

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO



July 2010

NEWSLETTER

WE WILL NOT HAVE A REGULAR MEETING THIS MONTH

July Program

Marin County Garden Tour

We will **not** be having our regular monthly meeting this month at the Hall of Flowers. Instead, we are visiting 4 gardens in Marin County followed by a pot luck dinner at the last stop. Thanks in advance to **Dan Arcos** and **Casper Curto** for arranging this popular annual event.

The tour will be on **Sunday, July 18th** and start at **11 AM** and run until whenever.

Details about the gardens and directions are inside the newsletter. This information with maps is also on our website: www.sfbromeliad.org.

Daniel Arcos is coordinating the food items for the potluck, **so please call him** (415-821-7377) or **e-mail him** (darcos@pacbell.net) to report what you plan to bring.

This is one of our most popular events every year! Bring your friends even if they are not members. You will see hundreds of plants in magnificent condition and maybe even get an idea of what you need in your collection.



This is *Tillandsia atroviridipetala*. Photo is by Pam Koide and is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

June Meeting

Last month **Mario Vega** and **Lau Hodges** hosted a tour of the Conservatory of Flowers for us after closing time. We had a good turnout and plants looked better than your editor has ever seen them. We were supposed to be out of the building by 9 PM, but Mario was great to let us have our refreshments and plant raffle even though we went past 9.

Tour of Marin County Gardens

It is that time of year again and we will be visiting members' gardens in Marin County. Our tour is scheduled to start at 11:00 AM and finish after a potluck dinner at the last stop on **Sunday, 18 July**. All gardens will be open for viewing for approximately 50 minutes with a 15-30 minutes travel time between each garden. Please bring a potluck item for the final stop at **Tom Henthorne & Rob Wiley's** home. **Please RSVP with item to be brought and number of people attending directly to Daniel Arcos** at (415) 821-7377.

Because the weather may be hot consider bringing along water. If the food item you are bringing is perishable, bring it to Tom and Rob's house at the beginning of the tour.

First Stop, 11:00 A.M. to 11:45 A.M. Don Worth Garden

38 Morning Sun Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Telephone: 415 -613-1265 (Casper)

Description: It's obvious from the road that this Garden reflects a passion for the Tropics. The garden creation started back in 1965 with a few Palms, tree ferns and succulents. Over the years Don's interests continued to expand the variety of Palms often found in the high elevations. A wonderful collection of Bromeliads, Tillandsias, Agave, Echeverias and Aeoniums add to this wonderland. Bob continues to maintain the Garden with the same passion.

Directions:

Start at Golden Gate Bridge:

1. Follow US-101 N - 7.3 mi
2. Exit onto CA-1 N toward Mill Valley/Stinson Beach - 1.0 mi
3. CA-1 N turns slightly right and becomes Almonte Blvd - 0.1 mi
4. Turn left at Rosemont Ave - 325 ft
5. Take the 1st right onto Morning Sun Ave - 0.5 mi
6. Turn left to stay on Morning Sun Ave - 144 ft
7. Turn right to stay on Morning Sun Ave - 0.3 mi

Start at: San Rafael Bridge

1. Exit onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd - 1.9 mi
2. Merge onto US-101 S via the ramp on the left to San Francisco - 2.7 mi
3. Take exit 447 for E Blithedale Ave - 0.3 mi
4. Turn right at E Blithedale Ave - 0.7 mi
5. Turn left at Camino Alto - 0.5 mi
6. Turn right at Miller Ave - 0.2 mi
7. Make a U-turn - 0.2 mi
8. Take the 1st right onto Gomez Way - 476 ft
9. Turn right at Homestead Blvd - 0.1 mi
10. Take the 1st left onto Morning Sun Ave
Destination will be on the right - 0.2 mi

Second Stop, 12 - 12:45 P.M. Virginia & Glenn Haldan Garden 343 Summit Ave Mill Valley, CA 94941

Telephone: 415 -613-1265 (Casper)

Description: Set on top of a mountain, the garden of Virginia & Glenn Haldan has hidden treasures tucked in Rhododendron branches, tree ferns, and Japanese maples in a formal setting. As you stroll up the driveway, the sound of water is a welcoming feature. Orchids, Bromeliads, a few Tillandsias and succulents add to the diversity of their interests. You'll also appreciate the eclectic collection of sculptures placed throughout the garden.

