

# The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the  
San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

March 2021

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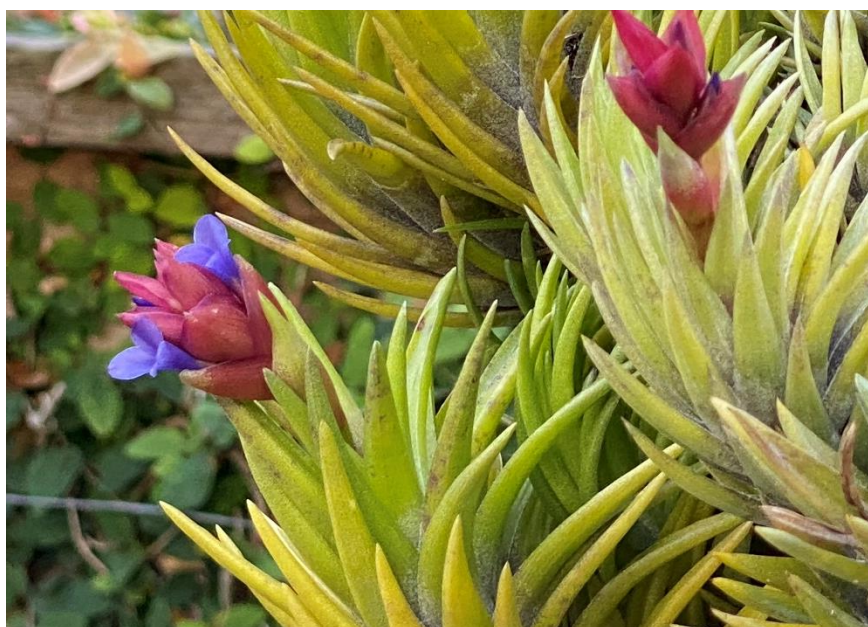
## President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

Finally much needed rain came to San Diego County. There's nothing like a cleansing shower to bring out the brilliant colors of our bromeliads. Soon spring will be here and it will be time to separate pups, split up clumps that have gotten unruly, and discard dead leaves and debris that have accumulated over time.

Sadly, due to the unknown predictability of what tier our county will be in, the June show and sale will be postponed. As it stands right now, Balboa Park meeting rooms are still closed with no knowledge of when they will be opened again. San Diego is still in the purple tier. Hopefully, the park will be open by the fall. We may have to settle for a one-day sale. Unfortunately the park is not currently scheduling anything for the rest of 2021. That may change as things open up. Stay tuned.

Last month we were treated to a very enjoyable and informative program given by Jerry Raack on



*First flowers in T. neglecta this year. Photo by Juliana Raposo*

Ecuadorian species of bromeliads. This month we have Claudia Hornung-Leoli from Hidalgo, Mexico speaking on pollinators of bromeliads. Just a reminder: some speakers have requested that their presentations not be recorded. That includes taking pictures and posting them on social media. Please respect their wishes. Sometimes we are given permission to record and if you miss the meetings, there is an opportunity to view the recordings on the San Diego Bromeliad Society Website. Once again, all members are invited to participate in the monthly Show & Tell during the

meetings. Let me know if you are interested in being part of this popular portion. You call email me at [morlane.odonnell@att.net](mailto:morlane.odonnell@att.net). Remember your plant does not have to be in bloom. You can also ask for help identifying a plant if you don't know what it is or if it's not thriving as you'd hoped, someone might be able to offer suggestions to help you out. Seeing how plants are grown in different parts of the county is always of interest too.

May you continue to enjoy working with your bromeliads and other plants. May everyone stay healthy. Safe and happy growing to everyone.

# March Meeting

Saturday, March 13 @ 10am on Zoom  
Speaker Dr. Claudia Hornung-Leoni

**Important: This month the Zoom meeting will be hosted by Andrew Wilson, not Scott Sandel. Be on the lookout for an email from Andrew with the meeting credentials.**

Our March program will be by Dr. Claudia Hornung-Leoni. The program will be Floral Characteristics in Bromeliads with interesting points about the shapes and colors of the flowers, some characteristics of the nectars found in bromeliad flowers, and the relationship of visitors to the plants (e.g. pollinators and predators). There will be many photos of the plants.

Dr. Hornung-Leoni, originally from Venezuela, is currently a Teacher - Researcher at Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, Pachuca, Mexico, in both undergraduate and postgraduate studies. She does research in Botany and Systematics (Taxonomy). Her main lines of research are: 1) traditional and phylogenetic systematics, 2) evolution of characters and studies of morphological variation (allometry and morphometry), 3) interaction of animal- plant, phytotelmata and relationship between floral biology and pollination. She has done fieldwork in Venezuela, Peru, Chile, México and some locations in Colombia.



