

SEMBS

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN BROMELIAD SOCIETY

AFFILIATE OF BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2014



Billbergia lietzei E. Morren 1881, epiphytic and terrestrial, Espirito Santo and Minas Gerais, Brazil

EXOTIC PLANT SHOW AND SALE

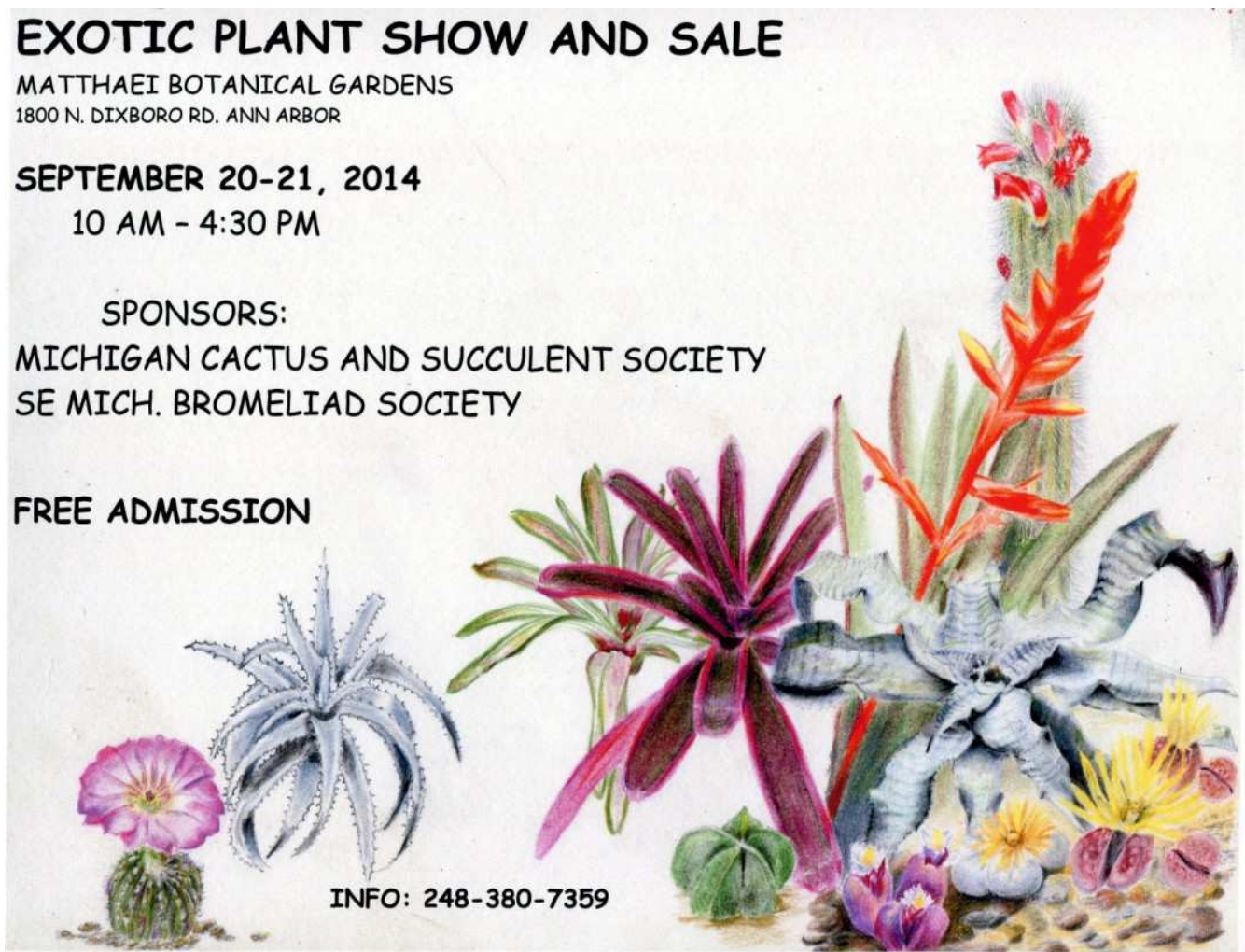
MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS
1800 N. DIXBORO RD. ANN ARBOR

SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2014
10 AM - 4:30 PM

SPONSORS:

MICHIGAN CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SE MICH. BROMELIAD SOCIETY

FREE ADMISSION



INFO: 248-380-7359

This season's exceptional rainfall and cooler nights have produced intense color in our broms. The show will feature a wider range of broms than ever and at the peak of perfection. Plants for sale range from seedlings to blooming plants with a nice selection of Tillandsias (air plants), cultural supplies, books, note cards and prints.

