

# SEMBS

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN BROMELIAD SOCIETY

AFFILIATE OF BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

MARCH – APRIL 2015



*Canistrum triangulare*, L.B. Smith and Reitz, 1963, epiphytic, endemic in Atlantic Forest, Espirito Santo, Brazil

Thanks to all who have paid their 2015 dues. If you have not, please pay at our meeting or send check to

**SEMBS, P.O. Box 80472, Rochester, MI 48308**

**\$12 for individual memberships,**

**\$15 for two or more memberships at one address,**

**\$5 for associate membership (75 mi. from Detroit).**



Our next meeting is Sunday (*not* Saturday), March 22 at 2 pm at **English Gardens, Royal Oak** on Coolidge Highway just north of 14 Mile Rd. Members are urged to bring plants for the display. This is our chance to show the public beautiful and perhaps bizarre bromeliads that English Gardens does not sell. Bring problem plants for discussion. Bring a friend!



## ***ALL ABOUT BROMELIADS***

**A Display and Presentation by the Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society**

**Sunday, March 22, 2015 at 2pm. - info: 248-380-7359**

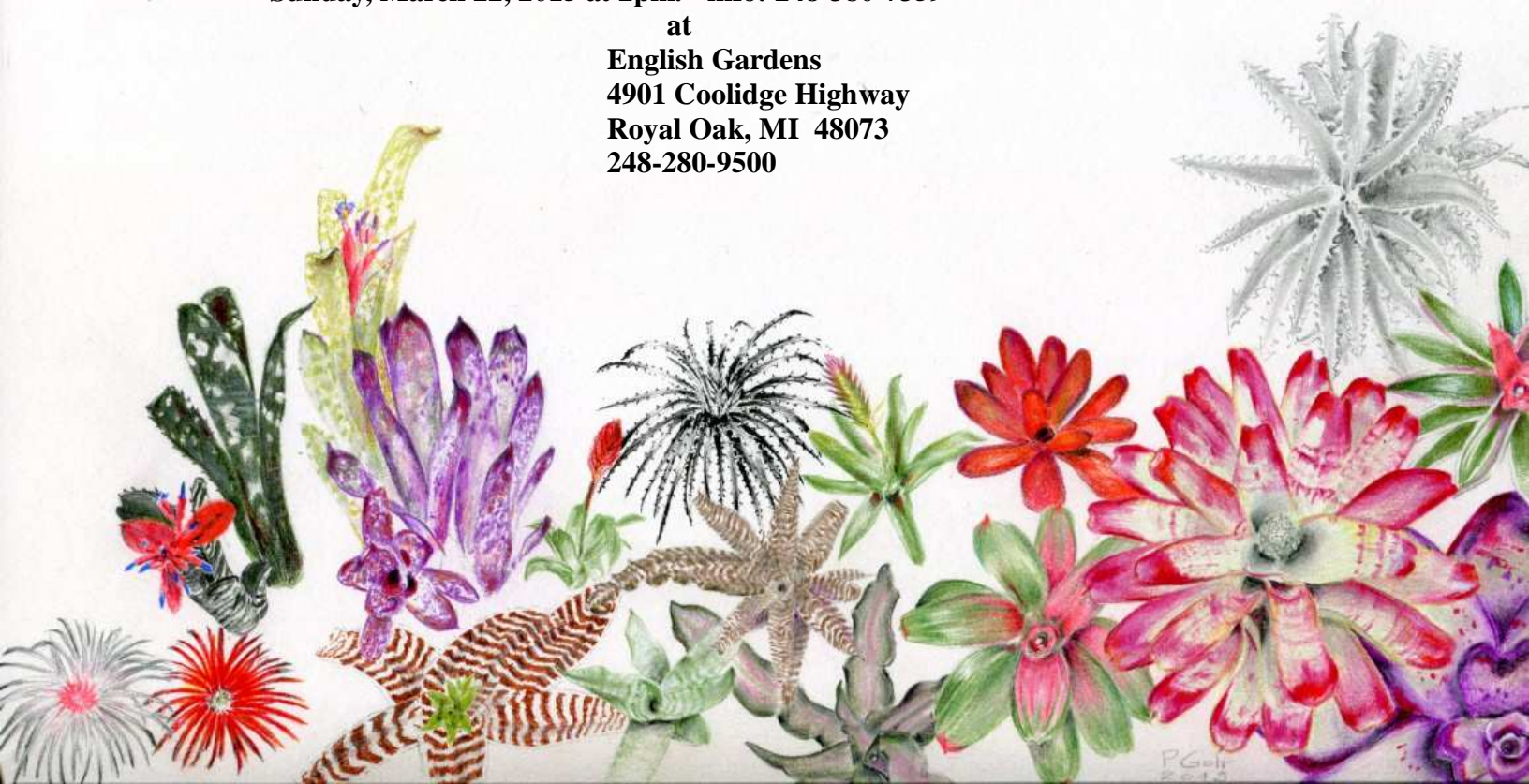
**at**

**English Gardens**

**4901 Coolidge Highway**

**Royal Oak, MI 48073**

**248-280-9500**





## April Meeting

On Saturday, April 18 at 2 pm we will meet at the Goldner Walsh Nursery on Orchard Lake Rd, Pontiac. The topic of our discussion is “Landscaping with Bromeliads.” The frost-free growing season in SE Michigan is 5/15 – 9/15, a good four months of growth and the best place for our bromeliads is outdoors, where they can enjoy high humidity, constant air circulation, a cool-down at night. Best of all, nature takes care of most of the watering for us. Certainly we cannot landscape as they do in subtropical and tropical climates but even a small collection can enhance our gardens and patios. Best of all as the garden declines toward the end of summer, the bromeliads look better and better, many reaching the high point of color with the cooler nights in early September. As with any garden there are risks and problems. We will discuss these and the many possibilities for effective display in the garden.



We will discuss placing a group order to Michael's Bromeliads. The Grower's Choice selection we got last year was superb and very affordable. Shall we order it again? And if you are looking for specific plants Paul Wingert will be glad to order them. They would be available at the May meeting, which will be at Paul's house.

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### Re: SEMBS Jan/Feb cover illustration



Herbert Plever, ed. *Bromeliana*, New York Bromeliad Society newsletter, identified this Venezuelan bromeliad as *Navia tentaculata*. The name tentacula or tentaculata usually indicates the presence of tentacles. But this plant has nothing in common with the venomous Tentacula which Harry Potter studied in Herbology. Perhaps to the taxonomist who named it, it seemed a bit like an octopus. If you have half a minute take a look at this video taken in Canaima National Park in Venezuela. Here you see the plant in bloom or very nearly so.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aclrBjovr9A>

