

S E M B S

The Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society
an Affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International
March/April 2023

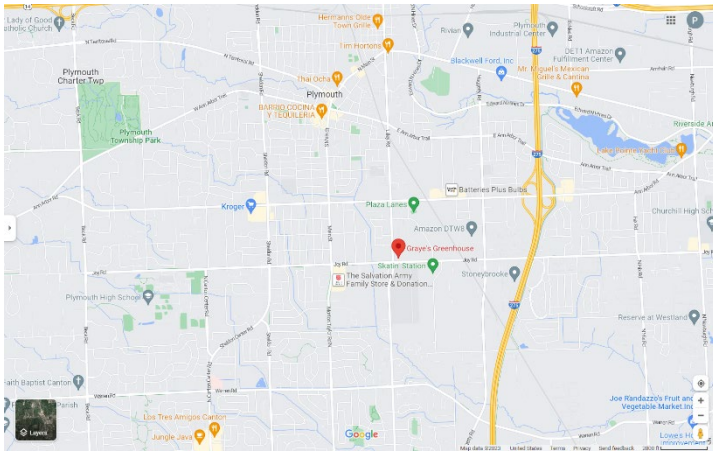


A seed-grown specimen from *Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii* is held by Jerad Walters at J.W. Succulents in Hudsonville, Michigan. Further examination revealed an inflorescence just beginning to emerge from the water line! *Photo by Paul Wingert*

March/April 2023 Calendar

The Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society's March meeting will be held at Graye's Greenhouse on **Sunday, March 19, 2023** at 2:00 PM. Note that this deviates from our

typical 3rd Saturday of the month meeting date! Graye's Greenhouse is located at 8820 N Lilley Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170. The greenhouse is at the Northeast corner of Lilley and Joy. The parking lot is accessed from Joy Road.



The main focus of the meeting will be a workshop on dividing and repotting bromeliad pups, as well as an exploration of potting media and using

alternatives to pots for growing bromeliads. Long-time veteran society member George Klosterman will lead the workshop and will share his knowledge and experience. Everyone will have the opportunity for hands-on experience and will have a potted plant to take home from the workshop.

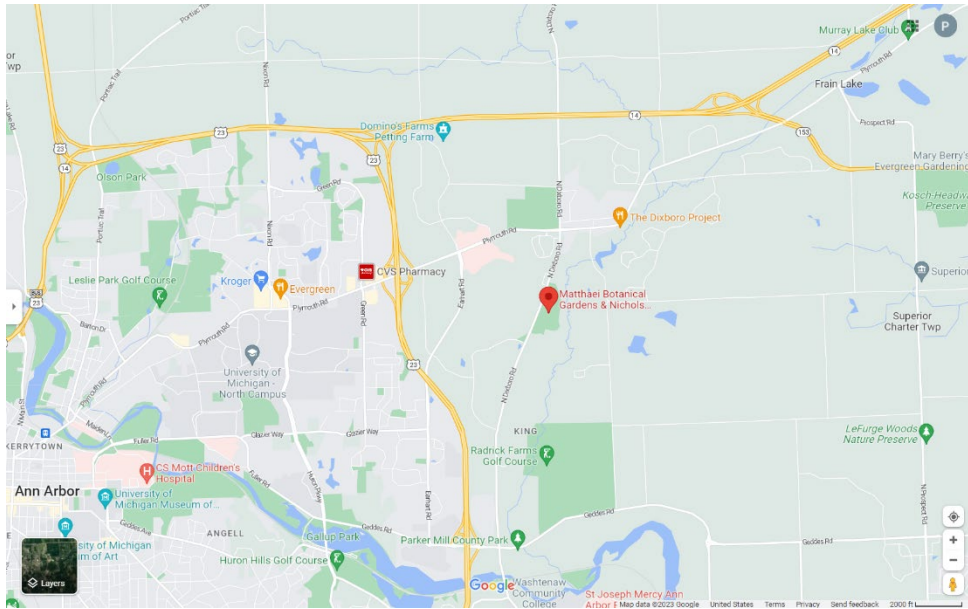
Knowing when to remove pups can be a vexing issue, particularly for less experienced growers. Depending on the maturity of the offset, it can impact how quickly the pup will root and grow to flowering size, or how many pups the “mother” plant will produce. These are issues to contemplate when choosing to divide bromeliads. Some bromeliads, especially those with narrow leaves, can become very attractive as multi-generational specimens. For those with the space available, simply repotting in an appropriately sized pot may prove to be a great alternative to division! Finally, while most bromeliads adapt well to pot culture, there are many that are even happier to be grown mounted on cork, cypress, manzanita, even lava rock! We will explore various bromeliads that excel when grown in this way.

