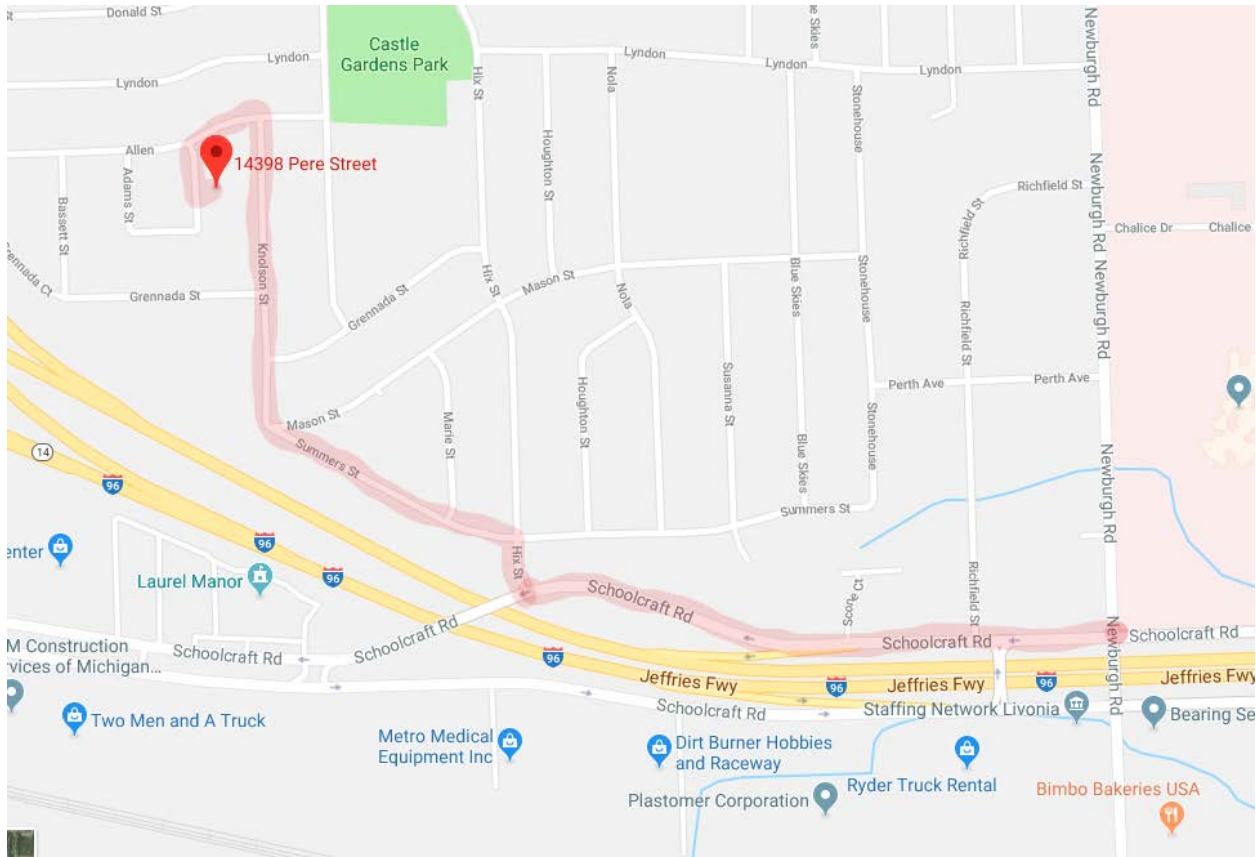


sambas

March + April 2018

**THE APRIL MEETING** will be held **Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Pen Goff:

**14398 Pere Street, Livonia, MI 48154**



GPS/Google Maps directions to Pen's address are prone to omission of certain street names and can be confusing to follow; to circumvent any navigational issues, Paul has provided the following suggested route (highlighted above):

- From I-96 (Jeffries Freeway), take exit 173 and merge onto Schoolcraft road (if you exit eastbound, take the turnaraound just before Newburgh).
- From Newburgh Road, proceed west on the service drive (Schoolcraft road, .4 miles)
- Turn right onto Hix St. (one short block)
- Turn left onto Summers St. (one long block)
- Turn right onto Knowlson St.
- Turn left onto Allen St. (one short block)
- Turn left onto Pere St., where 14938 will be on the left.

Hope to see you next Saturday!

## Winter-Blooming Bromeliads: a Few Observations

by Paul Wingert

**W**e often lament that many of the bromeliads we grow tend to lose a lot of the intense, vibrant colors they develop during the summer months (Neoregelias are especially impacted by the lower light levels). Fortunately, that doesn't mean a diverse bromeliad collection is devoid of interesting colors during winter; many bromeliads put on their best show from late fall to early spring! Here are a few of these colorful winter-bloomers:



Several *Billbergias* are truly seasonal bloomers: Bill. 'Fantasia' and Bill. 'Poquito Mas' typically flower from mid to late autumn; Bill. *nutans* (not pictured) is easily cultivated and blooms reliably in mid-winter



In a sizeable collection of *Tillandsias*, something will be in bloom nearly all year long. One of the easier species to grow, *Till. recurvifolia* (below right) quickly develops into a nice specimen clump.



*Till. 'Houston'* struts her stuff in November (left)

Many vrieseas produce long-lasting, colorful inflorescences; fertilize them aggressively to encourage the most robust flower spikes. One of my hybrids, *Vriesea* 'Dragon Tales' (below left), has a proven track record of flowering during the winter months. *Vriesea elata x zamorensis* has bloomed at various times during the year and has an amazing inflorescence. This photo (below right) was taken June 2003, but it is blooming for me again in March 2018!



The genus *Aechmea* contains several species that bloom in winter. Among these are *Ae. recurvata*, the many forms of which are very hardy, easy to grow and don't require much space (and boast lots of character!). *Aechmea orlandiana* (far left) is



another species with striking foliage year-round. The colorful inflorescence usually develops between November and February, and remains attractive for several weeks.

*Aechmea recurvata* 'Red Form'