## Spring Housecleaning *by Pen Goff*

**Dead Plants** – if it was a valued plant make sure it really *is* dead before you throw it out. Many a plant with no leaves left will continue to grow a pup or two. Growth will be slow but what the heck.

**Lost its roots** – when you straighten up a plant which has fallen over you discover with dismay that it has separated from its roots due to rot. If the base of the shoot is firm and healthy it can be planted in moist (not wet!) potting mix and it will grow new roots.

**Yellowing leaves** – a dying or dead leaf no longer manufactures food for the plant and should be removed. Dead sheaths (leaf bases) can shelter scale!

**Leaf edges curling together** – plant is dehydrated. Water copiously and leaves will flatten out again. A leaf or two may have been damaged by the drought and not recover completely.

**Quilling pups** – the leaves of a new shoot may stick together at the tips, due to wax or other material on the leaf surfaces. If the tips are carefully separated the shoot will develop properly. When shoot leaves grow tightly wrapped together forming a “quill” which shows no intention of unfurling, the shoot is unlikely to develop properly and should be removed. Removal will encourage the plant to form new pups which hopefully will develop properly. Low humidity is frequently the cause of quilling but it can happen for no obvious reason.

**Growing a trunk** – New roots emerge at the bases of the leaves. As the plant grows taller the leaf bases move away from the soil and new roots do not appear. The end of the old rhizome can be cut away and the plant sunk back into soil to encourage growth of new roots.

**Divide or leave it alone?** If the plant is tubular it will probably look better with several shoots in the pot. If it is a flaring rosette it may display better as a single plant, allowed to develop symmetrically. I always repot neoregelias. Many neoregelia pups mature in less than a year. If left in the pot they will be in bloom before the mother has died. I have one which has produced four pups, one in bloom, the others blooming size, and the mother, bedraggled but very much alive, is busily producing two more pups. Guzmanias, on the other hand, mature more slowly and by the time the pups reach blooming size the mother will have died. Since the guzmania pups grow close to the axis (stem) of the mother plant, it is very difficult to remove them without injury until they have grown fairly large. If you decide to separate them I would recommend waiting until they are blooming size. They will usually have developed their own roots by then.

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