

S E M B S

The Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society
an Affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International
July/August 2023



BSI Board Member Jerry Raack presents his magnificent specimen of *Aechmea hoppii* during our August meeting. Photo by Paul Wingert

August meeting recap

We enjoyed perfect weather for our annual summer potluck! BSI Board member Jerry Raack traveled from his home near Columbus, Ohio as a special guest, and joined our society at our August meeting this weekend. Jerry brought a few spectacular bromeliads from his collection and shared his experiences of collecting and cultivating them. Truly a memorable meeting! Also joining our society at the August meeting was new member Justin Allen. Justin became addicted to bromeliads while living in southern California. Justin brought several intriguing plants to trade and to donate to the raffle table. It's a great pleasure to welcome Justin to our society!

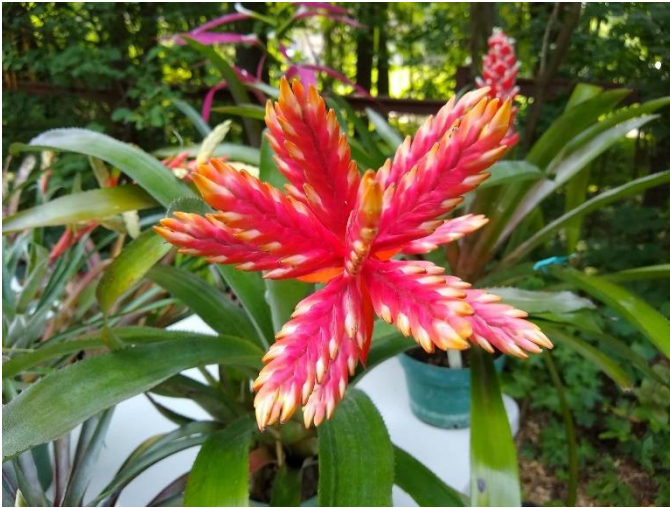


Aechmea pedicellata



Jerry highlights proper cultivation of *Tillandsia confertiflora*. Inflorescence detail is highlighted below.





Aechmea was the featured genus for the August meeting, and this Aechmea manzanaresiana shown by Jerry demonstrates why this genus is popular with bromeliad collectors!

Jerry discovered this plant (*right*) which now bears his name during a collecting trip to Ecuador. Tillandsia raackii



This plant (*below*) turned heads, and I suspect got added to a lot of collectors "want lists"! This was an absolutely spectacular specimen of Racinaea decipiens var. tomentosa.



Orthophytum glabrum-
grown by
Justin Allen

September Show and Sale

The **Society Southeast Michigan Bromeliad**

Society and the **Michigan Cactus & Succulent** have once again joined forces to give you two great shows/sales in one! Come join us on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9th and 10th at the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens for the **2023 Exotic Plant Sale**.

LOCATION:

Greenhouse #3 - Plant Sale
Room 125 - Club Display

Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 N. Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI

More information can be found on their website at <https://mbgna.umich.edu/events>

Additional information on the SE Michigan Bromeliad Society is available at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/365549693516963/>

Information on the Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society can be found here-
michigancactus.org

Sale hours are 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM both days.

There is always a bit of confusion regarding purchases. Each of the SE Michigan Bromeliad Society sellers collects their payments directly from each customer. The Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society is a collective and has two cashier stations at the front of the greenhouse for all their customers.

Parking is \$2.20 an hour/\$6.00 day payable at the kiosk. We have been told there will be Matthaei staff and volunteers to assist with the kiosk and direct parking to overflow areas if needed. We ask that you please bring a small box to carry your purchases in and if you could bring a few extra to share they will be appreciated. We apologize to our many members but only pre-authorized sellers and scheduled volunteers for that day may circumvent the admission line.

REGISTRATION : Anyone that wishes to sell plants, pots, books, or soil components please notify Paul Wingert by email at paul@sebmichigan.org by this Sunday, September 3, and include an estimate of how many square feet you feel you will need and whether you are planning on being present for both days, or just one.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER: It's also a fantastic opportunity to trade tips, hear stories, make friends, and build green thumb relationships with people who enjoy plants as much as you do! We ideally need 4 or 5 volunteers on Friday (4 have already committed for this); 2 - 4 volunteers each for Saturday morning (9:30-1:00), afternoon (1:00-4:30), and Sunday morning (10:00-1:30) and afternoon (1:30-cleanup). Please contact Paul Wingert if you can commit to one of

the time slots above. Primary tasks are to supervise the membership table and manage handouts; collect money for society books for sale, BSI Journals, and new memberships, engage with guests, and keep watch on the Display Table. If you have your lanyard from past events, that will facilitate entrance to Greenhouse #3, especially at Saturday's show open!

