



S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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JULY 2014 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

Pres & News: **Mike Wisnev** V.P.: **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**

next meeting: **Saturday July 5, 2014 @ 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 presentation:

Program title: "Brazil: bromeliads in habitat." If you need to know about evolving Andean microclimate impact on tillandsias - "air plants" that don't need soil - then Gregg DeChirico is your guy. This power point photo presentation will take you deep into Brazil to see people, places and a variety of plants. His enthusiasm for flora and fauna are evident in his presentations.

Speaker: Gregg DeChirico has grown plants of all types for over 30 years. He has a nursery, Gregg's Greenhouse, located in the Santa Barbara area, specializing in seed-grown, rare and exotic plants. Gregg is a frequent participant and vendor at many local and regional club shows and sales. He has traveled throughout Latin America to photograph the local flora and fauna. His photography is outstanding; take a look at

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/4banut>.

Gregg, the plant geek, is currently President of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America (CSSA).

◇

11:15 - Refreshment Break and Show and Tell:

Will the following members please provide refreshments this month: **Joyce Schumann, Kim Thorpe, Ray Van Veen, Mike and Ana Wisnev 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 Kathleen (818 402-6031).
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 <>

Happy Birthday – Duke Benadom **July 1**,
Mike Wisnev **July 03**, Barry Landau **July 10**,
Georgia Roiz **July 11**, Gloria Friedman **July 13**,
Wesley Bartera **July 23**, Ana Wisnev **July 30**

President's Message

While we haven't had a regular meeting, lots of activities the last two months. And lots of thanks are in order!

I was happy that many of you made it to the La Ballona Show and Sale in May.

First, and foremost, again I want to thank Bryan and Mary Chan for hosting our annual barbeque, and all who attended and contributed to the potluck. Bryan's has added many new beds to his garden, and it looks great.

The annual show and sale was also a success. Thanks to Natalia, Bryan, Richard, Michael Mutsamoto and Ray for selling plants and contributing to our coffers, as well as showing plants inside. Ana, Leni and Mary K. spent Friday afternoon setting up the show tables. Leni was there all day Saturday hosting inside the showroom. Many contributed in other ways. Kim fed everyone – she ought to think about a catering business (for those who don't know, she has one.) Several other members contributed to our Bromeliad display; I didn't get all of the names, but I hope you all know your efforts were appreciated.

This month we have Greg DeChirico back as our speaker. He has spoken numerous times, and gets rave reviews from all! Gregg said he enjoys speaking to such an attentive group. And he brings some great *Tillandsias* and other gems to sell.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting by 10:00 am... <>

Mike Wisnev

Mary K. is taking a look back at June

Mike W. said it best A big thank you goes to Bryan and Mary Chan. We really appreciate them inviting us into their home again. I especially want to praise Bryan for the great job he did cooking the Bar-B-Q ribs. As usual our members contributed pot luck dishes ranging from good to great.

June Festival - Isn't it funny how we always have such a great turn out for the food events but only half those folks participated in the Festival? Well.... maybe ... a few more than half when you consider dual memberships. **Back to those who weren't there....** you missed a nice social event and SFVBS made a little money. It was a good place to see all your other plant friends. Dozens of people meandered through the free festival, buying plants, books, tools and food; they also enjoyed looking at educational displays, plants, pottery, reptiles, tortoises and turtles. Kathleen and Roger did a stellar job on Sunday handling the Kiddie activities. Of Course Artie was a great overseer, but as understudies Cheryl and David rose to the occasion.

Mike already mentioned the sellers and I understand Mary Chan, Dave Bassani, Steve and Leni and Terral Matsumoto also spent some time helping in the sales area. Sale plant donations were made by Nancy, Mary K. and M. Matsumoto. Bryan and Steve made cash donations towards the tent rental; every little bit helps.

Below Mike shows a picture of our Tillandsia display before it was completed. In later issues we can include additional photos. We are too small to have a judged show but we had nice Bromeliad displays both inside and outdoors. Other contributors to our displays were Steve, Bryan, Richard Kaz, Kathleen Misko, Chris Rogers, Kim, Ray Van Veen and Mike Wisnev.

