



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

THE BSGC NEWS

March/April 2020

President	Lori Weigerding	(630) 888-7516
Vice President	Martha Goode	(815) 459-1623
Treasurer	Paula Dering	(847) 295-2559
Secretary	OPEN	
Newsletter Editor	Steve Goode	stevegoode1@ameritech.net

WEB SITE
Webmaster

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

We will wait and see when our next meeting will be and send you an email. We hope you are all staying well.

President's Column

Spring is trying to spring, but Jack Frost is trying to stick around. What crazy weather we're having this year! I hope your annuals are weathering the changes in our Chicagoland weather. My yard has lots of greenery popping up, trying it's best to make an appearance to brighten up our time at home.

I'm sure you're all anxious to get your Bromeliad's outside to enjoy the Spring and Summer months. Hoping they'll soon be here to stay!

Knowing many of you are probably going stir crazy with our present situation. I hope you all have been keeping yourselves and your minds busy these many weeks. Unfortunately it looks like we'll have several more weeks to continue with this regime.

Praying that everyone continues doing well and stays safe.

Lori Weigerding

During this unusual time, your big adventure may have been going to the grocery store and scoring a package of toilet paper. While you are “shuttered in place”, you might want to start thinking about when you will be able to travel again. Dennis Cathcart in his Tropiflora Cargo Reports had several articles on “A Beginner’s guide to Adventure Travel”. The first one was in February 1994. I have used information from his articles in May and July 1994.

Dennis has found that rather than a wild and dangerous jungle wasteland where foreigners are treated with contempt and suspicion, there is a continent of beauty and civility. He says there are many unexplored areas which contain a biological diversity. He says, “It’s a tough job but somebody has to do it. To think we get to do this and actually get paid! Sometimes it’s hard to tell what we like best about collecting, the bromeliads or the adventure of finding them.” He suggests that you should just do it. He says there are travel adventure companies, tour groups and organized collecting tours but he suggests being an adventurer and doing it alone or with a companion. One such person, Ed Prince, took him up. You can read his adventure in, “Adventures of a Novice: in volume 44, #4, July/August 1994 BSI Journal. [http://journal.bsi.org/PDF/V44/BSI_V44\(4\).pdf](http://journal.bsi.org/PDF/V44/BSI_V44(4).pdf)

I believe I would rather go with a group. I guess I’m not that adventurous.

Dennis suggests where to go and how to get there in the May 1994 Cargo Report. He suggests many countries which he says are safe and relatively easy to get around in. Since this was written in 1994, I’m sure you need to check out the countries. He says that Brazil is costly and very large, about the size of the continental U.S. It contains more bromeliad genera and species than any other country according to Dennis. For beginners, he suggests Costa Rica. However, you can only take pictures not collect plants. It is safe, has good roads and a variety of accommodations. Ecuador is a bromeliad paradise. It is a small country, fairly easy to travel in, safe and comparatively inexpensive. Guillermo Rivera of Plant Expeditions has a few spots open on his June/July 2021 trip to Ecuador.

Dennis lists some of the things you need to do in advance. The first is make sure your passport is current or if you don’t have one then you need to apply for one. (At the Post Office.) While you are doing that you may want to get your Real ID (driver’s license). (Wait till you get the Passport. It can be used for Real ID) Once you have your passport be sure you have something to carry it on your person securely. There are many places that sell passport holders. You can find them for a variety of prices. You don’t want to lose your passport because you will

not get into another country without it and if you lose it in another country, they won't let you out. (You will have to find a U.S. consul office to apply for a replacement.)

The best time to go is in the dry season. In some countries this means it only rains a little each day rather than raining a lot every day. The roads can become impassable during these times and landslides are more common in the wet season. Dennis suggests the amount of time for your trip should be from ten days to no more than 3 weeks. If you plan to collect plants, you will need a minimum of an import permit from the USDA. Some countries do not permit any collecting. In countries that do, getting a permit from there can be a very frustrating and expensive experience. You definitely should check well ahead of time.

Anne who is now in California had a picture of her *Aechmea recurvata* 'Benrathii' in bloom. She got it last year at a San Francisco Cactus and Succulent Society meeting. She put it in the ground in El Granada and it bloomed.



On February 24th we went to Charlotte, NC to the Biltmore Estate. We really enjoyed the Servants Tour. The Conservatory was located a block away from the house. It had a lot of beautiful daffodils, tulips, foliage plants, orchids and bromeliads.



George Washington Vanderbilt II's Biltmore Estate
Established 1895



The Conservatory in the House



The Greenhouse about a block away from
the main house.



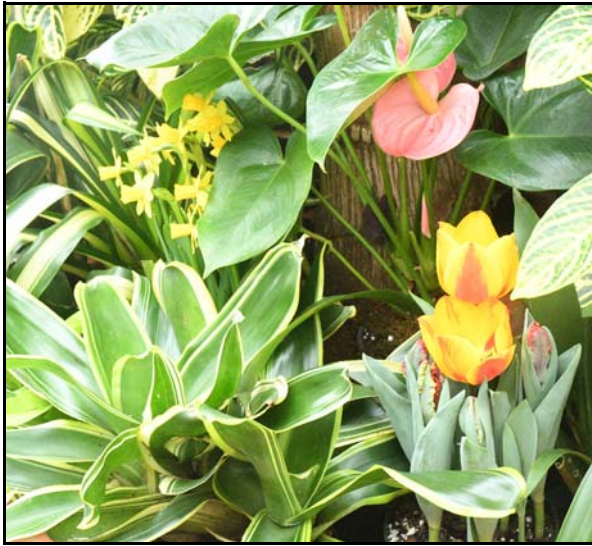
A view inside the Greenhouse

The Greenhouse was separated into different sections. It reminded us of the Garfield Park Conservatory on the West Side of Chicago.



Aechmea and the inflorescence.





The Greenhouse is set up currently as a Show conservatory instead of a Greenhouse to provide the main house with Flowers and Green Plants. It is not likely that the Vanderbilts had Bromeliads outside of a Pineapple or two.

From there we drove to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and then to the Brookgreen Gardens which is a sculpture garden. It was founded by Archer and Anna Huntington. The sculpture garden has all sizes of sculpture. We saw Spanish Moss hanging from the trees there.



South Carolina Trees with Spanish Moss in February.



Tidal Rhythm by Christopher Smith 2000-2003

We then went to Charleston, South Carolina. While there we visited the “Lights of Magnolia” at one of the popular Charleston plantations.



They also had lighted pictures of the Chinese Zodiac. A bit of China in South Carolina!



I put my Dyckia 'Naked lady' in the ground here in Scottsdale around ten years ago. Since we haven't been able to go anywhere since early March, I decided to try giving it a lot of fertilizer. Terrie Bert of Florida had mentioned one time to give your bromeliad a lot of fertilizer if your plant hasn't flowered. I used Miracle Gro Bloom Booster.



Wait till the next newsletter when we have a picture of the Real Naked Lady in Full Bloom!

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 _____

Email address _____

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
44 Atteridge Road
Lake Forest, IL
60045-1713

