

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO



July 2012

NEWSLETTER

WE WILL NOT HAVE A REGULAR MEETING THIS MONTH!

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 (Alameda County) followed by a pot luck dinner at the last stop. It has been four years since we have visited the East Bay, so we can expect to see lots of changes. Thanks in advance to **Dan Arcos** for arranging this popular annual event.

The tour will be on **Sunday, July 15th** and start at **11 AM** and run until whenever.

Details about the gardens and directions are inside the newsletter. .

Daniel Arcos is coordinating the food items for the potluck, **so please call him** (415) 823-9661) 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 diverse plants in magnificent condition and maybe even get an idea of what you need in your collection.

June Meeting

Last month we had a large turnout for **Andy Siekkinen** who showed on some of the plants that he saw on his recent trip to Oaxaca and Chiapas. Even though his special interest lie in the *Hechtia* genus, he showed us several other bromeliad genera including lots of tillandsias. Probably the plants that got the most oohs and awes were *Hechtia sphaeroblata*. The varying patterns of red on the leaves were awesome. Andy also brought many plants for sale so our members went home with many new sale plants as well as the plants provided at our plant raffle. Thanks to all of the members who donated plants for the raffle.

Our show and tell table was beautiful as usual and **Dennis Westler** requested that we not comment (to save time) as he went through these plants.

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, 15 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 (entrée, vegetables, salad, dessert, etc.) . **Please RSVP with item to be brought and number of people attending directly to Dan Arcos** at (415) 823-9661 or e-mail him (darcos@pacbell.net).

Please remember to lock your cars in unfamiliar areas and do not leave valuables visible in the car.

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

David Feix

1294 Delaware Street

Berkeley

Telephone: 510-472-27022

1. From **I-80** take the **University Ave Exit** and go **east**.
2. Continue past San Pablo Ave.
3. Go two blocks and turn **left** onto **Chestnut St**.
4. Go two blocks turn **right** onto **Delaware St**.

Destination will be on the right.



Second Stop, 12:00 Noon to 12:45 P.M.

The Messon & Miller Gardens

720 Paru St

Alameda

This stop is 20 minutes by car from David's and includes two of David's designs. .

1. Head **west** on **Delaware St** toward **Chestnut St**
2. Take the 1st left onto **Chestnut St**
3. Take the 2nd right onto **University Ave**
4. Take the **I-80 W/I-580 E** ramp to **San Francisco**
5. Keep left at the fork and merge onto **I-580 E/I-80 W**
Continue to follow I-580 E
6. Slight right onto **I-880 S** (signs for **W Grand Ave/San Jose/Alameda**)
7. Take Broadway-Alameda Exit
8. Take Right onto Webster Street **TUBE** through Tube
9. Veer left onto Constitution Way
10. Take left onto Atlantic Ave.
11. Winding through Office Park you will be on Sherman St.

12. Continue Sherman St to Dayton
 13. Take Left on Dayton go one block
 14. Take the 1st left onto **Paru St**
- Destination will be on the left

The **Miller Garden**, another Feix garden is 3 houses away



Third Stop, 1:00 P.M. to 1:45 P.M.

Carl Carter

2520 24th Avenue

Oakland

Telephone: 510-318-2379

This stop is 15 minutes by car. Note: In Oakland, streets cross avenues at 90 degrees.

1. Head **northeast** on **Paru St** past Dayton Ave
2. Turn right onto **Encinal Ave**
3. Turn left onto **Park St.**
4. Cross Bridge onto **29th Ave.** (NOTE: **AVENUES** run SW to NE)
5. Stay in right lane **29th Ave.** overpass
6. Turn left onto **East 12 St.** (Note: **STREETS** run NW to SE)
7. Turn right onto **23rd Ave.**
8. Turn right onto **E 26th St**
9. Take the 1st right onto **24th Ave**

Destination will be on the left. Enter garden through gate by garage.



Fourth Stop, 2:00 P.M.

Casper Curto and Daryl Ducharme

7612 Hillmont Drive

Oakland

Telephone: 510-562-9676

This stop is about 10 minutes by car. Potluck will be hosted by Casper & Daryl

1. Head **northeast** on **24th Ave** toward **E 26th St**
 2. Turn right onto **E 26th St**
 3. Turn left onto **25th Ave**
 4. Turn right onto **E 27th St**
 5. Turn left at the 1st cross street onto **Fruitvale Ave** 0.5 mi
 6. Turn right onto **Harold St**
 7. Merge onto **I-580 E** via the ramp to **Hayward**
 8. Take exit **27A** for **Edwards Ave**
 9. Turn right onto **Edwards Ave**
 10. Slight left onto **Hillmont Dr/Simson St**
 11. Slight left onto **73rd Ave**
 12. Turn left onto **Hillmont Dr**
- Destination will be on the left



How to Grow a Pineapple

1. Grab the crown of leaves where it is attached to the fruit. Firmly twist the crown off the fruit.
2. Remove some of the lower leaves. You may see roots already beginning to develop.
3. Place the plant in a container with potting soil, water, and place in a shady spot. When the plant begins to grow, move it to a brighter location.
4. Water and wait!

