S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

MAY 2019

P.O. Box 16561, Encino, CA 91416-6561

sfvbromeliad.homestead.com sanfernandovalleybs@groups.facebook.com

Twitter is: sfvbromsociety ***Instagram is: sfvbromeliadsociety***

Elected OFFICERS & Volunteers

Pres: **Bryan Chan** V.P.: **Joyce Schumann** Sec: **Leni Koska** Treas: **Mary Chan** Membership: **Steffanie Delgado**
Advisors/Directors: **Steve Ball, Richard Kaz –fp, & Carole Scott,** Sunshine Chair: **Georgia Roiz** Refreshments: **vacant**
Web: **Mike Wisnev,** Editors: **Mike Wisnev & Mary K.,** Snail Mail: **Nancy P-Hapke** Instagram & Twitter & FB: **Felipe Delgado**

next meeting: Saturday May 4, 2019 @ 10:00 am

Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, California 91436

AGENDA

9:30 – ***SET UP & SOCIALIZE***

10:00 - *Door Prize drawing – one member who arrives before 10:00 gets a Bromeliad*

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

10:15 –*Speaker* – ***Steve Frieze***

We are pleased to announce that our May speaker will be Steve Frieze. Steve will focus on his travels to various sites with a focus on bromeliads. You don't want to miss this one!"

Thanks, Joyce

When I think of Mexico, I imagine dry sandy desert-like conditions. I also think of a drug infested country rife with violence that spills out into the streets making it dangerous for residents and visitors alike. Much to my surprise and delight, Oaxaca was none of the above. It is an area filled with extraordinary bio-diversity with a people that are warm and welcoming. Our group was able to find numerous botanical niches that contained a large number of different and distinctive cacti and succulents. We will take a tour of these areas and investigate the plant life that exist in each of them. We also had the opportunity to enjoy some of the local culture and visit some of the wonderful artisans and the local mescal breweries. I will also supplement our look at the botanical wonders of Oaxaca, by visiting some select sites in Brazil which also contain an incredible amount of bio-diversity.

Steve Frieze has been involved with collection, sales and propagation of cacti and succulents for over thirty years. He is a lifetime member of the Los Angeles Cacti and Succulent Society where he served as the President of this club for a number of years and as its newsletter editor for several more. He was a co-managing partner of Desert Creations, an exotic cactus and succulent plant store and is currently one of three partners in Floratopia, in a new exotic plant venture. Steve and his wife Phyllis have made several plant related expeditions to exotic locals such as Chile, East Africa, South Africa, Oaxaca Mexico, Cost Rica, and Brazil.

Prior to his retirement, he was an Administrator for the California State University system serving in a variety of capacities in the area of institutional research. Subsequent to his retirement he has joined the Psychology Department at California State University, Dominguez Hills as an adjunct faculty member. <>

Have you begun preparing your Show Plants?

Agenda is continued on the next page

11:15 - Refreshment Break and Show and Tell: If your last name begins with **R, S, T or U** please provide refreshments this month ***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 - Show and Tell *is our educational part of the meeting* – Members are encouraged to please bring one or more plants. You may not have a pristine plant but you certainly have one that needs a name or is sick and you have a question.

11:45 – Mini Auction: members can donate plants for auction, or can get 75% of proceeds, with the remainder to the Club

12:00 – Raffle: Please bring plants to donate and/or buy tickets. Almost everyone comes home with new treasures!

12:15 - Pick Up around your area

12:30 –/ **Meeting is over**—Drive safely <>

Announcements

- ***Participation Rewards System*** **–** This is a reminder that you will be rewarded for participation. Bring a Show-N- Tell plant, raffle plants, and Refreshments and you will be rewarded with a Raffle ticket for each category. Each member, please bring one plant <>

Please pay your 2019 Membership Dues

NEED TO RENEW ?.....

