

# S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

## DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

### OFFICERS

**Pres:** Mike Wisnev   **V.P. & News:** Mary K. Carroll   **Secretary:** Kathleen Misko   **Treasurer:** Mary Chan  
**Membership:** Nancy P.-Hapke   **Health & Wellness:** Georgia Roiz   **Web Page:** Kim Thorpe  
**Directors:** Steve Ball, Bryan Chan, Richard Kaz –fp, Dave Bassani-fp

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY BRUNCH

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>

*9:30 – Set-Up and Deliver all food dishes (coffee & Donuts)*

*10:00 – meeting starts with drawing*

*10:30 – Program: “Bromeliads From Around the World”*

*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](mailto:rango676@aol.com) *or at 818-705-4728 ASAP*

*she will* coordinate the side dishes

**See list of suggested food donations on page 4**

At the time of this publication there have been **very few people** communicating what their donations will be.

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. **We will set-up Friday 10:00 – 12:00 pm Dec. 6 / we need one more person to help**  
**Holiday Party is Saturday Dec 7, 2013 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. The Sepulveda Garden Center employees and the Rose Society will have a Holiday Celebration closer to Xmas so we can leave the Xmas decorations up for the SGC employees to remove.

### **Looking Back at .....**

**Jan 7, 2012** – We begin meeting on the first Saturdays of each month, we haven't lost any members and I think we gained a few. It seems that meeting in the morning leaves the afternoon free and meeting during the day is beneficial for our older members who don't navigate well at night. Since Jan 2012 we have enjoyed a variety of great speakers and programs from *Bob Friedman and Georgia, Andy Siekkinen, Richard Kaz, Gregg DeChirico, Barry Landau, Larry Farley, Paul Isley, Duke Benadom, Nels Christianson, Roger Cohen, Steve Frieze, Guillermo Rivera and Kim Thorpe.*

**(Over for page 2)**

**TAKING A LOOK BACK at the November 2013 meeting .....** Our speaker Kim Thorpe gave us a wonderful video program complete with music. She and Artie traveled to Mexico with Andy Siekkinen. Earlier in the year Andy's program was entitled Bromeliads of Northern Mexico. It was great seeing part of the same trip through Kim's eyes. Announcements before the speaker are in order but I apologize to everyone for introducing business before the speaker. I didn't anticipate that lengthy discussion. The discussion did lead to Mike and Bryan exploring affordable resources to infuse new plants into our club. Thanks to all who helped make that meeting a success. That same day there were many other plant activities going city wide and we still had a good attendance. Your attendance is important.

### **Announcements**

- **Betty Gay** – We regret announcing her passing in early October. She and her late husband, Ed ran a wonderful nursery called Ranchito in Tarzana for many years. They had several plants named after them including some Bromeliads.  
*Nels Christianson* has a very good Bromeliad article published in the CSSA Journal.
  - **Holiday Brunch** - There will be a gift exchange. Bring a wrapped plant or related item and receive one. **Please bring a plant or plant related item** that you might like if you were on the receiving end.
  - **Monthly Newsletter** – We are looking for a volunteer to publish the monthly newsletter.
  - **New Officers** – At the December meeting we will ask for nominations and volunteers. We will vote at the January Meeting
  - **1 December Birthday** – *Happy Birthday to Arab Bartarse on Dec 12 and we hope Max Wurzel had a Happy Birthday in November* . Our Membership Chair will try to update our list during the next meeting.
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Live Art Nursery is our local Bromeliad Nursery, visit them at 18809 Plummer St, Northridge, CA 91324 / closed on Sundays

***Don't stop now, continue reading, beginning on page 5 we have the latest Taxonomic Tidbits from our president.***

***This is your newsletter!*** Do you have something to announce or something humorous or educational to add?? \*\*

***Think about it; what hands on task can you do to help our club?***

***Time to pay your 2014 dues***

***YEARLY RENEWAL..... Yearly Membership Dues***

\$10.00 for a single or couple.

