

SEMBS September-October 2017

Our next meeting will be held this Saturday, October 14, 2 PM at Paul and Karen Wingert's home, 27276 Edgemoor, Farmington Hills, MI 48334, We will have a discussion of last month's show, and hope to have input regarding successes and challenges faced (too crowded?!!) in advance of a meeting of SEMBS and MCSS representatives with MBG staff. Any suggestions that would help improve the show are most welcome. Additional (slightly more fun) business, it would be nice to explore possible new acquisitions for our society library! If you know of a bromeliad book that deserves a place in our library, please come and let us know. The transition to Autumn has been very kind so far, and with a promising weather forecast through the weekend, many of the bromeliads are enjoying an extended "summer vacation" outdoors! A surprising number of plants are coming into bloom now. As an added inducement for attendance, Paul will be sharing numerous freebies.

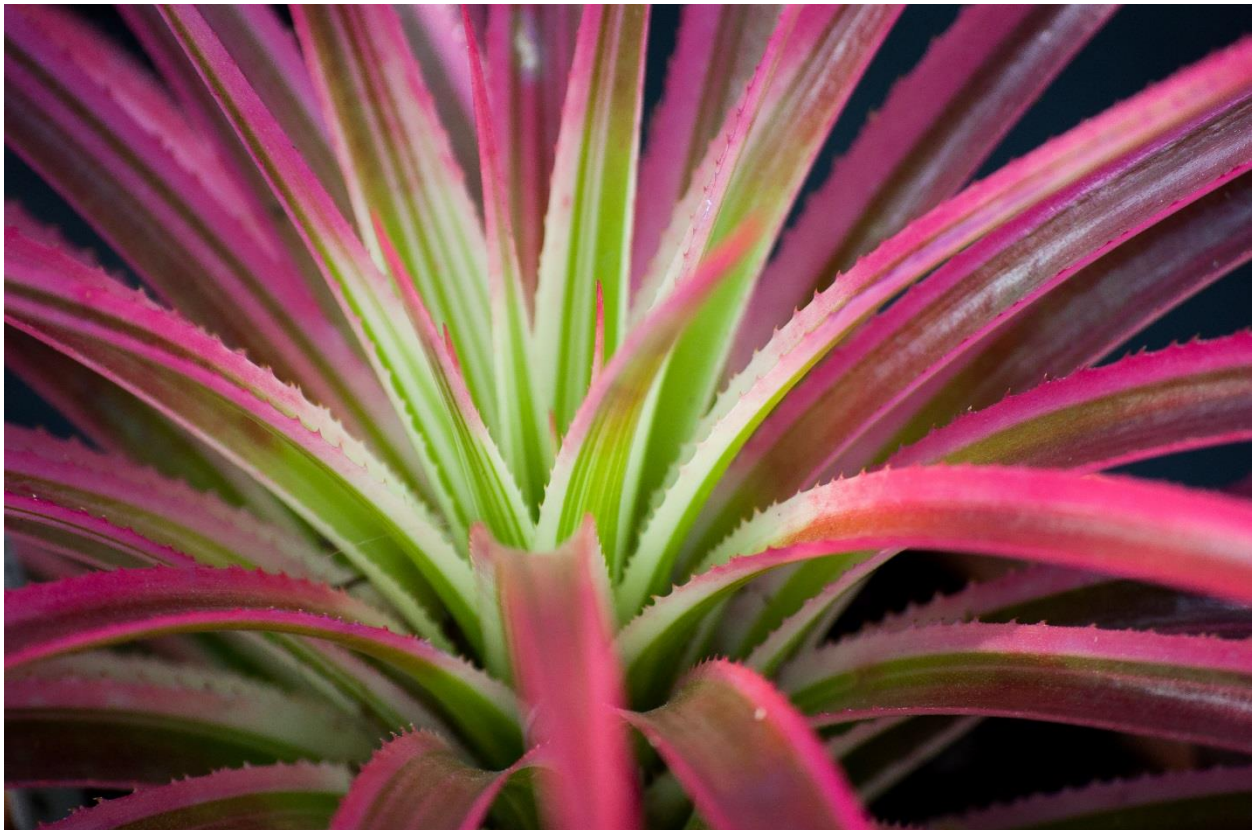
Photos by Paul Wingert



2017 Exotic Plant Sale Report- *Pen Goff*

We were agreeably surprised by last year's unexpected traffic; this year we could not believe our eyes. A crowd was waiting at the door when we opened. Customers then had to wait in a long line before they could enter the crowded sales area, a few at a time. They continued to pour in all day, both days. The Cactus and Succulent Society had two cashiers working non-stop both days. Matthaei Botanical Gardens estimates 4500 people attended. It was most encouraging to see so many young people interested in plants, students, parents with kids in tow. Many were first introduced to bromeliads at the display tables where some 200 beautifully grown plants showcased the astounding diversity of the family. Guzmanias and Neoregelias and of course "air plants" were popular choices. I saw a number of customers carrying *Vriesea splendens*, "Flaming Sword," with fat, green spikes. Will they be delighted when those "swords" turn red! We hope that all the newcomers to the world of bromeliads will have success and return next year!

Show photos by Drew Okla





Our November meeting will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2:00 P.M. at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Room 139. We will be presenting a brand new PowerPoint program from the BSI Media Library. The program will be about "Terrestrial Bromeliads". We often focus on the epiphytic members of the family and particularly on the Tillandsias. Recent DNA research informs us that the ancestral "roots" of the Bromeliad family are shared by our modern-day Graminae, better known as the Grass family. There are hundreds of species of bromeliads that are obligate terrestrials, growing with their roots in the ground rather than up in the trees. Many are less frequently seen in cultivation (at least in our temperate climate) due to sheer size, or because they have adapted to a particular climate and require special cultural conditions. Nevertheless, there is a weird, wacky, and often very beautiful assortment of bromeliads- from the entire spectrum of bromeliad genera- that deserve to be better known by all plant lovers! This event will be advertised by Matthaei Botanical Gardens, and will be open to the public.