



S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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

<http://sfvbromeliad.homestead.com/index.html>

sanfernandovalleybs@groups.facebook.com

JUNE 2015 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

Pres & News: **Mike Wisnev** V.P.: **Mary K. Carroll** Secretary: _____ Treasurer: **Mary Chan**
Membership: **Joyce Schumann** Health & Wellness: **Georgia Roiz** Web Page: **Mike Wisnev** Facebook: **Barry Landau**
Directors: **Steve Ball, Bryan Chan, Richard Kaz -fp, Dave Bassani-fp**

next meeting: **Saturday June 6, 2015 @ 10:00 am**
Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, California 91316

AGENDA

9:30 – SET UP & SOCIALIZE

10:00 - Door Prize – one member who arrives before 10:00 gets a Bromeliad

10:05 -Welcome Visitors and New Members.
Make announcements and Introduce Speaker

10:15 –Speaker: Guillermo Rivera

Program: "Bromeliads of Peru: Land of the Incas"

The talk will cover a voyage through the whole country of Peru: from the dry, deciduous forest in the North around the cities of Chiclayo and Jaen, to the lower slopes of the Andres and into the Amazon region. We will explore the habitats around Huaraz, a beautiful town nestled in the valley between the Cordillera Blanca and Cordillera Negra. In the end we will cross the Andes once again heading towards the Sacred Valley of the Incas to finish our voyage in Machu Pichu. We will see amazing Tillandsias in flower, high elevation Puya, spectacular Vrieseas and the most incredible bromeliad Puya raimondii growing at 4400 meters, with its inflorescence of over 20 feet!.

Born in Argentina. Owner of South America Nature Tours (former Cactus Expeditions), a company dedicated to the organization of tours for the last 14 years, throughout South America (Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador), Mexico and South Africa, with emphasis on plants (bromeliads, cacti, and orchids), and birding. Former researcher at the University of Cordoba, Argentina. BS degree in Biology University of Cordoba MS Marine Biology. Northeastern University. PhD in Botany University of Cordoba. **Don't miss this meeting!** <>

11:15 - Refreshment Break and Show and Tell:

Will the following members please provide refreshments this month: **Kaz Benadom, Mary Chan, Albert Chang, Nels Christianson, Roger Cohen 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 Mary K. (818-705-4728) Leave message - she will call back.

Feed The Kitty

If you don't contribute to the refreshment table, please make a small donation to (**feed the kitty jar**) on the table; this helps fund the coffee breaks.

11:30 - Show and Tell is our educational part of the meeting – Members are encouraged to please **bring one or more plants.** 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 can donate plants for auction, or can get 75% of proceeds, with the remainder to the Club

12:00 – Raffle: Please bring plants to donate and/or buy tickets. Almost everyone comes home with new treasures!

12:15 - Pick Up around your area

12:30 –/ Meeting is over—Drive safely <>

President's Message

The next two weeks are our busiest of the year, and I hope all of you will participate in both events.

Our annual show and sale will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 30 – 31. As before, we participate in the Los Angeles Cacti and Succulent Show and Sale, which is a truly unique show and sale. For those of you that aren't members of the cactus club, Joyce is the president of that club and she, Artie, Kim, Kathleen and others have made this show truly unique – a drought garden festival, with a kid's day, rock vendors, and all sorts of plants.

Our club has a sales table and puts on a great exhibit inside. **What can you do?** Certainly show up!. But better yet – there are many ways to help out. You can bring a few plants for the Exhibit. Our show is not a judged show, just bring in some of your favorite Bromeliads, or something in bloom. If you like it, the public will too, and we can attract more interest and members in the Club.

Or, if you have some extra plants, bring them in to sell - we have a table for plants to sell – remember to double tag them with your name and the price. You don't even have to pot it up - lots of sales have offsets that have been cut off the mama plant and are sold like that.

Another way to help – volunteer for a morning or afternoon, or both, or just an hour or two. We need folks to help greet visitors who look at our show – it's an easy way to help participate, meet new people and have a great time. Or help out in the kitchen or the sales booth. Or help Kathleen out with the kid's day on Sunday – she is in charge of it, and that day is her birthday!

If you have questions about how to help out, talk to me or Mary K. or Bryan or shoot us an email! **Bring your show plants on Friday after 12:00 before 5:00pm.**

Last month our club member Ray Van Veen had a great presentation about his travels to Brazil and some of the amazing Bromeliads there. This month is another rare treat – Guillermo Rivera, who leads Bromeliad and cactus trips in South America and elsewhere will be speaking at our normal meeting. Sadly, I will miss it – I asked my nephew if he might consider moving his wedding date and he politely declined! So I won't be there, but hope I see all of you for the Sale and Show May 30-31.

