



S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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sfvbromeliad.homestead.com

OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

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

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

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

next meeting: **Saturday Oct 3, 2015 @ 10:00 am**
Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, California 91316

AGENDA

9:30 – SET UP & SOCIALIZE

10:00 - Door Prize – one member who arrives before 10:00 gets a Bromeliad

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

10:15 –Speaker: Pam Koide

“Exploring with Werner Rauh”



At our next meeting, Pamela Koide, an internationally known *Tillandsia* (more commonly called airplants) expert and owner of Bird Rock Tropicals, will be speaking about her travels with Professor Werner Rauh

who was a leading cacti, succulent and bromeliad expert. He might be most well-known for his lovely two volume book set called *Succulent and Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar*.

Prof Rauh (1913–2000), had an unbelievable career. “An internationally renowned and distinguished German botanist, he was the director at Heidelberg Botanical Garden and Herbarium for several decades and until his retirement in 1994, he undertook more than 36 expeditions, mainly to South and Central America as well as to southern Africa and in particular to Madagascar. During these field trips, he discovered

and/or described approximately 1,200 plant species, subspecies or varieties. Bromeliads, succulents and xerophytes were the main focus of his research. His herbarium collection (80,000 vouchers collected by W. Rauh himself or close collaborators) is an integral part of the Heidelberg Herbarium.”

Not only did he collect these plants, he left behind a “treasure trove” of information about them. “When Werner Rauh died, he left behind 78 field books with a total of 8,812 hand-written pages, now archived in Bonn, Germany.” This information is invaluable. “In fact, there is now a Werner Rauh Heritage project is a relational database to store the heterogeneous information found in these field books, as well as to link the information to actual taxonomy and to the garden’s existing database, the living collection and numerous plant type material.”

Pam Koide-Hyatt has been exploring and growing Bromeliads and Orchids since 1980. Her main focus is the genus *Tillandsia*. Since starting Bird Rock Tropicals in 1981, Pamela has traveled extensively throughout Mexico, Central and South America. Pam enjoyed a long friendship with the professor but a high light of collecting was spending one month in Peru with Professor Werner Rauh. She has discovered more than a dozen new species. Experiencing plants in habitat and growing for more than 34 years gives her a unique insight into this amazing genus. **Don’t miss this meeting!**

11:15 - Refreshment Break and Show and Tell:

Will the following members please provide refreshments this month: *Leni Koska, Kathleen Misko, Don Misumi, Tom Moore, Cheryl Murphy, Ana Park, Stacey Phelps, Chris Rogers, Georgia Roiz 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 or put a couple dollars in the kitty.

Questions about refreshments? Call Mary K. (818-705-4728) Leave message - she will call back.

Feed The Kitty

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

11:30 - Show and Tell is our educational part of the meeting – Members are encouraged to please bring one or more plants. You may not have a pristine plant but you certainly have one that needs a name or one that you have another question about. This would be a good month to show one of your to maybe get a tillandsia named.

11:45 – Mini Auction: members can donate plants for auction, or can sell and receive 75% of proceeds, with the remainder going to the Club

12:00 – Raffle: Please bring plants to donate and/or buy tickets. Almost everyone goes home with a new treasure!

12:15 - Pick Up around your area

12:30 –/ Meeting is over—Drive safely ◇

President's Message

The Club has been doing great. We had a successful show and sale at the end of May. Since then we have had fantastic speakers: Guillermo Rivera, Andy Siekkinen and Woody Minnich. Mary K has done a great job with the speakers!

For those who missed Woody's talk last month, you have a chance to watch it on YouTube. With Woody's permission, Club member Barry Landau videotaped and uploaded the program. Many thanks to both Woody and Barry! You can see it here. <https://youtu.be/udly5a3Ri7Q> ◇

Pam's talk this month is also great – I saw it at the La Ballona club a while ago and am excited to see it again. Don't miss it. Not only do you see great habitat pictures, but learn about one of the real giants in the Bromeliad world, Prof. Werner Rauh.

We also had a great raffle last month, as we usually do. For perhaps the first time ever, Mary didn't bring in plants - I was really happy to see other Club members so supportive!

