

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO



April 2009

NEWSLETTER

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 16, 2009** at 7:30 PM
Recreation Room, San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park,
San Francisco

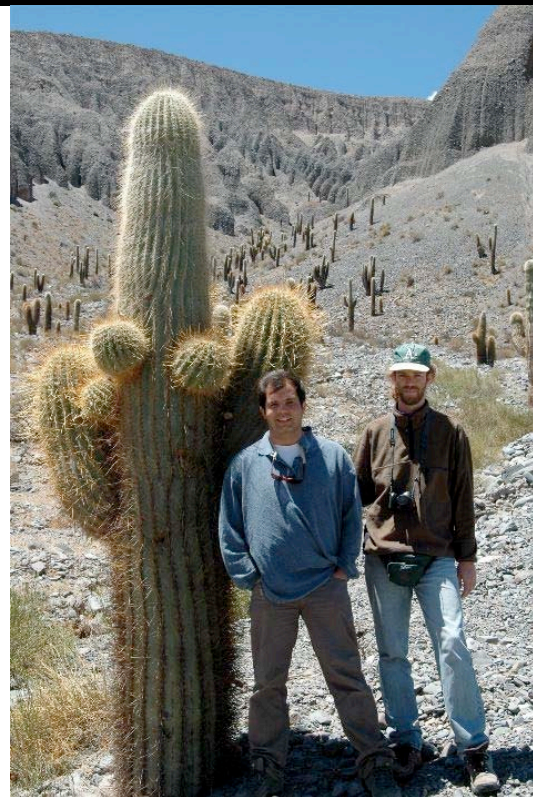
April Program

Bromeliads from Peru: The Land of the Incas

Some of us know **Guillermo Rivera** because he has been the guide on many of the trips some of our members have taken to Argentina or Bolivia over the last few years. Guillermo has a PhD in botany and has learned how many of us are also interested in Bromeliads and he now schedules trips with an emphasis on bromeliads as well as cacti.

This month, Guillermo has put together a show on some of the bromeliads that you can see in Peru; Dennis Cathcart who has made many trips to Peru and has seen these slides does not recognize some of the plants, so we might see some new undescribed bromeliads.

Guillermo will be leading a tour to Peru September 8-24 2009. This trip will include a guided visit to Machu Pichu ruins.. He is also planning a trip that combines Chile and Argentina in November 2009. This last trip is unique combining the best of both countries, and crossing the Andes on two occasions. For additional information, please visit www.cactusexpeditions.com.ar



Here are **Guillermo** and **Diego**, our guides for several plant expeditions in Argentina. Photo is courtesy of Joe Quijada.

April Refreshments

David Feix and **Peter Wan** signed up for refreshments this month.

March Meeting

Last month, **Brian Kemble** provided an excellent slide show on the terrestrial bromeliads. There are so many terrestrial bromeliads that no slide show can be complete, but Brian exceeded our expectations with his comprehensive coverage. Although there was an emphasis on the Dyckias, Hechtias, and Puyas, there were also slides on Orthophytums and Cryptanthus. Some of the Puya flowers were outstanding and very unusual – slides that Brian had obtained from private collections in southern California.

Yolanda Huang raised the bar on refreshments for our meeting. Thanks, Yolanda – we want your refreshments every month.

California Academy of Sciences Bromeliad Needs

Kristen Natoli, staff horticulturist for the California Academy of Science has submitted this wish list to our society for bromeliads

As the rain forest exhibit at the California Academy of Sciences evolves, we wish to enhance the displays by continuing to add interesting plants appropriate to the exhibit theme. We hope that the local horticultural societies, who are an invaluable community resource, can help with the success of this ongoing project.

For bromeliads in particular, we are looking to purchase plants that meet the criteria below at the upcoming Strybing Society sale on May 2nd and 3rd. We seek guidance from knowledgeable members of the society on selecting suitable plants offered at this sale that would meet the exhibit's needs.

Criteria for Bromeliad Selections:

- Amazon Rain Forest Exhibit
 - Native to Amazon drainage basin
 - Species, not hybrids
 - Colorful but natural looking. Colorful flowers a plus.

- Unusual patterns or texture are desirable
- Tolerant of low light
- Pest free (especially hard scale), but no pesticide applications within 30 days of introduction into the rain forest

Specific needs:

- Epiphytes for tree crotches, artificial branches, and artificial vines: small stature desired
- Terrestrials: any size OK. Tolerance for a wide range of soil conditions and moisture levels is very desirable.

