



# The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the  
San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

November 2020

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## President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

It's hard to believe it's November already since we've been having such beautiful days lately. Hopefully we'll have some rain in the near future.

I'd like to send a very special shout out to Andy Cuffel. He has had three sales and has shared his take with us which amounted to \$777! He was able to provide us with great opportunities to add rare plants to our collections. Speaking of generosity, Martha Goode, the BSI Affiliates Chair, donated \$100 to the SDBS for sharing Zoom meetings with other BSI affiliates. Thank you to Andy and the BSI.

Save the date: Sunday, Dec. 20th, we will hold a bromeliad sale in Mission Valley. All members are invited to sell for only a \$20 donation. Members will keep all money they receive for their plants. Cash or check only. More information will come.



Last month we had a very informative program on Alcantareas by the expert, Leonardo Versieux. Now that we have Zoom, we are able to have speakers from outside of California and the US. We were also joined by other BSI affiliates and the BSI president, Lyn Wegner, from South Africa. This month we are pleased to have SDBS member, Norm Nakanishi share his experiences with hybridizing.

Thank you to last month's participants in the Show and Tell, Eloise Lau, Don Nelson, and Nancy Groves. If you would like to participate, please let me know.

Next month, when we would normally have our annual holiday bash, we are having a giant Zoom Show and Tell. All members are

encouraged to send Scott two pictures of a plant they would like to feature for this meeting. It will be in an interview format, with someone asking the grower questions regarding the plant. Each participant will be sent a list of questions beforehand so preparation can be done ahead of time. Please get your pictures to Scott at least three days ahead of time so you can be emailed the questions.

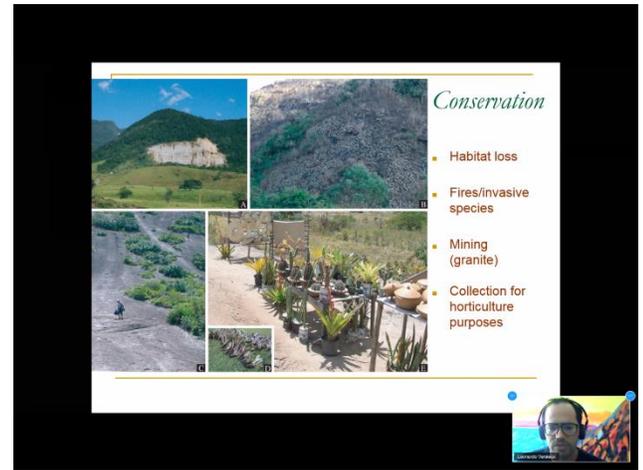
I hope you and yours have a happy Thanksgiving! Remember not to get too discouraged as this pandemic is a temporary thing. Meanwhile, safe and happy growing!

## October Meeting Recap

In our first monthly Zoom meeting open to the general public, we had a strong club turnout and a number of international guests in attendance. We were treated to an excellent presentation on the genus *Alcantarea* by Dr. Leonardo Versieux from Brazil. He covered a lot of ground, from systematics, morphology, conservation, animal interactions, horticulture, and best of

all, exciting new species discoveries. The talk was followed by a Q & A, a show and tell and a plant auction.

Everything went smoothly and on schedule. The organizers did a wonderful job in making this meeting enjoyable for all club members and guests.



*A screenshot of the October talk with Dr. Versieux*

## November Meeting

This Saturday, November 14 @ 10am on Zoom

Please refer to the invitation email sent by our host Scott Sandel for the link to the meeting. We advise you join 5-10 minutes before 10:00am. The presentation will be followed by a show and tell and auction. More information about the presentation is on the article below, by Andrew Wilson. See you Saturday!

### Tips for a successful Zoom Meeting

Take a little time to get settled before the meeting. Consider noise: are people going to hear a loud tv in the background when you're speaking? Pick a spot with good (preferably natural) lighting, and make sure the light source faces you or is coming sideways. Having an open window behind you is a no-no. It will cause your face to be darkened by the overly bright background.

