

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO

MARCH 2014



Meeting Specifics

When: March 20

Time: 7:30 PM

Where
Recreation Room
San Francisco County Fair
Building
9th Avenue at Lincoln Way

Here is Gary Turner, Dennis Heckart (former longtime member of our society), and David Shiigi on the big island.



Bromeliads on Vacation in Hawaii

This month's show provides a glimpse into the beautiful bromeliads growing in Hawaii as encountered by Gary and his partner John Molnar in October 2011 during their vacation. This quick tour includes 3 bromeliad nurseries: 2 on the big island of Hawaii in Hilo, and 1 on Oahu on the northeast coast about a 45 minute drive north of Honolulu. This presentation also includes 2 botanical garden visits: the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden northwest of Hilo, and the Foster Botanical Garden in Honolulu, along with a glimpse of a hike to the top of Diamond Head.

If you are considering going to Hawaii for the World Bromeliad Conference from [September 8-14, 2014](http://www.bsi.org), this program will give a very good idea of where you can find more bromeliads, outside the WBC and the host hotel in Downtown Honolulu. Go to [BSI.org](http://www.bsi.org) now, to find out more about the 2014 World Bromeliad Conference, and register to attend!

Cid Young and Tom Vincze signed up for refreshments this month. Any additional refreshments will be appreciated.



February Meeting

Carl Carter took us on his second trip to Brazil in spite of many logistical problems

Thursday night must have been one of those times when all the planets and the moon align to create havoc. Your editor was riding to the meeting with Peter Wan, Peder Samuelsen and Marilyn Moyer. I asked Peder when we were on 19th Avenue whether he had brought the slide projector. He had not! Peder said he would drive back to Atherton to get the projector and we should go to dinner. At

the restaurant, we were telling Carl about the projector problem. Carl then remembered that he had forgotten his laptop computer with the slide show. He arranged for the computer to be brought to him from Oakland. When we arrived in the meeting room after dinner, Peder had returned with the projector; he had made record time from Atherton to San Francisco.

Carl's laptop arrived and we thought all was well. But when we tried to setup the equipment, we realized that the cable to connect the laptop to the projector was missing. Peter Wan and Stacy Michaels left to buy a replacement cable. When they returned, the cable worked and the show could begin.

When Carl was in the area

Virgin forests around Rio still have large varieties of bromeliads

around Rio, he was only able to explore bromeliads in a state park because of the risk of a possible rental car theft. Most of his slides around Rio were of the bromeliads in the state park.

The rest of the slides covered his explorations in states of

Bahia and Minas Gerais. He visited protected areas of the Atlantic Forest as well as drier high altitude spots that contained orthophytums, dyckias, and encholoriums. Thanks, Carl for a great show in spite of the problems.



Pacific Orchid Exposition



Our society was extremely successful at this year's sale. We had lots of plants - more tillandsias than we have ever ordered and they were so popular with the public that we ran out of them on Friday. The corner location for our sales booth was ideal. Marilyn Moyer gets many thanks for providing some more from her personal collection on Saturday and Dan Arcos obtained some additional tillandsias for the Sunday sales.

We could not have done so well without the support of so many of our members. We had lots of members helping to set up the display and sales areas on Wednesday and we had more than enough people working in the sales booth every day. There were enough people there so that each one could take off and shop for himself.

The sale was not without some traumatic events. On Thursday evening at the Gala Opening, there was a fire alarm that required everyone to evacuate the building. Unfortunately, when it was discovered that the alarm was false, most of the public did not return to the building. Even so, we sold quite a few plants on Thursday night.

One of the features about our sales area that drew the people

to our booth was the color photos that Gary Turner had made of many of the made of many of the plants we were selling. Customers often want to know what the flower looks like on a plant they are considering. Thanks Gary for providing these great enlarged photos.

Dan Arcos and Harold Charns get extra kudos for their contributions to the sale. Dan just about lived at Fort Mason for the entire sale and Harold provided the board of directors with a daily accounting of how we were doing.

Our display of tillandsias was very popular with the public thanks to the great design provided by Michelle Derviss and Peter Wan and the plant material provided by Peter Wan, Marilyn Moyer, and Roger Lane. We did not have enough plants to fill the display and had to borrow some from the sales plants. They were discretely moved back into the sales area as we were running out of plants.

Thank you, everyone, for making this sale one of our most successful!

Get Acquainted With The Other Genera (Part 1)

This article by Herb Plever is reprinted from the March 2001 newsletter of the New York Bromeliad Society. Article will be completed next month

This month's program deals with the 50 bromeliad genera other than *Aechmea*, *Billbergia*, *Cryptanthus*, *Guzmania*, *Neoregelia*, *Nidularium*, *Tillandsia*, and *Vriesea*. To understand where all these genera fit into the general botanical scheme of the bromeliad family I recommend you go on-line at www.fcbs.org. Under Classification you will find the key to the Genera with extracted botanical details for each genus. In the few pages of this issue there is only space for a very brief review with emphasis on the ornamentals that can be grown in our conditions. Neither is there room for the growing bi-generic category of cultivars, although slides of these will be shown at the meeting.