Costa Rica Rain Forest Exhibit:

- Native to Costa Rica (could be adjacent countries if plant is especially desirable)
- Species, not hybrids
- Colorful but natural looking. Colorful flowers a plus.
- Unusual patterns or texture are desirable
- Tolerant of shade to part sun
- Pest free (especially hard scale), but no pesticide applications within 30 days of introduction into the rain forest

Specific needs:

- Suitability for mounting on a vertical wall is very desirable. Small to mid-size in stature.
- A few large Tillandsia are desired
- A few terrestrials could be used.
- Tolerance for a wide range of soil conditions and moisture levels is very desirable.

Invitation to Visit California Academy of Sciences

Kristin Natali has invited our society to visit the California Academy of Sciences on a Saturday after closing to inspect their bromeliads and provide any cultural suggestions. We will explore possible dates at our meeting this month.

Strybing 42nd Annual Spring Plant Sale

We will be selling bromeliads at the Strybing Arboretum Spring Plant Sale on Friday evening, **May 1st** from 5-8 PM and Saturday, **May 2nd** from 10AM-2PM. **If you are able to donate plants (bromeliads for the landscape are always in demand) or work at the sale, please sign up at this month's meeting or notify Marilyn Moyer (phone 650-365-5560 or e-mail marilynmoyer@comcast.net).** We will have a signup sheet for volunteers at this month's meeting. This sale exposes others in the plant world to bromeliads and exposes us to other plant families. It should be a fun event for a worthy cause and you can add to your collection at a very reasonable cost. This sale also provides us the opportunity to promote our society, our June sale, and other activities that we have planned.

June Plant Sale

Our combined plant sale with the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society will be on June 13th and 14th this year at the County Fair Building. Setup will be on Friday, June 12th from 3 PM to 8 PM. Sale schedule is

- Saturday - Setup: 8 AM to 9 AM, Sale: 9 AM to 5 PM
- Sunday - Setup: 8 AM to 9 AM, Sale: 9 AM to 4:30 PM, Clean-up: 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

This is our **main annual event that brings in money to support** the society. Start setting aside your plants for the sale and save these dates to help on the sale.

Since this is such an important event for our society, we really need as much support as you can provide. You can help in three ways:

- Entering some of your premium plants in our Bromeliad display area
- Selling your own plants
- Working at the show/sale.

Remember if you plan to sell your plants, **25%** of the sales will be kept by the club.

We are using the bar code system again. If you are selling plants, you must determine in advance how many bar codes you want made for each sale price (for example, 10 plants @ \$5.50, 15 @ \$10.00, etc.). You do not need to use all of the priced bar codes, but they **all must be made in advance of the sale** and placed on the plant or pot before the sale. You will be able to change the prices during the sale as long as you have a replacement-priced bar code, so determine all prices you will need in advance. **If you have sold plants in the past and have left-over barcodes, they will work on the new registers.**

Roger Lane will be the collector of your bar code requests and can accept them in April or May. The bar code sheets have 80 bar code items per sheet and they are more impervious to water than our old tags. You can not mix prices per sheet (all 80 items per sheet must be same price). **There is a \$2.00 charge per sheet. We need as much advance warning as you can provide on making the bar codes.** If you can not make our May meeting, call Roger at 650-949-4831 or e-mail at rdodger@pacbell.net.

One of the conditions of selling your plants is helping out at the sale for a minimum of 4 hours during Saturday or Sunday. Let's try not to have everyone sign up only for the last 4 hours on Sunday.

Even if you are not selling plants or entering plants in the show, we need your help. The more workers we have, the less time each of us has to put in – and we have more time to shop for some of those plants we just have to own. If you have never worked at one of these sales, it is really fun. There will be sign-up forms at the May meeting, but even if you do not sign up try to come to the sale.

Please start saving your boxes and paper bags. We never seem to have enough on the second day of the sale.

Your Favorite Bromeliads

Your editor wants each of you to make a list of your ten favorite bromeliads with a brief explanation why each one is special. This survey will continue for 2 months and then I will assemble this list into an article. You can e-mail me the list at rdodger@pacbell.net, send it via regular mail, or give it to me at one of the meetings. **As of now, we have received very few responses. If I do not receive many more responses, I will cancel the survey assuming you do not wish to participate or care about developing a list of “must-have” bromeliads.**

Inge Hoffman

Soon after our last meeting, Inge Hoffman went into the hospital where she stayed for 13 days. She is now home and is very upbeat and positive. She would like to have visitors, a phone call or a card.

695 Joaquin Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577
(510) 483-9454

Tillandsia violacea

Dan Arcos collected the Mexican *Tillandsia violacea* in the following photo in 1999. This is a very desirable bromeliad that grows well in our climate. It is also one the green-leaved cup-holding tillandsias that does offset; most do not offset (are monocarpic). According to Dan, there is no sign of a pup yet. Let's hope he gets plenty of pups.



What is a Canistropsis?

