



S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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SEPTEMBER 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: **Kim Thorpe**

Directors: **Steve Ball, Bryan Chan, Richard Kaz -fp, Dave Bassani-fp**

next meeting: **Saturday Sept 5, 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: Woody Minnich

Program: “Bromeliads I've seen in the Americas”



This program will cover many of the beautiful Bromeliads that he has encountered on his trips from Mexico, to Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and the USA.

Bromeliads are not his speciality but he has seen plenty as he travels the world. The Bromeliad genera covered in this program will be from A to Z. I believe that this presentation should give the Brom growers a better idea of the environments in which some of these plants grow. Hopefully from the sharing of the native environments where we find the Bromeliads, we will all be able to better cultivate these plants in our gardens or greenhouses.

Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

Woody, as he is commonly called, has been in the cactus hobby for some 45 years and has become well known for his participation in many of the cactus and succulent clubs. Woody is also known for his many presentations. His photography is considered to be special and his commentary very entertaining and educational. He is a recognized international speaker and has spoken for plant conventions - organizations all over the USA, as well as in England, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Mexico.

Woody and his wife, Kathy live in the mountains of Cedar Grove, New Mexico just south of Santa Fe. He is a retired California high school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphic Arts, Architecture, Art and Health. He has 3 grown children and 3 grandchildren.

In New Mexico he has a small 1,200 sq. ft. greenhouse and a few cold frames where he grows his unique plants. He travels frequently to do presentations and shows throughout the western United States.

Don't miss this meeting! <>

AGENDA continued on next page

AGENDA continued..... 11:15 - Refreshment

Break and Show and Tell:

Will the following members please provide refreshments this month: *Adrienne Jaffe, James Johnson, Brenda Kanno, Richard Kaz, Leni Koska, Barry Landau, John Martinez, Michael & Terral Matsumoto 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 or put a couple dollars in the kitty.

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 one that you have another question about. This would be a good month to **show one of your John Arden plants.**

11:45 – Mini Auction: members can donate plants for auction, or can get 75% of proceeds, with the remainder going to the Club

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

12:15 - Pick Up around your area

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

President's Message Last month we discussed having a joint holiday party with the L. A. Cactus and Succulent Society. Most of our members also belong to the Cactus Club, and enjoy (or suffer) two holiday meals the same day. But it is a long day, and a lot of work for the members who do the most work. For that reason, we have discussed having a joint party. We might start a bit earlier than the Cactus Club, and have our gift exchange etc before the meal. Then, our members who aren't in the Cactus Club can leave after the meal if they want, rather than participate in the Cactus Club activities. As of mid-August, the Cactus Club hasn't finalized its preparations, since it appears that its phenomenal growth (with Joyce as the President!) has left it too large to have a meal and party at its location (same as ours). We should know more by the time of our meeting and can hopefully finalize our plans as well.

I am saddened to announce the passing of longtime collector/hybridizer John Arden in late July. John was a long-time member of the South Bay Bromeliad Club and friend and mentor to many of us. From the Americas to Europe to Australia, he was widely known in the Bromeliad World for his spectacular *Vriesea* hybrids.

This edition is dedicated to Arden's memory. A special thank you goes out to Katherine Poehlmann, editor for the So. Bay Bromeliad Club, for allowing us to reprint her article and I believe Mary Chan has some photos to share with us. **If you have a John Arden hybrid, please bring it for show-n-tell.** *Mike Wisnev*

Announcements

- **Happy Birthday to Jeanette Bond - Sept 3, and Artie Chavez - Sept 13**
- **Nominating Committee** - we need 3 volunteers to seek out a list of candidates for 2016. Please see Mike or Mary K. if you would like to volunteer. Duties will be to contact all members in good standing to see if they are interested in holding office and then the committee will come back with a list of recommendations. Nominations will be posted at October meeting and also taken from the floor at that time; feel free to submit your own name; we can use some new blood. The election will be held at the regular meeting on November 7.
- **Update on proposed Holiday Party** - Update from Joyce and MaryK
- **Participation Rewards System** – reminder -- you will be rewarded for participation. Bring a **Show-N- Tell plant, raffle plants,** and/or **Refreshments** and you will be rewarded with a Raffle ticket for each category.
- **Trial of new Participation Incentive** - **Bring a first time visitor or donate an auction plant to receive a free raffle ticket.**
- <https://youtu.be/brnq-fhKqL4> - You Tube video of the 2015 Intercity Cactus & Succulent Show by Barry Landau. If you look at the video, in the upper left corner you will see Mary K's **winning Fockea edulis.**

Monday September 7th - Happy Labor Day – Drive Safely

Mary K. is taking a look back at August As usual Andy Siekkinen, our speaker for the month, gave us was a very good program packed with fantastic photos and information about the Bromeliads and Biodiversity in Brazil. The information he shared from the BromEvo was great. We had 28 members in attendance and that was good considering many regulars were not present due to vacations or participation in the So. Bay Bromeliad Show. Thank you to all those who participated in some manner for our last meeting. Over the years our refreshment break has developed into lunch and that is good; no one is in a rush to leave because they are starving. We are lucky to have so many good cooks who like sharing with the club. The following people provided food. Joyce, Chris, Bob F., Nancy, Mardy, Kathleen, Bob W. Mohamed, Steve R., Ana, Steve B., and MaryK. The following people provided raffle plants Steve B., Nancy, Gregg and Mary K. The following people contributed to show-n-tell..... Steve B., Leni, Nancy, Mardy, Mohamed, Mike, Mary K. and Andy. Several auction plants were donated by Andy, T. Glavich and MaryK. I'm trying to give credit to those members who go out of their way to participate; if I failed to mention you I apologize; my information was taken from the attendance sign in book.

