



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

THE BSGC NEWS

February-March , 2013

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<http://bromeliad-chicago.org>

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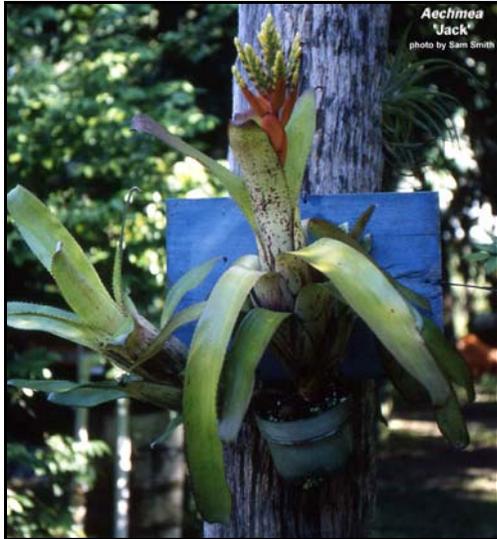
Lori Weigerding

We are going to try something new this year. We will be sending an order in as a Club to Michael's Bromeliads. The Club will pay for the shipping. Before the March 10th meeting, go to www.michaelsbromeliads.com Click on our collection on the left side, then click on See Our Collection in the middle to get the list of plants on the order form. Bring your list of plants and a check made out to BSGC to the March 10th meeting. Paula will write one check to Michael's for the Club order. The order will be sent to Lori's house and she will bring the order to the April 14th meeting. If you have any questions please call Paula or Lori.

President's Column

Well we certainly have the crazy weather! I'm looking forward to warmer weather, but not too warm! Picky aren't I! It will be nice to see everyone at the upcoming meeting. It's been a long winter. I'm trying to clean out my plants and get them better organized so they're easier to take care of. So what have you all been doing over the winter months? Come join us and let us know what you've been doing and how your plants are surviving. I miss our old house where we had ample shade trees and I could put the plants outside during the summer! Can't do that here at the new house and too many restrictions for other things. Oh well, we look forward to seeing you all in March!

Lori Weigerding



There are so many wonderful bromeliads to choose from. If you would like to see what some of them look like, then go to the www.fcbs.org Website and click onto the photo index. You can choose from the different genus, pick out a cultivar or try a bigeneric.

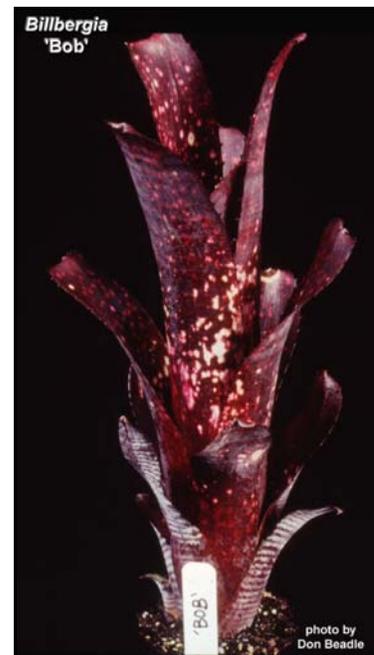
The Cultivar Registry is maintained for the BSI by Geoffrey Lawn in collaboration with Derek Butcher and Eric Gouda. You may ask what is a cultivar. Eric suggested the following for the definition, “A cultivar is a man made hybrid or selection of a natural species from crossing within that species.” He goes on to say that in the past an odd form (for example a strange flower color) was found in a natural population and collected and propagated under a cultivar name.

Some cultivars available from Michael’s Bromeliads are: Aechmea ‘Jack’, Billbergia “Bob”, Cryptanthus ‘Dynasty’, and Neoregelia “Paula”.

In Bob and Catherine Wilson’s book, Bromeliads in Cultivation, they say that the first recorded hybrid was Vriesea ‘Morreniana’ made in 1879 by Professor Morren in Belgium. There were many hybrids after that throughout Europe particularly in Belgium, Holland and Germany. The primary genus hybridized was Vriesea but also Aechmea, Billbergia and a few others. Very few of these early hybrids are found today.

Maybe you would like to try a bigeneric. In the Queensland book, Starting with Bromeliads, the definition of a bigeneric is “a hybrid that is made by crossing plants from one genus with ones from another genus. The new “genus name is a combination of the two “parent” genus names. An example is a neoregelia crossed with an orthophytum would be a Neophytum hybrid.

Geoff Lawn wrote an article several years ago that appears on the fcbs.org website. He said that it needs to be updated since several of the names have changed. He explains that bigenerics are virtually unknown in the wild because





An X rated picture?

fertility barriers, different blooming times and geographical range prevent most species in different genera from cross-breeding by specialised pollinators. It seems that the biggest obstacle for hybridists is the incompatible genetics between the species. He also mentions that there have been no bigenerics between the three sub-families of Bromelioideae, Tillandsioideae and Pitcairnioideae.

Geoff says that the majority of

bigenerics have been primary crosses (species x species) and those parents which are least alike tend to produce the most distinctive offspring. Bigeneric genera names have “X” inserted before each genus to distinguish them from standard, botanically described genera names.

Although several bigenerics date back to the 1880's, relatively few were bred before about 1960. Bigenerics have proliferated since then despite the gene mixing difficulties by artificial cross-pollination. Many of these have an unearthly appearance. Geoff asks, will the hybridists proceed on the basis of “Quality above Quantity”.

Some of the bigenerics available from Michael’s Bromeliads are:

- X Anagelia ‘Madame Lash’
- X Anamea ‘Raspberry Ice’
- X Billmea ‘Rosebud’
- X Neotanthus ‘Cardboard’
- X Orthomea ‘Pure Delight’
- X Puckia ‘Sparkle’



Paula found an article by John Rosens called “No Dirt, No Problem”. To see it go to the following website:
<http://remindermedia.com/sample/morganstanley/download/current>



He is a landscape architect and creator of Airplantman Designs. If you want to see some of these go to:

<http://www.airplantmandesigns.com/> Since the newsletter is emailed to all of you, you only have to click onto the blue lines and go to the websites. Use the return arrow on your browsers to return to your email.

Steve and I will be going to the Cool Broms 2013 conference in Auckland. I'm sure we will come back with lots of wonderful pictures from New Zealand.

The seminars include Elton Leme- Novelties in Brazilian Bromeliaceae, a new approach to the taxonomy of Cryptanthus and the genus Alcantarea. José Manzanares from Ecuador will talk on the land of bromeliads in the Condor Mountains and the new classification of Tillandsioideae based on DNA studies. Dennis Cathcart will be showing us beautiful pictures of Singapore's Gardens by the Bay and talk about the tiny as well as the giant tillandsias. Michael Kiehl's seminars are "A bromeliad journey" and "fcbs.org and the Beadle legacy". Nigel Thomson's talk is "Bromeliads light up your life." (Yes, the same Nigel Thomson that did the wonderful Neo. 'Shell Dance' in Cairns.) Andrew Maloy will show us his beautiful vrieseas and explain his work in breeding them. Hawi Winter's seminar is "The simple science behind beautiful bromeliads". Besides the seminars we will tour the New Zealand Gardens.





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Pictures from the www.fcbs.org website.

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