

# S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

[HTTP://SFVBROMELIAD.HOMESTEAD.COM/CONTACT.HTML](http://sfvbromeliad.homestead.com/contact.html)

## AUGUST 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 August 3, 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 / Please Sign In**

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

**10:15 - Speaker: Andy Siekkinen**  
**“Bromeliads of Northern Mexico”**



Andy has spoken to our club before and he has great programs. This travelogue will focus on the Bromeliads found in **northeastern Mexico**. Within this region there are bromeliads that grow in the humid, low elevation forests up through the mid-elevation deserts and into the highest elevation cloud forests. Here is a photo of him at home holding a large form of *Orthophytum glabrum* in a 12” pot.

Andy is a nanotechnology chemist with a love of plants. Andy left his family in Ohio to get his Master’s degree at the University of Washington in Seattle before settling in San Diego.

After discovering the bromeliad family he hasn’t looked back. Andy has been traveling to study bromeliads in their habitat and intends to begin formal, academic study of the genus *Hechtia* in the coming years. He has been President of two bromeliad societies in San Diego. He has also given presentations at nearly all of the California Bromeliad Society (BSI) affiliates providing educational content on both bromeliads in habitat as well as cultural techniques.

*Andy continued next column ....*

*Andy continued ...*

Promoting bromeliads to wider audience is important to him and he has spoken at several California cactus and succulent societies including LACSS. He also has a strong presence on online forums with worldwide audiences. In 2012 he was appointed as California Regional Director for BSI.

His plant collection focuses on Tillandsias and the terrestrial genera. With a strong scientific background he is an enthusiastic advocate for bromeliads and is always willing to share any and all of his knowledge with everyone who enjoys bromeliads. Over the past several years he has been exploring the cultural and botanical diversity of Mexico covering thousands of miles driving throughout the country. Now he is conducting tours; check out <http://www.eagle-eye-adventures.com/>. He just recently returned from two weeks in the Oaxaca deserts and mountains in Southern Mexico. **You don’t want to miss this meeting!** <>

**11:00 - Refreshment Break:** Will the following members please provide refreshments this month. **Joyce Schumann, Kim Thorpe, Ray Van Veen, Greg Vosper** and anyone else who has a snack they would like to share. If you can’t bring anything this month don’t stay away, just contribute next month.

**Questions about refreshments?** Call Mary K. **818-705-4728**, leave a message, she will call back.  
**Feed The Kitty-help support our refreshments**

**11:15 – Business**

**11:30 - Show and Tell – Please bring one plant.**

**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 <math>\diamond</math> **(Turn over)**

**NOVICE TALK...**

- <http://brookreflections.blogspot.com.au/> - Recently I stumbled across this Blog. I think the language and demonstrations are perfect for beginners.
- Last month it seems like I caused some concern by saying I water my Tillandsias twice a day when temperatures get near 100. Let me try to explain ..... We live in Encino and many of my Tillandsias are in a small area under fiberglass and others are under shade cloth. I lightly **spray** with the water hose; just enough to try to create something like a heavy dew. As a caution watering must be adjusted to your microclimate. My *crocata*, *duratii* and *tectorum* Tillandsias are hung high because they prefer hotter drier conditions. If you don't know which Tillandsias I am talking about, they are the ones that have soft texture leaves and the color is very light gray, almost white. My *juncea* is also hung high to bring out the red color but it requires a lot of moisture.
- One member was concerned because he can only water a couple of times a week. Once a week is good enough for your plants **to survive**. So far as Mosquito prevention goes, twice a week is all you need. The rule is "Do not allow water to stand for more than **three or four days when temperatures are above 70 degrees.**" By adding a little fresh water every 3 or 4 days may be deterrent enough for the water not to become stagnant and prevent breeding. Of course if you add enough fresh water to completely flush the vessel (tank, cup) of your plant that is better.
- Reminder - Do not place newly acquired plants in full sun; ask what conditions the plants were grown in; like a greenhouse, under shade cloth or under a big tree. Most all the plants I contribute to the raffle are grown in full morning sun but a big tree filters midday and afternoon sun. As temperatures get near 100 degrees or the sun rays are extremely bright, I place shade cloth over them for a day or so. It may not look so good but my Bromeliads aren't burnt.
- Green house plants – Bromeliads purchased at the market or florist are most likely grown in greenhouses with special water and special fertilizers. So when we take these plants home it is hard to keep them growing well under normal conditions. Those store bought plants should first be placed inside or on a patio or under a large shade tree. Often you hear people talking about bromeliads dying. Yes the mother plant will die after the bloom but..... Just wait, some die right away, some a few months later and some mother plants may take more than a year to die. In the mean time you are getting a new pup or pups. The new pups are worth the wait; those will acclimate and thrive in your own climate. I have found that most bromeliad pups grow pretty fast. So next time someone gives you a Bromeliad gift don't worry so much about it dying, look forward to the second generation; they will grow well for you outdoors in filtered light. – Mary K.



