

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO



July 2006

NEWSLETTER

WE WILL NOT HAVE A MONTHLY MEETING THIS MONTH!

July Program

San Francisco Garden Tour

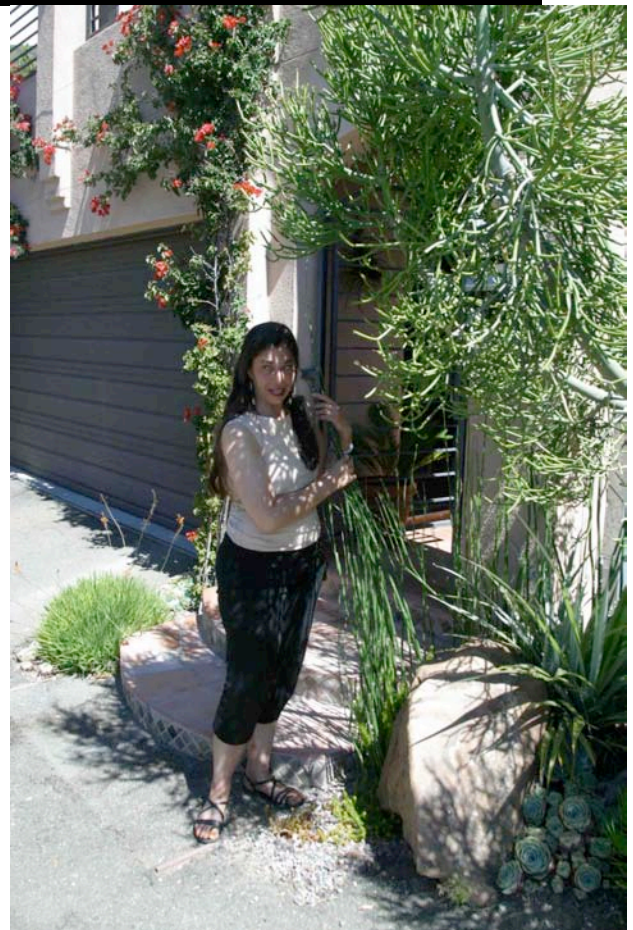
We will **not** be having our regular monthly meeting this month at the Hall of Flowers. Instead, we are visiting 5 gardens in San Francisco followed by a pot luck dinner at the last stop. This year we will include some non-member gardens as well as members. Thanks in advance to **Dan Arcos** for arranging this popular annual event.

The tour will be on **Sunday, July 23rd** 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.

Dan Arcos is coordinating the food items for the potluck, **so please call him** ((415) 821-7377) to report what you plan to bring.

This is one of our most popular events every year, so do not miss it!



Here is **Stacey Michaels** stroking one of her favorite plants at last year's tour of East Bay Gardens. Photo is courtesy of **Peder Samuelesen**

June Meeting

Dr. Guillermo Rivera was our speaker last month. He was visiting California from Argentina and has been a tour guide for many of our members who have visited Argentina on some of his tours. Guillermo spoke to us on the bromeliads of Argentina with the focus on the varying types of habitats that bromeliads are found. Although his slides did not include all of the bromeliads found in Argentina, he did list all the genera that are found and included many of the plants that we have seen on our trips with him.

Before he returned home, he obtained photos of some of the plants we want him to find that we missed on some of our trips, including *Tillandsia peiranoi* and *T. crocata*.

Tour to San Francisco Gardens

It is that time of year again and we will be visiting members' gardens in San Francisco. Our tour is scheduled to start at 11:00 AM and finish after a potluck dinner at the last stop on **Sunday, July 23rd**. All gardens will be open for viewing for approximately 45 minutes with a 10-15 minutes travel time between each garden. Please bring a potluck item for the final meeting at Harold Charn's gardens and home. Honey-baked ham will be provided by the club. **Please RSVP with item to be brought and number of people attending directly to Dan Arcos** at (415) 821-7377.

Carpoolers please meet at **Harold Charns'**, 255 States St. by 10:45 AM. Carpooling is **strongly encouraged** because parking is tight at our first two stops.

First Stop, 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Richard Wigen

37 Ford Street

Telephone: 415-522-9780

Richard has a sunny subtropical garden with a wide assortment of tropical and subtropical plants grown to perfection. He and his back neighbor have forgone a fence which visually enlarges their space. A highlight is his Monkey Hand Tree, *Chiranthodendron pentadactylon*.

