



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

THE BSGC NEWS

July/August, 2020

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Lori Weigerding

The summer is winding down here in Illinois. We just heard that the Botanic Garden has cancelled all of the remaining meetings for this year.

I hope the summer has gone well for your plants.

It was a disaster for the plants I had taken outside to my shadehouse. First, an animal shredded many of my tillandsias. That should have been a warning to me. The next night the squirrel or raccoon shredded my potted bromeliads. He didn't even take a bite of them. He must be an angry animal. Maybe he has been listening to all the news or maybe it was a young immature one. I found the following in an old Newsletter from Tampa Bay, Prior to 1999



Damage to my Tillandsias

Poetry Potpourri'

Maturity (Courtesy of the Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay, Inc.)

Maturity is the ability to control anger and settle differences without violence.

Maturity is patience; it is the willingness to pass up immediate pleasures in favor of long-term gain.

Maturity is perseverance, the ability to sweat out a project or a situation in spite of heavy opposition and discouraging setbacks.

Maturity is the capacity to face unpleasantness and frustration, discomfort and defeat, without complaint or collapse.

Maturity is being big enough to say, "I was wrong". And, when right, the mature person need not experience the satisfaction of saying, "I told you so".

Maturity is the ability to make a decision and stand by it.

The immature spend their lives exploring endless possibilities and then do nothing.

Maturity means dependability, keeping one's word and coming through in a crisis.

The immature are masters of the alibi. They are confused and conflicted. Their lives are a maze of broken promises, former friends, unfinished business and good intentions that somehow never materialize.

Maturity is the art of living in peace with what we cannot change and the wisdom to know the difference.

-Author unknown

I have been going through old photograph books. Since we haven't been able to travel places to see bromeliads, the pictures in this Newsletter are old ones. Since I'm not good at writing down dates and places, I'm not sure where or when they came from.



Pictures from an old Chicago Flower Show

In the May Scurf Newsletter, they had the following article “Expand Your Collection” (abridged).

Expand Your Collection

This list comes from our sister society the BSSF. These are the bromeliad genera that they offer in their annual judged shows. While the list leaves out a few of the more obscure groups, this is a great place to start your research and determine which ones you’d like to try. Maybe you prefer the colors hybrids offer or perhaps you just want to focus on true species plants. Either way, consider using this time to expand your “bromeliad horizons”.

Bromeliad Genus List

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Inter-Generic | 25. Edmundoa | 49. Ochogavia |
| 2. Acanthostachys | 26. Encholirium | 50. Orthophytum |
| 3. Aechmea | 27. Fascicularia | 51. Pepinia |
| 4. Alcantarea | 28. Fernseea | 52. Pitcairnia |
| 5. Ananas | 29. Glomeropitcairnia | 53. Portea |
| 6. Andrea | 30. Goudaea | 54. Pseudachmea |
| 7. Androlepis | 31. Gregbrownia | 55. Pseudalcantarea |
| 8. Araecococcus | 32. Greigia | 56. Pseudananas |
| 9. Ayensua | 33. Guzmania | 57. Puya |
| 10. Barfussia | 34. Hechtia | 58. Quesnelia |
| 11. Billbergia | 35. Hoenbergia | 59. Racinaea |
| 12. Brewcaria | 36. Hohenbergiopsis | 60. Ronnbergia |
| 13. Brochinia | 37. Jagrantia | 61. Sincoraea |
| 14. Bromelia | 38. Josemania | 62. Stigmatadon |
| 15. Canistropsis | 39. Lapanthus | 63. Steyerbromelia |
| 16. Canistrum | 40. Lemeltonia | 64. Tillandsia |
| 17. Catopsis | 41. Lindmania | 65. Ursulaea |
| 18. Connellia | 42. Lutheria | 66. Vriesia |
| 19. Cottendorfia | 43. Lymania | 67. Wallisia |
| 20. Cryptanthus | 44. Mezobromelia | 68. Werauhia |
| 21. Deinacanthos | 45. Navia | 69. Wittmackia |
| 22. Deuterocohnia | 46. Neoglaziovia | 70. Wittrockia |
| 23. Disteganthus | 47. Neoregelia | 71. Zizkaea |
| 24. Dyckia | 48. Nidularium | |

Growers around the world are creating some of the most unique blends of colors, textures, and other unique characteristics from multiple bromeliad species.

Ed. Notes: The above table may be confusing since we have new genera being created from DNA research into the Bromeliads. It is a shock to us since we have met some of the people who have genus named for them. Note: We are getting old dear.

Carol Wolfe from the Tampa Bay area took us on a trip through her yard.

https://www.fcbs.org/newsletters/BGTB/Wolfe's_backyard_PP.pptx

It will take a while to load up and play. This is a Power Point slide show without sound. You might have to click onto each slide in the left hand column. At 152 slides, it is well worth while watching, if the program doesn't start after it is downloaded, you may have to press F5 on the top row to start the slide show.



