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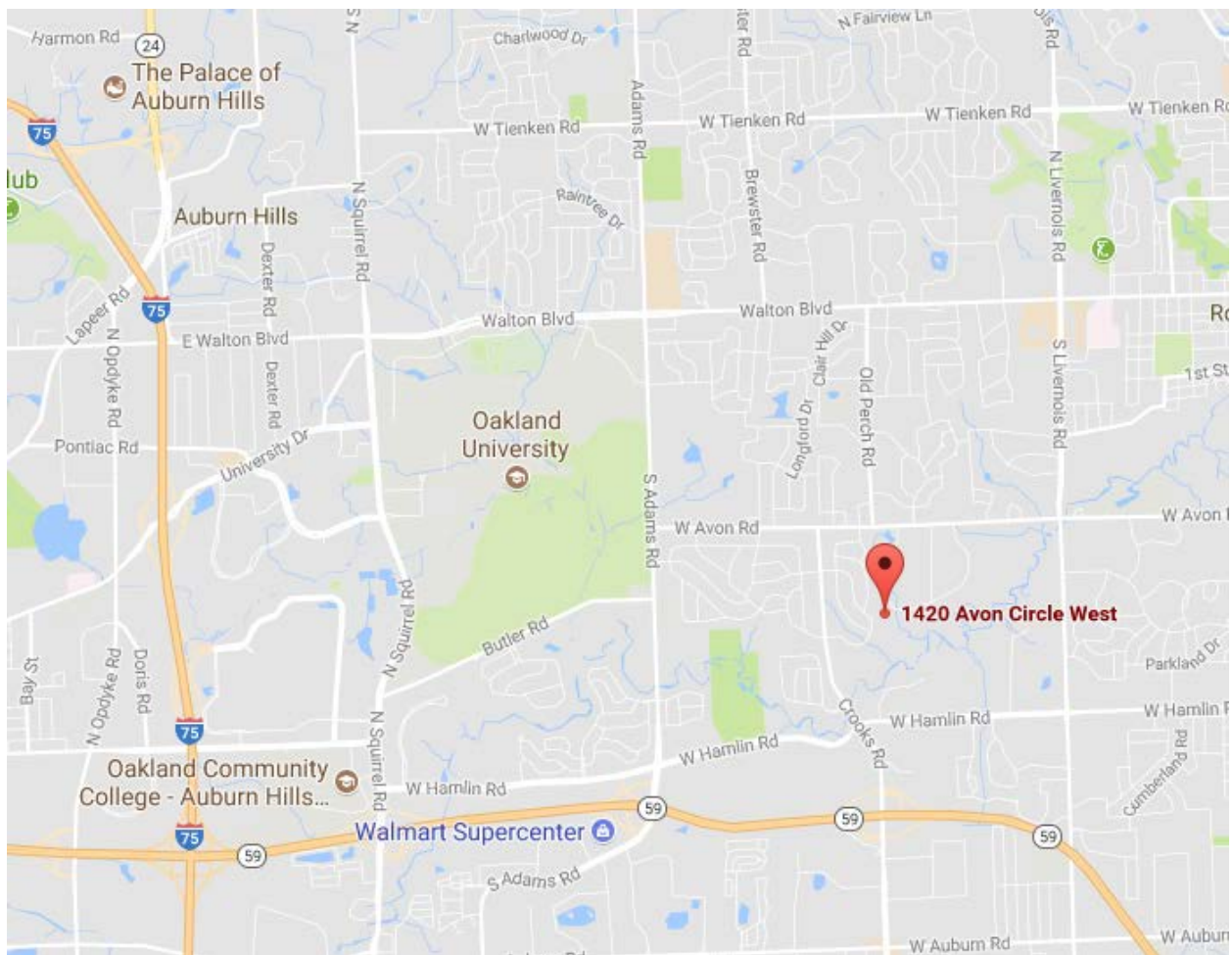


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SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be held at **Matthaei Botanical Gardens on Saturday, November 18, at 2 p.m. in room 139.** We will be introducing a new program created for the BSI Media Library by BSI member Keith Smith. The PowerPoint presentation will feature "Terrestrial Bromeliads"—guaranteed, there will be photos of bromeliad species you've never seen! This event is being publicized by Matthaei and is open to the public (invite your plant-loving friends to join us!)

The last meeting of 2017 will be held Saturday, December 2, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Pat and Lynne Echlin will host our annual Holiday potluck feast! The Echlins address is 1420 Avon Circle W., Rochester Hills, MI 48309. Please contact Lynne (248-651-9521) to RSVP and let her know what dish you plan to contribute.



A VISIT TO BROOKLYN BOTANICAL GARDENS

by Drew Okla

Though our plans were thwarted during our trip to New York earlier this year, Malorie and I finally made it to Brooklyn Botanical Gardens on our most recent east coast excursion.

Our timing was, in at least one sense, unfortunate: Halloween imminent, the campus was overrun by obstreperous, be-costumed children, attendees of a holiday community outreach event. Our expectation of a tranquil respite from the cacophony of Midtown Manhattan was thus sorely disappointed.

Fortunately, the conservatory was far (enough) from the maddening crowd, allowing for mostly unhindered enjoyment of the collection. The Victorian-era glasshouses, beautiful in their own right, contained a commendable diversity of flora.

