



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

THE BSGC NEWS

July/August, 2013

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Lori Weigerding

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Show. Some people were able to give a lot of their time and some gave us a few suggestions. We have one more meeting this year at the Garden on October 13th. If you have any plants, pups, garden items or items to mount tillandsias on bring them to our meeting and we will have a raffle. We also need to come up with a date for our luncheon and we need someone to make the arrangements.

President's Column

Well another successful show! Most of the plants got sold and we did make a small profit, which is better than a loss. A couple members took the option of buying some plants and the club picked up the shipping costs. Also as I understand it we did lower the prices early on Sunday as things weren't moving. At the meeting it was discussed about raising the prices by only 1 1/2 instead of doubling them, hoping to sell more on both days. Depending on the economy, we'll either buy less plants or around the same next year.

For those of us who were able to make the last 2 meetings, we were shown some very beautiful pictures taken by Steve and Martha! Oh I'm so envious, imagine to see all that live, but seeing it in pictures is wonderful too! I hope they continue to travel and take lots of pictures and continue to share them with us!

I think the weather is getting hot again! I'll be hiding inside a bit more because of it.

We decided to skip meeting in September and wait until October. We'll also have to discuss where and when we'll be having our annual luncheon. Look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Lori Weigerding

We heard that Roberta is scheduled for heart surgery on 8/29. Our prayers are with her and her family. We also found out that Ardie Reilly is in chemotherapy and our prayers are with her and her family.

While we were working at the show, I told Ardie that I had a hard time remembering many of the plants names. She told me a funny story. She said that she could always remember the plants names but she had a problem with her girls. Although she could remember the plants names, she couldn't remember which daughter was which. She would call for one daughter and she would say, no I'm the one with the blue eyes; she has the brown eyes.

We received a Thank You letter from Beth Palmer of the Inspired Youth which is a tutoring program in Chicago. She and 3 fifteen year old girls came by bus to the Garden for our Show. They had never been there before. Priscilla took them on a tour of the greenhouses and discussed many of the plants. Martha took them around our display as well as the Cactus display.

Since our last two meetings were pictures of Steve and Marthas trip to New Zealand, I wanted to include this article from the June 2013 Journal of the Bromeliad Society of New Zealand. It is about the first bromeliad species to be named after a New Zealander.

Neoregelia watersiana...

the first bromeliad species to be named after a
New Zealander

In September 2009 Peter and Jeanette Waters went on an expedition with Elton

Leme to find bromeliad species in Brazil. Among several new species, a beautiful new neoregelia was discovered in Rio de Janeiro state. The description has just been published in the botanical journal, 'Phytotaxa', and is presented here. This has the special significance of being the first bromeliad species to be named after a New Zealander.



Peter Waters (from article)



June, 2013 Journal of the Bromeliad Society of New Zealand, Inc.

This new species is closely related to *Neoregelia kautskyi*, differing by the comparatively longer leaf blades, with longer marginal spines, inflorescence with higher number of flowers, floral bracts reaching up to the middle of the sepals, and by the shorter petals, which are white except for the pale green portion slightly above the anthers and the purple apical margins and apex. It is also related to *N. gavionensis*, but differs by the wider leaf

blades, with laxly to subdensely spinose margins, and flowers with comparatively shorter pedicels. When compared to *N. coriacea* it differs by the narrower leaf blades, sepals shortly connate at the base, and by petals shortly connate at the base, white except for the pale green portion slightly above the anthers and the purple apical margins and apex.

Type: BRAZIL. Rio de Janeiro: Santa Maria Madalena, Parque Estadual do Desengano, Morumbeca, 1052 m elevation, 21° 52.60' S 41° 54.96' W, 15 October 2009, E. Leme 8045, P. Waters & R. Oliveira (holotype RB!, isotype HB!).