Barry was there Saturday taking pictures and he placed some on face book the same day; that may have helped attendance because I thought Sunday numbers were a little better than normal. I didn't see everyone but I know Mike & Sue Boess, Mohamed, Nels, Mardy and Bob Wright were there. The members who participated in any manner deserve acknowledging but I already know I am going to miss someone so I will apologize now... **I'm sorry!** For many years Bob Friedman, Max Wurzel and Gloria Friedman were major contributors to our shows; we just want to wish them happiness and to say this year they were missed. <>

Ramblings about Better Growing The editor is looking for information from other members for this column. You must 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. <>

Ramblings about Better Growing

Bromeliads have few pests that damage the plant, the most harmful being **mealy bugs and aphids**. However, there is one human pest that can thrive in a bromeliad. While mosquitos do no damage to the bromeliad plant, they can be a nuisance. This month I will share some info from the internet about **mealybugs**, but first a **Mosquito Reminder**

The *Wyeomyia vanduzeei* and *Wyeomyia mitchellii*, are keenly adapted to life in bromeliads. Fortunately, these two species are currently not known to transmit diseases. They are simply a nuisance. The *Wyeomyia* are most active during the daytime and are not susceptible to night time community fogging.

Mosquitos function best at around **80 degrees** and cannot function at all when the temperature drops below 50 degrees. They live in the same tropical environments as the outdoor growth of bromeliads, similarly ideal for year round mosquito production.

Washing the bromeliads with a garden hose very regularly (**3 – 4 days**) can also reduce mosquito populations. The pressure will force the eggs out onto the ground, where they cannot survive. It will also remove the debris. If you use this method, you must occasionally fertilize.

With diligence and care, you can avoid aiding the rapid production of mosquitos in your back yard. If you have only a small collection of bromeliads, they are not likely to contribute significant mosquito populations to the neighborhood. But, if you are a bromeliad enthusiast and your landscape is made up of many tank forming bromeliads, you may want to consider whether or not mosquitos are a pest problem for you and your neighbors. If they are, find a management approach that will reduce the population of the mosquitos to a manageable level. If possible, avoid using chemicals so that the ecosystem in your yard will stay healthier in the long run. <> **Sources:** Frank, J.H. Bromeliad-inhabiting mosquitoes in Florida.

<http://BromeliadBiota.ifas.ufl.edu/mosbrom.htm>

FAQ's on Moquitos. Rutgers Center for Vector Biology. <http://www-rci.rutgers.edu/~insects/mosfaq.htm>

Bromeliads and Mosquitos. <<http://www.pinellascounty.org/PublicWorks/mosquito/pdf/bromeliads-and-mosquito-control.pdf>>

Mealy bugs



These soft-bodied pests attack many greenhouse and indoor plants. Here's how to control mealy bugs naturally without using toxic sprays.

Description: Found in warmer growing climates, [mealybugs](#) are soft-bodied, wingless insects that often appear as white cottony masses on the leaves, stems and fruit of plants. They feed by inserting long sucking mouthparts, called stylets, into plants and drawing sap out of the tissue. Damage is not often significant at low pest levels. However, at higher numbers they can cause leaf yellowing and curling as the plant weakens. Feeding is usually accompanied by honeydew, which makes the plant sticky and encourages the growth of sooty moulds. Mealybugs are a common greenhouse pest that affect ornamentals, houseplants, avocados and fruits.

Mealy bugs continued.....

Adults (1/10 – 1/4 [inch long](#)) are soft, oval distinctly segmented insects that are usually covered with a white or gray mealy wax. Small nymphs, called crawlers, are light yellow and free of wax. They are active early on, but move little once a suitable feeding site is found.

Note: There are approximately 275 species of mealy bugs known to occur throughout the [United States](#).

