



**S.F.V.B.S.**

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY**

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

[sanfernandovalleybs@groups.facebook.com](mailto:sanfernandovalleybs@groups.facebook.com)

## DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

### OFFICERS

Pres & News: **Mike Wisnev** V.P.: **Mary K. Carroll** Secy & 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 Dec. 6, 2014 @ 10:00 am**

Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, California 91316

### **V-President's Message**

Mike Wisnev's mother is very ill; please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

***Hlope to see you all at the next meeting by 10:00 am...*** < Mary K

## **ANNUAL HOLIDAY BRUNCH**

### **SATURDAY DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>**

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

**10:00** – meeting starts with drawing

**10:15** – Voting - Election of 2015 Officers

**10:30** – Program: "Southern Cal Area Bromeliad Society Shows 2014" by Barry Landau

**11:30** – Pot Luck Brunch served

**12:30** – Member Gift Exchange and Club Holiday Plant drawing

**(Normal \$1.00 plant raffle will resume in January)**

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

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

**See list of suggested food donations on Page 9**

Many members signed up for the pot luck at the last meeting.

***Taking a look back at last month.....*** attendance was good and Pam Koide's program was outstanding; sorry if you missed it. I missed a lot of the program by overseeing lunch but I'm sure I will see it at one of the other Bromeliad club meetings. However, I heard great reviews from our members. We will try to schedule her again in 2015. On the way out Pam said we had the best food of all the clubs. LOL at least we are famous for something. Rose and Joyce couldn't attend but they brought some incredibly delicious deviled eggs. We had nominations for office at the November meeting but if you are interested or have a suggestion please stand up. We will vote at the December meeting.

### **Announcements:**

### ***What can you do to help our club?***

- **Help Set-Up for the Holiday Brunch on Friday Dec 5** – Mary will be there between 10:00 and 12:00 decorating. Need someone to decorate the Xmas Tree. **please call Mary K. to volunteer**
- **Help set-up the Brunch** – if possible I would like one person to handle each food category like placement, utensils, unwrapping; **please call Mary K. to volunteer.**
- Also we need a person at the reception table to greet and to hand out early arrival tickets.

### **Participation Rewards System – (Normal \$1.00 plant raffle will resume in January)**

- ***No free participation raffle tickets this month; there won't be any \$1.00 raffle plants.***
- **Holiday Plant Gift Exchange** – Please bring a wrapped plant (a Bag will be okay) or plant related item to the party. Give something of quality, something you would like to be on the receiving end of. If you don't have something you want to part with, you don't have to participate in the gift exchange.
- **Happy Birthday to Arab Bartarse on Dec 12**
- Former member, Mike Brewer, passed away. I don't have any details except that it was approximately 2 months ago and possibly from a heart attack.
- **25% off for Duke Benadom's succulent books.** Discount to SFVBS and LACSS members for the November and December meetings only.
- **Plant Sale** - Gregg DeChirico is one of our members and also one of our favorite speakers. Gregg's Plant Sale, Saturday Dec 13, 10am – 4pm, 3376 Foothill Road, Carpenteria, CA 93013 – Flyer is attached For more information contact Gregg at [u4banut@yahoo.com](mailto:u4banut@yahoo.com),
- **Bromeliad Society International** – Wow! I feel like our club has finally been recognized; after 3 years we are now listed on the **BSI** website. As soon as Kim and Mike are available we will update the SFVBS web page and Barry will update face book to refer viewers to our webpage.

### **Election for 2015 – Nominees are:**

**President:** Mike Wisnev, Artie Chavez, Barry Landau, Kim Thorpe,

**V-President:** Artie Chavez, Steve B., Kim Thorpe, Mary K., Bryan Chan

**Secretary:** Ana Wisnev, Kathleen Misko, Leni

**Treasurer:** Mary Chan, Ana Wisnev

**Membership:** Kathleen Misko,

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**We are pleased to announce several volunteers.....**

**Volunteers for Advisor are:** Leni, Steve, Bryan, Richard

**Volunteer for Editor is:** Roger Cohen / Nancy P-Hapke volunteered to continue mailing the newsletter

**Volunteer for Webmaster is:** Mike Wisnev / **Volunteer for Facebook is:** Barry Landau

**Volunteer for Raffle:** Steve Rudolph

**We need 2 Volunteers to help with refreshments at monthly meetings.....**

## Information about a good cause: **Operation Gratitude National Guard Armory**

This is the time of the year that the National Guard is preparing packages to send to our troops overseas. If you like there are several ways to participate. The Armory is located at 17330 Victory Blvd. Van Nuys, CA 91406, just west of Balboa. They need donations of items to mail, volunteers to assemble and package the items and money to mail the packages. It cost \$15.00 to mail each package. There are older volunteers sending Christmas cards or writing letters. If you know someone serving overseas you can request a package be sent to them.