Hope to see you all next week at our August meeting. <>

***Message from our former President***

Steve List is the agricultural instructor at Sylmar High School. He is also President of the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers (CANGC). The CANGC *San Fernando Valley Chapter* will again host an auction for the benefit of scholarships in agriculture and to benefit the, unfunded, agricultural programs in the L.A. Unified School District. This is a very good cause, and because all materials for the auction are donated, the prices are great. Refreshments are available as is the chance to speak to many members of the gardening and plant world in the SF Valley. In other words, great cause, great camaraderie, great stuff to buy. There is a regular and a silent auction. The particulars are: **Wed. Oct. 23<sup>th</sup>. @ 6:00 pm.** The location is **9560 Reseda Blvd.; corner of Reseda and Superior** in the meeting hall of the **Methodist Church**. The auction admission fee is \$5.00 per person; such a deal.

The CANGC *SFV Chapter* is ***in need of donations, volunteers and attendees.*** Give Steve List a call or e-mail if you would like to support Horticulture Education. 818-399-4273 [S.list@verizon.net](mailto:S.list@verizon.net)



**Put this date on your calendar. Wed. Oct. 23<sup>th</sup>. @ 6:00 pm**

***Dave Bassani***

# Taxonomic Tidbits – Ligules revisited

By: *Mike Wisnev*

---

Last month I wrote about the difficulties of distinguishing **Tillandsias and Vrieseas**. The literature stated that they were often very hard to tell apart, but that the flower petals on Vriesea have a small tongue shaped scale, or ligule, at the bottom, and Tillandsias don't.



Well, these things can change quite a bit. Many bromeliads are reclassified from one genus to another, or to an entirely new genus, as new discoveries are made, or by virtue of DNA testing etc.

In fact, this appears to be the case with the Vriesea that look like Tillandsias. In a 1992 study of ligules in Bromeliads (79 American Journal of Botany 1051-71), Brown and Terry concluded that while ligules were useful to differentiate species, they did not deserve a lot of weight at the genus level. The study noted that other pairs of Bromeliads have also been distinguished largely based on the presence or absence of ligules – including *Porteas* and *Neoregelia*. *Canistrums* and *Nidulariums* are another pair. (The *Porteas* and *Canistrum* have ligules.) Apparently, ligules are one of the last structures to form in a flower, and other studies have found that late forming structures were not usually helpful for distinguishing genera. However, the wide variation in the ligules suggests they are useful to distinguish different species.

While this study did not recommend any changes, Jason Grant proposed that 26 xeric Vriesea be transferred to *Tillandsia*. *True Tillandsias misplaced in Vriesea (Bromeliaceae: Tillandsioideae)*. *Phytologia* 75: 170-175 (1993). Drawing on the prior study, Grant also noted that other genera, like *Puya*, have some species with ligules and some without them. He concluded that if ligules were not considered in distinguishing *Tillandsia* and Vriesea, these 26 species, including *Vr. espinosae* (pictured last month in the Taxonomic Tidbit article), would be *Tillandsias*. He stated:

*“With the exception to petal appendages, the twenty-six taxa here removed from Vriesea share all the characters for which Tillandsia subgenus Tillandsia was circumscribed in Smith & Downs (1977) and Gardner (1989). These characters especially include stamens and pistil that equal or are exerted from the corolla, petal blades that are narrow, spatulate or ligulate-shaped, and leaves which are often linear-triangular in outline and densely covered in trichomes.”*

Grant's article also proposed that only two of the subgenera of *Tillandsias* be included as *Tillandsia*, while five other were under study. I haven't found out what happened to these yet. In fact, the characteristics noted in the above quote are often not present in these other subgenera.

