

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN BROMELIAD SOCIETY

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2018



SEMBS

Fall Show Report

Once again, we had a very successful show!

Attendance was indeed down from the previous two years, but whether due to expectations of similarly long lines or the unseasonably hot sunny days—temperatures in the greenhouse hovered around 95°F—in many ways this made for a more pleasant experience; for those who could bear the heat, the smaller crowds, along with an increased number of cashiers for the Michigan Cactus and Succulent Society, made for a more relaxed atmosphere wherein visitors could browse the sale tables, chat with vendors and admire the display.

Also, we welcome three new members who joined our society during the show: Alexandra Ernst, Leon Espira, and Darcy Hackert. We look forward to becoming better acquainted with them at future meetings!

The SEMBS display table comprised around 100 plants representing 15-17 different genera (depending on how you tally the bigeneric hybrids), nearly one quarter of which were in some state of bud or bloom—quite a feat for a Michigan autumn show!

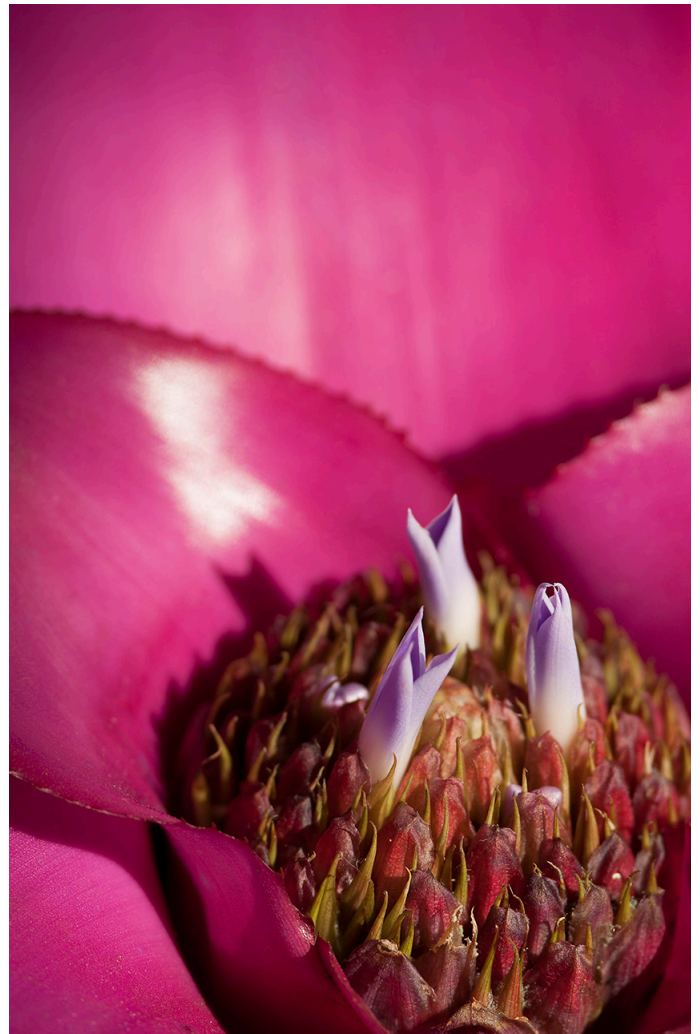


A refreshingly less-chaotic tableau through the show entrance; in previous years this hallway was largely impassable, choked by a queue of those waiting to get in that extended outside



Malorie on duty as Bromeliad Ambassador, filling in for Pen at the entry table





Previous page: *Tillandsia* sp. (top); *Neoregelia cyanea* (bottom)



