



S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

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

next meeting: **Saturday Feb. 7, 2015 @ 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: Nels Christianson

Program: Visit to Canary Islands

Seven Spanish islands west of Morocco form the Canary Islands archipelago. The islands are of volcanic origin and are generally mountainous. Earthquakes are not uncommon and there was volcanic activity in the 1970s on Lanzarote. They have a Mediterranean climate similar to that of San Diego and northern Baja California. There are many succulent and non-succulent Canarian endemics, including various species of Aeonium, Monanthes, Aichryson, Greenovia, Arbutus, Genista, Hypericum, Phoenix, Pinus and Sonchus. This program is an overview of the 2014 Cactus and Succulent Society of America's trip to the Canary Islands with a focus on native plants in habitat and bromeliads grown at two well-known botanical gardens: El Jardín de Aclimatación de la Orotava on the island of Tenerife and the Viera y Clavijo Canarian Botanical Garden on Gran Canaria.

Nels has more than 500 cacti, succulents and Bromeliads and many are growing in his own

pottery. He is a seasoned traveler and is an active member of several local Bromeliad Societies and Cactus and Succulent groups. **You don't want to miss this meeting!** <>

11:15 - Refreshment Break and Show and Tell:
Will the following members please provide refreshments this month: **John Martinez, Michael Matsumoto, Kathleen Misko, Don Misumi, Richard Morse, Cheryl Murphy 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 Mary K (818 705-4728). Leave a message - they 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.

11:30 - For Show and Tell is our educational part of the meeting – Each member **please bring one plant.** You may not have a pristine plant but you certainly have one that needs a name or is sick and you have a question.

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 is taking a look back at January.....Our president is back. Welcome back Mike; it was great seeing you. Now we look forward to your lovely wife, Ana returning. It has become a tradition for the Rose Pruners to join us for lunch in January; they provide such a good service for the Sepulveda Garden Center rose gardens. Albert Chang is our newest member and we let him join just so he can make his wonderful Buffalo Chili. Kathleen inquired about buying name tags; she is proceeding with that project. The club decided to cancel the July meeting because it falls on the holiday and attendance would be low. The question came up..... would we like to have a summer picnic if so when and where; there were no volunteers. Another point... The LACSS has initiated a discussion about our club **testing** a joint holiday party which I am in favor of. Our speaker was great, we had good food, good show-n-tell and a few auction plants, one donation from Tom Glavich. Nice meeting, thanks to all who participated. <>

Mary K

- ***Weather Conditions*** - I think we can all agree that we need rain but are willing to forego those few freezing nights. These are not normal winter conditions. If the wind starts this is another reminder to check the water in your bromeliads. The wind will especially dry out your Tillandsias. We have a small area covered with fiberglass and when it rains I often forget to water under there where the plants weren't exposed to the rain. If your plants are squeezed together they may also not be getting enough water in the tubes.
- **Happy Birthday** to **Kim Thorpe** - Feb. 1, **Mary K.** – Feb 5, **Nels Christianson** - Feb 16, **Stacey Phelps** – Feb 21 and **Teresa Campbell**, -Feb 24

Membership Dues

TIME TO RENEW ?..... Most members have already paid. If you receive your monthly newsletter by snail mail, please look at the number 14 or 15 on your envelope to the right of your name; that indicates whether you are paid up or not. If you receive your news by email we will be sending another email as a reminder. We don't want to lose you as a member so please mail the payment immediately or 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

Ask Yourself, How can I help my club

Participation Rewards System – This is a reminder that you will be rewarded for Meeting 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 unidentified plants that can be brought in. Each member, please bring one plant. <>

**Help us to improve our Membership
Tell people about your hobby !
Reach out to visitors and new members,
make them feel welcomed !**