Life Cycle: Adult females deposit 300-600 eggs within their compact, cottony mass. Egg laying is continues for about 2 weeks with the female dying shortly after all eggs are laid. Hatching occurs within 1-3 weeks and the small active yellow nymphs begin migrating over the plant in search of feeding sites on which to settle. As they feed, they secrete honeydew and a waxy coating begins to form over their bodies. Female nymphs pass through three stages (instars) with a generation taking as little as one month, depending on temperature. Male nymphs pass through five instars. They do not feed after the first two instars and exist solely to fertilize the females. In the greenhouse, continuous and overlapping generations occur throughout the year. There is little [winter survival](#) outside of greenhouses in the North.

Mealy bug Control: Prune out light infestations or dab insects with a Q-tip dipped in rubbing alcohol. Do not over water or overfertilize – mealy bugs are attracted to plants with high nitrogen levels and soft growth. Commercially available [beneficial insects](#), such as ladybugs, lacewing and the Mealy bug Destroyer (*Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*), are important natural predators of this pest. Use the [Bug Blaster](#) or hose off plants with a strong stream of water to reduce pest numbers. Washing foliage regularly will help discourage future infestations. [Insecticidal soap](#) contains potassium salts of fatty acids, which penetrates and damages the outer shells of soft-bodied insect pests, causing dehydration and death within hours. If pest levels become intolerable, spot treat with a [natural pesticide](#) that does NOT persist in the environment.

Tip: Control [ants](#) when releasing [beneficial insects](#). Ants feed on the honeydew that mealy bugs produce and protect them from predators to ensure this food supply.<>

Source

Eric Vinje <http://www.planetnatural.com/pest-problem-solver/houseplant-pests/mealybug-control/>

submitted by: marykcarroll July 2014

Help us to improve our Membership

Tell people about your hobby !

Let apartment dwellers know these plants can be grown

Inside or on a balcony ! Give them a plant !

Invite them to a meeting for a free plant !

Reach out to visitors and new members,

Introduce yourself, make them feel welcome !

Let us hear your ideas on how to improve membership.

Please Put These Dates on Your Calendar

Saturday, August 2, 2014	Speaker – Andy Siekkinen
Sat & Sun August 2 & 3	South Bay Bromeliad Show & Sale
Saturday, Sept 6, 2014	Speaker - Larry Farley – “Bromeliad Blooms by the Month”
Saturday, Oct 4, 2014	SFVBS Regular meeting - Speaker to be announced
Saturday, Nov 1, 2014	Speaker – Pam Koide –
Saturday, Dec 6, 2014	Holiday Meeting & Brunch 10:00 – 2:00

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 2015. 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 Photos

Well no one sent a plant photo in. So here is one of mine, showing the outstanding Tillandsia collection of Mary K. at the Show and Sale last month. (this photo was taken before the display was completed)



Membership Dues

NEED TO RENEW ?

Pay at the meeting to:

Membership Chair - **Nancy Pyne-Hapke**
or Treasurer - **Mary Chan**

or Mail to:

SFVBS membership

Attn: **Nancy Pyne-Hapke**

P.O. Box 16561

Encino, CA 91416-6561

Yearly Membership Dues

\$10.00 for a single or couple

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\$10.00 for a single or couple

Taxonomic Tidbits –

Will the real *Bromelia balansae* please stand up?

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

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter –July 2014

I'll be blunt here – I am confused about this topic, and I am sharing my confusion about this relatively obscure genus. That may be enough to keep some of you from going any further into this article! About the only *Bromelia* I have seen, or so I thought, is *Bromelia balansae*. It is seen at the HBG, and occasionally for sale. Yet, it has been suggested that *B balansae* will rarely be seen in cultivation, and that we might be growing *B serra* or *B sylvicola*. The variegated form may be *B serra* or *B pinguin*.

