

S E M B S

The Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society

an Affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International

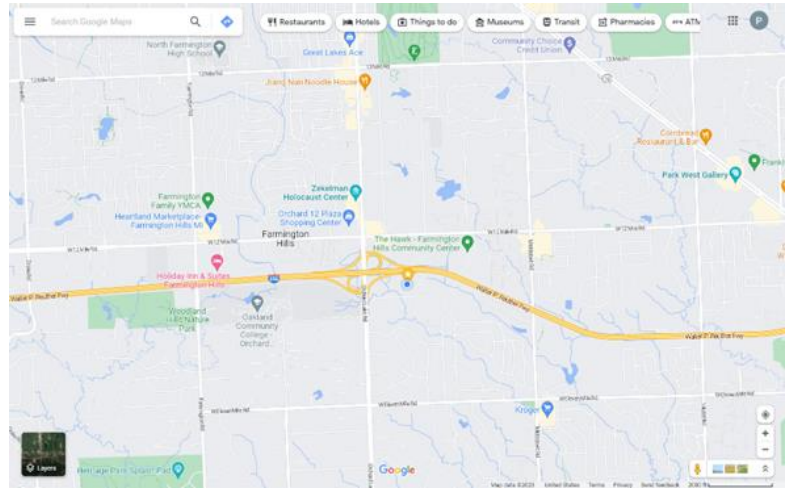
May/June 2024



Small and miniature Neoregelias will be the featured topic at the meeting on Saturday, May 18. Thousands of cultivars can be found in an array of colors, with all manner of stripes, banding, and spots. Bring your favorites to contribute to a fabulous Show & Tell! (photo by Paul Wingert)

Calendar- May/June 2024

The meeting on Saturday, May 18, 2:00 PM will be hosted at the home of Paul and Karen Wingert, 27276 Edgemoor, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Keep an eye on the weather forecast and pack an umbrella just in case the weather prognosticators get it wrong! We will be outdoors, except in case of thunderstorms or heavy rain. Bring a comfortable lawn chair for the meeting. For new members or first-time visitors, there is limited parking in the driveway (4-5 cars), but ample parking on the street. Use the steps to the left of the driveway (north side) and enter through the gate behind the house. Continue up the path to meet at the shade house or continue across the deck to the south side yard if you have plants and chairs to drop off. If anyone is uncomfortable dealing with steps, enter the house through the garage and go through the lower level, then out through the greenhouse to the side yard. The bathroom is accessible on the lower level through the greenhouse. Call 248-798-4139 if you need last-minute assistance with directions.



The main agenda will be the distribution of the group orders that were placed. Packages will soon be arriving laden with Tillandsias from California, and all sorts of goodies from Florida! For members who did not order plants, there is no obligation to buy anything. Should anyone change their mind, there are plenty of extra plants ordered that will be available. Meeting topic for this month will be a Show & Tell featuring small and miniature Neoregelias and a discussion about cultivation of this fantastic group of Bromeliads!

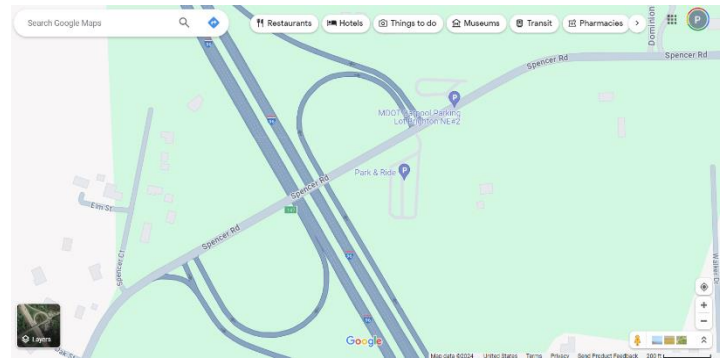
If anyone has items to donate to the Raffle Table, that will be available. Library books will be at the meeting for members to check out. See Brooke Monette during the meeting for more information.

On Saturday, June 15 we will have the first of two summer field trips. The destinations for the June meeting will be Frederik Meijer Botanical Gardens in Grand Rapids, and JW Succulents in nearby Hudsonville. We will make arrangements for carpools during the May meeting. If you can't make the May meeting but wish to participate in the June trip, text or email Paul by June 14 (248-798-4139, or pcwingert@gmail.com) so that we can have a group text to all participants and keep everyone connected on the day of the event.

The proposed itinerary for June 15 is as follows:

9:40 A.M. Departure from Paul Wingert's home. Paul's Ford Explorer has the capacity to take seven people. We may need to recruit another driver or two.

