

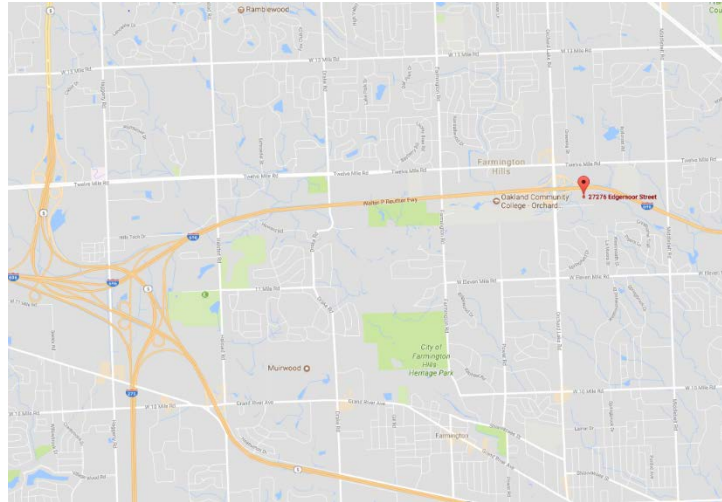
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

SEMBS

BROMELIAD SOCIETY



There will be a meeting on Saturday, August 26, @ 2:00 p.m. at the home of Paul and Karen Wingert, 27276 Edgemoor, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Apologies to those who were expecting our usual August potluck luncheon...larger forces were at work that made it necessary to postpone that event.



Some of our members had inquiries about details of preparation for our upcoming show and sale at Matthaei Botanical Gardens on September 16 and 17, hence the late addition of an August meeting. Much can be accomplished through the newsletter and email communication, but it's more efficient to handle some details in person; if you are interested in participating in the show in any way, and are available to come to the meeting, please plan to attend! One topic to discuss is a matter of presentation: how can we incorporate additional educational elements to our display to increase its overall effectiveness? (As an added enticement to attend the meeting in person, there are lots of colorful plants in the shade house right now, and Paul may have a few interesting freebies to share!)

If you are not attending the August meeting—please email Paul Wingert at pcwingert@gmail.com so he can plan accordingly.

Show set up will take place at Matthaei Botanical Gardens on Friday, September 15 in greenhouse #3. Typically we have access as early as 10 a.m. First order of business will be moving tables into place, then placing plastic table skirting and topping on show tables. After that, the fun begins as we move plants into place!

Everyone is encouraged to bring plants to display! Even if you only plan to attend for a few hours during one of the show days, please consider bringing your finest plants to exhibit. Plants in bloom are especially encouraged, helping to answer the perennial question: “Do all bromeliads bloom?” We’ll be sure to provide space for all who wish to participate in the exhibit. Last year we had over one hundred plants on display representing seventeen genera! Can we exceed that this year?!

The staff at Matthaei was shocked by the crowds at last year’s event, estimating an attendance of around 2,500. This huge increase from has been attributed primarily to a Facebook post by the Cactus and

Succulent Society that apparently found a wide audience. The same publicity tactic has been employed this year, and we've been thusly forewarned to expect similar crowds this year!

Any members who can be available—even for an hour or two—would be immensely helpful to act as hosts (e.g. selling merchandise, greeting and answering questions from show visitors, etc.).

Anyone wishing to sell extra plants, pups, or seedlings is most welcome; please contact Paul if you plan to participate as a vendor, so that space can be properly allocated. It will be helpful if you “double-tag” any plants for sale (especially so if you cannot be in attendance for all show hours): place a second tag with your initials (or other clear form of identification) along with the price, so we can make sure that sale proceeds are properly distributed. Plan to make a 10% donation to the society based on your total sales. Funds generated will help us to purchase new books for our society library.

August is a wonderful time to propagate bromeliads; the combination of warm temperatures and high humidity at this time of year are perfect for encouraging pups to strike roots quickly! The late summer sunshine and cool nights also help develop radiant color in bromeliads. Take a look around your collection, and see if you don't have some pups to share, trade with other members, or sell at the show!



A few photos from last year's show table; a large assortment comprising showy blooms, fierce-looking terrestrials, and some vibrant hybrids, among others...

