

S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

APRIL 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**

Saturday April 6, 2013 @ 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: Roger Cohen

“Video of Bromeliad Show & More”

Roger grew up in love with plants because his Father has always been fond of a lush garden and the aesthetics of beautiful landscaping. Most fascinating to him at an early age were the bonsai trees they would drive to see at little nurseries in the rural suburbs of Albany New York.

We are so happy to have Kathleen Misko as a relatively new member of the SFVBS; she helped Roger rediscover that fascination for plants when she graciously introduced him to Orchids and that was while he dated her beautiful daughter Amanda. Since then Kathleen and Roger both joined the LA Cactus & Succulent Society and begun to learn all that cactus and succulents have to offer. Last fall he became a member of our Bromeliad Society.

Rogers’ profession has always been camera work in television and feature films. He also taught himself editing and for the last ten years he has created projects for every venue - Internet, Theaters, Television, the Sundance film festival, etc... Currently he is a camera person working on the Charlie Sheen show “Anger Management”, doing a job he truly enjoys.

Roger said it is a real treat to combine all this and make some fun movies about the plants and people he loves. At this meeting he will entertain us with material he collected last June during our 2013 show and perhaps a few surprises. In the future he has vision and hopes of providing videos and some compelling movies for both the Bromeliad and LACSS clubs.

11:00 - Refreshment Break:

Will the following members please provide refreshments this month. **Larry Farley, Gloria Friedman, Mardy Graves, Nancy P-Hapke, Helene Jacobs, Jim Jaeger, Adrienne Jaffe, James Johnson and anyone else who has a snack they would like to share**

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.

11:15 – Business

11:30 - Show and Tell – 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

12:30 – Pick Up around your area /

Meeting is over—Drive safely <>

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President's Message

Keep up the good work; we had a nice membership turn out at the March meeting. Participation is the key to our success. We are looking for ideas to raise funds at the June sale; do you have one?

I hope to see all of you at the April meeting. <>

Mike Wisnev

TAKING A LOOK BACK *at our March Meeting*

Nels Christianson treated us to a program entitled ‘**Travels In Argentina**’.

Nels loves to travel and knows his subject. Unfortunately due to the light in the room, some of the pictures were difficult to see; however Nels' plans to return, there is a part 1, and part 2 and many more parts, he takes something like 5,000 pictures on those trips and we only see about 100 at each program. We have figured out the lighting problem. We are enjoying *Mike Wisnev's contributions* as our new president and Ana, his quiet wife, has become well known as great baker. We probably offer the best refreshments of any of the local club meetings. We had the usual members contribute to the raffle and show-in-tell as well as a few new participants. Thanks to all of you; because of you we had another good meeting. We are happy to announce that a combination of money from the refreshment kitty, the raffle and mini-auction covered our expenses for the month. <>

Bread and Bromeliads... Wow!

submitted by: *Kathleen Misko*

To all the members of the San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society that did not attend the meeting on Saturday, March 2nd, I would like to say; THANK YOU, there was more bread for me.

One year ago I began attending the meetings on the first Saturday of each month. The speakers were fantastic and then there was a break and we were encouraged to eat a little something. There was that basket with a kitchen towel covering the tasty goodness that I have come to know as Ana Wisnev's Sourdough Bread. Baked in the morning and served with delicious butter. Oh so good. Her husband Mike is our new President. So Ana baked two loaves extra and donated them for auction; I just had toast and jam. Dave Bassani and I won the auction; we are lucky and smart.

The club does a fun segment called show and tell. I like it because it is here and now. The slide presentations are fantastic to learn where the plants grow naturally, but show and tell teaches me where the plants grow unnaturally, like in my garden. I have had the best success since joining the club. I honestly did not know about pups; I thought the plant was a goner, live and learn.

The raffle is so abundant. My collection is growing by leaps and bounds from the raffle. The members are extremely generous about sharing from their collections, or they are scared of Mary K. who tells us all to bring a plant to raffle. I vote the later. It doesn't matter really, the result is positive.

I just wanted to let you know what you are missing; I am having a ball.

Kathleen Misko.

