



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

THE BSGC NEWS

January/February, 2016

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Lori Weigerding

We hope you are having a good new year. Our first meeting will be on February 14th at 2pm in Annex 1 at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Please bring any questions you have about your plants and anything you want to share. I got a tillandsia in early December and it flowered this month.



President's Column

We have several things to make decisions on/discuss. We need to vote on our slate of officers and we still need a secretary. The other important matter is trying to figure out where we can hold our shows since the Garden won't allow us anymore.

Well on another note, how are your plants doing in your house? It's hard on them and us as I'm sure everything is crowded. Do you have any neat tricks you use to keep your plants happy over the winter months?

We will be watching a video from the Australasian conference (maybe two) by Hawaii Winter that talk about the effects of weather, sunlight, moisture, etc., on our plants. They are certainly very interesting and I'm sure you'll come away with new knowledge on how to keep your plants looking their best.

Look forward to seeing you all on Sunday, February 14, 2016 and bring along your special Valentine!

Lori Weigerding

In our last newsletter, there was an article about the genera Dyckia and Deuterocohnia. I received an email from Penrith Goff (Newsletter Editor for the South East Michigan Bromeliad Society SEMBS) stating that the definition of remotiflora is flowers at a distance from the plant. The article said that remotiflora is Latin for few blooms. Thank you Penrith for the correction!

In the same article it mentioned Deuterocohnia abstrusa formerly lorentziana. We were at B&B Nursery in Tucson near the end of January and I saw one there.

I have been feeding the hummingbirds this winter. Many stay around in Arizona instead of migrating to Mexico. They really like my dyckias when they are blooming. I was reading the Journal of the Brazilian Society, volumes 1 & 2 from 1994 & 1995. It had quite a bit of information on hummingbirds. It said that there are 100 genera and 300 species.



Deuterocohnia abstrusa

One study found that four species of hummingbirds visited the flowers of *Vriesea neoglutinosa*.

Polytmus guainumbi
Amazilia fimbriata
Phaethornis idaliae
Chlorostilbon aureoventris



Photo from www.fcbs.org



Phaethornis idaliae, image from www.nebrazilbirding.com



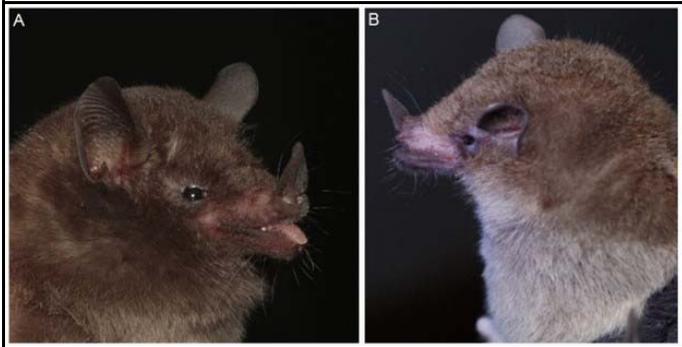
Amazilia fimbriata from www.flickriver.com

A different article mentioned a *Eupetomena macroura* visiting *Aechmea bromelifolia*.

Some bromeliads are pollinated by both hummingbirds and bats. The hummingbird, *Stephanoxis lalandi* visited the flowers of *Vriesea sazimae*.

Vriesea longiscapa is pollinated by *Anoura geoffroyi* while *Vriesea morrenii* is pollinated by *Anoura caudifer*.

A couple other bats the article mentioned was the fruit bat, *Artibeus lituratus* being attracted to the large flower of *Alcantarea*. *Encholirium glaziovii* is pollinated by *Lonchophylla bokermanni*.



Lonchophylla bokermanni from <http://smithsonianscience.si.edu/2014/08/bolivias-golden-bat-one-six-new-species-found-smithsonians-bat-detective/>



Encholirium glaziovii from www.fcbs.org



Mabuya macrorhyncha from www.biodiversidade-pe.com

The lizard, *Mabuya macrorhyncha* uses *Neoregelia cruenta* as a site for sunning to warm its body. The red-rumped cacique, *Cacicus haemorrhous* and *Platypsaris rufus* build their nests almost entirely of Spanish moss.

Earlier in January, I was at a local grocery store and saw a bromeliad that I didn't recognize. I sent the picture to one of the BSI judges and he thought it was *Aechmea tayoensis*. When I looked at the fcbs.org website, I agreed with him.



Aechmea tayoensis from
www.fcbs.org



The *Aechmea tayoensis* that Martha found. Picture from Martha's phone

Is this a normal winter?? (Are any winters a normal winter?) In the January 2014 Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society Newsletter (SEMBS), Paul Wingert discusses this. After his article Penrith Goff talks about light conditions in the winter.

Winter Wrap 2013 by Paul Wingert

We have a saying here in Michigan that our "normal" weather is the average of ten abnormal years! This winter began with above average temperatures, and uncommonly sunny conditions right through the first three weeks of January. That streak culminated with record high temperatures of 69 degrees on January 21. The plants in the greenhouse were looking uncommonly happy for that time of the year! Then, someone flipped off the heat switch, and turned off the sunlight! Conditions during February were below average temperatures with mostly overcast conditions. As a testament to the poor growing conditions, the shade cloth which I typically place on the greenhouse did not get applied until March 4th this season. I often see signs of burning or heat stress if I wait too long, but this year there was

no evidence of that. This is the first year for me that the shadecloth hasn't been applied before the end of February. Sunny days from now on can produce temperatures that can easily exceed 95 degrees, and with a bit of venting, very comfortable temperatures can be achieved making the plants very happy! Several bromeliads are coming into bloom, including several Vriesea hybrids, Tillandsia cyanea and T. Deppeana, Aechmea 'Blue Tango' and many Neoregelias starting to color up as flower buds are initiated, signaling the inevitable Spring season!

Getting through the Winter by Penrith Goff

Perhaps the worst part of winter is the gloom which robs many of the bromeliads of the glorious color which they had acquired by Fall. True, a lot of billbergias, aechmeas, tillandsias consistently bloom in winter but Billbergia 'Hallelujah' pales out, Neoregelia "Painted Delight" loses a lot of its paint, N. Kautskii's gold fades to a pedestrian green. Fortunately there are a lot of bromeliads which maintain good color in Winter: Aechmea 'Blackjack,' Neoregelia 'Charm' and similar dark Neos, Billbergia 'Muriel Waterman' and others. I acquired a Billbergia 'Tres Bien' at our swap meeting and was delighted to see it maintain its dusky red and then bloom in the dead of Winter.



You do not need to fertilize in winter. Since the plants are either dormant or growing at a much slower rate, you will not need to water as often. Another thing you need to watch for in the winter is noting if your plants develop scale from the dry conditions.



February 8th is the beginning of the Chinese New Year. The pictures above are of the decorations in the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas celebrating the Chinese Year of the Monkey. Pictures taken by Martha with her new phone. Welcome to the 21st Century Dear!

Please take the time to renew your membership now.

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