



S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 16561, ENCINO, CA 91416-6561

sanfernandovalleybs@groups.facebook.com

OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

Pres & News: **Mike Wisnev** V.P.: **Mary K. Carroll** Secretary: **Kathleen Misko** Treasurer: **Mary Chan**

Membership: _____ Health & Wellness: **Georgia Roiz** Web Page: **Kim Thorpe**

Directors: **Steve Ball, Bryan Chan, Richard Kaz -fp, Dave Bassani-fp**

next meeting: **Saturday Oct. 4, 2014 @ 10:00 am**
Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, California 91316

AGENDA

9:30 – SET UP & SOCIALIZE

10:00 - Door Prize – for members who arrive before 10:00

10:05 -Welcome Visitors and New Members.
Make announcements and Introduce Speaker

10:15 - Speaker: John Martinez
“Introduction to Plant Photography”



Well other than photographing your family, at some point you will probably like to photograph your Bromeliad collection. John, experienced photographer, will explore the fundamentals of creative plant photography through light, exposure and composition. He'll give you

tricks, tips and techniques in photographing your collection. You're invited to bring your own camera as a reference.

John lives in Moorpark with his wife Linda and has recently retired from the L.A. Fire Dept. after 35 years of service. He is a member of this club and several cactus and succulent societies and volunteers at the Huntington Botanical Garden. John has a deep fondness of nature and has been growing xeric plants most of his adult life.

Aside from maintaining his plant collection, John's time is divided between gardening, golf, photography, occasional fly fishing, and grandchildren. As a native of Southern California he attended Cal State Northridge where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Art. <>

11:15 - Refreshment Break:

Will the following members please provide refreshments this month: **Roger Cohen, Gregg DeChirico, Mohamed El-Tawansy, Bob Friedman, Gloria Friedman, Steve Freize and anyone else who has a snack they would like to share.** If you can't contribute this month don't stay away just bring a snack next time you come.

Questions about refreshments? Call Joyce (818-705-3224) OR Kathleen (818 402-6031) Leave a message - will call back.

Feed The Kitty - If you don't contribute to the refreshment table, please make a small donation to the (feed the kitty jar) on the table; this helps fund the coffee breaks.

11:15 - Show and Tell

11:30 – Mini Auction: members contribute

11:45 – Raffle: We need each member to donate

12:00 - Pick Up around your area

12:15 – Meeting is over—Drive safely <>

President's Message

Mary K is taking a look back,..... The September meeting had good attendance and a few visitors. One thing I noticed about the visitors; there was not one responsible person to offer information about membership. It is important that we elect or appoint a membership chairman right away. Larry Farley did a fantastic job with his program showing us Bromeliads that bloom year round. We had a great spread of refreshments. I can't mention everyone because I don't who brought what but everyone was praising Ana's scones; we all know her to be a great baker. Also there were many praises for Kathleen's lasagna. I don't know what Big Steve donated but he and his wife bring something delicious every month. He and Kim enjoy trying out new recipes and we reap the benefits. Those great Chocolate Chip cookies were baked by Kaz. Because we have the best refreshments of any of the plant clubs, these folks need acknowledging. It would be nice if we had someone tell us who brought what each month so we can say thanks. Georgia sent Nels a get well card from the club; he is home recuperating, quite well, from a quadruple bypass. Nels said "Thank you all for your well wishes and for keeping me in your thoughts. I'm feeling much stronger and am walking a lot." Tom Glavich donated some bromeliads to the club; a few were placed in the raffle and others were auctioned. More of Tom's plants will be offered at the October auction.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting by 10:00 am... <>

Mike Wisnev

- **Happy Birthday** to Dave Bassani - Oct 16, Nancy Hapke Oct. 27 and Larry Farley also in October
- **BSI 2015 World Conference** was held in Hawaii early in September. Pam Koide was a keynote speaker at that conference; she will give us that same program in November. She will talk about growing and hybridizing Tillandsias. It includes growing tips, how to hybridize and what results to expect. I think it has been about 10 years since Pam visited one of our meetings; you don't want to miss it. Her nursery is one that we visit on the bus trips down south. She will bring plants to sell and donate some for our raffle.