Finally, we have a lot of new member this year. New members are the lifeblood of the Club. If you haven't met them, please introduce yourself to them. They include Pat Byrne, Tom Moore, Cheryl Murphy, Ana Park, Martin 'Eddy' Sattah, Scott Spreckman, Gloria Vargas and Thomas Lucero. Welcome, and hope you enjoy the Club!

Mike Wisnev

Mary K. is taking a look back at September

Last month Woody Minnich spoke to our club for the first time. Woody is a top notch succulent grower and his knowledge of Bromeliads may be not so much but with audience participation we were treated to a great program. *Thomas Lucero* joined at our last meeting. Several members who regularly attend were absent due the annual Huntington Symposium but we still had good attendance. Thanks to the many members who are now contributing something to each meeting. Thanks to Nancy for helping in the kitchen and donating food along with *J. Martinez, R. Kaz, S. Bassani, M. Matsumoto, Mary K, B. Wright* and we can't compliment *Ana Wisnev* enough for her fresh baked bread. WOW didn't we have another great raffle! We had amazing Raffle Plants donated by *J. Martinez, Nancy, R. Kaz, M. Mutsumoto and Ray VanVeen*. This was one of the best raffle tables we have ever had. If you purchased tickets you should have gone home with a great plant. Show-N-Tell participants were *Ray VanVeen, J. Martinez, Nancy, M. Wisnev, MaryK, B. Chan, and B. Wright*. Our new member, *T. Lucero*, donated several plants to the auction in August and Sept. Joyce Schumann and Mary Chan can always be seen at the table helping out where they can. Hope I didn't miss anyone. Thank you all.

Announcements

- **Update on Holiday Party** – Our SFVBS Board of Directors plans to have a decision at the next meeting about joining the LA Cactus & Succulent Society for the holiday party . LACSS has finalized their plans for a pot luck dinner on the evening of Saturday Dec. 12 to be held at the Kiwanis Club on Lindley in Reseda. Our Board of Directors will have a decision at the next meeting or we will take a final vote. We will have a plan by the time we leave the October meeting.
- **Participation Rewards System** – This is a reminder that you will be rewarded for participation. **Bring a Show-N- Tell plant, donate an auction or raffle plant, and Refreshments** and you will be rewarded with a Raffle ticket for each category. **Also bring a first time visitor** and receive a free raffle ticket.
- **Nominations** – we were not able to select a nominating committee so we will use a system from our past..... **the Nomination Ballot**. You can nominate yourself or anyone in the club you think would be good in the position. Voting for 2016 officers will be done at the November meeting.
- **No Email ???** – If you don't have e-mail, you are missing some great Bromeliad articles. Our president is a great researcher and we can all benefit by reading his articles which include some great photographs. If you don't have e-mail, ask a neighbor or family member to let you look at this newsletter once a month. The webpage is sfvbromeliad.homestead.com
- **Happy Birthday to** *Dave Bassani- Oct 16, Nancy Hapke - Oct. 2, Larry Farley also in October*
- **Flower pots for Sale** – Not sure but we may have some pots for sale at the October meeting
- Gregg DeChirico, one of our favorite speakers, has a new website for his plants. If you don't have time to visit him in Santa Barbara by appointment, now you can visit his website.

The website url is [Gregg's Greenhouse](http://www.greggsgreenhouse.com) So stay tuned!



Gregg's Greenhouse

Bromeliad, caudex, caudiciform, orchid, pachypodium, rare plant sale,...

View on

www.greggsgreenhouse.com

Preview by Yahoo

Please Put These Dates on Your Calendar

Saturday, Oct 3, 2015	Speaker: Pam Koide "Exploring with Werner Rauh"
Saturday, Nov 7, 2015	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, Dec 5, 2015	Holiday Meeting – Time ???
Saturday Jan 2, 2016	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA

STBA = Speaker To Be Announced

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 2016. 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 <>

Please pay your 2016 Membership Dues

NEED TO RENEW ?.....

**Pay at the meeting to: Membership Chair – Joyce Schumann or 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**

Ramblings about Better Growing the editor is looking for information from other members for this column. You must 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.

-- *Broms in Bloom - Member Plants* --

For those who missed the South Bay Bromeliad show in August 2015, here are a few pictures.