Bromelias aren't seen too often – they grow large, and are viscously spiny. In the ground, they grow by stolons, and are often used as fences where they are grown locally. While one might guess they are in the *Pitcairnioideae* subfamily, with *Hechtias*, *Puyas*, *Dyckias* etc, they are in fact members of the *Bromelioideae* subfamily. According to Smith & Downs, they are distinguished from other members of the *Bromelioideae* subfamily by virtue of “filaments forming a tube to which the fleshy petals are joined along their centers but with their margins free; sepals mostly free or nearly so ...; leaves very laxly and coarsely spinose –serrate.” Flora Neotropica, Monograph No. 14, Part 3, pp 1494-5. (hereinafter “S&D.”)

So here is HBG 10292, labelled *B balansae*, at HBG.

It was on the main path to the desert garden, so most of you have no doubt seen it.

Amazingly, when I went to take more pictures of it, it had been removed, though it is grown in a number of other beds at HBG. If you think repotting your *Dyckia* is hard, imagine digging out that *Bromelia* - that would have been fun!

My confusion started when I borrowed some



BSI Journals from the club, and read about a variegated *Bromelia* grown by Michael Kiehl, named by Derek Butcher as *Bromelia* ‘Que Sera’ in 62(2) BSI 74, (2012). Derek’s article, like all of his, was filled with information. As far back as 1955, Mulford Foster described *Bromelia serra* variegata in BSI 5(4).

But later in 1995, Harry Luther pictured another variegated *Bromelia* and stated it represents *B pinguin*. I haven't seen that picture, so can't say how different that plant looks.

***Bromelia* at the HBG**



I remembered seeing a variegated *Bromelia* at the HBG, shown here, and wondered how they all differed.

When I emailed Derek, he suggested that *B balansae* was not commonly seen and gets quite huge. He had written an article about this in 2009, noting that many so-called *B balansae* plants may in fact be *B serra*. See <http://Bromeliad.org.au/> (click on Detective, and then DD12/09b). He quoted from M Foster's article as follows: "B. balansae is native to Argentina, Brasil and Paraguay. It has an upright inflorescence that sometimes reaches four feet. The flowers are borne in a rather tight

fitting panicle which branches out as the fruit ripens. *B. serra* bears a much smaller and more compact semi-globular flower head and the inflorescence seldom attains more than twelve to eighteen inches in height. Both species are very showy when they are coming into flower, although *B. balansae* puts on a much more spectacular show with its crimson red bracts which surround the inflorescence." 5(4) BSI 60 (1955).

S&D says that *B balansae* is over 3 ft tall, has a "densely cylindrical" inflorescence with flowers that are "deep violet with broad white margins," while *B serra* is about 40 cm, with a "densely globose" inflorescence and blue-purple flowers with white margins (pp1660 and 1673).

So here is the so-called *B balansae* at the HBG in flower – the pictures taken at different times. Note that when I wrote this article I had to use photos I had taken earlier before I joined the club – I didn't bother to take any close-ups of the flowers etc for comparison. Now I find it is almost impossible to take too many pictures – it always seems later that some aspect of the inflorescence you want to check isn't in any of them. Like many *Bromeliads*, its center gets quite colorful when it blooms.



So, what is it?



So, what is it? It certainly seems to have a cylindric inflorescence, like *B balansae*, but the flower color is red, not blue or violet! I have noticed over the years that some flowers often change colors over time, which can confuse matters. But the pictures of *B balansae* I have seen show a violet flower, as indicated in S & D. Note also that the shape of the inflorescence can change. In the picture above, the shape is more globose, as it seems that the inflorescence is fairly young. In the picture above it, the inflorescence is clearly cylindrical. But if you look closely at the spent inflorescence at the first picture in this article, the shape is closer to pyramidal, and the flowers seem more lax than the other pictures.

So I did some more searching. The *Bromeliads in Australia* website states:

“From Harry Luther, via Derek Butcher, BSI Cultivar Registrar..