From Marin, take Doyle Dr. onto Lombard and turn Right at Divisadero. Follow through to Castro St. Turn left onto 18th St. Left on Noe St and right on Ford.

From the East Bay, take I-80 and right onto 101 North and Exit at Mission and Duboce. Follow Duboce and turn left on Market St. Left on Sanchez St. and right on Ford.

From the Peninsula, take 101 North as above. **From I-280** exit onto San Jose Avenue. Follow it onto Guerrero St. Turn left on 18th Street. Turn Right on Sanchez and left on Ford.

Second Stop, 11:45 AM to 12:15 PM

Brian Ransom

117 Buchanan Street

Telephone: 415-621-3972

Brian has another small city garden with an impressive collection of bromeliads and other plants. Last time we visited Brian's garden we were all captivated by its beauty and his attention to detail.

Directions: From Ford Street turn right at Noe and turn right on Duboce. Turn left on Steiner, Right on Herman and left on Buchanan.

Third Stop, 12:30 PM to 1:15 PM

Ted Kipping

257 Joost Street

Telephone: Dan 415-823-9661

Ted has the garden of a true plants man, some of everything. From alpines to tropicals, a little Japanese flair in an English cottage garden. This garden is sure to keep you busy in admiration.

Directions: From Brian's turn left (East) on Herman then right on Guerrero. Follow Guerrero onto San Jose Ave. Before San Jose enter I-280 exit at the Monterey Blvd Exit. Turn right onto Joost St.

Fourth Stop, 1:30 PM to 2:15 PM

George Nauyok

167 Cresta Vista Drive

Telephone: 415-334-3131

George has a hillside garden that is either drenched in sun or fog. It is actually at the top of his and Joe's house so be prepared to climb 4 staircases. On the way up there will be a lot of art and beautiful objects to enjoy. George and Joe are great hosts and promise that the views of the bromeliad garden and of the city from the roof are worth the Climb. (It is.)

Directions: From Ted's turn left on Congo and right on Monterey Blvd. Turn right on Hazelwood. Turn right on Casitas and right on Cresta Vista Drive.

Fifth Stop, 2:30 PM (Potluck)

Harold Charns and Rose Shubert

255 States Street

Telephone: 415-863-1925

Harold and Rose have hosted the potluck before and provide a wonderful sunny deck and garden full of bromeliads, vegetables and fowl for our amusement.

Directions: From George's turn left on Casitas and left again onto Yerba Buena. Go one block and go right at the fork onto Miraloma Drive. Follow Miraloma to Portola and proceed over the hill onto Market Street. Turn left at Clayton. Turn right on 17th St and a quick right onto Roosevelt Way. Turn right on Lower Terrace. Turn left on Levant and right on States St..

The **Easy Alternate Route** is to follow Market to 16th St. and Noe St. Turn left onto 16th St. Left on Castro and right on States.



Here are **Dennis Westler** and **Brian Ransom** and other happy folks at last year's tour of East Bay gardens. Photo is courtesy of **Peder Samuelson**

Aechmea tayoensis

At the recent WBC in San Diego, Kent's Bromeliad Nursery had an extraordinary exhibit of some of their bromeliads. Among them was a plant labeled *Chevaliera tayoensis*. It is similar to the one shown here except the leaves were very red. Jeffrey Kent said that this plant is grown in very bright light and near the top of the greenhouse.

Your editor was not familiar with the genus "Chevaliera." Checking the Smith and Downs Monograph on the Bromeliad Family, I discovered that Chevaliera is one of the eight subgenera of the Aechmea genus and it has never been considered a genus.

The plant is endemic to Amazonian Ecuador and grows from 500 to 1000 meters. It was described in the 1980's and is only known from the type collection. In case you are planning on going out to purchase one, here is what Dennis Cathcart wrote about the plant in a Cargo Report:

"Aechmea tayoensis A legendary plant. When you look up 'rare' in the dictionary, you should see a picture of *tayoensis*. This plant has only been collected a couple of times, in Ecuador and Peru. Wally Berg's plant won the 'Best in Show' award at the Bromeliad World Conference in Orlando in 1996. At that same show, another

donated by Harry Luther of the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens was auctioned for \$1,200.00. Since then, demand has been steady, but availability almost non-existent.

