

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

March 2022

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NUMBER 3

President's Message

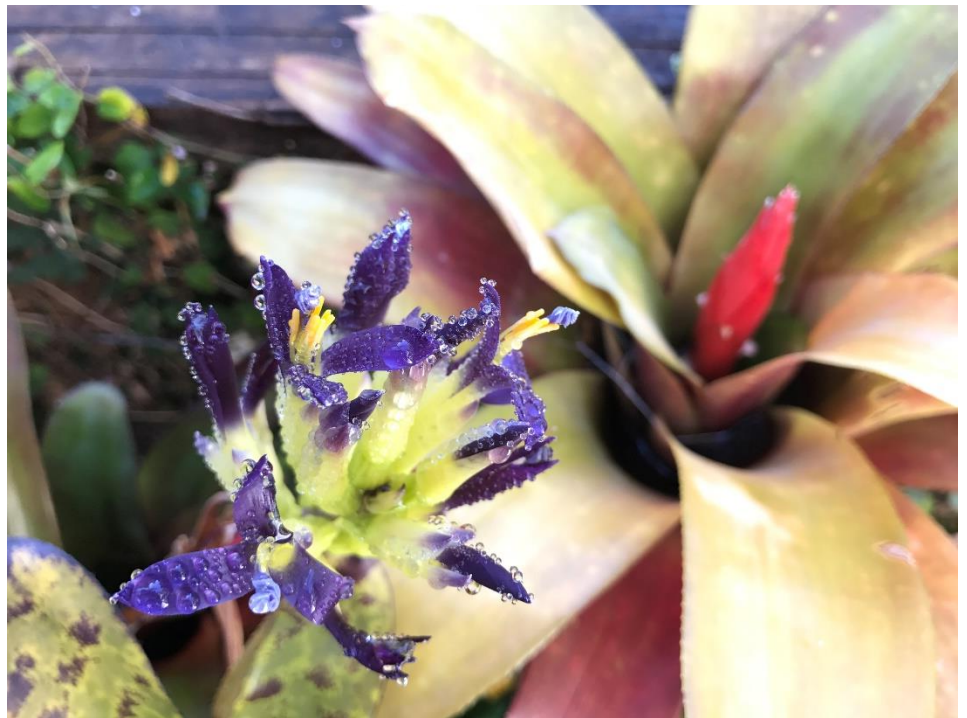
By Stephen Zolezzi

Sunday is Daylight Savings Time - good it starts Sunday and not Saturday! I sure hope as many members as possible are able to make the meeting on the 12th - lots happening. For those not able to make it in person we will be Zooming. You all should have received the zoom invite. We are confident all issues have been fixed!

Charles Olsen has updated the membership list with the info supplied to him so if you have any address updates please send to Charles.

Show and tell is an important part of every meeting so please plan to participate. It's also a great way to ID those plants who have lost their name tags by tapping into the membership brain trust.

Our program will be shared by three of our members---Morlane O'Donnell, Scott Sandel and Eloise Lau---this triple header is guaranteed to ROCK YOU!



Billbergia 'Brimstrone' after the rain

We will also be discussing our participation in the 2022 SDC Fair Garden Show---Nancy Groves has all the info and will need our support and agreement to participate once again. Entry deadline is April 22---Setup time starts May 21 to June 5 with the fair running June 8 through July 4.

Depending on where you live in the county several storms have helped to lower our water use and bills. It always amazes me how the weeds

can distinguish between rain and city water. If only I could get the plants I want to grow as healthy and fast as the weeds do I'd have a forest in no time! All we can do is hope. April Showers bring May flowers?

Scott has produced a great flyer for the June sale. It is posted on our website sandiegobromeliadsociety.org along with lots of good info, please check it out. The flyer is also in the Blade. ALL THE BEST - GREAT GROWING!

