

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO



September 2010

NEWSLETTER

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 16, 2010** at 7:30 PM
Recreation Room, San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park, San
Francisco

September Program

Bromeliads Found Along the Side of the Road

Richard Wiggen will be our speaker this month. Richard is a long time member of our society, but he loves to travel and you may not have seen him at many of our meetings because he is exploring some new country. Richard has made many trips to Ecuador but this month he will be showing us slides that cover northern Ecuador as well as Quito. Let's have a great turnout for a show on a country that has lots of wonderful bromeliads.

Our members always provide a great display of show-and-tell plants. If you have any plants from Ecuador, bring these in as well as the other plants you wish to show.

September Refreshments

Dan Arcos and **Nick Soumie** signed up for refreshments this month.



Don't be fooled. Richard is not as serious as this all the time. Wonder what he's got plastered on his face. Photo is courtesy of **Richard Wiggen**.

August Meeting

Kelly Griffin's show on his most recent trip to Mexico was memorable both for the wonderful photography and his infectious enthusiasm about the plants. Kelly also brought sale plants which were immediately snapped up. These plants were mostly Aloe hybrids that Kelly is noted for. He had planned to bring some bromeliads for sale but was unable to get them ready in time for the flight. We are already planning on having him back next year.

2010 Garden Tour for the California Horticultural Society

Our member, **David Feix**, has organized a garden tour for the California Horticultural Society in combination with the Hortisexuals and the Bromeliad Society of San Francisco. This tour is a retrospective of David Feix Landscape Design Gardens of the East Bay. The tour will be on Sunday, October 10th. Each garden will only be open for visiting during the hours listed below and hopefully people will carpool. If people get lost, they can call David on his cell phone at (510) 472-2702.

The tour, which starts at 10 AM, will visit 7 gardens in the East Bay, starting in Alameda, then Oakland Hills, and finishing in Berkeley.

Garden # 1: Tom and Lily Cook Garden @ 309 Harbor Light Rd, Alameda from 10AM to 10:30AM.

Directions: Take 880 to the Webster St Tube, exit Tube and veer left onto Constitution Way, continue on 8th St which then becomes Westline Drive as it passes Crown Memorial State Beach, continue on Shoreline Drive and turn left onto Harbor Light Rd, second house from the beach.

This is a one year old garden in a very small space, with an emphasis on succulents and proteas and utilizes built-in benches of wood and concrete and re-sawn concrete paving to create a more useful viewing garden as well as outdoor entertaining areas. Low water use plants and drip irrigation, all within a very compact area, with plantings to screen views of neighbors and wind.

Garden #2: Dennis and Anna Domingo Garden @ 1209 Rosewood Way, Alameda, from 10:45am to 11:15am. Directions: Continue south on

Southshore Dr and turn left onto Grand Ave, and turn left at Otis Dr, and left again onto Rosewood Way.

This garden is a much larger garden that is designed around an Eichleresque home, with the front yard converted from lawn to succulents, and the back yard is a kid friendly garden centered around a lawn and bermed planting areas to create interest and privacy, and planted with primarily South African and Mexican plantings. Highlights include mature *Cunonia capensis*, *Cussonia spicata* and *Erythrina coralloides* trees, as well as *Tecoma x smithii* and proteas.

Garden #3: Keith and Karen Miller Garden @ 720 Paru St, Alameda, from 11:30am to 12 noon.

Directions: backtrack to Grand Ave and cross Lagoon heading east toward Oakland. Turn left onto Dayton Ave, and left again onto Paru St.

This garden is located in the historic Gold Coast section of Alameda, and the back garden is approximately 5 years old, and surrounds a central swimming pool with lush plantings of several species of mature palms including *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*, *Brahea armata*, *Chamaedorea plumosa*, *Chamaerops humilis cerifera*, as well as *Alcantarea imperialis* and *Justicia aurea*. The garden is intended to appear as if one is in Mexico, without having to go on vacation!

Suggestions for lunch: Southshore Shopping Center is just a few blocks south of Grand Ave off Otis or Shoreline Drive, and has easy parking and a good deli selection at either Safeway or Trader Joes. For those who brought their own lunch, the beach at Shoreline Drive ought to be inviting, or head directly up to Garden #4 in Montclair and have your lunch on the terrace

Garden #4: Randy Schwartz and Katie McCarthy Garden @ 6035 Wood Drive, Oakland from 12:30pm to 1:30pm.

Directions: Get back to the Webster Tube and follow directions to get onto 880 connection to 980 and head toward the Oakland Hills. Exit south onto Hwy 13, and take second exit onto Moraga Ave, continuing south on Moraga where it crosses under Hwy 13 and continues as frontage road on east side of highway to Montclair Village. Turn right at La Salle Dr. crossing over the

highway headed towards the bay, and take a right on Wood Dr. until you reach 6035 Wood Drive.

This garden surrounds a fabulous older Spanish style Mediterranean home on a steep terraced hillside, with mature pines, cypresses, Date Palms and a lush garden of gigantic succulents as well as tropicals, bromeliads, and more. The house was even a speakeasy during prohibition, and originally had 8 acres of property before being subdivided. Highlights include a tiled fountain, terraces, balconies, lots of lush container plantings, palms and bromeliads, and large *Chorisia speciosa* trees at the street.

Garden #5: Pete Fairchild Garden at 6222 Girvin Drive, Oakland, from 1:45pm to 2:30pm.

