

BROMELIANA

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OUR CHEERFUL HOLIDAY PARTY

by Herb Plever



Michael Riley's epiphytic wall

Once again Michael Riley and Francisco Correa were the generous hosts for our annual Holiday Party. It was held on December 21st.

Michael and Francisco provided a succulent roasted turkey with stuffing and salad. The appetizers,

cranberry sauce, vegetable side dishes and deserts were brought by members. We started with four exotic, tasty cheeses, wine and crackers to keep us going until the turkey was cut.

This was also an official meeting, and Ben Katz

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY

was elected as President to replace Mimi Gussow who has moved to North Carolina. All other officers and directors were reelected for renewed terms.

Of course everyone inspected Michael's famous 17 ft. cork wall of mounted epiphytes - bromeliads, orchids, cacti, aroids, ferns, etc. We found some new plants and everything seemed to be thriving. There has been a piece of *Aechmea* 'Ensign' growing for what seems to me to be about ten years, and this year there was a recently flowered 'Ensign' with a good-sized pup growing in that same spot.

Michael's *Goudeaea* (formerly *Vriesea*) *ospinae* var. *gruberi* has grown a lot - he'll have to change his label to the new genus name. Another plant that has really grown is the giant form of *Tillandsia streptocarpa* which now has a stem of about 18".

Surrounded by an angular goldfish pond is a Meyer lemon tree with four large lemons. The Meyer

lemon is a citrus fruit native to China, thought to be a cross between a true lemon and either a mandarin or common orange. Meyer lemon trees used to be imported from China. Today they are grown in California as a cross between a lemon and a common orange, and a dwarf clone has been developed. Michael's Meyer Lemon tree has been sharply pruned back to a shrub with about an 18" diameter, but still it bears large fruit.

We ate dinner seated around the huge table in the dining room, and everyone noticed and asked about the beautiful ceramic bowl in which the traditional poinsettias had been placed and the lovely ceramic candlestick holders. Francisco told us that they were the work of the famed British potter, Clarice Cliff (1879 - 1972). They have been long-time collectors of her work, and they amassed a sizeable collection at auctions at a time when Cliff's work was less known. □



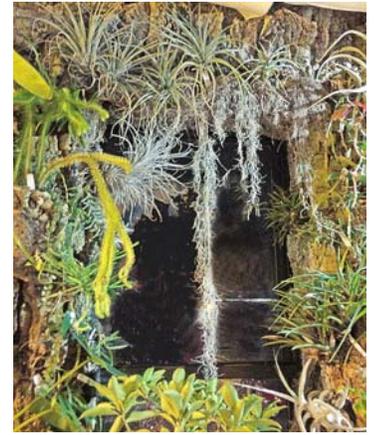
Aechmea 'Ensign'



Goudeaea ospinae var. *gruberi*



Giant form of *Tillandsia streptocarpa*



Tillandsia duratii, *T. straminea*



Meyer Lemon Tree



Tillandsia funckiana



Clarice Cliff pottery



Clarice Cliff candle holders



Elegant dining

BLOOM COLORS BRIGHTEN THE WINTER

In New York we had a long stretch of warm sunny weather, not only in the summer, but also from September to mid-November. I had a lot of Guzmanias in my big south window tray. In the summer, the sun is so high, by the time it reaches my south facing window it only hits the forward edge of the tray. Plants further interior still get good horizon light in the unobstructed, 8th floor window.

However, by September the sun lights the whole tray from the morning to the late afternoon, and my Guzmanias basked in higher light than they were used to receiving. Four or five of them reacted by starting to bloom.

The photo of an albomarginated *Guz-*



Guzmania 'Denise' albomarginated



mini *Guzmania* 'Lydia'



Guzmania 'Nacho'



Guzmania hybrid #450 (Hill)

mania 'Denise' shows the inflorescence about one-half up and it will spread considerably in the next month or so. The even, white margins on every leaf are consistent on every pup from generation to generation. Grant Groves who produced this stable, albomarginated version of DeMeyer's *G.* 'Denise', should name and register this plant.

The photo of *mini Guzmania* 'Lydia' shows a near mature inflorescence. Yellow flowers will come in about 4 weeks. Although sold as a mini Guzmania, 'Lydia' consistently has grown to a diam-

eter of 14"-16". It is only mini when compared to most Lingulata type Guzmanias that have diameters of from 18" to 30". Still, 'Lydia' a beautiful plant.

The photo opposite of the attractive *mini Guzmania* 'Libby' (Deroose) shows a mature inflorescence just before the white flowers emerge. The bracts will remain in color for many months. Like *mini G.* 'Lydia', *mini G.* 'Libby' grows to a diameter of 14" to 16".



mini Guzmania 'Libby'

photo shows it just before it arches down and becomes pendant.

You'll be able to see Mimi when she come to our May meeting to pick up her plant order plants. No doubt she'll need her car to be able to transport her usually large order. Photos of the plants on the order will be shown at the April 4th meeting.

The *Guzmania* 'Nacho' shown on page 3 is about half-way developed. It will get taller and the red color will continue to intensify as it grows. It is a fairly large plant, spreading to 24" in diameter with intense red pencil stripes on the leaves.

The *Guzmania* hybrid #450 shown on page 3 is a plant I got from Herb Hill many moons ago. I've grown more attractive Guzmanias with magenta-purple bracts and with larger, tiered inflorescences, but they are big plants. I've kept this one because it is a fast grower, a consistent bloomer and it doesn't take up much space.

Ex-President Mimi Gussow is now ensconced in her new house in the woods in Pittsboro, central North Carolina. The house has glass walls all around and she has an enclosed, heated patio. Mimi sent up some photos of *Billbergia* 'Windii' and *Tillandsia recurvifolia* which always blooms for her in the winter.



Tillandsia recurvifolia

NEWS and NOTES

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Billbergia 'Windii'

The *B.* 'Windii' inflorescence is still growing and the

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