March Meeting

Saturday, March 12 @ 10am

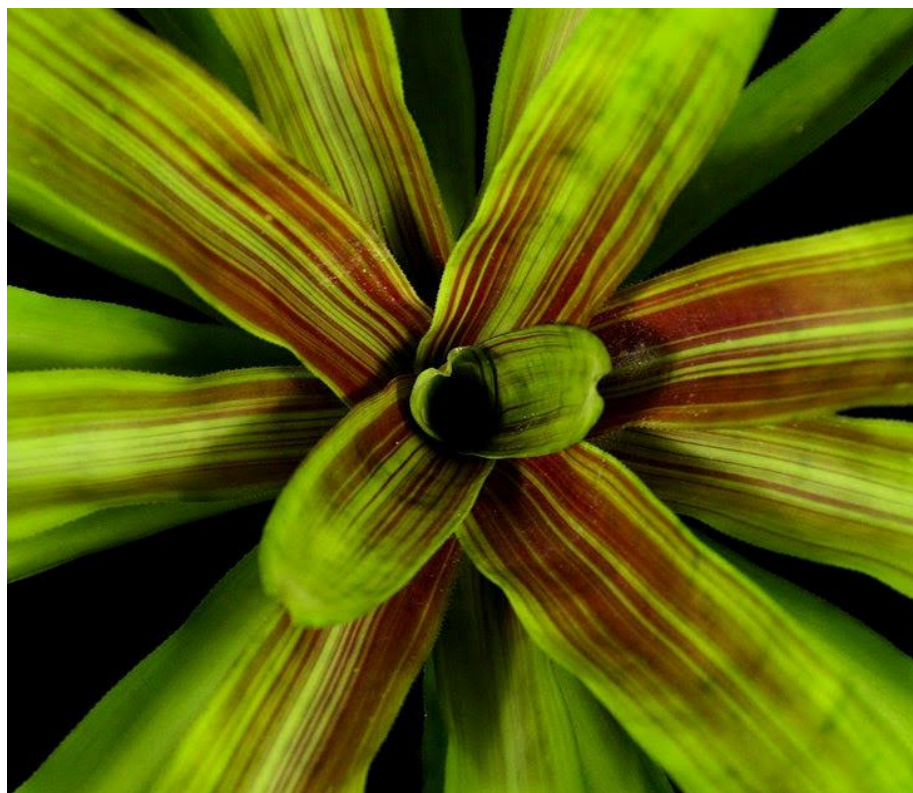
The March meeting will take place in Casa del Prado, room 104 in Balboa Park and will also be live on Zoom. The Zoom invitation was sent via email.

This month we remain in San Diego with our speakers Morlane, Scott and Eloise. They will be telling us how to grow and use bromeliads in our gardens and home collections. There will be three short talks about the genera *Neoregelia*, *Billbergia* and *Fosterella*. The format will be open (specimens to show and/or images to view) and questions will be welcome after they speak. Expect some background about the plants they're dealing with (where they come from, for whom they are named, how to recognize, grow and enjoy them). So, whether you're an expert or a beginner, come with questions in mind!

Morlane O'Donnell grows a wide collection of bromeliads and will describe how she selects and grows billbergias. Scott Sandel, an avid enthusiast for neoregelias, will show us and talk about some favorites, especially among the modern hybrids. Eloise Lau, with a wide interest in bromeliads, will tell us about fosterellas and how they can be planted among other bromeliads to complement them.

March Plant Table

For the March plant table and auction, we have a wide selection of plants. This month our opportunity plants come from two sources. Plants from Michael's Bromeliads intentionally include a



Nidularium procerum striatum and *Orthophytum 'Copper Penny'*

wide range of genera, including *Aechmea*, *Alcantarea*, *Cryptanthus*, *Orthophytum*, *xSincoregelia*, and a few other odds and ends. These pups will be ready to hit some fresh potting soil, so hear up for them.

Plants for the opportunity table will include some choice selections from local member Andy Siekkinen, and he'll provide three really nice auction items as well.



In April, look forward to seeing some interesting plants we are importing from Ecuador. (More on that next month!)

February Recap

The February meeting featured 2 speakers and lots of interesting plants. However, the Zoom broadcast did not work this time due to technical difficulties. Apologies to all who tried to join in from home. There are a few complexities in properly executing the broadcast, but it looks like the Zoom will work in March.

The first part of the program was a travelogue by Juliana Raposo, reporting on a recent trip to Brazil. The talk focused on Alcantareas in Rio de Janeiro and a few important local bromeliad collections there.

Dave Kennedy presented the second part of the program, with a hands-on demonstration on tillandsias that can be successfully grown in San Diego.

For Show and Tell, Scott Sandel went with the theme and brought 2 mighty alcantareas to the meeting. Alc. Florys (top photo) and Alc. Aurora (center left). Both are cultivars of *Alcantarea glaziouana* with unique variegation patterns. Hauling the huge plants to Balboa Park was no joke!

Other contributions to Show and Tell include Lucia Velasquez with *Aechmea weilbachii*, Al Evans with *Tillandsia albertiana* mounted on a rock, Bob Vitacco and *Tillandsia recurvata*, Robert Kopfstein with *Vriecantarea Inferno* (center right), Nancy Groves with *Tillandsia latifolia* var *leucophylla*, *Tillandsia purpurea* 'Shooting Star', and Don Nelson who brought *Quesnelia testudo* and *Billbergia nutans*.

