



S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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

sanfernandovalleybs@groups.facebook.com

NOVEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

Pres & Editor: **Mike Wisnev** V.P.: **Mary K. Carroll** Secretary & Membership: **Kathleen Misko**

Treasurer: **Mary Chan** Health & Wellness: **Georgia Roiz** Web Page: **Kim Thorpe**

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

next meeting: **Saturday Nov. 1, 2014 @ 10:00 am**
Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, California 91316

AGENDA

9:30 – SET UP & SOCIALIZE

10:00 - Drawing – members arrive before 10:00

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

10:15 - Speaker: Pamela Koide-Hyatt
“Tillandsia Hybrids, Natural and Artificial”



Pam Koide Hyatt, owner of Bird Rock Tropicals 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 in search of tillandsias. The high light of collecting was spending one month in Peru with Professor Werner Rauh, showing her as many bromeliad habitats as possible. 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.

This Tillandsia presentation will be the same one

she gave September 2014 at the World Bromeliad Conference (WBC) in Hawaii.

Cultivation: Observing plants in habitat is the best instructor for learning how to grow your tillandsias. Growing many different species side by side from varying altitudes and climates can be successful by following some basic cultural steps. Bird Rock Tropicals achieved this by growing tillandsias as you would find in habitat. We will look at my “how to methods” of pollinating, labeling, record keeping, germination, growing and finally blooming your hybrids.

Natural hybridization: The genus tillandsia has the highest rate of natural hybridization of all Bromeliaceae, and this is most prevalent in Mexico. Since the start of my field exploration 34 years ago, I have recently noticed an observable change in the occurrence and populations of both tillandsia hybrids and species. I will discuss several of the natural hybrids that have been introduced into cultivation.

Artificial hybridization: Finally we will take a look at the many different Tillandsia hybrids created by several breeders. This section will show what characteristics to expect when breeding with certain species, including which species to avoid using as well as some of the best species, and varieties for breeding. (continued page 2)

Pam will contribute a few plants to our raffle and bring plants to sell. Look at her Blog

<http://blog.birdrocktropicals.com/author-profiles.html>

This might be a good time to have one of your Tillandsias identified. Barry can also help with identification; he is very good with the names. Bring a blank label to write the name on. I always say "You don't want to miss this meeting", you really don't want to miss this one. <>

11:15 - Refreshment Break and Show and Tell: *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 Mary K. (818-705-4728). Leave a message - they will call back. Will the following members please provide refreshments this month:

Mohammed El-Tawansy, Bob Friedman, Steve Freize, Mardy Graves, Nancy Pyne-Hapke, Adrienne Jaffee *and anyone else who has a refreshment they would like to contribute.*

!!! 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.

11:30 - Show and Tell is our educational part of the meeting – Each member **please bring 1 plant.**

11:45 – Mini Auction: members contribute

12:00 – Raffle: We need each member to donate

12:15 - Pick Up around your area 12:30 –/

Meeting is over—Drive safely <>

Mary K's is taking a look back at the October meeting.....

At our September meeting *Larry Farley* donated a large box of *Ae. Recurvatas* to our raffle. That was the meeting that I had to leave early but I think most members were able to get one of the plants; thanks Larry.

Please sign in at the front door when you arrive.

Members arriving before 10:00 am... receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a doorprize plant.

Several members didn't attend the October meeting due to the Jewish Holiday, but we had good attendance and please welcome our newest member, *Richard Morse*. Our speaker for the October meeting was *John Martinez*. I think everyone really enjoyed his program covering plant photography; he didn't just show pictures that he had taken, he actually explained the hows, whys and when. The auction consisted of several more plants donated by *Tom Glavich* and *Joyce Schumann* also donated some. The food was excellent even without Ana's great homemade bread; thank you *Nancy, Kathleen, Rose and Joyce*.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting. <>

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- **Happy Birthday to Max Wurzel Nov 4**
 - At the November meeting we will ask for nominations for officers.
 - At the November meeting we will ask members to sign up for the December pot luck Brunch. Some food suggestions are listed on page 11.
 - We will invite Pam Koide back next year with a more basic presentation called "Introduction to Tillandsias", which discusses the genus and basic growing guidelines.
 - Please pay 2015 dues at the November meeting
 - Nels Christianson is reported be to be recovering quit well from his heart surgery; we wish him the best
 - **2015 Dues** – Please pay at the November meeting
 - Some of us belong to LaBallona. LaBallona Holiday Luncheon will be held on the second Sat. of Dec.
 - **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.** <>

- **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. <>

Rooting Problems? - submitted by marykcarroll

Recently I have overheard several members talking about rooting problems. A while back Artie recommended CLONEX Rooting Compound. If you don't mind going into a Hydroponic Store you should try this product.

The Label

CLONEX Rooting Compound - manufactured by Growth Technology – Australia –

www.hydrodynamicsintl.com

For promoting root growth in softwood and hardwood cuttings

Directions: Dip cutting in Clonex to desired depth. Insert into rooting medium.