A large grower, to over 4 feet in diameter, with a narrow spiny petiole and a broad, spineless leaf, green, tinted orange-red. The inflorescence is a spiny head of many pink-orange bracts and yellow flowers that can last up to a year or more.”



This photo of *Aechmea tayoensis* is taken by Christopher Krumrey and is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.



This is a photo of the flower of *Aechmea tayoensis* taken by Dennis Cathcart.

June Plant Sale

Our combined plant sale with the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society was a huge success. This may have been our best sale ever! Keith has the register totals for each day and will be able to calculate how each of you vendors did. We need

to wait until the weekend expenses are calculated to determine how well our club did.

Many of you really helped getting ready for the sale by ordering plants for the society from nurseries, potting them, and pricing them, or putting bar codes on the hundreds of tillandsias that our society purchased. We also had excellent participation from our membership helping to sell the plants and educate the public. Our society wishes to thank each of you for your participation in helping on this sale. **We could not have had such a success without you!**

WBC 2006

Many of our society members attended WBC 2006 that was held in San Diego including **Keith Anderson** (Keith was in charge of sales and we did not get to see him much other than behind a cash register) , **George Bosworth**, **Carl Carter**, **Roger Lane**, **Bruce McCoy**, **Marilyn Moyer**, **George Nauyok**, **Peder Samuelsen**, **Thomas Vincze**, and **Peter Wan**. This synopsis of the conference is based on your editor’s impressions.

My first impression at the conference was how cool San Diego is in June. The locals call it their “gloomy month” and it was certainly overcast until the end of the conference.

Marilyn Moyer and your editor entered some plants in the show and each of us was rewarded with getting a plant on the head table: *Tillandsia duratii* for Marilyn and *Canistrum triangulare* for Roger. The head table awards were very fine framed prints of bromeliads that were donated by the San Diego Bromeliad Society. Joyce Brehm, co-chairperson for the conference and BSI president, performed her magic again and won the Mulford Foster award for the best horticultural plant: two plants of *Billbergia stenopetala* (not sure of the species), each one with a perfect flower spike for the conference. The last time San Diego hosted the WBC; Joyce had a single entry (*Deuterocohnia brevifolia*) and also won the

Foster award for Best in Show. This time she had two entries.

Jackie Johnson from Palos Verdes won the Maurice Hobbs award for the best artistic entry – which she has done every since she started exhibiting at the conferences. Jackie provided a seminar at the conference to show us how she has been able to do this every time.

When the conference officially opened bedlam occurred in the plant sales area. There is always new and interesting plant material at these sales – even though the prices may be a bit steep. There are always bargains to be found if you are a good shopper. Your editor bought the last available variegated *Quesnelia marmorata* that he had seen in the show. You do not want to know what the price was. Members of our society were good customers and brought home a lot of new goodies.

There were no new bromel books for sale at this conference. Betty Patterson is still translating the next volume of Jewels of the Jungle, Bromeliaceae of Ecuador by Jose M. Manzanares. This volume is still being written and may not even be available at the next conference. Harry Luther also released the latest Alphabetical List of Bromeliad Binomials. Your editor has this book if you are interested.

There were many scientific and general seminars to compete for our attention. Your editor had planned on attending the seminars on revision of the tillandsia genus, but it took so much time to enter plants into the show he missed most of the discussion. Among the speakers was our own **Peter Wan** who introduced the talk on Bromeliads of Argentina

The rare plant auction is always an exciting event for a worthy cause: The Bromeliad Identification Center. This auction made over \$12,000. Attendees from Australia were having lots of fun and did lots of bidding.

The conference tours were popular but at least one to Kent's Nursery and John Arden's was

overbooked and there were some disappointed folks. Some of our members had access to cars and added extensively to their plant haul and were invited into Jeffrey's private collection.

Start saving your money for the next conference because it will truly be an international conference: Cairns, Australia.

Each of these conferences is unique, but it was great to see so many of the New Orleans members in attendance given the damages caused by Katrina. Renewing friendships and seeing people that you only get to see at the conferences is one of the best aspects of a WBC.



Here are some of our members almost hidden by the bromeliads at one of the stops on last year's East Bay garden tour. Photo is courtesy of Peder Samuelson.

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 Charns, 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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Betty Patterson will speak on Aechmeas at next month's meeting.
