

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO

MAY 2014



Meeting Specifics

When: May 15

Time: 7:30 PM

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



Bromeliads on a Hawaiian Vacation - Part 2

In 2011 Gary Turner and John Molnar visited growers and hybridizers in Hawaii - both on the islands of Oahu and Hawaii. Two months ago, Gary showed us the fantastic plants hybridized by Lisa Vinzant on Oahu.

This month, Gary will take us to the big island. We will see some of the plants that Dennis Heckart (a former member of our society) has grown and hybridized since his retirement. We will also visit the nursery of David Shiigi. Although any bromeliad grows magnificently in Hawaii, David emphasizes hybridizing vrieseas. Expect to see some pretty amazing vrieseas.

If you are going to Hawaii for the World Bromeliad Conference from [September 8-14, 2014](#), this program will give an idea of where you may find more bromeliads outside the conference. Go to [BSI.org](#) now, to find out more about the 2014 World Bromeliad Conference, and register to attend!

No one signed up for refreshments this month. We appreciate contributions from one and all.

TillPam Koide andsia prodigiosa x eizii, T. Cotton Candy (Dimmitt hybrid), T.



April Meeting

Pam Koide Hyatt explained how she hybridizes with several spectacular results

When your editor arrived at the meeting last month, it was a battle to get to the sale plants that Pam Koide Hyatt had brought. She brought a myriad of tillandsias - species and hybrids as well as a few other bromeliad genera. The topic she spoke to us on was about her experience in tillandsia hybridizing. She gave us the background on her nursery

which has been in operation since 1961. She showed several slides of her greenhouse and how she grew some of the seedlings on moss walls - similar to the plant walls that have been in vogue recently. She also gave kudos to one of the top tillandsia hybridizers, Mark Dimmitt, who no longer hybridizes tillandsias.

Most of the hybrids that she has

created are simple hybrids, using only 2 separate species as parents. Her slides showed each of the parents and the resulting hybrid. You could tell that the hybrid demonstrated aspects of each parent. She said if you know the species very well, you could easily identify the parents when you see a hybrid - as long as it is not very complex.

In February of this year, Pam

Tillandsia Samantha was awarded the 2013 Glass Tulip (Oscar of European horticulture



visited some areas of Mexico that she has not been to in 30 years. It was quite a revelation because there were so many new natural hybrids. She has some possible explanations as to why this is happening and she plans to write an article about it for the BSI Journal. She thinks

that the development over the years has reduced the number of plants growing and the pollinators tend to revisit the plants more frequently for pollen with more natural hybrids being created.

We had a really large turnout for Pam including Keith Anderson, a longtime member

who has not attended a meeting for a while. Welcome back Keith. Although we had wonderful refreshments, Tammy Thies outdid her usual goodies with candy chicks, eggs, and nest (50 of them).

A Greenhouse for Beginners (Part 2)



This article by Carola Ziermann is the completion of the article started in last month's newsletter. Charlie's Greenhouse website: www.charleysgreenhouse.com

a townhome and has most of his plants at his parents' house, understood my wish to keep it simple. "You should talk to Casper", he said.

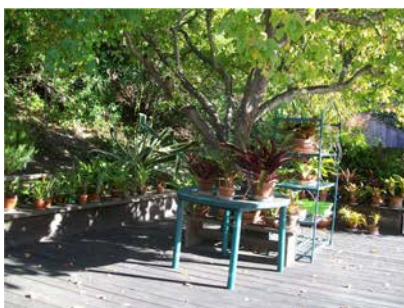
Casper Curto of *Curto Landscaping* in Oakland and longtime Bromeliad Society member recommended *Charlie's Greenhouse*. "They have something for everyone and at every price level. Go to their website and see for yourself." I did - and there I found my greenhouse for absolute beginners: \$129 for a tent-like 4'8" x 6'4" powder-coated steel greenhouse with shelves. The frame snaps together quickly without tools. The reinforced poly-cover resists wind and rain, and provides light diffusion to protect plants from direct sun. It includes 2 tiers of built-in wire-grid shelving on both sides (great for simply hosing down the plants with water) and a double zipper roll-up door. Perfect for me. Setting up is easy. But it comes with a challenge: will all my plants fit in?

Armed with a huge dish tray and dressed in winter clothes with long-sleeved turtleneck sweater and tight

fitting gloves to protect my skin (some bromeliad leaves are sharp and can cut like razors and I'd look like having been in a cat fight otherwise the next day) I gathered all my bromeliads in the back yard, cleaned them from the leaves that had fallen onto them from the surrounding trees and got them ready for hibernation. I had read in one of the society's newsletters "you want to sort out the plants by their need for light and the right temperature". How do I know? Too complicated. I decided to just pack them in. There were so many plants - they would never fit into this small greenhouse anyway.

