



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

# THE BSGC NEWS

June, 2015

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Lori Weigerding

Our next meeting is July 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm in Annex 1 at the Chicago Botanic Garden. We will discuss the upcoming August 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Show. We will also have a slide show of the Southwest Guild Show that was held in Houston in September last year. There will be some cryptanthus and a dyckia for the raffle plants.

## *President's Column*

*Oh I really can't say how happy I was to see all of you this past Sunday! This is how it used to be with many of us coming to the meetings and sharing our thoughts and ideas! I hope all of you had a great time and enjoyed sharing all your ideas! Isn't it great news that we're still having our show this year! I'm sure it will be fabulous and interesting to everyone who comes and partakes! We've got a good momentum going and we need to keep it up and follow thru.*

*We're going to try and have a couple of stations going with video, we'll just have to place it so it doesn't have a chance of walking away. I'm really excited to have this show this year, and from the participation by everyone, I think you all are too!*

*Please see what plants or ideas you have to bring and work on getting them ready for the show. It will be nice if next year Michael's or some vendor would like to do it with us! I was just thinking that maybe we should take some pictures of how busy it is for the cactus club with having a vendor there. (That is if anyone goes to theirs.) Oh and I'm sure we'll have room for anything that you care to bring and show.*

*Take care and look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting! Spread the word about our meetings and the show!*

*Lori Weigerding*

This is a good time to repot your plants so they will be ready for the show. The BSI cultural manual suggests that you can use a mix of fibrous peat moss, perlite, small pieces of redwood or pine bark, pumice, charcoal and tree fern fiber. There are as many potting mixes as there are growers. You want a well draining mix that retains moisture. Over-potted plants tend to stay too wet which encourages rot.

Anne shared the following pictures with us. Thanks so much for bringing the neoregelias for us to raffle at our June meeting.



Annes's Cryptanthus 'Evon'  
blooming



Anne's Shadow Box

If you have some pictures you would like to share, please send them to us.

# Singapore

Wow, what a great trip Steve and I had to Singapore. We began with a morning city tour to get an idea of what the City/State is like and what we would like to go back and see on our own.

Singapore is one of the worlds most densely populated islands with one of the highest living standards. The island is 276 square miles. It is just north of the equator and is adjacent to the Malaysian state of Johor. Its population is 5.2 million but only 3.25 million are Singapore citizens. The government encourages immigration in order to sustain the population since it has a low birth rate.

The Singapore citizens are made of 74.2% Chinese descent, 13.4% Malays, 9.2% Indian and 3.2 Eurasian. The official languages are English, Chinese (Mandarin), Malay and Tamil (Indian). Multiculturalism is reflected in its customs and in its religious beliefs of the Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Confucian, Hindu, Taosist and Sikh citizens.



At the first stop on our morning tour, we saw the official emblem of Singapore, the Merlion.



The last stop on that day was the Singapore Botanic Gardens. It is a 160 acre garden that dates back over 150 years. It has an orchid house as well as a bromeliad house. Since we only had a short time here for the tour, we went back another day so we could see more of the garden.





On our other island tour, we visited the Kranji War Memorial and the Changi Museum which had a symbolic replica chapel found in Changi prison during WWII. The Kranji War Memorial commemorates over 20,000 people who gave their lives in WWII.



The last stop was at the Gardens by the Bay. We went back another day since there is so much to see there.

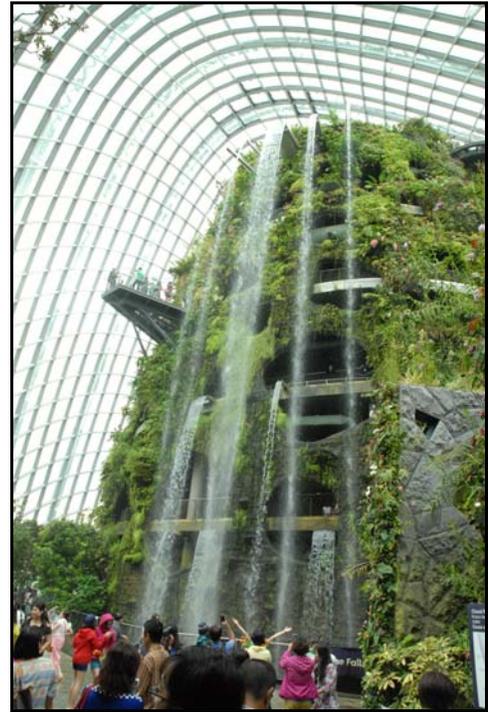


The Gardens by the Bay is 249 acres of waterfront land. It consists of Bay South, Bay East and Bay Central. Bay South includes the Flower Dome Conservatory which has a mediterranean type climate, the Cloud Forest conservatory and the 18 Supertrees. They were featuring Tulipmania at the Flower Dome. (They can't

grow Tulips there since they do not have a cold winter season like we have. They were really GaGa over Tulips!).



Outside the four heritage gardens are representative of the main ethnic groups; Chinese, Malay, Indian as well as a Colonial garden representing the past era.



The Cloud Forest Conservatory was our favorite. It was very nice to be in a cool conservatory and see all the beautiful plants.



Supertree during light Show with Sands Hotel in background.

The Supertrees are from 9 to 16 stories high and are vertical gardens. There are four parts to a Supertree: a reinforced concrete core, a steel framed trunk, planting panels installed on the trunk and a canopy shaped like an inverted umbrella. Eleven of the 12 trees in the Supertree Grove are embedded



with environmentally sustainable functions such as photovoltaic cells to use solar energy for lighting up the Supertrees. The tallest Supertree stands 164 feet high and houses a restaurant/bar where you can admire the skyline.

I really liked the light and music display at the Supertrees at night.



Dragonfly Lake



Marina Bay Sands Hotel

There is an underwater pumping system at Dragonfly Lake. It draws in water from the Marina Reservoir, circulates water through the Gardens and discharges it back into the reservoir. The Dragonfly Bridge connects the Garden to the Marina Bay Sands Hotel.

The Marina Bay Sands Hotel was developed by the Las Vegas Sands. The casino is located in the basement. It has a mall, an ice skating rink, a museum, two theaters and several restaurants. One of the restaurants is located on the top as well as a swimming pool.

We had a great time in Singapore and would definitely recommend visiting there. We think their conservatories are definitely in the top of those we have seen around the world.

Even leaving the airport there were more plants.



We saw this sign at the Airport, coming and going!



A close up of the left side section in the Arrival Sign.