At the February meeting **Roger Lane** provided a slide show of the Nidularium genus and mentioned that some Nidulariums are now elevated to the genus Canistropsis. After receiving several questions about this genus, your editor is summarizing the Canistropsis description in Elton Leme's revision of the Nidularioid complex done in 1986 and published in three volumes. This revision is based on an examination of over 200 herbarium specimens as well as many habitat and cultivated plants.

Canistropsis has had a long history. It was created as one of several subgenera of Nidularium in 1891. The Nidularium genus was reduced to 2 subgenera in 1896 with one plant in Canistropsis: *Canistropsis burchellii*. In 1935 the Canistropsis subgenus was elevated to a new genus Aregelia (= Neoregelia) with 2 species: *Aregelia burchellii* and *Aregelia microps*. These 2 species were moved back to Nidularium in 1955 but with no subgenus. In the 1979 Smith and Downs monograph, the

Canistropsis subgenus returned. When Elton Leme did the 1986 revision of the Nidularioid Complex of bromeliads in the Atlantic Forest portion of Brazil, Canistropsis returned as a genus and included 12 species and some forms.

Characteristics of the Canistropsis genus are

- Small to medium sized plants
- Stoloniferous habit
- Spread over the Atlantic Forest
- Narrow or thin leaf rosettes
- Leaves in a species can be entirely green or green with a wine-purple surface
- Inflorescence is always branched and bipinnate or tripinnate
- Petals are sub erect to spreading as opposed to Nidularium where petals are always erect
- Fruit color is orange-yellow which is never seen in Nidularium.

Probably most of us have a Canistropsis in our collection identified as a Nidularium. These are easy plants to grow and they readily offset. However, we usually do not have enough of these at our plant sales because some of the public is looking for a plant that can handle lower light conditions and Canistropsis fits the bill.



Photo of *Canistropsis burchellii* is by Michael Andreas and is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

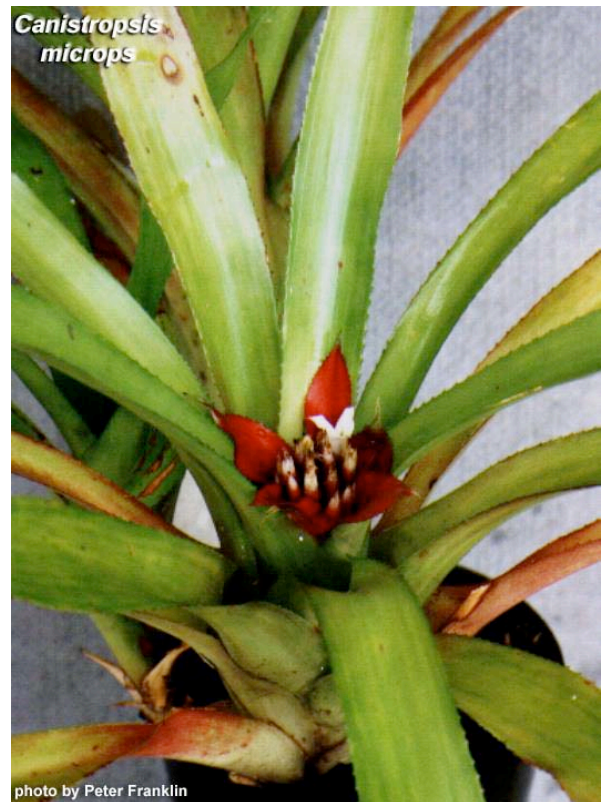


photo by Peter Franklin

Photo of *Canistropsis microps* is by Peter Franklin and is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies



© Dorothy Berg

Photo of *Canistropsis billbergioides* is by Dorothy Berg and is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

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.

BSSF 2008 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Carl Carter	510-661-0568	carl.carter@ekit.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Bruce McCoy	510-835-3311	bruce.mccoy@gmail.com
SECRETARY	Dorothy Dewing	650-856-1441	
TREASURER	Harold Charns	415-861-6043	Harold@States-Street.com
DIRECTORS:			
	Roger Lane	650-949-4831	rdodger@pacbell.net
	Marilyn Moyer	650-365-5560	MarilynMoyer@comcast.net
	Peder Samuelsen	650-365-5560	Pedersam@comcast.net
	Peter Wan	408-500-2103	peterkwan@earthlink.net

BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

The Journal is published bimonthly at Orlando, Florida by the Bromeliad Society International. Subscription price (in U.S. \$) is included in the 12-month membership dues: single (\$28.), dual (2 members at one address receiving one Journal -\$30). Address all membership and subscription correspondence to: Membership Secretary, Dan Kinard, 6901 Kellyn Lane, Vista, CA 92084, USA, membership@bsi.org

BROMELIAD SOCIETY
OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Roger Lane
Newsletter Editor
551 Hawthorne Court
Los Altos, CA 94024-3121

Come to see bromeliads from Peru this month!
