

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

April 2025

VOLUME LX

NUMBER 4

President's Message

By Kerry Nelson

Spring has sprung and lots of new growth is sprouting up everywhere in my yard. This month I'm sharing a new bloom that I hadn't seen before on a plant that I purchased from Steve Salley when the Club visited his nursery Hula Tropicals two years ago (photo). It is an *Aechmea* 'Black on Black', a cultivar of *victoriana v discolor X recurvata* (red form) according to Bromeliad Society International. Distinguished by its twelve black tapered glossy leaves and low inflorescence which resembles the *recurvata* parent, I bought it for the unusual darkness of its leaves. Tropifora's website describes it as a cross originally made by John Anderson and, "perhaps the blackest plant you will ever see!"

The Board of Directors met on April 6 and continued revising the SDBS Bylaws and Rules of Operation. This is an important task to ensure our guidelines are current and reflective of our practices. When the final draft is ready, it will be distributed

via email for members' review before being voted on at our July general meeting. Your input is welcome. Additional discussion concerned involving new members on committees and in leadership positions. If you have an interest or talent that you'd like to lend our Club, please let me know and I'll be happy to facilitate your placement. We have some big shoes to fill with Newsletter Editor next year. Juliana Raposo has done a fabulous job for more than ten years, and she's ready for someone else to step up! There are other ways to be involved by answering the calls for volunteers. Your effort will always be appreciated.

Coming up soon will be a call for volunteers to assist with the San Diego County Fair. SDBS agreed to participate again this year with Nancy Groves and Robert Kopfstein as Co-Chairs, and a smaller exhibit space than last year to make it more manageable. They have some great ideas already. SDBS's Summer Sale will be held in lieu of our June meeting in Balboa Park. Morlane O'Donnell and Todd Johnson will Co-Chair the Sale, and Juliana Raposo will coordinate a Show Display this year. Both of these activities are key events for the Club, so plan to



volunteer some time and get to know the other members.

Our April meeting will be a field trip held off-site from Balboa Park at our most recently elected Lifetime Honorary Trustee, Robert Kopfstein's home in Vista. He never met a *dyckia* that he didn't like, is a walking encyclopedia of bromeliad knowledge and a gifted storyteller! I look forward to seeing his amazing collection and all of you as well. If I haven't met you yet, please be sure to introduce yourself to me. I'd like to know who you are. See you on Saturday!

April Meeting

Saturday, April 12 @ 10 am in Vista, at Robert Kopfstein's home.

[April 12 SDBS Meeting Invite and RSVP](#)

SDBS April 2025 speaker – Robert Kopfstein, Growing Bromeliads Inland

A lot of people who don't live by the coastal fog belt are intimidated by bromeliads. Luckily, we have just the right speaker to guide us through the ins and outs of growing bromeliads away from the coast.

Robert Kopfstein will walk us through his garden in Vista and share the knowledge accumulated in many years of hands-on gardening. Expect to see spiny urchin-like dyckias, but also rare and unusual plants like tender pitcairnias. Bob does not discriminate.

We decided to ask the speaker to host this presentation at home, so our group can have a boots-on-the-ground experience that a demo or slideshow cannot convey. So, bring your burning questions about soil, feeding, light exposure, and everything in between. We hope you enjoy it!

Lunch will be served. If you haven't RSVPed, please do it asap:

[April 12 SDBS Meeting Invite and RSVP](#)



Changes coming for San Diego Bromeliad Society Dues Schedule

In order to meet the requirements of being members of the California Garden Clubs, Inc, we have to alter our dues schedule. We were on the calendar year with dues being due by January 1st. To bring us into compliance with CGCI, we have to align our dues schedule with the fiscal year beginning July 1st. Accordingly, dues for 2025-2026 fiscal year will be due on June 1st and overdue on July 1st. (For this year only, if you have already paid for 2025, you won't need to pay dues again until June 1st, 2026.) In the future, any dues paid between July 1st and December 31st will be applied to that year and your dues would be payable again by July 1st. Dues paid after December 31st of any year will be applied to the coming year (ie...you would be considered to have already paid the July 1st dues for that year. I apologize for any confusion this may cause but it is a requirement to be an affiliate of the California Garden Clubs, Inc. through which we have numerous benefits ...Non-Profit status through their Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP) and insurance among others. Thank You, Al Evans (CO-Treasurer)

A Decade in Review - Highlights from 10 Years of The Blade 2016-2026

Every month this year we will be publishing an interesting historical article from my tenure as editor of the Bromeliad Blade.

In May 2019 the San Diego Bromeliad Society went on a wonderful garden tour in Orange County. We have to do more of that! The entire SDBS newsletter archive is available on www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

