



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

THE BSGC NEWS

MAY-JUNE, 2014

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<http://bromeliad-chicago.org>

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Lori Weigerding

June 8- 2pm meeting in the Annex at the Botanic Garden
July 13-2pm meeting in the Annex at the Botanic Garden to finalize our Show.
July 18, Set up and Combined Show of the Cactus Club and Bromeliad Society.
July 19-20 10am to 4:30 Show Time!

July 19- Dinner of Bromeliad Society members paid for by the Club.

We hope you are able to make our June 8th meeting in the Annex at the Botanic Garden. Anne will show us some of her ideas for display of plants for the Show. She may be selling some of her plants at our Show. If anyone else has extra plants, they would like to sell, the Garden takes 10% of your sales. The Club will also take 10%.

If anyone else would like to bring items that they will use to display their plants we would be happy for you to share. Martha will be purchasing some tillandsias to bring to the meeting to be mounted. These will be raffled off.

President's Column

Well we had a lovely time watching the presentation from Dennis Cathcart. They have some very lovely plants and arrangements. Oh to be able to leave your plants outside all the

time would be wonderful. With the crazy weather we've been having who knows when it will be safe to put our plants outside! Hard to believe a few days ago I went outside without a jacket and now you really need to bundle up! The snow did show up in many locations! Oh my!

We'll be discussing what we want to do for the plant show and how much we want to spend. Hopefully the weather will cooperate!

Lori Weigerding

Steve and I went to the Sonoran Cacti and Succulent Conference on April 19th and 20th in Tucson. The conference is sponsored by the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society and it is held every two years (in the off year from the national cactus conference). This year the Big Plant was succulent BROMELIADS!! (I guess we don't have to go to Hawaii for the World Conference then) (Forget it Dear, We ARE going!) Two of the speakers were Dennis Cathcart and Andy Siekkinen. Dennis spoke on Dyckias and Andy spoke on Hechtias and other succulent bromeliads.

Dennis and Linda spent five weeks traveling in Brazil this year to gather more information on Dyckias. There are around 150 known species of Dyckias. They are found from sea level to 3,000 feet above sea level frequently in massive mounds or colonies. They are mostly found in Brazil except for a few in neighboring Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Dennis mentioned the different habitat types where dyckias were found. The Caatinga which is a dry grassland with rock outcrops. The Atlantic Forest which is the typical jungle. The Restinga which is a broadleaf forest on sandy soil. Here they found *Dyckia encholirioides*. The Cerrado which is a savana or wooded grassland with rocky outcroppings. One of the dyckias found here is *Dyckia ursina*.



Dyckia encholirioides in habitat
www.wikipedia.org

In the Parana Pine forest where quite a bit of snowfall occurs, they found *Dyckia ingardiae*. It is a large species which was growing above a waterfall. In

the Pampas, open grasslands with exposed rocks they found *D. Hebbingii*, *jonesiana*, *remotiflora* and *choristaminea*.



www.fcbs.org



www.fcbs.org



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Dennis noted that there are many hybrids that occur in nature and it is often difficult to tell a species from the hybrid.

When looking through his pictures, he found one of the *Megalopyge opercularis* caterpillar. Exposure to this caterpillar's fur like spines will lead to an immediate skin irritation. It can cause a fatality. To see pictures of the caterpillar and moth and to read more about it go to:

[Http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/Creatures/MISC/MOTHS/puss.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/Creatures/MISC/MOTHS/puss.htm)



Andy Siekkinen

The tall inflorescence is from a very large species from Michoacan (Mexico). It is a large, terminal blooming plant. Amazingly the whole 10+ feet inflorescence only had flowers open for 4-6days!

Andy Siekkinen who is currently the President of the San Diego Bromeliad Society talked on succulent bromeliads. The following is from Andy's presentation.

Hechtia: Mexico, Texas, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua

Dyckia: Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay

Deuterocohnia: Andean-Chile

Encholirium: Brazil

Orthophytum: Brazil

Puya: Andean (With one in Costa Rica!)

Bromelia: Widespread in Neotropics

Two cold tolerant Hechtias are *texensis* and *montana*. Most of the Hechtia have either male or female flowers. One exception is *Hechtia gayorum* which has both.

Deuterocohnia have the following characteristics:

- Xeric adapted
- Succulent, CAM
- Related very closely to Dyckia and Encholirium
- Exclusively South American, primarily Andean
- Around 59 species
- All species produce terminal inflorescence
- Sessile species formerly Abrometitiella
- Inflorescence with stalks, nearly always rebloom for many years

Dyckia characteristics are:

- Xeric adapted
- Succulent, CAM
- related very closely to Deuterocohnia & Encholirium
- Exclusively South American
- around 200 species
- All species produce lateral inflorescence

Encholirium are:

- Xeric adapted
- Succulent, CAM
- Related very closely to Dyckia and Deuterocohnia
- Exclusively Brazilian
- Less than 100 species
- All species produce terminal inflorescence

Orthophytum characteristics

- Brazil
- In process of dividing into 3 or more genera
- Related to Aechmea, Billbergia, pineapple (Ananas)
- Often narrowly endemic on inselbergs and other rock formations
- Generally smaller, great for potted culture

Puya characteristics:

- Xeric adapted
- Generally higher elevations in the Andes
- Around 200 species
- More closely related to Neoregelia, Billbergia and the pineapple than Hechtias, Dyckias and Deuterocohnias!
- Dry seed
- Often spectacular and bizarre flower color

Includes the largest inflorescence of any monocot (*Puya raimondii*) at around 40 feet tall!

Ed. Note-This is not one for pot culture

The following are Pupping habits:

Stolons

Basal offsets

Mid-level leaf axil

Next to inflorescence/dividing heads

No offsets



Hechtia affinis pretiosa It is an aptly named species that stays small, is lateral blooming, and produces the wonderfully cascading pups on the stolons

Andy also covered sowing seeds, growing media, potting up seedlings, containers and vegetative propagation.

He suggests that when you water that you basically want them to be evenly moist but not soaking wet. Dry is okay for very short periods of time (they are xeric and succulent after all). If they are too dry, they will grow very slowly and if they are too wet, they will rot.

Andy also organizes botanical and cultural adventures exploring the wonders of Mexico. You can find him at Eagle Eye Adventures.

<http://www.eagle-eye-adventures.com/>



This is a cool little species that I discovered this past December in the state of Colima. I'm almost sure it is a new species and it was growing with what I'm sure will be a new species of Tillandsia! This appears to be closely related to *H. Isthmusiana* and it also grows directly on limestone. It will be a couple of years before my seedlings show what they will look like in cultivation. -Andy



Hechtia isthmusiana. Despite its clumsy name, it is a nice little species that when grown in good light will glow in colors ranging from apricot to orange to reds. It is a terminal blooming species that seems to only grow on limestone formations and is closely related to other limestone growing species on the Pacific coast of Mexico.



Hechtia tillandsioides



Dyckia X fosteriana



Hechtia glomerata (male looking for date)

Steve took these pictures at the conference.



Dyckia Bill Baker cv Tarzan