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The Southeastern Michigan Bromeliad Society
an Affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International

March/April 2025



Growing Bromeliads from seed can be a satisfying and inexpensive approach to developing a collection of plants. The March 22nd meeting at Matthaei Botanical Gardens will feature a seed-sowing workshop. Details in the calendar announcements.

Beneficial Insects for Use with Bromeliads—by Brooke Monette

In summer, many of us have observed that pest insects seem to diminish or disappear from our collections. This can lull us into a false sense of security- out of sight, out of mind. However, just because we don't see them does not mean that we are in the clear. During our Zoom meeting in February, this topic crawled into our conversation, as some members reported that the bugs are back. Since so many of us grow in our homes, where we don't want to use chemicals and many of the safer sprays are messy, and some simply smell awful (sorry, Neem), it's a challenge to control pests in the winter when our collections are indoors. This is a good time to add another option to our toolkit.

Perhaps we should consider experimenting with beneficial insects. Some, such as green lacewings, may be best for the greenhouse due to a preference for good humidity, but are worth trying. Dense plant collections often have good humidity in the microclimate directly surrounding the plants that can be sufficient for many beneficial insects. Lacewing larvae (not the adults) have a strong appetite for aphids and mealybugs, though they also eat other species of pest insect. Scale is a problem for many a bromeliad, and being kin to mealybugs, lacewing larvae should be equally amenable to hunting down juvenile scale insects while they're still soft and vulnerable. Other garden helpers we might employ include:

- *Amblyseius cucumeris*, a predator of thrips
- *Anagyrus pseudococchi*, a species of wasp that parasitizes mealybugs
- *Aphytis melinus*, a predator of red scale and other species of armored scale
- *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*, better known as the Mealybug Destroyer, a mealybug predator that also consumes other soft scale species
- *Lindorus lophanthae*, the Purple Scale Predator, a consumer of multiple species of scale
- *Phytoseiulus persimilis*, a predatory mite species that feeds on two-spotted spider mites

When planning to release these little helpers, it's often recommended to first use a knock-down spray like Neem, or soapy water with mineral oil, before introducing beneficial insects, but not systemics or topical pesticides, as these will also kill your new, little friends. Additionally, one local grower reported that after opening his greenhouse vents, they left, so we recommend installing a fine bug screen over any openings if you're going to use them in a greenhouse or similar setting to prevent escape.

If you try these, we'd like to hear what your experience is with them. This is by no means an exhaustive list of beneficial insects, and there are multiple companies that carry them. The author has had good experiences with Arbico Organics so far. Let us know if you've tried these in the past. Which species? When? In what conditions? Which pests were you trying to control? What

happened? Let's pool our knowledge and see how we might improve our pest control strategies over the course of the year.

Seed-starting workshop

Our next meeting will take place on **Saturday, March 22, 2:00 PM** at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, in the potting room at the back hallway. We will reprise our seed-starting workshop.



Last year's event was very popular! This year we will have many new seeds to try, including an assortment of species from the BSI Seed Bank. If anyone has crowded community pots from last year's event, please bring them along! This will also be an excellent opportunity to pot on individual seedlings and share and/or swap with friends!

Kevin Patterson is one of the compulsive growers of bromeliads from seeds. This photo from Kevin highlights an exciting stage of growth as seedlings offer hints of colorful times ahead!

Novi Home & Garden Spring Show 2025

Later this month, we return to the Novi Home & Garden Spring Show for the first time since the pandemic interrupted our participation there. We're looking for some volunteers to help us engage with the public and attract new members. Show hours are Friday from 12pm to 7pm, Saturday from 10am to 7pm, and Sunday from 10am to 5pm.

Additionally, do you have any plants that look especially good right now? Bromeliads in bloom? Plants you'd like to sell? Bring them! Plants can be brought to the show during setup, or to Brooke or Paul in advance. Our next meeting would be a good time to bring plants you'd like to enter into the exhibit. The setup will take place on Thursday, 27 March. We are planning to meet at noon. We're also hoping to have a little help with setup, so if anyone is interested, please include your name on the signup sheet.

If you decide to enter plants into the show, please tape your name and the plant's name (if known) to the side or bottom of the pot so we can keep track of plants, and hopefully answer questions the public may have about the plants. Please mark plants clearly as, "For Sale," (double tag with your initials and price on one tag) or, "NFS," (not for sale).

Our next meeting is on Saturday, the 22nd of March at Matthaei at 2pm, and we'll be passing around a signup sheet at that time. There are multiple timeslots on each day of the event, and we'd love for you to join us at the times that work for you. We have been provided with ten complimentary admission passes, which will be available to volunteers at the meeting. Parking is \$10/day, or \$15 for a weekend pass (available for purchase during setup on Thursday for those

who plan to participate on more than one day). SEMBS is offering to reimburse volunteers for the cost of parking.