SET UP : Matthaei is allowing us access to the building on Friday, Sept. 8th between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM for set up. We will be in Greenhouse #3. We can bring in our plants through the west lobby which is close to the main parking lot. There is accommodation for unloading vehicles there. Matthaei will make available some wheeled carts. This 12-hour window on Friday should make it easy to load up the sales tables, post signs and rearrange the furniture. For those that can't make it on Friday, the building will be open at 8:00 AM Saturday and 9:00 AM Sunday for set up as well. The room has (14) 6'x16' standard greenhouse tables on castors. SEMBS will have 4 of these (98 sq.ft. for display and 294 sq.ft. for sales)

POTS : Please be aware that the greenhouse tables have expanded metal mesh coverings with approximately one-inch spaces. Small 2" pots can easily tip over on this. Bring trays or shallow bins to avoid this. You may also find it beneficial to water any top-heavy plants ahead of time. All sale plants require TWO LABELS, details below.

PRESALE - SELLERS / VOLUNTEERS : We will have a *seller/volunteer only* presale on Saturday shortly after 9:30 AM. Presale is limited to 3 plants per person.

\$\$\$: All vendors are required to make a 10% contribution to SEMBS. Each vendor is responsible for collecting Michigan state sales tax. Please consider this when pricing your plants.

DISPLAY: The show DISPLAY TABLES with our club members' specimens will again be inside Greenhouse #3. Kim Bowen is planning to execute a display based on a Show Exhibit that he saw during a recent trip to Kew Gardens in England. We ask that if you're selling or volunteering kindly consider bringing one or two nice specimen plants (or more!) that you're proud of for the society's display table! Display cards will be available for you to fill out your plant's information or you may supply your own card identifying your plant. We ask that you put your name on the plant(s) to both help us know who to return the plants to after the show and for the benefit of other members if they have questions. Culture requirements and country of origin are optional. As always, ALL plants should be free of pests or disease.

STANDARD SHOW: Not this year! During the August meeting, we briefly discussed the goal of hosting an accredited BSI Show at some time in the future, but realistically, as a society we are not quite there yet! As a BSI affiliate, we should consider doing this. The BSI has a number of judges who are always looking for opportunities to gain and to maintain accreditation. Hosting a standard show would certainly bring more attention to SEMBS and be more engaging for visitors to the show. Planning for this will take some time, but we should consider putting it on the agenda for further discussion at an upcoming meeting. Meanwhile, for the upcoming Display, we will have a "People's Choice" award. This has been done in the past, though not in recent years. We have ballots for people to choose their 3 favorite Bromeliads. Votes will be collected from visitors during the show on Saturday, and we will have the results of the vote on Sunday. The results will also be posted in the next Newsletter. Two goals from this exercise- the first is to encourage more of our members to

participate in displaying plants! The second objective is to have show visitors more engaged, not just look at the plants, but actively engage with what they are viewing!

PERKS : Volunteers and sellers will be reimbursed for parking (\$2.20/hr. or \$6.00/day). **BE SURE TO GET A RECEIPT** at the kiosk. Write your name on the back of the parking receipt and submit it to Paul during the show. Both days we plan on ordering pizzas for lunch for all the sellers, volunteers and the Matthaei staff. We will have bottles of water on hand, but you are welcome to bring your own beverage. We have been given permission to share the employee break room to place our beverages in as well as the use of the adjacent small conference room for a break room. Our host, Matthaei has requested that there be **NO POTLUCK** food at this event.

LABELS: All plants for sale must have two labels. One with the description of the plant and one with the price. Price labels must have both the **PRICE** and the vendor's name, initials, or pre-approved code to facilitate cash distribution to each vendor. Plants must have an additional separate label identifying the plant (at minimum, the genus name) for the customer. All items are to be priced in **WHOLE DOLLAR** amounts to avoid making change in coins. If you are selling a big-ticket item, you might consider placing a redundant price **STICKER** on the item if you're worried someone might swap the price label.

BUG FREE : As has been stated before, all plants should be free of pests or disease. We strongly suggest that if your plants have been outside all summer, place them in an enclosed garage or shed and fumigate them with a bug bomb to eliminate hitchhikers. No one wishes to buy a plant that houses ants or worse.

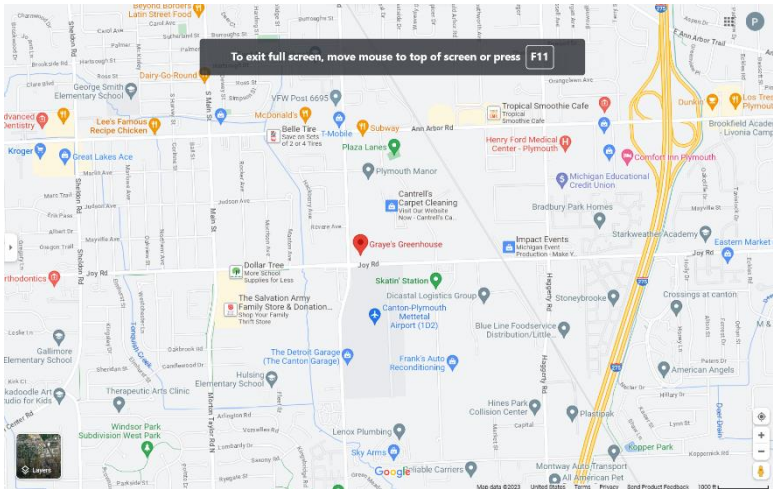
EYES OPEN : As we have seen in past years, it's chaotic at 10:00 AM when the public is allowed in. Please be vigilant and watch out for each other's plants to prevent thefts and fraud. It's extremely rare but we have caught individuals in the act of swapping price labels. With the number of people that we attract there will always be a few bad apples.