Pay at the meeting to: Membership Chair – Steffanie Delgado or Treasurer - Mary Chan
or Mail to: SFVBS membership, P.O. Box 16561 - Encino, CA 91416-6561
Yearly Membership **Dues - $10 for monthly e-mail** newsletters or **$15 for snail mail**

Please Put These Dates on Your Calendar

Here is our 2019 Calendar. Rarely does our schedule change……. however, please review our website and email notices before making your plans for these dates. Your attendance is important to us

Saturday May 4	Steve Frieze
Saturday June 1	STBA
Sat & Sun - June 8-9?	**SFVBS Bromeliad Show & Sale**
Saturday July 6	Ernesto Sandoval
Saturday August 3	STBA
Saturday September 7	STBA
Saturday October 5	STBA
Saturday November 2	STBA
Saturday December 7	Holiday Party

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 Joyce ropojo@pacbell.net

This section is open for any Member-contributions of photos or articles….

Mike Wisnev submitted the following ……..

We saw this in the Philippines. I had no idea what it was, but it reminded of a *Nidularium*. Derek suggested it might be a hybrid with *Aechmea nidularioides* in its parentage. No idea what the other non-bromeliad might be.

Taxonomic Tidbits: *Canistrum, Wittrockia Edmundoa and more – Part 5(Nidularium)*

By Mike Wisnev, SFVBS Editor (mwisnev@gmail.com) Photos by Wisnev unless noted.
San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter –May 2019

Since this Nidularioid complex shares its name with *Nidularium*, it is appropriate to finally getting around to writing about them. The November 2015 Newsletter discussed them and *Guzmania* – that article warned that more might be written later, and that threat has been realized.

Photo by Bromeliario Imperialis. This is the type species in habitat.
Do any of you grow this species?

Like other genera in the complex, Elton Leme wrote a book about them. I didn't get it until after this article was finished, though some parts are in Derek Butcher's files. Looking for another source of info, Derek's materials contained a great article that appeared in the October 2005 issue of *Bromeliana*, the New York Bromeliad Society newsletter. The editor noted the "material for this

article was generously provided by Gerry Stansfield, Cultivar Registrar of the New Zealand Bromeliad Society, from a talk he gave to a local society in Auckland. Gerry is also an outstanding hybridizer." (The article didn't say who the editor was, but it had pictures from Herb Plever who is the current editor. I mention this since we exchange newsletters, and I recently learned he is over about 90!) We should all be so healthy!)

Gerry Stanfield – he is pointing out some of his hybrids – what a collection he had!

Many thanks to Gerry Stanfield of New Zealand for his article entitled "The Genus *Nidularium."* I was going to ask him for permission to use it, and found he had passed in 2010. Instead, I will honor him by showing this picture of him.

Rather than paraphrase this article by Gerry Stanfield, I will liberally quote from it:

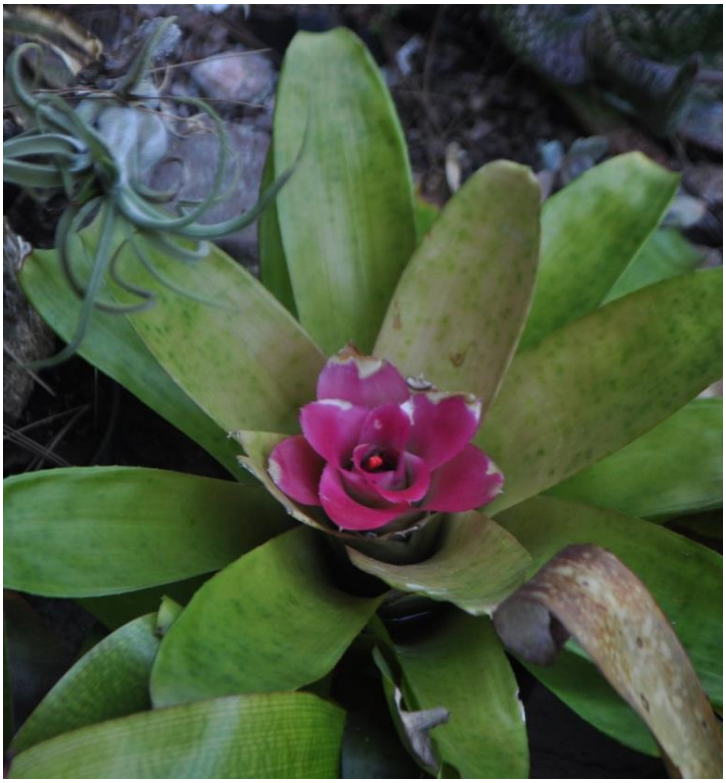
> "The genus *Nidularium* was established in 1854 by Charles Lemaire the learned French botanist…. Lemaire derived the name from the Greek word (nidulus) which means small or little nest and is referring to the nest form in which the flowers are arranged in-groups known as fascicles along with the floral bracts to form the centre cup.
>
> The genus is not a large one as compared to some others such as *Neoregelia* etc as there are only about forty-five species. I might add, that this number does tend to change depending on whose book you are researching, and just