Photo at the bottom of page shows the tillandsia offerings by Dave Kennedy.



SDBS featured in Beaches & Beyond Magazine

by Juliana Raposo

Beaches & Beyond is a monthly magazine that runs as an insert in the San Diego Union Tribune. The publication is focused on luxury San Diego real estate and features some home and garden articles. The March issue has a 3-page story on bromeliad growing and an interview with yours truly. The San Diego Bromeliad Society was mentioned several times in the article as the best local source for bromeliads and growing advice. The magazine was out on February 26. You can see and download the [article here](#), for a limited time, as the link expires at the end of March.



World Bromeliad Conference Sarasota 2022

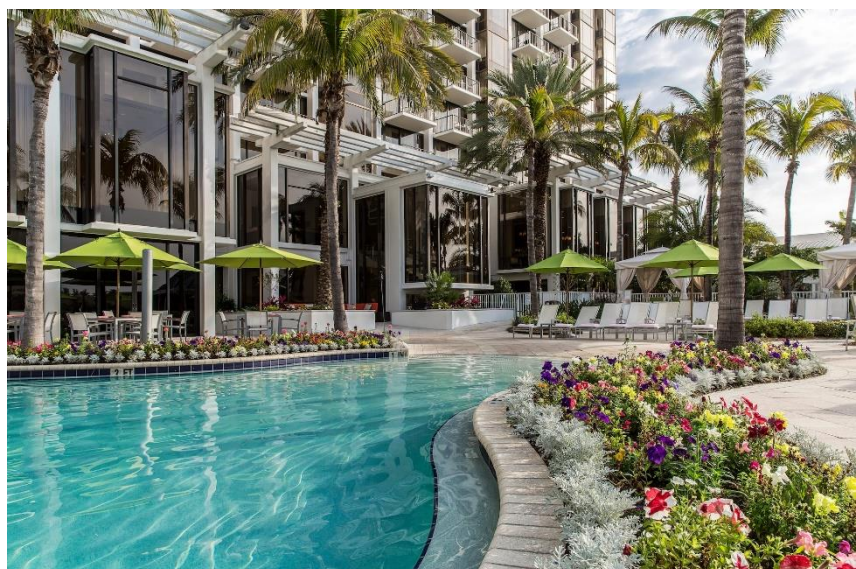
by Juliana Raposo

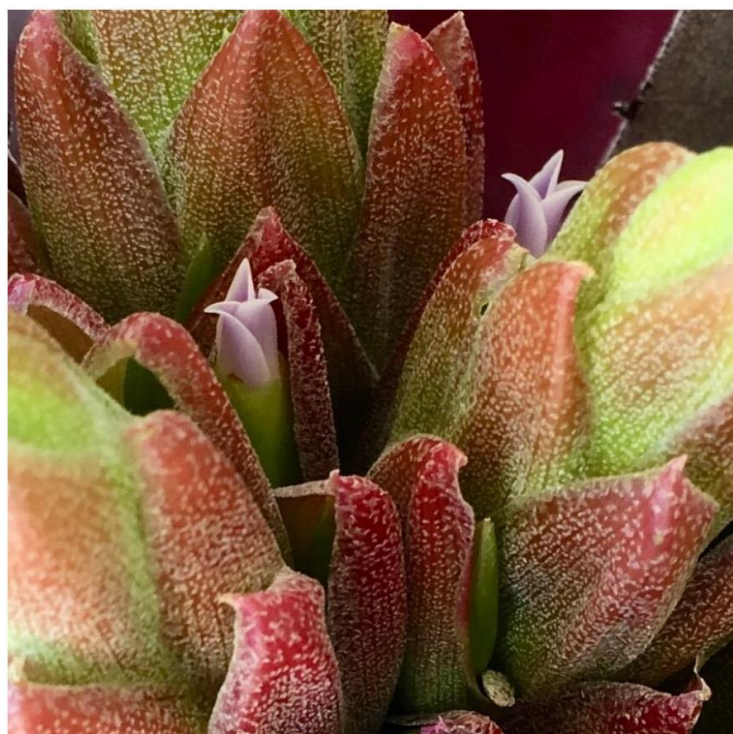
After successive pandemic delays, the BSI conference is back. The San Diego Bromeliad Society was the host of the last conference, back in 2018, and it was all hard work for us, remember? Now we have a chance to enjoy the plant show, the sale and lectures as guests!

