

# The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the  
San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

February 2022

VOLUME LVII

NUMBER 2

## President's Message

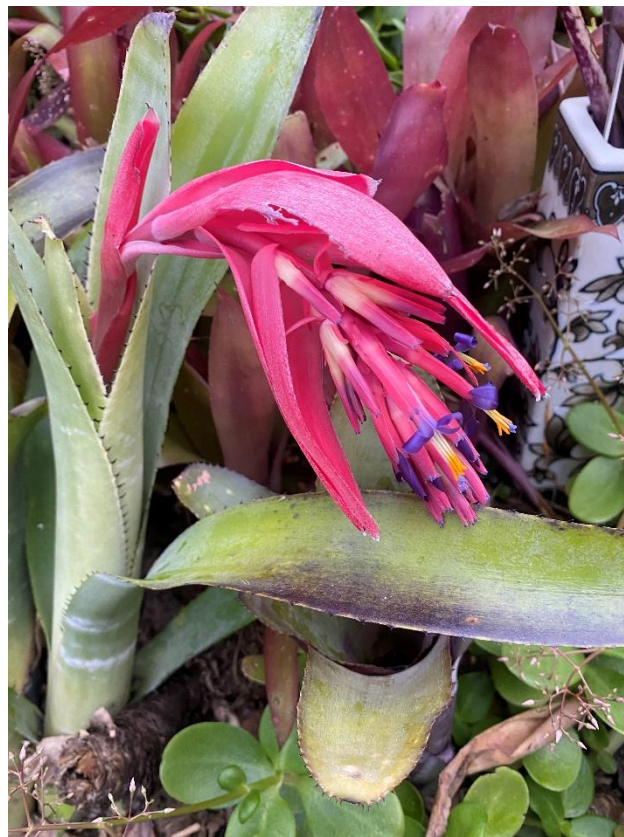
By Stephen Zolezzi



Where did the rain go? Cold temps and wind have sure filled in for no rain which means we are back to

watering---thankfully our BROMS are not water hogs---another reason to love them.

The Board had our first meeting of the year with great news to share. Opportunity and Auction chair Scott Sandel has produced a 2022 calendar which will be sent to all members. Scott is planning to juice up the opportunity table with an extravagant selection of plants, most do not have in collection. The Board has set an Auction plant budget that will allow Scott to search out prize winners for us to get Mary our auctioneer excited about.



*This unidentified billbergia is blooming now. Photo by Andrew Wilson*

The Board will also be sending out an updated list of committee chairs so when you have questions you will know who to contact about signing up to volunteer. The more you put into the society the more you are rewarded! The program committee has a tough job securing speakers from around the world, but they are

expert and have a track record that's the envy of other societies around the world. They will continue using zoom when needed for remotely located experts along with in person presentations to enrich and educate us all. Many thanks to them.

2022 public plant sales in the park are scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Our society anniversary will be celebrated at the May meeting. June will see the return of the SD County Fair and Nancy Groves will need all hands on deck to create another award-winning display. August is Picnic Month, and we are hoping for a bus trip.

So, as you can see there is lots to look forward to in the coming months---now let's have some fun!

# February Meeting

Saturday, February 12 @ 10am

The February meeting will take place in Casa del Prado, room 104 in Balboa Park and will also be live on Zoom. The Zoom invitation will be sent via email. Presentations will not be recorded.

This month we will have 2 speakers.

SDBS member Juliana Raposo just returned from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where *alcantareas* were blooming everywhere – in gardens and in the mountains. This bromeliad genus is endemic to eastern Brazil. In this presentation, you'll see plenty of *Alcantarea*, at times as a focal point in bromeliad collections, or nearly undetectable on rugged mountain sides. We will also see other interesting broms from Brazilian collections including a few newly registered hybrids.

Next, we will have SDBS's own Dave Kennedy who will provide us with a tour of the plant table plus those tillandsias he has brought in. He will deal with their characteristics and for beginners, which of them are easier to grow. It will be an interactive session so don't hesitate to ask questions. The opportunity table will be an even split between tillandsias from Dave Kennedy's collection and offsets from Michael's Bromeliads in Venice, Florida.



*Juliana and A. extensa PITA in Paulo Tosta's garden, in Rio de Janeiro. Below, a sneak peek at the opportunity table plants for February.*



# Auction Plants

Scott Sandel selected a very special brom lineup for the February auction. Representing 3 of the most collectible bromeliad genera:

*Neoregelia carolinae* x 'Hannibal Lecter' *right*

*Vriesea* (*vanackeri* x *procera*) x *inflata* (*Arden*) *bottom left*

*Tillandsia xerographica* x *fasciculata* *bottom right*

Happy bidding!