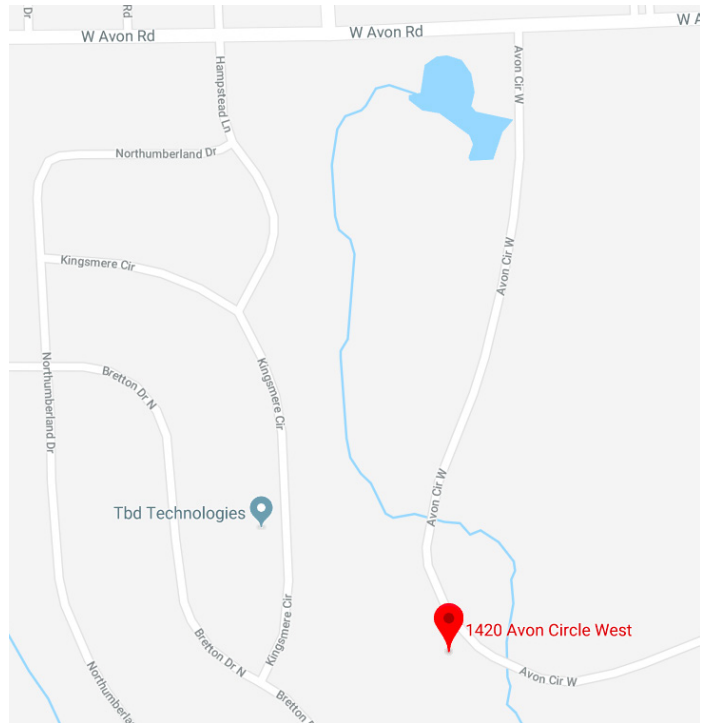
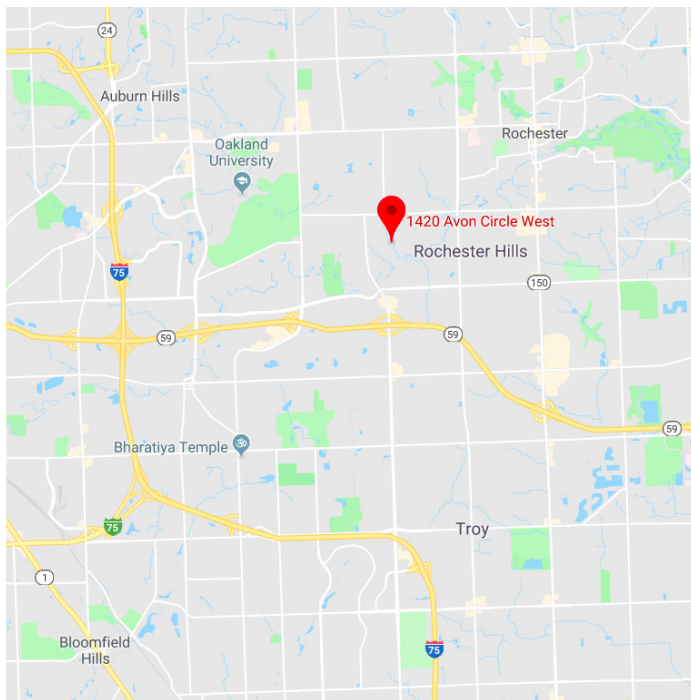
This page (clockwise from left): *Neoregelia* sp; Neo. 'Michi'; *Vr.* sp. in spike

December Meeting

Thanks to everyone who attended the November meeting at Matthaei! The good turnout made for some interesting discussion.

The next meeting will be our annual holiday potluck at the home of Lynne and Pat Echlin at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 8th. Please RSVP with the Echlins by phone or email, (248) 651 - 9521 or lechlin@sbcglobal.net

Bringing a dish to share is greatly appreciated, though not compulsory; inquire with Lynne if you're unsure what to bring.



1420 Avon Circle W, Rochester Hills, MI 48309



facebook.com/ ...search SEMBS



instagram.com/semichbroms

LED strip lights

as an artificial light source

When we first moved to our current place a few years ago, we were forced to disassemble our heated greenhouse and appropriate our sunroom, the best interstitial substitute before moving into a more permanent location. To this end, I built slatted cedar shelves to accommodate our collection through the winter, designed to run along the perimeter of the room and maximize available window space. Though we still run fluorescent lights that draw the better part of 1kW to supplement the natural light, since each shelving unit is roughly 2 feet deep, plants in the middle receive the least light, being neither right beside the window on the outer side or right near the fluorescent tubes on the inner side. This may seem inconsequential, but recall the inverse square law of light: the amount of light from a given source varies inversely with the square of the distance from that source (a plant twice as far from the window or fixture receives a quarter of the light; three times as far, one ninth the light, &c.).



