



S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 16561, ENCINO, CA 91416-6561

sfvbromeliad.homestead.com

[sanfernandovalleybs@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/sanfernandovalleybs)

JUNE 2016 NEWSLETTER

Elected OFFICERS & Volunteers

Pres: **Mike Wisnev** V.P.: **John Martinez** Secretary: **Leni Koska** Treasurer: **Mary Chan**
Membership: **Joyce Schumann** Advisors/Directors: **Steve Ball, Bryan Chan, Richard Kaz –fp, Mary K. Carroll**
Sunshine Chair: **Georgia Roiz**, Refreshments: **Gisela Miller**, Web: **Mike Wisnev**, FaceBook: **Roger Cohen**
Editors: **Mike Wisnev & Mary K.**, Snail Mail: **Nancy P-Hapke**

next meeting: **Sat. June 4, 2016 @ 10:00 am**

Sepulveda Garden Center (SGC) 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, California 91316

AGENDA

9:30 – SET UP & SOCIALIZE

10:00 - Door Prize – arrive before 10:00

10:05 - Welcome Visitors and New Members. Make announcements

**10:15 - Introduce *Speaker: Greg DeChirico*
Exploring Ecuador: *Ecuadorian flora and fauna***



Gregg DeChirico at the LaBallona Valley Bromeliad Show
Photo By: Barry Landau – April 30, 2016

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 criss-cross 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!

This presentation is a compilation of photos taken on two separate excursions across Ecuador, one made in June 2011, and again in January, 2012; both organized by Guillermo Rivera [South American Nature Tours.com](http://www.southamericannature.com)

Gregg has grown plants of all types for over 30 years. He has a nursery, Gregg’s Greenhouse, located in the Carpenteria, specializing in seed-grown, rare and exotic plants.

Gregg is one of our favorite speakers and he will have plants to sell. Check out his web page of **exotic things**.
<http://www.greggsgreenhouse.com/>

11:15 - Refreshment Break - Will the following members please provide refreshments this month: **Richard Morse, Cheryl Murphy, Nancy Pyne-Hapke, Chris Rogers, Georgia Roiz** and anyone else who has a snack they would like to share. If you can’t contribute this month don’t stay away.... just bring a snack next time you come.

Feed The Kitty - if you don’t contribute to the refreshment table, please make a small donation to ([feed the kitty jar](#)) on the table; this helps fund the coffee breaks.

11:30 - For Show and Tell: please bring a plant

11:45 – Mini Auction: members contribute

12:00 – Raffle: We need each member to donate

12:15 - Pick Up around your area

12:30 – Meeting is over—Drive Safely <>

Here Gregg is sharing a sampling of his photos from Ecuador !

