

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF

SAN FRANCISCO

FEBRUARY 2015



Meeting Specifics

When: February 19

Time: 7:30 PM

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

Gregg will be bringing plants to sell, so bring your checkbook. His prices are very reasonable.



Exploring Ecuador:

Visions of Ecuadorian Flora and Fauna

This month **Gregg DeChirico** will be the speaker. Gregg is a life-long plant hobbyist, having grown plants of all types for over 30 years. His obsessive focus on the hobby has now become a small nursery business, *Gregg's Greenhouse*, located in Santa Barbara, California and specializing in seed-grown rare and unusual plants, including a wide variety of succulents and bromeliads. Gregg has travelled extensively to photograph the flora and fauna represented in his slide shows. Now in his second term as president of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA), Gregg is a well-known participant, speaker and vendor at many local club shows and sales.

Traveling West to East, from pacific lowlands of Guayaquil across the Andes to Amazonian highlands of Zamora, then South to North from dry hills of Vilcabamba to the wet forests surrounding Quito, we crisscross the country in search of bromeliads, orchids and other botanical treasures, with some interesting "close-encounters" of the avian kind. With 16 vegetative ecozones, from mangrove marsh to montane cloud forest, and savanna to lowland Amazon basin; Ecuador is a nature photographer's paradise!

Cid Young signed up for refreshments this month. Can someone else help out with refreshments?

Our speakers for last month were Wes Schilling, Dan Arcos, Gary Turner, and Roger Lane



January Meeting

Last month some of our members showed us some events from the 2014 BSI Conference in Honolulu

Our San Francisco society had a fair representation at the conference last year and some of our members provided a few slides each of some of the activities at the conference. Wes Schilling showed some of the plants at the David Fell nurseries located both in Oahu and Hawaii. David's plants were huge and magnificent: mostly large *Vriesea* hybrids growing

at the foot of a Hawaiian mountain range.

Gary Turner showed us some of the *neoregelia* hybrids at Sharon Peterson's nursery as well as some of the *tillandsias* that were not for sale. Her grounds near the greenhouses were covered with spectacular *Aechmea blanchetiana* in flower. Of course everything grows perfectly in Hawaii.

Roger Lane showed some of the plants that were on display in the sales room for the conference. Normally, a conference will have a judged plant show but because of the difficulty in bringing plants into the state and the fact that the host society is so small, there was only a display. But the plants that were on display were

Honolulu is a great place to hold a conference

beautiful. The conference members could vote for their favorite plant, but the plant sales were so popular that most of us did not vote.

Dan Arcos focused on Dennis Heckart's plants at his home on Hawaii and David Shiigi's nursery and home. These

photos again demonstrated how easy it is to grow magnificent plants on your grounds in Hawaii.

The best part of these conferences is the opportunity to renew acquaintances with many of your friends that you have not seen for a while.



Your editor got to visit with many friends from New Zealand and Australia as well as many from the mainland.



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 18 February through 22 February. We will not have a display table this year. Our society is contributing plants to the entry display that is the responsibility of our member Casper Curto.

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. We will be selling only tillandsias. Since we sold out our tillandsias last year on Friday, we have ordered a lot more this year. The plants will be labeled and priced at Marilyn Moyer and Peder Samuelsen's house (43 Adam Way, Atherton) on Saturday, 14 February from 1-5:30 PM. **We need as many hands as possible to help get the job done.** Please RSVP to Marilyn at 650-365-5560 or marilynmoyer@comcast.net.