• Announcements

We will be in contact to get firm commitments on your availability for the show.

Questionnaire Results - 28 in attendance / 20 surveys collected / 19 want to have a show 9 don't care / 13 will help set up / 13 will exhibit approx. 60 plants / 4 plan to sell plants / 6 members plan to donate approx. 2 dz. sale plants / 5 women volunteered to help with food on Saturday and 3 will help on Sunday 7 members said they will help break down Show on Sunday --- Thank you all, we will be in touch

Any ideas for an educational Display for the show? let Mike or Mary know

Saturday June 27 Summer Picnic - We have been invited to have our summer picnic at "Desert Creations" new location. We will send details later in the month. Hold that date open

Officers & Volunteers – We still need a volunteer for Secretary and MaryK needs help with refreshments.

• **Happy Birthday to ??, it seems none of our members were born in June or they are holding out on us.**

- **Desert Creations**, The backyard home nursery is no longer the place. Congratulations, Artie Chavez and Steve Frieze are moving on up.... 😊 they are now partners in a nursery at 18161 Parthenia, Northridge CA 91325. The new nursery is located across from U-Haul and in the rear of “Destination Workouts” (a large Red and Black building.) The nursery is open 7 days a week. Steve, Phyllis, Kim or Artie are in the shop Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **Another question still unanswered** ... Should we **test** a joint Xmas celebration with the cactus club?
- **Participation Rewards System** – This is a reminder that you will be rewarded for 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. <>

Mary K is taking a look back at the May meeting.....

This is one of those bad memory days. I took notes and lost them, so I just want to say a quick thank you for outstanding participation. Many of the regulars attendees were absent on vacation or participating in the LaBallona bromeliad show, but we still had a good turn-out. Everyone was wowed by Ray Vanveen’s program. Plus Ray provided more than a dozen raffle plants and another half dozen plants for the auction. My memory is starting to kick in a little bit now... There were many outstanding plants in the show-n-tell, brought in by Steve, Bob Wright, Mike Wisnev, MaryK and Nancy. Richard Morse had some beauties that you will see pictures of in this newsletter. Our newest member, Carol Scott brought in a great Vriesea Chestnut hyb. Joyce did a wonderful job filling in, handling the auction and many other jobs. Ana is always by my side helping out; Nancy and Jeanette also were very helpful. I wish I could find my notes... I wanted to mention everyone because a little bit from all of you is what makes it work. Thank you Big Steve; and Rose even popped in to help with the raffle. Once again I just want to say thanks to all who helped make it a very good meeting. Kim and Leni were not there so Kathleen got some great auction plants. <>

Be Prepared for our Bromeliad Show on May 30 and 31?

By: Mary K. Carroll

Are you almost ready it is not too late!

Remove large pups now - Plan to donate Sale plants

Donate your time providing info at the show

Prepare one plant a week - Help Set-up and Take down

We still have time to get our plants ready. Make a commitment to prepare one plant a week. If you do that, you can 2 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. When potting tall or large plants, you can add a few rocks or broken pottery 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 stable and you 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 scarred.

Club Website. We have finally had a chance to update the Club website. There are two new pages, one about Bromeliad Basics, and another with other sites for those that want to learn more. The Calendar page shows all events for the year. And the Newsletter page has all the Newsletters back to mid-2013.

<http://sfvbromeliad.homestead.com/index.html>

Please Put These Dates on Your Calendar

Sat & Sun – May 30 & 31	SFVBS Bromeliad Show & Sale
Saturday, June 6, 2015	Speaker : <i>Guillermo Rivera</i>
Saturday, June 27, 2015	Picnic at the Nursery
Saturday, July 4 , 2015	No Meeting due to holiday
Saturday, August 1, 2015	Speaker: <i>Andy Siekkenen</i>
Sat & Sun, August 1 & 2, 2015	South Bay Bromeliad Show
Saturday, Sept 5, 2015	Speaker: <i>Woody Minnick</i>
Saturday, Oct 3, 2015	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, Nov 7, 2015	SFVBS Regular meeting - STBA
Saturday, Dec 5, 2015	Holiday Meeting – Time ???

STBA = Speaker To Be Announced

Speakers - We have some interesting speakers lined up for the next few months of this year but it is never too early to start planning for 2016. 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 <>

-- *Broms in Bloom - Member Plants* --

Most of us don't grow many *Guzmanias*, though they are very popular elsewhere. The FCBS site currently lists and has pictures of 348 *Guzmania* species and cultivars, and they seem to be the most popular species shown on the WorldwideBromeliad Society. Sadly, most of them don't do so well in our hot and dry climate - they grow in more humid climates in habitat.

