



S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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

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MARCH 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 Mar. 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: Gregg DeChirico

Program: “Bromeliads from Columbia”

Gregg is one of our favorite speakers. He has traveled to South America many times studying and photographing Bromeliads. He will talk to us and show Bromeliad photos and other plants in habitat. Gregg is the current President of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America (CSSA) so he will also talk about some of the wonderful succulents. His photography is great and you will find that he is very knowledgeable about many plant families. **You don't want to miss this meeting!** ◇

TIME TO RENEW ?

Are you one of the 5 people who have not paid for 2015?

11:15 -Refreshment Break

Will the following members please provide refreshments this month: **Stacey Phelps, Chris Rogers, Georgia Roiz, Steve Rudolph, Joyce Schumann and anyone else who has a snack they would like to share.** Names selected alphabetically; if you can't contribute this month don't stay away just bring a snack next time you come.

Questions about refreshments? Call Mary K (818 705-4728). Leave a message - she 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 February..... We finally have a membership chair; Kathleen Misko collected \$6.00 from everyone to purchase badges. If you didn't attend the meeting and would like to order a badge from this club, please contact her or mail your check to our P.O. Box listed at the top of the page. Nels always has a nice power point presentation but this one was really good. We always have a good lunch but February was sort of special and it was nice of Kathleen to create the Valentine theme. Exceptional plants and participation in show-n-tell and a few auction plants and donations from Bryan, Tom Glavich and Mary. Thank you for all the raffle donations; I would like to acknowledge the people but I don't know the names. Even with several members missing who normally attend, we had a nice turn out. I thought we had a nice meeting, thanks to all who participated. <>

Mary K

Announcements –

- **LACSS Festival May 30 - 31** – we need volunteers to participate with the inside display and the food. The question has come up... Do we have a volunteer to host a summer picnic if so when and where? Another question still unanswered ... Should we **test** a joint Xmas celebration with the cactus club?
- **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. If your plants are squeezed together they also may not be getting enough water in the tubes.
- **Happy Birthday to Kaz Benadom** - March 7

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 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, April 4, 2015	Speaker: George Rivera “Landscapes w/ Bromeliads”
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 : Guillermo Rivera
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 / Time ???

Dates with ?? to be discussed
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 *By Mike Wisnev, SFVBS Pres(mwisnev@sbcglobal.net)*
replaced this month by an article from Derek Butcher with his permission. He was kind enough to volunteer this article for our newsletter; he thought we might like it.

First a little information about Derek:

Derek Butcher. 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 from Mike Wisnev.... 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!

Tillandsia 'Pochutla' by Derek Butcher Feb 2015

In the 1970's a collection of red leaved *Tillandsia* 'capitata' was made from the area of Pochutla, Mexico and were propagated in California mainly by Bird Rock Tropicals and Rainforest Flora. These were sold by Bird Rock Tropicals as *T. capitata rubra* and Rainforest Flora as *T. capitata* 'Roja'.

Let us digress. If a botanist finds a plant in the wild he cannot identify he has 3 options when he returns to home base:

1. Forget about its identity.
2. Describe it as a new species under the ICN rules, or
3. Name it as either aff. species, e.g. aff. *capitata* or cf. species

A nurseryman would not use these options but needs a name and invariably this is an adjective like; short, long, select, white, red etc. Sometimes these adjectives are given Latin equivalents but this is where they fall foul with the ICN rules for wild collected plants where formal descriptions etc are required. They also fall foul under the ICNCP rules for cultivated plants because NEW names in Latin are not allowed. So 'rubra' is not acceptable.

Let us now look at colour which the ICNCP rules also frown upon because it is ambiguous. For example think about the name *Rosa* 'White' or even *Rosa floribunda* 'White'. You would think the namer would use more imagination.

Now let us look at when colour is expressed in another language. There is no set rule on this but 'Roja' can be Spanish for red or rose. These sorts of words creep in as cultivar names but are borderline.

In January 2015, the name 'Roja' was registered in the BCR because it is widely grown around the world under this name, but no mention was made of where it was collected.