The La Ballona Valley Bromeliad Society has invited us to join their ZOOM Meeting. The following is from their newsletter.

La Ballona Valley Zoom Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 26 August, at **6 pm PDT**. **This is 8 pm Central Time**. Please note the start time, which is an hour and a half earlier than usual to accommodate our speaker. We will begin the meeting promptly and defer club matters until the end.

Our first international speaker in our Zoom meeting series is Pedro Nahoum, who will present "Bromeliads in Brazil: Part 1". His talk features photos of selected bromeliad species and hybrids, both in landscaping and in commercial production in greenhouses, shadehouses, and large scale growing areas in sandy irrigated fields. Pedro's photos were taken in different areas of Brazil and highlight the diversity of bromeliads in his country.

About our speaker: Pedro Nahoum is a plant breeder, grower, and landscaper who owns BOTANICA POP Ltd., a 20 year old company with production areas in Maricá county (Laje do Eco farm, 40 km east of Rio de Janeiro) and Quissamã county (Terraços Marinhos farm, 250 km east of Rio). Pedro earned a Biological

Sciences degree from Rio de Janeiro Federal University and studies Biodiversity Management at the National School of Tropical Botany.

Want to practice using Zoom ahead of our meeting? Join the test meeting that Zoom runs -- just follow the instructions in their help article on joining a test meeting, which steps you through the process. This Zoom help article will guide you through testing your audio on a computer (Linux, Mac, or Windows), Android device, or iPad/iPhone. Find more help articles and video tutorials in the Zoom Help Center.

Secretary Paul's tips for improving your Zoom experience: Please join meetings 10 -- 15 minutes before start time so the meeting can start on time. Ensure you have a strong internet connection to have the best reception for optimum video and audio. Use the largest screen equipment possible. Computers, laptops and larger tablets are far superior to cell phones.

Zoom meeting information: Please share this link with friends and family who might be interested in our club. We encourage everyone to turn on their video so we can all see each other, and don't forget to test your audio settings when you join our meeting. We do not anticipate reaching our 500-participant limit, but our sincere apologies if you are blocked from joining our meeting for this reason. (Please consider joining 10--15 minutes early, not just because the meeting is first come first serve, but also so we can start on time.)

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Meeting details:

Topic: LBVBS August Zoom Meeting

Time: Aug 26, 2020 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada) (01:00 UTC/GMT on 27 August)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81284471873>

Meeting ID: 812 8447 1873



The Chicago Botanic Garden had a judged show at the Chicago Flower Show.

The "Bromeliaceae" newsletter from the fourth quarter of 2019 had these summer tips:

Summer Tips

In sub-tropical and tropical climates, many bromeliads can be grown in the garden all year round. Care needs to be taken in December, January and February (**These tips are from the Land Down Under. Their summer is our winter.**) As the combination of high temperatures and low air humidity can cause leaf scale or burn when the same temperatures combined with high humidity will not. Several hours on one day of adverse weather conditions is often all that is needed to cause severe plant damage.

Avoid watering bromeliads in the middle of hot summer days if you can. The sun's rays can be focused by the droplets of water onto the bromeliads' leaves resulting in leaf burn and subsequently bleached spots on the leaf.

Many growers are concerned that mosquitoes will breed in the centres of tank-type bromeliads during summer. One way of avoiding this outcome is to use a hose to flush the water out of each plant's tank once a week during summer. This action gives the mosquito insufficient time to breed, as well as helping to water the

plants and minimise the possible build-up of blue-green algae.

Remember that using chemicals should be avoided if possible as it is not good for the plant nor other ‘friendly’ inhabitants.



We hope you all have been staying healthy except your case of “Bromeliaditis”, Article from the CBS Newsletter of April, 1998.

“Bromeliaditis”

Unlike the flu, Bromeliaditis doesn’t go away. The symptoms get stronger everyday. After being exposed to the plants responsible for this sickness, you get a fever to have every plant you see. The fever is followed by a skin rash, which is really a bunch of scratches and puncture wounds. Bromeliads become the center of your interest. You no longer care to be inside your house. Your closets can be cluttered, your meals late and your shopping list can wait another day. You just

want to be in your garden. Those who get this disease think nothing of traveling long distances to go on collecting trips, or, if they can't do that, go to every show or sale they can to obtain new specimens, even such treacherous ones that you would not have been caught dead with before you got this sickness. You walk around with dirt under your fingernails, learn a strange new vocabulary to be able to converse with other victims, don't mind staying up all night grooming your plants for show, and learn patience you never knew you had, waiting for a plant to grow up and bloom. You even go to "Sunday Meetings" in jeans or shorts, long sleeves (to cover your bloody arms) and floppy hats you've adopted. Some, who are severely afflicted, even sit in front of a screen, seeking out other victims, some that even change their names by adding ".com", getting terrible backaches in the process. It seems, misery loves company. Bromeliaditis hits you hard, but I wouldn't have missed it for the world! I'm glad there are no shots to prevent it.