In addition to the standard fare offered up in the tropical house, the aquatic house was a real treat (albeit almost unbearably humid). The tangled roots masses of various vandaceous orchids hung down well-into the path around the central pond, wherein a host of *Tillandsia* and other epiphytes were to be seen.

For the bromeliad enthusiast, though—especially one with a bent for less-common genera—the real treat was the arid house, where multiple puya species abounded. Expecting the scant few *Dyckia* and *Hechtia* that generally represent the entirety of terrestrial bromeliads in collections, we were surprised and delighted see so many members of this genus on display!



Above: The usual *Tillandsia* assortment (*fasciculata* et. al) hangs in the aquatic house
Cover: a *Tillandsia* sp. grows on a cactus in the arid house



Puya berteroniana (above), *P. venusta* (right) and *P. chilensis* (below) were among the xeric bromeliads on view



NEWS, NOTES



Emerging inflorescence, October 19



The first flowers opened October 23. Although the flowering period is now over, the primary bracts have retained their strong pink color for more than three weeks

The October meeting had strong attendance. There was healthy discussion about the successes and challenges faced during our September show and sale at Matthaei. Tentative plans are in place to meet with MBG staff to discuss possible ways to mitigate overcrowding, and thusly improve the experience for both vendors and attendees during next year's show.

Weather during the October meeting was uncooperative, as lots of rain made for sloppy grounds that debarred enjoyment of all the bromeliads up in the shadehouse. However, a few noteworthy specimens were "on view:" Bill. 'Tres Bien' x 'Picador', a Don Beadle hybrid, was a new acquisition from our recent Spring plant order from Michael's Bromeliads, chosen by Michael as his favorite *Billbergia sanderiana* hybrid (per my request).

Large, dark spines are a strong trait of *Billbergia sanderiana*. For those who are attracted to "spiny" plants, it makes a strong statement of character, even when the plant is not in bloom. A compound inflorescence and lots of flowers made this a relatively long-lasting flower spike, especially when compared to most *Billbergias*!

As our weather cools and the days become shorter, things tend to slow down a bit. Fewer plants bloom this time of year (though there are always a few surprises). *Neoregelia kautskyi* is a reliable fall bloomer; Several *Tillandsia*, some *Vrieseas*, and many *Billbergias* seem to celebrate the end of the active growing season by producing blooms during the fall. Some cultivars are just beginning to bloom now, while others will be showing their spikes in short order.

— Paul Wingert

AN ACCOUNT OF THE 2017 SOUTHWEST BROMELIAD GUILD SHOW & SALE

by Pen Goff

Paul Wingert and I attended the Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show and Sale, held October 20-22 in Dallas, Texas. The Guild comprises five bromeliad societies in Louisiana and Texas. Unfortunately, attendance and plant entries were impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Many had stories of devastation suffered during the recent storm, having sustained the flooding, wind and tree damage to personal property—including losses of valuable plant collections. It was no doubt therapeutic to join together with friends and like-minded plant enthusiasts, but our thoughts and prayers continue for those who are still repairing and rebuilding their collections, homes and lives.

The main purpose of the trip was to partake in the annual BSI Board meeting. The sales area was full of interesting plants and we both returned home with several new treasures). A few new bromeliad books, purchased for our Society library, were unexpected gems: *Bromeliaceae III* and *Mountain Plants of Venezuela: The Coastal Range, The Andes and the Tepuis-Bromeliads*, both by Francisco Oliva-Esteve. These spectacular volumes will be available for perusal at the November meeting.

Sunday morning featured three invited speakers. First was Dennis Cathcart, well-known to many bromeliad growers as the founder and owner of Tropiflora nursery in Sarasota, Florida. For many years he published his monthly *Cargo Report*, documenting his adventures to dozens of countries in his quest for the new and unusual. His presentation was a sampling of several of his collecting trips to Central and South America, and featured lots of fascinating and diverse habitat photos—accompanied frequently by humorous anecdotes of misadventures (which often become the most memorable moments of a trip!)

Pamela Koide-Hyatt, founder and owner of Bird Rock Tropicals in La Jolla, California, is renowned as a collector, grower, and hybridizer of Tillandsias. Having made countless trips to research and collect Tillandsias in Mexico, Pamela has discovered a dozen new species and identified numerous natural hybrid swarms. Pamela's presentation described in great detail the numerous Tillandsia habitats in Mexico, and the influence and interaction of climate and topography. From coastal areas to high-altitude "cloud forests", her photos highlighted some spectacular Tillandsias that are unusual or rare in cultivation.

Irwin Lightstone is president of the North Texas Cactus and Succulent Society, and an award-winning professional photographer specializing in plant photography. He presented numerous examples of his work, and offered suggestions for amateur photographers to improve the quality of their shots.

In all, much was accomplished and the meeting adjourned with a sense of optimism for the coming year.



Competitive entries in the judged show. Clockwise from top left: *Tillandsia funkiana*, *Dyckia 'Natalie'*, *Deuterocohnia lorentziana*, *T. ionantha*, *T. brachycaulos*, *Cryptanthus 'Sugartime'*