

# BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO

---



## September 2009

# NEWSLETTER

---

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 17, 2009** at 7:30 PM  
Recreation Room, San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park,  
San Francisco

---

### September Program

**Bromeliad Evolution: From Tepuis  
and Highlands to Lowlands,  
Seashores, Mountains & Deserts**

This month we will have a visiting speaker from Florida: **Dr. Terrie Bert**. Terrie will cover the development of bromeliad genera from the earliest bromeliads to present day, the dispersal of bromeliads throughout warm regions of the Western Hemisphere, and their adaptation to differing climates. Elements employed in the talk are bromeliad shape and form (morphology), genetics, distribution, ecology, and Western Hemisphere climatic and geographic history.

This talk has been well received by 12 Florida bromeliad societies, a joint meeting of the Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Society and Baton Rouge Bromeliad Society, and at the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies 2007 Extravaganza.

Terrie has served on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Bromeliad Society International board of directors, authored many articles for bromeliad journals. She has a bromeliad collection consisting of 1,500 different types of bromeliads in 24 genera and has won many top awards at

bromeliad shows. Please welcome Terrie as our September guest speaker

Terrie is also bringing mostly bromeliad species to sell, so bring your checkbook!



**Dr. Terrie Bert** is our speaker for this month. Photo is courtesy of Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay

### September Refreshments

**Harold Charns** signed up for refreshments this month. Can someone else help out this month?

## San Francisco Garden Tour

Last month, we held our annual garden tour and visited four spectacular gardens and greenhouses in San Francisco. Since this event takes place on Sunday, some of our members who may not be able to make the monthly meetings are able to visit wonderful gardens and socialize with the group. This year we had members of the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society join us.

Our first stop was at **Ted Kipping's** home. Ted has collected an incredible number of genera and species over the last fifteen years. In the front yard, there were mostly miniature plants either planted in the ground or arranged in concrete planter boxes. If you were looking for bromeliads – they were there, but interspersed with many different plants. In other parts of the two lot landscape, there were more prominent arrangements of bromeliads. Ted also graciously gave cuttings to us from his cornucopia of plant material.

**Jack Halpern's** garden was well marked as we arrived and one of his daughters helped direct us to the back yard. Jack directed us to the greenhouse in his neighbor's yard as well as the greenhouse in Jack's yard. Jack said his neighbor does not use the greenhouse and has offered it to Jack. How many of your neighbors loans you his greenhouse? Jack's plant interests vary across the board as do most of us. His greenhouses contained colorful orchids, bromeliads, cacti, and succulents. But the pièce de resistance was the mineral collection. Jack has assembled a world class collection that even a novice with no knowledge of rare minerals can appreciate. Since the collection is housed in a small area, there was a limit as to the number who could view it at one time. The line was long but well worth the wait.

Some people entered **Stacey Michael's** plant collection by going through the house; others walked through the garage to the back yard that is landscaped with winding paths and a myriad of plant material. I believe that **David Feix** may have designed the beautiful yard. There were beautiful *Aloe polyphyllas* in the ground developing their characteristic spiral. Many of us were not sure of the identity of one of the

*Aechmeas* in flower. Some said it was *Aechmea phanerophlebia*; others said it was *A. disticantha*. We decided it might be a hybrid of the two species. If you got to the back yard by going through the house, you saw Stacey's collector-type tillandsias and many other rare plants. She has a skylight that provides ideal conditions for the plants growing on the stairs and railing into the house. Stacey's entry way and sidewalk were also professionally landscaped with many different types of plants.

Our group was ravenous by the time we arrived at **Harold Charns** and **Rose Schubert's** home. The food was spread out on the dining room table and most of us ate before checking out the plants. It was a potluck and with all the people in attendance the choices were amazing and delicious. By the time we left there was very little food left.