how many species of the former subgenus *Canistropsis* have been included or excluded. They are all endemic to the rain forests of Brazil and the Atlantic Coast areas of South America from Bahai in the north to Santa Catarina in the South, even into the Rio Grande do Sul, and all the States in between, especially Espirito Santo, Rio de Janeiro and Sáo Paulo, with the largest concentration and most richest of the species found in Rio de Janeiro. Most species are epiphytes but are found on the lower parts of the trees and are also happy to grow as terrestrials on the forest floor, denoting that the genus, generally are shade lovers."

Figure 6: *Nidularium amazonicum* (*Leme # 1759*), with dorsally purplish-wine le
Paraná State (photo E. Leme).

N. amazonicum. *Photo by Leme. 59(6) JBS 252 (2009).* Leme notes that plants with all green leaves are more commonly seen.

This species has quite a long and confused history. (1) Baker first officially described it in 1886 in the now defunct *Karatas* genus, though others had listed it (without a description) as a *Nidularium, Bromelia or Aechmea*. Lindman and Morren moved it to *Nidularium* in 1890, Mez moved it to *Canistrum* in 1891, and Smith moved it to *Wittrockia* in 1952 where it remained until Leme moved it back to *Nidularium* in 2000. 2) Its name derives from the fact it was thought to come from the Amazon, which turned out to wrong. In fact it grows in southern Brazil on the ground, rocks or in trees at about 900m altitude. (3) Even after the correct locality was corrected, it couldn't be found, unlike the very similar *Wittrockii smithii*. Leme studied this, and realized the description of the sepals of *W amazonicum* was inaccurate which led botanists to determine specimens were actually *W. smithii*. The two were actually the same species. (4) For a long time, many specimens of the well-known *Nidularium innocentii* were mislabeled as *W. amazonica*.



N. regelioides, now referred by Gerry's article continues:

Leme to *N. rutilans*. It turns out that *N. regelioides and rutilans* started out as separate species, then were combined, then separated and now again combined. They aren't identical – an article by Derek Butcher says the "main difference seems to be that the floral bracts are entire (smooth) in *N. rutilans* but serrate (toothed) in *N. regelioides."* I've had 4 *Nidularium* and this is the only one that has bloomed – it has red petals It looks like *Edmundoa* and *Wittrockia*, and as you can see, the bracts didn't like the sun too much. The species is found in the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil at altitudes from 200 – 1400m.

"They are generally medium to large type plants which form dense, low rosettes with strong, sometimes leathery leaves. Their flowers range from white, blue, orange, reddish or pinkish, and in the case of *Nidularium amazonicum* the flowers are white with a greenish tinge. The flowers are dome-shaped and nearly always closed, which is one of the reasons why they are difficult to pollinate, and hence why their seeds are not readily available. There are copious amounts of pollen, so opening up the closed flowers to pollinate them can very easily lead to pollen contamination; like many bromeliads *Nidularium* pistils generally will not accept pollen from the same flower.

