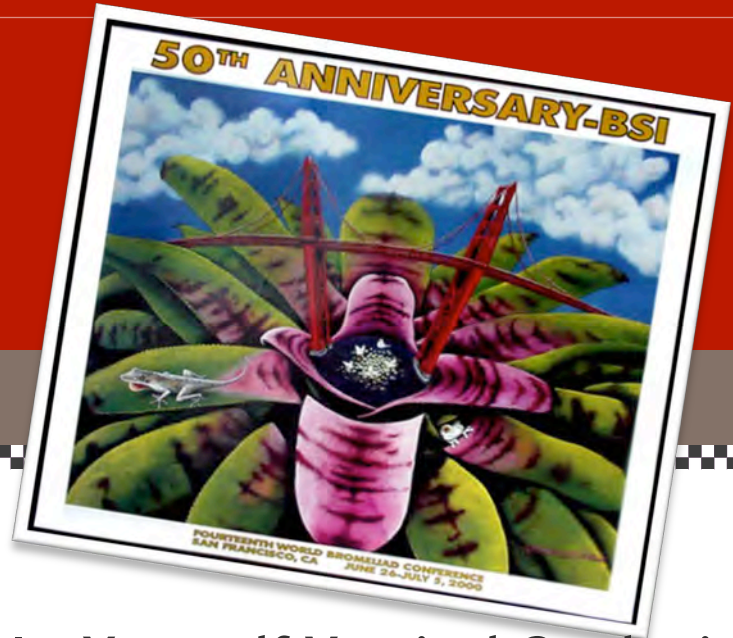


BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF

SAN FRANCISCO

MAY 2015



Meeting Specifics

When: May 21
Time: 7:30 PM
Recreation Room
Where: San Francisco County Fair Building
9th Avenue at Lincoln Way
San Francisco



Do-It -Yourself Vertical Gardening

This month Zann Cannon Goff will give us a talk methods, tips, and techniques for building your own vertical garden. He will offer a practical demonstration as well as slideshow to expand on the options for different types of walls. He will discuss epiphytic plants and companion plants that can work in tandem with bromeliads to enrich the looks and diversity of your vertical garden.

Zann a gardener and horticulturist based in San Francisco, with degrees in landscaping and Earth sciences, and certifications in Landscape Design, Maintenance, Construction, Nursery Operations, and Greenhouse Production. He currently works as a designer for Flora Grubb Gardens as well as independently freelancing in his own design and garden practice, specializing in ecologically sound plants and methods. Zann writes for a few websites and magazines, including *Pacific Horticulture*, *Sunset*, *Hoodline*, and his own (bozannical.com), and fills his free time with photography and exploring the urban environment around him.

No one signed up for refreshments this month. But our members are great at providing excellent refreshments.

Photos of the landscape that Cisco converted into beautiful Chiapas Botanical Garden



April Meeting

Cisco has created a magical botanical garden in Chiapas

In April Craig “Cisco” Dietz spoke to us about the botanical garden that he has created from scratch in Chiapas, Mexico. Cisco is an American who grew up in Los Angeles with an interest in photography that he concentrated on from high school through college. He started his show with photos he had taken from high school on to his becoming a

professional photographer in New Orleans. On a visit to Mexico, he fell in love with Mexico and has settled there. Exploring the area he discovered many plants being destroyed that he rescued and started to build a botanical garden. Most of his photos were of the botanical gardens in various stages of construction to the nearly completed project today. The

photos of the gardens are stunning and unlike any conventional botanic garden. The structures are unique and amazingly colorful. The plants do not sit in pots on a bench but are planted in the landscape - some outdoors and others inside the structures. There are other structures on his land that he has planned to

Tillandsia eizii is an example of a monocarpic bromeliad saved by Cisco



incorporate into the grand scheme.

In addition to his work on the gardens, he is interested in doing research on the pollinator for a specific orchid found in Chiapas. His enthusiasm and imagination seem boundless. Although he

has encountered obstacles from some locals, he has the support of the Mexican government and he continues to move forward and collect plant material for the gardens.

Cisco had spoken to many societies in the area and his

visit to us was his last talk before returning home. He was very anxious to get home and see his children. If you are in Mexico around Chiapas do not miss visiting this unique garden.

Dyckia Brittlestar, *Dyckia* Yellow Glow, and *Dyckia* minarum. Photos are courtesy of Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.



Potted Bromeliads Need Special Care

Because potted bromeliads lag behind identical plants grown in the ground receiving the same treatment, let us examine what some of the problems are and what to do about it. Potted plants have less soil to spread their roots and don't have the advantage of plants in the ground that have unlimited spread and can reach more fertilizer, moisture, and are only restricted by the length of the root growth. Potted plants have to be watered much more often which in turn leaches out the fertilizer; therefore they need added fertilizer to stay healthy.

The first signs of a slowdown in plant growth is indicated when the leaves become pale (to the yellowing side) and the leaf tips start to brown and may become stunted.

Nitrogen-starved potted plants commonly have a phosphorous deficiency at the same time. The lack of phosphorous also slows growth and the general health of the bromeliad. The blooms may be small and fewer blossoms per flower stalk than one grown in the ground.

