



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

THE BSGC NEWS

JUNE-JULY, 2011

President	Lori Weigerding	(630) 978-7340
Vice President	Martha Goode	(815) 459-1623
Treasurer	Paula Dering	(847) 295-2559
Secretary	Roberta Torossy	(847) 847-5503
Newsletter Editor	Steve Goode	stevegoode1@ameritech.net

WEB SITE
Webmaster

<http://bromeliad-chicago.org>
Lori Weigerding

There will be no July meeting so you can spend time getting your plants ready for the Show. Set up for the Show is Friday, July 29th from 1-6-30pm. I will send the information about parking, etc as well as your membership card which gets you free entrance into the garden all the days of the show. If you have not signed up yet, please call me at ((815) 459-1623 or email me at stevegoode1@ameritech.net to let me know when you want to work. The hours for the show on Saturday and Sunday are 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

President's Column

Wow isn't the weather around here just wonderful?? I think it's only great for all the fowl living around us! Water, water everywhere washing out everything in its path. I hope all our members are doing OK with all this water! We had a wonderful meeting with Martha showing us their lovely pictures that they took. Those of us there signed up to work the show on the weekend, if you weren't able to make it, feel free to contact Martha and let her know when you'd be able to help. Plants need to be delivered on Friday evening so that they can be put out. All the plants/pots need to be clean, with dressing on top. We look forward to seeing your plants and your creativity in their presentation.

Anne is going to try and make some more of the macramé hangers, we are so grateful to her! Whatever isn't done, we'll sell as kits for others to do. I think the public will like this! I

*plan to keep practicing so I can do a better job next year!
I look forward to seeing you all at the show! It isn't very hard work, but we get to enjoy each others company and share our knowledge with the public and hopefully addict some others to these wonderful plants!*

Lori Weigerding



John Trunk V. Lubbersii

June 12

Attendance: Lori & Jeff Weigerding, Martha & Steve Goode, Paula Dering, Priscilla Segel, Marjorie Leon, Del Busczynski, Julie Jimenez and Roberta Torossy
Business: The contract for the show was presented at the meeting with the times and rules. The macrame project was shown and there was discussion on the price to sell it at the Show. It was decided to sell the kit for \$5.00 and those that were made would be sold for \$8.00. Someone suggested having a table for children to color pictures of Bromeliads. Marjorie said that she has a program that might be able to take a picture that we scanned and sent to her to do this. This would make it possible for the adults with children to shop longer.

We are not having a judged Show but we will have the public vote by giving them beans to put in cups by the 3 plants they thought were the best. Patsy & Henry have ordered the plants. Chalet Nursery has again agreed to donate plants to the show. Paula asked if Ardie would bring some of her quilts to display as an

added attraction.

There will be no meeting July 10th.

Martha and Steve presented a program of their trip to the Cactus and Succulent Convention in San Diego. Everyone enjoyed the beauty of the plants and gardens.

We appreciated Paula bringing the date chocolate treat. Yum!

Paula moved that the meeting be adjourned and it was seconded by Lori.
Minutes taken by Roberta Torossy.



JP Trunk Neo. checkerboard



JP Trunk Neo domino

Pending approval of the Society of Paul Wingert's speaking fees, he will give the program August 14th.

The following information is about some of the tillandsias that we will get in our order from Russell's for our show. The resources used for this article are from the following:

Air Plants and other Bromeliads by Bill Wall and revised by Clive Innes, 1994.
The Royal Horticultural Society.

Tillandsia by Paul Isley III, 1987 Botanical Press.

Tillandsia II by Paul Isley III, 2009 Botanical Press.

Tillandsia

caput medusae

is indigenous to Mexico and central America and it grows epiphytically. Caput Medusa refers to the snake head woman from Greek mythology. Those from Guatemala come from droughty areas. The amount of light determines the color of the floral bract, from green to red. The flower is mauve. It is one of the tillandsias that tolerates neglect.

Concolor

grows epiphytically in exposed habitats in Mexico and El Salvador. It is a rapid grower in good conditions. It can grow in varying conditions from bright light to shade. The floral bracts vary from green to cherry or a combination of the two. The flower is a ruby red. It produces many offsets.

