

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

November 2022

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NUMBER 11

President's Message

By Steve Zolezzi

Well, it's already November and the end of the year is close at hand - the good news is it rained today. Not much, but any rainfall is a welcome event. A harbinger for a wet season, we hope.

Al Evans attended the fall meeting of the Palomar District-CA Garden Club that we are a member of, earlier this month. Al reports they are partnering up with the new San Diego River Mission Park Garden Conservancy formed in response to a major sewage spill in the river. They are dedicated to improving areas around the San Diego River. More info coming in the near future on how to support the cause.

The November meeting will include board elections, so a great turnout will help to support returning and new board members as we move into 2023---but there's still lots happening as 2022 comes to a close. For December Nights in Balboa Park the club is decorating a Christmas

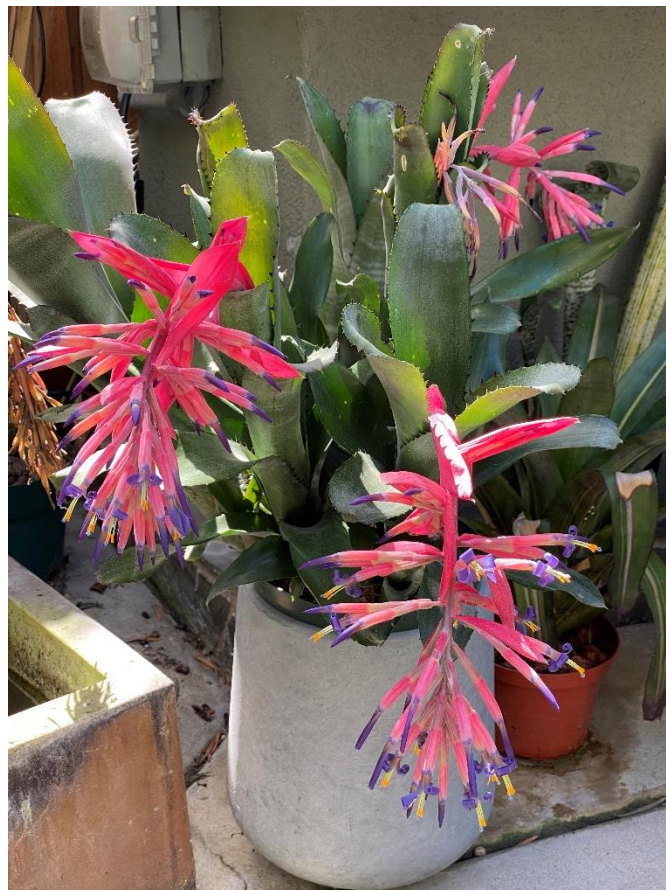
tree that will need to be adorned with bromeliads. Contact Nancy for details nancygroves@me.com.

Our December plant sale on Saturday the 17th and Sunday the 18th where members can unload extra plants for sale and load up on new plants.

Contact Morlane for details morlane.odonnell@att.net.

The December meeting is our traditional Holiday Party so look for info to support and attend. Contact Ronee for details roneek7@gmail.com.

Good gardening!



*Billbergia sanderiana x
Domingos Martins*
Photo by Juliana
Raposo

November Meeting

November 12 @ 10am, Casa del Prado room 104, Balboa Park

Program

For this month, our election month, we stay at home without Zoom. Our speakers are all our own members, Guillermo Marrujo, Ronee Kozlowski and Todd Johnson. Each will provide us with a brief description of their own garden. With a simple format for each talk there will be plentiful opportunity to ask questions, which we encourage you to do. The gardens are situated in different parts of the county from near the coast to the foothills. You'll hear about what does well in each of them.

Plant Table

The raffle table will have a wide variety of Bromeliads from Dave Kennedy's collection - Vrieseas, Orthophytums, Neoregelias, Dyckias, Puyas, bigenerics - and of course Tillandsias.

He will also have a few nice plants for sale - the club gets 20% so snap them up!