See **Mary Chan**, our Treasurer at the meeting,

Make checks payable to **SFVBS**

### *Speakers*

Do 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](mailto:rango676@aol.com)

### *UPCOMING EVENTS*

## **Please Put These Dates on Your Calendar**

**Suggestions:** visit the Sylmar School project for one of the 2013 meetings  
Visit Live Art Nursery in Northridge for one meeting

Saturday, January 4, 2014	SFVBS Regular meeting – Program by Larry Farley
Saturday, February 1, 2014	SFVBS Regular meeting – STBA
Saturday, March 1, 2014	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, April 5, 2014	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, May 3, 2014 ??	SFVBS meeting / possible Field Trip LaBallona Bromeliad Show & Sale
Saturday, June 7, 2014	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Sat & Sun - June 14 & 15	<b>SFVBS Bromeliad Show &amp; Sale</b>
Saturday, July 5, 2014	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, August 2, 2014 ??	SFVBS meeting and Field Trip
Sat & Sun August 2 & 3	South Bay Bromeliad Show & Sale
Saturday, Sept 6, 2014	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, Oct 4, 2014	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, Nov 1, 2014	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, Dec 6, 2014	Holiday Meeting & Brunch 10:00 – 2:00

**Dates with ??**

**to be discussed at a later date**

**STBA = Speaker To Be Announced**

**We Wish You All A Happy, Healthy  
And Safe Holiday Season**

**(Over for page 4)**

## Menu for 2013 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](mailto:Rango676@aol.com) or Call 818-705-4728

### Appetizers

Asst. Cheeses -

Asst. Fresh Fruit -

### Main Course

Turkey –

Stuffing –

Gravy -

Ham –

Breakfast Items

### Salad

Ambrosia -

Green Salad -

### Side Dishes

Quiche –

Vegetable–

Potatoes Latkes -

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 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

Coffee & Hot Teas – **Club**

**1 gal.** Reduced Fat Milk –

Juice – Orange, Cranberry, Apple -

Can Sodas – **Club**

Small Bottled Water - **Club**

**1 gal.** Eggnog –

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

# Taxonomic Tidbits – *Tillandsia* Subgenera II

By Mike Wisnev, SFVBS President ([mwisnev@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mwisnev@sbcglobal.net))

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter –December 2013

This article continues the discussion of *Tillandsia* subgenera and flowers from the September Newsletter. To briefly recap, there are currently six subgenera of the *Tillandsia* genus. The two discussed before are distinguished by their exserted stamens; the larger of these groups typically has tube-like flowers, while the other has droopy petals.

The other four subgenera don't have exserted stamens – they are equal to or usually shorter than the petals. Technically, this is referred to as “included” stamens. You may or may not be able to see the stamens, depending on their length and the shape of the petal. For example, if the petals are 2 cm. long but recurve backwards, and the stamens are 1.8 cm., you can see them easily; however, since they are shorter than the petals, they are still considered included.

What distinguishes these 4 subgenera? Primarily, the length of the stamen and style. The female reproductive organ (called a pistil) consists of an ovary at the bottom, the stigma at the top, and two are connected by a tube-like style. Often, the style is fairly long and thin, much like stamens. If you look at the picture of *T. ionantha* in September's Newsletter, you can see the long white style that extends out further than the stamens – the stigma is the small round organ at the end of it. You can't see the ovary.

This raises one other important point when distinguishing the three subfamilies of Bromeliads. In some cases, the sepals and petals (which are collectively called the perianth) arise from the base of the ovary, and in others they arise from the top. For all Tillandsioides genera (except one), they arise from the bottom – you can only see the ovary looking down into the petals.

This is called a “superior” ovary (and a hypogynous perianth). In contrast, for the Bromelioideae group (which includes *Aechmea*, *Billbergia* and *Neoregalia*), the petals and sepals arise at the top of the ovary. The technical terms for this are an “inferior” ovary, and epigynous perianth. For you cactus lovers, all cacti have an inferior ovary.

Returning to *Tillandsia* subgenera, two of them have very short stamens and short and stout styles. One of these is the *Phytarrhiza* subgenus, and the other is the *Diaphoranthema* subgenus.

The *Phytarrhiza* subgenus is further distinguished by its larger and broad petals. Many of them have very fragrant flowers. Here is one - *T. duratii* in bloom.



*Tillandsia duratii*





Other well-known members of this group include *T cyanea*, *cacticola*, *crocata* (yellow flowers), and *mallemonitii*.

*T cyanea* isn't the prettiest plant, but is rather popular for obvious reasons.



*T mallemonitii* can be confused with *T usenoides*, often called Spanish moss, when not in flower. But in flower it is very different. Compare it with the *T usenoides* hybrid shown at the end of the article.





