BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

THE BSGC NEWS

March/April, 2016

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There will be no meeting in May. The next meeting will be June 12th at 2 PM in Annex 1 at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

We were glad to see new members Ilona and Iliana at our March meeting. We discussed possible places to have a Show. One of the suggestions was the Golf Mill Shopping Mall. We planned to go to see the African Violet Show there on April 10th. Unfortunately, they had to cancel their Show for that day. Luckily Tomijean from the African Violet Society agreed to come and talk to our group about what is involved in having a Show at a Mall.

We enjoyed the DVD "Out Yonder" of John Anderson's greenhouses. Thanks to Martha for bringing the plants for the raffle.

President's Column

We had a wonderful meeting. Tomijean from the African Violets Society was kind enough to come to our April meeting and give us some heads up on having a sale at other locations. It didn't seem that having a sale in a shopping center would work unless we could find one at a more reasonable price as it cost them $400/day. We threw together some ideas of places we could check.

The Morten Arboretum
Lake County Independence Grove
Arlington Race Track
Golf Mill
Schaumburg – Labor Day
Churches
Farmers Market
Chalet Nursery
Pesche's Flowers

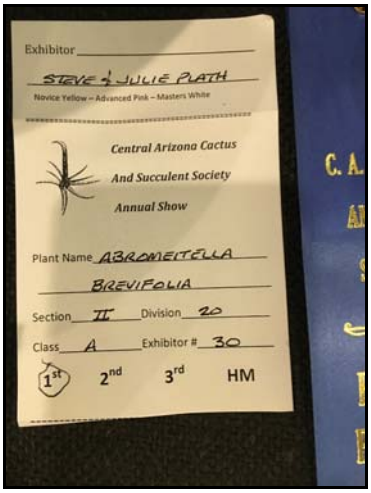
The listing showing a show for us in August at the Botanic Garden is 2015.

We'll need to do a lot of checking around to find a place to have a show. It would seem that prices vary greatly depending on the venue and the timeframe. I'm sure with some time, we'll find something that will work. If you have any other ideas, please let us know. I will be calling the Morton Arboretum to see what they have available.

We will meet next on June 12, 2016, at 2 PM. We'll be skipping May 8, 2016 because it's Mother's Day. Look forward to seeing you all in June. Please keep a look out for an email checking on your attendance to the meeting. Please do respond so we know if anyone is coming.

Lori Weigerding

The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society recently had their Show and Sale. I noticed that they still used the genus name Abromeitiella. It should be changed to Deuterocohnia.

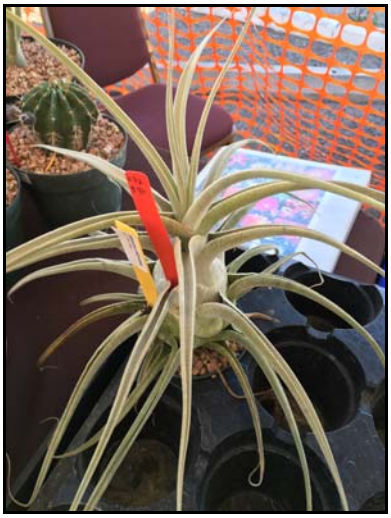


There were several vendors there selling Tillandsias.
I bought tillandsia circinnatoides there. I will see how I do with it. A specimen was collected in 1972 from Chilpaneingo, Guerrero Mexico at 1,500ft.

The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society had their Show and Sale on April 16th and 17th. They had a few bromeliads in their show.

www.fcbs.org picture

I talked to a fellow there from Las Cruces, New Mexico. We were talking about his greenhouse and he mentioned that he had two roadrunners trying to make a nest in the vents so he used a broom to get them out. It is amazing all the different animals that can cause problems for us.


Till. Ehlersiana

At the silent auction I got the book The New York Botanical Garden Illustrated Encyclopedia of Horticulture vol.1 by Thomas Everett published in 1981. It says that Abromeitiella (Deuterocohnia) should be grown in a well drained soil such as a type used for cacti and succulents. They suggest that they need sun, low humidity and a night temperature in winter of 50 to 55 F. and higher temperature in the day and during other seasons. In the March/April 1995 Tropiflora Cargo Report, Dennis Cathcart says that the genus name had been changed from Abromeitiella to Deuterocohnia. He says that Deuterocohnia brevifolia should be allowed to dry thoroughly after watering.


Poor sun damaged Neo.

We have to be careful with the change in the season about the amount of sun exposure our plants get. I didn't realize that spring had sprung and didn't put my shadecloth up before a few plants were damaged.

I found the following in the Sept./Oct. 1962 Bromeliad Society Bulletin.

Damaged Cryptanthus 'Rocky Road'

Color in Bromeliads

Some Observations

It has been fairly well established that the amount of light affects the color of the leaves of many bromeliads. For example, in the native habitat of the plants, you see a vast difference in the amount of color in the foliage of plants separated only by a few feet because a difference in the amount of light.But that isn't the whole story, either, for the chemical composition of the moving air that surrounds the bromeliads has something to do with color too. In certain tropical areas where there are inactive volcanos, fumes containing various chemicals are often arising. Poas Volcano (in Costa Rica) although inactive is constantly smoldering, with plumes of vapor rising from the crater, and in the near vicinity of the crater are found the most beautiful red bromeliads of all. Why? Several miles away the same species will be almost entirely green with perhaps tiny red markings similar to the red type found near volcanic areas. —Morris Henry Hobbs, New Orleans, Louisiana.