10:15 A.M. Meet at MDOT Carpool Parking Lot Brighton NE#2- I-96 at Spencer Road Exit 147 (first exit west of US-23)



11:50 A.M. ETA at Frederik Meijer Botanical Gardens. We will rendezvous inside the Welcome Center if 2 or more cars travel.

Garden Admission is \$20 general admission or \$15 for seniors (65 and older), although Meijer Gardens has a reciprocal admissions policy with a number of horticultural institutions. If you are a member of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens, show your membership card for free admission!

We may take a few minutes for lunch. Bring your own, or purchase food available at the Gardens.

~3:00 P.M. Departure for JW Succulents.

~3:25 P.M. ETA at JW Succulents.

4525 New Holland Street,

Hudsonville, MI. Jerad Walters is a

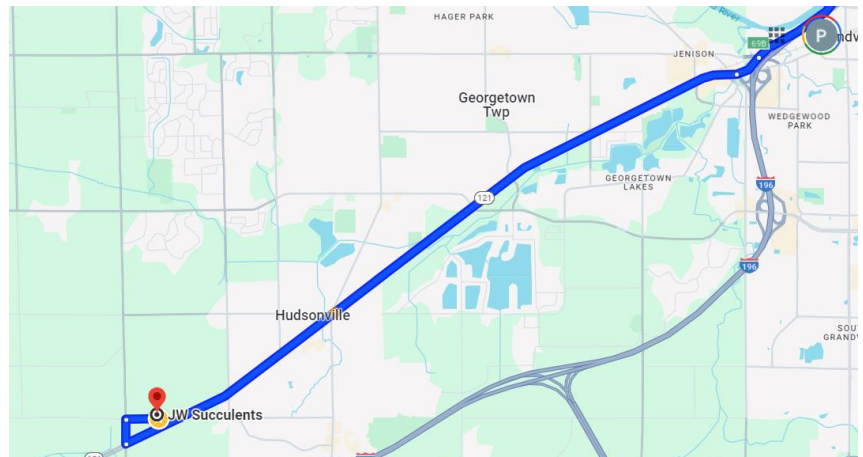
young, talented grower with a gift for

propagation. He has amassed a large

variety of bromeliads in addition to

his stock of cactus and succulent

plants. Given the varied plant interests of our society members, everyone will find lots of interesting plants here! Jerad and his staff will assist anyone who wishes to purchase plants.



~4:30 P.M. Depart JW Succulents

~6:00 P.M. ETA at MDOT Carpool Parking Lot Brighton NE#2- I-96 at Spencer Road Exit

Looking ahead- Saturday, July 20, 1:00 P.M.

Potluck picnic at Jerry and Joanne Raack's home in Pataskala, Ohio (near Columbus). Jerry has been to Ecuador on numerous occasions to see bromeliads in habitat. At the meeting last August, Jerry brought a sampling of some of the spectacular plants that he has personally collected! (*Photo, right- Jerry presents Tillandsia confertiflora during the August 2023 meeting*) The attached news article offers



added insight for what you can expect to see- [Columbus Monthly article featuring Jerry and Joanne Raack](#) Several of our members have already expressed enthusiasm for this trip! Details to follow in the next newsletter, including carpool planning.

Saturday, August 17, 1:00 P.M. Potluck picnic at Paul and Karen Wingert's home.

Saturday and Sunday, September 7-8, 2024- Annual Show and Sale co-presented with the Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

March 2024 meeting recap- We had eleven enthusiastic members participate in our first ever seed starting workshop. Special thank you to Kevin Patterson for providing a wide range of seed selections! The editor has received text and emails expressing surprise and excitement at seeing green sprouts!



April 2024 meeting recap- The meeting began with a discussion of the pros and cons of various potting media which are typically used for bromeliads. People expressed particular interest in adding chunky coco coir to their potting media, especially for epiphytic bromeliads. Not easy to find at local garden centers, but search sellers such as [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The author has had good results using the **Grow Organics** brand Coir Husk Chips.

The featured presentation of the meeting was a slide show given by Kim Bowen. Kim takes students from Spring Arbor University on trips to various countries to have an immersive experience in geography, politics, and culture. This past January, the destination was Costa Rica. Kim went into great detail about the diverse topography, climate, and wildlife to be found there. Students get the opportunity to experience the culture, interact with Indigenous people, and learn about the agricultural products of the country.

The photos below focus on the bromeliads, but as Kim emphasizes, the bromeliads are everywhere! Public gardens make extensive use of native and non-native bromeliads, and

massive amounts of Tillandsias and other epiphytic bromeliads festoon native trees and cacti.
All photos courtesy of Kim Bowen.