Directions:

1. Head north on Morning Sun Ave toward Homestead Blvd. Blvd 0.2 mi
2. Turn right at Homestead Blvd - 0.1 mi
3. Take the 1st left onto Gomez Way - 476 ft
4. Turn right at Miller Ave - 243 ft

5. Make a U-turn at Camino Alto - 1.4 mi
6. Turn left at Miller Ave/Throckmorton Ave - 141 ft
7. Take the 1st right onto Bernard St - 292 ft
8. Take the 1st left onto Lovell Ave - 0.1 mi
9. Take the 1st right to stay on Lovell Ave - 400 ft
10. Take the 1st right onto Summit Ave - 164 ft
11. Take the 1st right to stay on Summit Ave - 0.3 mi
12. Turn left to stay on Summit Ave - 440 ft
13. Turn right to stay on Summit Ave Destination will be on the left - 0.3 mi

Third Stop, 1 - 1:45 P.M.

Ford Greene Garden

711 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo, CA 94960

Telephone: (415) 258-0360

Description: The Garden of Ford Greene of this 1905 Victorian started in 1992. As he puts it, his “incursion into this gravel wasteland” was first inspired by the Bromeliad Society’s installation at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show. It fired his imagination

Directions:

1. Head east on Summit Ave toward Magee Ave - 0.3 mi
2. Turn left to stay on Summit Ave - 440 ft
30. Take the 1st right to stay on Summit Ave - 0.1 mi
3. Slight right to stay on Summit Ave - 0.2 mi
4. Turn left to stay on Summit Ave - 164 ft
5. Turn left at Lovell Ave - 157 ft
6. Take the 1st right onto Old Mill St - 299 ft
7. Take the 1st left onto Throckmorton Ave - 0.4 mi
8. Turn right at E Blithedale Ave - 2.0 mi
9. Slight right to merge onto US-101 N toward Eureka - 2.8 mi
10. Take exit called Central San Rafael.
11. Stay on one of the left two lanes and turn left at the second stop light which is Third Street, a one way street.
12. Stay on Third Street for about 2 ? miles – ignoring any street name changes – until you come to a large multi-spoked intersection known as The Hub;

13. Stay to the right, heading toward Fairfax, and merge onto Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.
14. In front of your nose, you will see a large, deep blue Victorian, the target, 711 Sir Francis Drake.
15. Take your first left onto Sycamore/Bridge Street;
16. Go immediately right into the parking lot and park.
17. Walk up Bridge Street and around the corner to the driveway next to the deep blue building.

Fourth Stop, 2 P.M.

Tom Henthorne & Rob Wiley Garden

456 Bret Harte Rd., San Rafael, CA 94901

Telephone: 415 -613-1265 (Casper)

Description: The garden of Tom Henthorne and Rob Wiley, in its infancy, reflects the passion for the Subtropics. Originally from the South, Tom wanted that “lush feel of the jungle”. Palms, Bromeliads, succulents and the soothing sound of water fits in this perfect little corner of Paradise.

Directions:

1. Head southeast on Sir Francis Drake Blvd turn right at Sycamore Ave - 0.1 mi
2. Turn left at Center Blvd - 46 ft
3. Continue onto Miracle Mile - 0.6 mi
4. Continue onto 4th St - 0.5 mi
5. Continue onto 2nd St/West End Ave Continue to follow 2nd St - 0.7 mi
6. Turn Right on D Street which turns into Wolfe Grade
7. At the top of the grade before you start going downhill take a left on Meyer St.
8. Take a Right on Southern Heights (if you go over a wood bridge you went the wrong way)
9. Take a left on Bret Harte Rd
10. A little private road will be on the right

**Four Small Green-Flowered
Tillandsias
(and a bit of botany)**

This article by Herb Plever is taken from the January 1999 BROMELIANA, newsletter of the New York Bromeliad Society.

Plants with green flowers are relatively rare in nature and that color in flowers is not attractive either to pollinators or people. But surround them with contrasting red bracts and the effect is quite lovely. In this end of the year holiday season, perhaps it is appropriate that we should discuss four neat little plants with red bracts and green flowers. These are *Tillandsia adroviridipetala*, *T. ignesia*, *T. mauryana*, and *T. plumosa*.

To see the differences between species, a bit of botany is indispensable. I offer the following brief description of bromeliad flower parts with a short glossary to assist those who are unfamiliar with this subject. To begin with, every bromeliad flower has three **petals**, six **stamens**, one **pistil**, three floral bracts, and three **sepals**. The stamen, the pollen-bearing male organ, consists of the anther at the top which carries the pollen, supported by a special stalk called a filament. The pistil consists of the stigma, style, and ovary. The stigma is the top female portion of the flower that receives the pollen. The style is the elongated part of the pistil between the stigma and the ovary below. The ovary contains the ovules and the young seeds.

