

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

January 2021

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President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

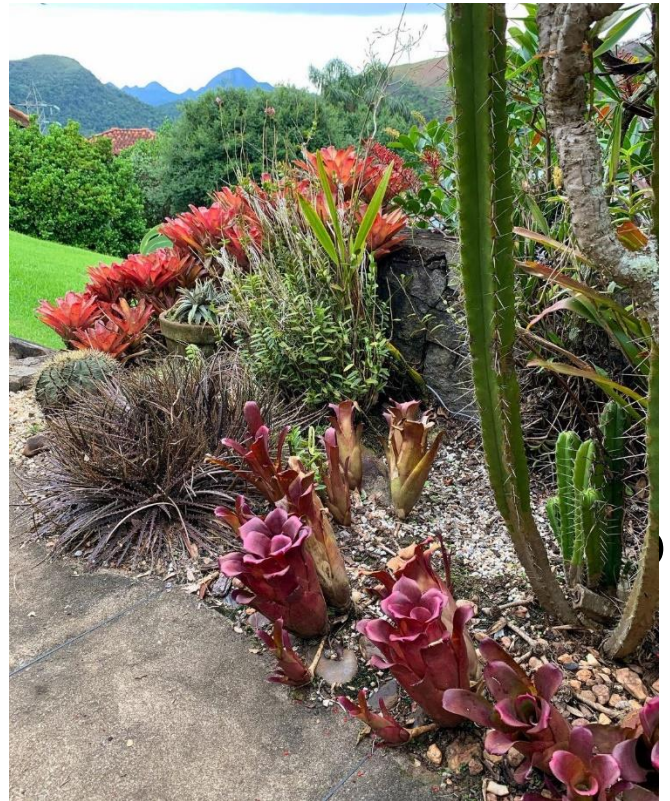
Happy New Year! May 2021 at some point, bring us together face-to-face once again without the long wait. Thank goodness we have the Zoom meetings to be able to visit and learn more about our beloved hobby and stay in communication with each other. Thank you to the people who have enabled us to do this. Thank you to each of you who have joined us on Zoom to make all our efforts worthwhile. I would like to extend an invitation to those who have not used Zoom for the meetings to try it out on Jan. 9th.

The speaker committee has secured renowned author and botanist Orlando Graeff from Brazil to share his vast knowledge and interests with us by the power of Zoom technology. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity, so this is a meeting not to be missed.

December's meeting was a break from our holiday potluck tradition. While we couldn't have our meal

together, we did have an amazing Show and Tell program. Thank you to all who participated and allowed us to see and hear about your beautiful plants.

We are now in our winter months and the weather has been confusing. We have mild days, but we have clear, cold nights. Bromeliads can take temperatures in the forties but if the time is prolonged, they begin to show signs of displeasure. Some of my Vrieseas are letting me know they're unhappy. The ends of the leaves are turning dark brown. I would say, from personal experience, that if the temperature dips into the thirties, covering them with bed sheets makes them happier. Even better, covering the growing areas with plastic, but not allowing the plastic to touch the plant, works. I also think watering the tank type bromeliads less frequently is beneficial, but watch closely during the dry



A sneak peek into Orlando Graeff's phytogeographic garden, in the mountains of Rio de Janeiro. Photo by Graeff.

weather, that none of your bromeliads dry out.

Right now it's hard to say what kind of activities we'll be having in the future. Let's hope the Covid-19 numbers go down soon. Wear your masks, social distance, and avoid going anywhere if you don't have to be there. Meanwhile, safe and happy growing.

January Meeting

Speaker Orlando Graeff - Bromeliads in Brazil, From the Ecosystems to the Phytogeographical Garden

by Andrew Wilson

We start the New Year with words and images from Brazil. They come from Orlando Graeff. They should be a real treat for all of us. Orlando combines his wide knowledge of the world of bromeliads with the love and dedication of a real gardener. He has written books about the habitats of the plants in Brazil, from the moist rainforests to the dry caatinga of that vast country. He has also developed a garden in which he grows the plants of those areas. Few people have the knowledge and ability plus the space to assemble a phytogeographic garden, the term used by botanists to describe a place in which plants

are grouped to represent the flora of the areas in which they occur naturally. In Brazil bromeliads occur in most of those areas. So do Orlando's interests.

While extensive, Orlando's interests extend far beyond these. Without even reading the Portuguese text just skim through the hundreds of images from the massive file

<https://hayko.tv/orlandograeff> to get an idea of the extent of his interests, from fine wines to martial arts. This



Orlando in the field. Photo by Orlando Graeff

will be an exciting and entertaining session. Come with your questions.