*Dr. Hornung-Leoni doing field work.*

## February Meeting Recap

The February meeting was headlined by Jerry Raack, the bromeliad collector, explorer, and former BSI president. His presentation took us to the cloud forests of western Ecuador where we visited with a wonderful cast of bromeliads in their habitat. Jerry's excellent photography and narrative transported us to the muddy mountain trails. Some of the stunning plants we saw are still not described, while many others are not in cultivation and probably won't be as they are have very particular growing requirements.

Once again, we had a great showing by SDBS members plus a number of international guests in attendance. It was nice to talk to all of you. The meeting wrapped with a plant auction and show and tell.

# Bromeliads at the San Diego Botanic Garden

by Juliana Raposo

A visit to the SDBG last weekend with my daughter was a delight. The whole garden looked refreshed by the recent rains. The conservatory was especially lovely. The plants in the glass house are growing beautifully in their epiphytic setting. If you haven't visited, the plants in the conservatory are artfully mounted on massive "branches" suspended from the ceiling. Several bromeliads and orchids are in bloom right now. One can spend hours viewing the anthuriums, philodendrons, peperomias, cacti, ferns and mosses, and all sorts of tree dwellers mingling with our beloved broms. The fact that so much is blooming shows the plants vitality in this setting. Coincidentally, the savvy displays are perfect for selfies, and my eight-year-old gardener wanted a shot with every bloom. Then she was blown away by the corpse flower, in the leaf stage.



*Stella visiting the bromeliads in the conservatory. From April 3 to May 2 the botanic garden will host World of Orchids, which is something we would all love to see.*



## Underdeveloped Bromeliad Inflorescences

### An Anticlimax

by Juliana Raposo

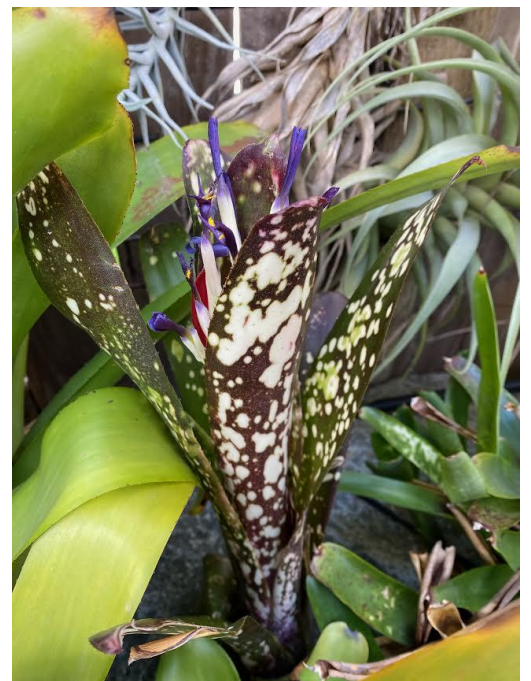
If I had to name the worst garden enemy in my kingdom, it would be snails and slugs. They already jolted into high drive this spring and proceeded to giddily eat whatever new flowers I leave unattended, sometimes in the bud.

Then, without explanation, some of the surviving flower spikes in my bromeliads come to a sad end. They timidly bloom in an underdeveloped state, almost hidden in the foliage. Short stalks with small sepals and sad

flowers. Sometimes I wonder if they are trying to hide from the snails? It happens more frequently with billbergia, but also happens with *Portea alatisepala*, *Aechmea fasciata* and other broms that grow their flowers on a stick.

Why does this happen, I ask?

Please share your thoughts and show your photos if you can. I'll share what I learned next month.



*B. Hallelujah with underdeveloped inflorescence*

## Upcoming Events

**SDBS March Meeting**  
 Saturday, March 13 from 10am to 12pm  
 Join meeting on Zoom  
[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

## SDBS 2020

### Officers

President  
 Morlane O'Donnell  
[Morlane.odonnell@att.net](mailto:Morlane.odonnell@att.net)  
 619- 422-8168

Vice-President  
 Stephen Zolezzi  
[sazolezzi1946@gmail.com](mailto:sazolezzi1946@gmail.com)  
 619-379-4300

Treasurer  
 Al Evans, Jr.  
[alevansoo1@earthlink.net](mailto:alevansoo1@earthlink.net)  
 858-492-9866

Secretary  
 Ruth Contino  
[ruth.contino1@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.contino1@gmail.com)  
 619-303-2144

