



# S.F.V.B.S.

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

### JANUARY 2021

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: vacant

Advisors/Directors: **Steve Ball**, **Richard Kaz -fp**, & **Carole Scott-fp**, Sunshine Chair: **Georgia Roiz**,

Refreshments: **Steffanie Delgado**, Web **Mike Wisnev**, Editor: **Mike Wisnev & Felipe Delgado**, Snail Mail:

**Nancy P-Hapke**, Instagram, Twitter & Facebook: **Felipe Delgado**

## Saturday, January 2, 2021 ZOOM Meeting at NOON

<https://tinyurl.com/sfvbs>

**SPEAKER: JOHN MARTINEZ**

### **DYCKIA AND THEIR ALLIES, THOSE OTHER SUCCULENTS**

The program will focus mainly on the genus *Dyckia* where John will share his experience collecting, cultivating and eventually hybridizing these plants.

John lives in Moorpark, California with his wife, Linda and is a retired Los Angeles City Fire Department Battalion Chief. Currently he serves on the Board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, is a member of several local garden clubs and is a co-founder of the recently formed Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society in Thousand Oaks, California. John also volunteered at the Huntington Botanical Garden.

With his deep fondness of nature, he has been growing xeric plants most of his adult life. For the past 10 years he has also shared a co-operative succulent growing compound in Somis, California with three other like-minded growers.

Aside from cultivating his plant collection, John's time is divided between gardening, golf, photography, occasional fly fishing, and grandchildren. As a native of Southern California, he attended California State University of Northridge where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Art.



## President's message

My hope is that everyone is doing well in these troubling times. With no clear end in sight for the pandemic, we are continuing to have our meetings via Zoom. If you have a chance, please do stop in, and say hi. As a reminder, all 2020 memberships will be continued into the 2021 year.

We have been experiencing rather good weather up to now. No freezes or frosts but also no rain. I have noticed that I have not been attacked by mosquitos lately. I did find mosquito larvae in the buckets that I leave out for them to breed in 3 days ago. After dumping them out I did check all my bloomed-out Neo's by dumping out the water and found no larvae. Checked other plants as well and did not find any larvae. So, I am rather pleased that the mosquitos would rather lay their eggs in a bucket of water with a few leaves floating in them.

Looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming Zoom meeting! (Zoom meeting address is <https://tinyurl.com/sfvbs>)

## **Please Put These Dates on Your Calendar**

Here is our 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. **As noted earlier, future meetings may be cancelled.**

Saturday February 6	STBA
Saturday March 6	STBA
Saturday April 3	STBA
Saturday May 1	STBA
Saturday June 5	STBA
Saturday July 3	No meeting?
Saturday August 7	STBA
Saturday September 4	STBA
Saturday October 2	STBA
Saturday November 6	STBA
Saturday December 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](mailto:ropojo@pacbell.net)

*Member-contributions of photos or articles*



*Billbergia "Berry Blast"*

Photo and plant courtesy of Bryan Chan



*Billbergia* "Color Zone"

Photo and plant courtesy of Bryan Chan



*Quesnelia marmorata* "Tim Plowman"  
Photo and plant courtesy of Bryan Chan



*Tillandsia ionantha* "Fuego Peanut"  
Photo and plant courtesy of Bryan Chan

# Observations of Growth: Wherein Felipe waxes nostalgic about 2020 and what he sees in his yard.

*Felipe Delgado, SFVBS co-Editor ([fdelgado70@gmail.com](mailto:fdelgado70@gmail.com))*

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Newsletter – January 2021

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What a year, ey? 2020 will go down (hopefully soon) as an unforgettably long year for the majority of us; Pandemic, Safer at Home orders, Distance Learning and an over-abundance of just, plain Scary!

I have been lucky in that the COVID – 19 has not hit me directly, but I do have family members that have gotten sick and are still recovering. Steffanie, Phillip and Miguel have been good, thank goodness.

To be honest, the Safer at Home orders allowed me to run to my garden and that did allay the majority of the anxiety that being scared to be around people gave me. The plants can't get you sick, can they? (*Well my wallet begs to differ there as it has lost considerable weight since this whole plant thing started!!*) And being in the garden, alone with your thoughts and looking at the beauty that is our plants, just makes a person – feel – good! At least that is what I feel when I am back there.

As most of you know I have been growing for only a relatively short time and with a greater aspect of my collecting proclivities going towards the cacti and succulent plants. They are, after all, what got me started on this gardening trip. And a trip it is folks, let me tell you.

We have all experienced a purchase of a plant and with the highest of hopes potted up thinking that we are going to watch it grow and get HUGE because, well, it is ours now. But plants have a way of humbling you that can definitely make you see red at times. I have killed many plants! I am a plant killer. No excuse, just plain, every day death! Humbling, as I mentioned. But each one of those that has gone on to the great garden in the afterworld, has left me a little something. A little more understanding – perhaps in its own way, telling me “Dummy! That was too much water” or perhaps “Hey, you can't plant me in that type of soil!” Always, something and because of that something, I have begun to get better at keeping them alive!

Being a part of the Society and being able to ask questions at meetings is also a way to learn! This is why 2020 has sucked goose eggs (sorry for the horrendous language) and I cannot wait for 2021 to bring about some relief! I cannot wait to be able to ask my questions of the more experienced growers and to try and glean as much information as they are willing to part with. For that will make my growing much easier! And perhaps, that will also make my plants have longer, more fulfilled lives where they can grow to their full potential.

I realize that I can ask these questions during our Zoom meetings as well, but to be honest, I miss you all very much. So much so, that you have me writing this piece for the newsletter!! I know that it will be, maybe, quite some time before we are able to gather for a true meeting. And I realize that it may take some more time after that is “allowed” for us to truly be at ease with being in the same room with so many people

once again, but I for one look forward to the day when we can partake of each other's company, albeit with masks on for some no doubt, and marvel at a presentation given by a live speaker where we will once again regale them with our Ooohhs and Aaaahhhs like in the "olden days" prior to March 2020!!

Hopefully you enjoyed this and my wish is that perhaps it brought a smile to your face as you realize that you know the guy that wrote it!

Happy New Year Society Family! May it bring each and every one of you much Health and Happiness!



*Billbergia cultivars*  
ex: *Ray* (on left) and *Raffle Win* (on right)

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*Dyckia* hybrid "Tarzan" by Bill Baker  
ex: John Martinez



*Billbergia* cultivar flowering amongst Calla Lilies and Ferns  
ex: Raffle Win

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*Dyckia* hybrid by Efren Flores

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*Dyckia* hybrid by John Martinez

1 of 6 JM Hybrids won at auction during 2016 LACSS Winter Dinner Meeting

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