Book Review

Brazilian Landscape Iconography, by Orlando Graeff
Portuguese-English Edition, also available as an e-book

by Juliana Raposo

Available for Sale [here](#).

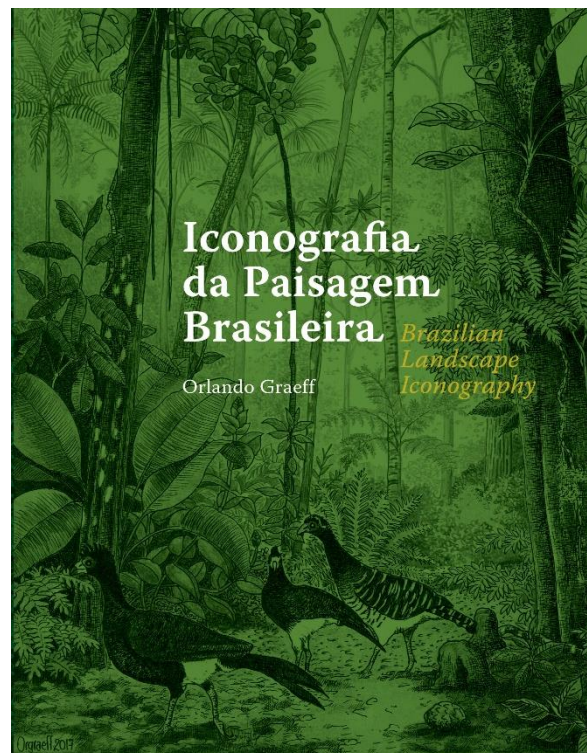
Consider the many ways we love bromeliads.

Some of us keep neat collections of colorful hybrids, maybe even create new ones. Flawless specimens speak to their horticultural prowess. Other bromeliad lovers enjoy growing their broms in the landscape. Playing with colors and volumes, and all the different ways they can hang them, mount them, plant them.

Then, there's Orlando Graeff. He loves bromeliads by studying the landscapes where they naturally grow. It's this bromeliad-rich

exuberance that he presents to us, in his artfully constructed drawings.

In his second book, the author strikes a balance between scientific observation and art. Even though the book is not about bromeliads per se, one look at the artworks shows the author's soft spot for the Bromeliaceae. He does that not only because bromeliads are a prevalent feature in Brazilian flora, but as a former president of the Brazilian Bromeliad Society as well.



<https://naueditora.com.br/produto/iconografia-da-paisagem-brasileira/>

Following on the footsteps of Von Martius, Rugendas and other



naturalist-explorers, Graeff criss-crossed Brazil for years, studying and documenting the natural landscape. The pencil and ink drawings in the book depict the richness he saw on his travels. All the artworks are compositions by the author and are far from photographic records. Rather, they show natural landscapes with all the flora/fauna associations



A hummer doing his business with Schwartzia brasiliensis and impossibly red Hohenbergia castellanosii in the phytogeographic garden. Below, artwork by the author depicting the pampas region. Photos by Orlando Graeff.



and geological features that exist in the world, as rendered by the hand of an artist. As we will see in the SDBS January meeting, the artworks in this book and the phytogeographic garden featured in this month's meeting have a lot in common. Both show the landscape as art, by pen and ink or by landscape design. A landscape that is both idealized and longed for by an eyewitness of a natural world that is quickly disappearing. The book is available online in the publisher's website. They ship to the US.

More on the SDBS Meeting

The Zoom meeting starts at 10am this Saturday. Scott has sent invitations via email. A plant auction led by Steve Zolezzi with three specimen broms supplied by Chris Poulsen.

Upcoming Events

SDBS January Meeting
Saturday, January 9 from 10am to 12pm
 Join meeting on Zoom
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

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.

1st Tuesday, 6:30 PM
 San Diego Orchid Society
 Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101
www.sdorchids.com

2nd Saturday, 1 PM
 San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society
 Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101
www.sdcss.net

2nd Wednesday, 7 PM
 San Diego Epiphyllum Society
 Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101
www.SanDiegoEpi.org

2nd Monday, 5:45 PM
 San Diego Horticultural Society
 Congregation Beth Israel (CBI)
 9001 Towne Centre Drive
 San Diego, CA 92122
sdhort.org



SDBS 2021

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Vriesea 'Patrice' by Morlane O'Donnell

THE BROMELIAD BLADE



Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

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To send material for publication, please contact Juliana at julianadraposo@gmail.com

Make sure to submit your contribution before the 20th 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

DK ORNAMENTALS

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