



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

THE BSGC NEWS

Feb/March, 2010

President	Lori Weigerding	(630) 978-7340
Vice President	Martha Goode	(815) 459-1623
Treasurer	Paula Dering	(847) 295-2559
Secretary	Roberta Torossy	(847) 548-5503
Newsletter Editor	Steve Goode	stevegoode1@ameritech.net

WEB SITE

<http://bromeliad-chicago.org>

Webmaster

Lori Weigerding

The next meeting will be April 10th at 2 pm in the Annex (trailer) at the Chicago Botanic Garden. The first thirty minutes, we will discuss any problems or successes with our bromeliads. We can also share our progress on our macrame holders. We will leave the Botanic Garden Annex a little after 2:30 pm to go to the Chalet Nursery at 3132 Lake Avenue in Wilmette. We can car pool so anyone not having transportation can also go. They donated several plants to us last year for our Bromeliad Show. I made arrangements with Jennifer Brennan, the Horticulture Information Specialist at Chalet to give the Bromeliad Society a tour at 3pm.

President's Column

We had a wonderful meeting where we learned how to make macramé holders for tillandsias!! Anne showed us how to make a simple one and once I got my mind wrapped around that I had to pull tighter and switch hands it worked out a lot better. I'm used to crocheting and with the macrame you don't pull too tight, otherwise you stretch out the yarn and get tiny stitches. Now mine doesn't look near as nice as Anne's, but I'm getting there. Del and Paula also took some kits home to work on them too. Jeff decided that this was beyond him. This is a wonderful new thing for us to sell during our show, that's easy to make and all the materials you need are in one little bag. We'll also have the one's that we've made to sell too, for those less dexterous than ourselves. I have to get back to making mine, I was sick for quite a while and then I fell on the ice. I didn't break anything, but I'm still very

uncomfortable!

We'll have extra time to make more as it appears that we'll be having the show at the end of July this year. It will also give us something to do and show others how to do it during the show. Maybe we'll be good enough and Anne can show us how to make another pattern.

We will be taking a tour of the Chalet Nursery April 10th. What do you all think? Can you please respond back to Martha via email stevegoode1@ameritech.net and let her know if you'd like to do this. For those without email and long distance, you can call me at 630-978-7340.

Lori Weigerding

In the Jan/Feb. Southeast Bromeliad Society Newsletter they had the following.

WARNING: WINTER BUGS!

Following a period of severely cold weather, we should watch out for insect pests which thrive on the dry warm air of our homes and are especially fond of plants which are stressed from low humidity. Examine the undersides of leaves. Any tiny black dots which smear when rubbed (spider mites), white cottony masses (mealy bugs and their eggs), little brown circles, or raised black dots half the size of a pinhead (scale) should be cleaned away with soapy water and/or rubbing alcohol. If a plant is infected, it should be treated again within a week to catch the crawlers (newly hatched offspring).



Aechmea 'Del Mar' at the Bellagio

This has been a hard winter for me.

I spent five weeks in Macomb, IL with my mother, other family members and terminally ill father. My father passed away on Feb. 22nd. Hopefully, now I will be able to get caught up on things.

When I got back to Arizona, I found out that they had cold weather, too with temperatures getting down in the 20's. I lost most of my vines as well as some agaves. The dyckias in the ground 'Sun Bear', 'Naked Lady', 'Red Devil' and 'Cherry Coke' all survived. Also, the Puya mirabilis and a hechtia made it.

Martha Goode

You have probably been wondering if we will be collecting dues this year. Please see the final page of the Newsletter. Please send in your dues to Paula Derning as soon as possible. We still have the same low rates as last year.

In early January, Steve and I were in Las Vegas for a Conference. We went to the Bellagio hotel where we took these pictures in their conservatory. If you would like to learn more about their conservatory go to the following websites: vegas.com - click on hotels, then click on Bellagio under the list of hotels. Then click on Bellagio Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. You can click on the photos or the video preview. The preview shows the transformation of the conservatory from summer to fall. You can see more pictures of the conservatory if you enter Bellagio Conservatory in your computer.



Chinese New Year at the Bellagio



Year of the Rabbit
I hope he doesn't eat the bromeliads!

At the BSI World Bromeliad Conference in New Orleans, we got the CD translation of the book Bromelias del Uraquay by Ana Helena Brito Berhouet and Liliana Llano Riano.

This is a great book. Their explanation of what is a bromeliad and its habitat is easy for a beginning bromeliophile to understand. Seventy per cent of the bromeliad genera and more than forty percent of the species are found in Brazil, the “Mata Atlantic”. They discuss three main centers of origin and distribution: the Andes, the Guyana Highlands and the “Mata Atlantic”. I found the “Life Strategy” section of special interest. They state that the absence of roots is a strategy that eliminates their dependence on soil which enhances their efficiency in rocky soils.



Top: Guzmania ‘Manzana’
 Middle: Kalanchoe luciae ‘Flapjacks’
 Bottom: Tillandsia Cyanea

They have pictures of the bromeliads in habitat in Uraquay with companion plants. They discuss the destruction of the habitat and a laboratory in Valo do Ribeira where they are producing bromeliads.

The section on the history of bromeliads is excellent and very comprehensive. They begin in 1493 with Christopher Columbus and include Plunier, Linnaeus, Mez, Lyman Smith, Roberto Burle Marx, David Benzing,

Harry Luther, Alton Lemme and many more. The species found in Uruguay by the authors are:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Aechmea distichantha | Aechmea recurvata |
| Ananas bracteatus | Bromelia antiacantha |
| Billbergia nutans | Billbergia zebrina |
| Dyckia remotiflora | Dyckia selloa |
| Tillandsia aeranthos | Tillandsia arequitae |
| Tillandsia geminiflora | Tilliandsia ixioides |
| Tillandsia recurvifolia | Tillandsia stricta |
| Tillandsia xiphioides | Tillandsia bandensis |
| Tillandsia crocata | Tillandsia duratii |
| Tillandsia streptocarpa | Tillandsia loliacea |

Tillandsia myosura
Tillandsia tricholepsis

Tillandsia recurvata
Tillandsia usenoides



Guzmania 'Phoenix' at the Bellagio



T. loliacea from www.fcbs.org



Tillandsia myosura photo by D Butcher

Also from www.fcbs.org

It's Time to renew your membership in the BSGC! To renew your membership, just tear off this half page and send it along with your check (made out to the B.S.G.C.) To:

Paula Dering
44 Atteridge Road
Lake Forest, IL
60045-1713

EMAIL_____

Please remember that the Individual membership is \$12.00 per year and the Dual/Family is \$15.00 per year.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!