A Bromeliad Glossary compiled by Pamela Koide and published by the BSI is available for \$10.00 pp from the BSI website (www.bsi.org). This is an excellent glossary with botanical drawings of the parts of a bromeliad and it is a worthwhile and inexpensive addition to every bromelophile's library.

Dr. Lyman B. Smith's monograph on subfamily *Tillandsioideae*, *Flora Neotropica*, Vol 3, 1957 lists *T. ignesia* (Mez), *T. mauryana* (L.B. Smith) and *T. plumosa* (Baker) in subgenus *Allardtia*. *T. adroviridipetala* (Matuda) was then deemed to be in synonymy with *T. plumosa*, but it was recognized as a separate species by Dr. Werner Rauh in *Bromelien* in 1970 and in the 1986 Supplement to the Monograph by Dr. Robert W. Read and Dr. Smith. The variability within populations of *T. plumosa* whose scape (stem of the inflorescence) can range from "11 cm. to almost none" was the source of the confusion. *T. adroviridipetala*'s scape is barely 1 to 2 cm. long and it is well hidden in the rosette.

In the Monograph, genus *Tillandsia* was divided into 7 subgenera of which *Allardtia* was the first. The 7th subgenus *Pseudocatopsis*, with strongly asymmetric sepals, has now been elevated to separate genus status as *Racinaea*. All of the remaining 6 subgenera have symmetrical sepals (both sides are about mirror images of each other). Species listed in *Allardtia* all have

included stamens which only equal to or are shorter than the petals, slender styles much longer than the ovaries, and filaments that are straight and not plicate (folded like a fan).

Most populations of *T. plumosa*, *T. ignesia*, *T. mauryana*, and *T. adroviridipetala* grow in central Mexico at high altitudes. *T. plumosa* grows both saxicolous on cliffs and rocks and epiphytically on trees in open sunny habitats at altitudes of from 4500 to 7500 feet.

T. ignesia grows epiphytically in oak woods and saxicolous on cliffs in bright light and dry at heights of 2500 to 6500 feet. *T. adroviridipetala* grows epiphytically in a hanging position on lava flow trees such as *Comiphora*, in the sun and dry atmosphere at altitudes of 7000 to 7500 feet. The leaves of all three of these plants are covered with long raised **tomentose**-lepidote trichome scales which make them appear woolly, hairy, or fuzzy.



This is *Tillandsia mauryana*. Photo is by Pamela Koide and is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

Until they are in flower *T. plumosa* and *T. ignesia* cannot be easily distinguished. In bloom, *T. plumosa*, with its compound, polystichous inflorescence can be distinguished from *T. ignesia* since the latter has a simple distichous spike.



This is *Tillandsia ignesiae*. Photo is by Herb Plever and is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

T. mauryana grows epiphytically in bright dry forests at altitudes of 4500 to 8000 feet. Although the leaves of *T. mauryana* are densely lepidote with spreading scales, they are not at all tomentose and give a solid, grey-silver flat appearance. *T. mauryana* also has a very low scape.

The dense trichome covering of all four plants makes them highly efficient absorbers of any moisture in the air. At the high altitudes of their habitats they are accustomed to the cold temperatures in the winter, yet they can take direct sun without difficulty.



This is *Tillandsia plumosa*. Photo is by Herb Plever and is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

Therefore they can manage to adapt to the dry environment of indoor growers and they will enjoy growing close to your cold window panes in the fall and winter months.

These plants do not spread more than 2 or 3 inches and are perfect for indoor growers who have limited space. The red floral bracts of all four plants will color up nicely in the window. (*T. ignesiae*'s floral bracts are an orange-red.)

I have also grown these plants close under my fluorescent tube units where the atmosphere is even drier. They do well because they are accustomed to dry conditions.

Since *T. adroviridipetala* grows in a hanging position in its habitat, Dr. Rauh recommends observe the hanging position when mounting the plant. I have not had any trouble growing *T. adroviridipetala* even when mounted straight up, but I make sure to shake the water out of the leaf axils after soaking them. However, it certainly cannot hurt to conform to the plant's cultural preference and mount it upside down in a hanging position.

I soak these plants with my other tillandsias for an hour every 2 weeks in fertilized water. They grow very well with this regimen and present no special cultural problems.

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO (BSSF)

The BSSF is a non-profit educational organization promoting the study and cultivation of bromeliads. The BSSF meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 PM in the Recreation room of the San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Meetings feature educational lectures and displays of plants. Go to the affiliate section of the BSI webpage for information about our meetings.

The BSSF publishes a monthly newsletter that comes with the membership. Annual dues are single (\$15), dual (\$20). To join the BSSF, mail your name(s), address, telephone number, e-mail address, and check made payable to the BSSF to:

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BROMELIAD SOCIETY
OF
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