

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF

SAN FRANCISCO

JANUARY 2015



Meeting Specifics

When: Thursday, January 15

Time: 07:30 PM

Recreation Room

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



Recap of World Bromeliad Conference

2014

Every other year the Bromeliad Society International sponsors a conference. In 2014, the conference was held in Honolulu, Hawaii and hosted by the Bromeliad Society of Honolulu. Our local society was well represented at this conference and we will provide a slide show this month that covers some of the activities that took place.

- **Wes Schilling** will take us to the David Fell nurseries (Hawaiian Sunshine) in Oahu and Hawaii.
- **Gary Turner** will cover Sharon Peterson's Nursery on Oahu.
- **Roger Lane** will show the plant displays and summarize the seminars conducted.
- **Dan Arcos** will show us Dennis Heckart's collection on the big island.

Roger Lane has signed up for refreshments this month. All other contributions will be appreciated.



December Meeting

Our holiday meeting brought out many new faces and wonderful food, gift plants, and conversations

Last month's meeting culminated another year for our society. Over the year we had a diverse group of speakers, gained many new members, and had 2 successful sales.

At the holiday meeting, we have a chance to socialize with the other members, partake of great food provided by our members, and exchange plants.

This meeting would not have been such a success without the help from many of our core members. Thanks go to

- Our society for providing Michael Kiehl plants for each member
- Our society for providing ham and turkey
- Dan Arcos for coordinating the party

and food contributions

- Marilyn Moyer for setting up the venue and providing holiday decorations
- The crew who cleaned up our room after the party
- Carl Carter for leading our group and keeping it operating smoothly.

Thomas Dwyer's huge flowering begonia was the first selected gift plant.



The Fernseea Genus

At the December meeting, your editor selected a *Fernseea bocainensis* from the very diverse selection of plants that Michael Kiehl provided for our society gifts. I was not familiar with this genus, so I have a new type bromeliad to grow - though not one of the more beautiful bromeliads.

The *Fernseea* genus consists of 2 species from Brazil *Fernseea bocainensis* and *F. itatiaiae*. Each grows on the border of the states of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. John Baker described the genus in 1889 in honor of the Austrian botanist Heinrich Wawra of Fernsee. The *Fernseea* species are perennial herbaceous plants that are xerophytic. They grow mostly epiphytic and terrestrial. The leaf blades are narrow, 15 to 40 centimeters long, ending in a spiny tip. The lower leaf surface is slightly scaly.

The inflorescence stem has up to the top, usually red, bracts. It forms a terminal, simple inflorescence with many flowers. The maximum short -stalked flowers are dull - purple to rose -colored. The flowers will develop fleshy, pea-sized berries. The relatively large seeds have like all Bromelioideae no appendages.



Alcantarea regina



Fernseea itatiaiae

Pacific Orchid Exposition

Our society will be selling plants again at this year's Pacific Orchid Exposition (POE) that takes place at Fort Mason in San Francisco from 19 February through 22 February. Over the last couple of years that we have sold at the POE, we have discovered that tillandsias are the most popular bromeliads for the orchid fanciers.

This sale is one of our two annual sales to support our society and we need your help to make it a success. Our sales booth is small and can only handle 3 people at a time. There will be a signup sheet at our meeting to work in our booth.

We also need help from our members in labeling and pricing the plants that we sell.

Need for Display Plants

One of our society members, **Casper Curto**, is responsible for designing and constructing the entry display at the upcoming Pacific Orchid Exposition to be held from 19 through 22 February 2015. He will be incorporating bromeliads into the display. Our society is helping him with most of the tillandsias. However, he wishes to incorporate additional bromeliads that some of our society members may grow.

If any of our members have specimen plants and could loan them to Casper for the display, please contact Casper to work out the details. Thank you for helping.

Casper Curto (510) 562-9676

Dues are Due

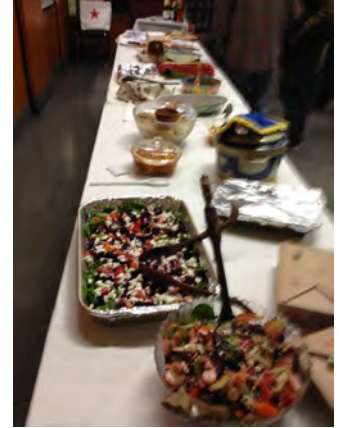
A new year has begun and dues for our society are due: \$15 for a single membership and \$20 for a dual membership. Pay our treasurer, Harold Charns at the meeting or mail to Harold. See back page of newsletter for details.

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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