S.F.V.B.S.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

DECEMBER 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-fp,** Sunshine Chair: **Georgia Roiz** Refreshments: **vacant**
Web & Editor: **Mike Wisnev** Snail Mail: **Nancy P-Hapke** Instagram & Twitter & Face Book: **Felipe Delgado**

next meeting: **Saturday December 7, 2019 @ 10:00 am**

Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, California 91436

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BRUNCH

Saturday December 7st

9:00 *– Set-Up and Deliver all food dishes (Coffee & Donuts)*
10:00 *– meeting starts with drawing*
10:15-11:15 –Social hour
11:30 *– Pot Luck Brunch served*
12:30 *– Member Gift Exchange and Club Holiday Plant drawing*
(Normal $1.00 plant raffle will resume in January)
1:00 – 2:00 – Clean up; we will need all hands
RSVP ***to*** **BCBROME@aol.com** or (818) 366-1858

Holiday Plant Gift Exchange. Please bring a wrapped plant (a bag will be okay) or plant related item- max value $15 to the party. Please give something nice that you might like to receive. If you prefer, you don't have to participate in the gift exchange.

The Club will provide meat in addition to the usual club offerings. So far, the following people have signed up to bring:

Donuts-Felipe & Phillip
Salad----Nancy (bean salad), Kathleen,
Turkey and dressing – Steffanie
Fried Chicken-Miguel and Teresa Delgado
Sides--- Efren & Eliz (green bean casserole), Erica (Vegetable), Georgia (sweet potatoes, DiAne (potato dish), Steve Ball, Jennifer (Macaroni Dish), Steve Rudolph (Chili)
Desserts-Efren & Eliz (flan or cassava cake), Al, Jeannette (carrot cake), Mardy (pumpkin pie or tart), Jeri H, Chris Rogers,
Bread – Ana Wisnev
Drinks---

We wish you and your family a Happy, Healthy and Safe Holiday season

Announcements

Starting for 2020, annual dues are now $15 ($20 if you receive the Newsletter by snail mail instead of email). You can pay this month at the meeting or at future meetings.

Please pay your 2020 Membership Dues

NEED TO RENEW ?.....

Pay at future meetings 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 - $15 for monthly e-mail** newsletters or **$20 for snail mail**

Please Put These Dates on Your Calendar

Here is our 2019 & 2020 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 December 7	Holiday Party
Saturday January 4	STBA
Saturday February 1	Kathleen Misko
Saturday March 7	Nels Christianson
Saturday April 4	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 **Joyce Schumann at** 818-416-5585 **or** ropojo@pacbell.net

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

Please see the end of this newsletter **beginning on page 12**; there is a tribute to Grace Goode. For more than 50 years she hybridized and registered over 800 outstanding Bromeliads. There are some pictures included.

Taxonomic Tidbits:

Hechtia changes – Bakerantha and Mesoamerantha

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

Prof. Ramírez-Morillo and seven other authors broke seven species out of *Hechtia* and put them in one new genus and one resurrected genus. Ivón M. Ramírez-Morillo, Katya Romero-Soler, Germán Carnevali, Juan P. Pinzón, N. Raigoza, C. Hornung-Leoni, R. Duno, And J. L. Tapia-Muñoz, THE REESTABLISHMENT OF BAKERANTHA, AND A NEW GENUS IN HECHTIOIDEAE (BROMELIACEAE) IN MEGAMEXICO, MESOAMERANTHA. Harvard Papers in Botany, Vol. 23, No. 2, 2018, pp. 301–312 (the "Hechtia Paper"). Some of you saw Prof. Ramirez when she spoke about *Hechtia* at the ISI Symposium a few years ago.

Hechtia* species – *H stenopetala

Above is a typical *Hechtia* species – *H stenopetala* – with fairly stiff leaves and nasty spines - at the Huntington Botanical Gardens (HBG).

Depending upon who is doing the counting, there are roughly 75 *Hechtia* species. A few grow in the U.S, and a few more in Central America, but most are in Mexico.

Unlike the vast majority of bromeliads, *Hechtia* are unisexual. This means individual plants have either male or female flowers. Most bromeliads have perfect flowers, which means they have both male parts (stamen producing pollen) and female flowers (pistils producing egg cells). Interestingly, the flowers also have non-functioning and smaller parts of the other sex – for example, female plants don't have stamen but have staminodia.