The international gathering of bromeliophiles happens in Sarasota, Florida from June 8-12, 2022. Sarasota is a bromeliad destination in itself, home to the [Marie Selby Botanical Gardens](#) and [Tropiflora Nursery](#), two places a bromeliad collector must have in their bucket list. The conference will host group visits to both. The WBC committee did a great job recruiting a diverse group of lecturers and picking a vacation-worthy hotel (photo). The fees and special hotel rates increase

on a sliding scale as we get closer to the conference date, so don't delay! Detailed information and conference registration are available online at the BSI website at www.bsi.org. Please note that if you are not a current BSI member you will be

required to get a membership in order to register and attend the conference. To contact the Conference Co-Chairs with any questions, you may email them at TheWBC2022@gmail.com. See the official conference flyer next page.





World Bromeliad Conference June 8-11, 2022 Hyatt Regency Sarasota

World Bromeliad Conference 2022

Join Bromeliad lovers from around the world at the Bromeliad Society International's 24th World Bromeliad Conference which will be held in Sarasota for the first time!

Attendees will have the opportunity to go behind the scenes at **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens** (with its collection of over 1300 Bromeliad species) and **Michael's Bromeliads** and **Tropiflora** with their collector-grade Bromeliads.

Mix and mingle with attendees from all over the world at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota with its beautiful waterfront setting and nearby fine dining, beaches, shopping, museums, and other sightseeing opportunities.

Join us for **THE BIG SHOW** at **World Bromeliad Conference 2022** with this amazing opportunity to learn, grow and explore!

Invited Speakers:

Elton Leme – Brazil
Eric Gouda – Netherlands
Ivon Ramirez – Mexico
Julián Aguirre-Santoro – Colombia
Graeme Barclay – New Zealand
Bruce Holst – Florida
Cristy Brenner – California
Jerry Raack – Ohio

Events:

Conference Opening/Reception
Judged Plant Show
A Huge Plant Sale
Optional Bus Tours
Behind-the-Scenes visits to:
Michael's Bromeliads
Tropiflora
Home Garden Visits
Guided Behind-the-Scenes Tour
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens
Banquet with Keynote Speaker
Rare Plant Auction



www.BSI.org

Tillandsia stricta

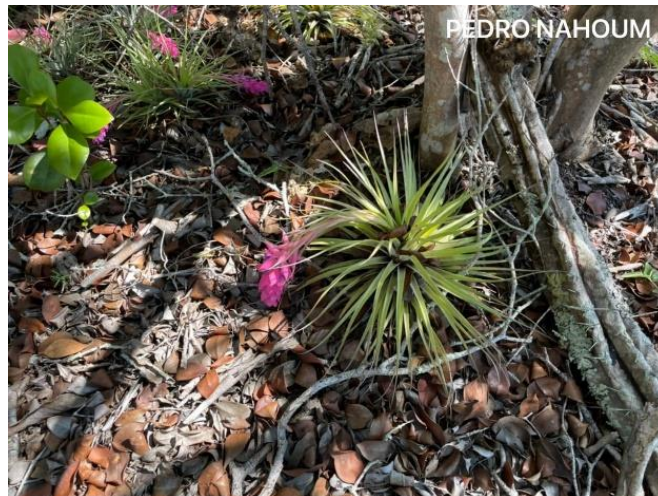
by Juliana Raposo

At this time of the year, the humble *Tillandsia stricta* flowers brighten the gardens of SoCal bromeliad growers and delight local hummingbirds. I enjoy my morning coffee these days while looking at blooming *T. stricta* ball in my back patio.

In the southern hemisphere, *T. stricta* is also blooming in habitat. Bromeliad expert and nurseryman [Pedro Nahoum posted on the BSI Facebook group](#):

“*Tillandsia stricta* is a very well adapted species to the environment of the Restinga vegetation, the sandy ecosystem of the lowlands near to the Atlantic Ocean in Brazil. The images of this blooming season on the end of the summer shows *T. stricta* specimens growing epiphytically and also on the litter that covers the sandy soil under the native shrubs. We can find much more plants of *T. stricta* on the Restinga soil than on the trees - rooted on the litter's dead leaves they reach the biggest sizes already registered for the species, with some individuals measuring 1 foot (30 cm) in diameter. Terraços Marinhos biotype Quissamã, Rio de Janeiro - Brazil “

T. stricta volunteers at random in urban areas in Rio de Janeiro. It is a very adaptable plant. I found it fascinating that these tiny tillies will also grow terrestrially in nature when given a chance, and in the restinga example, do better on the ground than perched.



