

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO



August 2009

NEWSLETTER

WE WILL NOT HAVE A REGULAR MEETING THIS MONTH

August 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 4 gardens in San Francisco followed by a pot luck dinner at the last stop. Thanks in advance to **Dan Arcos** for arranging this popular annual event.

The tour will be on **Sunday, August 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.

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.



Guzmania lindenii photo by M Asmuss
Shown by Reinaldo Roberts at AVBRO Venezuela 2005

This is a photo of *Guzmania lindenii*, an example of a variegated bromeliad as discussed in this month's newsletter. Photo is by Matthias Asmuss and is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

July Meeting

Last month, we were treated to a magnificent slide show of a long road trip over 3 weeks that **Kelly Griffin** had taken to Oaxaca, Mexico. We saw lots of bromeliads, but Kelly is interested in all kinds of plants so we saw Agaves, cacti, Echeverias, and many more kinds of plants. Kelly also brought several sale plants that were instantly grabbed by our members. Your editor went home with an unusual Mexican red Hechtia and a Pitcairnia from Peru. It was a fun meeting for all!

Tour of 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, 23 August**. 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 meeting at **Harold Charns** and **Rose Schubert's** home. 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.

Because parking in the city is always difficult, consider carpooling with your friends. If the food item you are bringing is perishable, bring it to Harold and Rose's house at the beginning of the tour.

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

Ted Kipping

257 Joost between Baden and Congo Streets off Monterey Blvd.

Telephone: 415-239-2420

Ted Kipping loves all things green, red, yellow and variegated. In this garden you will find bromeliads, alpine plants, succulents, tropical plants and semi-tropical plants as well as plants in

containers. The wealth of plants to see here can take a while to see so you might want to show up early.

Directions:

From the Peninsula take **I-280** to the Geneva Ave exit. Turn right on Geneva then make an immediate left onto San Jose Avenue. Take San Jose to Baden St. Turn left and follow Baden up the hill to Joost St and turn left. Ted's is on the left.

From **101** (the James Lick Freeway), get onto **I-280** South. Exit at Monterey Blvd and go to Baden St. Turn right and take an immediate left onto Joost.

From **Marin**, take 19th Ave to Sloat Blvd. Turn left. At the Sloat-Junipero-Serra intersection get in the center lane. Cross onto St. Francis Blvd. Follow to Santa Clara Ave. Turn right and soon it becomes Monterey Blvd. Continue to Baden St. Turn left and left again onto Joost.

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

Jack D. Halpern

45 Forest Side Avenue

Telephone: 415-566-2235

Jack has been a plant enthusiast for four decades and collects quite a number of different genera including orchids and bromeliads. Featured in Jack's back garden is a well established rose garden and orchid house. Those plants that are in bloom are displayed indoors. All spaces at Jack's home are small and we will have to be patient to see his plants and other collections.

Directions:

From Ted's, turn left on Congo St. and right onto Monterey Blvd. Continue and veer right onto Santa Clara Avenue. Cross Portola onto Vicente St. and go to Forest Side Ave where you turn right. Number 45 is on the right.

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

Stacey Michaels

1571 23rd Avenue

Telephone: 415-665-6707

Stacey's home is definitely a bromeliad collector and plant lover's home. The front garden as well as the back is landscaped with bromeliads, succulents, and perennials. We will see bromeliads that respond well to the Sunset's fog. Stacey also has an enclosed sky lit entry where many tillandsias grow and bloom well. Everyone will enjoy Stacey's well grown tillandsias.

Directions:

The simplest path to Stacey's from Jack's is to go west on Taraval to 22nd Avenue. Turn right and go north to Lawton. Take a left and a quick right onto 23rd Avenue. Stacey's home is on the left.

(If you choose to use 19th Avenue remember there are no left turns and you will have to go around the block to cross 19th Avenue.)

Fourth Stop 2:00 P.M.-5 P.M.
Harold Charns and Rose Schubert
255 States Street

Telephone: 415-863-1925

Harold and Rose have a lovely home and again are great plant lovers. Besides having a small greenhouse on their sunny deck they have a Large for San Francisco Garden with bromeliads, perennials, shrubs and vegetables. They are warm hosts and the potluck is sure to be fun.