Hybridizing with *Neoregelia chlorosticta* var. 'Marble Throat' – by *Paul Wingert*



Neoregelia chlorosticta is a charming small species which is native to Brazil. It has red leaves with lots of green spots. It has been a component of many colorful hybrids, and its small size endears it to collectors of miniature Neos. (photo courtesy of Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies)

The variety 'Marble Throat' has a rather brief and much discussed history. The articles presented below can be found on the Florida Council of Bromeliads website, and it further lists the source of articles used. First is an article about the species *Neo. chlorosticta* 'Marble Throat', and following that is an article and discussion of some of the hybrids which have been developed using 'Marble Throat' as a parent. Yours truly gets a mention in the article about the hybrids. I was thoroughly unaware of the mischief that would be created when I acquired a plant by the name of 'Hatsumi' at the 2004 World Bromeliad Conference in Chicago! That story is shared below. I have included several photos of 'Marble Throat' hybrids that have a well earned place in my collection. Several are special plants that I have acquired from other hybridizers, and a couple are hybrids which I have produced myself. *Neo. 'Marble Throat'* and its hybrids have much to recommend them. They are colorful plants, they seem to grow well here in Michigan, and they don't take up a lot of space!

***Neoregelia* 'Marble Throat' Cleared** in Journ. Brom Soc. 38(5):224, 213. 1988

The January-February 1988 issues of the Bulletin of the Bromeliad Society of New Zealand and the May-June 1988 Bromeletter of the Bromeliad Society of Australia include no less than five short articles expressing questions and opinions about the cultivar *Neoregelia* 'Marble Throat'.

To begin, Len Trotman (NZ Jan.) wrote that he is uncertain if the plant is a species or a hybrid, but knows that it is delightful with its white flowers. He has observed its tendency toward being prolific. Harry Martin (NZ Mar.) says that he saw the plant in Hawaii in 1987 and regrets not having a photo. He notes, "One of our members has now produced some hybrids from this plant. One, the result of crossing with *N. 'Oh No'*, and another with 'Pink Polka Dot'. Results not yet known." To these communications, Bea Hanson, editor of the Bulletin, adds (NZ Mar.) "A friend and I bought one each in Honolulu some years ago. The plants were both the same size and really beautifully marbled. They produced offsets quite soon after we brought them home. One day she rang me and in a disgusted tone told me her plant had lost its marbles and how was mine? I said mine was fine and looking even better than when we brought them back here, the solution was to take the sickly plant out of the greenhouse and to put it in the open air. There it began to pup madly plus all the pups and the mother had their marbles back again. "



In the Bromeletter, Olwen Ferris, then editor (BSA May-June) adds some confusion stating that three

years ago June Bennett gave her an offset of an unnamed plant received from Lotus Osiris. At about the same time she got a seedling that Ruby Ryde had raised from seed gathered in Brazil. Sometime later, Ruby gave her an offset labeled *Neoregelia chiorosticta* 'Marble Throat'. All three plants are identical and when grown in nearly full sun the soft green and white is suffused with faint pink. All was fine, she says, until Vic Przetocki wrote in the January 1988 Bromelink of the Bromeliad Society of Western Australia that *Neoregelia chlorosticta* cv. White Marble was his favourite bromeliad.

Enter Derek Butcher (same Bromeletter): "The name is 'Marble Throat'. It is listed in Brian Smith's Manuscript." Derek suggests that the plant grown from seed cannot be a hybrid.

Back to the United States. Kathy Dorr says in a recent letter that *Neoregelia* 'Marble Throat' is a plant Bill Seaborn acquired with no name and, "he is the one who tacked the name *N. chlorosticta* var. Marble Throat on it. I don't believe it has any validity other than to sell plants. I question whether it is even a *chlorosticta*."

Harry Luther says, " 'Marble Throat' is a minor variety of *Neoregelia chlorosticta*, a good cultivar."

That should rest the case, but I shall ask Elton Leme if he would care to add a few words. Will someone please send me 35 mm color slides of habit (side view) and inflorescence (straight down) of a specimen? -Ed.

AN ATTRACTIVE FORM OF NEOREGELIA CHLOROSTICTA. By Olwen Ferris.

In Bromeletter May/June 1988

A dainty little *Neoregelia* can be seen in a number of collections, scattered right around Australia. I first made its acquaintance about three years ago in Cairns, North Queensland. June Bennett gave me an offset from an unnamed substitute plant which came to her from Lotus Osiris, Brazil, and asked "what is it?"

