



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

# THE BSGC NEWS

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Lori Weigerding

Our next meeting will be Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the Chicago Botanic Garden in the Lakeside room which is in the Visitor Center. The Goodes will show pictures from the Florida Extravaganza which was held in Tampa on August 4-6. We will also share pictures from the Broward County Bromeliad Society's gardens. If you are unable to come to the meeting, then go to <http://www.bromeliadsocietybc.com> Then go to the top and click on our Gardens.



Tillandsia 'Jackie Loinaz'  
(concolor x capitata 'Rubra')  
Martha bought it at the Extravaganza Sale.

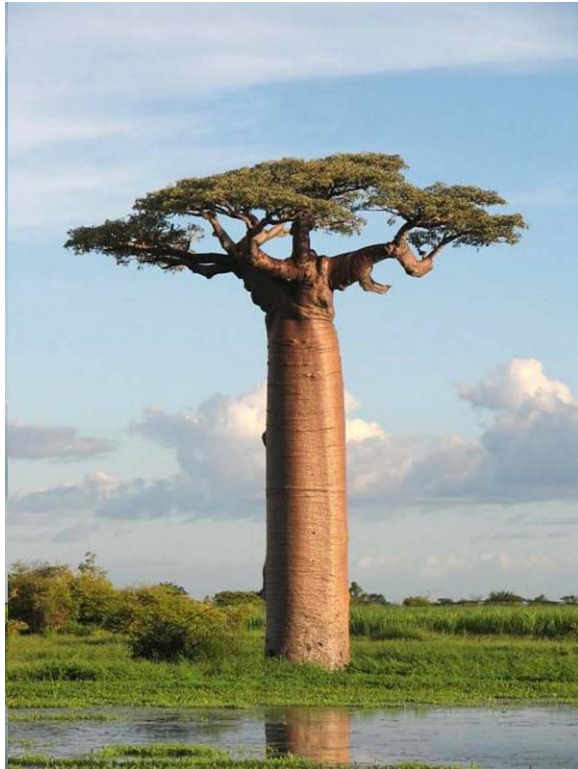
*President's Column*

*We had a lovely presentation by Virginia Winkler about Madagascar. We learned about the plants and animals that come from there and also several types of lemurs.*

*After the lecture we raffled off some tillandsias. We each got several different types.*

*We're waiting on a meeting between Priscilla and the Garden to come up with a layout that will be acceptable to the Iris and Daylily Society and the Garden.*

*Lori Weigerding*



Baobab Tree  
image from  
<https://images.search.yahoo.com>

At the August meeting Virginia Winkler from the Daylily and Iris Society presented a program on Madagascar. It is an island nation that is about twice the size of Arizona. They have two seasons; a hot rainy one from November to April and a cooler dry season from May to October. There are six different regions with very diverse climates varying from semi-arid dry forest to rain forest.

Illegal logging has been a problem there for decades. Hardwood trees especially Rosewood and ebony have been in high demand. This has also caused a loss of habitat for animals. About 80% of Madagascar's animals and plants are endemic. There are seven species of baobabs.

They have found many plants that have medicinal properties. Many natives have gathered these plants. The leaves and roots of the pink periwinkle, *Catharanthus roseus madagascariensis* are used by the natives for the treatment of constipation and toothache. This plant has given us two important cancer fighting drugs: vinblastine and vincristine. Vincristine has helped increase the chance of surviving childhood leukemia from 10 to 95%. Vinblastine is used to treat Hodgkins Disease.

There are many endemic animals. There are four land tortoises that are endemic. The most severely threatened is the ploughshare tortoise. There has been degradation of its habitat because of burning and conversion to agricultural uses. Also, feral pigs have decimated the eggs and juveniles.



angonoka tortoise (*Astrochelys yniphora*)  
aka ploughshare tortoise  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angonoka\\_tortoise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angonoka_tortoise)

One of the best known animals is the ring tailed lemur. It inhabits the dry southern part of the island in the forest, both scrub and “spiny”. It is active during the day and spends a large portion of time on the ground. The females lead the groups and are the dominant members. They choose the best food, best place to sleep and the defense of territory against enemies. The females stay with the same group but the males may transfer to another group during November.

Madagascar is home to 2/3 of all the world's species of chameleons. The Brookesia is a small stump-tailed chameleon. They are hard to find since their brown or gray color camouflages them in the forest.



Brookesia micra  
Larger than Life!

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookesia\\_micra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookesia_micra)

At our meeting, we discussed our financial status. Priscilla made a motion to move \$1,000 to our checking account. Lori seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Daylily and Iris Society are discussing whether to include us in their Show next year in July. They will talk to Sarah at the Garden to come up with a layout.

Steve and I went to the Cactus and Succulent Conference in Tempe July 26-30 and found it very worthwhile. They didn't have a show but the speakers were good. I especially liked seeing and hearing about the succulent plants of Brazil by Marlon Machado. He showed pictures of dyckia growing alongside cacti; encohlirium growing on rock walls and orthophytum growing with melocactus..

Marcia Tatroe from Colorado said that planting next to rocks helps the plants survive since their roots are a little more protected and there is a little more moisture there. She talked about microclimates. I thought it interesting that she said a snake can help you find a warmer spot in your garden for your plants since they want a cooler spot in the summer and a warmer spot in the winter.

We went to the Extravaganza in Tampa, FL Aug. 4-6 where we had four seminar speakers: Pamela Koide Hyatt, Dr. Larry Giroux, Bruce Holst and Kenneth Stokes.

Larry's seminar was on the naming of Cryptanthus. Several of the crypts are named for the location where they were found such as Crypt. Ubairiensis which was found near the town of Ubaira in Brazil. There have been many that have been named after people, Crypt. Lacerdae, menescal, lutherianus, burle-marxii and glazioli. Larry's slides showed some of the people which was a very nice touch. Some of them have been named because of the way they look such as Cryptanthus 'Thriller', 'Ruby Slippers', 'Australia Sunrise', 'Candy Apple', and 'Key Lime Pie' just to name a few.

Pam Koide Hyatt led a tour with Jeff Chemnick to Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico. There are 121 species of Tillandsias in Chiapas and 135 species in Oaxaca. They found a great variety since they covered cloud forest area as well as drier rock areas near sea level.



*Tillandsia belloensis*



What does he want to eat??  
Pictures from the Journal of the  
Bromeliad Society of New Zealand,  
Inc.  
Peterr and Jeanette Waters went to  
Mexico for these pictures.



Also from New Zealand Society  
*Tillandsia carlos-hankii*



Please note the size of the plants



Ken Stokes' New species of Tillandsia  
He had a number of folks scratching their heads.  
A very clever FAKE!!

Ken Stokes talked about using bromeliads as ground covers in Florida. Plants will have changes in their color because of sun, rain (nitrogen) and time of year (intensity and angle of the sun). He said that greenhouse plants are more uniform in appearance. If you want to keep your plants smaller, he suggests don't move them up to a bigger pot. He had the audience laughing a number of times. He "found" a new species of Tillandsia.

Bruce Holst who is the Director of Botany at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida spoke on three years of Bromeliad Hunting in Belize. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend it. (There was quite a bit of climbing and rope work in finding some of the Bromeliads in Belize.)



It was quite a surprise for us to see this bromeliad clump at Paula Benway's place on the garden tour. I have been told that it does not take very long to grow something of this size. Less than ten years in Florida. This is all from **One Plant!**

We want to wish Paula a quick and speedy full recovery from her hip operation.

