

# BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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July 2008

## NEWSLETTER

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WE WILL NOT HAVE A MONTHLY MEETING THIS MONTH

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### July Program

#### East Bay 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 the East Bay followed by a pot luck dinner at the last stop. Thanks in advance to **Casper Curto** and **Dan Arcos** for arranging this popular annual event.

The tour will be on **Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://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.

You will also see how our members have used plants in the landscape. It will be a fun day, **so don't miss it!**



*Guzmania conifera* from Deroose Plants  
13th World Bromeliad Conference, Houston, Texas July 1 - 5, 1998

This is *Guzmania conifera*, a plant that does very well in our area. **When is the best time to water it?** Find out later in this newsletter. Photo is by Michael Andreas and is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

## June Meeting

Last month **Peter Wan** gave us a slide show on the trip he made to Venezuela last December. We were treated to a fantastic slide show of plants along the flats as well as those in the Tapui tabletop mountain) that the group visited with a climax of a video that Peter took on his helicopter ride around Angel Falls. This video gave us a greater appreciation of the terrain on top of the Tapui – it is not at all uniform. There are lots of ups and downs one encounters when traversing these mountains. Peter's show was a great follow-up to Bruce Holst's shows on these interesting geological features and plants of Venezuela.

## Tour of East Bay Gardens

It is that time of year again and we will be visiting members' gardens in the East Bay. . Our tour is scheduled to start at 11:00 AM and finish after a potluck dinner at the last stop on **Sunday, 27 July**. All gardens will be open for viewing for approximately 45 minutes with a 15-30 minutes travel time between each garden. Please bring a potluck item for the final meeting at **Casper Curto** and **Daryl Ducharme's** home. Barbequed meats and honey-baked ham will be provided by the club. **Please RSVP with item to be brought and number of people attending directly to Daniel Arcos** at (415) 821-7377.

### First Stop, 11:00 A.M. to 11:45 A.M.

#### **Inge Hoffmann**

695 Joaquin Avenue  
San Leandro, CA 94577

Telephone: 510-483-9454

"Some people call my garden 'an agricultural experimental station' because so many rare things are growing there or I kept trying to grow them (I still am!). I have very tall (mature) palms that I collected the seed in many exotic places and had no idea whether they would grow in my climate or not. I do have cacti that came into my hands the same way. The Bromeliads came along with the cacti as "packing material". Only when

friends were more excited about my packing material than the new little cacti or succulents I brought, I saw the value and beauty of them. I visited 70 countries - all for collecting seeds of one thing or another and I love every one of my "finds" even though some of them have crowded me out of my garden and some are of little beauty or value."

### Directions:

From **I-880** exit at Davis Street. and turn East onto Davis Street. At E. 14th Street. turn right, then left onto Estudillo Avenue. At San Jose Street. turn right to corner of Joaquin Avenue.

From **I-580** via Oakland exit at Grand Avenue, going towards downtown San Leandro. Merge onto Dolores Avenue. Turn right at Morgan Avenue. Turn left at Joaquin Avenue. Go to corner of Joaquin Avenue and San Jose Street.

From **I-580** via Castro Valley or Hayward, take the exit toward Downtown/Estudillo Avenue. Take a slight left at Grand Avenue. Turn right at Juana Avenue. Turn right at San Jose Street. Turn left at Joaquin Avenue. Go to corner of Joaquin Avenue and San Jose Street.

### Second Stop, 12:00 P.M. to 12:50

#### **P.M.**

#### **Richard Ostreicher**

9334 Skyline Blvd  
Oakland, CA 94611

Telephone: 510-531-7114

The garden would probably best be described as "tropical" with an Asian feel to it; lots of varieties of bamboos and cycads along with taros, water plants, and bananas etc. I don't have a huge number of bromeliads, mostly a number of Vrieseas, Alcantarea, Tillandsias, Neoregelias scattered throughout. Richard brought back a number of art and artifacts from Asia including a large pavilion (actually an Javanese Joglo) that overlooks Mt Diablo. There's a pond and antique water bowl that have different varieties of lotus and water lilies and other water plants.

Sherry Mercieri is the designer/executor of the garden and together they've created a peaceful tropical retreat.

