

S E M B S

The Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society
An Affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International
January/February 2023



Aechmea orlandiana 'White Knight'. Fascinating foliage provides year-round interest, while the blooms appear during mid-winter's shortest days! Photo by Paul Wingert.

Calendar January/February 2023

Best wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year! The January meeting will take place by Zoom on Saturday, January 21 at 2:00 PM. The meeting link will be sent in a separate email on Wednesday, January 18. The topic will be “The BSI WBC Experience, Sarasota June 2022”. Paul Wingert attended the Conference and will present a detailed report on the events that transpired there. Paul will have photos of many of the plants from the Judged Show, representative examples of the Sales area, and photos from the nursery visits to Michael’s Bromeliads in Venice, Florida, and Tropiflora Nursery in Sarasota. Friday’s itinerary featured a trip to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Selby is the only botanical garden in the world specializing in epiphytes including bromeliads, orchids, gesneriads, aroids, ferns, and other tropical plants. It is a virtual living museum/herbarium collection with plants from all over the world! Conference registrants were treated to a “behind-the-scenes” tour of greenhouses which are typically off limits to the public! Friday afternoon and Saturday morning was dedicated to speaker presentations. Paul will also give a brief summary of the speakers and topics covered, the rare plant auction, and the Saturday evening banquet.

The February meeting also will take place by Zoom on Saturday, February 18 at 2:00 PM. The meeting link will be sent out during the week preceding the meeting and will also serve as a monthly meeting reminder! We will reprise last February’s experience where we had a virtual “Show & Tell”. Participants in last year’s event really had an enjoyable time and recommended that we repeat the event! February would seem to be the perfect time for such a meeting, as weather and travel can be most unpredictable. This also allows an opportunity for our more remote members to participate! For those who have experience using screen sharing in Zoom, feel free to present photos from your own computer/laptop/tablet/phone. If you are not familiar with screen sharing (it can be tricky/frustrating) but you want to participate, you may send your photos in advance of the meeting to [Paul Wingert](#). Paul will serve as moderator for the meeting and can assist in presenting photos. Everyone is encouraged to share photos favorite bromeliads of 2022, plants currently in bloom, and growing setups. Everyone learns something from witnessing the experience of others! Don’t have anything to show right now? Please join us for an afternoon of interesting discussions and pleasant society.

November meeting recap- We had excellent attendance for our meeting on “Spiny Terrestrial Bromeliads”. Carol Kimbrough shared her personal story of her fascination with all sorts of tropical plants, and her particular attraction to some of the more dangerous creations in the plant kingdom! Carol presented lots of photos of her favorite plants that revealed her awesome horticulture skills and showed her savviness at making use of all of the nooks and crannies in her home to grow her plants! Carol offered some

astute observations and hypotheses regarding the adaptations that plants living in arid habitats have made in order to flourish.

Raffle table- We will initiate having a raffle table beginning with the next in-person meeting. This has been a popular attraction with some other local plant societies. It should be a fun way to share favorite plants with other society members!

Dues reminder- We were very lax about dues renewals during COVID. Thankfully, we are nearly back to normal! For individuals who joined the society or renewed dues at a meeting in 2022 or at the September Show, you are paid up through December 2023. All others, kindly remit dues by check to SEMBS by February 28, 2023 and mail to: SEMBS, PO Box 80472, Rochester Hills, MI 48308-0472 Dues are \$12 for individuals. \$15 for families, and \$5 for members who live outside a 75-mile radius from Detroit. It is with regret that unpaid members will be removed from the mailing list as of March 1, 2023.

SEMBS Facebook Group page- For those of you who have use Facebook, please feel free to follow and post photos of your bromeliads! Use this link [SEMBS Facebook Group](#) to view the home page. Our Facebook page currently has nearly 300 followers!

March / April meetings- Dates, places, and topics to be confirmed soon.