Plants epiphytic, propagating by basal shoots. Leaves ca. 12 in number, coriaceous, arcuate to spreadingrecurved at anthesis, forming at the base a crateriform rosette; sheaths broadly elliptic to suborbicular, subdensely whitish lepidote on both sides, green toward the apex and whitish near the base, subcoriaceous, elliptic, 10–11 × 8–9 cm; blades sublinear, slightly narrowed near the base, 19–30 × 4–4.7 cm, inconspicuously and sparsely white lepidote abaxially, glabrous adaxially, green to dark red toward the apex, subacute to obtuse and distinctly apiculate, margins laxly to subdensely spinose, spines 1.5–3 × 1 mm, narrowly triangular, strongly antrorse-uncinate, 5–15 mm apart. Peduncle ca. 2 cm long, ca. 1.1 cm in diameter, glabrous, white; peduncle bracts broadly ovate, acute and distinctly apiculate, spinulose at the apex, sparsely and inconspicuously white lepidote, nerved, whitish, the upper ones involucrel, 2.5–3.5 × 2–2.5 cm, acute and slenderly apiculate, slightly exceeding the ovary. Inflorescence globose-capitate, simple, subcorymbose, sunk in the center of the rosette, ca. 4.3 cm long (excluding the petals), 5.5–6 cm in diameter at the apex, densely flowered, apex nearly flat; floral bracts the outer ones resembling the involucrel bracts but narrower, the inner ones sublinearlanceolate to linear, cymbiform, ecarinate, apex acute, cucullate and shortly apiculate, entire, sparsely and inconspicuously white lepidote to glabrous, thin in texture, nerved, green except for the vinose apex, 27–33 × 5–10 mm, up to equaling the middle of the sepals. Flowers ca. 80 in number, 45–46 mm long (with extended petals), slightly fragrant, pedicels 6–8 × 1.5 mm (inner ones) to ca. 15 × 2 mm (outer ones), subterete (inner ones) to slightly complanate but not at all dilated toward the base (outer ones), white, sparsely and inconspicuously lepidote; sepals narrowly lanceolate, acuminate and slenderly caudate, asymmetric with the inconspicuous wing distinctly shorter than the midnerve, ca. 19 × 6 mm, connate at the base for 1.5–2 mm, entire, ecarinate, green toward the apex and reddish at the



Capturing the 'prize'

base, thin in texture, glabrous; petals lanceolate, acuminate, ca. 26 × 5 mm, connate at the base for ca. 7 mm, spreading at anthesis, white except for the pale green portion slightly above the anthers and the purple apical margins and apex, bearing 2 longitudinal callosities nearly equaling the anthers; filaments, the antepetalous ones adnate to the petals for ca. 9 mm, the antesepalous ones adnate to the petal tube and free above it; anthers ovate, ca. 2.5 mm long, fixed at 1/4 of their length above the base, base obtusely bilobed, apex acute; stigma conduplicate spiral, subcylindrical, white, ca. 5 mm long; ovary oblong-ellipsoid, ca. 10 × 5 mm, terete, white except for the green apex, glabrous; epigynous tube inconspicuous; ovules many, obtuse; placentation apical. Fruits unknown.

Distribution and habitat: *Neoregelia watersiana* is a dweller of the canopy of the hygrophilous Atlantic Forest of the county of Santa Maria Madalena, northern Rio de Janeiro state. It forms dense clumps on the taller trees, about 1056 m elevation, in a mountainous region inside the limits of the State Parque of Desengano, which is known for the rich bromeliad flora with many endemic species.

Etymology: The name of *N. watersiana* honours one of its collectors, Peter Waters from New Zealand, bromeliad specialist, New Zealand director and Honorary Trustee of the Bromeliad Society International.