One of the most outstanding features of the *Nidularium* family are their leaflike, colored primary bracts forming the inflorescence in the centre cup. These blushing primary bracts are one of the main characters of *Nidularium* which distinguishes it from the genus *Neoregelia* in which the inner portions of the top leaves can become suffused with colour at flowering time, such as red for *Neoregelia carolinae*, and purple for the *Neoregelia concentrica* complex. Within the *Nidularium* primary bracts you will find the flower groups or fascicles as they are known. If we compare the raceme type flower head of a *Neoregelia*, to that of a *Nidularium*, we can see that the *Neoregelia* has a single stem flower head with many separate flowers, whereas the *Nidularium* has many small groups or fascicles of flowers……

Nidularium are considered to be among the most graceful and handsome plants of the *Bromeliaceae* even if not in bloom. The leaves are usually of soft texture, finely toothed and vary in colour from all green to dark purple and maroon on their undersides. They can be plain or striped-variegated, or spotted. At flowering time the inflorescence is their clowning glory and can last for up to twelve months or more, making them worthy of a place in our collections. *Nidularium* are not difficult to grow, if one keeps in mind that they are rain forests dwellers, so that tells us they prefer high shade and moist conditions, and will grow well in pots in a very open mixture."

I got this unlabeled plant from Bill Baker's collection. I didn't even know the genus. A speaker said she had one and gave me the name – *Nidularium atalaiaense.* It hasn't bloomed yet. The suffix at the name, "ense" (or more commonly "ensis"), means it is named after its locality – here it is Pontal do Atalaia.

Gerry Stanfield's article covers most of the salient features of *Nidularium*. In general, the sepals are unarmed, connate and subsymmetrical. The petals are usually connate, forming tube, and erect forming a club shaped flower. Most

don't have petal appendages. Smith's 1979 key distinguished *Nidularium* from other genera in the Nidularioid complex by virtue of their compound inflorescence with sessile flowers (unlike Neos) (and many other genera) and un-appendaged petals (as opposed to *Canistrum* and *Wittrockia).* Since Leme has revised the genera, these distinctions in the key often don't exist for many species.

N. scheremetiewii-photo by Butcher. ***N. minutum***-photo by Leme.

N. scheremetiewii is one of the earliest described *Nidularium*. *N. minutum* was first described in this genus, moved to *Wittrockia* and then returned.

As demonstrated by Leme's *Nidularium* key, the species can vary in many ways. See 59(6) JBS 245 (2009). In example of how much taxonomy has changed by virtue of examination of live plants as opposed to herbarium specimens, the first factor is whether the flowers are white (with rigid leaves) or white (with thin leaves) blue vs. coral red, yellow or orange-yellow. Other major distinctions are whether the leaves are densely spined or not, whether the inflorescence extends

above the rosette, the length of the leaves or primary bracts, shape of the sepals and how connate the petals are.

A few more tidbits are contained in Leme's "Key to Genera and Subgenera of Nidularioids." In much more technical terms, his key distinguishes *Nidularium* from *Edmundoa, Wittrockia and Canistropsis* on basis that *Nidularium* has "Inflorescence impounding large volume of water for many days, deeply uni-utriculate or multi-utriculate; primary bracts concealing the sepals at anthesis; sepals at anthesis immersed, or nearly so, in the water accumulated by the primary bracts; petals often connate at base forming a tube to more than 3/4 their length, apex always distinctly obtuse cucullate and erect at anthesis, even if corolla is free or short connate at base; antepetalous filaments straight." Leme, E.M.C. *Canistropsis* Bromeliads of the Atlantic Forest (1998), p17.

This genus is mid-sized, with 47 species listed as of April January 30, 2018; Smith & Downs listed 23 in 1979. Unlike many other genera, there don't seem to be a lot of new species being found. There are currently no subgenera, although that hasn't always been the case as discussed next month.