CLEAN UP : At the conclusion of the sale on Sunday afternoon, any orphaned plants or sale items will become the property of SEMBS and subject to disposal (or future raffle table).



October Meeting

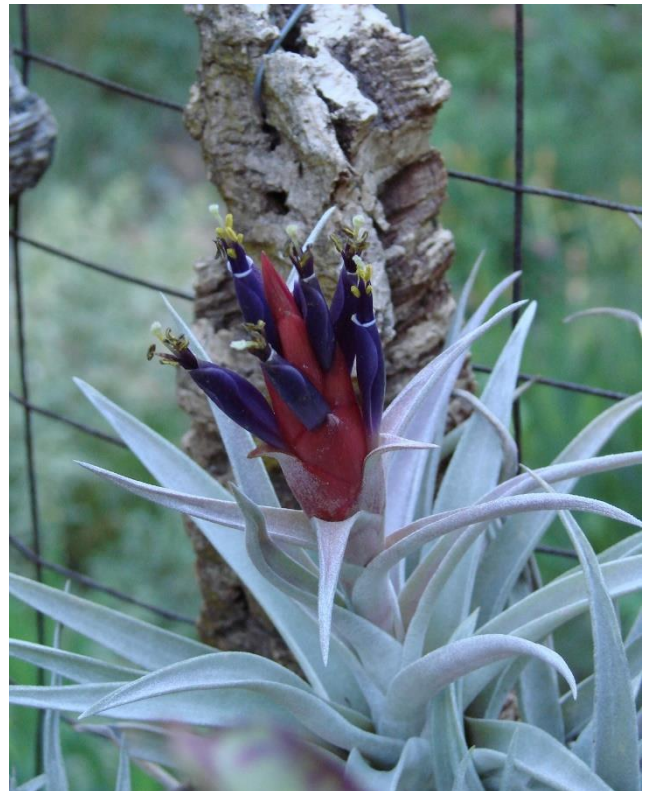
The October meeting will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2:00 PM at Grayes Greenhouse.



The main topic will be a discussion about the genus *Tillandsia* and the habitats where they grow. There are several hundred species of *Tillandsias*, and while we may attempt to treat them all the same, the reality is that they are found in extraordinarily varied habitats. These can range from coastal “fog deserts” where there is little measurable precipitation, to sub-tropical savannahs (think Florida

Everglades), to high altitude cloud forests. Ideally, our cultivation practices should attempt to replicate the conditions where the plants grow in nature! Bromeliad lovers have different methods of growing these plants successfully. Some recommend frequent light misting- every day or two. Others report success with soaking *Tillandsias* every 14 days or so, and then only occasional misting between soakings. During the summer months when *Tillandsias* can grow outside, I find that the *Tillandsias* are among the most carefree plants. I grow them in my shade house with 40% shade cloth overhead and pretty much ignore them. When it rains, that’s the soaking part. Varying levels of morning dew takes care of the “misting”. One overlooked element of good culture involves air circulation. Most *Tillandsias* thrive in habitats that are blessed with breezy conditions. No problem here in Michigan during the summer growing season. The challenge then lies in moving the *Tillandsias* indoors for the winter, and attempting to re-create the conditions that most thrive in during our summer months. LED lights and liberal use of fans can help a lot!

What works for you? Share your experience at the October meeting! Bring some *Tillandsias* to show and to talk about. If you have items for mounting *Tillandsias*- driftwood, grape vine, manzanita, cholla, or cork- bring it along. We will have a hands-on workshop where we will explore different ways of displaying these versatile plants. A limited amount of *Tillandsias* and mounting materials may be available at a nominal cost.



Tillandsia harrisii mounted on cork.

This was just received as the Newsletter was undergoing some final touches. A visit to the MSU Horticulture Gardens may be long overdue! Many years ago, the MSU greenhouse had a large number of bromeliads, many which were collected on numerous trips by former SEMBS member and MSU Professor of Forestry and Entomology- Dr. Lou Wilson. There is a certain curiosity regarding how many of those bromeliads remain in the collection. But that's beside the point here. I have heard enthusiastic reports about this sale in past years, from indoor plant lovers who were thrilled with the unusual plants to be found. I'm happy to share this information about the sale with anyone who might be interested in attending.

Eighth Annual

HOUSEPLANT & SUCCULENT SALE

**WHAT: PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER FEATURING
SUCCULENTS, CACTI, AND FOLIAGE PLANTS**

WHEN: NOVEMBER 3, 2023, 8AM-4PM

**WHERE: MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS
1066 BOGUE STREET
PLANT & SOIL SCIENCES BLDG
EAST LANSING, MI, 48824**



**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Horticulture
Gardens