Argentea

grows epiphytically from Mexico, Guatemala, Cuba and Jamaica. It grows in dry woodland habitats. It has a bulbous base. The Mexican form is often larger and more robust than the finer leaved Guatemalan form. It prefers an airy, outdoor environment. The floral bracts and scape are cherry and the flowers are purple.

Bulbosa

has a bulbous base. The flowers are blue or violet. This tillandsia has a wide distribution, from Mexico and the West Indies through Central America and into Ecuador and northern Brazil. It grows epiphytically on shrubs and trees. It can grow horizontally or upside down. The inflorescence is cherry with lavender flowers. It prefers medium light, high humidity and frequent watering. Be sure to mount it horizontally or upside down to help prevent rot.

Funckiana

is found growing epiphytically in Venezuela. It looks like a bunch of pine needles growing on a stem. The flower is a bright scarlet. It prefers to be grown in a bright, airy location but not too high of temperature.

Duratii

grows epiphytically in the drier regions of west Bolivia, eastern Paraguay and northern Argentina. Also, it grows in the Andean foothills of Argentina and southern Brazil. The leaves tightly recurve. The older leaves curve around a twig or branch and pushes the plant up through the tree. The flowers are fragrant and lilac in color. It can be grown outside all year long in Tucson, AZ.

Fasciculata

occurs from Florida through the Caribbean and Central America and into northern South America. The floral bract is usually green with red margins. The flower is a bluish purple. They prefer bright light with frequent watering. You must not let water stagnate in the base. It is very prolific at producing offsets. It may be grown as a potted plant with well draining soil.

Polystachia

is from a broad habitat range, from Mexico and the West Indies to Brazil and Bolivia. It is one of the hardier tillandsias. It forms a tank that can hold quite a bit of water. As with any tank bromeliads, the water should not be allowed to stagnate. The flowering bracts are usually numerous and usually a combination of green and red color. The flowers are purplish. The pups it produces normally mature in a year. It can be grown under many conditions. It can be grown terrestrially in a loose potting mix.

Streptophylla

grows epiphytically from southern Mexico to Honduras. Its nickname is “Shirley Temple”. The leaves twist and curve. You can control the amount of curl by the amount of water and humidity you give the plant. With drier conditions the leaves form ringlets. A plant that is dehydrated can be revived with an overnight water soaking. The cells of the leaf will absorb water until they are full. The inflorescence is large and a colorful carmine. The blooms are mauve. It is susceptible to rot and needs fresh circulating air. Mounting it horizontally can help alleviate this problem.

Stricta

grows epiphytically in eastern South America from Venezuela to northern Argentina. Some grow in areas with frequent rainfall while others grow in areas with less rainfall. The bloom scape is a large colorful cherry to rose color with light to dark blue flowers. It produces many offsets. If grown as a clump, the individual plants are smaller than if grown separately. It should be given bright light, fertilizer and sufficient water.

Tectorum

grows on rock outcroppings and cliff faces in Ecuador and Peru. It needs bright light. In Peru, they grow in the same areas as cacti. In the Andes of Ecuador, they are subjected to more ultraviolet radiation. There are frequent thunderstorms but because of air movement they do not stay wet. They have a very slow rate of growth. The floral bracts are purple.

Xerographica

is an epiphytic species that ranges from southern Mexico to Guatemala and El Salvador. It is normally found in the desert. They are often watered by morning dew. Sometimes they receive no rainfall for nine months. It is a slow growing species but the bloom is long lasting. The inflorescence is tall and colorful. The color of the bracts varies from salmon to pink. The flowers are a purplish color. Make sure stagnant water is not allowed to be in the cup. When watered the leaves straighten like Til. Streptophylla.

If you would like to see what the previous plants looks like, go to www.fcbs.org and click onto Tillandsia.

The following article was taken from the Saddleback Newsletter, Pup Talk, April 2005.



JP Trunk Neo. Chile verde



JP Trunk Neo. Cougar

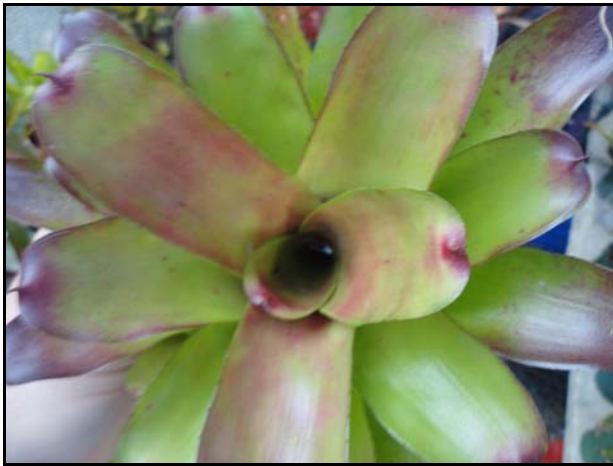
Tillandsias

Or one more reason why you will want to come to this meeting!