Fertilizer-deficient plants will react the same as a plant that has been under watered and they may wilt. Even after fertilizing a previously starved potted plant, it will never fully recover. It will not make up for the lost supply of nitrogen/phosphorous. The yield of leaves, blossoms, and fruit won't

ever reach the level you desire.

To prevent a fertilizer deficiency in potted bromeliads, plan a balanced fertilizer schedule. You may want to start a constant-feed program where the plants are fed a little fertilizer each time they are watered. This may be through the use of slow-release and granular fertilizers spread over the surface of the soil and scratched in to release a small amount of fertilizer each time it is watered. When a soluble product is used, mix 1/8th to 1/4th strength of the recommended strength and use each time you water.

To test the new 'pulsed' strategy for potted plants apply the full strength of the recommended dose of soluble fertilizer in one watering, and then use plain water for the next two waterings. Repeat throughout the growing season.

As with any new changes in your treatment of your plants, try experimenting with a few plants before using on you full collection.

If the soil dries out in the pot, rewet the soil with plain water before using fertilizer.

This article by Stan Oleson is reprinted from the July 1987 newsletter of the South Bay Bromeliad Associates.

Dyckia - Light-Loving Bromeliads

Found mostly in central Brazil (some are also in Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina and Bolivia), these members of the Pitcairnioideae subfamily are terrestrial or saxicolous (grow on rocks). Dyckias grow in dry, open and rocky climates where they are exposed to extremes in drought and wet conditions as well as to very bright or direct sunlight.

There are 145 species and varieties of Dyckia. Their size ranges from several inches to five feet across. Dyckia leaves look succulent; they are stiff, have spines and are green, rose, maroon, tan, or silver, often with heavy scurf (the white or silvery powdery substance often seen on bromeliad leaves). The growth habit is generally a dense or tight rosette form and most grow easily into clumps.

The Dyckia inflorescence does not come from the middle but appears laterally, from among the leaves. It is either simple or only has a few branches. Flowers range in color from yellow to orange to red.

Because Dyckias are terrestrial and develop large root masses, they need larger pots than normal for this size bromeliad. They also do very well when planted in the ground. Use potting media that drains well; plant only the root area; do not plant too deeply. While they are drought tolerant, do not allow them to remain dry to the point where their leaves start to shrivel. If your Dyckia gets to that point, water frequently or replant it in a soil that retains more moisture, at least until it recovers.

When repotting, it is best to wear gloves. You may have to remove the entire clump from the pot in order to get pups or break up the mass.

Don't pamper these bromeliads. They do best when grown hard. Use slow-release fertilizer when repotting your Dyckia.

Go to the Florida Council to see pictures of Dyckias: <http://fcbs.org>. Click on the Photo Index, then Dyckia, then Species.

Dyckia marnier-lapostollei v. *esteve* is able to tolerate drought conditions. It requires well-drained potting media and needs to be well ventilated. For best results, keep the soil barely damp in the winter. This is a slow grower.

One of the pictures of *D. microcalyx* v. *ostenii* is a great habitat shot. This Dyckia is found on rocky banks in hard sun. Its inflorescence is simple with yellow flowers.

D. minarum grows on rocks or on open rocky ground in its native habitat. It has a succulent appearance with leaves edged in curved spines. Its flowers are orange.

Be sure to check out the cultivars of this hardy genus - also under the Photo Index, Dyckia, Cultivars.

Dyckia 'Artic Summer' is dramatic with its heavy scurf.

Dyckia 'Brittle Star' is stunning with its snow-white teeth.

Dyckia 'Naked Lady' has no spines.

For a red and spiny Dyckia, look up 'Toothy'.

And for something entirely different, *Dyckia* 'Yellow Glow' can't be beat.

So be bold and give Dyckias a place in your collection.

[This article by Karen Andreas is taken from the May 2009 newsletter of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.]



Photo of *Dyckia microcalyx* v. *ostenii* is courtesy of the Florida Council of Bromelia Societies

JUNE BROMELIAD SALE

Our combined plant sale with the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society (SFSCS) will be on **June 6th and 7th** this year at the County Fair Building. Setup will be on **Friday, June 5th** from 3 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 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. The form to request your price codes is attached to your newsletter this month. It will also be available at this month's meeting. Given the short time between our meeting and the sale, please submit your barcode requests ASAP.

The barcode sheets have 80 items per sheet and you cannot mix items per sheet.

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!



Strybing Annual Spring Plant Sale

Our contribution to the Strybing Sale in selling bromeliads was a great success. 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. Thanks to the BSSF volunteers who worked at the sale.

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.

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President	Carl Carter	carl.m.carter@sbcglobal.net	510-318-2379
Vice President	Dan Arcos	darcos@pacbell.net	415-823-9661
Treasurer	Harold Charns	Harold@States-Street.com	415-861-6043
Director	Roger Lane	rdodger@pacbell.net	650-949-4831
Director			
Director			
Director			



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.

Roger Lane

551 Hawthorne Court
Los Altos, CA 94024