This is the Best Bromeliad in Show, *Vriesea* 'Val' shown by Ted and Jackie Johnson. The plant was stunning, the photo not so much!



Vriesea 'Val'

(photo by M. Wisnev)



Here is *Tillandsia* 'Sweet Nellie' by Rainforest Flora.
(photo by M. Wisnev)

PROFESSOR WERNER RAUH

As noted above, Pam Koide will present a talk called “Exploring with Werner Rauh.” He truly was a giant in the world of bromeliads, and cacti and succulents – no hype here – he was amazing. In doing an article for a later Newsletter, I came across this tribute to him in the J. Brom. Soc. 50(3) p. 122 (2000). The entire article is below.

“Professor Werner Rauh (1914-2000)

by Wilhelm Barthlott (Translation from German by Peter Christian)

Internationally known botanist Dr. Werner Rauh died in Heidelberg on April 7, 2000 after a lengthy illness. His death occurred a few weeks before his 87th birthday.

Dr. Rauh’s name has been closely associated with the University of Heidelberg, the science of botany, and particularly the University Botanical Gardens, since the post-war period. He was a respected scientist in the classical disciplines of systematics, morphology and geography of plants. His preferred objects of investigation were cacti and other succulent plants of the deserts of the Americas and South Africa, the bromeliads of Central and South American rainforests, and the fascinating plant world of the tropical high mountain regions. They were subject to his treatment in countless scientific papers, fascinating lectures, and popular scientific books.

Born in Niemegk near Bitterfeld (Saxony), Werner Rauh showed an early interest in geography and biology and studied in the city of Halle under the great morphologist Wilhelm Troll. After receiving his doctorate in 1937 and his professorship in 1939, he came to Heidelberg as an assistant to A. Seybold in 1939.

Associate Professor Rauh began his overseas research activity during the reconstruction of the University of Heidelberg, traveling first to the Atlas mountains of North Africa, and then to Peru and Ecuador. In 1956 he received appointment to full professorship while on his first expedition to the island of Madagascar, and an offer of directorship of the famous botanical garden and botanical museum in Berlin - Dahlem. He declined the offer to remain at the University of Heidelberg. Subsequently in 1960, he received the newly created chair at the institute of Systematic Botany, Plantgeography and Botanical Garden of the same name. There were only three greenhouses when he began his service as Director of the botanical garden. By his retirement, the collection had increased to 15 greenhouses, all filled with botanical treasures — a large proportion of which he had personally collected on numerous expeditions to the tropical and sub-tropical regions of almost the entire world. The garden became world famous, and since 1983 has been under the directorship of his successor Professor Peter Leins.

The published works of Werner Rauh contain more than 300 items, including two dozen books. The works centered especially on the tropical high regions as well as the plant worlds of Peru and Madagascar. He did much research in these regions during numerous expeditions, and returned to Europe with an abundance of plant material. He discovered and described many species of plants, and many of his discoveries were named after him. The *Amaryllis* genus *Rauhii*, the cactus *Rauhocereus* in Peru, and the orchid *Rauhiella* in Brazil are some examples as is *Tillandsia rauhii*, an enormous bromeliad from Peru. The beautiful *Aloe rauhii* from Madagascar has found its place as a decorative plant in succulent plant collections everywhere. The plants named after him belie his interests: Cacti and other succulents as well as bromeliads.

His outstanding illustrated books of these groups of plants are regarded today as standard literature. Dr. Rauh's numerous accomplishments brought him international recognition. He is an honorary member of numerous societies, and for many years was President of the International Organization for Succulent Plant Studies. The Republic of Peru and the Principality of Monaco both awarded him with medals. On the occasion of his 65th birthday he received the "Cactus d'Or" in Monte Carlo from the hands of Princess Grace. The golden Veitch Memorial Medal of the Royal Horticultural Society in London, and the Willdenow-Medal in Berlin are awards received for his accomplishments during his service as director of the botanical garden. He was still accumulating honors right up to the year of his death.

