years. He has a very nice collection of vrieseas, guzmanias, tillandsias, alcantareas, neoregelias and a few others. He has registered some Vrieseas: Vriesea “Blade Runner” and “Zach’s Revenge” which he named for two of his grandsons.



Adam Bodzioch  
President of Bromeliad Society of  
Australia



Adam and Vriesea ‘Blade Runner’



Vr. ‘Zach’s Revenge’ and Adam

He has found that canistropsis and nidularium need more shade. He has found that Quesnelia “Tim Plowman” doesn’t always curl so he sometimes has to help it out. When there is more humidity it doesn’t seem to have a problem.

Adam started in the Cactus Society and had a shade house when he first moved to his property. One time he went to the Royal Adelaide Show and there was a bromeliad display. Since then, he has been hooked on bromeliads.

He has found that *Pitcairnea heterophylla* loses its leaves in winter and then it flowers. After it flowers then it produces leaves. He has found that many tillandsias grow better in a hydroponic pot. He uses pure bark and slow release fertilizer. They seem to have a stronger root system and better inflorescence. From his experience, tillandsias grow better here than in Queensland because of all the humidity they get there.



*Pitcairnea heterophylla*



Tillandsia in hydroponic pot

In the summer, he uses an irrigation system to cool the plants down. It goes on every hour for 1 to 3 minutes.



Adam's Shade House



Inside the Shade House

One thing that drives him crazy; is when he gets an inflorescence on a plant and a rat will come and devour it.

After visiting Adam's property we met up with Bev and Ron. Bev is the Secretary of their Society. After having lunch we went to their house. They have a large collection of bromeliads as well as some orchids, nepenthes and other plants. They water by hand. Ron starts at one end and Bev starts at the other and it takes an hour to do the watering. Ron did the work with the wood. They have a very fun sense of humor which is shown in the following:



Bev and Ron



The Bromeliad Society of South Australia is around 80 to 90 members. They usually have around 40-45 members at their Society meetings. One member lives two hours away and one lives three hours away. Most of them live within ½ hour of the church where the meetings are held. We were fortunate enough to be able to attend a meeting. We met “Uncle Derek”(Derek Butcher) and his wife Margaret who were original members. The Society was formed in 1977. The Society has hosted three national conferences, in 1987, 1995 and 2009.

At the meeting we attended they voted on the most popular plant which is a normal part of their meeting. The plant that won was Neoregelia ‘Lorena Lector’, There were many beautiful plants to vote for including a Grace Goode hybrid Neoregelia ‘Break of Day’, Skotag hybrids, Neo. “Bodacious” and Neo. ‘Elizabeth, Neo ‘Margaret’ from Bullis, Tillandsia ‘Mystic’ by Mark Dimmitt and many other beautiful plants. It was very hard to choose. Another part of their meeting is the raffle where there are a wide variety of plants to pick from when your ticket is drawn. Here are some of the plants including a sage.



Raffle Plants

Steve and I took the Adelaide city Highlights and a Murray River Highlights tours to see the city and surrounding area. We didn't take the tour to climb up to the stadium roof and hear the history of the city at the top. There is a mix of old and new buildings. The Parklands make up 45% of the city area so there is a lot of green space.



One of the older houses



The Rainforest GreenHouse

In the outlying area there are several areas with many Germans who came in the 1830's to escape religious persecution. Two of the towns are Hahndorf and Verdun. We enjoyed the Melba chocolate factory tour. (Yum). We had taken the Haigh's chocolate tour the day before. Steve likes the Melba's chocolate better but I preferred Haigh's. It was established in 1915 and is now in its fourth generation. We managed to leave Australia without eating them all. One of their signature chocolates is the frog which was first made in the 1930's. (That made me think of the Harry Potter Chocolate frog in the movies.)

The Adelaide Botanic Garden was near the hotel. It was opened to the public in 1857. We thought the variety of terrestrial bromeliads was great. They included: *Dyckia velascana*, *D. Hebdingii*, *D. Microcalyx*, *D. Encholiriodes* var. *Encholiriodes*, *D. Brevifolia*, *Hechtia podantha*, *Puya spathacea*, *P. Chilensis*, *P. Alpestris*, *P. Butcherian*, *P. Ferruginea* *D. Frigida*, *D. Ferox*, *Deuterocohnia longipetala* and *Ochagavia carnea*. We were very disappointed in the rainforest Green house The display mentioned epiphytes but the only ones we saw were a few orchids. No bromeliads.



*Dyckia hebdingii*



*Puya chilensis*



Inflorescence of  
*Puya chilensis*



*Puya spathacea*

There was another greenhouse with a display of various bromeliads including vrieseas, Tillandsia, Billbergia, Quesnelia, Guzmania, Aechmea and Neoregelia. Many of them seemed faded as if they had gotten too much sun.



There were several cacti and succulents both outside and inside the glass house. It was first erected in 1877 and renovated in 1955.



Cactus and Succulent Greenhouse





Martha, Ferrocactus and the book about the Adelaide Garden SEEDS OF CHANGE by Richard Aitken



Agave



Aloe plicatilis



Didierea trollii



Big aeonium

The roses in the rose garden were just starting to flower but we did see several beautiful ones.



Think of the Rose Parade.

We had noted that in the former British colonies of Australia, New Zealand and Singapore that the British have been able to pass on the Gardening bug to the people there. They have done a Great job in not only keeping up some pretty old greenhouses, but coming up with great new Greenhouses.



*Bromeliad Christmas Tree At The Edison Estate, Fort Meyers, FL (Facebook Photo) from the November 2019 SCURF*

Next picture is from The San Diego Bromeliad Society

Happy New Year to all the world.