The Amazon



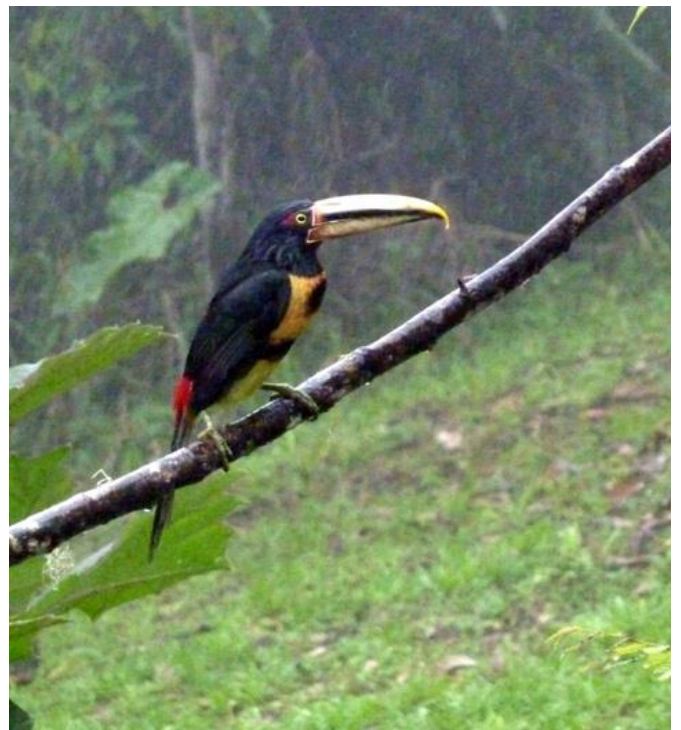
Heliconia



Pitcairnia eryngioides



Toucan



Tillandsia



Announcements

- **Bad News - Don Misumi passed away Friday May 27.** Don was a long time member of SFVBS. He hasn't attended our meetings in the last few years due to the distance, but you may remember him from selling the orchids and nice bromeliads in our booth. He was a great person and outstanding grower. Don has been in intensive care at St. John's hospital for several weeks now. Keep Don's family in our thoughts and prayers. You will be notified when we receive information of a service.
- **Welcome New member – Gretchen Moore** gretchenandcompany@company@yahoo.com
- **Show Flyer** – please forward the attachments to friends and family
- **No June Birthdays** – Let Joyce know your DOB so we can say Happy Happy to you when the time comes.
- **Taxonomic Tidbits** - Read Mike's continuing research of the Billbergia nutans and hybrids on **Page 7**.
- **Monthly meetings Participation Rewards** - Since we began the rewards, our club participation has more than doubled. When you sign in let the person at the table know what you are contributing and ask for your raffle tickets. For the new members this is a reminder of how you are rewarded for participation. Bring a **Show-N-Tell Plant, Raffle Plants, and/or Refreshments** and you will be rewarded with a Raffle ticket for each category. Also if you **donate an Auction plant**. We realize not everyone has pristine show plants but each of us certainly have unidentified plants that can be brought in.
 - **Opening & Closing Sepulveda Garden Center** – The SGC staff is only unlocking the kitchen door at 9:00am. for us. **Don't forget to lock the kitchen door before you leave.** If anything should happen after we leave the door open it would not look good for us. ◇

- Have a Safe and Happy Memorial Day -

Be Prepared - Just 2 More Weeks

Are you almost ready for our Bromeliad Show on June 11 & 12 ?

Now is a good time to remove large pups and prepare to Donate pups for Club Sale.
At the show we need Volunteer Docents, Volunteers for Reception & Membership
Help with Set-Up & Break Down

Prepare 2 or 3 plants this weekend

We still have time to get our plants ready. Each member should commit to have at least 3 plants ready for our show. Remove pups that are half or 2/3 the size of the mother plants. Wear long sleeves and gloves when handling the Aechmeas and Dyckias. When potting tall or large plants, you can add a few rocks or broken pottery to the bottom of the pots to prevent them from falling over. Use proper potting mixture. Pot the plant and if necessary use chopsticks or small rocks to brace the pup upright; pup's root faster when stabilized. Place the pot on a bench or in an area where it will receive bright diffused light. Make sure the leaves don't touch other plants so they don't become scared.

Before the show wipe the leaves and flower pots with a damp cloth. In 15 minutes your 3 plants are ready to show.

Mother plants or large pups are now ready for the Show!

Membership Dues - Pay at the meeting to: Joyce - Membership Chair

or Mail check to: SFVBS membership - P.O. Box 16561 - Encino, CA 91416-6561

Yearly Membership Dues \$10.00 for a single or couple

Please Put These Dates on Your Calendar

If there is rain please check **web page, email or phone messages** before leaving home for the meeting.

Monday May 30, 2016	Happy Memorial Day
Saturday June 4, 2016	Speaker – <i>Gregg DeChirico</i>
Sat & Sun June 11-12, 2016	SFVBS Show & Sale w/ the Cactus Club
Saturday July 2, 2016	Speaker – <i>Richard Kaz</i>
Saturday August 6, 2016	Speaker - <i>Andy Siekkinen</i>
Sat. & Sun. Aug 6-7, 2016	South Bay Bromeliad Show & Sale
Saturday Sept 3, 2016	Speaker – <i>Ray Vanveen</i>
Saturday Oct 1, 2016	Speaker – <i>Guillermo Rivera</i>
Saturday Nov 5, 2016	Speaker – <i>Woody Minnich</i>
Saturday Dec 3, 2016	Holiday Party
Saturday Jan 7, 2017	First Meeting of the New Year - STBA

STBA = Speaker To Be Announced

Speakers - Let us know if you have any ideas for Speakers about Bromeliads or any similar topics? We are always looking for an interesting speaker. If you hear of someone, please notify John Martinez johnwm6425@gmail.com

NOTE from Mike - Derek Butcher thought we might like an update on some variegated forms of a plant well known in cultivation. It is printed in its entirety. Many thanks to Derek for providing it!