*T straminea* is also in this group. Here it is in bloom (along with *T abdita* at the bottom and *Neoregelia* 'Born of Fire' – I often put differently colored plants together since I like the color contrast, and to partially cover the pot!) This picture shows its wide white petals at the top, characteristic of this subgenus.

It wasn't until I took a close up of the flower that I realized the petals weren't just white. They actually two toned, with purple around the tips. From a taxonomic perspective, you should note that even though the picture looks almost directly into the flower, you can't see the stamens or pistil (you can see a hint of the yellow pollen.)

*T straminea*





So I took off a flower and peeled back the petals of *T straminea*



The toothpick ends at the pistil – note that unlike the style of *T ionantha*, this one is indeed “short and stout,” characteristic of this subgenus. Just above it (but hard to see) is one of the whitish filaments of a stamen, and to the right are yellow anthers of the stamens. These stamens are also very short – considerably shorter than the petal or even the petal claw. (The term petal claw is relevant for the next article. You will notice the petal starts out fairly straight and then broadens quite a bit at the end. The straight part is called the petal claw. )

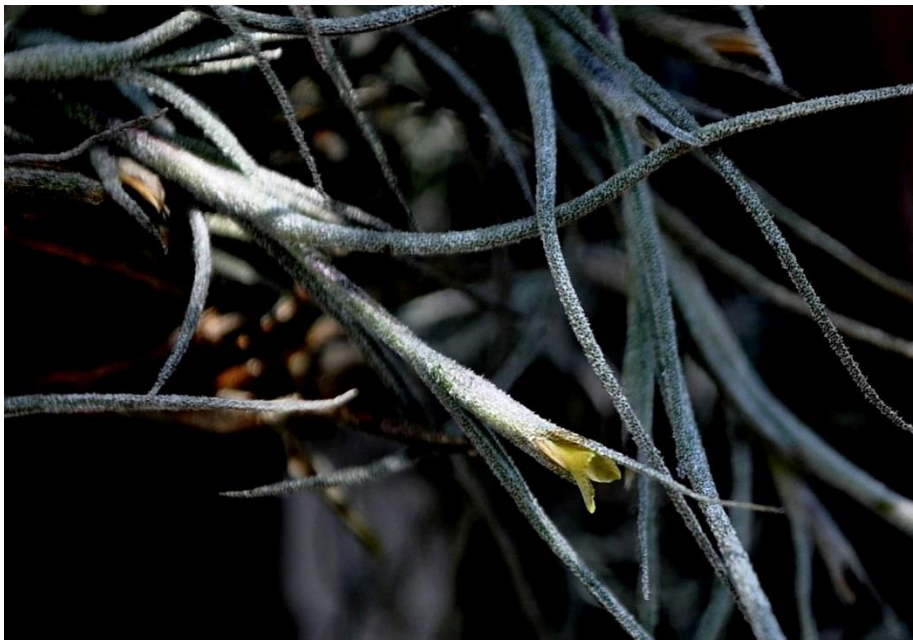


The *Diaphoranthema* subgenus also has short and stout styles, and short stamens. Leaves of this group tend to be round, like a pencil. Members include *T usenoides* and *recurvata*, often known as Spanish moss and ball moss. Others are *T myosura*, *andicola*, *loliacea* and *calignosa*. However, unlike the flowers shown above, members of this group have tiny flowers. *T bryoides* is one of the smallest Tillandsias.

You may not even notice these Tillandsias are blooming unless you look closely. The inflorescence often is very similar to the leaves, and the small flower is easily missed. In fact, I had missed all of mine that bloomed. But luckily one was in bloom when I wrote this article!



Here is a hybrid of two members of this subgenus – *T usenoides* and *T recurvata*.



The flower is indeed small, and partially hidden by the bracts. I was going to their word that the style is short and stout, but then decided to see for myself.



The petal is on the left. The style is marked in the adjoining photo – it is (at least relatively) short and stout. The stigma is the small round part on top of the style, and the larger more yellow round part below the style is the ovary. Above the stigma, you can see the orangish pollen covered anthers; there is another one to the left attached to the very thin filament. (Remember that stamens consist of anthers and filaments). The two thin pointed parts above the pollen are actually the sepals. The green on the right is a flower bract, covered by white scales (the technical term is lepidote)..

Next month or so – the last two subgenera.