



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

THE BSGC NEWS

April/May, 2011

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WEB SITE

<http://bromeliad-chicago.org>

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Lori Weigerding

The Next meeting is at 2:00pm on June 12th in the Annex at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Steve and Martha will be showing their pictures that they took at the Cactus and Succulent Conference in San Diego. The Garden will be having the Show of Summer event so you may want to come early.

Six Chicago-area garden clubs affiliated with the Garden Club of America (GCA) present the competitive exhibition Botanica at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Visitors will find competitive flower arrangement classes, horticulture classes, photography classes, and classes for children, as well as an exhibit on seed banking and conservation. More than a hundred GCA members, representing dozens of GCA clubs around the country will compete. Exhibits will be judged and awards presented on Friday, June 10. The six Chicago-area clubs affiliated with GCA are the Garden Club of Barrington, Garden Club of Evanston, Garden Guild of Winnetka, Kenilworth Garden Club, Lake Forest Garden Club, and Winnetka Garden Club.

President's Column

Well it was a pleasant day, a bit windy, but we enjoyed the tour we got of the Chalet Nursery. Ardie and Jack were up here too and joined us at the meeting and the tour! We don't get to see enough of them and we began to think that we'd lost them as they took a wrong turn and were a little late for the tour. Our guide was knowledgeable and friendly. He answered several different questions that we had.

The show will be Saturday, July 30 & Sunday, July 31, with setup being done on

Friday, July 29. We need to get a list together of who will be available to help setup, work those 2 days and break down and clean up on Sunday. We'll be putting the list together at our next meeting on June 12, 2011. So please check your calendars now and pencil in a date and time to help out.

At our next meeting Martha and Steve will be showing us pictures from the Cactus Conference! I always love to see these pictures as I doubt that we'll ever be able to get there and Steve takes such wonderful shots! We will also discuss how many of the "made" macramé holders we have completed. OK, I'll admit it, I had planned on doing some, mislaid the bag (put it up so my granddaughter couldn't find it, then I couldn't either!). I look at Anne's so beautifully done one and mine (which doesn't compare) and think that maybe by next year I can make one that's worth selling. It's such a wonderful idea, we all love it, but our dexterity is a little behind our enthusiasm! Maybe our other volunteers - Paula and Del have had better luck than I. If not, we'll have several kits for us to sell at the show, which is a wonderful addition to helping us educate the public on how wonderful our plants are. At least we'll have some that Anne has made and the lucky people that purchase a kit while she's there can get some one-on-one instruction. Thank Anne for the wonderful idea!!

Look forward to seeing you all in June - stay cool!!

Lori Weigerding

My Dyckia 'Cherry Coke' has grown from one plant to a clump of eight. I will have to divide it in the fall when we return. Ouch, Ouch! -Martha

The CBS March 2011 newsletter from Florida had the following article on Dyckias. (Edited)

The Genus Dyckia is composed of a diverse group of plants. Some of the more unusual species are this *Dyckia estevesii*, which grow mostly on two planes rather than as the circular form of most of the other dyckias such as *Dyckia marnier-lapostollei* pictured here.



Photos by Larry Giroux CBS Meristem March 2011

Due to the ease at which dyckias will hybridize, intentionally or unintentionally, we see today a myriad of colorful and different shaped cultivars. As seen in the small collection below. Interest in dyckias is not only restricted to bromeliad growers. Because of their succulent nature, they are ideal as garden mates to cactus and other succulents. Few bromeliads can survive extreme xeric conditions, but it is not uncommon to see dy-

ckias for sale in nurseries in Arizona or New Mexico.

A different looking inflorescence characterizes the thickly spined *Dyckia beateae* seen below.

Their shape and symmetry make dyckias great plants for entries into the Decorative Container sections of bromeliad shows. This is

***Dyckia* "Carlsbad" x *platyphylla* (since named 'Cherry Coke'), an award winning exhibit by Steve Hoppin.**



CBS Meristem March 2011

Most dyckias are very prolific and a challenge to divide. *Dyckia lyman-smithii* is one such plant. Dyckias vegetatively reproduce by dividing in half or setting offsets from their bases. An easier way of separating the plants is to fill a box with newspaper and placing the plants removed from their pots head down in the box; then you can cut and separate the individual plants from their rooted bottoms. Most dyckia inflorescences are either yellow or orange. This hybrid has an



CBS Meristem March 2011



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interesting combination of coral colored bracts and yellow petals. This large clump of *Dyckia* „Big Blackie“ (an unregistered hybrid) (not shown) demonstrates the nature of the flower spike prior to its more typical mature appearance of clusters of bell like flowers. Although it can't be appreciated in this photo, one of the characteristics, which help distinguish dyckias from hechtias is that the inflorescence develops from the base of the lower leaves rather than the center of the plant as in the case of plants of the Genus: Hechtia. Also as seen in the picture on the opposite page, the dyckia spikes are minimally branched, while the spikes are mostly multi-branched with hechtias. Photos by Larry Giroux unless otherwise noted.



CBS Meristem March 2011



CBS Meristem March 2011



CBS Meristem March 2011

The following article is from the March San Diego Newsletter
The Bromeliad Blade . (*Edited*)

Here's some useful information.

Two months before the show: Repot plants that need it. Your plant should be in a clean pot, with no cracks or chips and of the appropriate size. For a single plant, use a pot no larger than 6" in diameter. Don't use white pots.

Pups should have at least five leaves each and be about half as tall as the mother plant before they can be taken off and potted individually. You may have to sacrifice a pup in order to enter in a particular category. (Editor's Note-Since we do not have a judged Show, you do not need to remove the pups!)