In the January-February 1961 issue of the Bulletin, mention was made that plants brought from the highlands to sea level lost their color. It is very likely that the hot days and cold nights of the mountains had a lot to do with good color and the change to sea level a lot to do with the loss of same. It is said that bromeliads grown in glasshouses here at Mt. Tomah (Australia), which is 3,000 feet above sea level and which has a great temperature fluctuation, are better than those grown at Sydney which is at sea level. Another likely cause of color change is that mountain soil is rich and acid and water is also acid, a fact which intensifies color.

Billbergia nutans is grown here in pure gristed tree fern, including the heart, which makes a rich compost with acid content of PH5. This produces lovely pink foliage with yellow spots, a change from the usual character of this billbergia which is usually all green. During the cold months the color goes back to light

green. Billbergia decora is another bromeliad in which I have noted a color change. This plant, kept in the glass house the year round, has silver and green foliage in the winter and dark bronze and silver during the summer months. In summer the temperature may range from 40 degrees at night to 100 degrees during the day. In this instance, it would seem the extremes in temperature are conducive of good coloring.

Proper conditions are rather difficult to maintain at all time and in all places, but some attempt could be made to simulate the temperature changes found at high altitudes. Cooling the greenhouse at night and forcing the heat during the day might bring about some rather interesting variations in color.—W.B. Charley, Mt. Tomah, Australia.

A note in the Bulletin for January-February 1961 called attention to a color change reversible with illumination level, shown by a plant suspected to be a hybrid or variety of Neoregelia carolinae. The plant has since bloomed and shows characteristics of both carolinae and farinosa and so is tentatively identified as a hybrid between these species. Mr. Foster made this cross and named it Neo. Morrisoniana: apparently the cross has also been made elsewhere as my plant is of European origin, and the question arises whether that name should apply in this instance.

An opportunity arose to try some plants in a greenhouse, and this was one chosen. Under the more intense illumination an orange-red flush developed more or less over the whole plant: and is interesting to note that this color also, at the higher illumination level proved to be likewise labile. It has come and nearly disappeared several times during the course of the summer, as the prevailing weather for a week or so has been predominantly sunny or overcast. Both parent species can color up in bright light, and the characteristic seems to be intensified in the hybrid.

Another plant has been found to show a similar behavior in following variations of light intensity. Vrisea imperialis, green when received, turned red when exposed outdoors in a location where it received sunlight about half of the day. At the approach of cold weather it was brought indoors and the red faded, but is now returning under the light received in a greenhouse.

A striking example of the effect of light on color, but whether or not reversible I do not know, is encounterred with Aechmea ‘Foster’s Favorite.’ The foliage color may be green, deep mahogany, light red or straw colored, according

to the amount of light it receives.

Blooming, too has its effect on color. On the one hand there is often the develpment of color when flowering is imminent; on the other, changes may ensue when the process is complete. There is nothing surprising in the fading of bracts of, say, Billbergias and Aechmeas as they wither; but changes may also take place in parts that are still sound. The pink disappears completely from the blooming head of Tillandsia lindenii; the bright red rosette of Nidularium fulgens fades to flesh-color; the folage of 'discolor" plants may change to green on the old part that has stopped growing, so that it contrasts sharply with the developing offsets.–Roger K. Taylor, Baltimore, Maryland

In the March San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter, they had the following article.

NOW IS THE TIME.....

TO continue your fertilizer program with the second number in the formula being higher than the other two. Phosphorus will induce your plants to set flowers. Fertilize once a month at ½ strength.

TO check you plants for scale and aphids. Dip or spray thoroughly in a solution of 1 tablespoon malathion in a gallon of water. Repeat in 10 days if the infestation is heavy.

TO remove spent and dried plants from your pots. Remove pups ½ the size of the mother. Repot for sale or trade.

TO watch watering program according to rain or warm weather.

TO Clean tanks of rotting material and when you water, water a lot to wash the salts out of the cups and the soil.

TO check coloration of your plants; if colors are pale, move them into more light. Do not put Neoregelias in full sun. Move plants to sunny areas gradually to prevent sunburn.

NOW IS THE TIME was written and first published by Stan Oleson in April 1988; and published again in the South Bay Bromeliad Associates Newsletter prepared by Bob Wright in April 2007.

March is also a good time....to just move plants around in your yard. If you want to give a particular plant more sun then now is the time; giving it time to gradually acclimate before the long hot summer days.

If you have any pictures you would like to share please send them in and we will put them in the Newsletter. Our trainer shared the following picture with us. She had about given up on her bromeliad blooming and was going to throw it out when it surprised her.

Our trainer's Bromeliad

Marty Folk from a Florida Bromeliad Society sent the following link of a magazine article that he provided the photos for. http://www.orlandomagazine.com/Orlando-Magazine/April-2016/All-in-the-Family/

It's not just the Hechtia that will get you!!

Rattlesnakes love the Hechtia in our back yard. A young one around 18 inches long.

Please take the time to renew your membership now if you haven't already.

Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago Membership Application

☐New Member☐ Renewal

Chose one below

☐ Individual $5.00 Annually ☐ Dual $8.oo Annually

Name _____

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Make your check or money order out to the Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago

Simply fill this form out and mail with payment to:

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