Member. Oh, and "elected" Secretary <>

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Announcements

- **Happy Birthday to:** Chris Rogers – April 4 and Ray Van Veen – April 12
- **Saturday June 1st - There will be no meeting on Saturday June 1.**
- **Sunday June 2, 2013 Bar-B-Q** – Bryan and Mary Chan have invited us to a pot luck at their home in Granada Hills. Members can arrive as early as 1:00pm (after Church) to view Bryan's bromeliad collection. While some people are viewing Bryan's plants someone will demonstrate grooming techniques and help with one-on-one member plant preparation. There will be no excuse for anyone not to have a plant or two ready for the show on the following weekend. We will have an early pot luck dinner between 4:00 and 5:00pm. Put this date on your calendar; the Sunday Bar-B-Q will replace the regular Saturday meeting.
- **Rewards System** – This is a reminder that you will be rewarded for participation. Bring a Show-N- Tell plant, raffle plants or Refreshments and you will be rewarded with **one** Raffle tickets for **each category** of participation, not for each item. Two members cannot claim participation for the same item. Bromeliads are more easily identified when in bloom. **Each member, please bring one plant.**
- **TIME TO RENEW...2013 Membership Dues - Yearly Membership Dues - \$10.00** for a single or couple
Please pay dues to Nancy P.-Hapke or Mary Chan, at the meeting <>

Be Prepared By: Mary K. Carroll

Time to start getting ready for our Bromeliad Show June 8 & 9

Remove large pups in March and prepare to:
Donate Sale Plants

Donate Material for the Raffle

Volunteer Time as Guide

Volunteer Time at Reception Table

Help with Set-Up & Break Down

Bring Show Plants

Now is the time to get your plants prepared. Make a commitment to prepare one plant a month. If you do that, each member will have 3 plants to add to the June Show. Remove pups that are half or 2/3 the size of the mother plants. Wear long sleeves and gloves when handling the Aechmeas. Add rocks to the pots to keep them from falling over. Use proper potting mixture. Pot the plant and if necessary use chopsticks or small rocks to brace the pup upright; pup's root faster when you keep them steady and prevent them from moving around. Place the pot on a bench or in an area where it will receive bright diffused light. Make sure the leaves don't touch other plants so they don't become scared.

Before the show wipe off the leaves and flower pots with a damp cloth. In 15 minutes you will have 3 plants ready to show. Your extra pups can always be donated to the club sale. <>

Taxonomic Tidbits

submitted By: Mike Wisnev

Bromeliad Botany 101 – The Inflorescence

When I was bit by the plant bug a few years back, I really struggled while trying to read about them. To be honest, I am not sure I knew much more than most plants had roots, stems, leaves and flowers. Reading a plant description can be almost painful – besides the technical names, botanists use a dizzying array of adjectives to describe parts of a plant or flower. Hopefully, this article will explain a bit about the basic parts of the inflorescence, as it relates to bromeliads (though these terms apply equally as well to other plants.)

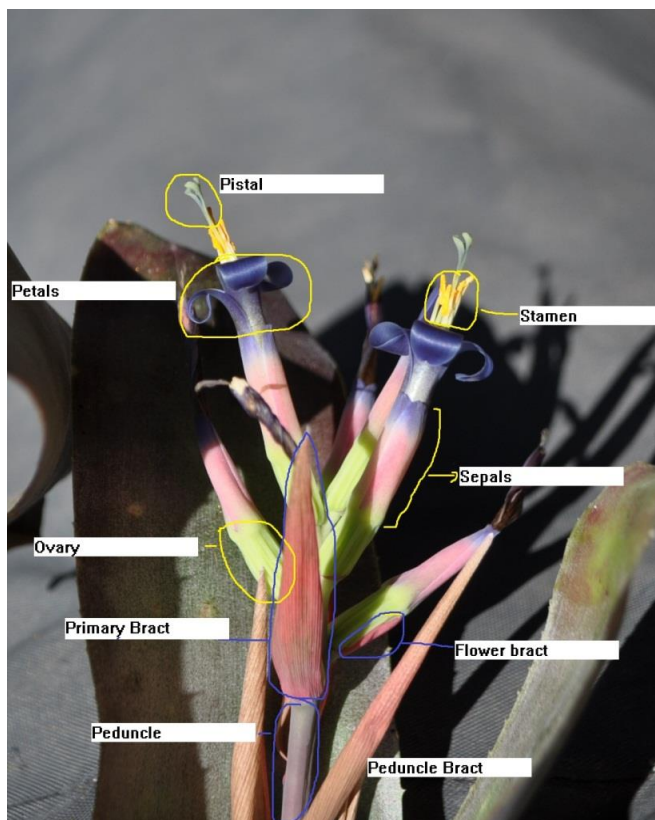


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To start out, it took a while before I realized that “inflorescence” wasn’t just a fancy word for flowers. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words – so..... Billbergias produce colorful flowers, but the inflorescence is more stunning. The inflorescence of this Billbergia ‘Violetta’ consists of everything in the picture above that isn’t a leaf! It starts with a long stalk going into the base of the plant – this is the **peduncle** (sometimes incorrectly called the scape in bromeliad terminology). The long showy pink leaf-like organs are the **peduncle bracts**. Many bromeliads, such as Vriesea and Aechmea, are also known for their magnificent peduncle bracts, rather than their flowers.