Top: *T. stricta* in San Diego (photo by Juliana Raposo)

Center: *T. stricta* growing terrestrially in habitat (photo by Pedro Nahoum).

Bottom: *T. stricta* growing as an epiphyte in the same site (photo by Pedro Nahoum).

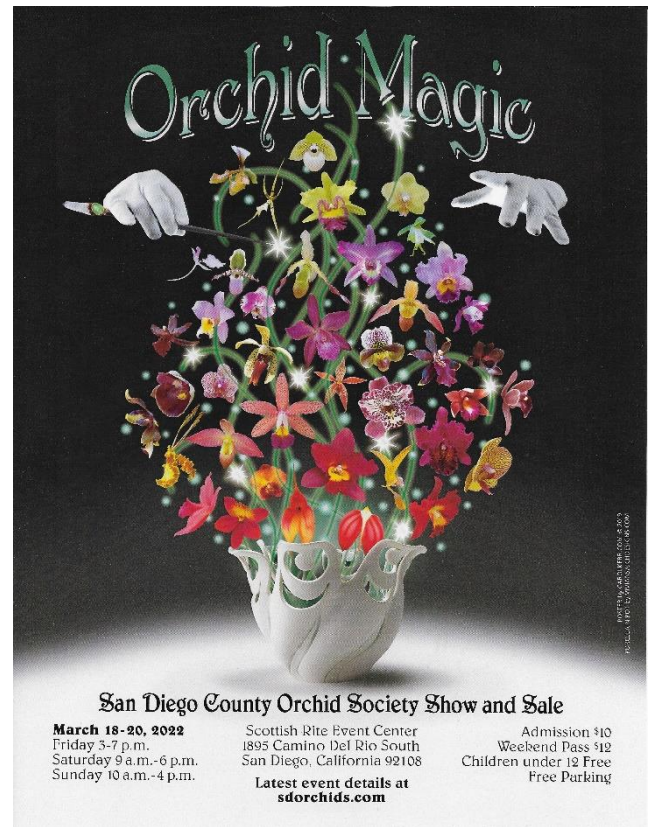
Upcoming Events

by Juliana Raposo

March 18 & 20 - The SD County Orchid Society Show is back at the Scottish Rite Center. See flyer for details or visit <https://sdorchids.com>

Mission Hills Garden Walk tickets go on sale March 15. The garden walk happens on May 7. Limited spots available. For tickets, see www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

Last but not least, the SDBS June sale has an official flyer. Thanks, Scott Sandel! June 11 & 12 in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. A pdf of the flyer is available to print or share in the March email blast and on our website www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org



In the Garden

From Scott Sandel - The burgundy-leafed Dyckia is in flower just now. They are carefree and planted in the ground in full sun. Small weeds like Oxalis are a pain to remove, however! There are two pictures of Billbergia 'Smokestack', a Lisa Vinzant hybrid. I love Smokestack for the bold red bracts and for its black foliage with silver scurfy banding on the reverse side of the leaves. The images are at two phases - one as a big fat "bud" and the other just as the first deep purple-blue flowers open.



SDBS Events 2022

SDBS at SD County Fair

June 8 - July 4, 2022

WBC Sarasota

June 7-11, 2022

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
Thank you,
Al Evans, Treasurer



SDBS 2022

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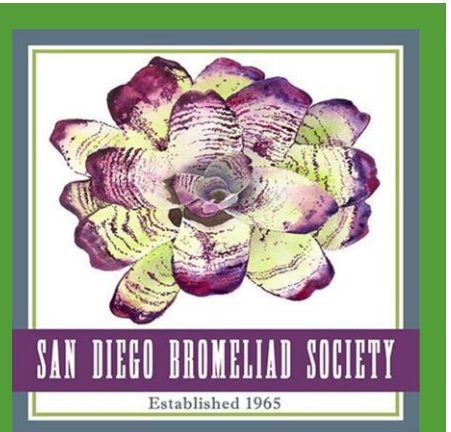
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THE BROMELIAD BLADE



Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

Juliana Raposo, Editor

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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

BROMELIADS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Tillandsia Neoregelia Vriesea Orthophytum Bigenerics and more!</p> | <p><i>Purchase directly from an award-winning grower</i></p> |
|---|--|

To make an appointment email David Kennedy at thedavekennedy@gmail.com or find him on Facebook