

# S E M B S

**The Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society**  
an Affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International

**July/August 2024**



Jerry Raack makes extensive use of large bromeliads to enhance his summer landscape and give it a more exotic and tropical feel. For scale, many of the plants displayed above exceed 3 feet in diameter! *Photo by Jerry Raack*



## ***Calendar- July/August 2024***

Saturday, July 20, 1:00 P.M. Potluck picnic at Jerry and Joanne Raack's home, 472 Green Hollow Rd SW, Pataskala, OH 43062

For some biographical background about Jerry- he is a past president of the Bromeliad Society International and is currently one of two BSI Board Members representing the Eastern States Region. Jerry has frequently been a featured speaker at BSI World Conferences. Jerry has been to Ecuador on numerous occasions to see bromeliads in habitat!

In Jerry's words: "Joanne and I would like a final headcount 2 days before you come. That's enough time for us to put together the food. It will be simple: hamburger/brats, macaroni salad, lettuce salad, desert of some type and drinks. No one needs to bring anything unless they would like to. Something like potato chips, cookies, brownies would be fine -- nothing more, and even those are optional." (*Editor's note- kindly RSVP to Jerry [jerryraack@gmail.com](mailto:jerryraack@gmail.com) by Thursday, July 18*)

"About my bromeliad collection:

It consists of mostly Guzmania and Tillandsia (both soft/wide leaf and epiphytic types. I grow about 350 to 400 different species and cultivars. I have Aechmeas, Billbergias, Vrieseas and other odd-ball genera. They range in size from about 1" to about 4' across with one blooming 6' tall (Tillandsia fendleri). I have species and cultivars both, and some are seldom seen in collections, with at least 5 newly described species named within the past 4 years. Many are from Ecuador where I have collected/traveled extensively. Bromeliads are now in the landscape scattered about, with quite a number still in my greenhouse."

The attached news article offers added insight for what you can expect to see- [Columbus Monthly article featuring Jerry and Joanne Raack](#)

***Itinerary for July 20-*** We will plan to carpool in one car. As of July 5, there are 4 people who have indicated they intend to participate. I plan to drive. I have room for 3 more people. Email me- [pcwingert@gmail.com](mailto:pcwingert@gmail.com) if you wish to join the carpool.

8:45 AM- Departure from Paul Wingert's home (27276 Edgemoor, Farmington Hills, MI 48334

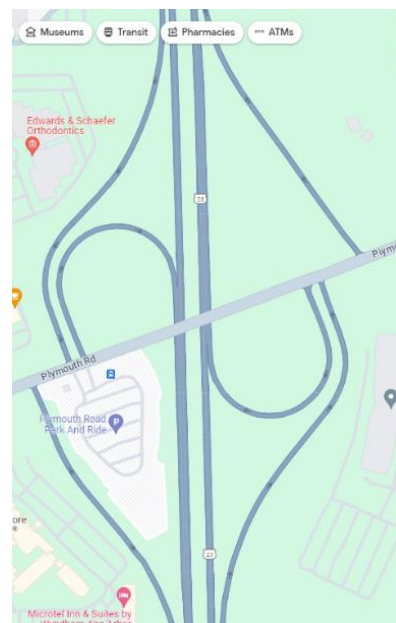
9:30 AM- Meet/Depart from Plymouth Road Park & Ride Lot (SW corner of US-23 & Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, MI, *see attached map for details*)

12:45-1:00 ETA at Jerry and Joanne Raack's home

4:30 ETD from Jerry Raack's home

7:30 PM ETA at Ann Arbor Park & Ride lot

On the following page are some additional photos that Jerry has shared of his beautifully landscaped yard and greenhouse!