Mist cuttings and place in propagator. Translated (on the bench, in the sun)

Active Ingredient 3g/L Indole Butyric Acid

Inert Ingredient Thiamine (Vitamin B 1)

Goals and Expectations - submitted by Mike Wisnev

I've noticed that some folks are a bit intimidated about growing when they start. Or even after a few years. This article is for you. I am not going to suggest you do, or don't, set goals – that's up to you. But I would suggest you try to keep your goals and expectations reasonable given your experience, and your commitment to growing.

I'd submit that most of you can grow some pretty good looking, and relatively inexpensive, plants in a few years, so give yourself some time to learn more. But for a beginner or intermediate grower, it isn't really fair to compare yourself to a great grower, or someone with a great collection. So be reasonable with your expectations.

I'll share some experiences we had that might be familiar to some of you. When we started growing plants, we were complete novices. I doubt I had grown 10 potted plants my entire life. I knew nothing other than they need water. A couple had been cacti which I always found fascinating. I started getting a few from Home Depot, and later heard about the LA show, went, and soon got hooked. But when we looked at shows, or even the regular show and tell, we wondered if we would ever get there. And the answer turned out to be, Yes and no!

First, the Yes. We learned to grow better, and our plants, got better over time. After a while we entered some shows, and did fine. You will too.

We also learned that folks don't bring in their ugly plants for show and tell! They generally bring in their best! SO the fact that lots of your plants aren't like show and tell plants may not mean much. Most of us have some great looking plants, some good looking plants and some that, well, we certainly wouldn't bring to a show. And we all kill some plants, some of us more than others. And the wider variety of plants you grow, the more likely it is you'll kill some, or grow some that aren't show-worthy.

(continued on page 4)

Basically, growing is like most things in life. You get better the more time you spend at it. So give yourself time to learn.

So that is the Yes. What about the No. Well, I am not a great grower, and may never be. From what I have seen, the best growers commit more to their plants than I do. Many are a lot more experienced, and some have even grown since they were kids. They usually spend a lot of time on their plants – especially looking and inspecting them. They really know what their plants look like now, and what they looked like a month ago – for that reason, they can quickly spot a problem and try to prevent more damage, and see how they respond to different things.

Many with great collections also buy more expensive plants to start out with. If you want some big clumps of rare Tillandsias, you probably need to buy them, and be willing to spend to get one. If you buy one head, you might have a huge clump in 20 years. Some cultivars look better than others, and, no surprise, they are likely to cost more also.

Unless you are willing to commit the time, effort and/or money that the best growers do, the odds are low you will have the same kind of collection they do. I'll bet you have heard someone say they do this or that, and think to yourself – no way I would spend that much time doing that. That's fine (I do the same thing!), but then you can't expect as good of a result as they get.

So, like most everything else in life, temper your goals and expectations by what you are willing to commit to the hobby.

All that being said, remember you are growing your plants for yourself! If you are happy about them, that is all that really counts. Sure, I might be able to grow better, but I am happy with my collection. And, in my view, it really isn't a good idea to spend too much time comparing yours to others – somebody will always have more of something than you, or grow better and at the same time, you will always have more than somebody else. So why bother!

- ***Have you thought about what you can do to help our club?***

1. First 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 below before you schedule your next event.
2. 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.
3. Food and Drink – everyone is encouraged to bring in something for our great lunches, and feed the kitty if you don't. .
4. Newsletter – you might contribute a short (or better yet, long) article – a paragraph would be great. <>

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.

Please Put These Dates on Your Calendar

Saturday, Dec 6, 2014	Holiday Meeting & Brunch 10:00 – 2:00
Saturday Jan 03, 2015	SFVBS regular Meeting – speaker to be announced
Sat & Sun - May 30-31, 2015	SFVBS Bromeliad Show & Sale w/ LACSS

Speakers

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 <>

2015 Membership Dues

TIME TO RENEW

Pay at the meeting

or Mail to:

SFVBS membership P.O. Box 16561 Encino, CA 91416-6561

2015 Yearly Membership Dues \$10.00 for a single or couple

Taxonomic Tidbits – *Puya* I.

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

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter – October 2014

Does anyone have more than couple *Puya*? Is it even possible? After all, *Puya* get huge. Not necessarily the individual plants, but the clumps. For that reason, you rarely see them unless you visit someplace like the Huntington Botanical Gardens (HBG) or South America. So unless you have a huge property or seriously want to keep your neighbors out, *Puyas* aren't for you.

Here is *P. coerulea* at HBG; the individual heads look a lot like *Dyckia* and *Hechtia*.

Puya coerulea



The plant above is part of a somewhat bigger clump show below - about the size of a house. The paths are probably about 4 feet wide to give a sense of proportion.

Puya coerulea



It's too bad it isn't more manageable since it has a pretty nice inflorescence.