But Richard Morse, one of our newer members, moved closer to the Ventura coast , and enjoys a more moderate climate. As a result, he tells us he can now grow *Guzmanias* for the first time, and he does so superbly! He has shown some absolutely stunning ones at the Club, including this *Guzmania* Jim and Tony last month.



And earlier this year, Richard Morse shared these with us.



Hopefully, we will see more of his great *Guzmanias* in future meetings and maybe even some at the show this month!

(all photos by M Wisnev)

Taxonomic Tidbits –

Vriesea s.l. V – *Vriesea stigma* types

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

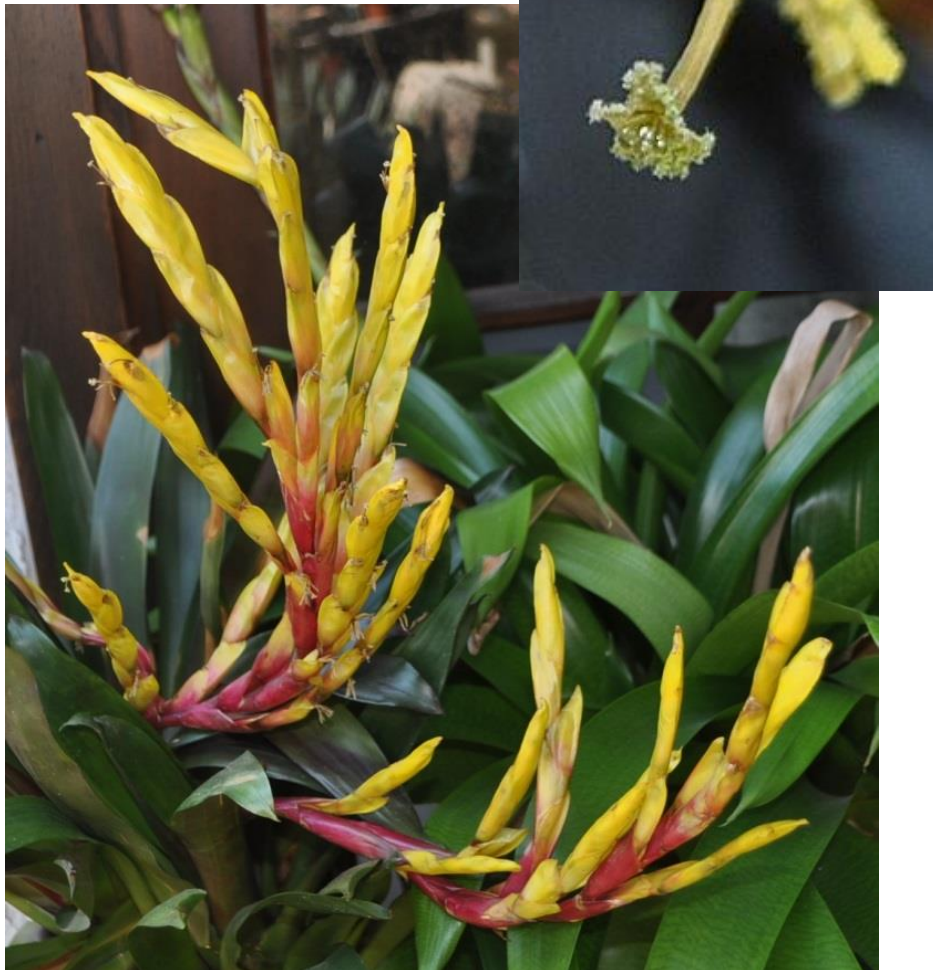
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Last month I discussed an article by Brown and Gilmartin called “Stigma Types in Bromeliaceae – A Systematic Survey.” Systematic Botany 14: 110–132. Two of the most common types of stigmas for Bromeliads are the conduplicate-spiral form and the simple-erect form. A few of the roughly 60 *Vriesea* species in their study displayed each type. But by far, the bulk of them had two different types of stigmas not seen in the Pitcairneae or Bromelioideae subfamilies, or in *Tillandsia* either.

The two types are called convolute-blade and cupulate. Convolute-blade looks somewhat like conduplicate spiral to me, but the stigma lobes are not wrapped around each other. Instead they are sort of folded next to each other.

Here is a picture of a *Vriesea* hybrid with a compound paddle shaped inflorescence. The flowers barely peek out from the flower bracts.

Here is a picture of its well exerted (and very tiny) stigma – the stigma actually looks a bit like a little flower – the lobes almost seem like petals. It gets the name, convolute, from the way the lobes are folded around each other. You can also see the papillae on the ends of the lobe margins. And, just faintly, that the style is actually 3 tubes connected together.