During the August meeting, all members present committed to bringing plants to display at our upcoming show at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. This already guarantees that we will have the greatest member participation in over 20 years! For those members who are planning to visit the show, even for a relatively brief time, consider bringing that recent acquisition that has done well over the summer, or that "oldie but goodie" of which you are particularly proud. There is always room for one more plant in the display! Let us all share in your success!

Our SEMBS show comes right on the heels of the World Bromeliad Conference in Hawaii. Paul Wingert will be attending. He hasn't disclosed his budget for new plants, but it's pretty certain that Paul will bring back a plant or two for our society display that has never before been seen in Michigan!

For those who cannot commit to being at the show for both days, but may have extra pups that you would like to sell, double tag the pots with the name of the plant on one label (if known) and your initials and a price on the second label. The society will take 10% contribution of the gross sales. If you would like to donate any pups as potential perks for new

members those would be welcome as well.

We have access to the greenhouse beginning at 10 am on Friday, September 19 to set up and skirt the tables. Final preparations- setting display plants, and grooming the sales area- will begin at 8 am on Saturday morning. If you can help with show set up, or tear down immediately following the close of show on Sunday afternoon, any assistance is greatly appreciated!

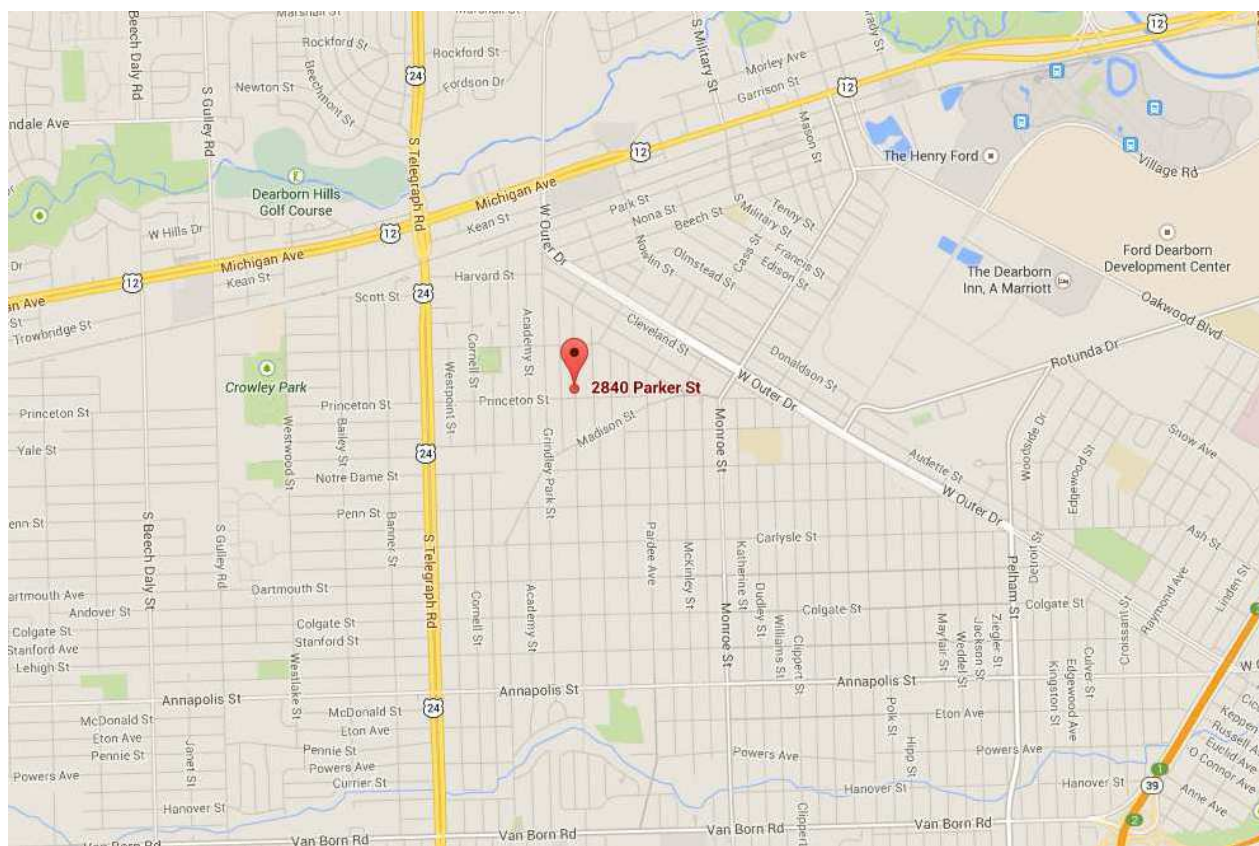


As always, the Michigan Cactus and Succulent Society members will have a display of beautiful specimen plants and a wide variety of cactus and succulents for sale at very reasonable prices.