Below is a male ***Bakerantha tillandsioides***, formerly *H tillandsioides* at the Huntington Botanical Gardens.

The changes were based primarily on a DNA study reported in another paper which I haven't seen. The most important point may be that Hechtia species are monophyletic. This means it is a good genus – no other species of different genera show up in the group and no Hechtia species show up in different genera.

However, the species fell within 3 different fairly well resolved clades – the *H. tillandsioides* clade (4 species), *H. guatemalensis* (3 species) and the rest.

The first clade includes the well-known *H. tillandsioides* and H. *lundelliorum*, as well as the less well-known *H caerulea* and *H purpusii*. Unlike most other *Hechtia*, they have almost grass like leaves – long thin green (on top) and white lepidote (on bottom) and not very spiny. The flowers are pedicellate, and relatively large (for *Hechtia*), and white, pink or purplish. They all grow in the same geographical area, often on cliff walls.

"Because of its distinctness and ease of diagnosis, here we propose its recognition at the generic level in Hechtioideae, reestablishing the name *Bakerantha* proposed by L. B. Smith (1934)." Id at 302-3.

Below is a close-up of the inflorescence of ***B tillandsioides***.

Close up of male flower of *B. tillandsioides*.

Each flower is on a small stalk called a pedicel. The yellow pollen on the anthers at the top of the 5 stamen identifies this plant as a male. I presume that the small darker purplish conical structure at the base of the flower is the so-called pistillode of the male flower.

Below is *Bakerantha lundelliorum* at the HBG. It was labelled *H caerulea*, but when it bloomed ….. the white flowers told a different story.

Close up of the female flowers of *H lundelliorum* and a male flower of *H. tillandsioides. (no I didn't cross them, maybe next time!)*

A bit of history. You may recall that last month the Newsletter described *Eduardia selloana*, named after Eduard Andre. The *Hechtia* Paper notes that Andre first described *H. tillandsioides* as *Bakeria tillandsioides* in 1889. But *Bakeria* was already used for another genus, so Smith changed it to *Bakerantha* in 1934, but then later moved *Bakerantha* into *Hechtia*.

It is also worth noting that in 2010 Espejo-Serna and others (including Prof Ramirez) treated *H caerulea* as synonymous with *H tillandsioides*. "An analysis of the complex of taxa related to *H. tillandsioides* (Romero-Soler, 2017) required and morphological space of the group. This analysis also strongly supported the notion that *H. tillandsioides* was more closely related to *H. lundelliorum* than to *H. caerulea*." Id. at 307. The later DNA study by Ramirez and others supported this conclusion.

There is another *Hechtia lundelliorum* at the HBG. For comparison, here are its flowers. Interestingly, it is also female. Prof. Ramirez has indicated that many populations seem to have a lot more males than females. Presumably, this is advantageous since it maximizes the chances that there will be pollen available for pollination that if a female blooms.

The *H guatemalensis* clade has three species. Its leaves are generally flexible with short hard spines even spaced on the leaves. The clade

> "is diagnosed by the following combination of characters: central inflorescences, flowers with ovary ¾ inferior, white (sometimes apically reddish) petals, and a distribution restricted to Central America, spanning the southern section of Megamexico III, from Belize through the dry areas south of the Motagua River close to the Guatemalan-Honduras border, then extending to northern Nicaragua, north of the lakes. This complex includes the following species: *H.*

malvernii Gilmartin, *H. dichroantha* Donn. Sm., and *H. guatemalensis*. Because of its morphological distinctness and geographical circumscription, here we propose the new genus *Mesoamerantha* for this clade." Id at 303.

It is worth noting that most *Hechtia*, but not all, have a superior ovary. This means the petals attach at the bottom of the ovary and ovary sits atom the base the petals. As noted in the above quote, *Mesoamerantha* have a ¾ inferior ovary, which means ¾ of the ovary is below the base of the petals.

The prior page shows *Mesomarantha guatemalensis* brought to Show and Tell by Bob Wright in 2017.

The *Hechtia* Paper also noted that these *Mesoamerantha* species have the longest blooms, often up to a month while most *Hechtia* bloom for about a week. The individual flowers usually only bloom for a day or so.

As noted in other Newsletters, while DNA studies show which particualar taxa belong in a group, they don't tell you whether the group should be a genus or subgenus (or some other taxa), or just an unnamed clade. That is left for the botonists, based on the particular features of the various clades. In the case of this study, all the *Hechtia* species fell together. Thus, there were various options – treat some clades as new genera, treat some clades as subgenera or do nothing. For the reasons described in the *Hechtia* Paper, the authors felt the best decision was to propose two new subgenera.

