



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

# THE BSGC NEWS

March/April, 2018

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WEB SITE  
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Lori Weigerding

Our next meeting is June 10<sup>th</sup> in the Lakeside Room at the Chicago Botanic Garden at 2p.m. We will begin discussion of our July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Show with the Iris and Daylily Society. There will be no May meeting. Hope you have a lovely Mother's Day.

## *President's Column*

*We had a lovely presentation by Jennifer of the Chalet. We all learned some interesting facts about how different orchids like different conditions and that some are easier to grow than others.*

*I also had the sad duty to let everyone know that one of our dearest and treasured members passed on. Ardie Reilly finally finished her battle here on earth and went to her just reward. She will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.*

*In her memory we made a donation to Illiopolis Wabash Memorial Park c/o Prairie State Bank 345 Mary Street, Illiopolis, IL 62539. Until we meet again Ardie, rest in peace.*

*Lori Weigerding*



### ARDETH "ARDIE" REILLY

Illioopolis, IL - It is with much sadness, that the family of Ardeeth "Ardie" Gay Herron Reilly announces her passing on the 4 th of April, 2018 after more than a decade battle with cancer.

Ardie, 83, was born September 7, 1934 in Connellsville, PA. She has been a resident of Illioopolis, IL, since 1969. After graduating from Dunbar Township High School, Dunbar, PA, Class of 1952, Ardie became a Registered Nurse in 1955 through training at the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing of Pittsburgh, PA. This was when she began dating the boy next door John "Jack" Reilly and fell deeply in love. She moved to Bay City, TX, to marry Jack on August 30, 1956 and began their life together after he graduated as a civil engineer and found employment in the oil industry. They have been together ever since and their love has been an inspiration to friends and family alike. In Texas, Ardie started her adventures in motherhood giving birth to her five children. She loved Texas, its landscape, the TexMex food, and the cowboy culture. From Bay City, her growing family moved to Borger, and then to Phillips, an oil refinery town. In 1969 the family moved from

Texas to Illiopolis.

Ardie worked as a visiting nurse, a school nurse and finally retired from Borden Chemicals and Plastics (BCP/Formosa) in Illiopolis, IL as the plant nurse. For a brief period, Jack and Ardie moved to Baton Rouge, LA for BCP bringing back to Illiopolis Cajun cuisine including frequent crawfish boils. It was in Louisiana that Ardie and Jack became passionate collectors of tropical Bromeliads. After their return, she and Jack built a large greenhouse across the front of their ranch house. They accumulated thousands of plants and showed them for years as members of The Bromeliad Society International. They often traveled to the Mexican Yucatan and Guatemala where they made friends, visited Mayan ruins and collected native and wholesale bromeliads for their personal company - JAR Bromeliads.

A new hybrid Neoregelia bromeliad was also named after her - the 'Ardie.'

After retirement, Ardie began an apprenticeship at the Senior Center in Springfield, IL, attending weekly weaving sessions. She purchased several looms, and a dilapidated building in downtown Illiopolis, restored it and launched her weaving cooperative. She wove colorful rag rugs for gifts and for sale in the local store; and loved to teach people weaving, including her daughters and grandchildren. Ardie had a joyful humor, booming laugh, and radiant smile. She made friends wherever she went with her warm heart and compassion for everyone around her. Her legacy is love.

Ardie was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas and Ruth Silcox Herron; her sister Ruth Herron Gordon and brother-in-law Albert Gordon. She is survived by her husband of 61 years John "Jack" Reilly; her children John (Cathy) Reilly, Pamela (Michael Alexander) Reilly, David (Lisa) Reilly, Christy (Fred) Reilly Worrell, and Patricia (Eric) Reilly Bramlet; her grandchildren John "Jack" Reilly III, Scott Reilly, Calla Reilly, Emma Reilly, Ashley (Erin) Reilly Staley, Dallas (Jennifer) Reilly, Leslie (Alisha) Worrell, Kyle Worrell, Erica Bramlet, Chase Bramlet, and great grandson Rowan Reilly. She is also survived by her sister Barbara (I.L.) Herron Kimmel of New Jersey, and various nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be on Monday, April 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at 410 Anne St, Illiopolis, IL 62539 Resurrection Catholic Church, with mass to follow at 11 a.m. Burial will take place at Calvary Cemetery. A reception will follow at the Resurrection Parish Hall. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Downtown Illiopolis Park and the Illiopolis Public Library.

Martha and I are deeply touched by Ardie's death. My wife got me elected to the position of Secretary in our Club in 1997, because she told me to stay home and read the papers. She put my name in for that position since Barb Temchuk vacated the position. Martha knew I had the computer skills and printer for a newsletter and she didn't. We went to Houston for our first Bromeliad Society World Conference in 1998. Ardie and Jack helped us around and introduced us to quite a few people who became our friends in the Bromeliad Society.

