

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF

SAN FRANCISCO

JUNE 2015



Meeting Specifics

When: June 18

Time: 7:30 PM

Recreation Room

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

World Bromeliad Conference 2012 Etc.

This month **Peter Wan** will give us a slide show on his trip to Orlando, Florida in September 2012 to attend the World Bromeliad Conference. While in Florida, he also visited the Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota and traveled to Naples, Florida to see the recently upgraded Naples Botanical Gardens. Some of you who purchase succulents from the Out Of Africa website also in Naples will get to see some slides taken at that nursery as well. There was a good representation of members from our society at the conference, so there probably will be some photos of people you will recognize. Peter is an excellent photographer so expect an excellent show.



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

Example of a wall and Zann starting to build a garden



May Meeting

Zann gave us a practical demonstration on vertical gardens

In May, Zann Goff spoke to us about how to build your own vertical garden. He began with a slide show on examples of vertical gardens - some that he has done professionally and some done by others in Europe.

He then proceeded to demonstrate the actual process for creating a vertical garden. He brought

two walls that represent some of the most common of about 12 products available. A 2' by 4' wall is a good size to use. Some products are available at Home Depot but a web search can provide many other sources.

The types of plants placed into each pocket varies with your requirements, but herb gardens are quite popular.

Black pockets are best for outdoor gardens. Some people water each pocket by hand; others are built with automatic watering systems. You should water your garden for an hour two times a week.

Zann then proceeded to build a small garden for us that contained ferns, rhipsalis, and bromeliads. The wall had

Here is the vertical garden that Zann built for us

more slots than he used for the demo because we were running out of time. The bromeliads used were small neoregelias and a *Vriesea phillipo-coburgii* (this plant will not be able to stay in its pocket because it gets too big).

We then started the plant raffle and one of our members was lucky enough to get the vertical garden for a single ticket.

If you wish to learn more about vertical gardening check out www.walls.com or contact Zann at Flora Grubb Gardens.



Mounting Bromeliads

Before being collected, potted, hybridized, or whatever, most bromeliads begin life as a mounted specimen. The seeds blow in the wind or are dropped by birds and cling to the bark of trees, rock crevices or merely on the leaves of the parent plant. There, they sprout and fasten their roots tightly against the wood and another mounted specimen begins the life cycle.

It has become so much easier to pot the plants that most growers look upon the mounting process as a big mystery and extremely difficult. This is not so if certain cardinal rules are observed.

- Never, never mount a blooming plant. When a bromeliad comes into bloom its roots cease to grow and the declining plant's remaining vigor is confined to producing seed and offsets.
- Select a very young plant with root growth in progress. In the wild, the roots act as hold-fast mechanisms (anchor) and transmit little, if any food to the plant. Root function is a whole field of discussion in itself and I will not proceed with it here.
- Terrestrial bromeliads should not be mounted. These include *Cryptanthus*, *Dyckia*, *Hechtia*, *Pitcairnia*, *Deuterocohnia* and a few other obscure genera. *Cryptanthus* is subject to the most abuse and can be seen at most any bromeliad show slowly-but-surely dying on driftwood. *Cryptanthus* is a bog plant in the wild and the roots should not be allowed to dry.
- Use wood for mounting if at all possible. Some of the bromeliads are saxicolous and will survive on rocks, but be sure to do some research before proceeding. Rough strips of cypress, cork bark, tree fern slabs, pine, cedar, or driftwood - all are fine. Beware of treated lumber. Salt-water driftwood seems to have no adverse effect on bromeliads.
- Fasten the young roots securely to the mounting material so the roots do not lose progress every time the wind blows. With a young small plant there will be less difficulty in keeping the roots secure since a heavy plant increases the burden on the roots. Turn the roots toward the wood and glue them on, if you wish. Glue does not damage the roots, but

remember, in using hot glue - if it burns your fingers it will also burn the roots. It will be necessary to use additional binding such as coated wire, since much of the time the glue will not hold the plant securely and you will be picking the plant off the ground. Elmer's Glue takes too long to dry. My preference is Duco cement, but when I last purchased a tube, I had to sign for it at a drug prescription counter. Sniff, sniff.

- If you are mounting a planting that has been growing in potting soil, protect the newly mounted roots with wet sphagnum, tightly packed and tied on until such time as the roots can adapt to the new environment.
- If you keep your mounted plants under cover in a greenhouse, remember to foliar feed them regularly, especially the Tillandsioideae.
- Mounted bromeliads are more compact and colorful than those grown in pots. They also utilize overhead space that would otherwise be wasted. Caution! Use solid sound mounting material - something that will last the lifetime of the plant.
- Every plant mounts a little differently than any other. Just remember what you are trying to accomplish, proceed in your own fashion and you will not go wrong. An electric drill is a very useful tool to use when mounting.

[This article by Carol Johnson is reprinted from the July 1987 *Inflorescence*, newsletter of the South Bay Bromeliad Associates.]



Billbergia 'Poquito Mas'

Entered by Bud Martin
1999 Mothers Day Show, BSCF

Peter will include *Billbergia* Poquito Mas in his show

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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