The plant should be straight and centered. It should be symmetrical from above. Be careful not to plant too deep or too high. There should be no more than 1" between the plant and the edge of the pot.

A piece of paper towel in the bottom of the pot will keep the planter mix from sifting out. You can also use a piece of window screen cut to shape. If the plant is top heavy and has a tendency to tip over, put rocks in the bottom of the pot before putting in the planter mix.

One month before the show:

Select plants that you think will be of interest to the public. Remember that what may be a common plant to you, may be new to other people. Also, you can enter for display only if you'd prefer not to have your plants judged.

Water your show plants with distilled or de-ionized water from now until the show to help clean off any mineral deposits.

The week before the show:

Clean your plants. When you enter your plant, it should have no mineral deposits, water spots, algae, dust, debris, spiders, ants or other insects. Make this specimen your objective.

***Dyckia* with silvery sheen in June 2010 show**

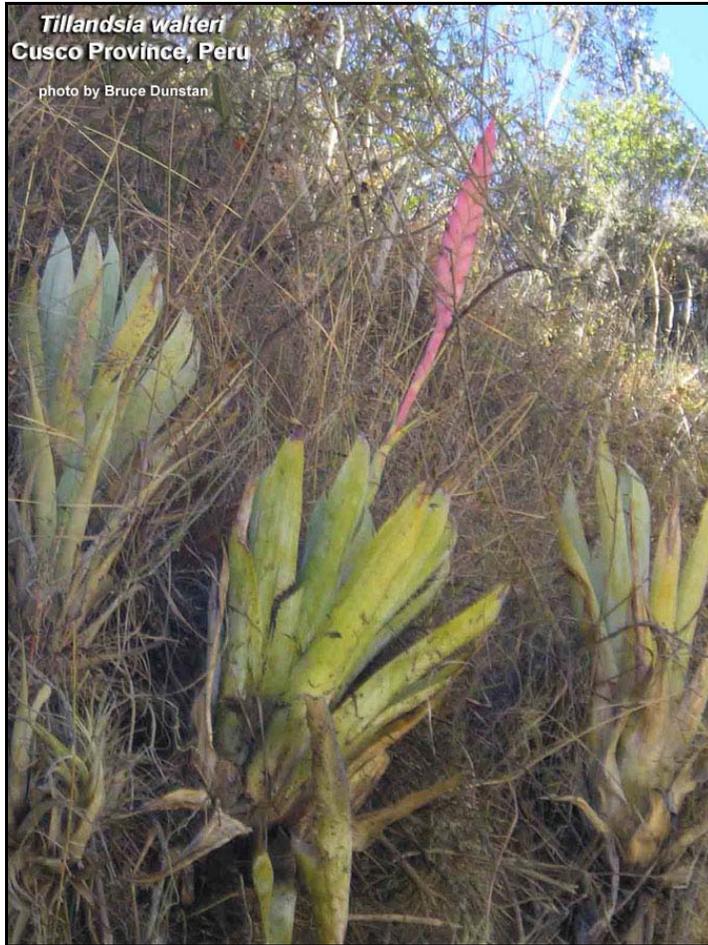
We hope you'll enter at least one plant and also volunteer to help out. There are lots of different jobs to do, and much fun all round, as well.



Bromeliad Blade Newsletter picture

There is a new pineapple “Corer-slicer” available which comes with three different size corers (3", 3 1/4" and 3 3/4") to core and slice a pineapple of different sizes. There is one handle provided. Everything is plastic and it does work like the regular corer. However, you get a better production of slices with it. Item 68924 for \$14.95 from surlatable.com

One of the seminars I attended was “Cacti of Peru: Land of the Incas by Guillermo Rivera. Besides the cactus, he showed us many bromeliads. Some of the Tillandsia were: macbrideana, cacticola, latifolia and walteri. (Picture on next page.) The Puya raimondii is pollinated by a large hummingbird.



Picture from www.fcbs.org

Minutes of the last meeting as taken by Roberta Torossy

Members in attendance: Lori and Jeff Weigerding, Paula Dering, Jack and Ardie Reilly, Roberta Torossy, Julie Jemenez and Del Busczynski.

- 1. Old business: Discussion over the Navy Pier Show, It was felt that it was a very poor showing of Bromeliads, that the concentration of the show was mostly horticultural.**
- 2. Issues discussed: Plans for the Bromeliad Society show were discussed with the macrame projects to be created by members and sold at the show. The show will take place the last weekend of July 30th and 31st, 2011. Patsy and Henry Schmidt will purchase the plants from Russells. Paula is going to transfer the money in the money market fund to a 3 year CD.**

3. **Action Taken:** To order the flowers, banking to be done by Paula and Lori. Macrame projects to be assembled, Sign up sheet for helping at the show will be available at the next meeting.

Meeting closed by Del and seconded by Paula. The meeting adjourned to the Chalet nursery for a tour.

A good website for information on bromeliads is : www.learn2grow.com
Click on the section Orchids and Bromeliads, then click on featured plants. There are two categories; houseplants with sunny dispositions which include Aechmea, Cryptanthus, Neoregelia and Tillandsia and shady bromeliads which include Vriesea and Guzmania.

Pictures from Members

Jack Reilly



Jack Reilly's Tillandsia dyeriana

JP Trunk visit to Michael's in Florida



It's Time to renew your membership in the BSGC! To renew your membership, send your name 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 \$5.00 per year and the Dual/Family is \$8.00 per year.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!