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. Please see if you are able to fill any of our vacant slots. Contact Dan Arcos at danarcos@sfbromeliad.org or 415-821-7377

Feb 18/Wednesday (Set Up)

Time	Person	Person	Person
2PM - 6PM	Gary Turner	John Molnar	Wes Schilling
2PM - 6PM	Stacey Michaels	Dan Arcos	?Harold Charns?
2PM - 6PM			

Feb 19/Thursday (Opening Gala Sales)

Time	Person	Person	Person
6PM - 10PM	Carl Carter	Jon Dixon	Leianne Crittenden

Feb 20/Friday (Sales)

Time	Person	Person	Person
10AM - 2PM	Dan Arcos	Jana King	
2PM - 6PM			

Feb 21/Saturday (Sales)

Time	Person	Person	Person
10AM - 2PM	Gary Turner	John Molnar	Cheryle Lam
2PM - 6PM	Emile R.	Harold Charns	

Feb 22/Sunday (Sales)

Time	Person	Person	Person
10AM - 2PM	Dan Arcos	Jill Myers	
2PM - 6PM	Stacey Michaels	Harold Charns	

Feb 22/Sunday (Take Down)

Time	Person	Person	Person
5PM - Done	Scott Mock	Harold Charns	Dan Arcos
5PM - Done			

POE (continued)

We are assigned badges so that we do not have to pay the entry fee. One of our sales volunteers will be at the entrance at the start of your shift to give you your badge. Do not worry that you do not know enough about the bromeliads to talk to the customers; each of us knows more than most of the customers.

We will be using the square system for credit card processing. If you have a smart phone add the smart software app to your phone. Instructions for using the square will be in our booth to help you.

Thanks in advance for your help at this sale. It is always a lot of fun.



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.

Need for Display Plants

As we noted in previous newsletters, Casper Curto needs impressive bromeliads for the entry display he is constructing for the POE. If you have any plants that want to go on the road, please contact Casper Curto. These plants are only on loan for the display. Thank you in advance for helping.

Casper Curto

(510) 562-9676

Tillandsia xiphioides and Friend (Part 1)

This article by Jeff Sorensen is reprinted from the July 2005 newsletter of the Saddleback Valley

As you probably know, I like Tillandsias, especially when they are fragrant. One of the most fragrant species is *Tillandsia xiphioides*.

There are several varieties of the species and a close cousin that is sometimes mistaken for *T. xiphioides*: *T. diaguitensis*. In a recent GrowRR discussion on the BSI website, someone submitted a picture of an unknown plant that they wanted identified. One of our better-known experts identified it as *T. xiphioides*, but it was clearly *T. diaguitensis*. I know because I made the same mistake on a plant I entered in one of our shows. Hopefully, by the time you finish reading this article, you will recognize the difference.

There is a considerable variation in form between the varieties of *T. xiphioides*. Overall, it is one of the “grey-leaved” Tillandsias, meaning it is from a bright, dry climate. Xiphioides means sword-like or resembling a sword, due to the shape of the inflorescence. The non-blooming inflorescence extends from plant center on a relatively long stem for the size of the plant. The primary bract, or flower covering, widens into a flat bulge with a

pointed tip (lanceolate), usually green or beige in color. Three to eight flowers appear, usually one at a time, from the two edges of this bulge. All varieties can be found growing saxicolously (on rocks) or epiphytically (on trees or plants, but not as parasites). According to [An Alphabetical List of Bromeliad Binomials](#), there are two subspecies: *T. xiphioides* ssp. *xiphioides* and *T. xiphioides* ssp. *prolata*.

T. xiphioides ssp. *xiphioides* is found in Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay growing at elevations from 2100 to 8100 feet. It has a short, but obvious stem, and leaves that are wide at the base quickly narrowing to a point on the base leaves, with longer narrowing leaves towards the inflorescence. The plant is typically 6” wide and tall, but sometimes can be as large as 9” (most are less than 6”). The leaves vary from erect to spreading, forming an open, compact plant. The flowers are similar in shape to an iris (there is also an iris called xiphioides), but about one inch or less in diameter and it has a citrus fragrance.

There are three varieties of *T. xiphioides*: *T. xiphioides* var. *tafiensis*, *T. xiphioides* var. *lutea*, and *T. xiphioides* var. *minor*.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



T. xiphioides var. *tafiensis*



T. xiphioides var. *lutea*



T. xiphioides var. *minor*

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 Dominiquez, 8117 Shenandoah Dr., Austin, TX 78753-5734, U.S.A. or go to www.bsi.org.

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