Directions:

From Stacey's take 23rd Ave. to Lincoln Way. Turn Right and continue. Keeping to the right you will veer onto Frederick around 3rd Ave. Follow Frederick to Masonic Ave. Turn right and go up the hill. At Upper Terrace Masonic veers left onto Roosevelt Way. At Levant take a hard right and States St will be immediately to the right.

September Bromeliad Sale

We have had successful fall bromeliad sales in the past and this year we will also be having a sale and display of plants. This sale is being coordinated with Orchid Fest. Mark **11-13 September** on your calendar and set some time aside to help. We will be setting up the display and sale on Friday in the Gallery with the orchid vendors (the same room that we used in June) from 3 to 8 PM. The show and sale will be from 9 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and Sunday.

If you wish to sell plants, you will need to barcode your plants. Harold Charns will be making the barcodes. **The ones you had for the June sale WILL NOT WORK.** Contact Harold as to your needed prices. Harold will be able to mix prices on a single sheet. Please notify Harold as soon as possible about your price needs, so he does not have to print the sheets at the last minute. There will be a 75-25 percent cut as in our other sales.

We need a colorful display of your plants. On our last fall sale, you outdid yourselves! We need an equally fine display this year. Let's show the orchid fanciers how beautiful our plants can be and how well they work with orchids.

We will not be having a monthly meeting before this sale, so there will be a signup sheet on the Garden Tour at Harold and Rose's house. We will need help running our cash register, help in selling the plants, help in educating the public about bromeliads, and lots of boxes, newspapers, and paper bags. **Start saving your boxes.** This sale is very important for our treasury because our June sale did not turn out as well as most of our sales.

WE NEED HELP FROM ALL OF YOU TO MAKE THIS SALE A SUCCESS!!!!

Variegated Bromeliads Part I

This article by John Catlan is reprinted from the December 1997 issue of Australia's Bromlink.

Variegated bromeliads refer to plants with two colors on a leaf surface and technically refer to such plants as *Vriesea hieroglyphica*, *Guzmania lindenii*, etc. For the purpose of this article we are going to deal with bromeliads with longitudinal stripes mainly white or yellow, but sometimes green or red. These types of plants are more in accordance with what we consider a variegate. Plants where the top of the leaf is green and underneath is a dark maroon are referred to as plants with discolor leaves and are not classified as variegated.

Horticulturists have selected the white and yellow variegation of the bromeliads as a desirable trait, which they consider, add to the visual beauty of the plant, but are slower to grow and need more exacting condition and attention. Especially in Neoregelias, the pigments within the foliage of bromeliads known as carotenoids which vary from yellow through red to orange become more vibrant when displayed on a white background that is the white variegated portion of the leaf. This kaleidoscope of color is probably why variegated bromeliads are so popular and why growers totally disregard the reduction of vigor.

The term “marginata” refers to a leaf with a stripe up each side of the leaf. “Variegata” is the term used for plants with a stripe down the center of the leaf. “Striata” is a multitude of stripes and “lineatum” is a multitude of fine stripes. This is a simplified version.

The actual proportion of white or yellow to green is a personal thing, but for marginata, I prefer about 20% of white on each side of the leaf – a total of 40%, for variegata 30%, and striata and lineatum 50%. In a lot of occasions the definition of marginata and variegata in some plants need little imagination and is more a goal to obtain than actuality. The grower has to juggle a number of factors:

1. If the plants do not develop too much white, you shouldn't have many problems. That is why I try to keep the variegation to the percentages previously mentioned.
2. Selecting pups that will produce a plant with balanced markings and the same percentage of white on each leaf.