Nidularium innocentii – variegated forms

to Bromeliad Cultivar Register by Butcher May 2016

Only *Nidularium innocentii* is accepted in the World Checklist of selected Plant families whereas Leme in *Nidularium*- Brom. Atl. Forest 144-153. 2000 included two variegates var. *lineatum* and var. *striatum*. I quote from the book:

“The variety *lineatum* differs from the other varieties in its variegated leaves with white or yellowish lines. This trait is seen occasionally in the wild, as in specimen Leme 23-B, but it apparently reproduces only vegetatively, not sexually. Although this case is an exception to the method used here, I decided to maintain the validity of this variety due to its huge popularity as an ornamental and to the fact that it is already widely cultivated and has been for almost 90 years.

LEAVES green with longitudinal white or yellowish lines, 13 mm wide.

Description from Smith & Downs (1979), ‘Leaf-blades green with numerous longitudinal white lines; primary bracts red near the apex and green elsewhere’.

The decision to maintain variety *striatum* as a valid taxon took into consideration the same arguments presented in relation to the previous variety. In this case, variety *striatum* has been cultivated for over 100 years and is one of the most popular taxa of this genus.”

LEAVES green with white to yellow longitudinal stripes wider than 5 mm.

Description from Smith & Downs (1979), ‘Leaves, or at least their blades, green; blades marked with longitudinal white lines; primary bracts wholly or mostly red-purple.’

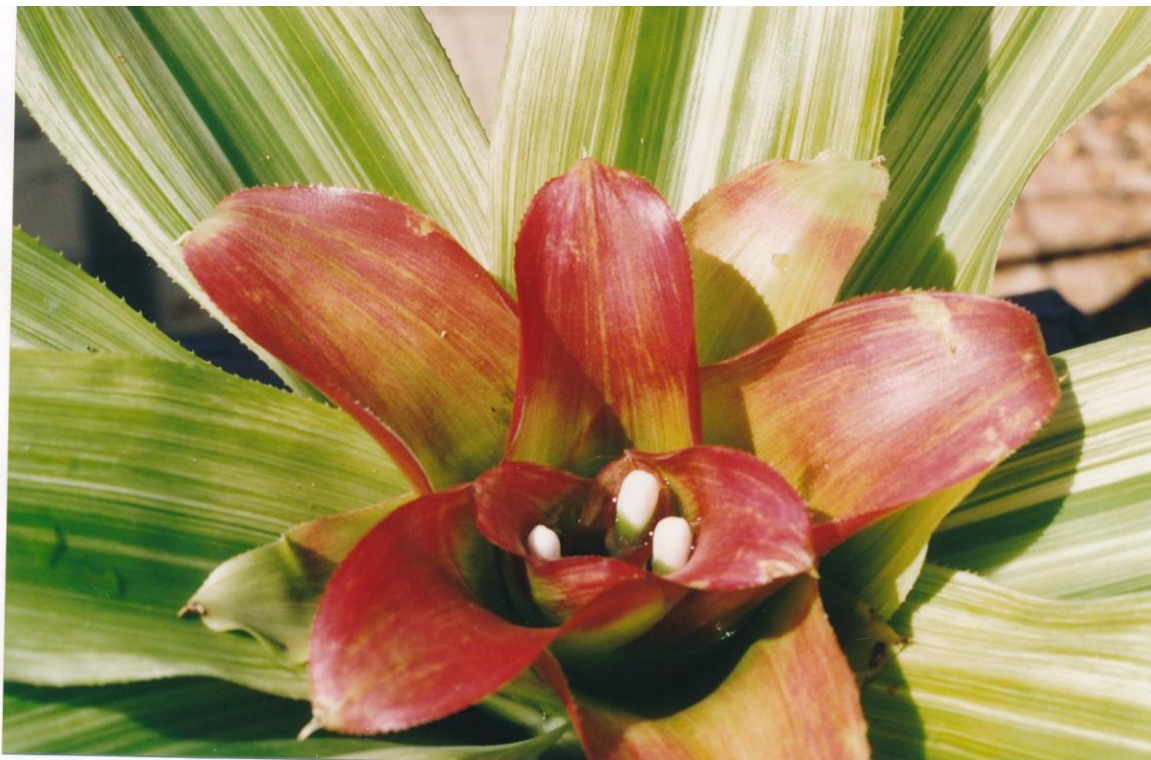
Clearly Leme was uncomfortable in treating them under the ICN – International Code of Nomenclature (at that time ICBN – International Code of Botanical Nomenclature) rules and yet they would have been comfortable if named under the ICNCP (– International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants) rules. Here we have a dilemma. The ICNCP rules covering cultivated plants have been with us since 1953 but as far as I can trace are not acknowledged in the ICN rules except possibly Art. 28.. BUT the ICN rules are acknowledged in the ICNCP rules. You would think that by now, botanists would accept that the ICN rules do not stand alone and that all naming must be linked to this code whether the plant originates in the wild or cultivation. We do know that this was Linnaeus’s intention long ago. A recent example under Synonymies in *Ananas* by Coppens d’Eeckenbrugge and Govaerts, in *Phytotaxa* 239(3): 273-279. 2015 shows referral to both cultivated and wild plants and yet all are named as under the ICN system.

