

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO

May 2013



Meeting Specifics

When: May 16th

Time: 6:00 PM

Where: Flora Grubb Gardens
1634 Jerold Avenue
San Francisco

Our meeting will run from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM so our speakers can lock up and go home. Gate may be locked at 6 PM. You are welcome to come early and shop while nursery is open

Flora Grubb Gardens

Our friends at Flora Grubb Gardens in San Francisco have invited us back to host a meeting at their wonderful nursery. Clarke de Mornay will be discussing growing tillandsias outdoors and in your landscape. Zenaida Sengo will be discussing her upcoming book on designing with tillandsias and other plants in wall hangings and other arrangements (a topic that she addressed in our last visit to Flora Grubb). She will be introducing her partner and photographer Caitlin Atkinson as she talks about their process. If it is possible try to come early and check out the fantastic plant material that Flora Grubb and their clever presentation of plants, such as an old Edsel and a bicycle built for tillandsias.

May Refreshments

No one has signed up for refreshments this month. We hope that some of you will volunteer!





April Meeting

Dennis Cathcart introduced us to the new Singapore Botanic Garden

Last month we were treated to a fantastic presentation of the latest upgrade to the Singapore Botanic Garden. Dennis Cathcart who has not visited us for a few years was involved in introducing several tons of bromeliads into a massive upgrade of the gardens. Although the garden is 150 years old, it has been continuously evolving and

Dennis was involved in the latest iteration.

It started when he was contacted to participate in a competition at the gardens using bromeliads as the primary plant material. Dennis' presentation garnered a second place overall and then the work really began.

The Singapore steering committee had also initiated a competition for the architectural design for the garden upgrade that was won by an English firm. Dennis was instructed to be the focal point for all plant material going to Singapore from the United States. Although most of this material was bromeliads, there were

This garden is a modern wonder of the world!

several other types of plants. They had to be packed such that they could fit into a box that would not damage the plants and would conform to commercial plane constraints. Dennis showed us the results of this massive upgrade

through his photography that emphasized both the architectural marvel that has been created as well as the original plant presentation. One of our members, Michelle Derviss, has seen this new garden.



Dennis also brought many diverse bromeliads for sale to whet the appetite of the collector and the newbie.



June Bromeliad Sale

This is our largest annual sale and we need your participation to make the sale a success!

Our combined plant sale with the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society (SFSCS) will be on June 8th and 9th this year at the County Fair Building. Setup will be on Friday, June 7th from 2 PM to 8 PM. We must be out of the building at 8 PM on Friday evening.

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, Cleanup: 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 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, and working at the show/sale. The theme for this year's event is "Plants from Outer Space" So if you have some unusual bromeliads be sure to include these in the show area.

Remember, if you plan to sell your plants, the club will keep 25% of the sales.

If you are selling plants at this sale Roger Lane will be the collector of your bar code requests. There will be a form to request your price codes at this month's meeting. If you cannot provide your barcode requests at this month's meeting, you have until Thursday May 23rd to provide them to Roger (address is on barcode order form). No barcode requests will be accepted after this date. The barcode sheets have 80 items per sheet and you can not mix prices per sheet. If you cannot make

our May meeting and need the order form, call Roger Lane at 650-949-4831 or e-mail Roger 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. We need to help the SFSCS in various areas as well as working on our own sales.

Some of our members have more than one vendor id in the cash register system. If you are selling with barcodes from multiple ids, you may only use your bromeliad id in the bromeliad sales area.

Start saving your boxes for the sale. We never seem to have enough



Fungus Among Us

This article is reprinted from the October 1993 newsletter of the North County Bromeliad Society in southern California.

No winter could have been better! Typical conditions were no sun for days on end, little sun for short periods of time, (many growers developed “Eskimo Syndrome”); intermittent rain, to full downpour most days, showers that downloaded during the night; air becoming stagnant despite efforts to ventilate during the rare sunny periods. Warmer and wetter than usual climate conditions produced ideal weather to foster the growth fungi...and so it did!