Please Put These Dates on Your Calendar

Monday Sept 7, 2015	Labor Day
Saturday Oct 3, 2015	Speaker: Pam Koide "Exploring with Werner Rauh"
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 to 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 --

For those who missed the La Ballona Bromeliad Show in Culver City, here are a few pictures.



*Neoregelia
'Shelldance'*

shown by
club member, Don Misumi.
photo by M Wisnev

An unbelievable
Tillandsia, I
missed the
name.

photo by M. Wisnev



TRIBUTE TO JOHN ARDEN

Below is an excerpt from a BSI article featuring John Arden, who provided his own profile information. See http://www.bsi.org/bsi_info/awards/cultivar.html

“Inaugural BSI Bromeliad Cultivar Registration Awards 2004”

Following current BSI Cultivar Registrar Derek Butcher's initial idea for the BSI to formally recognize the achievements of bromeliad hybridists and to encourage more cultivar registrations, the Board of Directors approved the creation and trial of this biennial Award at its June, 2003 annual Board meeting. An interim proposed set of Award criteria (to be ratified by the Board) was printed in JBS 53(5):213 (Sept./Oct.2003).

At the WBC Chicago Banquet, newly-elected President Joyce Brehm announced the winners for their cultivar registrations for the preceding 2-year period (Jan. 2002-Dec. 2003) were John Arden (California), Sharon Petersen (Hawaii) and Vic. Przetocki (Western Australia). Regional Conference delegates accepted the Award Certificates and letters of appreciation on behalf of these first-time recipients who were not in attendance.

Congratulations to these bromeliad breeders, altogether from contrasting backgrounds and with different goals, who have penned their own profiles here.

John Arden (California)

Here is John Arden with one of his hybrid Vrieseas.

Born 1926 in Latvia. After graduating from basic education, I entered in Forestry Service School. A year later, due to WW II, I was forced to flee communism and went to Germany. After the war, I worked for the US military in civilian capacity. Came to the US in 1951 and have since been living in Southern California. I worked most of my life as a machinist for the aerospace industry in the Los Angeles area.

My hobbies are hiking, exploring and photography. I have exhibited my photographs in International Salons. I climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in East Africa at the age of 50. I then discovered bromeliads and my other hobbies faded away. I then joined the South Bay Bromeliad Associates and have been a member since. One year after joining the Bromeliad Society, I started hybridizing. I then retired and moved to Vista, San Diego County in 1988. My hybridizing work flourished here.



In 1996 I was forced to stop hybridizing. I simply ran out of space to grow the hybrids. Seven years later I restarted very limited hybridizing. Now, I no longer am involved with growing the hybrid seeds. I am fortunate to have good friends who will grow them. Presently I have 500+ different hybrids in my possession. As of August 2004, I have 80+ registered hybrids in my name. My hybridizing work was done mostly with *Vrieseas*, however there have been also some *Tillandsia*, *Vriesea x Tillandsia* and *Vriesea x Alcantarea* crosses made.”

Taxonomic Tidbits – *More on John Arden*

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

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter –September 2015

Ana and I were fortunate to meet John a number of times at his home in Vista where he had a number of greenhouses filled with spectacular *Vrieseas*, *Tillandsias* and other Bromeliads. Though he was already about 90, he was sharp as a tack, and his stamina was amazing – I think we got more tired than he did searching through his greenhouse. A number of times, I would see a plant and ask if he had more pots of it for sale, and he would say no - but then he would grab the huge pot, take it to his potting station, and promptly remove an offset. All in the heat of the summer in a greenhouse.

He was unfailingly polite, did not have a bad word to say about anyone and had a great sense of dry wit. His recall was perfect – ask him what he crossed to get a particular clone, and he would rattle off the parents like he did the cross yesterday!.

As in the article above, he told us he started hybridizing about a year after he got in the hobby. I have no idea how many he actually registered, and he undoubtedly had many more that weren't. Like most hybridizers, if not all, he wanted to combine the best parts of the parents, like one with fantastic foliage but mediocre inflorescence and another with a great inflorescence. Sometimes he got it, sometimes he didn't. And others, he got something really unexpected.

I think we visited 3 or 4 times, and each time our mouths would drop open when we walked into the greenhouse. We would leave with a car full of plants, and talk about our visit and how soon we could return.

Below are several photos of Arden's plants
at his greenhouses

photos taken by Mike Wisnev





This one is shown at the bottom of the prior page. John trying to figure out how to get an offset of *Vriesea* 'Golden Giant' for me.

John was known primarily for his *Vriesea* hybrids, but he also did some special crosses of *Tillandsia* with *Vriesea*.

Here on the right is

Vrieslandii ‘Twin Brother’



Vrieslandii ‘Arden’s Comet’

is here on the left,

a cross of (*V. simplex* x *T. australis*)



Here is a cross of *T. imperialis* and *T. deppeana*. This is the same cross as T. 'Mayan Warrior' – I don't know if they were seedmates or he did the cross more than once.



Vriesea 'Towering Flame'



Since John grew from seed, he often had many grexmates, that is, different plants that came from the same cross. Some ended up similar, others quite different. Here are two we got – both *Vriesea* ‘Martial Red’ x V ‘Mandy’



Below is one of its siblings named ‘Stars and Stripes’ –
we couldn’t pry one loose from him!



Here is *Vriesea* 'Orange Charm' we enjoy from the kitchen window. It isn't all that special without an inflorescence. But one started growing in May this year. By June it was lovely, but still not a flower. In July, flowers appeared and it is still going strong. It is so vibrant that I completely missed the first *Puya* inflorescence I have ever had, even though it is directly below this plant!



V. 'Orange Charm'



John will be missed!