Help us to improve our Membership

Tell people about your hobby !

**Let apartment dwellers know these plants can be grown
inside or on a balcony !**

Give them a plant !

Invite them to a meeting !

Reach out to visitors and new members, make them feel welcomed !

Let us hear your ideas to improve membership.

Ramblings about Better Growing The editor is looking for information from other members for this column. I'm sure some of you have some growing tips to share about what to do or what not to do; it can be 1 or 2 sentences or 3 or 4 paragraphs. Member contributions are vital to keep the newsletter interesting and our SFVBS thriving. ◇

The three S's - Sun - *submitted by Mike Wisnev*

A few months back, the topic here was called "The three S's - Soil, Sun and Sustenance." Another topic was "Location, location, location." This month will focus on the sun, and the importance of where you grow your plants.

Light and heat are no doubt the most critical determinant of what you can grow. In one sense, it is also the one thing that is hardest to change in your growing area, yet in another it may be the easiest to manipulate for individual plants to some degree.

Location is obviously key in a geographical sense. Most bromeliads grow in Central and northern South America, where it is reasonably warm all year round. Their habitats, though, can vary pretty widely - from sea level to 8 or 10,000 feet, in tropical areas, in deserts etc . Given these climates, most U.S. hobbyists live in southern Florida, southern California, some other southern states and Hawaii.

Given the range of Bromeliad habitats, there are some that will grow better in some locations than others. For example, not many of our Club members grow *Cryptanthus*. Yet if you look at the FCBS site, you will see lots of spectacular hybrids. Most of them don't do all that well in our climate. When I have looked at them on the web, it seems a lot of the growers are in Louisiana - where it is considerably more humid than here. The good news is that most of the plants sold in southern California do pretty well here. So for the most part you don't have to worry about buying plants locally that are problematic.

So in one sense, the sun pretty much limits what you grow, unless you are willing spring for a greenhouse with heating or cooling equipment. Someone once sent me some succulents with instructions to keep them cool and moist in the summer - they didn't last too long.

But as to the plants that can grow in your climate, you may have more options than you think. I first realized this when I started moving some problem plants to a different location - all of about 40 feet away. Some had insect problems, others weren't growing so well and I wanted more room for better plants. A year later, I was rather shocked by how many of them looked much better! I also noticed some great growers, who tend to grow similar species together, had some plants in seemingly odd places. I asked why - usually because it "liked it there!"

I'd submit that this might be the easiest way to change vary the way you grow different plants. Say a plant is looking too green for your tastes compared to the nice color it had when you got it. You can try to remember to water it less than other plants. You could repot it in lighter mix. Or you could move it to more sun. Which seems easier?

Those new to the hobby might try growing in a few different places in their yards, just to find out in general which works best for you. I often experiment with less valuable plants or offsets to see if they might grow better in a different area. I've burned some, but some end up looking nicer.

Finally, sometimes I just move a plant since it isn't growing well, and I don't know what it needs. I watch it, and if starts looking worse, I move it again. But sometimes it looks a lot better! I think it was Einstein that said insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result! So if you don't like the way a plant is growing, try something else!

On the other hand, I'd suggest very strongly that if you like the way some or all of your plants look, don't change what you are doing for them. Sooner or later, you will hear someone say - you can't do this, or that, and you think, O No, that is exactly what you have been doing the last three years! If it works for you, and you like it, I wouldn't change.

You may not even know what gets more sun - I'm not kidding. I grow most of mine on the east side of my house, so I put ones I think need more shade nearer the house where they are more shaded from afternoon sun. But some areas further away are still a bit of a mystery - why - because I have some large trees on and near my house that block parts of the yard from time to time. I might go out at one time and notice two tables shaded, while those nearby are in full sun. But an hour or two later they are in full sun and the others are in shade. So I honestly don't know which table gets more sun overall.

