



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

THE BSGC NEWS

December, 2010

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WEB SITE

<http://bromeliad-chicago.org>

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Lori Weigerding

The slate of officers was accepted at the Lambs Farm meeting. They are: President- Lori Weigerding, Vice President- Martha Goode, Secretary- Roberta Torossy and Treasurer- Paula Dering.

President's Column

Well we had a wonderful meeting at the Lamb's Farm this year!! It was really nice to see so many people there to break bread with. It was so nice to have Roberta, Priscilla and Anne & Marjorie there this year, besides the usual Paula, Jeff and myself. We talked a bit about when we'd be meeting and what we'd be doing next year. I mentioned that it would partly depend on the availability of a speaker to us and if anyone could come that month.

I was saddened to learn that Jamaican Gardens is closing their doors. It is like losing an old friend, I know that you join me in wishing them the best and thank them for all the things they've done for us over the years! Paula mentioned that she's looking into a different bank for us that wouldn't hit us with a lot of fees and allow us to put some money in a CD again.

I want to thank Steve and Martha for all the work they do for the club throughout the year! Without them, there wouldn't be a club! Martha is definitely my right and left hand!! I also want to thank Roberta for becoming our Secretary and look forward to working with you for a long time!

Finally, I want to wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Safe and Happy New Year. Look forward to seeing you all in 2011.

Lori Weigerding

November 14th, 2010 Bromeliad Society meeting minutes by Secretary, Roberta Torossy.

Attendance: Lori Weigerding, Paula Darning, Roberta Torossy, Jeff Weigerding, Priscilla Segel, Marjorie Leon and Anne Coughlin.

Old business: None discussed

New business: Holiday luncheon: Every one came to have a good time. The food, company and service were very good. People were discussing their Bromeliads and how they were flowering, Also how very beautiful the flowers are.
Election was held and the slate was approved by all members present. Steve will continue to do the newsletter. It was suggested that if people have ideas or photos that they email them to Steve.

Marjorie said due to mandates on teaching at the school system that they could not follow through with the proposed subject of teaching the young folks how to care for flowers, at this time and funding by the school system at this time was not there. The mandate by the system would not allow extra things to be taught for now. This subject was tabled until such time as it could be enacted.

Meeting time for the next meeting was discussed: to be done every two months with starting times to be established.

There were also two candidates for speakers at the future meetings, Paul Weingert from Michigan and the person from the cactus society from Oak Park.

Navy Piers request for displays of Bromeliads to be done for their show was brought up. Nothing was agreed upon yet.

There was talk about a future outing to Oak Park, date to be established in the spring time.

Actions to be taken: Meeting time to be established
 Schedule speakers
 Plan a trip to Oak Park

Meeting was adjourned by 12:30 pm Proposed by Anne and Seconded by Jeff Weigerding.

To see a picture of a bromeliad Christmas tree go to

<http://www.bullisbrom.com/applications/bromeliad-christmas.asp>

In the month of January and February, you should see your billbergias blooming. Don Beadle had a good article about them in the 1987 November/December Journal of the Bromeliad Society.

BLBERJR



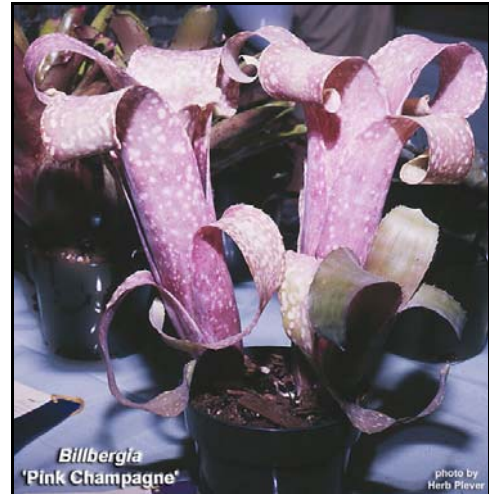
Billbergias will inevitably seek out and occupy the darkest, deepest, and dreariest corners of your greenhouse. Once there, they will degenerate into large dense masses of lanky, green, scale infested foliage and will eat their tags. I do not expect you to take my word for this astonishing phenomenon. The proof lies in your own greenhouse. Notice the occupant of the lightest, brightest and most desirable area. Does the genus on its tag begin with a “B”? I thought not. You are probably looking at the “N”-word, or the “T”-, or the “V”-words, but surely not a “B”. Maybe even the “C”-word, but never a “B”-word. You will find most of your “B” tags, if indeed you find tags, in the dank dark, dismal locations.