‘*Bromelia sylvicola* is frequently, but wrongly, labelled as *Bromelia balansae* in Australia and the USA.

sylvicola has maroon petals with a white edge, and the plant in flower is a metre or so tall and the leaf rosette is 1 to 2 metres in diameter. *balansae* has violet petals with white edge and is much bigger. With the plant reaching nearly 2 metres tall with leaves 4 to 7 metres long!” (For more on Harry Luther, see the end of this article.) Note that while Luther says *B sylvicola* has maroon flowers, S&D says it has purple petals, and a pyramidal inflorescence. In another article, Derek speculates that the plant often grown in Florida, which Luther thought was *sylvicola*, might actually be *B penguin*, a plant with a much wider distribution throughout Mexico and the West Indies.

When I searched FCBS and *Bromeliads in Australia* for pictures, I found 1) all the *B balansae* flowers are purple, 2) *B serra* flowers seem to be blue or red (are they both correct??), and *B sylvicola* look maroon or red. See the pictures on the next page. (Photographs are from the *Bromeliads in Australia* Website).

So how does one tell what HBG 10292 really is. In many cases, it seems pretty obvious – your plant matches the pictures of one species pretty well. But if it doesn’t, probably the best way is to compare the entire description for the three plants. This is, at least for me, rather time consuming. I find I have to do a chart listing the various plant parts and their description and compare them for differences. Hopefully, one finds some clear distinctions! Often, however, descriptions overlap considerably.

Another problem is that the original descriptions are often done by different botanists/explorers who may describe things a bit differently. Is the sepal oval, oblong, elliptical or ovoid, and how different are they? Even if they are different, how likely is it that the relevant discoverer of the plant viewed them the same way as another discoverer. And how many plants do you check – one, two, twenty – to be sure you have covered the variation. I suspect most descriptions are based on a single specimen, and often future authors will copy the original description. One more problem is that sometimes you find your specimen has some characteristics of each description!

B balansae, photo by Kerry Tate 1



Bromelia cf silvicola
Courtesy Marie Selby Bot Gdns
photo by Keith Green



Bromelia serra photo by Gary May

As an example, I compared *B balansae* with *B serra*, both of which grow in Bolivia, among other countries. See “The genus *Bromelia* (Bromeliaceae) in Bolivia with the description of two new species from the Santa Cruz department,” by Roberto Vasquez & Pierre L. Ibsch, *Revista de la Sociedad Boliviana de Botanica* 4(1): 51-65, 2003. All of the information below is quoted directly from that article, though I moved some of the language to compare the two species.

B Serra v *B balansae*

“Plant - terrestrial, to 50 cm high. **terrestrial, propagating by stolons.**

Leaves - 1-1.5 m long, 3-5 cm wide, with a serrate margin, with antrorse and retrorse, unciform spines; apical ones red at maturity. **in rosette, numerous, to 1.2 m long, with antrorse and retrorse spines.**

Scape short - **to 30 cm long, erect, robust**

Bracts subfoliaceous, red. **bracts like inner leaves, red, gradually changing to primary bracts.**

Inflorescence - capitate. **cylindric, covered by primary bracts.**

Flowers - in short fascicles, 5-9 flowered. **grouped in short branches, covered by primary bracts, 40 mm long**

Sepals - free, 15 x 5 mm, white. **to 30 mm long, white, connate and squamate from the base to the middle**

Petals - white with a violet band towards the apex, connate at base. **25 x 12 mm, white at base and the superior margin, the rest dark violet.”**

There isn't all that much difference; as the article says elsewhere, *B balansae* “is similar to *B. serra* but differs principally by its elongate and cylindric inflorescence, the violet flower color and the more northern distribution.” Even this statement is a bit curious, since both seem to have violet flowers with white margins!

To make matters worse, both *B serra* and *B balansae* are widely distributed and occur in Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and northern Argentina (and Columbia for *B balansae*). So it is hardly clear what a specimen is by knowing where the plant was found. Based on what I have read, plants so widely distributed are likely to vary considerably, and I wouldn't be surprised if there were hybrids growing there, though I haven't read anything to suggest that is the case here. *B sylvicola* is apparently limited to Mato Grosso, Brazil, but *B balansae* has been found there as well.