3. If the humidity level drops too low, you will find that cells in the variegated portion will have a tendency to collapse and then spread to a larger section of the leaf, but will generally be confined by the green section. When the percentage of green is small, it will not confine this collapse and will spread to the whole leaf. A green edge to the leaf has ability to protect the white section from extreme conditions. In spiny bromeliads when the edge of the leaf is green, the spines are still dark. In nearly all Neoregelias and Aechmeas the spines are dark except for *Aechmea* Lucky Strike. Now if you think that is interesting, when you check out Ananas, you will find that all spines are white. A rather interesting experiment is with *Cryptanthus* It. This plant will sometimes throw albino pups. You can maintain these plants in perfect condition indefinitely with a combination of glasshouse and automatic misting system. Removed from these conditions, the plant will start to collapse within 24 hours.
4. The definition of stability is probably what percentage of perfect variegated pups you are receiving from your plant that makes you happy. Some plants never seem to be stable but sooner or later you may obtain through your production, a plant that is more stable than you previously noted. The trick is to recognize such a plant and be able to take advantage of it.

The rest of the article will deal with individual plants and their idiosyncrasies.

Ananas comosus marginata: Pineapple plants in Southeast Queensland will stress out during our winters, unless they have sufficient nutrient. All the variegated forms of *Ananas comosus* and *Ananas cayenne* types need to be kept on a good balanced fertilizer program or they will mark. The tips dry out and die back and the plants start to yellow. Very good light during winter is a must or the plant will die back.

Ananas bracteatus var. *tricolor* (marginata): This plant is slightly more winter resistant than *Ananas comosus* or *Ananas cayenne*. Side by side they

will mark before *Ananas bracteatus*; this plant will also respond better under a fertilizer program and good light during winter.

Bromelia sera variegata (marginata): It seems this plant has been misnamed all over the world. You may have it in your collection under the incorrect name *Bromelia penguin variegata*. This plant responds well to a fertilizer program, but as the pups are on long stolons, I prefer to grow the plant in a 14" tub, which allows the stolons to wind around the inside the pot on the soil surface. This will help the pup to throw roots before it is removed.

TO BE COMPLETED IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

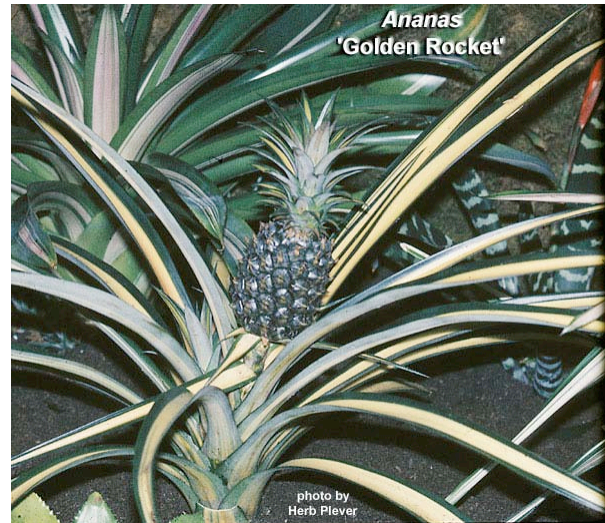
U. C. Davis Field Trip

Each year the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society (SFSCS) sponsors a field trip. This year's trip is to the University of California at Davis. A bus will be chartered and leave from the parking lot where we meet. There will be a small fee charged but the SFSCS is subsidizing the trip. Members of our society have been invited to come along. If you are interested please contact Kaye Rosso at 925-376-6903. The next paragraph is taken from the SFSCS newsletter.

Our annual field trip is on **Saturday, September 26 from 9am-5pm**. We will be visiting a week before their annual sale and club members will have first choice of plants! Tour the greenhouses and arboretum, shop and enjoy your brownbag lunch with fellow members. Sign up at our next meeting or call Kaye Rosso to sign up (925-376-6903).

Welcome New Member

Al Rios
1947 Shadow Park Road
Turlock, CA 95380
209-505-1269
orchidsbyal@sbcglobal.net



Ananas Golden Rocket is another variegated bromeliad. Photo is by Herb Flever and is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.



Guzmania monostachia var. variegata is endemic to the Florida Everglades. Photo is by Michael Andreas 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.

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BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

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BROMELIAD SOCIETY
OF
SAN FRANCISCO

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Next month we will have a guest speaker from Florida!
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