Billbergias behave this way because they are troubled by feelings of inferiority engendered and constantly reinforced by the callous and insensitive grower. A study of the psychological profiles of certain billbergias has revealed one problem to be a deep-seated envy of the longer blooming period of their more colorful cousins. The billbergia compensates for this shortcoming by prominently displaying its reproductive apparatus and thereby encouraging the promiscuous and indiscriminate creation of hordes of illegitimate offspring. The consequence of this behavior in the bromeliad world is much the same as for other life forms. The billbergia suffers from a loss of self-respect, declines in social status to the lowest level, experiences growing discontent, and finally resorts to revolution.

Although hardly fashionable in this day and age, I confess to having barely repressed feelings of sympathy and empathy for the cause of the beleaguered billbergia. I know others of similar sensitivity must feel the same. In fact, I have recently observed a small but growing grassroots movement among the more

radical Billbergia sympathizers. Resentment has been skyrocketing since the recent plunge of the billbergia spot market coupled with the poor outlook in billbergia futures. Imports are off dramatically as is domestic production. A billbergloomly outlook, at best!

It was inevitable that an increasingly militant group of radical billbergia growers would tire of waiting for the government to do something about the billbergia crisis. It appears that finally, relief is at hand. Last week I attended a clandestine meeting of radical fringe billbergia activists at a secret location. In attendance was the cream of internationally noted billbergia growers, hybridizers, and their ever-present groupies.



Feelings ran high. As emotions flamed I became afire with billfever and willingly accepted the mandate thrust upon my shoulders to carry the message to the world that the day of justice and equality for the billbergia is finally at hand. As chairman of the Action Committee for the newly organized BILLBERGIA LOVERS BROTHERHOOD FOR EQUAL RIGHTS AND JUSTICE RIGHT NOW (BLBERJR) I have, accordingly, prepared a preliminary list of demands to be presented to an emergency meeting of the BSI board. A synopsis of this list is as follows:

1. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY HOUSING.** Effective immediately, billbergias shall be fully integrated into the “Country Club” areas of the greenhouse. No more tenement and barrio living under the benches and behind the trash cans. No more overcrowding, high carbohydrate diets and scale bugs. Billbergias are naturally friendly and gregarious and prefer to live in neat, single-family dwellings in a nice neighborhood.
2. **EQUAL HEALTH AND SANITATION SERVICES.** Billbergias are by nature a clean and tidy group, but require assistance to stay varmint-free and well groomed. Billbergias shall, therefore, be examined at least once a week for various varmint and groomed until they say, “Quit”. Further, billbergias should not have to occupy the same pot with their long-dead ancestors. Periodic removal and prompt disposal of billcorpse will begin immediately.

3. THE ENVIRONMENT. Billbergias like clean water and fresh air just as well as the next bromeliad. They are primarily nonsmokers, preferring fully functional trichomes. Billbergias shall, therefore, be provided at all times with climatic conditions equivalent to those on any hilltop in Vista, California, or a reasonable facsimile thereof. Further, the watering of the billbergias shall be on a plant-by-plant basis and must be performed in accordance with minimum standards as established by the Brother Beadle Watering and Meditation Institute of Corpus Christi, Texas.



4. BIRTH CONTROL. The immediate imposition of stringent birth control procedures is imperative. Recently, the media disclosed the details of a sordid and shameful incident where pollination was attempted for no other reason than that the two parties were in bloom at the same time. Really! This has got to stop before all billbergias look as much alike as do neoregelias.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EXHIBITION. A study group empowered to develop and implement a system for handicapping show plants of all genera other than billbergia must be formed now. This system should allow billbergias to win top awards at least 50 percent of the time until compensation is made for the prejudiced and discriminatory judging which has victimized the billbergia in the past.

Deliverance for the billbergia is at hand! Billbergia growers of the world, UNITE! Down with the nasty neo, the vile Vriesea, and the deceitful Dyckia!

Remember, we are watching you. Billbergia hot lines are being organized. BLBERJR is now hiring out-of-work revenue agents to conduct covert spot checks of your greenhouses.

You have one month for voluntary compliance before we undertake drastic steps.

Editors Note: Please remember that this was written way back in 1987, some 23 years ago. It is meant to be a funny article. It would appear that the best way to predict the future is to write a wild parody of today. Just think of the movie Airplane that came out during the same time period as this article. Take a new look at today's world with this viewpoint. In Airplane, there was a scene where a one armed, one legged man had to remove his limbs to go through security where the bad guys went through without a problem. The TSA people are very much in the news during this holiday season. So be sure to get billbergias before the BLBERJR comes after you. It is really neat to watch how fast they bloom.

The billbergia photos are from the www.fcbs.org website.



Marjorie Leon's Till. Ionantha in bloom