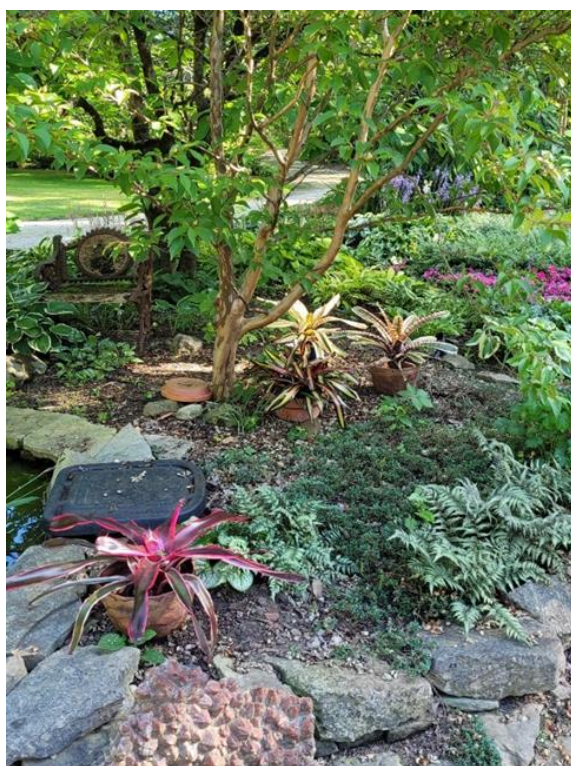
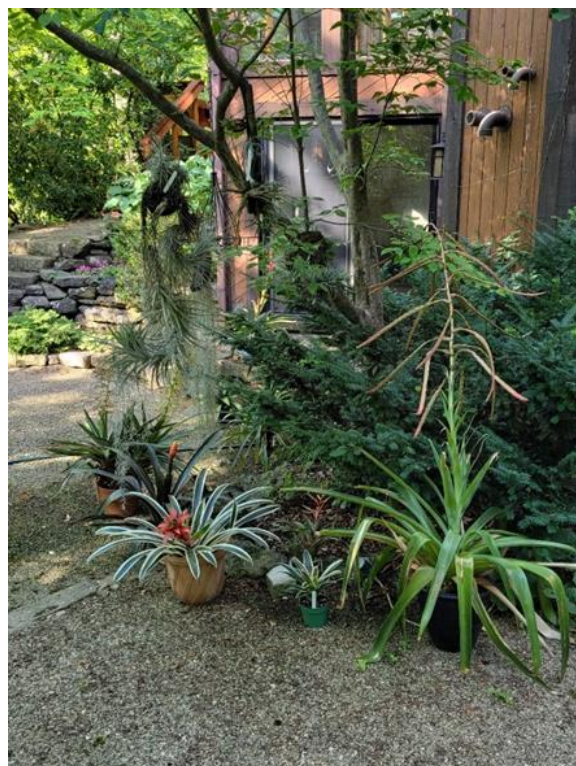




As a special treat to our more distant members and others who won't be attending in person, Brooke and Adam Monette will be broadcasting a live video of our tour of Jerry Raack's collection at 2:30 pm on Google Meet.

Please join us to see Jerry's many treasures! The Google Meet link is <https://meet.google.com/gfa-fzfh-ieu>

It is requested that those who are attending via Google Meet please mute their devices, and we will try to answer any questions asked in the comment/messages section. This is a first for us, so please bear with us as we experiment with this video stream.





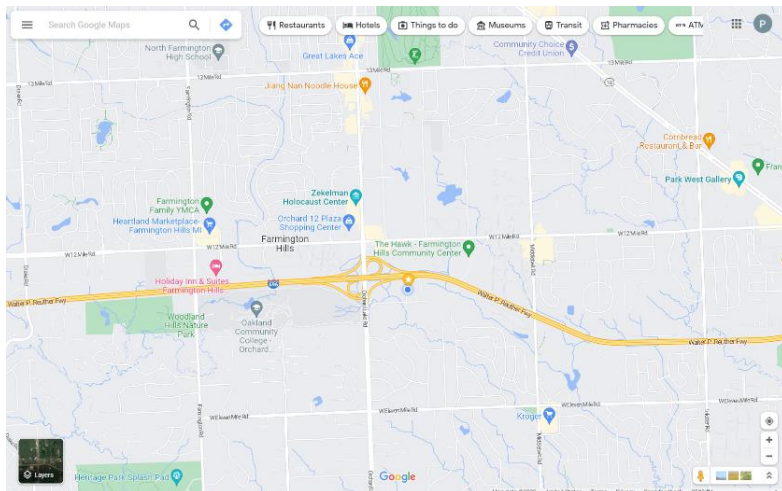
The August meeting will be held on **Saturday, August 19, 2023**, at **1:00 PM** at the home of Paul and Karen Wingert, 27276 Edgemoor, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Note that there is continuing road construction again this summer on I-696. Weekend lane closures or ramp closures are always a possibility, so be mindful of traffic reports and consider using a trusted navigation app for alternate routes. While less convenient than the freeway, most of the surface streets should only add a few minutes to your travel time. If you need last-minute assistance, call Paul at 248-798-4139.