There are a few you can buy. The most common, at least that I have seen, is *Puya laxa*. I have had a couple cuttings of it, from those apparently delighted to whack off a piece of their soon-to-be out of control plant. I also bought a cutting of another species. For whatever reason, neither rooted for me.

Puyas have a large range, primarily in western So. America from Chile and Argentina, north throughout the Andes in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and Columbia. Two grow in Central America. They grow from sea level to about 4500 m altitude. Most pup profusely, but some don't pup much – mainly those at higher elevations. Those at higher elevations also tend to have whiter leaves and have denser inflorescences. Perhaps because they grow in mountainous regions, many species are only found in one location.

Probably the most famous *Puya* is *P raimondii*. With its inflorescence which might have 100,000 flowers, it can be over 30 feet tall – the tallest of all the Bromeliads, and is estimated to live for up to 100 years. It is also completely monocarpic – it flowers and then dies without producing any pups. Google it and you will be amazed.

Traditionally, *Puya* have been part of the Pitcairnioideae subfamily. As I noted earlier, recent DNA studies have split that subfamily up, and now *Puya* are in their own subfamily. The *Puya* subfamily is actually the most unresolved group. Different DNA samples and different testing methods have provided different results – for example, they put some *Puya* in the Bromelioideae subfamily. No one sees a morphological basis for this result, however, and *Puya* have been kept together.

The primary basis for distinguishing the new *Puya* family from others is that the flowers tightly spiral after anthesis (which is the period they are open.) *Pitcairnia* apparently also do this but not so tightly. The petals are also fairly broad at the end, but narrow at the base. Another difference is they have winged seeds.

I wasn't too sure what was meant by flowers spiraling after anthesis. I presume this picture below, of an unlabeled *Puya* at HBG, shows the spiraling on the spent flowers at the base of the inflorescence. This spiraling apparently shows up on the dried remains of herbarium specimens, which greatly facilitates identification as a *Puya*.



As you can see, the color of the flowers is very striking.

Here is another one at HBG.



Next month,
we will continue with *Puya*.

1. Is the SFVBS having a holiday party this year? **Yes,**
2. Where will it be held? **Sepulveda Garden Center meeting room**
3. What time. **Set-up Friday 10:00 – 12:00 pm Dec. 5 / we need one more person to help Holiday Party is Saturday Dec 6, 2014 at 10:00 am - 2:00 pm (begin to bring food 9:00 am)** **another note:** the LACSS is scheduled to have their holiday party that same day in the evening at the same location.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BRUNCH

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6th

9:00 – Set-Up and Deliver all food dishes (coffee & Donuts)

10:00 – meeting starts with drawing

10:30 – Program:

11:30 – Pot Luck Brunch served

12:30 – Gift Exchange and plant drawing

1:00 – 2:00 – Clean up; we will need all hands

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE

RSVP **to MaryK** rango676@aol.com or at 818-705-4728 ASAP

she will coordinate the side dishes

See list of suggested food donations below

Think about it, at the November meeting be prepared to commit to a dish.

Menu **Suggestions** for 2014 Holiday Brunch

Call or E-mail Mary K. with your contribution. Listed below are some suggestions of dishes we had last year. **Call if you need a suggestion.** I have suggestions for the non-cooks. We are a small group so we don't need 10 desserts.

You are welcome to bring your favorite beverages.

Contact Mary K. at Rango676@aol.com or Call 818-705-4728

Appetizers

Asst. Cheeses -
Asst. Fresh Fruit -

Main Course

Turkey –
Stuffing –
Gravy -
Ham –
Breakfast/Brunch Items

Salad

Ambrosia -
Green Salad -

Side Dishes

Quiche –
Vegetable–
Macaroni & Cheese
Potatoes Latkes –
Mashed Potatoes
Sweet Potato Casserole -
Cranberry Sauce Jelly (2 cans) –
Cranberry Sauce w/ Berries (2 cans) –

Bread & Butter

Scones -
Fresh Baked Bread –

Desserts

Costco Chocolate Cake –
Costco Lemon Cake
Costco Pumpkin Pie –
Costco Apple Pie -
Costco Pecan Pie –
Coconut Cream Pie
Pizelle Cookies –

Misc Supplies -

All Provided by the Club

Large dinner plates, Dessert plates
Napkins
Forks, Spoons, Knives
Hot Coffee Cups, Cold Beverage Cups

Beverages needed

Coffee & Hot Teas – **Club**
1 gal. Reduced Fat Milk –
Juice – Orange, Cranberry, Apple -
Can Sodas –
Small Bottled Water -
1 gal. Eggnog

Scones, Pastries, Donuts to go w/Morning Coffee (9:30 – 10:30 before program)

PS - Many of our male members are not cooks, lets leave the pre-cooked, packaged items for them to bring. Guys you need to volunteer early. We will pass around a sign-up sheet at the November meeting. Or contact MaryK

----- Hope You All Have A Happy Thanksgiving -----