About the same time Ruby Ryde of Sydney, gave me a small *Neoregelia* seedling, grown from Brazilian seed. Recently Ruby gave me an offset labelled *Neoregelia chlorosticta* 'Marble Throat'. All three plants are identical and when grown in nearly full sun, the soft green and white is suffused with faint pink. A most attractive little *Neoregelia* very suited to growing in hanging pots or baskets. At Bromeliads IV in Adelaide, Easter 1987, Geoff Lawn showed slides of this small *Neoregelia* and a number of delegates asked for more information on the plant.

In Bromelink, the bi-monthly Journal of The Bromeliad Society of W.A. Inc., in the report of the January 1988 meeting, under 'My Favourite Bromeliad', Vic Przetocki gave as his third choice: *Neoregelia chlorosticta* cv. White Marble - a small plant with light green leaves covered with creamy-white splotches. With bright light the inner heart colours a dark bluish tinge and the base of the plant a maroon colour. Offsets are produced on short stolons.

As the plant now has two names to my knowledge, it is time to have Derek adjudicate and pick one name for identification purposes.

Derek Butcher's response:

The name is *Neoregelia* 'Marble Throat'. This name appears in Brian Smith's Manuscript of Bromeliad Hybrids and Cultivars, and as such I believe we should accept it as that. Therefore the Sandgropers miss out on this occasion. However the problem does not finish there. Brian Smith indicates it is a cultivar name for a form of *Neoregelia chlorosticta* and it appears he may be right. Perhaps some of us should check the floral attributes with what we grow as *Neoregelia chlorosticta*. The leaf colour is certainly different although the plant shape generally conforms to what I would call a small *Neoregelia chlorosticta*. I obtained my *Neoregelia* 'Marble Throat' from Los Angeles whilst on holiday 5 years ago. At the time I

could get no real answer to my questioning but vague references were made to Dr. Oeser's hybrids. Not only did he send his hybrids to Olwen Ferris years ago, but he also sent many to the United States! I left it at that and considered Brian Smith's naming to be suspect because I thought it a hybrid rather than a cultivar. Here the plot thickens, because if Ruby Ryde did grow hers from seed then I doubt very much that it is a hybrid. It may be a cultivar or if it does reproduce faithfully from seed it may even be a true variety. The only person who can help is possibly Elton Leme, that keen, up and coming conservationist from Rio de Janeiro.

I agree with Vic Przetocki that it is an outstanding plant but it has taken me five years to appreciate it. Ever since importation it has struggled along with most leaves having dry tips. This year it is fabulous! What did we do that was different?

D.B., Fulham, S.A.

***Neoregelia* 'Marble Throat'** hybrids by Cultivar Registrar (*Derek Butcher*) Aug 2008.

Journal Brom. Soc 38(5): 224, 213. 1988 shows the response I got to a letter to the Editor. At that time 'Marble Throat' (said to be a cultivar of *Neoregelia chlorosticta*? albino with its white petals) was already being used as a parent to breed from but few have been registered. A check of the Cultivar data base shows 23 hybrids where this cultivar is involved and of these 13 emanated from Western Australia! In August 2008 I received a request from Sharon Plummer-White of Texas to 'grandfather' in a hybrid that Hatsumi Maertz had apparently done many years ago. Hatsumi Maertz in Hawaii has never registered any hybrid she has done. Sharon wanted to use the name 'Hatsumi' because this was the name used by David Shiigi used when selling plants at the Chicago Conference in 2004 when Paul Wingert bought one. Paul could not find the name anywhere and tried to get information from Hawaii. David Shiigi has since confirmed that he gave the plant/s this name because he knew it was different to the hybrid he had done which he calls 'Pinky' (unregistered). Paul Wingert also swapped notes with Sharon Plummer-White and which is why I got this registration.

As with all 'Grandfathering in' I ask more questions than a standard registration because here the hybridist has clearly not done their job and identity needs to be substantiated. In this case, I contacted Lisa Vinzant in Hawaii and she was aware of the Hatsumi Maertz hybridising program with 'Marble Throat' which started around 1982. She was also able to advise that a provisional name of 'Pink Mosaic' had been given by Sharon Petersen for one of the better clones.