# The Resilience of Bromeliads

by Al Evans

One of the first bromeliad meetings I attended, I won a bunch of bromeliads on the opportunity table that were bare rooted. I took them home, laid them under an orange tree with the intention of potting them in a few days. Days turned into months, and I was very surprised to find that the billbergias I had just laid down without potting, were thriving and sending out blooms from their prone position. I decided right then that the bromeliad family was for me!

A more recent example of just how resilient bromeliads are came after the Lilac Fire of 2017. Rainforest Flora suffered enormous damage to

their greenhouse growing facility during that fire. Shortly after the fire, a number of SDBS members volunteered some time to help Paul Isley try to recover the mostly burned plants. During the cleanup, I took one particularly burned tillandsia home with me at the end of the day to see if it could be saved. For the first year, I began to believe that the plant was beyond recovery. Into the second year, however, I was encouraged to see new growth emerging. Neary 4 years after the fire, that very small, burned tillandsia bloomed! I believe it to be a streptophylla. Never give up on a bromeliad!



*Tillandsia streptophylla*



## Portea silveirae

by Juliana Raposo



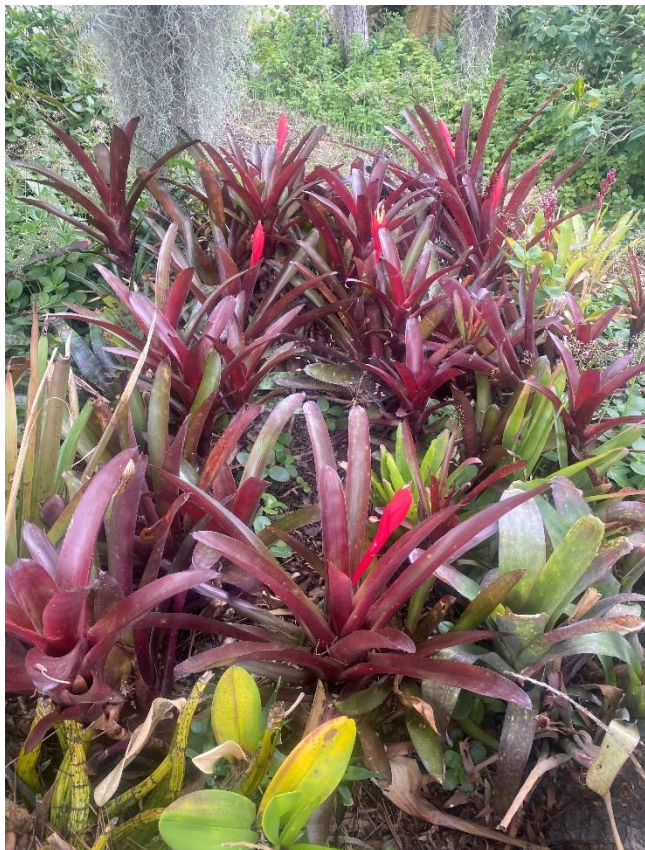
*P. silveirae* surrounded by concrete.

*Portea silveirae* is a species from Brazil, endemic to Bahia, Espirito Santo and Minas Gerais states. It is blooming now in my garden and in many of yours, too. This is a phenomenal landscape plant. When grown in full sun - it takes full sun! - it keeps its leaves a delightful lime green rather than acquiring a maroon tan. It has a graceful, compact structure with shorter, more erect leaves than other porteas. and boasts the best inflorescence to rosette ratio of any portea that I know, including *Portea Candy*, my old favorite. *P. silveirae* seems to have a more branched inflorescence as well. The pink and purple flower spikes stays brightly colored for weeks.



*P. silveirae* inflorescence detail

# Winter Colors



*From Andrew Wilson, assorted billbergias in bloom and arboriscape with xCanmea (Canistrum x Aechmea).*



From Norm Nakanishi, *Tillandsia thyrigera* is blooming. This oversized tillandsia species from Mexico will remain in bloom for 12 months (top).

Also from Nakanishi, another giant is developing its bloom spike. *T. grandis* purple form is getting ready to poke the shade cloth (top right). Early stage of development, in August of last year (below).

On the right, garden scape from Juliana Raposo showing a blooming *Vriesea Rafael* (philippo-coburgii variegated).



