

BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF

SAN FRANCISCO

JANUARY 2017



Meeting Specifics

When: Thursday, January 19

Time: 7:30 PM

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



Bromeliad Collection at the University Botanical Garden in Utrecht

This month **Ben Harink**, one of our own members will be the **speaker**. In July 2016, he was on a short visit to Germany and was able to also visit Utrecht in the Netherlands. Eric Gouda permitted him to study the non-public portion of the Bromeliad collection the Botanical Garden in Utrecht. He spent a day photographing behind the scenes, and was able to look at a marvelous large collection with many type specimen and some very rare plants. He also learned more about bromeliad cultivation in the Netherlands, where the climate might not be optimal, but the plants rival those grown in Florida or Hawaii. The focus of Ben's talk will be *Tillandsia*, but many other species will be covered.

Roger Lane will provide beverages for this meeting. Any additional contributions are appreciated.



December Meeting

Last month, we got to share conversations, wonderful food, and gift plants

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.
- Carola Ziermann and crew 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.



Our President, Carl Carter selected the order in which we received our gifts



Pacific Orchid and Garden Exposition

Aechmea bambusoides



Aechmea coria-arujoi



Our society will be selling plants again at this year's Pacific Orchid and Garden Exposition (POGE) that takes place at the San Francisco County Fair Building (same building in which we meet) from **24 February** through **26 February**. Setup will be on **Thursday, February 23rd** from 1 PM to 8 PM. We must be out of the building at 8 PM on Thursday evening.

Sale schedule is Friday/Saturday (9am to 6 pm) and Sunday (10 am to 5 pm). Cleanup is 5 pm to 6:30 pm.

This sale is one of our two annual sales to support our society and we need your help to make it a success. We need help in

- Pricing plants for the sale
- Provide plants for display
- Set up sales booth/display
- Working in sales booth
- Teardown.

There will be a signup sheet at the meeting this month.

There will be a board meeting at this month's get together from 7-7:30 PM before the regular meeting. You are welcome to attend and contribute your ideas to make our sale a success.

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 check last page of newsletter for details.

Chemicals For Your Bromeliads

There are some chemicals that have the properties to promote or regulate growth of plants. They are used for propagation of plants as well as other uses. These chemicals work at low concentrations and have very critical limits. For instance, one will set fruit in one concentration and produce roots at still another concentration, and may kill when used at still another concentration. This teaches us that it is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS** given with the product.

It is also necessary to remember that success does not automatically follow the usage of these chemicals. They can only intensify the inherent abilities of the stems of the plants you are using them on. Actually, if a cutting is from a healthy

plant and you are trying to propagate it in the correct time of the year; the use of hormones will usually provide no advantage whatsoever. Rooting hormones should only be used accurately and only when they are likely to achieve the desired effect.

Most of the rooting hormones found in the trade are in the form of a powder - the base being fine ground talc. This type of base is used because it is not abrasive and is soft, therefore causing no damage to a cutting. The rooting hormone is mixed with the talcum powder. In some types, a fungicidal chemical is also added to the powders to prevent rot that may develop in cuttings. There are some rooting hormones that are liquid. In these, the chemical is in an organic solvent such as alcohol or just water.

These hormones are not made to be used on root or leaf cuttings. To my knowledge, there are no chemicals commercially available to aid in regeneration.

In applying rooting hormones, it is necessary to know how and to understand two principles. One of these is that although some of the hormone possibly is absorbed through the bark, the majority will be absorbed through the cut base of the cutting.

When you are using the hormone, you should be very careful to apply the powder only to the cut surface of the cutting, being sure no powder is applied to the outside of the stem.

The hormone encourages root to form and grow. However, if they should surface and come into contact with any of the hormones that may still be on the stem it may cause the roots to die. If you have trouble getting enough of the powder to stick to the cut surface then it would be advisable to dip the cutting into water.

If you make up a solution by dissolving a tablet in a specified quantity of water, you can leave the base of the cutting stand in this. Most of the water-based rooting hormones have a much smaller concentration and it does not have unfavorable effects on the cutting.

If you are using an alcohol-based formula, simply dip the cutting and allow to drain. This gives the alcohol a chance to evaporate, but leaves the hormones on the cutting.

As with any chemical, the key words are **READ THE INSTRUCTIONS AND FOLLOW THEM.**

This article is reprinted from the Long Beach Lakewood Bromeliad Study Group Bulletin Vol 5 No 6 (March 1985)

Aechmea fosteriana



Aechmea fosteriana



Aechmea orlandiana



Clone Preservation Project Update

Mulford and Racine Foster first collected *Aechmea fosteriana* during their 1939 trip to Brazil (detailed in their book: Brazil - Orchid of the Tropics). It is a tubular plant with wide, strap shaped leaves that are up to 2 feet long. The leaf surface has irregularly shaped dark usually incomplete cross-bands with a matte green ground color. The inflorescence is composed of spreading branches. Flowers are separated from each other. In other words, it has a totally different appearance from *Aechmea orlandiana*. *Aechmea fosteriana* var. *rupicola* is similar in overall appearance to typical *fosteriana*, but has a shiny green leaf surface without any cross-bands.

I currently have four different collections of typical *Aechmea fosteriana*. These represent at least 3 separate clones. The one I have had the longest came from the collection of aroid specialist Monroe Birdsey in the mid 1970's. It is characterized by a dark green ground color and drooping leaf tips.

I do not know what the original source was. Monroe Birdsey did some collecting in Brazil and may have brought back the plant himself. Two of the collections, one from Curt Dowling (through Moyna Price) and the other from Ralph Davis (through Eloise Beach) are similar in appearance and may represent the same clone. The green color on the leaves of these plants is lighter than found in the Birdsey clone, and the leaf tips have fewer tendencies to droop.

The other clearly different clone was obtained from Elton Leme by John Anderson (I received it through the good graces of Karl Green). In this clone, the cross bands are straighter in appearance, and more continuous than in the other clones. This gives the clone a darker appearance overall.

Selby Botanical Gardens living collection contains a plant reported to be a descendent of the type clone from Foster's collection (Sel 1979-1767). I do need to add a note of caution concerning this plant. According to the Smith and Downs Monograph, Foster made two collections of the species from the same site approximately a year apart. Only the descendants of the 1939 collection could be considered descendants of the type clone since a specimen made from this collection was originally designated the holotype (Foster 177).

If the Selby plant is a descendant of the 1940 collection (represented by the specimen Foster 878), it must be treated as an early collection without any connection to the type. This holds true even if Foster was able to collect plants from the same vegetative clone in both years. In either case, this is a very important clone to preserve in cultivation. It is possible that evidence bearing on the relationship between the two collections is awaiting discovery in the Foster archive at the University of Central Florida.

Aechmea gurkeniana and *Aechmea milsteiniana* are similar in vegetative appearance to *Aechmea fosteriana*. I have recently had the opportunity to compare the flowers of *A. gurkeniana* and *A. milsteiniana* with those from *A. fosteriana* and *A. orlandiana* and found all shared the same relationships between the petals and the stamens.

Other potential members of the *orlandiana-fosteriana* complex, such as *A. bambusoides* and the recently described *A. atrovittata* have not been available for study yet. *Aechmea correia-araujo* is another potential member of the complex that I have not studied in detail. [To be completed in next newsletter]

This article by Alan Herndon is reprinted from the August 2010 newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida.

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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