Please Put These Dates on Your Calendar

Saturday, March 7, 2015	Speaker : <i>Gregg DeChirico</i>
Saturday, April 4, 2015	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, May 2, 2015	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Sat & Sun, May 2-3, 2015	LaBallona Bromeliad Show
Sat & Sun – May 30 & 31	SFVBS Bromeliad Show & Sale
Saturday, June 6, 2015	Speaker : <i>Guillermo Rivera</i>
Saturday, July 4, 2015	No Meeting / Canceled due to the Holiday
Saturday, August 1, 2015	Speaker : Andy Siekkenen
Sat & Sun, August 1 & 2, 2015	South Bay Bromeliad Show
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

Dates with ?? to be discussed at a later date

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 <>

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. <>

Taxonomic Tidbits – *Vriesea* s.l. II – two new Genera

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

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter – February 2015

Last month I discussed *Vriesea*, and

noted some controversy as to whether it made sense to break off two genera – *Alcantara* and *Werauhia*. Jason Grant proposed that these two groups be resurrected to genus level in 1995. Prior to that, Smith & Downs had broken broken *Vriesea* into two subgenera – subgen. *Vriesea* and subgen. *Alcantarea*.

***Alcantarea*.** You probably can guess what happened to subgen *Alcantarea*. Grant proposed that it be elevated to a genus called *Alcantarea*. Most of them are large and have a bulky inflorescence (one apparently can get 15 feet high!), but some don't. Here is *A. odorata* at Live Art Nursery.

I saw this plant not long after I joined the Club. I had probably heard of about 10 genera, and I figured this was an

Aechmea, albeit a large one. I was quite surprised when I checked the tag and I would have been even more surprised if I was told it was closer to a *Tillandsia* than an *Aechmea*.



The primary distinctions for this genus are (1) the flowers don't last long (usually around 12 hours according to one source), and the petals sometimes spiral and droop and become flaccid, and (2) the seeds have hairlike structures at both the top and bottom, while *Vriesae* have them at the bottom. They also usually grow in rocky areas unlike *Vriesea*. An article on *Alcantarea* ("Alacanterea Study") states:

Grant (1995) re-established the genus Alcantarea, after excluding two taxa from Central America and the West Indies that present distinct floral and seed morphology. Characters that were used by Grant (1995) to resurrect Alcantarea to the generic status are the linear-long (ca. 10–15 times longer than wide), ephemeral, distinctly flaccid, and spiralescent petals, and seeds with both basal and apical comas. Also, in Grant's (1995) circumscription, Alcantarea has a narrower geographical range, being restricted to the Northeastern (Bahia) and Southeastern (Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, and Rio de Janeiro) states of Brazil. Recently, the genus was rediscovered in the state of São Paulo...

Versieux, Barbará, Wanderley, Calvente, Fay, and Lexer (2012). Molecular phylogenetics of the Brazilian giant bromeliads (*Alcantarea*, Bromeliaceae): implications for morphological evolution and biogeography. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 64:177–189, p 178.

These reasons are more or less the same reasons that Smith & Downs provided for treating this group as a subgenus. In fact, the article noted that others had treated this group as a genus as early as 1929, but Smith and Downs disagreed. They felt the different seed characteristics weren't present in all members (presumably, this relates to the Caribbean species and that is why Grant excluded them), and drooping petals were not typically used to distinguish genera.

The flowers are generally larger than those of *Vriesea* – about 2 inches. They are generally shades of yellow, with some lighter and whitish and others darker. Most open during the day, but some are nocturnal, and their smell varies. They are sessile, though it often appears otherwise. The flowers are only briefly open and then quickly wilt which gives the impression of a pedicel.

The article quoted above also states the *Alcantarea* also have semi-inferior ovaries, which means the petals arise in the middle of the ovaries. Most *Tillandsioides* members have superior ovaries – the petals arise at the bottom. Also, they usually grow on rocky formations (saxicolous or rupicolous). A different article says they have unique pollen.