Many of the species are very large and not ornamental, but there are also many beautiful species of these "odd" genera. Some of them can be made available on our spring plant order if there is a demand for them. All growers should acquaint themselves with these plants. But first, a bit of elementary botany.

The bromeliad family (Bromeliaceae) is divided into three sub-families: the Bromelioideae (which includes blooms such as on *Aechmea* with berry-like fruit and no seed appendages), the Pitcairnioideae (with seed appendages that are undivided or barely divided) as in *Pitcairnia* and *Navia* and the Tillandsioideae (with seed appendages finely divided and forming a coma or tail as in *Tillandsia*). Each sub-family is divided into one or more genera with more or less common characteristics, and each genus is divided into species.

Sub-family Pitcairnioideae has 15 genera:

Hechtia (51 species) are quite large, dry-growing, desert type plants found in Texas, Mexico, and north Central America. Some species as *Hechtia rosea* (large red branched inflorescence) are very attractive but are so large they can only be grown in a southern or California garden. When not in bloom they can be mistaken for a yucca.

Dyckia (121 species) are mostly small with stiff, rosulate leaves with saw-toothed spines. They are found throughout southern Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina. They put up many orange to yellow-petaled flowers on a tall, thin axis and plants such as *Dyckia fosteriana*, *D. tuberosa* (red leaves) and *D. dawsonii* have attractive foliage.

Dyckia fosteriana



Puya (209 species) are mostly large to huge plants growing at high altitudes on the open Andean slopes and higher along the Pacific coasts of Costa Rica, Guyana, Chile, Bolivia and Argentina. They all have quite impressive inflorescences with electric blue-green flowers. *Puya raimondii*, which grows at altitudes of 12,000 feet and up where nothing else grows, has an inflorescence that may reach 30 feet with thousands of flowers. A few very attractive puyas are small enough to be grown in your collection: *P. humilis* with a 14" diameter and *P. laxa* with an 18" diameter.

Deuterocohnia (15 species) are small to tiny xerophytic (dry growing), yellow flowering plants from the Andes of Peru, Chile, Argentina and western Brazil. The genus now includes the former genus *Abromeitiella* with its tiny 1" plants which tend to grow massed in large mounds: *Deuterocohnia brevifolia*, *D. chrysacantha* and *D. lorentziana*. *D. longifolia* and *D. schreiteri* are longer leaved plants with a unique inflorescence that can have successive bloom spikes on the same inflorescence.

Growing Tips

Encholirium (30 species) are mostly large, strongly spined plants growing on the dry rocks in eastern Brazil. We don't get to see many species, but the image of the beautiful *Encholirium horridum* shown at the 1998 World Conference by the late Wally Berg still lingers in memory.

Fosterella (25 species) are small to medium sized terrestrials growing at altitudes of 1,000 feet to 5,000 feet in forests and on rocky slopes from Mexico to Argentina and western Brazil. The wide range of locations and habitats provide in common a constant, medium humidity for those mesophytic plants and they could adapt to indoor culture. Some, such as *Fosterella penduliflora* are in cultivation.

Cottendorfia has only a single species. *C. florida*, a non-ornamental plant is from Brazil. The genus once had 29 species but these were moved back into *Lindmania* in 1988.

Steyerbromelia (6 species) is a relatively new genus of which I unfortunately have no information other than the names of the species and some taxonomic details from the key.

While watching Society members mounting bromeliads at our last meeting, I noticed some mounted every plant in an upright position. This is good for the majority of plants, but there are several that do not always grow upright (orthotropically). Several tillandsias and many other plants do not react to gravity (geotropism) but are ageotropic, meaning growing in any position other than upright. Not only do these leaves grow in a non-upright position, but their inflorescences are also ageotropic and grow in the direction of the vegetative axis without bending upwards.

Some of the ageotropic tillandsias you are most likely to have or obtain are *T. bulbosa*, *T. seleriana*, *T. butzii*, and *T. caput-medusae*. Remember, different positions can be fun.

Article is by Bill Timm and is reprinted from the March 2004 Caloosahatchee Meristem newsletter.



Tillandsia seleriana



Deuterocohnia brevifolia



Puya laxa

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 sfbromeliad.org 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 payable to the BSSF to: Harold Charns, BSSF Treasurer, 255 States Street, San Francisco, CA 94114-1405.

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BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

The Bromeliad Society International publishes the Journal bimonthly at Orlando, Florida. Subscription price (in U.S. \$) is included in the 12-month membership dues. Please address all membership and subscription correspondence to Membership Secretary Annette Dominquez, 8117 Shenandoah Dr., Austin, TX 78753-5734, U.S.A. or go to www.bsi.org.

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