



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO

THE BSGC NEWS

AUGUST 2018

President	Lori Weigerding	(630) 888-7516
Vice President	Martha Goode	(815) 459-1623
Treasurer	Paula Dering	(847) 295-2559
Secretary	OPEN	
Newsletter Editor	Steve Goode	stevegoode1@ameritech.net

WEB SITE
Webmaster

<http://bromeliad-chicago.org>
Lori Weigerding

Our next meeting is Sept. 9th at 2pm in the Lakeside room at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Steve and I will be showing our pictures from the BSI Conference that was held in San Diego in June.

The August meeting was a hands on of using liquid nails and arranging tillandsias that were left from our Sale. We glued them on some pieces of wood and rock. Hopefully, we will have some of these in our Show next year. We were happy to see our new member Karen Lustig at the meeting. We want to welcome her and hopefully we will all get to know her.



Karen Lustig's Tillandsias
mounted on wood



Del's mounted Tillandsias



Priscilla's Tillandsias
mounted on Rock

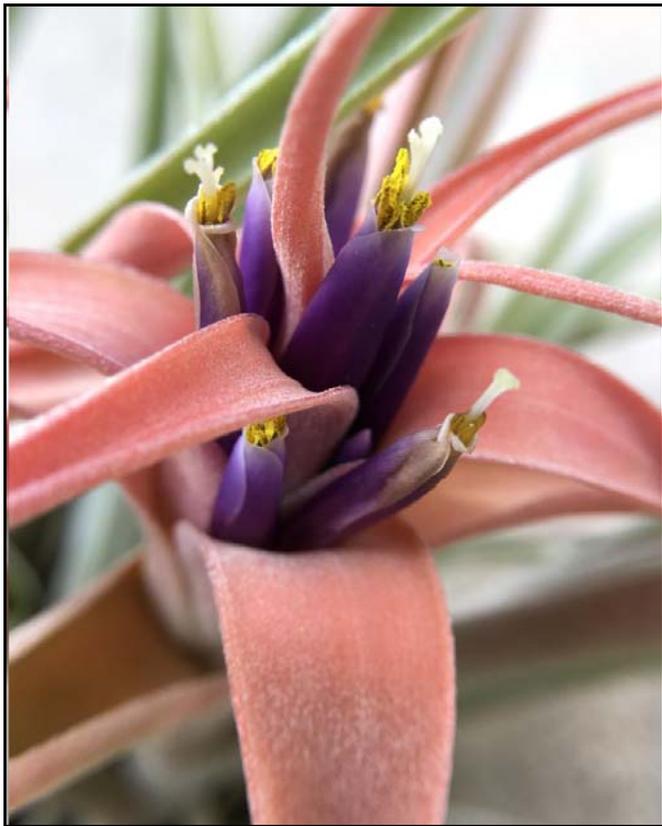
President's Column

I'm sorry we missed the meeting, I've not been feeling well. I heard that you all had a wonderful time mounting the left over plants to pieces of drift wood that Martha had. Martha sent me a picture of hers and it is beautiful! I'm sure all the others were too! So sorry to have missed that experience!

Our next meeting is September 9, 2018 at 2pm where Martha will be showing pictures from the BSI Conference that was held in San Diego in June. Plan to be there, the pictures are breath taking and it's almost as if you were there!

Lori Weigerding

Anne provided us with the following pictures. Of course the plants waited until after the show to bloom.



Anne's Tillandsia capitata 'Peach'

In the August San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter, I saw the following:



Cristate Pineapple photos by Mike Wisnev

These are cristate pineapples. It is the first time I had ever seen a cristate form of a bromeliad. On the (nhb.gov.in) website it mentions fasciated pineapples. It says that the fasciated fruits are deformed to such an extent that they are totally useless. It says that the causes may be high soil fertility, warm weather or calcium or zinc deficiency.

The Merriam Webster definition is, “having a crista or crest”. I am very familiar with crested cactus. We have seen several cristate Arizona saguaro and other succulents. There is a book about them, [Teratopia: The World of Cristate](#)

and Variegated Succulents by Gordon Rowley. A crested plant is the result of fasciation.

On the Royal Horticultural Society's webpage (rhs.org.uk) their definition of fasciation is "flattened, elongated shoots and flower heads that look like many stems compressed together." When this occurs the plant is cristate or crested. Fasciated stems occur because of abnormal activity in the growing tip of the plant when the plant is actively growing in the spring or summer.



Del's crested euphorbia



Celosia argentea ver.cristata
Twisted Red Improved Cockscomb

Plants this occurs in are euphorbias, forsythia, cockscomb, foxgloves, liriope, lilies, primulas and Veronicastrum. When I was at the Botanical Garden this month I saw two cockscomb and a euphorbia that was crested. Del bought a crested plant at the Botanic Garden on the day of our meeting.