The Republic of Madagascar honored him in January 1999 through its Ambassador, His Excellency Rabesa, by awarding him the prize of "Knight of National Order" and in November he received the "Federal Distinguished Service Cross with Ribbon" from the hands of the mayor of Heidelberg, Beate Weber. Since 1980, Werner Rauh was a corresponding member of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences, and since 1968, has had a special and close relationship with the Academy of Sciences and Literature in the city of Mainz as a regular member.

His last great expedition in 1994 took him to Madagascar but the time of great expeditions was coming to an end. His energy remained undiminished however, despite the inexpressible loss of his wife Hilde Rauh during the summer of 1997. During his later years he was busy with the completion of the second volume of his magnificent work, published in 1998, titled *Succulent and Xerographic Plants of Madagascar*. It is fascinating eye-witness documentation of Madagascar's unique flora at a time when it was fast disappearing.

In spite of severe physical suffering, but with complete mental alertness, Professor Rauh continued to work on his manuscripts right up until his death and made weekly visits to his beloved botanical garden. An era of botanical research has ended with his death. Funeral services were conducted among the closest circle of family and friends on Friday, April 28, in Heidelberg.

We mourn the loss of a most remarkable human being and scientist.

*Botanisches Institut und Botanischer Garten, Abt. Systematik und Biodiversitaet,
MeckenheimerAllee 170, D-53115, Bonn, Germany "*

Taxonomic Tidbits – *Who owns T. capitata* ‘Peach’?

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

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter –October 2015

Lots of us probably think we own *Tillandsia capitata* ‘Peach.’ But based on a recent article, you might have to change its name.

Tillandsia capitata has a huge distribution. The type plant is from Cuba, but it grows throughout southwestern Mexico, as well as in Guatemala, Honduras and Venezuela. Perhaps because of its large distribution, it is a variable species, at least as to color. The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies website lists the following flavors: yellow, red or rubra, peach, purple and orange. The color generally refers to the color of the scape bracts, though sometimes the leaves are also the same color (and sometimes not.)

There is also a cultivar with red leaves and a yellow bloom called *Tillandsia* ‘Marron’ or ‘Old Gold’. I have one with a rosa label that is lovely, and looks much like *T. capitata* ‘Pochutla’ – both have all red leaves. Another one is called *capitata* Select - I don’t know what color that one is, though I suspect it is on the web somewhere.

There are a number of related species, including *T. abdita*, *brachycaulos*, *rhodocephala* and others. To confuse matters, a plant known as *T. bradeana* was considered a synonym of *T. brachycaulos* in Smith & Downs, but now is considered by some as a valid species that includes *T. abdita*. Others keep the *T. abdita* name, and others synonymize it with *T. brachycaulos*.

I won’t go into this complex other than to note that *T. capitata* generally has a longer inflorescence than most of the others. – If you are interested in all the details, check out Derek’s article entitled “*Tillandsia brachycaulos/capitata* Complex” under *T. capitata* on FCBS.
<http://fcbs.org/pictures.htm>

Here is *T. capitata*, a red form. Not the prettiest plant, as least as I grow it, until it flowers. I brought it inside to enjoy the inflorescence. Those of you familiar with *T. brachycaulos* will note that, except for the longer scape, it looks quite similar.



T. capitata, red form.

I also have a yellow form of *T. capitata*. Besides the different color, the scape is considerably longer than my *T. capitata* red form. Its leaves are much more lepidote and stiff than the one above. Frankly, they seem pretty different to me. That is one of the things I find interesting about taxonomy. Sometimes two rather different looking plants are the same species, while other times two plants that look almost the same are different species. Without knowing all the



details, including locality information, you can't really make an informed judgment. For all I know the two forms grow together, and there might be yellow forms with soft green leaves and red forms with stiffer lepidote ones.

T. capitata, yellow form (above)



Here is the plant I have with a *T. capitata* Peach label. I haven't seen it flower yet. It looks quite a bit different, but then my red form one looks different than the yellow form, even without flowers.

It turns out that that there has been a bit of controversy about *T. capitata* 'Peach', and there have been articles about this for at least the last decade. The first I am aware of is "*Tillandsia* 'Rio Hondo' by Derek Butcher back in 2006. Journal of the Bromeliad Society 56: 64. 2006 For those interested in more history, check out an article by Derek on the Bromeliads in Australia website. See <http://www.bromeliad.org.au>, click on Detective and hit DD 11/13 under 2013.