Harold's plants are on the deck in the back of the house, in a greenhouse on the deck, and in the backyard accessible via a steep set of stairs. This stair master permitted us to visit the plants in the backyard and return to the house for a second dessert. Oh, there are more plants in the laundry room. The color that Harold has achieved growing bromeliads in San Francisco is remarkable. Harold also has a variegated *Aechmea* cultivar that is very reliable at flowering and pupping; some of us would like one of those pups. Harold and Rose donated some bromeliads for us as we left.

The BSSF thanks the garden owners for opening their inspiring gardens to BSSF for this year's tour. Thanks also to all who contributed to the potluck and a giant thanks to **Dan Arcos** for organizing this year's successful garden tour and potluck.

## Dorothy Dewing Resigns

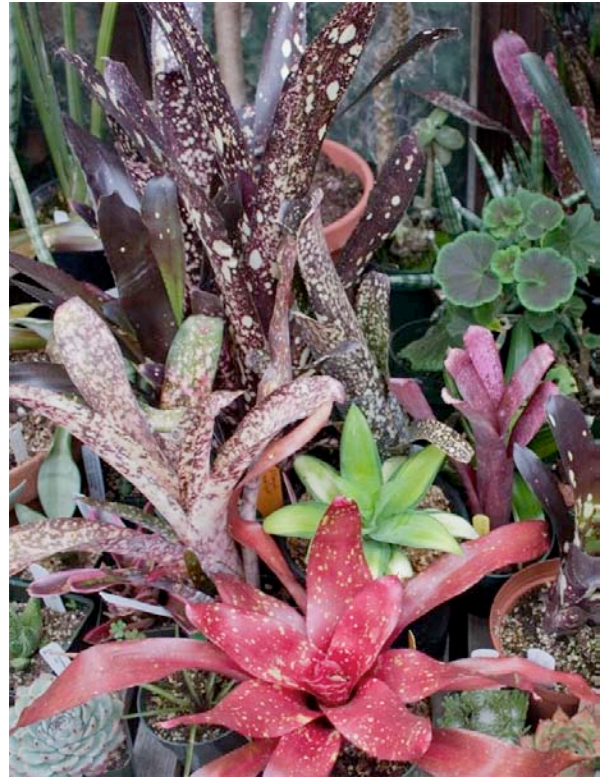
**Dorothy Dewing** has been our secretary for many years, but she has submitted her resignation. Thanks for all your help over the years, Dorothy and we hope to see you at some of our meetings.



*Tillandsia somnians* is growing magnificently in Ted Kipping's back yard. This plant grows better in San Francisco than it probably does in habitat. Photo is courtesy of Tom Vincze.



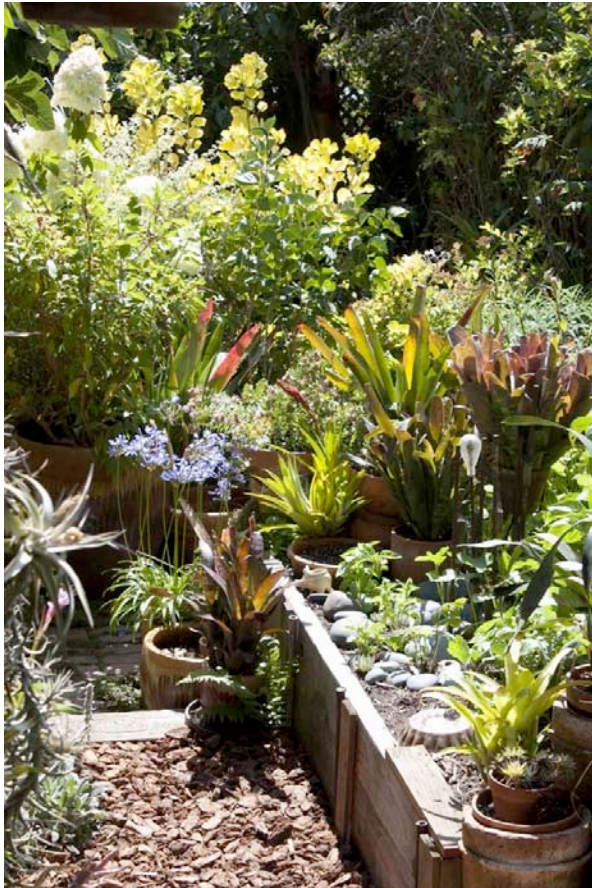
Here is a view of a very few of the visitors to Ted Kipping's back yard.. Photo is courtesy of Tom Vincze.