Observations: This new species is closely related to *N. kautskyi* Pereira (1971: 82) but can be distinguished from it by the comparatively longer leaf blades (19–30 cm vs. 8–18 cm long), with longer marginal spines (1.5–3 mm vs. ca. 0.5 mm long), inflorescence with more numerous flowers (ca. 80 vs. 30–45 in number), floral bracts reaching up to the middle of the sepals (vs. equaling to slightly exceeding the ovaries), and by the shorter petals (ca. 26 mm vs. ca. 35 mm long), which are white except for the pale green portion slightly above the anthers and the purple apical margins and apex (vs. white except for the violet apex). When compared to *N. gavionensis* Martinelli & Leme (1986: 71), this new species differs by the wider leafblades (4–4.7 cm vs. ca. 3 cm wide), with laxly to subdensely spinose margins (vs. entire), and flowers with comparatively shorter pedicels (6–15 mm vs. 10–20 mm long). *Neoregelia watersiana* is also related in some degree to *N. coriacea* (Antoine 1884: 51) Smith (1955: 27), differing by the narrower leaf blades (4–4.7 cm vs. ca. 6 cm wide), sepals shortly connate at the base (vs. highconnate), and by petals shortly connate at the base (vs. high-connate) and white except for the pale green portion slightly above the anthers and the purple apical margins and apex (vs. violet with white margins)

We had a great discussion of our Show at the August meeting. Gerry

suggested putting a membership form in each bag. He suggested that one side list some things about our club. Audrey suggested we have pictures of some of the beautiful Neoregelias, Billbergias, Guzmanias and Vrieseas. Maureen suggested that we reduce the mark up on our plants since we aren't in business of making money but to get people interested in bromeliads. Lori suggested that we need to distinguish our section from the Cactus and Succulent area of the Show room.

If you have pups to remove, you should do it soon since Bromeliads and many other plants growth slows down during the fall with the shorter days.

The SEMBS July/August 2006 Newsletter had an article by Penrith Goff that had some good suggestions. (Slightly abridged)

Basic Notes on Pups
by Penrith Goff

1. Pups grow faster while attached to the mother plant than they do when separated.
2. When separated from the mother plant, small pups grow more slowly than larger pups of the same plant.
3. Fertilizing the mother plant after she is finished blooming encourages pup formation.
4. Vriesea, guzmania, and green-leaved tillandsia pups often grow so close to the axis (stem, caudex) of the mother plant that separation is a difficult and risky process. However, when the pups are near mature size, they can be separated easily by pushing the pup downward and away from the point of attachment. The largest of three pups came away cleanly and well callused so there is no danger of rot. No roots yet but they'll soon emerge after the pup is firmly potted.
5. Pups of variegated plants are sometimes poorly or unevenly variegated or perhaps not variegated at all. As soon as it is clear that a pup does not have the desired variegation, it should be removed so that the reserves of the mother plant will go to the remaining pups. Be aware, though, that variegation does not always show up in a very small pup and may only be perceptible after the pup has had time to grow.
6. Pots may be turned on their sides so that the most promising area for pupping (the area under the best variegated leaves) is encouraged to develop pups. If some variegated leaves are more desirable than others, that area should be exposed to light.

7. Don't throw away that prized plant when all the leaves are gone. The caudex or stem may still be able to produce new pups. The caudex of some plants attains considerable size and contains a large store of reserves. The pups produced may grow slowly but they will mature.
8. If a pup quills (grows as a tight tube instead of flaring out) it may be best to remove it immediately and get new pups started, making sure the humidity is adequate and washing the new shoots with detergent if necessary in order to remove any secretions which dry up and cause the leaves to stick together.
9. The new pups often look quite different from the mother plant. The characteristic markings of the mature leaves may not be apparent, the color may be more intense, the leaves may even be different from the later mature leaves. So if the pup doesn't look like its mother just give it time.



Larry's Til. xerographica



Anne's Bad Hair Picture

Pictures from our Show



Deuterocohnia lorentziana in Cactus Show



Neo. 'Voodoo' as if you can't read the label



Our Sales Table (part of) this year



Neo. Lilliputiana X Fireball



Martha's *Tillandsia pohliana*



Martha's *Tillandsia pohliana* in bloom