To confirm an ID, it would probably be necessary to watch the inflorescence over time and take careful measurements to compare it with the descriptions. That might give you an answer, or might leave you even more confused! It is quite possible that the descriptions are incomplete and that *B balansae* might have maroon or violet flowers. In some cases, it might be necessary to do more field work and see lots of so-called *balansae*, *serra* and *sylvicola* in habitat. Even this can be tricky, as their habitats overlap. After all, they don't come with labels in habitat, so you need to decide which is which in habitat also. The safest approach is to see the herbarium specimens and then visit where the plants were discovered to learn about the type plant. Then you can compare those with other ones in habitat. And, who knows, there may be a wide range of Bromelias of different sizes with maroon to purple flowers and capitate to cylindric inflorescences growing together.

I haven't seen the variegated HBG *Bromelia* in bloom, so I won't even speculate. As noted above, Harry Luther suggested some of the variegated *Bromelias* were *B pinguin*. Interestingly, S&D state that it has tomentose petals, yet none of the pictures I find show any that are tomentose. It seems to have a more open inflorescence, and one more clearly branched than the others. At least it grows in Mexico and Central America, so if you have locality data, then you can be sure it isn't one of the *Bromelias* noted above. Interestingly, the flowers on the variegated *Bromelia* ‘Que Sera’ appear to be red also.

Bromelia HBG 10292



Here is another Bromelia HBG 10292 in fruit. The fruit might be tasty, I am not about to try it. According to S&D, the fruit of *B balansae* is edible. And the article about Bolivian *Bromelias* says that the young stems of some Bromelias are consumed by the indigenous people.

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Harry Luther. Sadly, Harry Luther passed away in 2012 at the all too young age of 60. He was internationally known in the Bromeliad world. He spent most of his career at the Marie Selby Botanical Garden as Curator of Living Collections, and also was the only Director of the Bromeliad Identification Center. Late in his career he left to work at Gardens by the Bay in Singapore. We saw pictures of that garden in Paul Isley's presentation at the club last year.

Harry's importance in the Bromeliad world is best illustrated by the fact that the last and first issues of the BSI Journal in 2012-3 were combined and called the Harry E. Luther Memorial Issue. Over 90 pages long, the entire issue is about Harry's life, the many plants he discovered and named, and the plants named after him. There are articles by Derek Butcher, Elton Leme, Walter Till, Eric Gouda and about every other Bromeliad expert alive. One of the articles says he named, or contributed to the naming, of 196 of the 3352 Bromeliad taxa known today. At least 8 species were named after him during his life, and more in the Memorial Issue. He will be missed.

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A FEW MONTHS LATER. I had finished this article, and planned to put it in a Newsletter after a few others on *Aechmea*. In the meantime, I saw the accession card for HBG 10292. It was acquired back in 1941 as *B serra*, but later re-identified by Foster as *B balansae*. Later I saw one about to flower. So, a few weeks later, I took more pictures. In late May, the inflorescence was much like the first picture above – tall and cylindrical, but with a rose colored flower. But in early June, it had changed considerably.



Now it seems to look just like *B aff sylvicola* above! To make matters worse, it also looks a lot like pictures of *B pinguin* on FCBS.

I measured the inflorescence and flowers, and they seem a lot closer to *B sylvicola* than *B pinguin*. The flowers are also a lot different than the measurements in S&D for *B balansae*. ◇



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 sick or unidentified plants that can be brought in. **Each member, please bring one plant.** ◇

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

First foremost we need **members to plan to attend all meetings.** What we ask is for people **to try not to plan anything else on our meeting day.** Look at our calendar below before you schedule your next event.

1. You can **donate an occasional plant for the mini-auction or the raffle.** You can also **participate by buying raffle tickets or by bidding** on a plant in the auction.
2. Food and Drink – everyone is encouraged to bring in something for our great lunches, and feed the kitty if you don't. .
3. Newsletter – you might contribute a short (or better yet, long) article – a paragraph would be great. ◇