I had wondered if *H epigyna* was closedly related to *H. tillandsioides and lundeliorum*. It has similar soft green leaves, though they have many spines. It also has a rose/white flowers. But the DNA study found it is rather distant. It grows to the north of the *Bakerantha* species and has a lateral inflorescence, while the *Bakerantha* species have terminal inflorescences. .

Above are the flowers of a male *H. epigyna* at HBG.

H. epigyna at HBG.

With permission from Katherine Poehlmann, Editor of the South Bay Bromeliad Newsletter, we submit the following Tribute to Grace Goode. This article was compiled by Ms. Poehlmann and first published by her in November 2019 for the SBBA news.

► **Tribute to Grace Goode.** One of Australia's national treasures passed away this month at age 102. The following are excerpts from newsletters and BSI Journal articles that show how influential this wonderful woman was in the world of bromeliads for over 50 years.

Amazing Grace celebrates her 100th Birthday

(Excerpt from the Society's newsletter in July 2017)

The Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society welcomed Grace Goode, OAM to their meeting on 15 July 2017 to help her celebrate and thank her for the fantastic contributions she had made over many years to the bromeliad world. On that day, Doug Cross and Len Trevor spoke about her wonderful achievements. Doug presented her with one of his own hybrids (a *Billbergia 'kipalleujah'*) which was a cross between *Billbergia 'halleujah'* and *Billbergia 'kip'*.

Billbergia 'kip' was one of Grace's 1974 hybrids which she named after one of her lovely dogs. Allan Freeman had given this plant to Doug many years ago.

Doug Cross presenting Grace with *Billbergia 'kipalleujah'* - Photo by Ralf Schenk

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Order of Australia (OAM) Award

January 26, 2004

MEDAL (OAM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

Grace Margaret GOODE, Alexandra Headland, Qld. For service to horticulture through the culture and hybridisation of bromeliads.

Grace Margaret Evans was born on 23 July 1917 at Nambour, the middle child of five born to Arthur Henry Evans (1891-1970) and Ivy Ida Foxover (Oberfuchshuber)..(1892-1970)

Her early years were spent on the Maroochy River near Dunethin Rock (her beloved "Dunny Rock"). She married Albert Connor in Nambour on 18 December 1935. Their daughter Gayle was born in 1937.

In the early 1940s she lived at Cotton Tree, then moved to Brisbane where she met her future husband Cliff Goode. They married in 1945. By 1956 they had bought the house in Kate Street, Alexandra Headland, Qld. where Grace still lives. She was always a gardener—roses, carnations, dahlias, orchids—all sorts of flowers. By 1970 she had discovered the love of her life —bromeliads, which started when Grace was introduced to Bromeliads by her mother who gave her a plant later identified by Olwen Ferris as Billbergia Pyramidalis Concolour. Grace was well into her 50's when she was discovered Bromeliads and her only regret is that she hadn't found out about them earlier. One can only imagine the list of plants to her name had she had an earlier start. *(Please refer to Attachment "B" regarding plants registered under Grace's name or named after her)*

Within a few years she was travelling to conferences around the world and became a well-known hybridist. For these achievements she was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the 2004 Australia Day Awards.

Several articles on Grace's involvement in the Bromeliad world have been written in the past and these are still very relevant. One such article was written for the BSI Journal by Bob Reilly (with the help of Geoff Lawn and Derek Butcher) when Grace was awarded the OAM. *(See attachment "A")*

It is well worth repeating this article for the benefit of the newcomers to the Bromeliad world, so that they can recognize where the name "Grace" initiated in the many plants that are now worldwide and most probably in their own collection.

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ATTACHMENT “A”

Excerpts from a 2004 article printed in BSI Journal (Volume 54 (1): 1-48

By Bob Reilly, with Derek Butcher and Geoff Lawn

Grace M. Goode, Order of Australia Medal Recipient

Grace Goode, an honorary trustee of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI), was awarded Order of Australia Medal (OAM), by the Australian Government, on 26 January 2004. The medal was awarded for Grace's efforts in growing and hybridizing bromeliads. Such an award has never been made in connection with bromeliads before and is very rarely made for any horticultural-related activity.