In a similar scenario we are seeing varietal status disappearing for variations in colour of petals. Here again botanists should not be shy in that the ICNCP can cover such differences quite adequately. Such is the reluctance to concede that there is such a thing as the ICNCP rules the only reference list on the internet acknowledging this is the New Bromeliad Taxon list

<http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php> Therefore, I am adding the names *Nidularium* ‘Lineatum’ and *Nidularium* ‘Striatum’ to the Bromeliad Cultivar Register.



Nidularium 'Lineatum' (above) and *Nidularium* 'Striatum' (below).
Photos by D. Butcher.



Taxonomic Tidbits –

Yellow/green (with blue margins) petalled Billbergia - Part 5 (Bill. nutans and a hybrid you probably have).

By Mike Wisnev, SFVBS President (mwisnev@gmail.com)

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter –June 2016

I hadn't intended to write about *B nutans*, since I don't think of it as green petalled. But actually most of the petal is green, with blue, much like *B amoena* and *B distachia*, so it seemed to make sense to address it.

Out of flower, *Billbergia nutans* is perhaps one of the less attractive bromeliads. The description makes it clear why – its leaves are from about one to two feet long, yet less than an inch wide. They are linear or narrowly triangular. Thus, it seems naturally etiolated. It is also described as fasciculate, not rosulate, which seems to mean the leaves form a cluster from a single origin.

Billbergia nutans in garden.



But it does have one rather lovely feature – its flowers. The petals are green with blue margins, the sepals are rose with blue margins and the ovaries are usually green. Better to show you what they look like. Some clones have sessile flowers, while others are pedicellate.



Billbergia nutans. Step, E., Bois, D., Favourite flowers of garden and greenhouse, vol. 4: t. 251 (1896-1897) [D.G.J.M. Bois]. Contributed by Missouri Botanical Garden.

While *Bill. amoena* and *distachia* have a large range in east Brazil, *Bill. nutans* grows in southern Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, northern Argentina at 700-1000m altitude.

You might think the painting took a bit of liberty, exaggerating the colors.