<http://www.operationgratitude.com/request-a-package/individual-request-form/>

There is another assembly day planned for Saturday December 13th, but the donations can be dropped off any time the armory is open to accept them. <http://www.operationgratitude.com/volunteer/volunteer-info-schedule/>

<https://www.operationgratitude.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/CareKitList-web.pdf>

## **Please pay your 2015 Membership Dues**

### ***NEED TO RENEW ?.....***

**Pay at the meeting to: Membership Chair - Kathleen Misko 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

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

Saturday, January 3, 2015	SFVBS Regular meeting – Program by
Saturday, February 7, 2015	SFVBS Regular meeting – STBA
Saturday, March 7, 2015	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, April 4, 2015	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, May 2, 2015	SFVBS meeting / possible Field Trip LaBallona Bromeliad Show & Sale
Sat & Sun - May 30-31	<b>SFVBS Bromeliad Show &amp; Sale</b>
Saturday, June 6, 2015	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, July 4, 2015	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, August 1, 2015	SFVBS meeting and Field Trip
Sat & Sun August 1 & 2	South Bay Bromeliad Show & Sale
Saturday, Sept 5, 2015	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, Oct 3, 2015	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, Nov 7, 2015	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, Dec 5, 2015	Holiday Meeting & Brunch 10:00 – 2:00

### **STBA = Speaker To Be Announced**

#### ***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](mailto:rango676@aol.com) <>

# Taxonomic Tidbits – *Puya* II.

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

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter – December 2014

Last month, I discussed the basics of *Puya*. This month continues with a little more on taxonomy, and plenty of pictures.

There are two subgenera – *Puya* and *Puyopsis*. There are only a few in subgenus *Puya*, which is characterized by an inflorescence that is sterile at the top. Most inflorescences have flowers all the way up the peduncle, but there are no flowers at the upper part of inflorescences (or branches) of subgenus *Puya* members.

Here is one such subgenus *Puya* member - *Puya chilensis* at the HBG. You can see that the branches stick out of the rest of the inflorescence and don't have flowers. When I took the photo, I wasn't aware of the significance of this, and didn't get the top, but you can see one at the bottom right. If you like to study plants, it is often best to take lots of photos – you may find later that you missed something.



Here is the more typical form – this is

*Puya venusta* in subgenus *Puyopsis*.





Two recent DNA studies published in 2010 and 2013 revealed, however, that this distinction didn't hold up. Instead, it appeared that they should be grouped based on geography.

**PHYLOGENETICS OF PUYA (BROMELIACEAE): PLACEMENT, MAJOR LINEAGES, AND EVOLUTION OF CHILEAN SPECIES**, Jabaily and Sytsma, *Am J of Botany* 97(2) 337 (2010). Historical biogeography and life-history evolution of Andean Puya (Bromeliaceae) *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, 2013, 171, 201–224.

Before continuing, I should note how helpful these articles are. They often discuss the genus in some detail, as well as the results of recent articles on the genus. Some of this isn't new information, but it is new if you haven't studied the genus before. Indeed, much of the information noted here is from the two articles noted above – you don't get that kind of information from Smith & Downs.

The results of these studies indicated there is a large core *Puya* group (about 190 species) located in the Andes (both usually well above 1500 m altitude), and a separate small group of seven species at sea levels in Chile. The Chilean group, which includes *Puya venusta* and *Puya chilensis* shown above, splits into yellow and blue flowered groups. The blue and yellow flowered groups had different shaped flowers, as seen above, and differed also in that the blue group had scales on the leaves while the yellow ones were glabrous. Some of the subgenus *Puya* members (those with sterile inflorescences) were in Chile, and others weren't.

As an aside, I have seen a number of more recent studies that find the DNA results often correspond with geography. This doesn't seem surprising as one might expect the related plants to live close together. In the above studies, the core *Puya* more or less grouped by whether they were from the southern or northern Andes. Finally, the study was rather unique from my perspective in that it "proposed" a scenario to explain why the results for yellow flowered Chilean *Puya* differed depending on whether nuclear or chloroplast DNA was studied. This article isn't the place to discuss it in any detail, but it basically involved hybridization, backcrossing and the fact that chloroplast DNA is passed on maternally.