The Illawarra Bromeliad Society initiated the process for obtaining the Award for Grace and sought the support of other Australian bromeliad societies for this endeavor. Many Australian bromeliad growers helped in preparing the extensive documentation needed to support Grace's nomination.

The OAM is the latest recognition of Grace's efforts in growing and, in particular, hybridizing bromeliads. For example, Grace is also an honorary trustee of The Cryptanthus Society and has been elected a life member or the Bromeliad Society of Australia, Cairns Bromeliad Society, Bromeliad Society or Queensland, and the Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society.

Most people know Grace through her hybrids. She started hybridizing in the early 1970s, largely in response to the very limited number of bromeliads available then in Australia. Initially, she concentrated on neoregelias. Some of her earlier hybrids are: ‘Sheer Joy,’ ‘little Joy’ ‘Blackie,’ ‘Red Plate' and the well-known 'Amazing Grace’. Her best-known hybrid is probably ‘Charm,” which is a cross between *Neoregelia marmorata* and *N chlorostricta.* As a matter or interest, Grace considers Charm to be exactly the plant she was trying to produce from this cross, as it combines the form (conformation) of *N marmorata* and the coloration of *N chlorostricta.*

Another major area of hybridization activity has been with cryptanthus. Some of her early hybrids are: 'Misty Charm,’ ‘Misty Dawn,’ ‘Misty Glow,’ and ‘Misty Flame.’ Bob Whitman brought many of Grace's cryptanthus hybrids to the United States of America (USA). They included: 'Melanie,’

‘Seven Veils,’ ‘BIack Mood,’ ‘Hells Bells,' and ‘Spellbound.’. She also sent hybrid cryptanthus seed to the USA, from which have been produced plants such as: ‘Fond Memory,’ ‘Happy Thoughts,’ ‘Texas Star,’ and ‘Crown Jewels.’

Grace has produced over 800 named hybrids. As well as neoregelia and crypthansus hybrids, she has produced aechmea, Billbergia, Nidularium, and tillandsia hybrids. She has also made several bigeneric hybrids, with perhaps the best ones being X *Niduregeilas* ‘Something Special' and ‘Vision Splendid.’

At 86 years old, Grace is still actively producing hybrids. Recent, outstanding neoregelia hybrids include: 'Amen,’ ‘Africa,’ ‘Alley Cat,’ ‘Mandela,’ and ‘One and Only.’ Grace has been generous with financial and other contributions (such as her hand-made rugs used as raffle prizes), to help fund activities such as conferences, undertaken by various Australian and overseas bromeliad societies.

From my viewpoint though, I consider one or Grace’s greatest contributions over the last 30 years to be the support and friendship she has given to bromeliad growers throughout the world. Many Australian collectors, including myself, started their bromeliad (especially neoregelia) collections with plants and advice from Grace. On behalf of the many people bitten with the bromeliad “bug” I thank Grace for her past efforts and wish her many more productive years to come.

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ATTACHMENT “B”

The following information was supplied by Geoff Lawn in 2017 giving instructions on how to search the BSI Register to find entries relating to Grace Goode.

Start by going to the online BCR home page: http://registry.bsi.org

1**. <u>For full list of Grace Goode's registered cultivars.</u>** Click on “Advanced Search”: at top (2nd. from left). In the breeder box, type in Goode. Below that, the software has a default setting of quantity 500, so override that by clicking, under "Max Results", the radio button of 1500. Then click on "Search". Up come 722 cultivars, each entry of which can be clicked upon for full details. It is known that many more, possibly several hundred, remain unregistered as it all became too hard for Grace in her latter breeding years (up to about age 85), particularly mini Neos. Grace did send me a long list of new mini Neos around 2005, with parentages, and we have been working on them ever since, trying to locate specimen photographs to get

them registered. Often during her breeding years, other growers registered on her behalf, as Grace was not computer-savvy and electronic details became the way to go, no longer snail mail and postcard prints.

2A--List of cultivars named after her. On the BCR home page, lower half, there is the general Search. In the Box, type in Grace, then click on "name", then click on Search--up come 35 cultivar names. Not all are actually "named after" Grace--on occasions we had to resolve duplicated cultivar name issues by different breeders with different crosses, so prefixing with "Grace's" Or "Goode's" resolved the problems. Some other registered hybrids with the word "Grace" in them were named for different reasons, not after Grace Goode.