Most bromeliad growers don't have a comprehensive knowledge of plant fungi in general, and their eradication in particular, because they are not usually a problem. We didn't understand what the problem was at first. One grower kept bringing in plants and asking, “Why am I having leaf die-back three rows up the plant on my best plants? Why is there slow progression up the plant...slowly, but oh so surely? Until the problem confronted me, I must admit, I didn't worry a great deal about the developing situation. I sympathized but I didn't have an answer. And then the problem came home to roost! I started noticing brown areas on leaves, particularly among the neos and aechmeas. At first I thought I had the plants too high up on the pole, for it looks somewhat like sunspot, or water hitting a leaf, staying there, and the sun broiling that area. Then I started really playing Sherlock and going from plant to plant and pulling anything that showed “brown spot” anywhere on the leaf. The next step was to start pulling off these leaves, one by one, and noticing that the “sunburn” extended all the way to the innermost leaves in many cases. As I progressed inward, destroying my beloved friends, I would inevitably come upon the “sog-zone” where the tissue of more than half of the leaf at the base would be soft and wet. I smelled it. Bacterial infections always stink. The more common plant bacteria affecting orchids, bromeliads, and kindred spirits are *Pseudomonas* and *Erwinia*.

Usually, to differentiate a fungus from a bacterial infection, simply smell – a small sniff is preferable! Bacteria stink! Fungi, on the other hand, often have a musty or a yeasty odor, neither of which is wonderful, but definitely not terrible. For many of my plants, the better part of valor was to sing a very sad chorus of “Adi-Adi-os amigo”. That was tough. Some of them were faithful friends whose ancestors had been with me 20-plus years. As I continued this morbid ritual, it became very clear how this infection had invaded my greenhouse. My infected plants were marked simply by number, no name or other identification. The fungus came to one our members hidden and showing no signs of disease. He, in his generosity, shared plants and pups with me. To always isolate your new arrivals in “Bible”, and the attempt is always made by the knowledgeable grower, but that's often hard to do well in a crowded, winter greenhouse.

So then, what to do with **those** infected by salvageable friends? For me that meant getting in touch with one of the nicest and most knowledgeable orchid people that I have the privilege of knowing, Jack Strickland. Remember, when you need help and real disease fighting information, the orchid people run circles around us. Why, is obvious. With devotion, they daily battle insects, fungi, viruses, slugs, snails, and millipedes and consider it all in a day's work to grow orchids. He gave me good advice, lent me reading material, some of which I am sending on to you, and even gave me a small amount of expensive fungicide to use in my eradication program.

While I hope you never have this problem, if you do, refer back to this article. I have included the tables I used and you can make your choices after determining what pesticides hit the largest number of pests trying to mutilate your collection, and at the same time are the safest for you to handle.

Pointers to remember when you use a pesticide:

1. How does the pesticide selected kill the pest?
2. How do you apply the pesticide?
3. What are the mixing proportions?



Continued

4. What limitations does the product have?
5. How dangerous is the pesticide and how do I protect myself, my pets, birds, squirrels, etc.?
6. Don't assume that insecticides and pesticides will be compatible if mixed together. Usually, they aren't.
7. Given the choice, use wettable powders rather than emulsified formulations, because generally the powder is more effective and less toxic.
8. ALWAYS WATER AND WAIT FOR THE LEAVES TO DRY BEFORE SPRAYING.
9. Spray in the early part of the day when the temperature is 75 degrees or less.
10. You are as vulnerable to this toxic material as your plants. NEVER SMOKE, EAT, OR DRINK WHILE MIXING THE CHEMICALS OR APPLYING THEM. Always wear the protective gear specified in the direction sheet. If you will be spraying overhead, don't forget your hat. Yes, gloves are cumbersome. Eye goggles fog up and slip around.

I have used Cosan Triple Action 20, which is a fungicide, algaecide, and bactericide. The product is not poisonous. It will destroy your eyes, however, if you're sloppy. I will follow now with Cleary's 336 which is a systemic fungicide. Three weeks later I will use Cygon for the final kill of any remaining scale. What fun these last few weeks have been! But it's part of the hobby and the flip side is that at least 15 *Tillandsia cyanea* and *T. lindenii* are in bloom. I look at those beautiful big blue flowers and tell myself it's worth it.

Strybing Plant Sale

Our contribution to the Strybing Sale in selling bromeliads was a great success. Marilyn Moyer donated 3 plants for the auction that brought in quite a bit of money for Strybing. Dan Arcos also donated plants for the sale. The bromeliads grown by the Strybing Volunteer were well grown and attractive as usual and sold well. People are more familiar with bromeliads and we get repeat buyers from previous sales.

We want to thank all of our members who contributed their plants and time for this sale in which our society makes no money – everything goes to Strybing. This sale does provide us the opportunity to promote our society, our June sale, and other activities that we have planned. The volunteers from the BSSF were Dan Arcos, Marilyn Moyer, Nick Soumie, and Jon Dixon.

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 2013 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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