About the only way I know to get more sun is to move the plants around, say to a more southern or western exposure. You can get more heat with some type of enclosure, or roof over your plants, but this limits light to some sense. It is easy to limit the sun, by using shade cloth or moving them under trees or near the house.

As to individual genera or plants that like more sense, perhaps some of our more experienced growers could give some tips. My general rule of thumb is that plants with thicker leaves, or more white trichomes, can handle more sun. A Neo with thin green leaves is likely to burn in full sun, while a red one with thicker leaves may do fine. Most Dyckias and Hechtias do fine, thought the leaf tips may dry up if they don't get enough water.

If you do move a plant to a place with a lot more sun, you might consider doing it gradually or giving it some shade cloth at first to let it acclimate.

Good growing!

Broms in Bloom - Member Photos

Billbergia Pallidiflora

Plant is 30" tall with a 33" flower spike



Submitted by Mary K.

Members are encouraged to participate by sending us a photo for this page.

Broms in Bloom

Submitted by Mike Wisnev - Below is a rather pretty female *Hechtia* flower, and then two male flowers; all of them bloomed in August and September this year. According to the HBG's records, all three are from Sonora. Yet the literature indicates that only *H. montana* has been found there. Interestingly, the literature says *H. montana* has a pedicellate pale yellow flower, yet one of the males is a sessile pale yellow-green flower, and the other is a pedicellate red-white flower. Since the male flowers are obviously different, perhaps one, or more, of them is a new species.



Please Put These Dates on Your Calendar

Saturday, Nov 1, 2014	Speaker – Pam Koide – Growing and Hybridizing Tillandsias
Saturday, Dec 6, 2014	Holiday Meeting & Brunch 10:00 – 2:00
Sat & Sunday - May 30-31, 2015	SFVBS Bromeliad Show & Sale w/ LACSS

Speakers

We have some interesting speakers lined up for the next few months of this year but it is never too early to start planning for 2015. Let us know if you have any ideas for Speakers about Bromeliads or any similar topics? We are always looking for an interesting speaker. If you hear of someone, please notify Mary K. at 818-705-4728 or e-mail rango676@aol.com <>

Participation Rewards System – This is a reminder that you will be rewarded for participation. Bring a Show-N- Tell plant, raffle plants, and Refreshments and you will be rewarded with a Raffle ticket for each category. We realize not everyone has pristine show plants but each of us certainly have sick or unidentified plants that can be brought in. **Each member, please bring one plant.** <>

• *What can you do to help our club?*

First and foremost we need **members to plan to attend all meetings.** What we ask is for people **to try not to plan anything else on our meeting day.** Look at our calendar before you schedule your next event.

1. You can **donate an occasional plant for the mini-auction or the raffle.** You can also **participate by buying raffle tickets or by bidding** on a plant in the auction.
2. Food and Drink – everyone is encouraged to bring in something for our great lunches, and feed the kitty if you don't. .
3. Newsletter – you might contribute a short (or better yet, long) article – a paragraph would be great. <>

Membership Dues

PLAN TO RENEW IN NOVEMBER

Pay at the meeting to: Treasurer - Mary Chan

or Mail to: SFVBS membership - P.O. Box 16561 - Encino, CA 91416-6561

Yearly Membership Dues \$10.00 for a single or couple

Taxonomic Tidbits – Bromeliad subfamilies

By Mike Wisnev, SFVBS President (mwisnev@sbcglobal.net)

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter – October 2014

The last Taxonomic Tidbits article was on the more technical side, describing how Bromeliads are now classified based on DNA analysis etc. This area of botany is fairly new, and growing extremely fast. All sorts of animal and plant genera are being analyzed to see if traditional classifications are correct.

While we all probably vary in our interests in taxonomy and related topics, most are probably interested to some degree in the conclusions of some of these studies. For example, they show *Dyckia*, *Puya* and *Hechtia* are not closely related at all, despite the fact they can look almost the same!

Some might wonder more about how these studies work, so this month I have enclosed a very recent article from the U.S. Cactus and Succulent Journal about this topic.