Canistrum seidelianum (pictured at right) has grown happily on a piece of cypress wood for several generations.



Beginning with our March meeting, we will have our first-ever **Raffle Table**. If you have extra pups that you would like to see have a happy home, consider bringing a plant or two to donate! 1. Please correctly label your plants (if you know the name!) 2. Make sure they are pest free and in good condition 3. Remove water & debris from tanks, dirt from bare root plants and any creatures living or otherwise. 4. Include your name on the tag

The April meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 15, 2:00 PM** in Room 139 at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI. We will take a



tour of the MBG bromeliad collection in the conservatory. The main topic will be a slide presentation from the BSI Media Library titled ***Bromeliads A-Z***. The program offers a broad overview of the subfamilies and genera within the bromeliad family, and insights to where the

plants grow. Habitat photos offer additional insight for successful cultivation of both familiar and relatively unknown bromeliads.

If anyone has plant(s) that makes you happy, please bring it(them) for **Show and Tell!**

There will be a **Raffle Table** at the April meeting.

We will also have a brief discussion about our society's spring group order from Michael's Bromeliads and from Tillandsia International. It is not required that you be present at the April meeting to participate in the order, though if you have any special order requests, or know how many "Grower's Choice" plants you would like, you can email Paul Wingert pcwingert@gmail.com with any lists. If you wish to explore Michael's full catalog, go to <https://michaelsbromeliads.com> choose the "Our Collections" tab from the Home page. You are welcome to special order from the catalog. There aren't a ton of photos on Michael's web page, but there are fantastic internet resources if you google a species name or cultivar name. The BSI Species Database (released on March 16, 2022) and the BSI Cultivar Registry are two good places to research individual plants! If Michael has the requested item available, he

typically offers a 25% discount from list price for our society order. Most of our society order is typically the "Grower's Choice" selections. You may order any number of plants at price points of \$5 or \$10. (Prices include shipping charges and MI state sales tax). Michael does a very nice job honoring general requests i.e., *variegated* or *mini Neoregelias*, *hybrid Billbergias*, *spiny terrestrials*, or an "*eclectic mix*" for those who wish to explore some of the oddball Bromeliad genera! Also a note for which I have mixed emotions, I recently spoke with Michael, and he and his wife Donna are planning to sell the nursery property this year. They are retiring after more than 35 years in business. Congratulations, and many thanks to Michael for bringing joy to bromeliad growers worldwide for so many years!

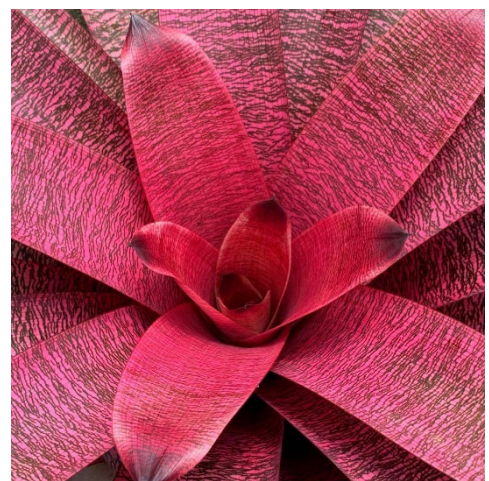
For those who are particularly fond of Tillandsias, go to the <https://airplant.com> website. Plants priced \$10 and above can be ordered individually. If anyone desires individual Tillandsias in the \$2-10 price range, please contact Paul to confirm that the required minimum will be ordered. For those who are looking for more information and pictures of some of the Tillandsias, there are some good resources online. The Facebook group "Planet Tillandsia" is a great place for absolute fanatics. If you search "Frank Messina" (owner of Tillandsia International) on Planet Tillandsia, it highlights all of Frank's posts and photos- a superior resource to the catalog on the airplant.com website! It's worth repeating that the BSI Species Database and the BSI Cultivar Registry are two good places to research individual plants!