Directions: Backtrack on Wood to La Salle, and turn right onto Mountain Blvd(frontage road to Hwy 13), and turn left onto Snake Rd, and veer right where it changes to Shepherd Canyon Rd. Continue up into the hills past the park, and when you see Paso Robles on your left, take the next right at Sherwood Dr, up the hills until your first right onto Westover Dr, and turn left on Thackeray Dr until you intersect with Girvin Dr. 6022 Girvin is on this corner.

This garden was first designed by Roger Raiche and David McCrory of Planet Horticulture fame, so it was already most interesting before I started reworking the garden about 5 years ago. Of course, this is the one garden that most emphasizes plant variety, and includes several large collections of palms, bromeliads and others. The garden is on a corner lot with bay views, and is mostly in the front with many paths to stroll the garden in multiple directions. The rear garden is more extensively remodeled and almost completely changed from Planet Horticulture's original design.

Garden # 6: Roland and Betty Burgmann Garden @ 5 Forest Lane, Berkeley.

Directions: Backtrack down to Montclair Village and get onto Hwy 13 heading north at Moraga Ave. Continue on Hwy 13 as it becomes Ashby Ave, and follow down until you make a right turn onto Martin Luther King. Follow Martin Luther King across Berkeley until it becomes The Alameda, and turn right on Marin Ave. Go almost all the way up to the top of Marin, turning right on Hillview and left onto Forest Lane, (just 3 homes in from Marin Ave).

This garden was the first of several spec homes/gardens designed and built in combination with

my talented builder/designer friend Mario Trejo of Trejo Designs. The front garden is a walled courtyard full of Foxtail Agaves and *Senecio mandraliscae*, little revealing the stunning large terraced garden in the back. The garden is a slice of paradise in the Berkeley hills, with a lawn for the kids, and views over the garden through the trees from every room, opening onto a large travertine terrace enclosing a mature Mayten Tree. Plant highlights include mature *Hymenosporum flavum*, *Trevesia palmata* and many more, all designed in a painterly way with masses of contrasting foliage color and texture.

Garden #7: David Feix Garden and nursery @ 1294 Delaware St, Berkeley, from 4:30pm to 5:30pm for those who have the stamina for one last garden.

Directions: Backtrack down Marin to The Alameda, turn left, and continue on Martin Luther King until a right turn on Cedar St, and a left turn on Sacramento St, and then a right turn onto Delaware St until 1294 Delaware/cross with West St.

My own garden is still in the process of being redesigned after a major house remodel 5 years ago courtesy of Mario Trejo Design. The front yard is actually a nursery with an accumulation of plants of all types, and the back yard is a series of smaller rooms with lots of exotic plantings that I trial here first before using them in client's gardens. I hope you may want to finish the day at my own garden, and that you enjoyed seeing all of my client's gardens today.

Orchids in the Park Sale

Carl Carter submitted this article on this year's sale with the Orchid Society of San Francisco.

A sincere thanks to all who participated in this year's Orchids in the Park BSSF sale. **Harold** performed his magic with the price barcodes, PC and reader. **Roger** purchased, labeled, tagged and priced with the help of **Peter Wan** hundreds of Tillandsias from Tillandsia International, and **Marilyn** purchased our regular *Tillandsia cyaneas* from Hawaiian Sunshine. **Harold, David Feix, Casper, Daryl and Wes** brought and sold plants to fill in our selection. And of course **Peter Wan, Harold, Daryl, Roger, Dan, Kaye Rosso, Wes, Casper, Daryl**, and our President met the public and helped with setup and clean up. As you may have heard, sales and traffic were light this year. BSSF is interested in ideas on

how to increase club revenue, membership interest and club health. Any suggestions and ideas are warmly welcomed.

BSSF 2010 Garden Tour

Carl Carter submitted this article on this year's summer garden tour.

Our annual Garden Tour took place in Marin County last July 18. We had the privilege of visiting two California garden treasures. The first stop, the Don Worth garden, is filled with palm 'seedlings' from our own member **Inge Hoffmann**, who supplied many seeds for the original plantings. A special thanks to Bob Navaro for his warm hospitality. The second stop, the Halden Estate, voted Best Landscape Design in California by the California Landscape Association and is designed and maintained by our own member, **Casper Curto**. This is a very, very impressive place on so many levels. The third stop, at member **Ford Greene's** new place was particularly interesting for me, having just bought an investment property and currently undertaking my own landscaping. The fourth garden at members **Tom Henthorne** and **Rob Wiley's** place was an incredible mixture of the wild and wonderful: a true inspiration to the inventor and adventurer. A warm thanks for the hosts, the great potluck and to all who attended. See you next year on the peninsula.



Highlights of the Don Worth garden is palms that were grown from seed provided by Inge Hoffmann. Photo is courtesy of Tom Vincze.



Some of our members are debating about jumping in the pool at the Halden Estate. Photo is courtesy of Tom Vincze.



Richard Wigen, this month's speaker, is pointing at something at Ford Greene's property. Photo is courtesy of Tom Vincze.



Certainly, a Mayan or Aztec statue topped with a *Tillandsia xerographica* will scare the intruders from the home of Tom Henthorne and Rob Wiley. Photo is courtesy of Tom Vincze.



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

Tillandsias for Sale

Because our sale last weekend was not as successful as we had hoped, the leftover tillandsias will be available to our members at this month's meeting. They will be **40%** off the marked sale price. There are some uncommon plants available, such as *Tillandsia acostae*.

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:

Harold Charms, BSSF Treasurer, 255 States Street, San Francisco, CA 94114-1405.

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BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

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BROMELIAD SOCIETY
OF
SAN FRANCISCO

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Join us on a trip to Ecuador this month!