If using a tablet or laptop computer, it's a good idea to have it on a table and propped up with some books. This way we can see you at eye level.

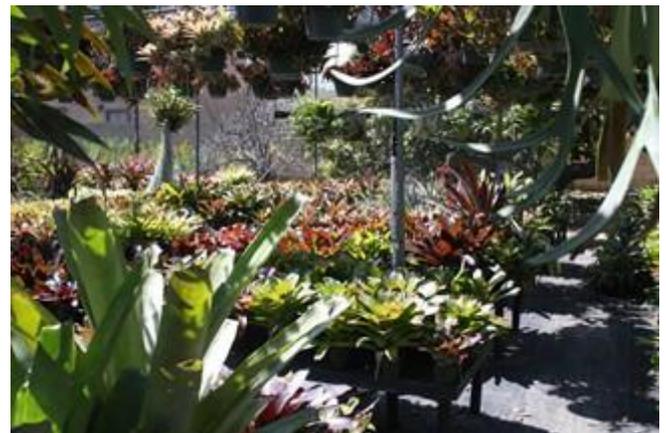
As a general rule, **mute your microphone** unless you are speaking. Even wiggling in your seat can make audible noise.

## A Man for All Species

by Andrew Wilson

In November we return from Brazil to the US to hear from another plantsman with a wide range of interests. He is Norm Nakanishi. Those of you who joined our picnic tour last year saw his garden and nursery in Orange County filled, not just with bromeliads but with orchids, clivias, ferns, chrysanthemums and begonias, many of them his own hybrids. For his talk, Norm is not just going to bring us on another walking tour, although that would also produce more surprises, but he will tell us

about his lifelong activities with plants with his family in both Southern California and the Central Valley. He will tell us about the decisions he's made about which plants to cultivate and which to hybridize. This is a talk to learn about what happens in the competitive and sometimes irrational world of new plant introductions, about great plantsmen and, of course, great bromeliads.



*A view of Norm's bromeliads*

Some views of Norm's nursery grounds last year showing some of his plants including (above) bromeliad, (next page) orchid and clivia hybrids.

## Upcoming Events

### SDBS November Meeting

Saturday, November 14 from 10am to 12pm

Join meeting on Zoom

[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

### SDBS Member Plant Sale

Sunday, December 20 from 9am to 3pm

[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)



*Orchid and clivia hybrids by Nakanishi.*

## Other Monthly Meetings

During the pandemic, we advise you contact the society in advance if you want to attend a meeting, as in-person meetings are postponed indefinitely.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 6:30 PM

San Diego Orchid Society  
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101  
[www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 1 PM

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society  
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101  
[www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7 PM

San Diego Epiphyllum Society  
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101  
[www.SanDiegoEpi.org](http://www.SanDiegoEpi.org)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 5:45 PM

San Diego Horticultural Society  
Congregation Beth Israel (CBI)  
9001 Towne Centre Drive  
San Diego, CA 92122  
[sdhort.org](http://sdhort.org)

## Smile! SDBS Plant Sale is Coming

by Morlane O'Donnell

All members of the San Diego Bromeliad Society: Do you have any extra bromeliads that need new homes? Are you looking for that last minute gift to give someone or yourself? SDBS will be holding a bromeliad sale and you are invited to sell and/or purchase some wonderful plants.

When: Sunday, December 20th, 2020  
from 9:00am to 3:00pm

Where: Parking lot at 3110 Camino Del Rio South, located in Mission Valley, San Diego

Cost: \$20 per seller, each seller keeps all proceeds of sales

Plants have to be clean and free of pests and disease.

Each seller is responsible for his/her transactions. It will be on a cash or check basis only (unless individual sellers have his/her own credit card system). SDBS will not have a credit card system available or any change.