**Directions:**

From Inge's, return to **I-580** and proceed west to Hwy 13. Exit Hwy 13 at Joaquin Miller Road. Follow Joaquin Miller Road to Skyline Blvd and turn left. Drive through park to 9334 Skyline Blvd.

**Third Stop 1:00 P.M.-1:45 P.M.**

**Fairchild Residence**

6222 Girvin Drive  
Oakland, CA 94611

**Telephone:**

The Fairchild Residence was landscaped by Planet Horticulture, Roger Raiche and David McCrory. Their signature style is eclectic plantings of exotic plants both temperate and tropical. The property has numerous exotic palms. Since then, **David Feix** has refurbished the gardens adding his touch with bromeliads and succulents.

**Directions:**

From Richard's, go north on Skyline Blvd to Carlsbrook Drive., turn left. Go to Stockbridge Drive and turn right. Go to Girvin Drive. and turn left to 6222 Girvin.

**Fourth Stop 2:00 P.M.-5 P.M.**

**Casper Curto and Daryl Ducharme**

7612 Hillmont Drive  
Oakland, CA 96765

**Telephone: 510-383-2228**

**Description:**

Casper and Daryl have a hillside home. The front has a terrace with a view of the Bay and City. In the back there is a steep hillside with steps to the top of the garden. There is extensive landscaping with bromeliads, begonias, succulents and other tropicals. At the top there are two greenhouses and a shade house for their collection. This is a lovely place for spending the rest of the afternoon having our annual potluck.

**Downloaded from the Internet:  
Farming**

These jokes were extracted from the Internet by Jim Moore Jr. and is reprinted from the March 1998 The Bromeliad News, newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Sacramento.

- ✓ Not far from me we have a friend who raises Brahma Bulls. I asked him how he got them to breed so well, since he has a nice herd. He said that he gave the bulls potency pills and I asked him what the pills were made of. He said, "Damned if I know, but they taste a little like a saltine."
- ✓ I saw an interview on TV where this one old farmer won ten million in the Lottery. Naturally he was asked what he was gonna do with all that money. He kinda scratched his head and said, "Not sure as I know right off. Guess I'll keep farmin' till it's all gone."
- ✓ When we were looking to buy property I had this over zealous realtor show us what can only be described as a totally worn-out old farm. I mean the land had just been worked to death. The weeds were hardly even growing. The smiling super salesman said, "Now really, all this land needs is a little water, a nice cool breeze and some good people." I replied, "Yeah, I agree, but couldn't the same be said of Hell?"
- ✓ Howard County, where I live, is the site for three large dairy farms. My wife went to one which sells to the public. Since the milk is right at the source, it's not dated, so she asked if it were fresh. The farmer seemed highly offended and said, "Fresh? Lady, less than two hours ago, that milk was grass."
- ✓ I was just visiting some friends who have a real working farm. I was watching this one rooster chasing after this hen, when the friend's wife came out to feed them. The rooster stopped chasing the hen at once and ran over to begin eating. I stood there thinking to myself, "Damn! I hope I never get that hungry."

## Mounting Adhesives for Tillandsias

This article by Herb Plever is reprinted from the January 1998 BROMELIANA, newsletter of the New York Bromeliad Society.

I have been using hot glue and Liquid Nails to mount Tillandsias for a number of years and have found them to be adequate adhesives. When I've been busy or had many new Tillandsias to mount, I have usually reached for my hot glue gun. It is easy to use and the glue gets tacky fast. Otherwise, I've used Liquid Nails with decent results.

However, these adhesives do have drawbacks. If you are not careful (especially when you are in a hurry) hot glue can burn the bases of the lower leaves. Then the plant may not die, but it will soon come loose from the cork bark. Liquid Nails appears to have changed its formula and it now takes 10 minutes or more to become tacky. The new Liquid Nails For Small Projects is a little better in this respect and it still has the beautifully designed 1" spout which tapers to a small opening and has screw threads at the very base to minimize their getting gunked up.

On the other hand these adhesives don't hold the plants that well. I have tried a strong commercial adhesive called E6000 with good results in the sense that it did grab hold of the plant. Unfortunately, it has a very short spout, dries quickly in the neck of the tube and becomes difficult to use.