Here is another hybrid that was blooming. Its inflorescence is quite different than the one above – it is a simple inflorescence and the flowers extend well beyond the floral bracts.



Its stigma is similar to the one above, though a bit more tightly convoluted.

Here is the best shot I got of one.



The last type is the cupulate type, named presumably since it looks like 3 little cups. Here is an example.



If some of you weren't in the cacti and succulent clubs, I might have told you I borrowed a friend's super micro lens and used a tripod for this shot. In fact, I have only had one cupulate type Bromeliad, and it died before it flowered. So no pictures of a real cupulate stigma. But this picture above is a great example of what the cupulate stigma looks like in the article. And, just like the real thing, there are no papillae on the margins of this type of stigma. And, yes, for those of you in the clubs, that is a picture of three *Crassula* 'Gollum' leaves. Very distinctive compared to the other four stigma types.

Some of you, or all you, may be wondering why I am showing these, or at least why it is part of the *Vriesea* articles. There are two answers. First, and foremost, there is a whole new world to explore on your plants on a micro basis. Even with a little magnifying glass, you can see a lot more. Buy a cheap microscope, and you will be amazed. I went to a store that sold telescopes and microscopes a few years ago not at all sure I wanted one. After all, it might be one of those things that never get used. And I like to look at my living plants – how will a microscope work unless I cut off part of the plant? Well, I ended up buying a Carson Microbrite Led Lighted 20x-40x Zoom Microscope. It has no base, so you can just look at a plant without dissecting it. Best of all, it is made of plastic, is about 4 inches long, and costs about \$10. It magnifies up to 40 times. I can take it anywhere, and don't care if it breaks (and it hasn't). I can see much more with this toy microscope than you can see in these photos.

Second, it turns out these stigma types correlate to *Vriesea* groups discussed earlier. This article on stigmas was written in 1989, before Grant broke out *Werauhias* and *Alcantareas* into new genera. Part of the reason for Grant's decision was the earlier work of Utley who wrote about thecophylloid *Vriesea* and cupulate stigmas. (I have no idea what thecophylloid means!). In fact, *Werauhias* are the only Bromeliads with cupulate stigmas. If you look back a few months, you will see that Derek Butcher's key distinguishes *Werauhia* in part based on their cupulate type stigmas, without papillae. This is how I knew I only had one cupulate type Bromeliad even though I haven't seen more than about ten stigmas up close and personal: I have only had one *Werauhia* – the same one pictured in the first *Vriesea* article.

In contrast, the eastern Brazilian *Vriesea* generally has. Remember they were on the same branch in the cladogram shown earlier. And according to that same article, “[t]he Andean clade (E) clearly differs in its simple-erect or conduplicate-spiral stigma type from the east Brazilian (D) one.” Barfuss, M.H.J., Samuel, R., Till, W., Stuessy, T.F., 2005. Phylogenetic relationships in subfamily Tillandsioideae (Bromeliaceae) based on DNA sequence data from seven plastid regions. *Am. J. Bot.* 92, 337at 347-348. This article and the Grant paper stated that *Alcantarea* had convolute – blade stigmas, but two later papers found that they were conduplicate spiral in nature). In any case, these stigma types correlate reasonably well with the results of the DNA test.

This is a key component of these DNA studies – the studies I have seen analyze the DNA results by comparing them to plant features. These features may be different from the ones used to categorize the genus before. If the sample is large enough, and the results match the plant

characteristics, they may propose new changes. On the other hand, if the DNA results don’t mesh with plant characters, they won’t propose new changes.

This one last photo of some of mine.



The one on the top left is a lot like V ‘Red Chestnut’, but isn’t labeled. Top right is an interesting species called V *ospinae-gruberi* – unlike most others it has a dull matte finish, and isn’t shiny. It flowered and has two pups – mama is wasting away. The other three are John Arden hybrids.

So, I hope you enjoy *Vrieseas*, I know Ana and I do.

Did you pass out the show flyers?

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society

is participating in

LA Cactus & Succulent Society's

15th Annual Drought Tolerant Plant Festival

Sat & Sun May 30 - 31, 2015 9am - 4 pm

**Free
Family-Friendly**

Beautiful Bromeliads



on display
Indoors and
Outdoors

Learn about
Succulent Bromeliads
and how to use them with other
drought tolerant plants.

SFV Bromeliad Society

[Http://sfvbromeliad.homestead.com](http://sfvbromeliad.homestead.com)

Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd.
Encino, CA 91416

SFV Bromeliad Society Meetings

1st Saturday each month 10:00 am - Noon

Free at the Sepulveda Garden Center

Power-Point Programs - Refreshments - Raffles