During the February meeting, there was a discussion about foliage Vrieseas. Some members expressed an interest to pursue an order from David Shiigi, founder of [Bromeliads Hawaii](#). David was a pioneering hybridizer of foliage Vrieseas, and he has created thousands of beautiful plants! Visit this [gallery of David Shiigi hybrids](#) for examples of his work.

(Photos included here are from the *Bromeliads Hawaii* website.) I



recently phoned David and his daughter Royanne, and they both assured me that they will do their best to accommodate any special requests. If anyone would like to participate in this order, contact me <mailto:pcwingert@gmail.com> by April 15, or let me know at the April meeting, as it may take additional time to process plants prior to





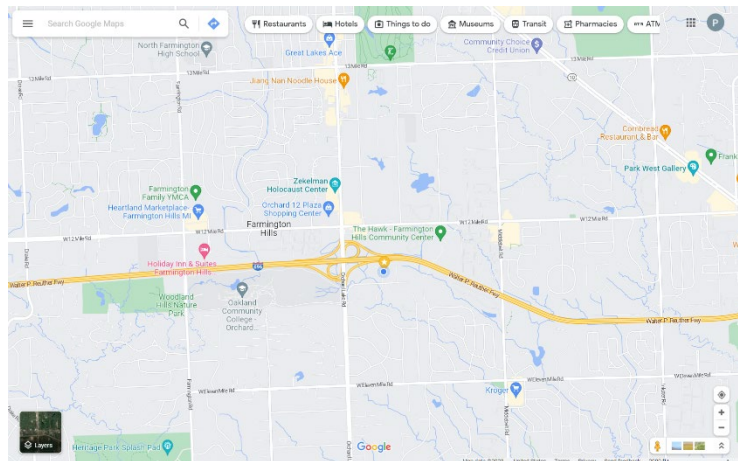
shipping. Due to the nature of these slow and steady growers, they are relatively more expensive than most bromeliads. Assume that prices will begin at around \$25 for a small pup or nice sized seedling. No one should feel any obligation to participate, and certainly everyone needs to evaluate their own space considerations and ability to provide adequate winter light before committing to purchasing one of these plants! However, for

anyone who would like to participate, there are significant advantages to saving on shipping costs by placing a combined order.

Take note that the deadline for placing orders for Tillandsia International and for Michael's will be Sunday, April 30, 2023!

The May meeting will be held on **Saturday, May, 20, 202**, at 2:00 PM at the home of Paul and Karen Wingert, 27276 Edgemoor, Farmington Hills, MI 48334.

Weather permitting, all of the bromeliads will have completed the spring migration from Paul's greenhouse to the shade house! The main agenda will be the distribution of any group order that we place. More information to follow in the next Newsletter.



Meeting locations and meeting topics for June, July, and October have not yet been determined. If anyone would like to volunteer to host during one of those months, please email Paul <mailto:pcwingert@gmail.com> or reach out at an upcoming meeting.

The dates have been set for our annual **Show and Sale**. The Show will be held at Matthaei Botanical Gardens on Saturday and Sunday, **September 9-10, 2023**. We will once again participate with the Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society.

Hybrid Vriesea Seed offering – by Paul Wingert



Vriesea 'Hotspot' (*right*)

Vriesea lubbersii x 'Voodoo Magic' (*left*)



Last summer I hybridized the two plants pictured above. The seed capsules finally ripened during late January- February, and copious amounts of seed were harvested! If there are any individuals interested in trying their hand at growing Vrieseas from seed, I am very happy to share! The progeny should be quite interesting! At the very least, the foliage should be richly hued maroon and the inflorescence should be well branched. Mature plants are likely to be medium to large, perhaps 20-24" across. Floral bracts could run the gamut from solid yellow (not likely) to solid red, with possible bicolored red and yellow! Email <mailto:pcwingert@gmail.com> to let me know you are interested. I will bring seed packets to the March meeting, or I can mail seed if you provide me with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

More pictures from Paul's January visit to Jerad Walters at [JW Succulents](#) in Hudsonville, Michigan. Jerad has accumulated a stunning variety of bromeliads in a relatively short time, and he has a rare set of skills for propagating bromeliads!