There is no shade available. Each seller would have to bring tables, chairs, canopies, etc. Parking next to individual sales area is available for sellers.

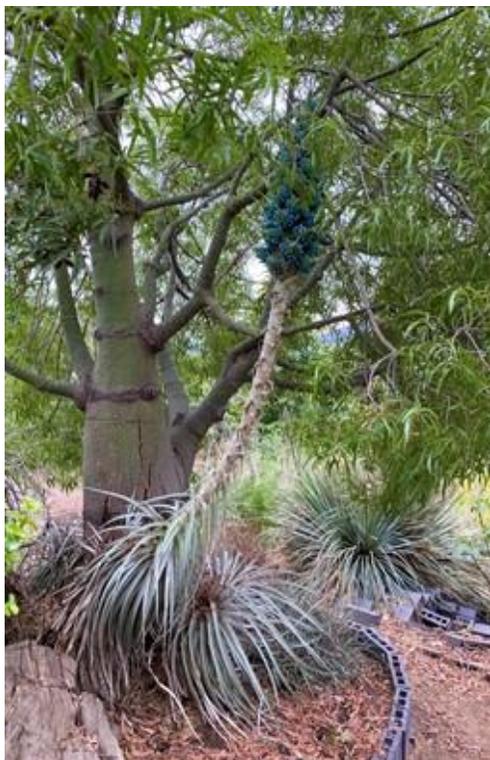
Each seller is responsible for cleaning up the selling area after the sale is over.

Facemasks and social distancing will be required.

Contact Morlane O'Donnell at [morlane.odonnell@att.net](mailto:morlane.odonnell@att.net) if you are interested in selling.

# Good Things Come to Those Who Wait... Yet Again

by Dan Kinnard



Again, patience pays off. From the same group of plants originating from the same group of seeds collected in 1986 by Pam Koide Hyatt in Peru, a new surprise arose. The 9' 7" spike "suddenly" appeared one day in full bloom. Just how that happened isn't clear since we pass by that plant several times a week. However it happened isn't important; it gave us a beautiful display flowers for a while.

As can be seen, the plant is rather large and the colors brilliant. The colors of the flowers seem to change as the light changes. What color? teal? almost turquoise? more of a blue jade? all of the above? The handy perches for the hummingbirds can be seen also.

The name? Of course there was no tag on it when I got the plant. I had discussions, exchanged emails, and

received several "wow that's nice" comments, no useful names and some really wild guesses. I sent Eric Gouda of the University Botanic Gardens in Utrecht, Netherlands, photos above, some photos of dissected flowers, measurements of all parts of the plant, more photos of parts and pieces the plant. He sent me this:

*"Nowadays Puya berteroniana is considered a hybrid of P. chilensis and P. venusta, but maybe there is a hybrid with P. weddeliana too, having a more lepidote upper side of the leaves.*

*I still think it is the closest to P. weddeliana, but it seems not to be pure that species. Hybrids in this group are confusing the situation a lot".*

It is yet unnamed but still being thought about. Oh well, it is a striking plant if one has space for it and a good blood supplier after weeding around it.

# Blooming in the Garden



## Billbergia brasiliensis

A few weeks ago, Billbergia brasiliensis put on a spectacular display of blue helioid flowers. Just as beautiful are the seed pods.

Native to Bolivia and Brazil it loved the heat that caused Dan and me to wilt. – by Eloise Lau



## SDBS 2020

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*This glorious shot comes from Ronee Kozlowski and her much-loved garden, showing Billbergia pyramidalis with friends and family.*



## THE BROMELIAD BLADE



Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

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To send material for publication, please contact Juliana at [julianadrapposo@gmail.com](mailto:julianadrapposo@gmail.com)

Make sure to submit your contribution before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter.

### SDBS MEETING

The club meets on the second Saturday of the month at 10am in Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104.

### SDBS WEBPAGE

[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

## DK ORNAMENTALS

### BROMELIADS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

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