I took the big bromeliads first; filled all the spaces between them with the smaller ones, and it turned out I had room left for some overlooked orchids and for my husband's tillandsia collection which we usually put into our home during the winter.

We live in a small town in the East Bay with relatively cold winters, as far as California is concerned. Freezing temperatures are common in our area. There was just no more room inside the house. So to protect my plants from frost damage, it was finally time to think about a greenhouse for myself. I didn't have much space in the backyard to set one up and I didn't want to spend a lot of money. It was just going to be a trial to see whether my plants would survive outside. I certainly didn't want to get into much of a time commitment or extra effort to care for my plants. "Maybe you want to build your own greenhouse, given your space limitations?" suggested Wes, a retired-landscaper-turned-inventor who holds a patent for the very useful *EZ Mount Plant Hanger*. No way, I don't have the time or means to do so. Tom, one of the younger members of the Society who lives in a



Will all these plants fit in?



And what about these?



Oh, I forgot about those on the windowsill

Then I faced another challenge. Following Casper's advice that "you need at least two fans to keep the air circulated and you will need some source of heat when it gets very cold", I had bought two small 5" clip-on fans (very simple-K-Mart or hardware stores have them). I mounted one in the back and the other one in the front of the greenhouse on opposing sides and then connected them with an extension cord to an outlet in our garage. The fans should run all day to prevent fungi from growing, which would damage, if not kill the plants.

I found an old space heater that I had kept under my desk at work years ago and put it right in the middle of the greenhouse on the floor. Next, I placed a timer and set it from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. - which supposedly are the times that the temperatures are the lowest each night during the winter. Finally, I used a big round thermometer to easily monitor the temperature. It was all set. Now, I had a fully equipped greenhouse. But would this construction actually work?



OK, we have to start somewhere



Getting crowded



Almost done

Every morning, I opened the zipper door and rolled it up like a tent entrance so the greenhouse could air out and warm up during the day. About twice a month, I showered the plants with the garden hose. And when I finally opened my greenhouse one morning in the spring to take out the plants and put them into our backyard, I couldn't believe my eyes: all the bromeliads had survived, showing not only new growth but some of the most beautiful blooms. Were they thriving from neglect or my tent greenhouse? Or both!

My marriage didn't hold but the fascination with these amazing plants stayed. My bromeliads are thriving and I advanced to a really sturdy greenhouse - an old defunct refrigeration unit the previous owner of my home had put in the backyard. It is huge and I can't wait to open it up in the spring and I hope to find all those wonderful blooms on my bromeliads again.



A fully equipped greenhouse: thermometer, fans for ventilation and a space heater - all connected with a timer to a garage outlet



Closed for the night to protect against freezing temperatures. Will this actually work?

Strybing Annual Spring Plant Sale

Our contribution to the Strybing Sale in selling bromeliads was a great success. Marilyn Moyer donated a vriesea for the auction that brought in quite a bit of money for Strybing. David Feix also donated plants for the sale. The bromeliads grown by the Strybing Volunteer were well grown and attractive as usual and sold well. Although we were located in the auditorium that tends to get less traffic, 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, Carl Carter, Join Dixon, Yolanda Huang, Marilyn Moyer and Peder Samuelson, Dennis Westler, and Carola Zeirmann. Special thanks goes to John-Eric Otter who just joined our society.

Oakland Orchid Society Sale

Two members of our society, Carl Carter and Gary Turner, represented our society in the annual Orchid Mother's Day sale at Lake Merritt. We paid for a sales table and sold many tillandsias that had been ordered by Gary Turner. The sale gave us another opportunity to promote our society and our upcoming June sale.

June Bromeliad Sale

Our combined plant sale with the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society (SFSCS) will be on **June 21st and 22nd** this year at the County Fair Building. Setup will be on **Friday, June 20th** from 2 PM to 8 PM. We must be out of the building at 8 PM on Friday evening.

Sale schedule is Saturday (9am to 5 pm) and Sunday (9 am to 4:30 pm). Cleanup is 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.

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

Tillandsia caput-medusae x circinnatoides
(a natural hybrid)



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 June 5th 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 cannot 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.

There will be signup sheets at this month's meeting. This is our largest annual sale and we need your participation to make the sale a success.

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

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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Tillandsia pamela

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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