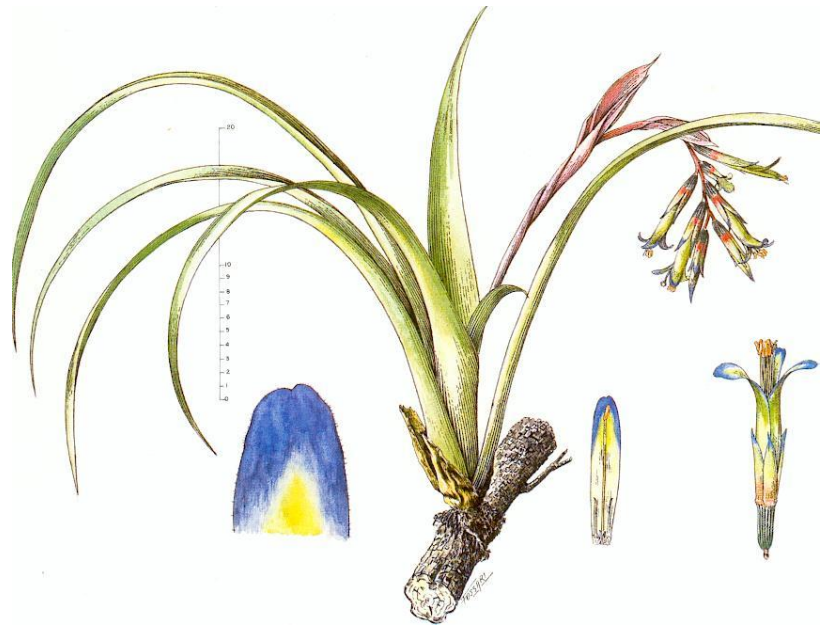


There are some forms that are perhaps rather interesting, like this one. Photo by Little (Selby 84 538). It is sometimes referred to as *nutans* “Yankee Job” or “Minima” or var. *minima*.



There is also var. *schimperiana*, which has blue tips in addition to blue margins, or perhaps more blue at the apex of the petal since it seems most clones have the blue margin extending to the tip. **Var *schimperiana***, Fossari painting.

Given this blue margin, it has been hybridized a bit. When I searched BCR for nutans, some 54 cultivars were listed, including 12 intergeneric hybrids. No doubt many of these hybrids have been used for further crosses.



This plant had a label, but the cashier at the show (not ours) inadvertently took both tags out of all the plants I bought! Fortunately I remembered most of them, but not this one. Given my pathological need to have a name, I spent way too much time trying to trace back where it came from and the name, without success!. ***Billbergia* Lost Label.**

Based on the leaves alone, that is red-green with spots, you could probably narrow the name down to a few hundred cultivars. So I figured it would be a mystery until it flowered, and perhaps forever. Then, when it did, its *B nutans* parentage was obvious. The spotted leaves clearly aren't *B nutans*, however. Note also that the sepals have only the faintest of blue margins, and the ovary is almost brown.



When I posted it on a forum, someone suggested it was *Bill. Hoelscheriana*, a cross of *nutans* x *Bill. saundersii*. It certainly looks awfully close to the picture below.



But then I learned about Derek Butcher and his many articles and found out there are many other crosses of the same parentage, including Pixie, Rubro-cyanea, and Ivey Meyer. When I looked at these pictures, it still seems mine is closest to Holsheriana.

Derek, by the way, is known sometimes as Detective Derek. Why – this tidbit from his article probably says enough: “This made me search for the original description of B. ‘Hoelscheriana’ in Gartenflora 47: 286 fig 76 (1898) to help me in this quest. I thank botanist Jason Grant for finding it for me. Duly translated from the German this is as follows.” Some have questioned whether Hoelscheriana, a German hybrid in 1898, made its way into the U.S. BCR states: “Theodore L Mead's notebook of 1925 shows he had hybridised *nutans* with *saundersii*, the plants survived and some were sent to the Brooklyn Bot Garden. They could well be the source of a re-make of B. 'Hoelscheriana' in the USA.”

One problem in identifying hybrids is that in most cases, there is no description, other than perhaps a sentence or two. In this case, there is, and it fits pretty well, but not perfectly. The leaves are supposed to be tongue shaped, and the ovary green, which differs from my plant (and the picture by Derek). Given all the *nutans/saundersii* crosses we know about, and the possibility of others, and the fact that I have no familiarity with other *nutans* hybrids, this one is at best labelled “Hoelscheriana ??”

Later I got four more plants from our Club raffle that turned out to have, to my eye, an identical inflorescence. Depending on how the plant is grown, the leaves vary a bit, but not enough to suggest they are different crosses. This is why I suspect many of you, at least if you have participated much in the Club raffle, also own this plant or a look-alike.

At one of the raffles I got *Billbergia* Pixie and another unlabeled clone, which I elegantly labeled B17 for the then 17th unknown *Billbergia* I had. I don't recall thinking B17 was Hoelscheriana, since so many *Billbergia* are spotted like it is. I planted them in the same pot to let them root.

Billbergia **Pixie** bloomed about a year later.

Imagine my surprise some 22 months later when I saw this. Though not visible here, the flowers are the same. **Pot of B17 and Pixie (on right)**





I unpotted them 6 months later to reveal this, with the Pixie on the right, a bit smaller and redder, somewhat consistent with the difference between Hoelscheriana and Pixie.



