

SOUTH BAY BROMELIAD ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER

REGULAR CLUB MEETING: 1:30 p.m.

First Sunday of the month*

Peninsula Center Library

701 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates, CA

Website: www.bsi.org/webpages/sbba/

**Exceptions: July Summer Picnic, August Show/Sale, December Holiday Party*

2024 SBBA OFFICERS

President—Barbara Smiley	310-337-7710
VP/Programs— OPEN	xxxxxxxxxxx
Treasurer—Katherine Poehlmann	310-308-0048
Secy/Roster—Nada Chatwell	949-463-0637
Auctioneer— OPEN	xxxxxxxxxxx
Editor—Katherine Poehlmann	310-308-0048

SBBA October 6th Meeting: “How Bromeliads Changed My Life”

Jerry Robinson, President of Rainforest Flora Nursery, will entertain and inform us as he presents an overview of his decades-long “bromance” with the tropical plants we collect, baby, admire, and cultivate. Jerry will describe his fascinating career and his plans for the future. He will bring plants for sale.

Rainforest Flora is located at 19121 Hawthorne Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503

www.RainforestFlora.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

► **Meeting refreshments.** Munchies will be provided by Pat Powers, Nancy and Don Vaverka, Chris Bruce, Lori Watson, Patti Dunn, Jerry Messer, and Candy Nakanishi. Thank you!

► **SBBA Plant Auction.** Please let Ted Johnson know a week before the meeting how many plants you wish to sell. There is a limit on the total number of plants by all sellers so that we can vacate the library’s community room before the maintenance man comes to clean up at around 4:45. Call Ted at 310-850-2824 or send email to: tedjohnsonyh@yahoo.com

► **2025 Election Time.** Looking for volunteers to take on next year’s responsibilities. For the last several years it has become customary for officers to continue into the following year. This time, it’s different. Barbara will not be able to serve as president. The VP slot remains open. Katherine plans to move to northern CA next Spring, leaving the treasurer and newsletter editor slots open. Ted has been coordinating pre-auction arrangements, but he may wish to hand off that task to someone else. We haven’t had an auctioneer for many months, and the club may decide to let sellers auction their own plants. These issues will be discussed at the October meeting. Please consider volunteering or nominating a worthy candidate for any of the aforementioned offices.

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All About Trichomes

by Jamie Beck, August 3, 2015

Excerpt from Website owned by Air Plant Design Studio, <https://www.air-plants.com>

Air plants, or Tillandsia, are epiphytes, meaning they absorb their nutrients through their leaves instead of through a root system. It is through the trichomes, the fuzzy white hair-like things on their leaves that they take in nutrients from the air and water. Trichomes are what will give some air plants their silver/grey fuzzy appearance, and the amount of trichomes an air plant variety has can dictate a lot about their care.

How do they work?

Trichomes may look like little hairs, but they are actually tiny cups that take in water. Trichomes are made up of a lot of little cells, some that are living and some that are dead. When water comes in contact with the dead cells of a trichome, it swells it like a sponge and is absorbed into the living cells, which then put the water to use.

Trichomes, which are most abundantly found on air plants that are native to desert-like conditions, also serve the purpose of holding water in once it is absorbed. This is why air plants that have an abundance of trichomes are often more drought-tolerant and can even handle brighter light than other tillandsia varieties.

Close-Up of Trichomes on the T. Seleriana Air Plant >>>>>



Trichomes on air plants

One of the most vivid examples of trichomes on a Tillandsia can be found on the T. Tectorum Ecuador. These fuzzy white air plants get their distinctive “snowball” like look from their many prominent trichomes. Because of their abundant trichomes, the T. Tectorum Ecuador actually prefers mistings to the full soaks we normally recommend for most Tillandsia. They also like more bright light and are one of the few Tillandsia varieties that can handle direct sunlight.



The T. Tectorum Ecuador Air Plants Get Their Fuzzy White Look from Their Abundance of Trichomes

As trichomes are responsible for the silver look of some air plant varieties, and because of this, we recommend that air plants that have more silver-colored leaves get a bit more light and can also be some of the more hearty plants that can go a little longer without a soak.