October Meeting

Saturday, October 18, 2014, we will meet at the home of Andrew and Malorie Okla, 2840 Parker St., Dearborn, MI 48124. Tele.: (248) 762-0896

They've recently erected a greenhouse so this will be a greenhouse warming. What have they collected? I am curious to see. I know that Drew's special interest is tillandsias and everything else.



In the Garden 2014 by P. Goff

Grasshopper Season again!

If you're missing a few edges on your leaves that may be the reason. Grasshoppers have even had the nerve to come into my greenhouse where they can munch to their heart's content without worrying about birds.



But this edging is the work of the resident groundhog. He nibbled the edges of several plants along his way and then found this once handsome group of neos especially tasty. He enjoyed the succulent new pups right down to the dirt.

Groundhogs seem to eat anything in their path. Problem is, you never know where the path is going to be.

But there were some interesting positive developments, too. Last fall Paul Wingert gave me an old mother *Vriesea ospinae* var. *gruberi*, a special cultivar. The mother plant had almost no leaves left and he was about to throw it out when he noticed a tiny pup (3/8") peeping out of the caudex. I put it in the greenhouse and nursed it

through the winter. By spring it had grown enough that I could be confident it would survive and flourish. It grew ever so slowly but by the end of summer it looked like this:



As big as my hand but I will let it grow a bit more before removing and potting it.

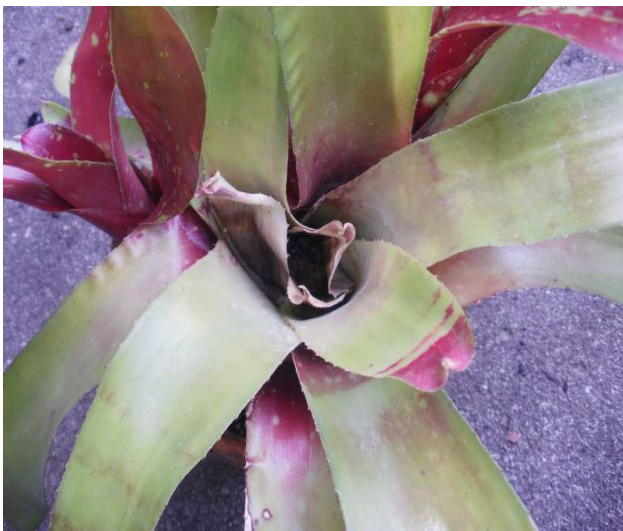
But wait! There are two more pups emerging!

Moral of the story: Don't be too quick to throw out the "dead" mother plants.



I had a hunch that to get the best color and markings in Neoregelia 'Gespacho' the pups need to be given strong light from the time of their emergence. This summer I had the chance to test that hypothesis. I had a pup from a mother which had been grown in partial sun and a pup from a plant at Matthaei Botanical Gardens which grew under shade cloth. The mother plants of both pups came from the same original plant. Both pups were almost exactly the same age. The Matthaei pup, grown in less light and having been modestly fertilized, was half again as large as my pup, grown hard (i.e. in strong light without fertilizer). Both plants bloomed at approximately the same time. My plant was (of course!) much more striking in appearance. What intrigues me now is that the plant grown hard remains in good color for some time after blooming whereas the one grown under less light has faded out.

Neoregelia 'Gespacho'
ca. 3 months after blooming (photos taken at same time and place)



Reclaiming a battered plant: I had two small pots of Aechmea 'Suenos' which had suffered through several periods of drought and looked pretty wretched. I placed them in a pan which soon filled with water from a rain storm. I watched them carefully and saw no sign that they resented sitting in 1 1/2" of water. On the contrary they flourished and with our freakish weather this year the pans stayed full of water the whole summer. New pups proliferated and the older ones are large and well colored.



What did you discover in your garden this summer? We'd really like to know. Please share!