Some of the causes of fasciation are random genetic mutation, the bacterium *Rhodococcus fascians*, viral infection or damage to the plant by frost, animals and chemical or mechanical injury. Plants with a name ending in "cristata" have been selectively propagated because of this desirable characteristic. One of these is the *Asplenium scolopendrium Cristatum*, Crested Hart's Tongue fern.

The Michigan State University website, msue.anr.msu.edu says that fasciation is an abnormal fusion and flattening of plant organs, usually the stems which result in ribbon like, coiled and contorted tissue. The growing tip which usually produces cylindrical tissue becomes elongated perpendicularly to the direction of the growth or splays out to the sides. This often produces a

concentration of leaf or flower buds in the fasciated area.

Ed. Note Many times, the plant growers feel that they don't know what to do. It is nice to know that sometimes plants don't know what to do too!

The World Bromeliad Conference held in June in San Diego was terrific. Nancy Groves and Scott Sandel did a great job of being the Conference Co-Chairs. The resort, tours, Show, speakers, plant sale, auction and banquet were wonderful.



Asplenium scolopendrium cristatum, Crested Hart's Tongue fern

www.wyevalegardencentres.co.uk/product/asplenium-scolopendrium-cristatum/p0850006259

Steve and I got there the day before the Board meeting and visited the San Diego Zoo. It was great. We took the aerial tram, the 2 ½ hour surprise tour where we fed the African Okapi which is a distant relative of the giraffe.



African Okapi

At the plant sale I found two *Tillandsia tectorum* from Bird Rock Tropicals. I talked to Pam and found out about the different growth habits of the ones from Peru and Ecuador. Steve found three carnivorous plants to bring home.

The lighting in the tent Show area made photographing the plants difficult. The winner of the artistic category was a harp which played music when you walked by, covered with various bromeliads by Peter Speziale. The Mulford Foster award was given to *Deuterocohnia brevifolia* grown by Robert Walters. Come to the meeting to see many more of the winners.

The speakers covered a variety of topics. Jeffrey Kent talked about his many visits to Colombia to find new plants. One he is looking for is a new clone of *Guzmania minor* so they can breed a small plant with large flowers. Getting the seeds of plants is not an easy task. The group found some plants that were high up in a tree and the plants had termites. Another plant was lower down which they thought they could get but they were badly bitten by ants. Most of the collecting has been done in one area of Colombia because of FARC. We are glad there are collectors like Jeffrey to go to these places.

Paul Isley's seminar was about the fire that destroyed their Nursery in Bonsall, California. They were able to salvage some plants. They have started rebuilding. It will take time since these were plants that were "home grown".



Paul Isley's Display on the Fire Damage

Jose Manzanares explained the new taxonomic classification of the Tillandseioideae subfamily. There are now 21 genera instead of the previous nine. It will take us awhile to learn all of these. Ed. Note: Don't be surprised when you see plants tags with two names on them. They are not in the Federal Witness Protection Program.

Ivon Ramirez Morillo discussed the Hechtioideae. She has identified many species and has collected them to study their growth and their flower since some plants only flower every 10 to 15 years.

Li Ping is the Chief Horticulturist at the Shanghai Chensham Botanical Garden. Before 1979, there were less than 10 species of bromeliads in China. Since 2000 they have imported many from the U.S., Japan, Thailand and Australia. Since it gets cold there in the winter, the bromeliads they display outside in the summer have to be taken inside.

Dennis Cathcart discussed his journey with Bromeliads. Before he started Tropiflora, he was a reptile collector. Then he fell in love with bromeliads and Linda. They have had many adventures and trips exploring for new bromeliads. They are passing Tropiflora on to the next generation.

Pamela Koide Hyatt discussed her hybridizing and exploring of Tillandsias. Her Tilli-Cards are very helpful at learning about the many species and hybrids.

Peter Waters from New Zealand showed many wonderful bromeliads from many of the growers and hybridizers in New Zealand. They have some of best Vrieseas in the World.

There were two different house tours. One day we went to Eloise Lau and Dan Kinnard's house and then walked next door to the Kopfstein's. Dan & Eloise have a large, steep property so we got our exercise. They grow organic fruit for some restaurants.



Dan Kinnard's collection



The Kopfstein place

The other tour was started at Balboa Park where the Cactus & Succulent Society were having their sale and then we went to Scott Sandel and Jim Marich's house and lastly to Jim Bishop and Scott Borden's house.



Scott Sandel and Jim Marich's place



Jim Bishop and Scott Borden's place