When:

Thursday the 27th of March Setup

Friday the 28th of March | 12pm – 7pm

Saturday the 29th of March | 10am – 7pm

Sunday the 30th of March | 10am – 5pm

Where:

Novi Expo Center, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi, MI 48374

Pup potting workshop

The April meeting will take place at Graye's Greenhouse on Saturday, April 12, 2:00 PM. Graye's is located at the northeast corner of Joy Road and Lilley Road in Plymouth, Michigan. We will have fun with two topics at the meeting. The first topic- *A Pineapple is a What?* Paul Wingert will offer an exploration of the unique combination of botanical characteristics that connect the 3500+ species of the remarkably diverse bromeliad family. The second topic- *My Bromeliad bloomed. What happens now?* This issue creates great angst for house plant lovers, particularly for those who are less familiar with bromeliads! Brooke Monette will lead a workshop on removing and potting up bromeliad offsets, also referred to as *pups*. Everyone will have the opportunity for hands-on experience of removing and potting pups. Pots, potting media, and a plant to take home are all included in the workshop.

Pictured at right- Aechmea recurvata Red form blooms reliably during the late winter season. As a bonus, the berries ripen to a shiny, jet black color during the summer season. Photo by Paul Wingert



Behind the Scenes

Officers have been meeting to review our Society Bylaws. During the March 22 business meeting, we will offer members an opportunity to make corrections or offer amendments to the Draft presented below. In the absence of any proposed changes, we may vote to approve the restated Bylaws at the meeting.

SEMBS Bylaws Draft

Monday, 10 February 2025

Article I - NAME

The legal name of this organization shall be the "SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN BROMELIAD SOCIETY." The common use name shall be the "SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN BROMELIAD SOCIETY."

Article II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this society shall promote the study, appreciation, propagation, culture and conservation of bromeliads, and to cultivate friendship and camaraderie among our members. This society shall, so far as is practical and permissible, affiliate and cooperate with the Bromeliad Society International.

Article III - MEMBERSHIP

Anyone interested in furthering the objectives of the society is eligible for membership.

There shall be three classes of members in this society, Viz.:

A) An Active Member is one who has full voting rights at all regular meetings of the society when present at such meetings, may hold office, lives within a 75-mile radius of downtown Detroit, and who shall receive a copy of all publications of the society and have use of the library in accordance with the library rules. Any two members of one household may have a Joint Active Membership with the provision that only one copy of the monthly bulletin be furnished to them.

B) An Extension Member is one who has full voting rights at all regular meetings of the society when present at such meetings, may hold office, lives outside a 75-mile radius of downtown Detroit, and who shall receive a copy of all publications of this society. This membership may also be referred to as a distance membership.

C) An Honorary Member is one who has been granted membership status by the Board of Directors, and who shall receive a copy of all publications of this society. This member shall have served on the Board of Directors either with the Southeastern Michigan Bromeliad Society, the Bromeliad Society International, or another Bromeliad society, or who has substantially contributed to the field of botany, as determined by the Board of Directors.

Article IV - ELECTED OFFICIALS

Section 1. The elected officers shall be: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and three directors. Elections by majority votes shall be held in even numbered years at the Regular Meeting in December. All

elected officers shall assume office on January 1 and serve a two-year term. Officers may hold the same office for no more than two consecutive terms. There shall be no lifetime limit on the number of times a member can hold any office.

Any person who has paid dues or has been awarded life membership by the Board of Directors (Member Emeritus) and has attended at least seven of the previous eleven general meetings or events sponsored by the SEMBS may be eligible for the office of Director after one full year's membership in the society or for any other office after two full years' membership.

Section 2. Board of Directors. The elected officers of the society and the preceding president shall constitute a Board of Directors and meet at the call of the president. The Board of Directors shall have the authority and the responsibility to conduct the business affairs of the society and to make policies consistent with these Bylaws. The Board of Directors shall meet not less than four times a year. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be open to the membership.

Section 3. A nominating committee, consisting of three active members in good standing, shall be elected at the regular meeting of the society no later than October each year. The nominating committee shall place in nomination at least one name for each elective office at the November meeting. Further nominations may be made from the floor.

Section 4. Duties of Elected Officers.

Subsection (a) The president shall preside at all membership meetings, appoint members to the appointed offices and perform duties customarily devolving upon the office of the president.

Subsection (b) In the absence of the president, the vice-president shall assume duties of the president.

Subsection (c) The secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Society, verify the names of elected and appointed officers to appropriate persons and agencies and perform necessary secretarial duties as determined by the president and Board of Directors. A copy of meeting minutes shall be furnished by the secretary to the Board of Directors within 14 calendar days after any board meeting.