News Editor  
 Juliana Raposo  
[julianadraposo@gmail.com](mailto:julianadraposo@gmail.com)  
 858-349-1405

Membership  
 Charles Oelsen  
[cdoelsen@yahoo.com](mailto:cdoelsen@yahoo.com)

Past President  
 Scott Sandel  
[scott.sandel@outlook.com](mailto:scott.sandel@outlook.com)

### Board Members

Kerry Nelson (2019-20)  
[kanelsondesign@cox.net](mailto:kanelsondesign@cox.net)  
 619- 574-0987

Lucia Velasquez (2019-20)  
[luciamccanna@yahoo.com](mailto:luciamccanna@yahoo.com)

Bob Walters (2020-21)  
[cactusbobby@gmail.com](mailto:cactusbobby@gmail.com)

Krista Mills (2020-21)  
[kmills1@sandi.net](mailto:kmills1@sandi.net)

# Saddleback Valley Society Bromeliad Show & Sale

Yes, this is happening. For those who never visited Sherman Library and Gardens, it's a great day trip for the weekend. Plus, Cristy Brenner, SVBS president, will give a talk on March 27. More info at Sherman Garden's [website](#).

## BROMELIAD PLANT SHOW & SALE

Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society  
 Saturday & Sunday March 27-28, 10:30 am-4:00 pm

Sherman Library & Gardens  
 2627 Pacific Coast Highway  
 Corona Del Mar, CA 92625

Admission \$5.00



Meetings 7:00 p.m on the first Thursday of the month @ Norman Murray Center in Mission Viejo



Come and see our lovingly home-grown BROMELIADS, including Tillandsias (air plants), and also receive growing information.

## SDBS 2020

### Officers

President

Morlane O'Donnell

[Morlane.odonnell@att.net](mailto:Morlane.odonnell@att.net)

619-422-8168

Vice-President

Stephen Zolezzi

[sazolezzi1946@gmail.com](mailto:sazolezzi1946@gmail.com)

619-379-4300

Treasurer

Al Evans, Jr.

[alevans001@earthlink.net](mailto:alevans001@earthlink.net)

858-492-9866

Secretary

Ruth Contino

[ruth.contino1@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.contino1@gmail.com)

619-303-2144

News Editor

Juliana Raposo

[julianadraposo@gmail.com](mailto:julianadraposo@gmail.com)

858-349-1405

Membership

Charles Oelsen

[cdoelsen@yahoo.com](mailto:cdoelsen@yahoo.com)

Past President

Scott Sandel

[scott.sandel@outlook.com](mailto:scott.sandel@outlook.com)

### Board Members

Kerry Nelson (2019-20)

[kanelsondesign@cox.net](mailto:kanelsondesign@cox.net)

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[luciamccanna@yahoo.com](mailto:luciamccanna@yahoo.com)