Lisa Vinzant

This article by Steve and Martha Goode is reprinted from the December 2007 newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago. Even though you may not know Lisa, she is becoming famous for her exotic bromeliad hybrids, such as *Billbergia Darth Vader*.

Steve and I were able to go to Hawaii in November and visit Ken and Lisa Vinzant's nursery, Olomana Tropical's and David Shighii's private collection of bromeliads. More about the visit to David's in January's newsletter. We met Ken and Lisa Vinzant at the Florida Extravaganza where they said that we could visit them. Their nursery is a "mom and pop" operation located in Waimanalo, Hawaii. We planned on visiting on a Friday afternoon. We didn't realize how bad the traffic out of Honolulu would be and also that our GPS which works fine in the continental US would not work in Hawaii. We did have the telephone number so we were able to call them. The street signage is not very good so we still went past the nursery after the first call. Finally, when it was dark, we located the nursery. Since we couldn't very well look at plants in the dark,

we took them out to dinner and made a date for another day. We enjoyed dinner with them and found out a lot about their nursery experience. Besides selling their bromeliads and other tropical plants at farmers markets and other such venues, they also sell cut flowers to hotels. Their nursery is on land leased from the state of Hawaii. They are not a certified nursery so the agriculture department does not allow them to export to the mainland.

The following is from the agriculture inspection notice at the airport:

"American agriculture is constantly being threatened by plant and animal pests and diseases. Many are microscopic. Every traveler, even those traveling from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland and Guam, may unknowingly carry these hitchhikers that could seriously damage American agriculture..."

In addition, all agricultural items being shipped to the U.S. mainland must be inspected prior to being presented to airline cargo offices, the post office, or other courier services."



Cryptanthus 'Petroglyphs' photo by Larry Giroux

This photo of *Cryptanthus Petroglyphs* by Larry Giroux is an example of one of Lisa's beautiful hybrids. Photo is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

One of the pests that moved to Hawaii is the mosquito. We found that they were very bad. Lisa suggested we wear long sleeved shirts and long pants because of the mosquito problem. They do not use any pesticides. Their nursery consists of three shade houses. One had 40% shade cloth and the other two have 50%. She has some plants growing outside but has found the feral cats to be a big problem so she has moved many of the plants inside. The *Vrieseas* and *Guzmanias* seem to do better with the 50% shade cloth. The city water is very good for the plants with no chlorine or fluorine. The temperature range is from a low of 60° F. to a high in the low 90's with

abundant humidity. Winter is their rainy season. It should be noted that all the plants have evenly sized leaves due to the constant growing conditions. The only bad effect of the constant temperature is that many of the bromeliads will not flower but will become “leggy”. She needs to use florel in order to get some of the bromeliads to bloom.



Billbergia 'Darth Vader'
Photo by Lisa Vinzant

Photo of *Billbergia* Darth Vader is by Lisa Vinzant and is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

She has tried to limit her hybridization because of the space requirements but has been unable to do so because of her passion for making more beautiful plants. Some of her *Cryptanthus* hybrids are Petroglyphs, Hawaiian Starshine, Jimmy Apple, Ken Vinzant, Tapestry, and Garnet Gloss. Michael’s Bromeliads has been able to get and propagate them. Dana Field has acquired many of these (legally).

More Brooms are Added to the Endangered List

This article by Derek Butcher is reprinted from the January 2003 newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of New Orleans.

I have already reported to you the problems in Brazil where the Press blame bromeliads as soon as there is a Dengue epidemic and thousands of plants are destroyed.

Here is some information that probably won’t appear as headlines in the major Brazilian newspapers! It comes from the Brazilian Environmental Agency. Plants now on the endangered list include:

Aechmea apocalyptica, *A. blumenavii*, *A. kleinii*, *A. pimento-velosoi*, *Billbergia alfonsi-johannis*, *Dyckia cabrerai*, *D. distachya*, *D. hatschbachii*, *D. ibiramensis*, *Vriesea biguassuensis*, *V. brusquensis*, *V. mulleri*, *V. pinottii*, *V. triangularis*.

If you are growing any of these species, I suggest you take special care of them.



Billbergia alfonsi-johannis - Mulford B. Foster Best of Show Award Shown by Joyce DeRien
17th World Bromeliad Conference, San Diego, California, June 6-11, 2006
© Michael Andreas

Photo of *Billbergia alfonsi-johannis* is by Michael Andreas and is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. Fortunately, this plant is available in cultivation even though endangered in habitat.

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 Charms, BSSF Treasurer, 255 States Street, San Francisco, CA 94114-1405.

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BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

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SAN FRANCISCO

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