Note the earlier start time! We will enjoy another summer potluck! Paul and Karen will provide hot dogs on the grill and a salad with add-on options. Please RSVP to [pcwingert@gmail.com](mailto:pcwingert@gmail.com) by Wednesday, August 16 and indicate what dish (salad, chips, beverage, dessert) you plan to bring. Plan to be outdoors, except in case of thunderstorms or heavy rain. Bring a comfortable lawn chair for the meeting. The featured genus and primary topic of discussion for this month's meeting will be Mini Neoregelias. Everyone is encouraged to bring a plant in bloom, or other favorite bromeliad for Show and Tell. Also consider bringing a pup or two for the raffle table.

We will also have a brief discussion about the Show & Sale on Saturday and Sunday, September 7-8 at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. I know that there are clever minds already conjuring plans to outdo last year's display! We can bring plants in and set up on Friday, September 6. Show and Sale hours will be 10-4:30 both Saturday and Sunday. Let Paul know by the August meeting if you plan to sell during the show, so that adequate table space can be allocated.

*Quesnelia alvimii* (pictured at right), blooming in Paul's shadehouse in late June. The plant was acquired during the World Conference in 2022.

*Neoregelia Supremo* (below) is one of the Skotak introductions from the 2024 WBC this past May in W. Palm Beach, Florida.





**May meeting recap-** Member pre-orders of Tillandsias were particularly adventurous this year! Distribution of our annual plant order dominated the meeting time to such an extent that the discussion of miniature Neoregelias was scuttled and rescheduled for the upcoming August meeting.

**June meeting recap-** featured our most ambitious field trip so far, to explore the Frederik Meijer Botanical Gardens in Grand rapids and JW Succulents in nearby Hudsonville. From your editor's perspective- my first visit there exceeded all expectations! From the size and scope of the tropical conservatory to the diverse nature of the plant collections, the well-maintained gardens all had a powerful impact. Bromeliads were well represented by at least a dozen different genera, including the rarely seen carnivorous bromeliad *Brocchinia reducta*.

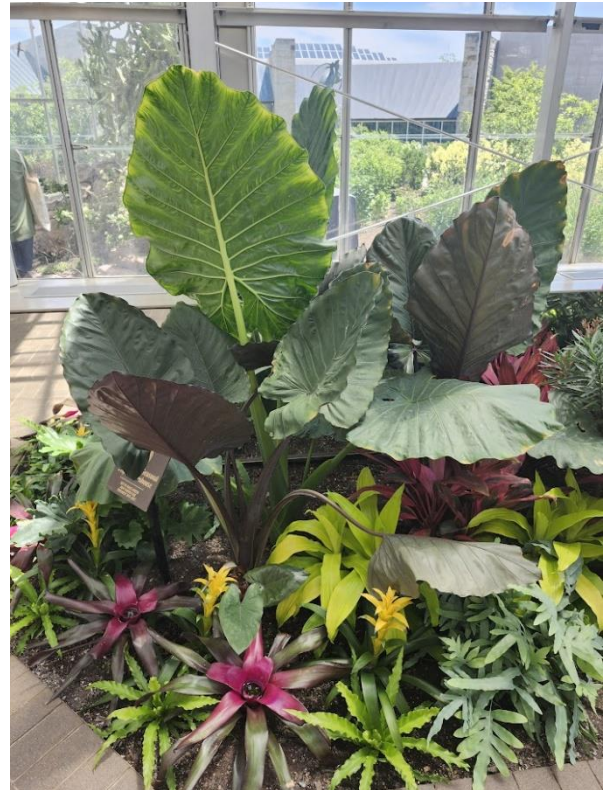
*A few of the featured bromeliads interplanted with Alocasia, Dracaena, and ferns- pictured at right*

A major attraction was the impending bloom of an *Amorphophallus titanum*. Anthesis occurred two days after our visit, so we didn't get to witness the total grandeur (and odor!) of this botanical rarity. Apparently, we also missed out on a 3-hour wait in lines!

*Pictured below is Amorphophallus titanum in full anthesis when it last bloomed at Meijer Garden on July 13, 2018. Photo by Brooke Monette.*



*Photo lower right-* Dozens of Palms, Cycads, and other tropical trees fill the spacious tropical conservatory.