Vriesea hieroglyphica



In last month's article, I told you I'd show more *Vriesea* species. Here is one of the best - *V. hieroglyphica*. It was more dramatic when I got it, and lost some color. Unfortunately, I burnt some leaves when I moved it to get more sun.

Werauhia. I found virtually nothing about *Werauhia* on the web. It seems they are rarely cultivated. The genus was named after Prof. Walter Rauh, who wrote the Bromeliad Lexicon. But I got a copy of Grant's article from Derek Butcher. Grant moved 66 species from *Vriesea* subgenus *Vriesea* section *Xiphion* to *Werauhia*. They generally grow in Mexico, Central America, Peru and north Brazil. *Werauhia* differ from *Vriesea* in a number of ways, including the fact they flower at night and are generally dully colored. They also have other distinctive features such as the shape of their stigmas and ligules, and their zygomorphic flowers. For those interested in the details, he said:

"It is characterized by plants with mostly nocturnal anthesis, a general lack of brilliant coloration, mostly fleshy, frequently secund bracts and flowers, bilaterally symmetric, often zygomorphic corollae, androeciae and gynoeciae, the latter two well included within the corolla, dactyloid petal appendages with one to five fingers of varying length, stigmata with the cupulate type morphology, lacking papillae, and stout, dark-colored capsules."

Here was my only one – *W. sanguinolenta*. It was my only Bromeliad that didn't make it through the winter.

Werauhia sanguinolenta



Of perhaps greater interest, Grant said

Previous classifications of the genera of the Tillandsioideae have placed much emphasis on inconsistent and unreliable characters. Leaf shape, relative quantity and density of surface trichomes, the presence vs. absence of petal appendages, and the inclusion vs. exclusion of the androecium and/or gynoecium have been stressed [e.g. in MEZ (1935) and SMITH & DOWNS (1977)]. These characters may be useful in delineating infrageneric and multispecific groups, but can not be used to define genera since they are morphologically flexible characters that seem to evolve rapidly in comparison to physically smaller characters, especially petal appendages and stigmata. The morphological evolution rate of physically smaller characters appears to be slower than that of larger organs more susceptible to environmental influences. Natural groups can only be delineated and circumscribed by examining characters that evolve slowly and that are the lowest common denominators across a range of taxa.

The key on FCBS emphasizes the same features.

23.	Flowers with brilliant coloration in most species, bright yellow, orange, or red, rarely dull to white, yellow, or light orange light; the adaxial petal pair arranged in respect to the abaxial apically; petal tongue-shaped appendages; stigma with the convolute blade type morphology, that is, 3 obviously spreading lobes covered with papillae.	<u>Vriesea</u>
23A.	Flowers generally dull in color, white, greenish white, light green, yellow, light orange or yellowish green; the adaxial petal pair arranged basally in respect to the abaxial; petal appendages finger-like with 1-5 fingers of varying length; stigma with the cupulate type morphology, that is, 3 apical, capitate, cup-shaped lobes, without papillae.	<u>Werauhia</u>

The distinction about the petal pairs is also interesting. It took me some time to figure that out. Remember how I noted that *Vriesea* often have two petals closer together than they are to third. In *Werauhia* the petal pair close together is at the top of the plant. In contrast, in section *Xiphion*, Grant states it is at the bottom, and the single petal is on top.

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Derek Butcher. A digression is in order. The key above was prepared by Derek Butcher who updated the Smith and Downs key to reflect new genera. If you are into Bromeliads, you should know his name. The *Tillandsia* book by Paul Isley has a chapter briefly discussing about 20 of the leading Bromeliad/*Tillandsia* figures in history – Derek is one of the three alive today. He has written extensively on Bromeliads and is fondly known throughout the Bromeliad world as Uncle Derek. Go to the FCBS, or the BSI website and you will find his name all over the place. Bromeliads in Australia website introduces him as follows:

“Derek Butcher, of Adelaide, Australia, has spent more than 20 years as a self professed "pseudobotanist," working to unravel the intricacies of Bromeliaceae. He is well known in Australia for his book, "An Amateur's Guide to the Greyish Leaved TILLANDSIOIDEAE" to help interpret his favorite genus, and his checklist to keep order in the hybrids produced in his country. He is the first Australian to have a Bromeliad species named after him - *Puya butcheriana*. He also maintains the most comprehensive list of Bromeliad genera names, changes, and synonyms, stretching back to pre-Linnaeus ! (Link = [TaxonList](#) maintained in Netherlands). For almost 100 years, Derek operated the "Cultivar Register" for the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) and loves nothing better than the challenge of piecing together "the story" behind any Bromeliad.”

On a personal note, I can add he is most helpful. Obviously, I didn't know him, but I emailed him once to ask something and he quickly responded. In fact, every time I email him he responds with some great information. I send him these Newsletters, and I get his. So I am most appreciative for all his help!

Broms in Bloom - Member Photos.

Your contribution would be appreciated !

A Rookie's Contribution *By Roger Cohen, Carryday@mac.com*

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter – February 2015

I've been a member now of SFVBS, for what feels like a few years. Enjoying plants truthfully only gets part of my attention as I'm busy mostly working all types of cinematography projects but, the other day I finally planted my first attempt at a mixed planter of 2 bromeliads and a succulent in a saki cup.

I thought maybe other new members could benefit from the feedback I might get by writing about what my thought process was in this maiden voyage. I've learned a lot being a member of the club and been so inspired by everybody's creativity so, it was time to shove off.

First of all, a fantastic experience has been learning about Tillandsia. The guest speakers on this genus in particular have been amazing. That airplane hanger sized greenhouse in Singapore with 100's of thousands of Tillies was amazing!!! I have had a tilly I can't now identify, ready for this saki cup for months. I always thought the cup would make a perfect planter but, it needed drainage and I thought I'd make it waterproof so it wouldn't stain or rot and promote some kinda mold or pest.



I drilled 26 holes in the bottom of the box. Seems like a lot now that I look at the pictures. Maybe being in the club has revealed some anger issues, not sure. I sanded for about 2 days straight. I bought special round files to smooth the inside of the drainage holes. Research brought me to Minwax Polycrylic as a sealant that would least affect the natural wood look of the cup.

I put three layers on, sanding after each coat. The Minwax dries really fast allowing this process to be somewhat quick and also increases adhesion. I was careful to hide the brushstrokes as best I could on the final coat. I used a hairdryer to push the polycrylic through the drainage holes periodically to reduce drips and keep the holes as clear as possible.



I added a Red stamp of some Chinese characters. This is an envelope seal my Mom gave me returning from a trip to China. The ink ran slightly but, sorta made it look like a world traveling cargo container. I thought it might also play a little with the scale of the overall piece, when it was done.

I made a soil mixture of 50-50 soil from John Martinez and John Suciú's mentoring workshop at their cool personal planting spaces up near Ojai and pumice from a great nursery they suggested stopping by on the way back to LA. A little green small stone top dressing was added from the staging lectures I've watched. Going down to Rainforest Flora and Fauna for one of the bromeliad shows taught me to not assume Tillandsias only want to exist completely as 'air plants.'



I'm hoping the Echeveria I included will flower and have a little red in it to match the Chinese ink. The other Bromeliad has that beautiful tiger stripe to it, super hardy. I believe I got it from Mary K, who has been extra inspirational about Bromeliads. That bromeliad represents Mary K to me and the Echeveria is an homage and representation of Rogers Weld. The Echey came from a pallet I bought from him at his Palisades wonder garden house.



I like to mist the Tillies a lot, the extra seems to just roll off or dry without a mark now. I have to finally say thanks to the most influential mentor of all, Kathleen Misko. She has been that friend that brought me to my first meeting, gave me my first orchid way back and has since given me 100 more beauties, celebrated how great the raffles are and always has great ideas, tips and encouragement!!!!