We both remembered the many times that Jack and Ardie did a program on preparing your plants for a BSI Judged Show. They would explain and demonstrate how to prepare the plants and pots for the show. That was in the days when the Club had far more members. The Club imported BSI judges for the show. Ardie and Jack would bring in a large number of plants from Illiopolis for the Show. Every year, they would travel the 210 to 220 miles for the show and stay overnight for 2 to 3 nights during the show. The trip would take anywhere from 3 1/4 hour to 4 hours depending on the route. They never complained about the time and energy that it took. . She shared her enthusiasm about bromeliads with everyone.

They would also travel to the Bromeliad Society World Conference where ever it was. They didn't make it to the one in Cairns, Australia in 2008. They made it to the next one in New Orleans in 2010 and Orlando, FL in 2012. They were not able to go to the World Conference in 2014 in Hawaii nor the one in 2016 in Houston.

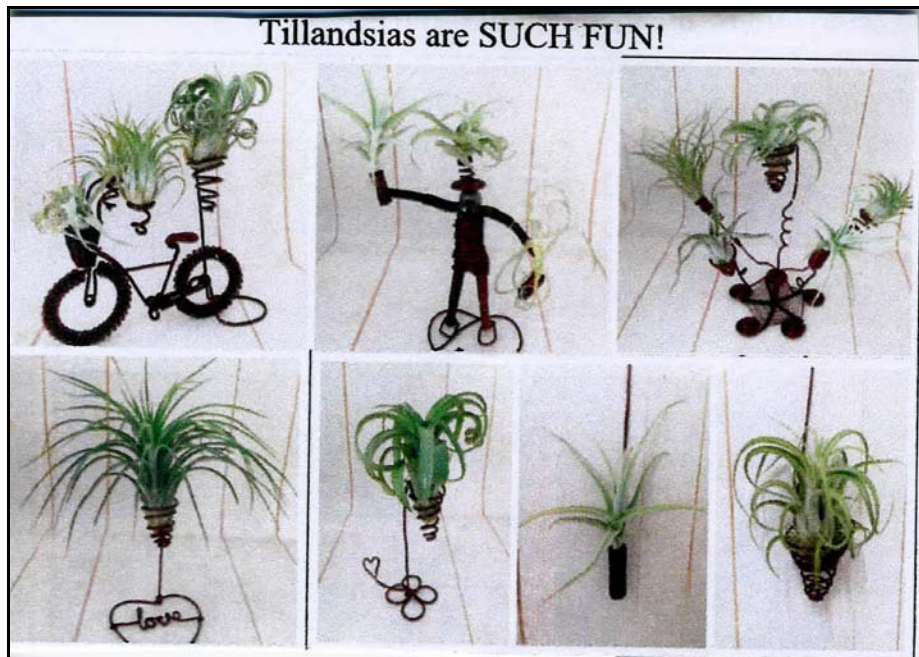
Jack Reilly was a Vice President of the BSI in 2004 when our society hosted the World Conference. Ardie really worked behind the scenes during that conference. With Ardie's patience and good humor, the 2004 Conference was a great one.



I'm always looking for ways to display tillandsias. One of the places that has been popular are the art shows in the Phoenix area. I went to the Tempe Art Show on March 24<sup>th</sup>. There were three booths that had them. I bought a circular ceramic hanging container with 2 tillandsia. It has a hole in the bottom (makes for a lousy tire! Ed.). I was happy to see that when she sold her artwork with a tillandsia that she gave a care sheet and stressed, "It is important to give the tillandsia a little shake and let the water drain from the plant to avoid oversaturation which will potentially rot the plant." To see more of her art work go to [www.pottedarts.com](http://www.pottedarts.com)



Another place to find new ways to display those tillandsias is other bromeliad newsletters. In the March 2018 GNOBS Newsletter, they had the following:



Have you seen any bromeliads in your travels? Larry Clever went on a trip to Argentina and sent us the following.



Hope everyone is doing well. Just wanted to share a couple photos with everyone from a trip we recently made to Argentina. We spent a couple weeks visiting a cousin of Mary's and her husband who vacation in Buenos Aires every winter. While we were there we took a couple days to go to Iguazu Falls in the northeastern part of Argentina. It is one of the 7 natural wonders of the world. Very tropical part of Argentina. While walking through the falls area I kept my eye open for bromeliads or tillandsias that might be growing naturally. I did see a few tillandsias growing on some trees, although I don't know what variety they are. It was a loooong flight from JFK to Buenos Aires but well worth it. Iguazu was only an hour and a half flight from BA. This was definitely a bucket list trip.