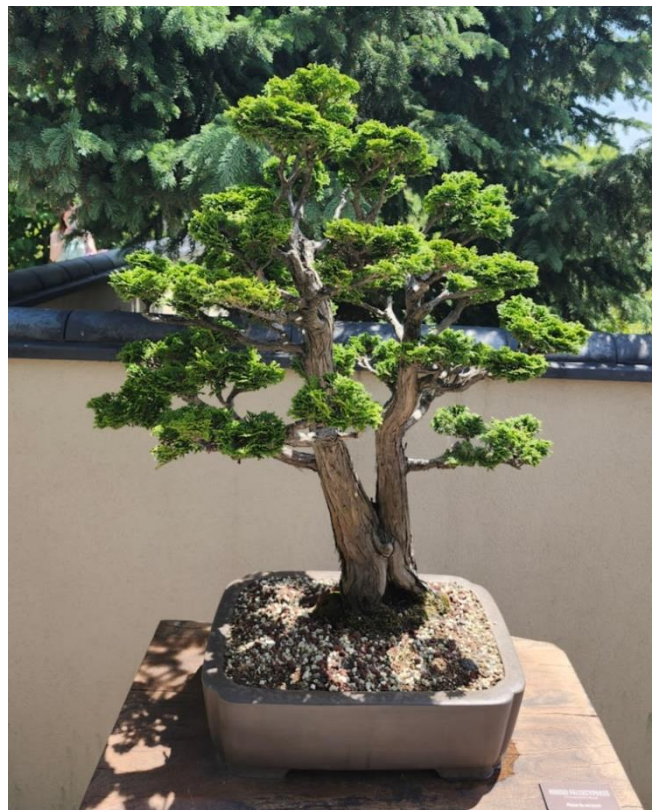


*“The American Horse”* is an iconic sculpture at the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. The immensity of it is best experienced in person! Adam and Brooke Monette, Lisa Steinkopf, and Tom Dunikowski are posing in front of the horse for scale!

*Below- Calatheas, Aroids, and orchids* were abundant in the tropical conservatory.



*Photos below-*The Japanese Garden and Bonsai collection was a healthy 15-minute walk from the Conservatory, but well worth it. This is a mere tease of the specimens to be found there!



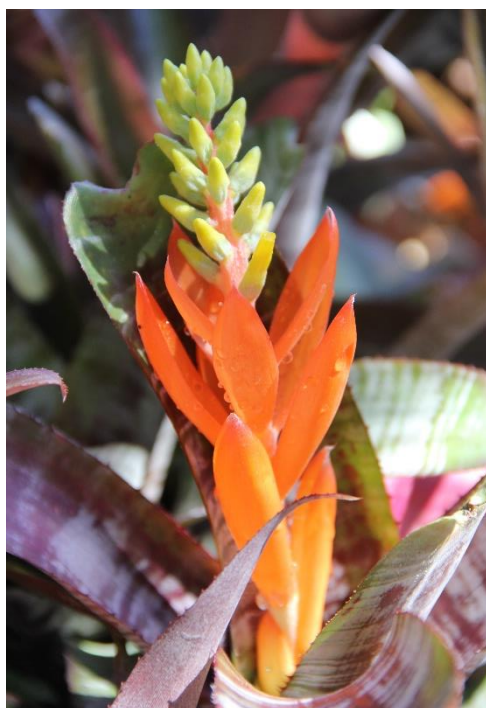


After spending 3 hours at the Frederik Meijer Gardens, we traveled to nearby JW Succulents greenhouse in Hudsonville. Brooke Monette shares a review of her first-time visit-

“Featured here is *Tillandsia riohondoensis*, procured from JW Succulents. Jerad Walters has a surprisingly good collection of exciting bromeliads, and it was a pleasure to see how well grown everything was in his care. This *Tillandsia* bloomed within days of bringing it home. Also found among his offering was *Aechmea nudicaulis* 'Parati,' which also bloomed almost



immediately upon arriving home, and a mature *Tillandsia streptophylla* in immaculate shape.” (Photos by Brooke Monette)



*On the right-* Brooke and Adam display the results of their shopping expedition at JW Succulents. (photo by Paul Wingert)







Another happy shopper! Lisa Steinkopf shows off her newly found treasures at JW Succulents! (*photo by Paul Wingert*)

Brooke Monette has a perfect complementary planter for this Tillandsia 'Curly Slim' from our 2024 spring Society group order. (*Photo by Brooke Monette*)



Kevin Patterson shares an update from June 23, 2024 on the bromeliads in his collection at his home in Walkerton, Indiana.

(*photo below by Kevin Patterson- taken by permission from the SE Michigan Bromeliad Society Facebook Page*)