Plant/s imported into Australia by Cheryl Basic in Queensland in the 1990's were incorrectly identified as 'Marble Throat' but this was later amended to 'Pink Mosaic' Plants currently available on the Internet Auctions in Australia suggest that 'Pink Mosaic' is either very variable or more than one clone is involved.

The only solution I can offer at this time is to register 'Hatsumi' for the plant named by David Shiigi in 2004 and the more redder leafed version as 'Pink Mosaic' for the plant in Texas and in Australia. (*Photo above- Neoregelia 'Hatsumi'. Hybrid by Hatsumi Maertz. Photo by Paul Wingert*)



Sharon Plummer- White has volunteered to grow both 'plants' under the same conditions so we can note the records accordingly, sometime in the future.

However, my investigations suggest that many more unnamed 'Marble Throat' hybrids from this Hawaiian source are being grown in Hawaii and Australia. This is in complete contrast to the hybrids emanating from Western Australia which are well documented for identification purposes.

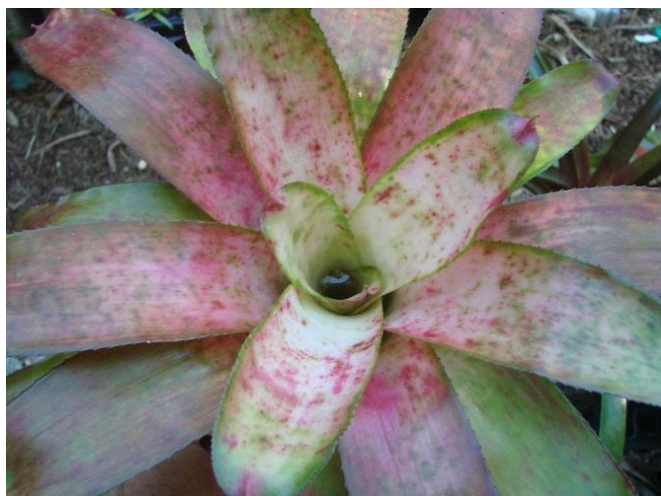
A few more *Neoregelia* 'Marble Throat' hybrids- Note the strong influence of Neo. 'Marble Throat' in all of its progeny!



Neoregelia 'Alpine Rose' (Photo at left) - a hybrid by Bob Spivey- blooming in author's collection in June 2017.



Neoregelia 'Midnight Marble' (right) is a charming hybrid by Hawaiian grower Lisa Vinzant. Blooming in author's collection in April 2017



Photos to the left, and directly below are of the same plant! This is the author's recently registered hybrid *Neoregelia* 'Pink Paradox'. It undergoes a dramatic metamorphoses from as it progresses from pup to blooming plant! (Photos from Sept. 2013 and Feb 2014)

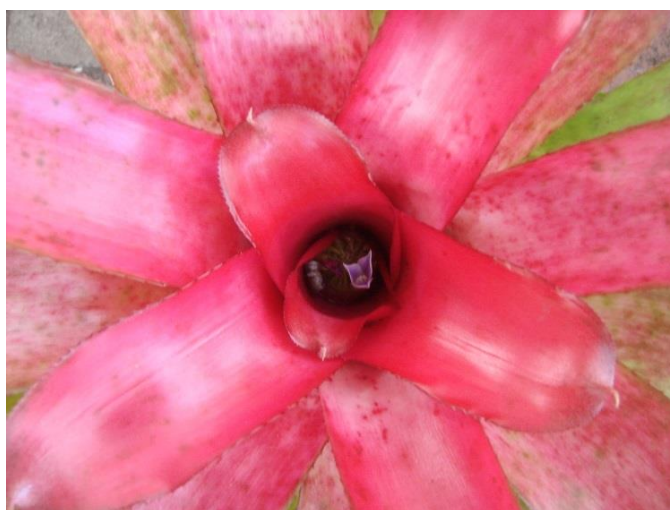


Photo at left is an unregistered hybrid by the author, *Neoregelia* 'Royal Cordovan' x 'Hatsumi' blooming in May 2017.

EXOTIC PLANT SHOW AND SALE

MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS
1800 N. DIXBORO RD. ANN ARBOR

SEPTEMBER 16-17
10 AM - 4:30 PM

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