LED strips illuminate the once-dark shelf center



The lights run on 12V DC and come with a female barrel connector pre-wired at one end

To this end I recently installed LED strip lights along the central length of the bottom of each shelf. Though not equipped to perform any spectrophotometry measurements to quantify the marginal effect, empirically, this addition has certainly redounded to the success of our indoor grow setup. Even if the spectral correlation to that of maximum photosynthetic efficiency is imperfect...well, they're tremendously bright! And at 6000K, the color temperature is very close to that of natural daylight, making them a great way to "display" our collection in the early morning or evening, as we're often away most daylight hours during the winter.

The entire setup costs less than \$75, can be assembled and installed in an hour or two, and requires a minimum of electrical proficiency.



Fig. 2

Components:

- A 12V DC power supply
- LED strips
- Snap connectors (if cutting/joining multiple sections; see Fig. 3-4)
- Wire nuts
- Barrell connectors (if cutting/joining multiple sections)

If multiple or different lengths are required, strips can simply be cut with scissors or wire snips at the indicated points (every 2 inches or so). The waterproof strips are so made by the application of a silicone coating; roughly one half inch of this must be removed--enough to expose the electrical contacts and allow it to fit correctly into the snap connectors. This can be done easily with sharp scissors or an Xacto knife. The strip is then slid beneath the small plastic tabs on either side until it is seated snugly, with the two contacts on the strip pinned securely beneath the connector nodes (see Fig. 2-3).

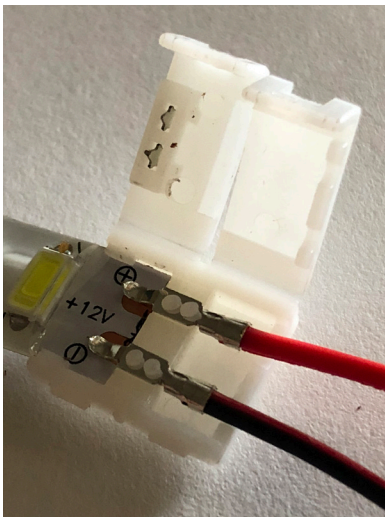


Fig. 3

At 12.5 amps, the power supply linked below is enough to safely power two full 16' strips; while smaller units are available, it's never a bad idea to have a power supply rated for more current than it will actually provide (especially if you opt to add more lights later). A single 16' strip requires a power supply rated for at least 5A.

Wires from each snap connector can simply be joined with wire nuts, or fitted to additional barrell connectors so they can easily be dis- and reconnected in different configurations.

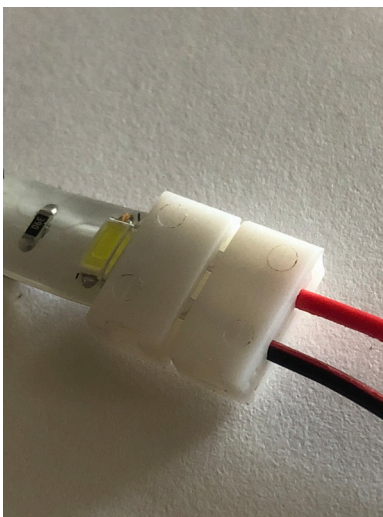


Fig. 4

LED strip lights (16'):

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01FFWQCKO/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o01_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

Strip connectors:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01DM7HCAI/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o01_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

12V 12.5A Power supply:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07D9G12GW/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o01_s01?ie=UTF8&psc=1

Barrell connectors:

<http://a.co/d/9IGNxWp>

AND PLEASE: While all of the products and procedures referred to herein are “extra-low voltage” and relatively safe, there is always an inherent danger when dealing with electricity. Use caution, use common sense—if you’re uncomfortable doing it yourself, consult an electrician!