Lastly, I did find one DNA study of some members of the *Tillandsiodes* family that suggested that these xeric Vriesea do in fact belong within the *Tillandsia* genus.

So maybe it is easier to tell a *Tillandsia* from a Vriesea than I thought! <>

(Over for page 4)

**TAKING A LOOK BACK... at**

**Our July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting** was one of the best meetings we have had in a long time. Attendance was good, the food was good and our speaker gave us a great presentation; his Part II program on Argentina. I apologize for our meeting running a little bit long, but the program was delayed a bit, as usual, by technical problems. In the future if we running longer than normal, we will cut something short, especially the break. It was a mistake that the July break was so long, if that happens again please remind Mary or Mike to get started, 15 minutes is more than enough time. Welcome to Nels Christianson; he joined our group. We had several visitors and good member participation. A special thanks to those who donated raffle plants and food and show-n-tell. We had several members contribute who don't normally do so and we really appreciate it. I would like to say thanks by mentioning all by name but this time I'm really afraid I will forget someone. Please know that you all have my sincere thanks. <>

**Announcements**

- Reminder, we must leave the meeting room clean and straight. Please pick up around your area and lend a hand straightening the tables and chairs. Someone should use the brush to clear dirt off the raffle and display tables. And someone should help take the food into the kitchen. This month Mary Chan won't be there so I will need more help.
- **3 August Birthdays** – E-mail Mary K. or call with your birthday so we can honor you in the newsletter. Happy Birthday to **Bob Friedman he will be 91** on **Aug 5**, **John Martinez Aug.16** and **Steve Ball Aug 29**.
- **SFV Bromeliad Face Book Page** was created by Barry Landau, check it out. Frequently he will post photos from our monthly meetings and he also shares other interesting Bromeliad photos from FaceBook. <http://www.facebook.com/groups/sanfernandov>
- [alleybs/](#) If you need help signing up for facebook ask Barry, he will help you.
- **Holiday Brunch** - Please put this date on your calendar. **Saturday Dec 7, 2013** at the Sepulveda Garden Center 10:00am start with Lunch at noon. Detailed information will be posted closer to the date.

**This is your newsletter!**

Do you have something to announce or something humorous or educational to share?? \*\*

**SFVBS Regular meeting Schedule**

Sat. - Aug 3, 2013	Speaker – Andy Siekkinen “Bromeliads of Northern Mexico”
Sat. - Sept 7, 2013	Speaker – Steve Frieze – “Tropical Adventures in Brazil”
Sat. - Oct 5, 2013	Speaker – tour guide, Guerillmo Rivera
Sat. - Nov 2, 2013	Speaker – Kim Thorpe – “Bromeliads of Oaxaca Mexico” part I
Sat. - Dec 7, 2013	Meeting and Holiday Brunch

- **Thursday August 1, 7:00 pm** – **LA Cactus & Succulent meeting** at the Sepulveda Garden Center.
- **Sat & Sun August 3 & 4 - South Bay Bromeliad Show & Sale** at Rainforest Flora Inc., (RFI) 19121 Hawthorne Blvd. in Torrance Directions from Sepulveda Garden Center to: ( approx. 25.5 miles & 30 min.) East on 101 Fwy. / South on 405 Fwy. towards Santa Monica / Exit # 42A at Hawthorne Blvd. Right onto Hawthorne Blvd. (for approx. 1.8 miles) *RFI will be on your right - next door to McDonald's*
- **Sat & Sun - August 17 & 18** – **Inter-City Cactus & Succulent Show& Sale** at L.A. Arboretum & Botanic Garden in Ayers Hall, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA (exit 210 Fwy. South on Baldwin.)
- **Wed. Oct. 23<sup>th</sup>. @ 6:00 pm.** **CANGC-sfv chapter** - annual auction at 9560 Reseda Blvd., Reseda CA; corner of Reseda and Superior in the Methodist Church, meeting hall. Parking on the side and in the rear. The auction admission fee is \$5.00 per person.

**Local Bromeliad Nursery**

Live Art Plants -18809 Plummer St. - Northridge, CA 91324

