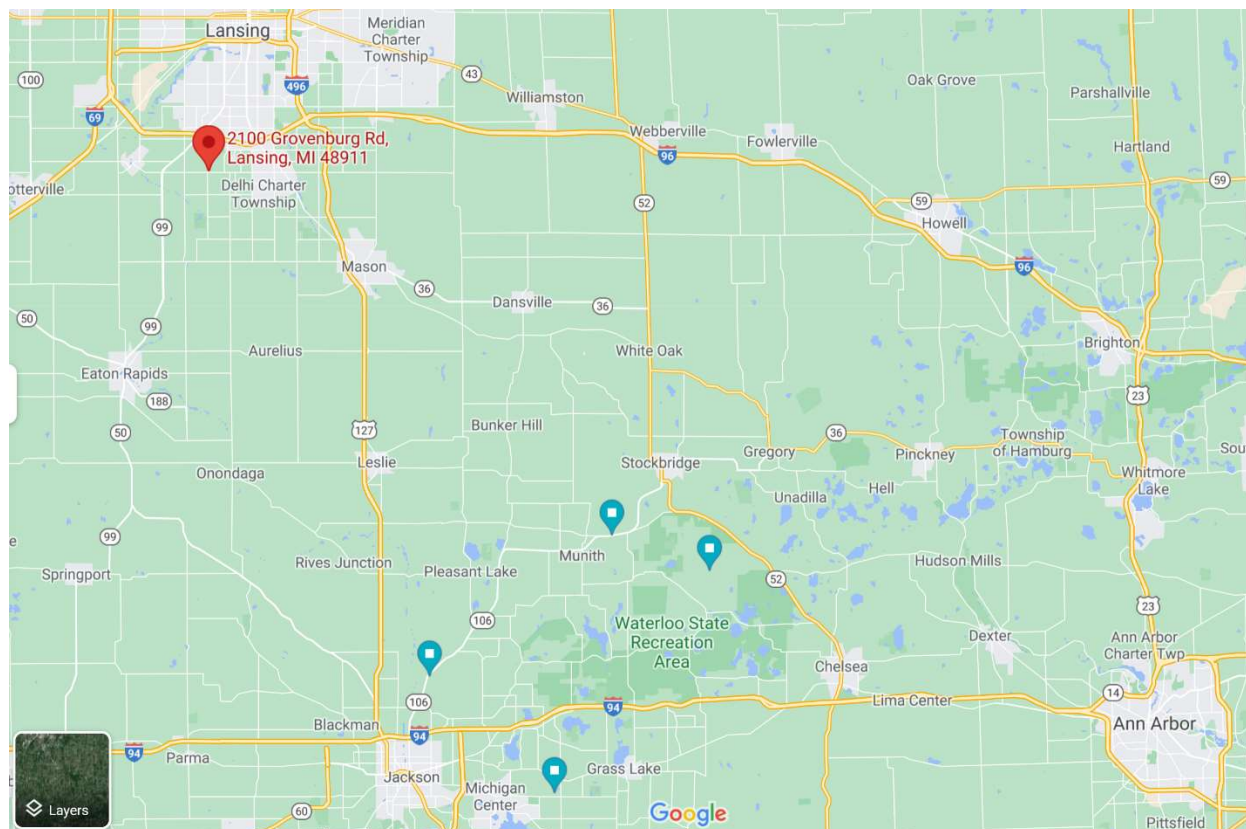


SEMBS will convene **SUNDAY, AUGUST 15th** at the home of Rob Halgren:

2100 Grovenburg, Lansing, MI



Rumors abound that Rob may be looking to find homes for a large number of bromeliads, at very low prices...

September Show and/or Sale?

Unfortunately, Matthaei Botanical Gardens has determined that it will not be hosting any public events for the remainder of 2021. Consequently, the Exotic Plant Show & Sale which had been on the MBG calendar for this September 11-12 has been postponed to a date to be determined in 2022.

Instead, two local greenhouses have graciously offered to facilitate sales on two separate dates:

Saturday, September 11th, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The Flower Market will host the Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society Sale. The Flower Market is located at 8930 S Custer Rd. Monroe, MI 48161. The event will be held in the "Hoop House". Our hosts are requesting that we kindly wear a mask when inside of any walled structure. (More details about becoming a vendor at the sale to follow!)

Saturday, September 18th, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Telly's Greenhouse will host the Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society Sale. Telly's Greenhouse is located at 3301 John R Rd, Troy, MI 48083. The event will be held in a recently erected greenhouse- after entering the parking lot, the greenhouse will be towards the rear on the right-hand side."

Interested in selling plants at the sale? Or becoming a volunteer and getting pre-shopping perks? Direct inquiries to Paul Wingert- pcwingert@gmail.com

A Dispatch on Dyckias

by Paul Wingert

I started growing and collecting cacti and succulents as a teenager, while the 'bromeliad bug' bit a few years later while I was a student at the University of Michigan: for me, the genus *Dyckia* in the Bromeliad family is the perfect intersection of my fondness for succulents and my fascination with Bromeliads.

The genus *Dyckia* comprises nearly 200 species of succulent-leaved terrestrials endemic to southern Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and northern Argentina. Their leaves range from near-white and silver to yellow, green, red/maroon—even almost black—and can be nearly smooth, pleasantly spiny, or even vicious, protocarnivorous small-rodent catchers. These interesting morphological characteristics make Dyckias logical bedfellows of many cacti species, where they grow most actively during the warm-hot summer months. Yet despite their succulent appearance, they thrive with plentiful moisture while actively growing. In nature, many species are known to survive winter temperatures as low as 15-20 degrees and snow.

Unlike most bromeliads which have terminal inflorescences, Dyckias have axillary inflorescences. Flower spikes can be simple or branched, and feature tubular, nectar-rich orange or yellow flowers which are popular with hummingbirds. The vegetative growing point continues to develop and will frequently divide into two or more separate growing points. Many species, though not all, will also develop offsets at the base of the plant as other bromeliads do.

Unlike most leaf succulents, Dyckias are not candidates for leaf propagation; some species will self-seed and grow true from seed. Hybrids are increasingly popular, with more than 200 hybrids and cultivars listed on the Bromeliad Society International Cultivar Registry as of this writing, the vast majority of which have been bred in the past 25 years.

During winter I allow them to dry slightly between watering, but they never really go dormant. I grow them outside in full sun in summer, and in a greenhouse the rest of the year, in a mix of approximately 50/50 organic material (i.e. Canadian peat and pine bark fines) and gritty mix (perlite, coarse poultry grit and turface or calcined clay). Dyckias can develop husky root systems! The majority of varieties that I grow happily mature in a 6- or 7-inch pot. I fertilize when the plants are actively growing with a water-soluble 2-7-7 cactus and succulent fertilizer.



Clockwise from top right: *Dyckia* 'California'; *Dyckia marnier-lapostelle*; *Dyckia fosteriana* 'Silver Queen'; *Dyckia* 'California' x 'Gray Ops' (PW hybrid); *Dyckia goehringii*