Ronee's garden

The auction plants are also by Dave Kennedy. Pictured below:

Orthophytum 'Roberto Menescal'
Vriesea 'Signature'
Tillandsia fasciculata Honduras



David Fell Vrieseas

By Scott Sandel

Recently, in the San Diego Bromeliad Society, we organized an order of plants from David Fell in Hawaii. David offered Bromeliad Society International (BSI) affiliates 50% off on a group affiliated order. Several of us participated and "saved" on shipping! Those who took advantage of the offer included folks from all over our region and members both long-standing and recent. It really did reinforce the importance of a relationship with BSI.



These are a sampling of the plants that arrived. These are some of the world's most coveted Vriesea hybrids.

Reverse Osmosis Wastewater

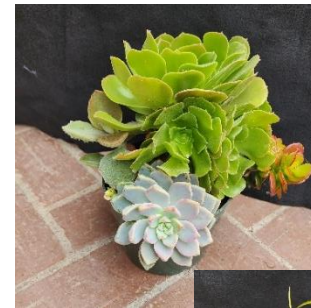
By Al Evans

In 2007 I started looking into an RO (reverse osmosis) system to provide pure, clean water for aquarium water changes. Aquatic plants that barely survived in San Diego water thrived in a mix of 80% RO water to 20% tap water. (It turns out RO water, by itself, is too pure for a healthy aquarium). One concern I had for an RO system was that for each gallon of RO water, there is from 1 ½ gallons to 4 gallons of wastewater that usually goes down the drain. I set up my system so that I could collect the wastewater in 5-gallon buckets and use it for washing dishes, cleaning patios and the like. For a time, I also tried watering a loquat tree exclusively with RO wastewater. I turned out to be a bad idea as the loquat leaves began turning brown and dropping, I presume from too many minerals and salt in the wastewater. (The tree recovered after returning to regular watering with tap water.)

Fast forward a few years and I started a tillandsia collection. Tillandsias prefer RO water by far over our San Diego hard tap water. As my tilly collection grew, my use of RO water for aquariums and airplants increased significantly, past the point of being able to use all the wastewater for dishes and cleaning. RO wastewater is a very hard, alkaline, high PH water which I assumed would kill most plants as it nearly did my loquat tree. It occurred to me there are plants who do might do better in such water... cactus and succulents. I decided to try an experiment and set aside 8 pots with different species of cactus and succulents. Just for the heck of it, I included a couple of bromeliads ...a mini neo and an Aechmea recurvata. I started the trial last March and began watering these plants exclusively with RO wastewater to see what would happen. (They may have received a

little rain but in San Diego, it didn't amount to much.) To my amazement, the cactus and succulents looked better than those getting tap water! I was also very surprised to see that the neo and recurvata were doing very well with RO wastewater. The neo is showing some burning which may be due to excessive direct sunlight in the afternoon. I must say preliminary results are very encouraging. I will keep the trial going to see if there are more long-term detrimental effects but in the short term, I plan on using RO wastewater to water many of my cactus and succulents. It may be that, at some point, I will need to flush the mineral build up from the pots with clean water. I'll keep you posted.

| Water Testing Results | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----|
| | GH General hardness mg/l | KH Carbonate hardness mg/l | PH |
| San Diego tap water | 180 | 120 | 8.5 |
| My RO water | 0 | 0 | 6.2 |
| RO wastewater | > 180 (180 is the highest my kit will record) | 240 | 8.0 |



SDBS Events 2022

SDBS Monthly Meeting

November 12, 2022 @ 10am
Casa del Prado room 104, Balboa
Park, San Diego.

www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

SDBS Winter Sale

December 17-18, 2022



One More...



November bloomer Billbergia sanderiana x 'Domingos Martins'

SDBS 2022

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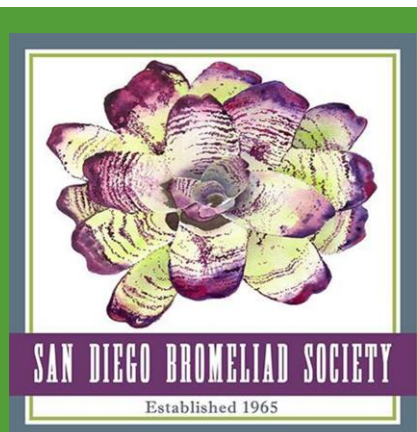
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Bromeliad Society

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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

BROMELIADS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

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

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an award-winning
grower*

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