In a nutshell, there were two forms of *T. capitata* 'Peach': a Guatemalan form and a Mexican form. The Mexican one was found by Pamela Koide, our speaker this month. She is a *Tillandsia* expert who has travelled extensively to seek out *Tillandsia* and other Bromeliads. She is also a great hybridizer and the owner of Bird Rock Tropicals. If you are looking for some new *Tillandsias*, check out her website store where you can buy some.

<https://www.birdrocktropicals.com>.

Here is a picture of

T. capitata 'Peach'

(Mexico, #T030)

from Pam's website,



The Guatemalan form is more commonly seen in cultivation – from what I gather a number of Guatemalan *Tillandsia* are imported here, sometimes with somewhat dubious names. This form has hairier leaves. I am pretty sure the one I have, shown above, is the Guatemalan form.

Renata Ehlers is one of the leading *Tillandsia* experts, and had planned to name the Guatemalan form a decade or so ago. (She has published a couple books on *Tillandsia*, and *T. ehlersiana* is named after her.) For various reasons, she waited so Derek Butcher gave it a cultivar name to distinguish it – *Tillandsia* ‘Rio Hondo.’ Finally, this year, Ehlers described it and named it *T. riohondoensis* in an article in *Die Bromelie*, a German publication. 2015 (2): 57-61. 2015 As an aside, whenever you see a name with “ensis” at the end, which means that is where the plant was found.

I suspect that most of us with a *T. capitata* Peach own the Guatemalan form, unless you got yours from Pam or someone who got it from her. How can you tell what yours is? The article by Renate Ehlers in *Die Bromelie* states

“This new species differs from *Tillandsia capitata* Griseb. in the following characteristics:

Plant forming long stems, rosette secund. Offsets not only appearing at the base, but also along the stem from the leaf axils. Leaves lepidote, quite thin and very grey. Peduncle quite short. Spikes very dense, internodes very short. Spikes with two flowers each, at base no flowerless bracts. The primary bracts are densely lepidote on both sides, the blades are very long. Flower bracts up to 3 mm shorter than the sepals, very small, strongly keeled, glabrous, membranous. All three sepals keeled and subfree.”



Here is *T. riohondoensis*

from Pam’s website. The website says it has “soft recurving leaves which have a slight scurf on the foliage” and “is very different from the Mexican *T. capitata* ‘Peach’ It is sold by Guatemalan nurseries as *T. capitata* ‘Peach’”

I hope mine looks like this when it flowers!

The article also notes that this same plant has been sold as *Tillandsia sphaerocephala* Guatemala, and often appears in cultivation under that name in Germany. I don't know if it was sold under that name here in the U. S. There is in fact a *T. sphaerocephala*, but it is from Bolivia.

Sadly, Ms. Ehlers reports that the plant no longer appears to exist in Rio Hondo, and isn't known elsewhere in habitat. I don't know if it is more correct to say the public's interest in Bromeliads have saved it from extinction, or our demand for plants has led to its demise in habitat. Maybe both are true.

As noted above, one of Derek's articles says *T. capitata* differs from other similar species by its long scape. *T. rhodocephala* also has a long scape, and, having never heard of it, I was curious to see how they differed. It turns out that this species was named in 1994 in an article co-authored by Renate Ehlers and Pamela Koide. J. Brom. Soc. 44: 130-3. 1994 Seeing that, I had to say a bit about it.

Here is a picture from the Bird Rock Tropicals website.



The article by Renate and Pam says this species is found in Oaxaca, Mexico often growing together with a yellow form of *T. capitata*. However, *T. capitata* grows on rocks while *T. rhodocephala* grows in the ground. It also differs from *T. capitata* by having, among other things, a stem, a longer inflorescence with more spikes, and longer more recurved bracts. The leaves are more pointed at their apex, and the petals are a different color. While the inflorescence is rose colored in habitat, it can range from pale green to orange red in cultivation.

Those of you growing *T. capitata* Peach-
do you still grow it, or is it *T. riohondoensis*?