I also acquired a plant labelled *Billbergia chlorosticta*, which is now considered a synonym of *B saundersii*, one of the parents of both Pixie and Hoelscheriana. Not having this species, I waited anxiously to see it bloom. Most of the pictures I found showed the color of the petals, that to the extent they extended beyond the sepals, where the bottom half was green and the top half dark blue to violet. One was more turquoise, however, and another seemed to have blue margins.

So it finally bloomed – both the inflorescence and leaves (at that time) seems just like the Hoelscheriana? ones I had.



Labelled *B chloristica* (now *saundersii*), but seems more like a *nutans/saundersii* cross. Same plant, pictures on left March 2014, and on right Sept. 2015 after having been moved to a much sunnier location and getting bleached out.

Below are an array of plants that all seem to be *saundersii/nutans* hybrids. To my eye, the flowers of each seemed almost identical, though I will look a lot more closely when they flower next time. The leaves of each have varied from time to time, depending on the conditions they received.



From left to left are

- 1) Bill. Lost Label, pictured earlier hanging in the tree. It tends to have narrower leaves, even narrower now than before, perhaps showing more *nutans* traits than the others in this respect;
- 2) an unlabeled clone (B12) that gets the most sun, and thus now has the shortest leaves
- 3) B17, shown earlier as well, which seems to be most spotted leaved one.

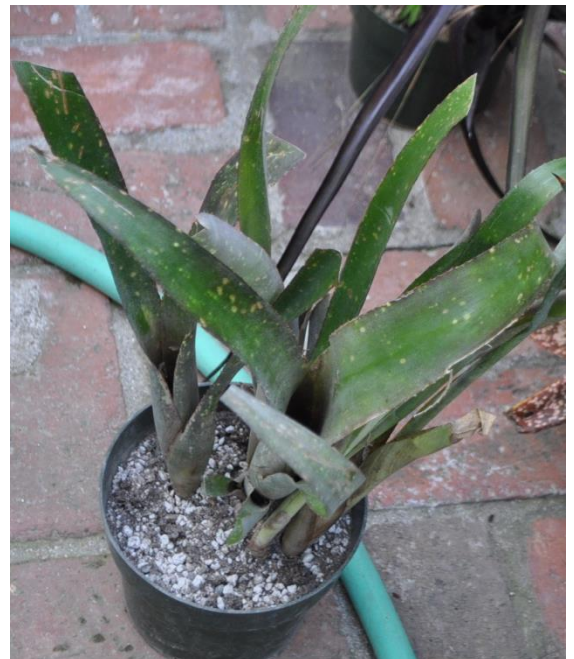
Here are 4 more



1. Another unlabeled one, B23, which first bloomed as I was writing this article, about 20 months after I got it;
2. Another unlabeled one, B5, which also first bloomed as I was writing this article, almost 4 years after I got it. This one seems much like Pixie;
3. Pixie (not blooming), which has stayed shorter than most of the others, other than B5.
4. The one labelled *B chloristica*, shown earlier in flower, and after having been moved to a sunnier location. Compare the earlier picture to this one, when I moved it into a shadier location for 4 months. It seems to have the widest leaves.

But here is B17 when I got it.

Absent DNA testing, I will never know if some or all of these are the same clones, or if any are *Hoelscheriana* or Pixie. You might look at some of them, and say they are clearly different – for example, B17 which seems to be the most spotted of all them.



Similarly, the red, short one labelled Pixie has changed enormously – it looked like this when I got it:



So you can clearly see how different the same plants can look over time. For that matter, some pups may differ a bit from others. Sun vs shade can make an enormous difference. If treated differently from a water and/or fertilizer perspective, they might show even more variation.

Finally, of these seven plants, almost all of which are in different places in my yard, only three are currently blooming. Clones of the same species often bloom around the same time, and one would think the same is true of cultivars. Does the fact that only three are blooming suggest they aren't the same clone. Does it matter that all seven grow in different places? Recall that the earlier picture of B17 and Pixie in the same pot where both were blooming – now B17 is, but Pixie isn't, even though they are one foot apart with no apparent difference in sun.

Here are the three clones that are currently blooming.



When I compare them, the only apparent difference is the ovary.¹ B5 (which looks like the Pixie) is in the middle. It has a slightly smaller ovary that is not as deeply furrowed as the other two, and is generally brownish with some red in the furrows. (By comparison, the picture of the Pixie flower seems to show a quite furrowed all brown ovary.) On the left is B17 with a larger, all brown and more furrowed ovary. On the right is B23 which has more of an olive colored ovary.

