

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

April 2022

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President's Message

By Stephen Zolezzi

How did it get to be Spring already? This time of the year it's great to see birds in the garden gathering up supplies to construct nests welcoming eggs, chicks and life to help bees pollinate all those flowers we are hoping for. It's important we take some time to just take it all in—enjoy all our hard work.

As the June sale approaches, we hope you are able to participate by manning a table to sell off some of your extra plant inventory? If interested in selling and or volunteering, please contact Morlane O'Donnell morlane.odonnell@att.net

Perhaps one of the only remaining 1965 SDBS founding members, Nona Church will attend our May Meeting and donate some of her treasured art collection and related Bromeliad items to the society. All items will be for sale to members and at the June Sale. May is also our anniversary month so let's plan on giving Nona a grand welcome and enjoy a special



March showers coaxed this brom's resident to make an appearance. Photo by Juliana Raposo.

Pineapple cake baked by Kerry Nelson.

Time is fast approaching for the return of the SDC Fair where we are planning to repeat an award-winning display. This year's fair theme is Home Grown Hero's with our own Pam Hyatt, Bird Rock Tropicals as our Wonder Woman honoree. Nancy Groves heads up the fair committee and will be signing up volunteers at

the April meeting---you are the reason we did so well at the 2019 Fair---with your help we can repeat our success.

See you in person or on Zoom Saturday.

April Meeting

Saturday, April 9 @ 10am

The April meeting will take place in Casa del Prado, room 104 in Balboa Park and will also be live on Zoom. Please check your email for the Zoom invitation.

The Espinhaço Mountain Range in Minas Gerais and Bahia: a living laboratory for Bromeliads Diversity

Leonardo Versieux, well-known for his discoveries of new bromeliads in the Minas Gerais and Bahia states of Brazil will be our speaker in April. The meeting will be dual, live in San Diego at our regular meeting room and zoomed to audiences internationally. Leonardo will be speaking to us from Bahia. He will take us on a trip for special plants in the Espinhaço Mountain ranges of northeastern Brazil. He will introduce us to the geography and geology of these mountains and how they have produced the high diversity of bromeliads found there as well as the people who have been involved in their discovery. He will illustrate the main groups in their natural surroundings. Many names have undergone changes, such as *Orthophytum* being split into *Sincoraea* and *Lapanthus*. He will also describe some odd and exclusive bromeliad species you may not have heard about before such as *Eduandrea selloana** or *Cottendorfia florida* or some of the *Hohenbergias* that grow in the rocky areas. Don't let such names worry you. They are just names and focus of the talk will be about the surprising plants themselves.*

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/262219392_Eduandrea_selloana_Field_Notes_on_a_New_Area_ofOccurrence



Tabuleiro waterfall in Serra do Cipo, part of the Espinhaço mountain range

April Plant Table

We will have a diverse plant opportunity table in April. We will have some. Brazilian plants, including *Alcantarea burle-marxii*, *Alcantarea odorata*, and *Alcantarea brasiliana* that we got from Florida. The *brasiliana* plant is questioned by some to be *Alcantarea imperialis*. However, these two *Alcantareas* are DIFFERENT. *Alcantarea brasiliana* gets 25% bigger and have distinctive grey-green leaves with scurfy, while. Most *Alcantarea imperialis* variations do not get as large or as gray. They instead have slightly glabrous (shiny) leaves with red or purple highlights when grown in a sunny exposure. Another Brazilian native is *Aechmea orlandiana*, and a handsome hybrid of it, 'Rainbow', will be featured in the auction.

Our society split an order with Dylan from the Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society. The six Ecuadorian bromeliads we have for the table are all species plants - not hybrids. Most have lavishly pendant inflorescences! The plants on-order include:

Guzmania squarrosa
Racinaea ustulata

Tillandsia barthlottii
Vriesea barclayana
Vriesea cylindrica
Vriesea tequendamae

These tropically grown plants should acclimate well in spring before hot dry weather gets here. (Raffle winners should baby these newbies for a few months with shelter and good water.) Shall we import another batch sometime soon? To hedge our bets, the balance of the plants will be sourced locally. Good luck!



T. barthlottii. Photo credit Florapix Gallery

March Recap

The March Show n Tell featured a diverse group of plants. Highlighting a few: *Dyckia Tarzan*, brought by Robert Kopfstein, armored and clad in spines; the outstanding *Tillandsia seleriana* mini purple brought by Dave Kennedy, with a dramatic gray-purple base crowned with a dirty pink inflorescence for an ombre effect; *Tillandsia kautskyi* on petrified wood, a lovely mini by Al Evans; *Neoregelia Goosebumps* by Scott Sandel, a clumping mid-size neo with a subtle spray of red.



March Program



The March program featured a SDBS trio of experts: Morlane O'Donnell on Billbergia, Eloise Lau on exotic genera, and Scott Sandel on Neoregelia. It was a hands-on presentation where they brought lots of beautiful plant specimens and focused on cultivation. Scott is also seen above introducing his picks for the plant table.