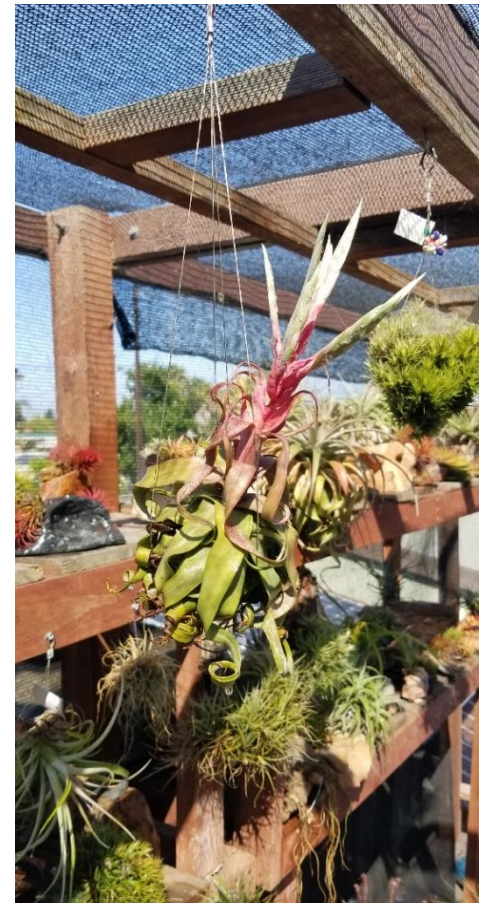
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*Tillandsia streptophylla*

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*P. silveirae* surrounded by concrete.

*Portea silveirae* is a species from Brazil, endemic to Bahia, Espirito Santo and Minas Gerais states. It is blooming now in my garden and in many of yours, too. This bromeliad is a phenomenal landscape plant in the SoCal garden. When grown in full sun - it takes full sun! - it keeps its leaves a delightful lime green instead of acquiring a maroonish tan. It has a graceful, compact structure with shorter, more erect leaves than other porteas. It has the best inflorescence to rosette ratio of any portea that I know, including *Portea Candy*, my old favorite. It seems to have a more branched inflorescence as well. The pink and purple flower spikes stays brightly colored for weeks. All this,



*P. silveirae* inflorescence detail

for a plant that requires almost zero attention.

## SDBS Events 2022

### SDBS at SD County Fair

June 8 - July 4, 2022

### WBC Sarasota

June 7-11, 2022

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

### SDBS Summer Show and Sale

June 11-12, 2022

### SDBS Winter Sale

December 17-18, 2022



*Neo 'Inkwell'*

## New SDBS Treasurer Needed

The San Diego Bromeliad Society is in search of a new treasurer to replace the current treasurer. The starting date would be in January of 2023 to allow time for the new treasurer to transition. The position involves:

- Filing and paying quarterly sales tax (easy using Quicken software)
- Provide credit card capability at meetings and the annual show and sale
- Handling sales, raffle and auction money at meetings and the annual show and sale
- Depositing membership dues payments and notifying the membership chairman
- Writing occasional checks to reimburse members for supplies, pay speakers, plant purchases, etc.
- Checking the SDBS PO Box weekly.

The prospective treasurer should be somewhat familiar with a financial software program such as Quicken but it isn't required. It would also be nice to have a smart phone with a data plan although not necessary. (The personal data usage for SDBS business is minimal). I have spent the last few years putting together a checklist of items to be completed each month with appropriate website addresses, usernames, passwords and any other information required for each report. That sounds complex but in reality, there are only a couple of months that require some time - November and July. As a board member, you are entitled to attend board meetings, currently held every other month by Zoom.

If you would be interested in filling this important SDBS position, please advise me at [alevans31365@gmail.com](mailto:alevans31365@gmail.com)  
Thank you,  
Al Evans, Treasurer





## SDBS 2022

### Officers

#### President

Stephen Zolezzi  
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 619-379-4300

#### Vice-President

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 619-574-0987

#### Treasurer

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 858-492-9866

#### Secretary

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 858-349-1405

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#### Past President

Morlane O'Donnell  
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 619-422-8168

### Board Members

#### Nancy Hoyt (2022-23)

[nhoyt2662@yahoo.com](mailto:nhoyt2662@yahoo.com)

#### Mary Lee (2022-2023)

[2kyanone@gmail.com](mailto:2kyanone@gmail.com)

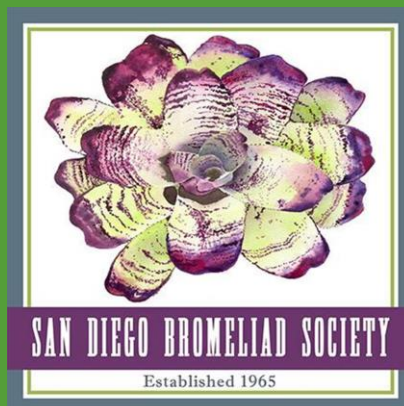
#### Bob Walters (2022)

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

#### Krista Mills (2022)

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## 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

**Tillandsia  
Neoregelia  
Vriesea  
Orthophytum  
Bigenerics  
and more!**

*Purchase directly from  
an award-winning  
grower*

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