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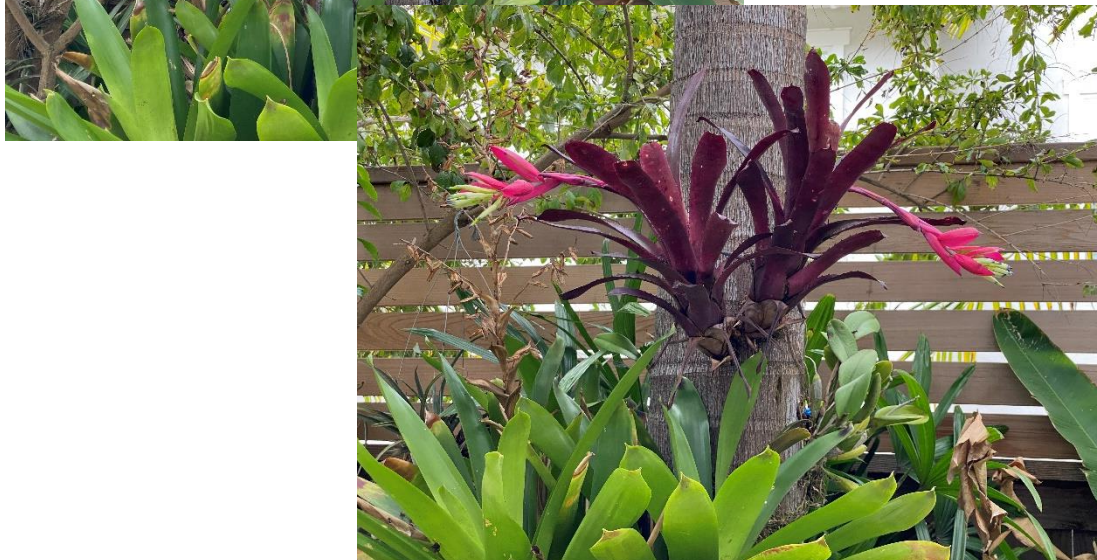
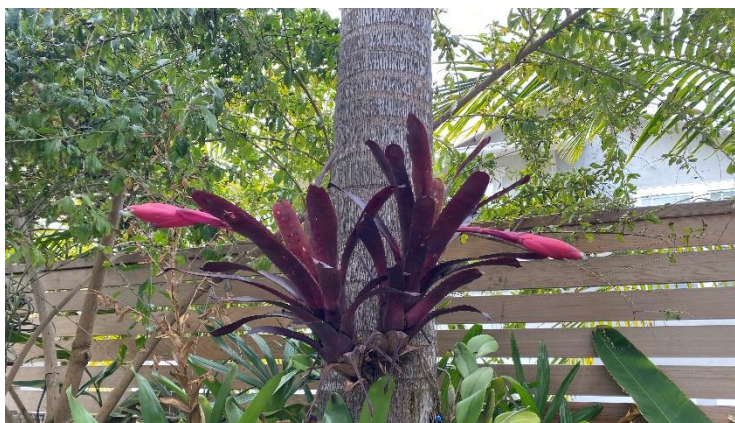
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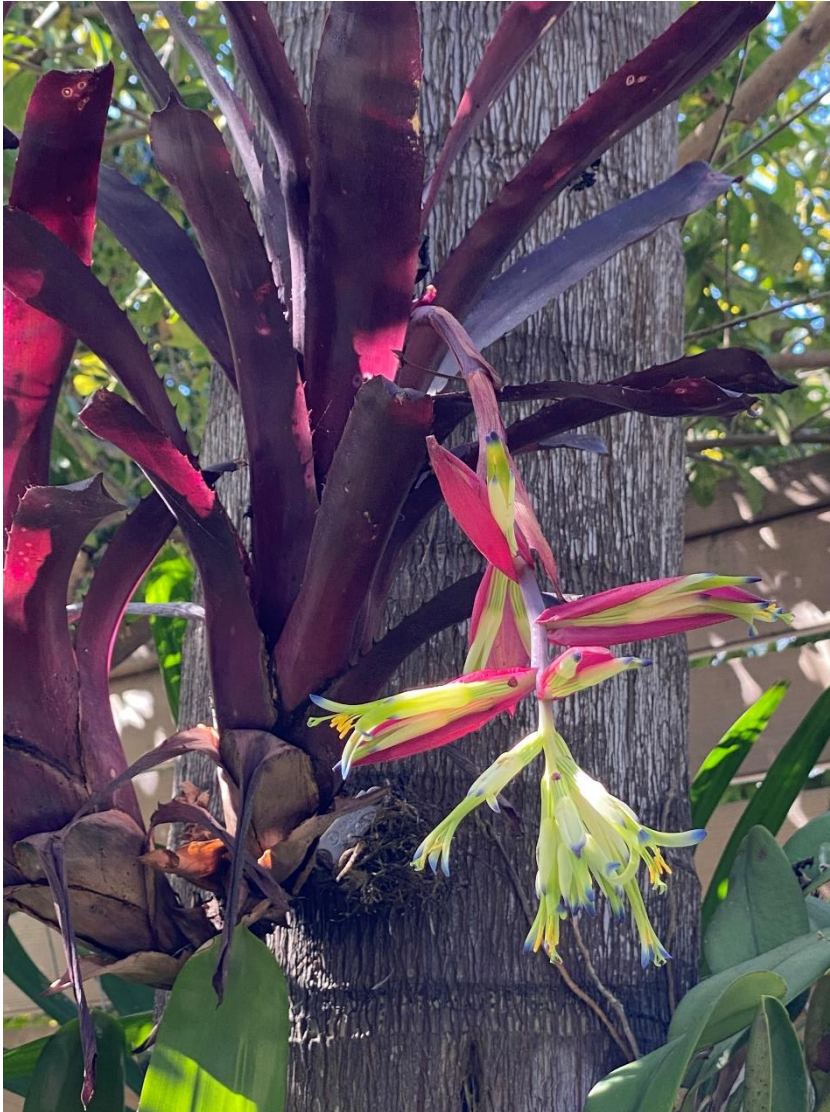
Krista Mills (2020-21)

[kmills1@sandi.net](mailto:kmills1@sandi.net)

## Blooming Now

*Tillandsia neglecta*, *T. latifolia* var. *divaricata* and flower progression on untagged billbergia.





## THE BROMELIAD BLADE



Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

Juliana Raposo, Editor

Ph: 858-349-1405

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