The first study showed some of the complexities of DNA testing. Older studies usually used chloroplast DNA, while newer ones also test using nuclear DNA. In this study, both were used, and the results differed for each to some extent. For example, testing using chloroplast DNA indicated *Puya* might have to be split up, while nuclear testing suggested the Bromelioideae subfamily might not be valid. The two tests also treated the yellow flowered Chilean *Puya* differently. The results using combined data suggested both *Puya* and Bromelioideae were good groups.

The articles also discuss *Puya*'s photosynthesis. Almost all plants water use carbon dioxide and sunlight to produce sugars and carbohydrates through photosynthesis. Most Bromeliads and succulents (and all cacti or at least almost all), some of the chemical processes occur at night – this is known as CAM photosynthesis. Because it is so hot and dry, these plants close their stomata (pores) during the day to avoid losing water. As a result they also can't take in carbon dioxide during the day. Instead, they take it in at night, and convert it to acid so that they can use it during sunlight hours for photosynthesis. Most Bromeliads also use CAM. But apparently only about 24% of *Puya* use CAM. In addition, this feature seemed to evolve independently for different groups of *Puya*.

Despite the fact that there are relatively Chilean *Puya*, the studies suggest that *Puya* originated there. They generally then moved north along the Andes, as did many other plants. This evolutionary movement northward may be tied geological events like the Andean uplift. They also suggested that repeated glaciers may account for the dispersal of related *Puya* species into different elevations.

No article on *Puya* would be complete without mentioning *Puya alpestris*. *Puya alpestris* has perhaps the prettiest flower of them all. The authors speculated that this species was perhaps a natural hybrid of a yellow flowered and blue flowered *Puya*. The flower color is the most obvious clue, but *Puya alpestris* has an open flower and sterile topped inflorescence (like *Puya chilensis*) and scales on the leaves, like *Puya venusta* and *Puya coerulea*.







Apparently, not only is it beautiful, but it tastes good too! The articles above noted that in habitat, *Puya* flowers are often eaten by spectacled bears. While I have been to the HBG many times, I have yet to spot a spectacled bear – that would be a real treat. But that doesn't mean the flowers aren't enjoyed there as well. Looks like those sterile inflorescences come in quite handy for dining.





# Menu Suggestions for 2014 Holiday Brunch

As of November 20, most members have already signed up to attend our party and to contribute dishes, however it is not too late for you; **we want you to attend**. Call or E-mail Mary K with your contribution. A little coordination can go a long ways. **Listed below are some suggestions** of dishes we had last year, but contribute what you like so you can take the leftovers home. Call if you need a suggestion. I have ideas for the non-cooks; just trying to avoid all desserts. Mary [Rango676@aol.com](mailto:Rango676@aol.com) or **Call 818-705-4728** You are welcome to bring one guest and your favorite beverages. Please deliver all food between 9:00 and 10:00. Label your dishes.

## Scones, Pastries, Donuts to go w/Morning Coffee 9:30 - 10:30am before program.

Asst. Cheeses - **Bryan & Mary Chan**

Asst. Fresh Fruit -

Scones - **Kathleen**

Donuts -

## Main Course 11:30 Brunch Served

Turkey - **Bryan**

Stuffing -

Gravy - **maryK**

Ham - **maryK**

Breakfast/Brunch Items **Kim & maryK**

## Salads

Ambrosia - **Kaz Benadom**

Gelatin -

Toss Green Salad - **Leni**

Kale Salad - **Mike Boess**

## Side Dishes

Quiche - **Jeanette**

Potato Latkes -

Green Vegetable - **Nels, Richard Morse**

Broccoli -

Winter Squash - **Nancy**

Corn -

Mashed Potatoes - **Steve B.**

Potato Casserole - **Kathleen**

Macaroni & Cheese - **Bassani**

Sweet Potato Casserole - **Georgia**

Cranberry Sauce Jelly (2 cans) - **Steve B.**

Cranberry Sauce w/ Berries (2) - **S. Rudolph**

## Bread

2 dz. Dinner Rolls & Butter - **maryK**

## Desserts

Chocolate Cake -

Lemon Cake - **Bob Friedman**

Pumpkin Pie - **James**

Apple Pie - **James**

Pecan Pie -

Coconut Cream Pie -

Pizzelle Cookies - **Richard Kaz**

## Beverages

Coffee & Hot Teas - **Club**

Ice - **Artie & kim**

Can Sodas - **Artie & kim**

Small Bottled Water - **Artie & kim**

Juice - **Barry**

1 gal. Eggnog - **Mike Boess**

1 gal. Reduced Fat Milk -