We went with our children and grandchild on a trip to Orlando where we saw many bromeliads at Disney World.



*Aechmea* 'Blue Tango'?



*Alcantarea*



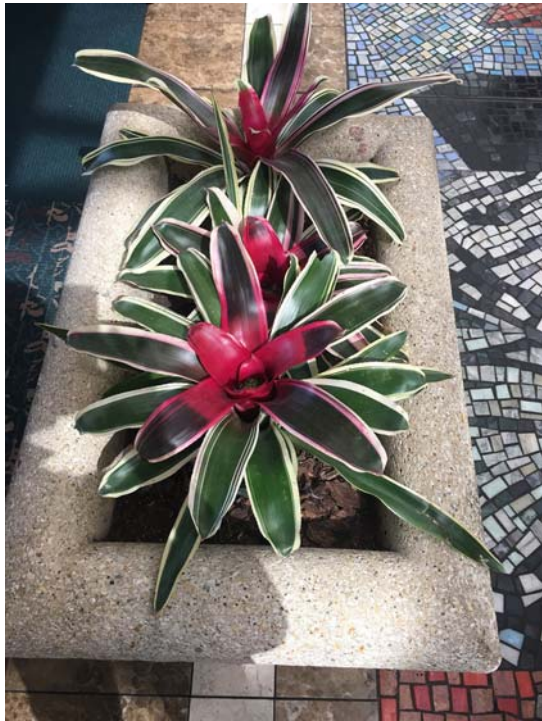
*Guzmania conifera*



Our favorite was the Dragon that was in Epcot. They sure stuffed a lot of bromeliads in him.



Since we had some extra time at the Orlando airport, I took pictures of two.



Neoregelia hybrid



Guzmania hybrid

The dyckias in my garden and in pots have been blooming. They do well here in Scottsdale. In the garden they do best under a deciduous tree. It keeps its color but doesn't get sunburned or bleached out during spring and summer. I still haven't gotten the 'Naked Lady' to bloom yet but it has definitely grown larger. I looked on the web where there is a Dyckia Brazil blog. Constantino has a lot of information as well as pictures. He says that they are mostly from Brazil. One that grows a little bit differently than the usual rosette is *Dyckia estevesii* which likes to grow laying down in sun to have a beautiful fan shape. He has found plants that have trunks longer than 2 meters. That is probably why it did not grow well for me in a pot in Illinois. ([Http://dyckiabrazil.blogspot.com/2012-post\\_22.html](http://dyckiabrazil.blogspot.com/2012-post_22.html) )

In Jack Kramer's book *Bromeliads for Home and Garden*, he says that they are ideal houseplants because they are very adaptable to most growing conditions and can withstand drought. They range in size from 6" to 24" in diameter so pick one of the smaller ones for your desk or tabletop. He says they do not need

repotting for several years which is good since even with gloves, you are bound to get some scratches.



Dyckia Dakota



The 1992 BSI Cultural Manual says that dyckias have clustering rosettes of tough succulent leaves usually with vicious spines. They typically grow on rocks. They have orange or yellow flowers on tall unbranched spikes. Even though they are drought tolerant most species receive plentiful water during the growing season. When the plant fills the pot, it is useful to have it sit on a tray of water since top watering is difficult.

In the 1974 BSI **Bromeliads; A Cultural Handbook**, in the family characteristics of dyckias it says that they have been used, generally combined with cacti and other succulents. It says they are principally from sunny areas in Brazil and Argentina and they can withstand low temperatures and full light exposure when transferred to cultivation.



Dyckia 'Burgundy'



Dyckia hybrid

On the Yucca Do Nursery website ([www.yuccado.com/article\\_dyckias](http://www.yuccado.com/article_dyckias)), Wade Roitsch had a very good article, "Dyckia Cultivation- Tips and tidbits". I like how he refers to them, "I will admit that dealing with the spiny leaves when the plants need dividing or repotting is a drawback but what plant does not have some kind of character flaw?" Their nursery is in Giddings, Texas where they have long, hot, dry summers like in the Phoenix area. He found that when it was 100+ for weeks on end, he was unable to give them sufficient supplemental irrigation and as a result he lost several of the dyckias. He has found many species to be very cold tolerant with some being able to stand temperatures in the teens. This is for established plants. Also, the duration of the cold. He also found that the plants grown in shade to part shade survived freezing temperatures better than plants grown in full sun.

Don't forget 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 \$8.00 Annually

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Birthday (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Simply fill this form out and mail with payment to:

Paula Dering

Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago

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60045-1713