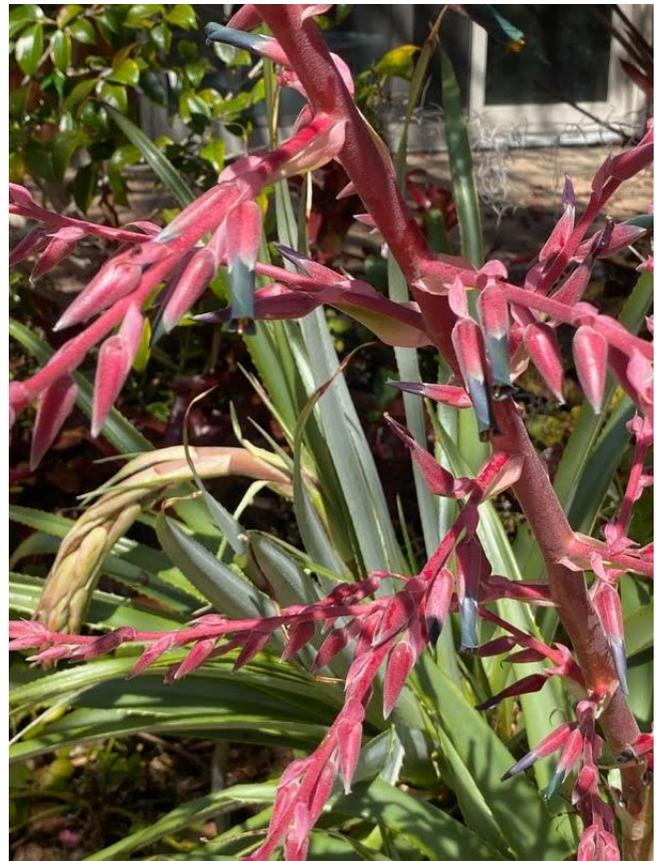
Spring Surprises

by Andrew Wilson

It is difficult to turn down a well grown plant of uncertain parents or origin. Usually, they end up as something quite ordinary but then a surprise springs out. That happened to me twice this year. For the first one Dan Kinnard offered me six or

seven years ago two seedlings he had raised from uncertain seed collected in Argentina. I potted them up and watched them do nothing for two years. Still two inches tall I found a spot where they could be fitted in and ignored – the open side of a narrow concrete block. The soil, if it could be termed so, consisted of dry concrete pieces mixed with a sprinkling of sandy soil. I rarely gave them any water. They did nothing until after a wet winter some growth

began in Spring. The following year saw leaves over two foot long appear when they finally got my attention even though they still were left out of the maintenance round. This Spring they burst out into strong new growth and last month a flower spike was seen to emerge from the base of one of the plants. Below is how they look as I write today (March 24, 2022) with the first spike almost four feet tall. Coming from Argentina the plants may be *Puya spathacea*. More flower spikes are on the way.



The second surprise took place after eight or nine years of waiting. Back then it was an unidentified plant dug up from dry soil in a neglected garden. Then, planted in part shade in leafy sand and left to follow its own destiny, it slowly grew to its present size, over six feet across in all directions and four feet high. It hid an untidy corner with its

graceful foliage but otherwise contributed little to the garden. However, in late January a strong, lateral spike was seen to emerge from the foliage and turn upwards into the sunlight. An imposing plant with a massive spike, it is certainly a portea, but which one? It does not match any of the species with which has been compared nor does it seem

to match any of the *Portea* hybrids shown in any hybrid lists I've seen. But maybe you might have some ideas about it? If so, send in your thoughts (and an image) on what you think it is. The best response will get one of the huge pups. In time it will become a large specimen, but you won't have to wait so long as I did to see it in bloom. Unlike the condition

of the original plant when I dug it up years ago, it is in good growing condition. (Photo on the right).

Editor's note: The photo below is another cool portea blooming now, at Steve Zolezzi's house. Does anyone know what it is?



SDCSS Coffee in the Garden

by Melanie Howe

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society 'Coffee in the Garden' event:

Saturday April 16, 8:30-2:00

8151 Doe Point, SD, 92120, corner house at Hillandale Dr. Please park on Hillandale, not in the cul de sac.

I welcome the Bromeliad Society members to come visit my varied collection of plants including some of Don Patterson's amazing plants. We will have plant and pot vendors on the driveway as well as coffee and treats. If you'd like to shop, please bring cash and a box. I look forward to seeing some of you!!!

In the Garden with Ronee

by Juliana Raposo

Ronee Kozlowski is a fearless gardener who incorporates bromeliads everywhere in her tropical paradise home in Carlsbad.

She transformed her home's entrance by adding bromeliads in the planters, accent pots, and a stone wall next to the front door that is clad with tillandsias. The tillies were attached with glue and enjoy a perfect environment of very bright indirect sun.

The front yard is a colorful scape of sun loving bromeliads with lots of succulents in between. She also combines them with a variety of mangaves, a group of Agave hybrids whose outlandish colors and patterns resemble bromeliad's.



Every inch of space is aptly used to highlight her favorite plants. Along the fence, she created a shaded area with an asian inspired vibe that looks like an ideal spot for a moment of meditation. The backyard's main feature is a lily pond surrounded by palm trees and a variety of tropicals.



Lovingly tended by Ronee, shelving and a shade sail create a room for shade-loving plants. Below, a view of the lily pond which borders the porch. The backyard is home to a canopy of mature dracaenas, palms and angel trumpets and meandering paths full of surprises for the eye.



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'

Yes! 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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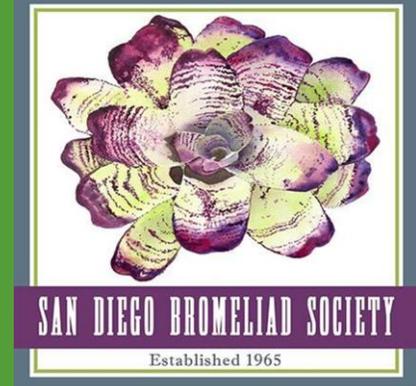
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To send material for publication,
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Make sure to submit your
contribution before the 20th of
the month for inclusion in the
next newsletter.

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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