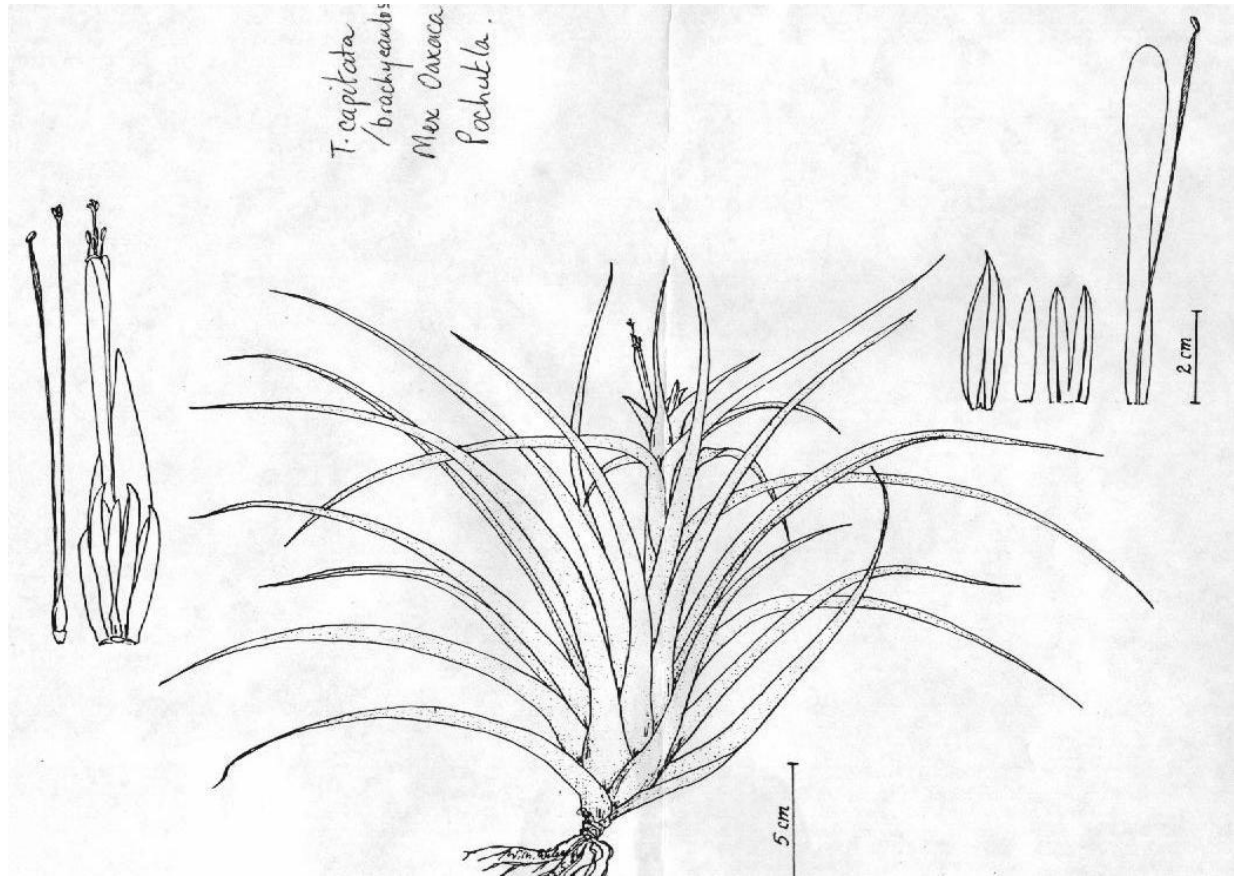
Pam Hyatt of Bird Rock Tropicals has suggested that both 'Roja' and the illegitimate 'rubra' are the same as a plant that Renate Ehlers investigated from a botanist point of view. In 1986 Wuelfinghoff collected a plant near Pochutla in May 1986 and in 1988 Renate went to the site and collected EM881303. She described it as growing by the thousands, saxicolous and epiphytic, along the main road from Pochutla to Miahuatlan, Oaxaca. It is bigger than *T. brachycaulos*, has thin red leaves and looks in between *T. capitata* and *T. brachycaulos*.

She referred it to Walter Till and Harry Luther. Harry suggested links to *T. cryptantha* Baker. *T. cryptantha* was considered a synonym of *T. brachycaulos* in Smith & Downs 1979 but resurrected to species status by Gardner in 1982. Nothing further was done although Weber did a drawing, see attached.

In 1995 I was able to import a plant from Renate and it flowered and a few offsets were distributed around Australia as 'Pochutla' with a note that it was somewhere between *T. capitata* and *T. brachycaulos*.

For this reason I am registering the name 'Pochutla' so that the history of this plant can be recorded. I leave growers to decide what they think the name of their plant should be.

Tillandsia 'Pochutla'



Drawing by Wilhelm Weber

Tillandsia 'Pochutla'



Photo by Renate Ehlers.

Broms in Bloom - Member Photos.

Your contribution would be appreciated !