2B--**List of Cultivars named after her.** Same as Step 2A but substitute the word Goode---up come 30 names. Same issues as 2A. Of course, there will be a lot of overlap between the Lists 1, 2, & 3, particularly between 2 & 3. A few Grace simply named on behalf of her friend the late George Anderson of New Orleans who bred them. The BCR software doesn't make the distinction between breeder and cultivar namer; both appear in the same data field.

3. To find out who specifically named their hybrid, or an unknown hybrid after Grace.

I have run through all entries in lists 2 & 3 and have come up with:

Aechmea 'Grace's Blue'—Derek Butcher

Alcantarea 'Grace'—Arno King

Billbergia 'Super Grace' —Clyde Wasley

Cryptanthus 'Grace'—Fred Sparrow

Cryptanthus 'Grace Goode'—Doug Cross

Neoregelia 'Airs and Graces'—Arnold James

Neoregelia 'Bob & Grace'—Robert Larnach

Neoregelia 'Goode for Grace' —R. L Frazier

Neoregelia 'Grace Goode'—Olwen Ferris

Neoregelia 'Grace Goode Girl'—Shane Zaghini

Vriesea 'Grace Goode OAM'—Jack Koning

There are several others but the names are unknown:

Billbergia 'Grace Goode'

Billbergia 'Magic Grace'

Neoregelia 'Golden Grace'

Vriesea 'Grace Goode’

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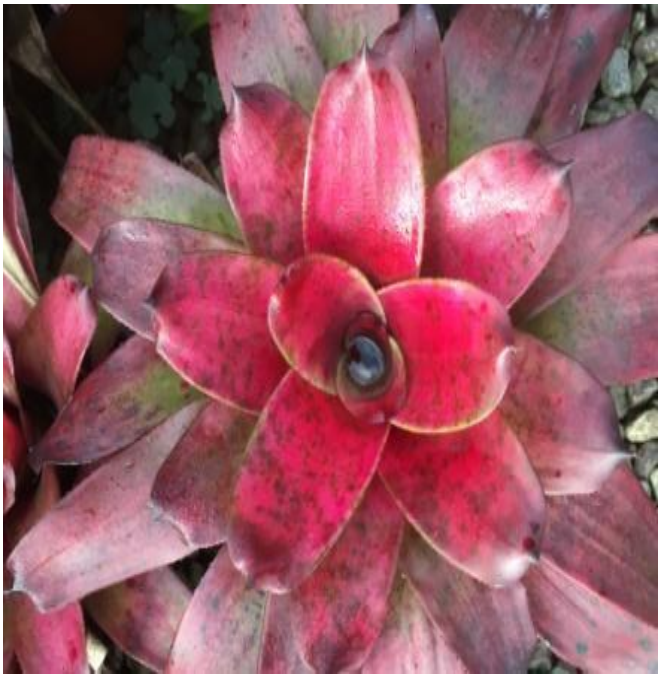
SOME PHOTOS OF PLANTS REGISTERED BY GRACE

(Photos supplied by Cheryl Basic)



Neo Lavish

Neo Homage

Neo Because

Neo Sweet Reward

Neo Shep

Neo Roseberry

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In the 2017 article in Attachment A Bob Reilly wrote that Grace has been very generous in contributing to fund-raising efforts for other Societies and Conferences. She continued this support recently by donating one of her hand made rugs (shown at left) to Sunny Broms for the Conference Auction.

Besides hybridizing, another of her pastimes was rug making. She started in the late 1940s and was selling them at "Finneys" (a department store) in Brisbane. It is not known how many she made — must have been hundreds. All magnificent (closeup example shown below).

After some fierce bidding among delegates, the rug was eventually sold to Len Trevor of "The Olive Branch" for AU$450. Grace is happy that it is going to a good home within the Bromeliad Family.

Today, she has slowed down, time has taken its toll. She tries, but has difficulty keeping the

garden in shape, luckily Kendall helps out on a weekly basis, but the job is too big for a mere mortal! Her wit and humour are still there, though she tends to forget the punch line to her many famous jokes. She can still get around her house, insists on staying put, and hopes to live out her life in Kate Street.

Grace had a nasty fall on Anzac Day (25 April) and was in hospital till 6 May. She broke her cheekbone in 3 places and fractured some vertebrae. She's home alone, but you know Grace, just wants to sit in the sunshine on her verandah and look out on her garden.

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Rest in peace, dear Grace. You certainly lived up to your Goode name. Thank you for sharing your talents and gifts with all of us who love bromeliads.