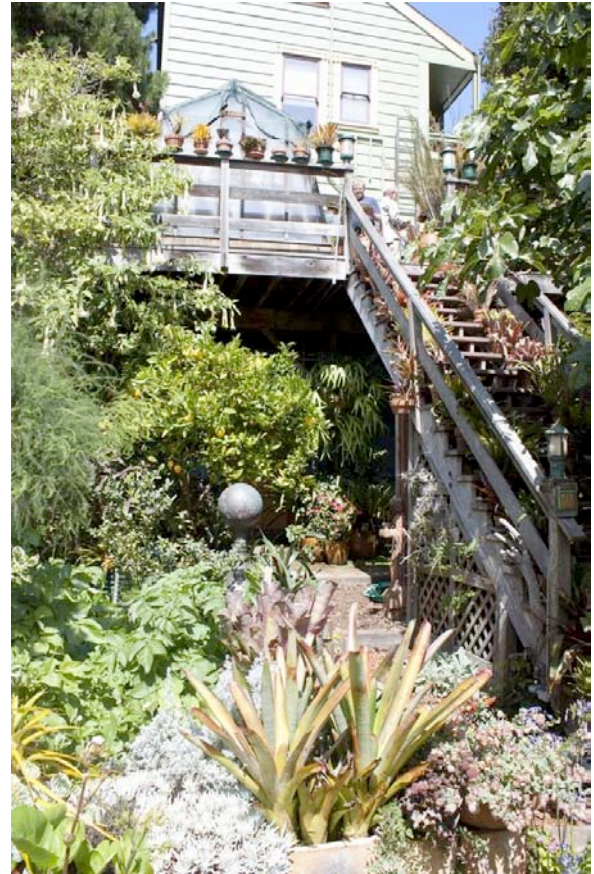
Here are some of the succulents and bromeliads growing in one of Jack Halpern's two greenhouses. Photo is courtesy of Tom Vincze.



Stacey Michael's front entrance is landscaped with aloes as well as bromeliads and other plant material.



Some of the plants you will see at the bottom of the stairs in the back of Harold Charn's yard. Photo is courtesy of Tom Vincze.



Here are the steep stairs in the back of Harold's house and a view of more bromeliads and his greenhouse on the deck. Photo is courtesy of Tom Vincze.

## Variegated Bromeliads Part II

This article by John Catlan is reprinted from the December 1997 issue of Australia's Bromlink. Part I appeared in our August newsletter.

*Aechmea* Mend (*marginata*), cultivar of *Aechmea lueddemanniana* also *Aechmea lueddemanniana alvarez* (*variegata*), *Aechmea lueddemanniana quadricolor* (*variegata*) are derived from this species. *Aechmea* Pinkie (*striata*) is a seedling of *Aechmea* Mend. You will find the seed of *Aechmea* Mend will produce a large percentage of variegated seedlings. All cultivars require adequate fertilizer or they will languish in their pots.

*Aechmea* Ensign (*marginata*) is a cultivar of *Aechmea orlandiana*. I would recommend a consistent fertilizer program, very good light and

plenty of air movement, water and good drainage. This plant requires attention or perfect conditions to flourish. The variegation is pure white and has a tendency to mark. To counteract this, maintain a reasonable humidity level. I consider a lack of humidity in our winters more of a problem than cold.

*Aechmea nudicaulis* var. *flavo marginata* is an extremely good plant. It does not seem to mark and has good strong leaves with a rich gold color. This is a good clumping plant.