By Paul Dunning

With more than 500 natural species having been identified and the creation of innumerable “hybrids,” Tillandsia truly has the largest number of species and the greatest range of any of the bromeliad genera. It is highly variable to ranging from less than ½ inch to over 14 feet (God forbid). Many newbies are unaware that Spanish Moss, *T. Usenoides*, is actually a tillandsia! In addition to the just-mentioned variation in size, tillandsias vary from soft-leaved species, which usually

come to us from humid forests (the majority of tillandsia species flourish in wet habitats) to the scaly, silvery species from the drier areas, where they are found growing on sun-exposed rocks or sunny treetops. Our most popular species proliferate in drought or arid conditions. The green-leaved species respond well to pot culture (we will have those potted for the plant table.) The tillandsia's growth is then more symmetrical, root growth is more vigorous, and a greater number of pups will result.



JP Trunk Neo. June Night



JP Trunk Neo. Tom folley

But let's face it-it is hard to kill a tillandsia; I mean you really have to screw up to have one of these critters peg out on you. By nature, they are extremely "stress tolerant" (I should be so lucky!) And will survive in almost any location, except maybe your closet. Given good light and air circulation they should bring you years of "bromelia bliss." Remember, the greener, softer-leaved plants require less sun and more moisture and tend to thrive in cool environments. The grayer, stiffer-leaved varieties prefer more light and less moisture and are usually from warmer areas.

Now, consider plant food-"It ain't necessary." BUT a fertilizer high in ammoniacal or nitrate nitrogen with a little potassium and phosphorous will go a long way in enhancing flowering and plant vigor! Remember, though, most commercial fertilizers have urea-based nitrogen which is broken down by bacteria in the soil. This won't work on tillandsias-with no soil, tillandsias can't use this. So check out the label before you buy!

That being said, I know you are all a-wonder as to exactly what species you might be lucky enough to bring home from this month's plant table. Well, here are a few examples:

- *T. Carlsoniae* that grows on Oaks and pines in the forests of Chiapas, Mexico with a beautiful pink rosette.
- *T. Seleriana*, a native to southern Mexico that grows as an epiphyte in damp forests or in dry pine and oaks. It's a fat tillandsia with a thick inflated bulb from which thin gray green leaves emerge. It has a bright red, branched inflorescence rising from the center, and the whole plant glistens with a heavy coating of silvery scales, from which it absorbs moisture.
- Also, several forms of *T. fasciculata*, a highly variable epiphytic species found growing in wet or dry conditions. The tapering gray green leaves vary in length from 10 to 40 inches and average about ½ inch in width. The flower stalk can reach 20 inches in height, with a number of brilliant red bracts. Or how about the classic *T. Gardneri*, a tillandsia that likes dry conditions. It forms a rosette with numerous silvery-white, soft leaves, velvety in texture. Bracts are pale pink, clustered, with bright red petals.
- Also looking for homes will be: *T. Matuda*, *T. Kirchoffiana*, *T. Tequendamae*, *T. Flavobracteata*, and *T. Compressa*. There will also be a nice clump of *Abromeitella* (now *Deutercohnia*) *brevifolia* (a terrestrial).

And yes, there will be a beautiful, blooming tillandsia for our "Silent Auction;" you won't want to miss it! If this up-and-coming plant table hasn't caused you to lose any sleep, I give up!

Tilly Ho!
Paul



Jack & Ardie Reilly's Ae. Fasiata Sangria
bloom



Reilly's Ae. Fasiata Sangria

It's Time to renew your membership in the BSGC! To renew your membership, send your name along with your check (made out to the B.S.G.C.) To:

**Paula Dering
44 Atteridge Road
Lake Forest, IL
60045-1713**

EMAIL _____

Please remember that the Individual membership is \$5.00 per year and the Dual/Family is \$8.00 per year.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