This particular inflorescence has almost 20 flowers – one of them is circled above. Each flower is attached to the peduncle (or a side branch), via a small pink stalk – this is a **pedicel**. If you look closely at the circled flower, you might make out a small pink part at the bottom of its base – this is a **flower bract**.

The flowers consist of many parts. See the inflorescence below of an unknown Billbergia from our club raffle. As before, you can see the peduncle and peduncle bracts, and also a flower bract. The bract at the base of a branching inflorescence is called a **primary bract**.



This flower itself consists of the sepals, the petals, the pistils and the stamens. The ovary is actually part of the pistil, which is the female part of the plant. Here the ovary is a light green color, and like many Billbergias is furrowed on the outside.

Above the ovary are the sepals, here pink, white and blue. The petals are seen above them, curled back or “reflexed.” Actually, the petals continue further below inside the sepals and start at the top of the ovary.

All bromeliads have 3 sepals and 3 petals. The sepals are collectively called the **calyx**, and the petals collectively are the **corolla**. The **perianth** is both the calyx and corolla.

As you can see, perianth actually arises at the top of the ovary. The technical terms for this are an “**inferior**” **ovary**, and **epigynous** perianth. Many other Bromeliads, like Dyckias, have “superior” ovaries and a hypogynous perianth. This means the ovaries sit above the base of the sepals and petals – you can see the ovary looking into the petals.

The actual reproductive organs are the pistils and stamens. Both are seen at the top of the flower, but extend down inside the flower to the base of the perianth. The top of the stamens are covered with yellow pollen grains. The pistil consists of the ovary at the base of the flower, the very top structure called a stigma, and a long tube (a “style”) connecting the two.

Flowers can differ drastically. I chose Billbergia flowers since their parts are colorful and easy to see. Their pistils and stamens are “exserted,” which means they extend beyond the top of the petals. Other genera have pistils and stamens that are shorter than the petals and considered “included;” they can’t be readily seen. Similarly, many Bromeliads have flower bracts that are longer than the sepals, so the sepals can’t be readily seen.

These different flower parts are also important diagnostic tools to help determine what species, or hybrid, your plant might be. <>

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What can you do to help our club?

There are many ways to participate. First foremost we need **members to plan to attend all meetings**. Our group is small and we need your participation. From time to time emergencies come up and some family events that can't be rescheduled; that's life. What we ask is for members **to try not to plan anything else on our meeting day**. Please refer to our calendar below before you schedule.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please Put These Dates on Your Calendar

Saturday, April 6, 2013	Roger Cohen – <i>Video of SFVBS Bromeliad Show / Sale / Guests</i>
Saturday, May 4, 2013	SFVBS meeting + Field Trip to
Sat & Sun - May 4 & 5	La Ballona Valley Bromeliad Show & Sale (Culver City)
Sat. June 1, 2013	Canceled – SFVBS Regular meeting
Sunday June 2, 2013	Bar-B-Q at Bryan & Mary Chan's home
Sat & Sun - June 8 & 9	LA Cactus & SFVBS Bromeliad Show & Sale
Saturday, July 6, 2013	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, August 3, 2013	SFVBS meeting and Field Trip to
Sat & Sun August 3 & 4	South Bay Bromeliad Show & Sale (Torrance)
Saturday, Sept 7, 2013	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, Oct 5, 2013	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, Nov 2, 2013	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, Dec 7, 2013	Holiday Brunch – Sepulveda Garden Center

STBA = Speaker To Be Announced

Thursday April 4	<u>Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society</u> Free admission and parking 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm - Sepulveda Garden Center Speaker:
Sunday April 7	<u>South Bay Bromeliad Associates</u> Palos Verdes Library 650 Deep Valley Drive, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm Free admission and parking. Speaker:
Sat & Sun April 13- 14	<u>SCHAS Daylily & Bulb Society</u> L.A. Arboretum (Ayers Hall) 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia Iris, Bulbs & Exotic Plants Show and Sale Free with Arboretum admission
Wednesday April 24	<u>La Ballona Valley Bromeliad Society</u> 4177 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA Culver City Veterans' Memorial Complex (Rotunda Room) 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Free admission and parking. Speaker:
Saturday June 1	<u>SCHAS Daylily & Bulb Society</u> L.A. Arboretum (Ayers Hall) 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia Daylily Show and Sale Free with Arboretum admission

Hope to see you all at the next meeting; bring a friend.

<<>> **Happy Easter to You & Your Family** <><>>