For the past few months I have been experimenting with Shoo Goo II, a clear, rubber-like adhesive that is used by runners to glue new soles onto their running shoes. So far, it works very well. It dries in a matter of minutes, stays squeezable in the tube and firmly holds the plants to the cork bark. A few months are hardly sufficient time to judge its worth, but Shoo Goo II promises to be an effective mounting adhesive. Liquid Nails, E6000 and Shoo Goo give off very strong fumes which may be toxic if you inhale them too long. I work with them on my terrace or with the window open. I also use latex examination gloves to keep the stuff off your hands. A box of 100 gloves costs \$9.00 or \$10.00.

## Weevil Research Achieves a Milestone

This article provides current information on the battle against the weevil that has done so much damage in Florida. Karen Andreas wrote the article and it is reprinted from the 2007 State Roster of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

There is good news in the ongoing battle to control the Mexican bromeliad weevil that is devastating Florida's native bromeliad population and threatening the back yard growers' collections as well. As of this writing, Dr. Howard Frank, Dr. Ron Cave, Teresa Cooper, Celia Branch, and Michael Burton have made three releases of *Lixadmontia franki*, the fly that attacks the larvae of the 'evil weevil' and is the best hope for a biological control to this destructive pest.

The first release of the fly was on June 29 at Northwest Equestrian Park (an area of Lake Rogers Park) in Hillsborough County. The second release was in Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Palm Beach County on July 20. The third release was on August 3 in the Enchanted Forest in Brevard County. The Enchanted Forest marks the known northernmost range of the weevil. This last release is an attempt to halt the northward progress of the weevil into the Canaveral National Seashores, a treasure trove of bromeliads that straddles both Brevard and Volusia Counties.

The progress of the flies will be monitored by Teresa Cooper who will be returning to the sites of the releases to see if evil weevil larvae are being parasitized by the flies. Additional releases are planned as more flies, raised at the Hayslip Biological Control Research and Containment Laboratory, a quarantine facility near Fort Pierce, become available. This facility belongs to the Indian River Research and Education Center, one of a dozen or so centers operated around Florida by the University of Florida/IFAS. *Lixadmontia franki* is the first biological control agent released from this facility.

Howard Frank and Ron Cave have spearheaded the research to find a biological control of the weevil for 14 years. Ron discovered the fly in

Honduras in 1993; he and Howard spent the ensuing years developing an understanding of the biology of the fly and conducting research to ensure that it will target only the Mexican bromeliad weevil. The fly was named in honor of Howard for his research efforts. For most of those years, their research was supported by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and its individual affiliated societies. It was only in the last several years that state and other grants became available to supplement the financial support for this project.

This is not the end of the struggle to control the evil weevil, but we are one step closer. In addition to Howard Frank, Ron Cave, Teresa Cooper, and Michael Burton, Dr. Barbra Larson was also involved in this project. From the Florida Council, Al Muzzell supported this fight from the very beginning. Until recently, Al was chairman of the Council's Weevil Committee. Ed Hall and Nat DeLeon were original members of that committee. Jay Thurrott, Howard Frank and Carolyn Schoenau are its current members.

Everyone deserves our thanks for their diligent efforts to fight for these bromeliads that we all love.

### **Some Random Rules for Bromeliad Growing**

This article is reprinted from the September 2007 PUPTALK, newsletter of the Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society.

In June, Nat DeLeon gave a talk to the Bromeliad Society of South Florida that included some "rules" that their editor thought worthy of repeating. We agree.

1. Try to avoid allowing peat in a pot to dry; it takes a lot longer to get the soil moist again.
2. If you use peat, it breaks down and slowly will need replacing.
3. Vriesea and Guzmania like a shower every night.
4. Do fertilize certain Neoregelia – those with universal color.

5. Don't count on a rain forecast – it can rain on the opposite side of the street and not your lawn or bromeliads.
6. Orchid/Bromeliad growers have better fed bromeliads than those who grow bromeliads alone.



Here are some of our members enjoying last year's tour on the peninsula. Picture is taken by **Peter Wan** at **Marilyn Moyer's** house.

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## **BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO (BSSF)**

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The BSSF is a non-profit educational organization promoting the study and cultivation of bromeliads. The BSSF meets monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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**Visit fabulous gardens in the East Bay this month!**

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