

SEMBS

The Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society
an Affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International
November/December 2023



A portion of this year's SEMBS display. The Annual Show and Sale took place on September 9 & 10 at the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Photo by Paul Wingert

September 2023 Annual Show and Sale Recap- by Brooke Monette

Well, this year's big event at Matthaei Botanical Gardens brought some welcome surprises. A more courageous spirit has apparently sprouted among our membership, as this year we had a record EIGHT participants bringing plants for our display! The members who entered plants in the show this year include new member Justin Allen, Kim Bowen, Carol Kimbrough, Brooke Monette, Kevin Patterson, Jerry Raack, Ray VanVeen, and Paul Wingert. We thank each of you for sharing from your collection for our enjoyment. Photos from the show are generously sprinkled throughout the article.

Many thanks to Kim Bowen for conceptualizing the exhibit and to Connie Manley for her boundless energy to assist in its realization.



Welcome to our new members who joined during the Show! Please extend a warm greeting to them at upcoming meetings!

Kelly Walkovich / Alexa Wood (family)
Noelle Olm-Trujillo / Nicholas Mulholland (family)
Karen Gorski / Sarah Gorski (family)
Shawna Lee
Donna Huelke Lanker
Anna George
Tim Foxworthy
Desiree Laurencelle
Ray VanVeen

Of course, the most important order of business can be delayed no longer. The results of our first People's Choice Awards are in! We had a total of fifty ballots cast, with three votes per ballot, not ranked. Fifty-four of the ninety-five plants featured in our show received at least one vote. A few spots were tied; we even had nine (!) plants tied for 10th place. An honorable mention goes out to Justin Allen, Carol Kimbrough, Jerry Raack, and Ray VanVeen, whose plants were among those who received one vote each. Our rankings begin with tenth place, which consists of plants receiving two votes each.

10. Aechmea 'Bert' x orlandiana PW
 Aechmea nudicaulis 'Mary Hyde' PW
 Goudaea 'Hawaiian Beauty' PW
 Neoregelia 'Caviar' x 'Razzy' PW
 Neoregelia cruenta BM
 Orthophytum gurkenii PW
 Orthophytum 'Iron Ore' x 'Stardust' PW
 Orthophytum 'Roberto Menescal' PW
 Vriesea ('Sunset' x 'Eva') x 'Hotspot' PW

9. Neoregelia 'Hellacious' PW
 Neoregelia [('Passion' x 'Grace') x
 'Treasure Chest'] x 'Dreamsicle' PW
 Nidularium 'Rojo' PW
 Vriesea 'Electric' PW

8. Tillandsia 'Ty' KB

7. Neoregelia 'Savoy Truffle' PW
 Vriesea 'Dragon Tales' PW

6. Quesnelia 'Tim Plowman' KP
 Wallisia 'Vincent' PW

5. Hohenbergia magnispina KP

4. Neoregelia 'Lila Candy Stripe' PW
 Quesnelia alvimii PW

3. Neoregelia 'Bottoms Up' PW

2. Billbergia 'Moulin Rouge' PW
 Vriesea 'Milky Way' KP

1. x Sincoregelia 'Galactic Warrior' PW



Abbreviation Key: KB- Kim Bowen, BM- Brooke Monette, KP- Kevin Patterson, PW- Paul Wingert

Additionally, reflecting early straw poll results, our constituency has elected Brooke Monette to the role of Vice President.

Editor's notes: A primary goal of this exercise was to engage our visitors more actively, rather than have them casually glance at the exhibit as they passed through the greenhouse. Based on the vote results, it appears that the objective was satisfied! To Brooke- Thank you for accepting your new role in our society!



Neoregelia 'Bottoms Up'



x Sincoregelia 'Galactic Warrior'



Kevin Patterson and Stephanie McGwin pose with some of their beautifully grown Tillandsias.

October Meeting recap- by Paul Wingert

The October meeting was held at Graye's Greenhouse in Plymouth. A brief slide presentation on the varied habitats of Tillandsias was given. It was very enlightening to see the various plant associations with cacti, orchids, and aroids, offering clues to proper cultivation practices for many of our favorite Tillandsias. The presentation was followed by a workshop on mounting Tillandsias, as well as other bromeliads which are well suited for mounting and often prefer *not* to grow in pots!



Brooke Monette demonstrates some of her methods for mounting Tillandsias and miniature Neoregelias on cork.

Brooke shares some suggestions for mounting Tillandsias with new member Noelle Olm-Trujillo



Carole Kimbrough proudly shows off her Tillandsia streptocarpa, which has been artistically mounted on a piece of Manzanita.



Our society treasurer Lynne Echlin brings out the power tools to attach wire for hanging this handsome *Tillandsia pruinosa* "giant form".



Tillandsia roseoscapa at the author's home. This was acquired during one of the society's Spring plant orders several years ago. It was glued to the cork but has never shown any inclination to produce roots!

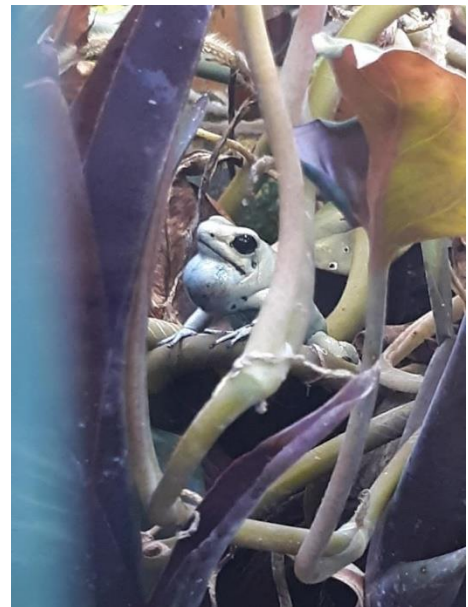


This specimen of *Tillandsia concolor* x *streptophylla* has become well established and thoroughly rooted on the cork. In the author's experience, this hybrid has been far less fussy to grow than either of its parents!

Upcoming Calendar- For our meeting on **Saturday, November 11 at 2:00 PM**, we will be hosting a **vivarium and terrarium workshop** at Matthaei Botanical Gardens located at 1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. We will meet in the potting room located at the far (west) end of the back hallway. What's the difference between a vivarium and a terrarium? Find out when we go over construction basics, like designing your drainage layer, ventilation solutions, placement and mounting techniques for bromeliads, which species will and won't work, lighting options, what supplies you'll need, and more. Brooke Monette will lead the workshop and share her experience with us.

If you have already been thinking of building a starter terrarium and have a vessel in mind at home, bring it with you! We can talk about its potential, and depending on its suitability and how much time we have, we may be able to get it started or even planted before you go home.

Come make a mess with us at Matthaei!



December- No meeting this month. ***Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!***

2024- We will resume meetings using Zoom for January and February. We will vote on the January meeting topic during the November meeting. For the February meeting we will reprise our annual "Show & Tell". Past years' participants have really enjoyed the format of this meeting. Individuals can show off their currently blooming plants, favorite photos from the recent growing season, and growing setups. It also allows an opportunity for our remote members to participate, who would otherwise have to travel many hours to attend a meeting!