Subsection (d) The treasurer shall have custody of all the monies of the society, keep detailed receipts and disbursements, maintain an official record of current membership, and deposit monies in a financial institution approved by the Board of Directors. Vouchers for disbursements must be signed by a majority (4) of the Board of Directors before the release of funds by the treasurer. The treasurer shall submit an oral monthly report and an annual financial report to the society at the regular meetings in January of the following year which will be published in the bulletin. The financial accounts shall be open to inspection by the membership.

Section 5. Disciplinary action may be brought against any elected officer if:

- 1) the officer fails to perform the duties of the office;
- 2) the officer is absent, without due cause, from 2 consecutive general meetings of the Board of Directors and/or 4 consecutive general meetings;
- 3) the officer acts in a manner to contravene the purpose of the society defined in these Bylaws.

Disciplinary action may consist of, but should not be limited to, removal of the said officer by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. Any vacated office may be filled by appointment by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

Article V - APPOINTED OFFICERS

Section 1. The president shall appoint such officers and assistants as may be necessary to conduct the business of the society which appointments shall include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

Subsection (a) Editor and Assistant Editor. It shall be the duty of the editor to provide for timely notices of meetings of the society and to maintain a current list of the names of persons entitled to receive a copy of the bulletins of the society. The assistant editor shall conduct duties under the general direction of the editor.

Subsection (b) Librarian. The librarian shall have custody of the society's library and provide for its safe keeping. The librarian shall exercise general supervision in the classifying and processing of library materials and for the loan of such materials to members. The librarian shall recommend for adoption by the Board of Directors rules governing the loan of library materials. The librarian shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors for new acquisitions.

Subsection (c) Affiliate Representative. The president shall appoint a member in good standing to serve as the affiliate representative of the society. The affiliate representative shall renew the society's subscription to the journal of the Bromeliad Society International and re-new the society's membership in the Bromeliad Society International; certify names of delegates elected to represent the Southeastern Michigan Bromeliad Society at the National Convention; report from the bi-monthly affiliate letter; and file the letter with the librarian.

Subsection (d) Program Chairman. The program chairman shall be in charge of planning programs and making the necessary arrangements. Because of this function, the program chairman may serve as Show Chairman.

Subsection (e) Show Chairman. The show chairman shall construct categories and rules, devise ways to display plants and organize the display in a meaningful way. He may have a committee to aid him in his duties. Such committee may consist of but is not limited to plant guards, greeter, membership table persons and plant loggers. He may purchase ribbons and trophies which may be awarded to qualified persons as determined by judges. He shall schedule all activities, manpower and materials in order to present the show.

Subsection (f) Membership Chairman. The membership chairman shall be in charge of promoting membership and welcoming new members as well as greeting guests at all our regular meetings.

Subsection (g) Refreshment Chairman. The refreshment chairman shall be in charge of serving refreshments at society meetings.

Subsection (h) Historian. The historian shall be in charge of development of the archives of the society.

Article VI - TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

Regular meetings of the society shall be held on the third Saturday of the month, and the time and place of such regular meetings shall be such as may from time to time be determined by the society. Special meetings may be held at such time and place as may be designated at a regular meeting by proper vote, or upon call of the Board of Directors. Members shall be notified of special meetings by email.

Article VII - QUORUMS

Section 1. The presence of four voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The presence of six voting members in good standing of the society shall constitute a quorum at any Regular Meeting.

Article VIII - DUES

Section 1. The annual dues for the classes of membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors subject to the approval of the membership.

Section 2. Annual dues for renewal of membership shall be payable to the treasurer by December 31st for the ensuing fiscal year.

Section 3. New members joining after April 31st shall pay the same dues as extension memberships, and their dues shall be considered paid until the end of the fiscal year in which they joined.

Article IX - AMENDMENTS

Proposals to amend or change the bylaws must be made at any Board of Directors meeting or Regular meeting and shall be voted upon at the following Regular Meeting after a notice in writing has been given to each active member.

Article X

The procedures set forth in “Robert’s Rules of Order” shall govern all matters of procedure not covered in these bylaws.

Article XI- DISSOLUTION

Section 1. The decision to dissolve the group must be submitted to the board for a vote. A simple majority is required to dissolve.

Section 2. Upon the vote to dissolve the society, all assets shall be dispensed in accordance with the following subsections.

Subsection (a) In the event that the group is forced by circumstance or chooses to dissolve, all monies held by the club are to be transferred to the Bromeliad Society International (BSI). The Treasurer shall be responsible for dispensing monies to the BSI. This shall include any funds obtained through the sale of library materials sold at the time of dissolution.

Subsection (b) All library materials are to be either sold with the proceeds going to the BSI, or donated as-is to the BSI. The Librarian shall be responsible for conducting the sale of library materials, and/or depositing as-is library materials into the custody of the BSI.

Subsection (c) The Board of Directors shall decide what to do with the Archives at the time of dissolution.