



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

THE BSGC NEWS

January, 2010

President	Lori Weigerding	(630) 978-7340
Vice President	Martha Goode	(815) 459-1623
Treasurer	Paula Darning	(847) 295-2559
Secretary	Jeff Weigerding	(630) 978-7340
Newsletter Editor	Steve Goode	stevegoode1@ameritech.net

WEB SITE

<http://bromeliad-chicago.org>

Webmaster

Lori Weigerding

Priscilla Segel has been gracious enough to invite the club to her house for the January 10th meeting at 2 P.M. Her address is 1825 E. Camp McDonald, Mt. Prospect, IL. She would appreciate it if you would call to let her know that you are coming, (847) 375-8623. Please bring any plants you would like to share with others. Maybe you got a new bromeliad for Christmas. Maybe one of your plants died and you would like to know what you did wrong. This will be a "Share my Bromeliad Story" meeting. We don't want all of them to be sad stories. We could all use a few stories of your successes.

President's Column

Well we had a fair turn-out for the Christmas party this year! It was wonderful just getting to sit around and talk about things. We look forward to meeting at the Lambs Farm again next year. The food continues to be good and we enjoy looking at the animals. The weather was unseasonably warm so the drive up there was hassle free I'm sure for everyone.

We discussed having fewer meetings during the year, which was agreed upon and to start us off right for the new year Priscilla is going to host our first ever meeting for 2010 at her home on January 10, 2010 at 2 PM. Priscilla has a very lovely home and garden, which unfortunately won't be blooming now. Our next meeting on March 14, 2010 will be hosted by Patsy and Henry Schmidt. Patsy and Henry's house is filled with gems and minerals of all types and sizes, so save up your pennies in case you see something that you can't live without while we're there.

Speaking of pennies, in these hard economic times, Martha brought up reducing our membership fees to \$5 for an individual and \$8 for dual. It was agreed upon and therefore the new membership fees will be at this reduced rate. I also wanted to remind you that if you have to pay for parking at the Garden on a meeting day when we're meeting at the Garden that we will reimburse you for that parking.

I hope that everyone has been having wonderful holidays and not been too snow bound! I think it's wonderful having the snow afterwards, as it makes travel during the holiday so much easier. I remember too many freezing nights trying to get cars started and windows scraped off! I hope that everyone has and is enjoying their holidays and that we will all have a prosperous and Happy New Year!!!!

Lori Weigerding



Tillandsia Tree from Russell's

Martha and Steve traveled to St. Louis at the end of September for a conference. While we were there we were able to meet with Jay Seltzer. He has a very beautiful bromeliad collection. We had met him when he had come to our Show at the Botanic Garden. He said that he had found a few nice bromeliads at the Chalet Nursery which is located at 3132 Lake Avenue in Wilmette. You might want to check it out in the spring if you have lost a few plants over the winter.

Martha and Steve were also able to go to the Extravaganza in November in Orlando, Florida. This was sponsored by the Central Florida Bromeliad Society and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies which is most of the other Florida societies. They had a few new events, a pineapple shirt contest and a dessert social (Yum!).

The sales were very good. There were five seminars: Guillermo Rivera's on "Bromeliads of Brazil", Larry Giroux's "What about Cryptanthus", Dennis Cathcart's "Bromeliad Genera", Harry Luther's "Bromeliad Diversity" and Calandra Thurrott's "Bromeliads Downunder, 18th World Conference in Cairns". We weren't able to make it to Larry's seminar but we have heard previous ones on cryptanthus by him and he does such an excellent job. We always learn something

new when we go to the seminars. It is always so amazing to see the pictures of bromeliads in habitat. I'm so glad that others are willing to go to these hard to get to places so I don't have to climb high mountains and go through treacherous country.

A few things we learned is that the mid-Atlantic rainforest is 1/3 the size it was previously. 50% of bromeliads are pollinated by hummingbirds. (The hummingbirds here in Arizona really like the bromeliad in bloom!)

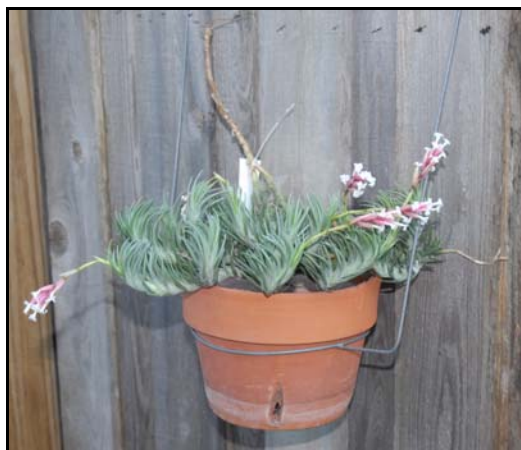
Areas that have a dense bromeliad coverage are very good for many kinds of fauna including katydids, ants, frogs and mosquitoes. There are a couple of bilbergia species that are night blooming and pollinated by bats. (Dear, are you willing to get up at 3 o'clock in the morning to check out the bilbergia flowers?) The Thurrotts rented an apartment in Cairns and they had fruit bats roosting in the local trees. (Did they have any bromeliad in bloom?)



Poison Arrow Frog

The banquet and rare plant auction were great. We saw Jack and Ardie with the pineapple sunglasses on from last year's extravaganza as well as many other people. (including you too! Dear!)

The bus tour had a DVD trivia while we were travelling. We visited two of the members homes, Bob Smedley and Lisa and Raleigh Robinette. Their yards were both excellent. We also visited Grant Groves Color Zone Tropicals and Russell's Bromeliads. Grant is widely known for many of his colorful neoregelia hybrids. He has a production nursery of Guzmanias, Vrieseas and Neoregelias. He also has a large landscaped area with many bromeliads growing in a sand hill scrub environment.



Tillandsia at the Robinette's home

In 2004, Mike Salvi purchased Russell's Bromeliad Nursery. He relocated it from Sanford to Clermont, Florida. His specialty is tillandsia. He has an overhead irrigation system which has dilute fertilizer with the water. He uses all of the space. He does need to use heaters about a half dozen days of the year.

They are used at 40° F.. Some of the tillandsia we saw were: straminea, leonamiana, arrujeia, cacticola, xerographica and different

ioantha hybrids (Red, Yellow and Peach colors!) It takes about five years for the ioantha to become a ball. They had two lovely tillandsia tree displays at the hotel.

We found out from Bob Wright that the dyckia we bought several years ago (it was at the 2002 World Conference in St. Petersburg, FL) without any spines was named “Nude Lady” by Vivian Doney. We were given the name “Naked Lady” when we purchased it. If you are thinking of going to the next BSI World Conference, it is from July 26 to August 1 in New Orleans. To find out more information about it, go to www.bsi.org.

In the November South Florida Newsletter, Alan Herndon wrote an article on preparing your plants for winter. He suggested reducing the amount of fertilizer you feed your plants. I would go even further and say to discontinue fertilizing until the spring when you start to see some new growth. With reduced sunlight the plants will be either dormant or semi-dormant. The root growth as well as the leaf growth will slow or halt entirely.



Russell's Tillandsias



Color Zone



Billbergia Clump at Bob Smedley's



Vivarium