*Aechmea* Mary Hyde (*marginata*) is a cultivar of *Aechmea nudicaulis*. It has wide stubby leaves and is a good clumping plant.

*Aechmea* Nationalis (*marginata*) is a cultivar of *Aechmea ornata*. It is a stunning formal plant but is reluctant to flower. It has no problems except the tip of each leaf. There is a variegated form but it is not as stunning as Nationalis.

*Aechmea* Samuri (variegata) and *Aechmea* Shogun (marginata) require a fertilizer program to multiply and require adequate drainage, air movement and water. They are a cultivar of *Aechmea chantinii* and require the same conditions.

*Aechmea* Foster's Favorite-Favorite (variegata) is a cultivar of *Aechmea* Foster's Favorite. To do well, this plant needs to be grown in the shade and slowly.

The joy of growing *Aechmea comata* v. *makoyana* is to have a semi-mature plant with its gold center yellow variegation when it throws pups and they are in bright light. The pups will be lacquered and look great.

All the forms of *Aechmea fasciata* (marginata and variegata) can be divided into two groups. One group contains plants that maintain the variegation on all leaves for the full life of the plant. The other group has a variegation that fades out on the older leaves back into green. I would have a tendency to drop this style in preference to the stable group.

*Aechmea* Kiwi (variegata) is a cultivar of *Aechmea fasciata*. This plant has a series of red lines up the center of the leaf. It's well worth having in your collection.

*Billbergia* Kyoto (marginata) is a cultivar of *B. pyramidalis*. This plant needs to be kept growing with a moderate fertilizer program to do well.

The first requirement for *Cryptanthus bromelioides* v. *tricolor* is humidity. If you do not keep humidity up this plant will mark badly. It likes bright light, but should it result in a decrease in relative humidity, drop the light back. A moderate fertilizer program is necessary. Be selective with what plants you propagate.

*Cryptanthus* It, like all *Cryptanthus* need humidity. But if you feel the leaf, you will find it has a central thickened rib. Cold drips on this rib during winter will cause the cells to collapse, badly marking the center rib.

To do well with *Guzmania* Superba and *G. Broadview*, it is necessary to have a constant fertilizer program. They are a joy to grow.

With *Vriesea saundersii* x *platynema* (marginata) the trick is to select your plants to eventually provide margins representing 20% of the leaf surface. You will grow a magic plant. A characteristic of this plant is that pups appear as if they are green. If you get out your magnifying glass you will find a hairline of variegation on the margin of the leaf. With each new leaf, the variegation will improve and you will wind up with an attractive plant. The real winners are the pups with obvious variegation. They have the ability to develop into real show plants.

If you select the pups of *Vriesea saundersii* x *platynema* (variegata) to give you a stripe representing 30 to 40% of the leaf, you will wind up with a real show plant. Bright light develops an orange-pink hue to the variegation.

*Vriesea* Milky Way (variegata) is a cultivar of *V. glutinosa* and retains the characteristic habit of the species in that it will produce adventitious pups and if you are prepared to put a bit of effort into it, you will average about 8% variegation.

I acquired an adventitious pup of *Tillandsia viridiflora* (variegata). It was plain green and they assured me it would end up variegated. About three years later I am a believer. It is growing into a very nice plant. I have been assured this is typical of the plant.

That's the end for now. There are at least a couple of chapters left to write – variegated Neoregelias, variegated Skoteks', variegated odds and sods, and foliage Vrieseas. Maybe sometime in the future.

### Donations to Our Society Library

**Dorothy Dewing** has donated a set of bulletins from the Bromeliad Study Group of Northern California (now defunct) and a partial set of bulletins for the Bromeliad Society International. Thank you, Dorothy!

---

**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 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.

---

**BSSF 2009 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT	Carl Carter	510-661-0568	carl.carter@ekit.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Bruce McCoy	510-835-3311	bruce.mccoy@gmail.com
SECRETARY			
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

---

**Learn about where bromeliads come from this month!**

---