Here is a teaser for the February meeting. These photos have been submitted by our members represent some of the highlights of this past year's growing season!



Goudaea ospinae 'Gruberi' - (left) photo by Lynne Echlin

Lynne's shade garden retreat (below)





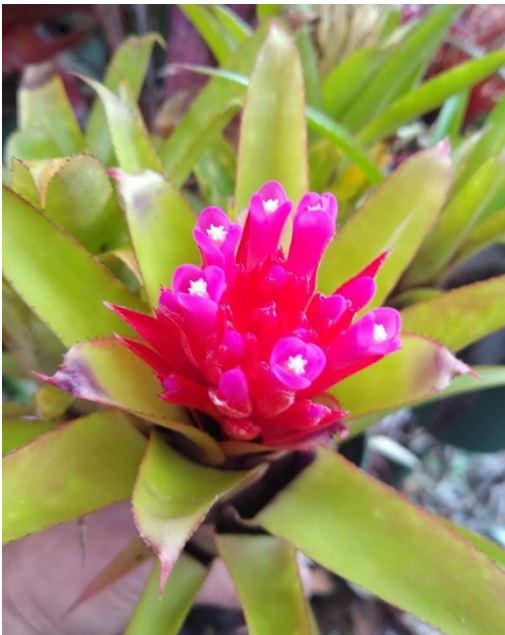
Aechmea chantinii- (left) photo by Lynne Echlin



Eastern gray tree frogs love bromeliads! They were frequently sighted this summer by many of our members- (above) photo by Lynne Echlin

Aechmea ‘DelMar’ is a stunning hybrid with a long-lasting inflorescence. (right) photo by Lynne Echlin

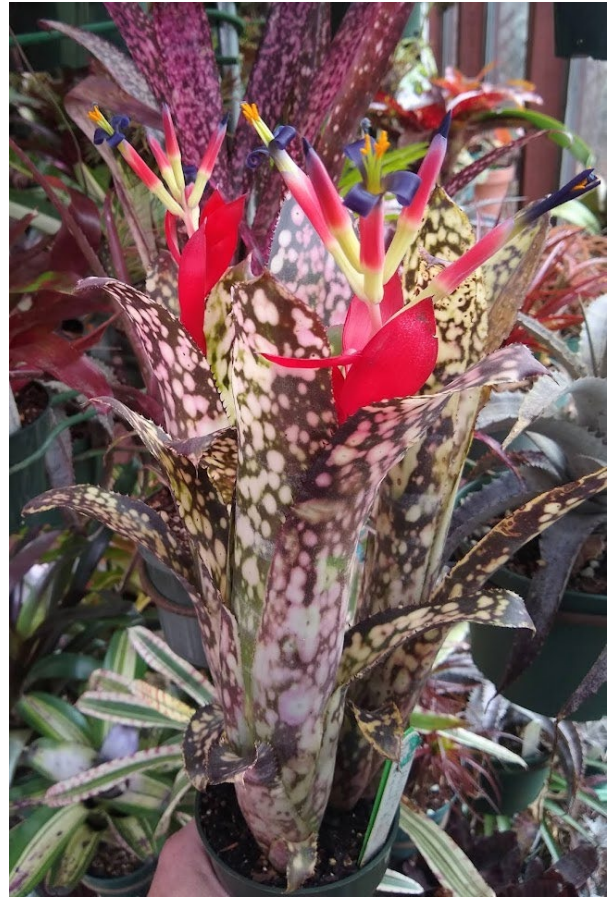
Aechmea ‘Red Dragon’ is a colorful and reliably winter bloomer (below) photo by Paul Wingert





Billbergia 'Hallelujah' x 'Poquito Blanco'
blooming in early December 2022 (*right*)
photo by Paul Wingert

A pleasant January morning in the
Carol Kimbrough's sunroom (*left*)



Mixed tropical
plants in the
sunroom. (*left*)
Photo taken
January 10, 2023 by
Carol Kimbrough