As before, I am not sure what to make of these differences. Is it possible the sun or shade might account for the color differences?. For that matter, a single flower can change as it develops and dies. Looking at FCBS and BCR, you see some rather significant differences in the same cultivar sometimes, enough to question whether perhaps a label is in error.



There is another consideration – I haven't paid much attention to ovaries before. About all I know is that *Billbergia* flowers generally have a furrowed ovary, while *Aechmea* and *Quesnelia* don't. If I paid more attention to them, I might attach more significance to these differences. For that matter, a botanist that studied ovaries might tell us that there are meaningful and significant differences between those above.

¹ Some of the sepals are more pointed than others. But this isn't consistent, as the sepals on the same clone can vary a bit – this isn't uncommon.

If this isn't confusing enough,
HBG now has a plant called *Billbergia nutans* Fantasy Island for sale.



It looks pretty much the same as many of the above clones. It isn't registered, and one site just said it is a *nutans* hybrid from Brazil.

I was curious about all the *Billbergia nutans* intergeneric hybrids. Many don't show pictures on BCR, but here is one that clearly shows the *nutans* influence in its petals.

It is a cross of *Billbergia nutans* x *Aechmea Big Mama* called

x *Billmea* Tough Cookie, photo by Ben Sill.



Aechmea Big Mama is now called Big Mama *Recurvata*, a cultivar of *A recurvata v ortgiesii*. (This is a variety with a very short inflorescence unlike the typical one; in Tough Cookie, the nutans influence results in a longer inflorescence). You can see the *recurvata* influence in the leaves of X *Billmea* Tough Cookie.

Postscript. After finishing the article, but before it made its way into the Newsletter, I got yet another plant that bloomed shortly thereafter and once again seemed to match my *Hoelscheriana?* clones. But this one was labelled B Shirley Pentaldo x B Devon Michell. Neither of these names are registered on BCR; for that matter, when I googled them, nothing showed up. So I have no idea who did the cross, or how it got its name. But I am sure it is the same plant as B Lost Label first shown above. So at least I solved my mystery of its name, even if I can't find anything about it. Given the lack of information, I think I will keep it as B *Hoelscheriana?*.

SFVBS Members – Preparing for our big June Event !!

Sat. June 11 & Sun. June 12, 2016

Your help is needed for our upcoming Bromeliad Event.

We are having our **Two Day Show and Sale** as part of the LA Cactus and Succulent Society Festival. Bring whatever Tillandsia or potted Bromeliad you would like to show off to fellow members and the public. **Do a light cleaning now** and then all you have to do is just wipe off the pot again before placing it in the display. Treat our inside display like a big Show-N-Tell. The show is not competitive but plants should be clean.

Your support is needed!

***Cheryl White will distribute lunch vouchers to volunteers who help for 2 hours.
Stop by to see the show and visit with other members.***

This Week Before The Show - Please notify friends of our upcoming event.
Please hand out a few flyers. Flyers will be available at the meeting.

Prepare to:

Bring in your plant overflows for the sale. Show time is a good time to make room for new plants... if you need more info on this event contact:

Bryan or Mary Chan about the set up or plant sales BCBrome@aol.com 1-818-366-1858

Leni Koska will oversee the inside Bromeliad Display. Lenikk@aol.com 1-818-881-3203

Friday June 10 - set up time is from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Friday members are needed to:

- * Set-up Show and Display Tables
- * Bring in Show Plants for the display
- * Donate a Variety of Plant Material for the Sale
- * Deliver Sale Plants to Bryan

Sat June 11 Show Time is 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. -We can arrive as early as 8:00

Saturday morning June 11, 2016 – Members can bring plants in between 8:00 and 8:30am for the Display or sales. Open to the public at 9:00 so all setting up should be done.

Saturday & Sunday members are needed to:

Greet the visitors and Spend **an hour** at the information table talking to visitors to Donate a Variety of Plant Material for the Sale

Sunday June 12 members are needed to:

Volunteers are needed to assist with breakfast for a couple of hours
Spend **30 minutes** to assist Taking down the Show at 4:00 PM

*** NEED MORE Information? Contact:** Bryan or Leni (numbers above)

Think about this... volunteering your help for an hour or two might be fun and it will be a great help to the club!!