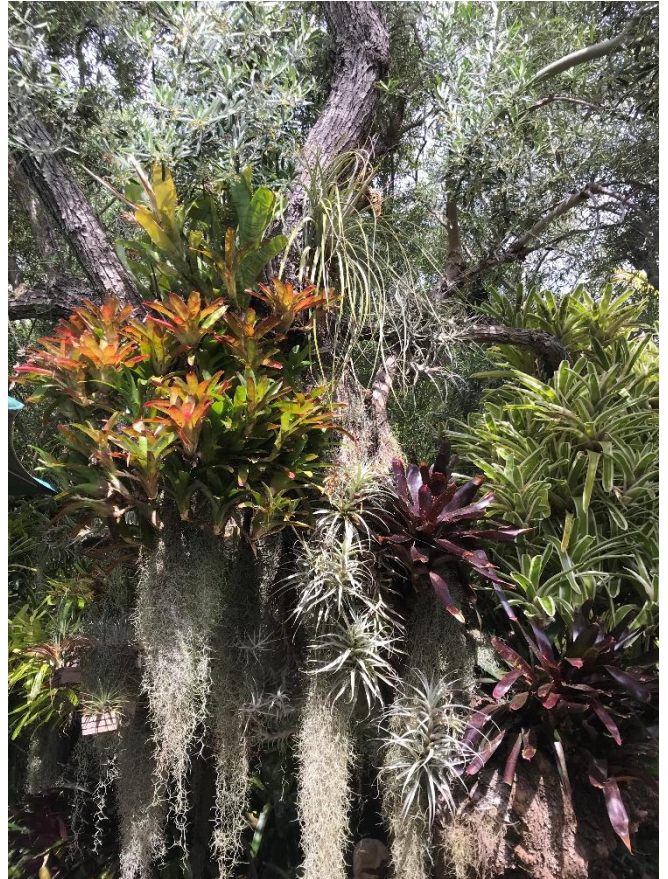
The Orange County garden tour was a blast! It was so good to see how our 2 hosts enjoy their bromeliads.

Chris Lutz in Dana Point has an impeccable garden. Bromeliads galore dwell in every possible surface - mounted, hanging from trees and vertically in an interesting conic display built around palm tree trunks. Mature tropicals like towering euphorbia, rare palms, and a gargantuan *Ficus dammaropsis* provide structure and a stunning backdrop for the broms. And as a centerpiece, a historical olive tree was completely tropicalized with the addition of hundreds of bromeliads to its boughs (photo on right). Chris received us with a spread of yummy snacks and fresh coffee, and lots of places to sit and enjoy his beautiful garden.

Going to Norm Nakanishi's property in Anaheim, (lower right photo) it was

expected that he would have "some" plants to sell. Well... we weren't expecting a nursery that goes well beyond what can be called a hobby. Norm cultivates a range of different tropicals, and the club went to town not only for his bromeliads, but also begonias, palms, cycads... It was a shopping frenzy, and he looked pretty surprised with the reception that his plants had. I could not believe my eyes as we walked from shadehouse to shadehouse filled with the most amazing plants.

Thank you, Chris Lutz and Norm Nakanishi, for your hospitality! And thanks to Andrew Wilson and Eloise Lau for putting together this great garden tour.



In the Garden

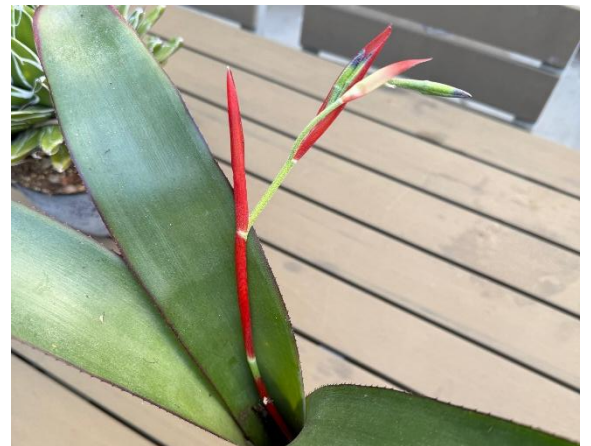
Send us your bromeliad pictures!
We'd love to see how you grow them!



Eloise Lau caught the perfect moment on camera, *Quesnelia* and frog dweller, posing. *Quesnelia marmorata* is a favorite host plant for California tree frogs.

Next, on the top right, this firecracker of a plant was picked up by Andrew Wilson at Liz Butler's sale. Anyone knows what it is? it's huge.

Finally, anyone knows what this is? The plant came from Dan and Eloise years ago, and I always thought it was a *billbergia*. However, it is growing a strange inflorescence that looks somewhat like a *Quesnelia augusto-coburgii* (google it). Could I be so lucky?



SDBS Events 2025

SDBS Monthly Meetings

Every 2nd Saturday of the month
Casa del Prado room 104
Balboa Park, San Diego
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

SDBS March Meeting

April 12, 2025 @10am
Vista, CA. RSVP for address
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

SDBS Diamond Jubilee Celebrating 60 Years of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

May 10, 2025
Carlsbad, at Ronee's
Details coming soon
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

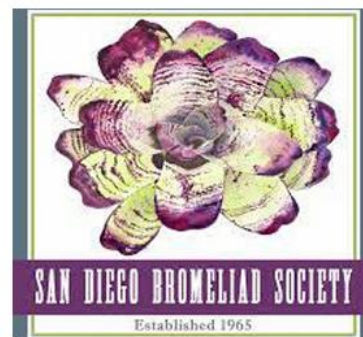
Hey, You! Can You Be Our New Newsletter Editor?

The clock is ticking. We need a volunteer to take over the Blade in January. This year will be the last in my 10-year run as the club's newsletter editor. Yes, believe it or not on January 2016 I started out as SDBS newsletter editor, following in the footsteps of Dan Kinnard. It's time for a change.

This is a non-elected position in the society. If you are interested, I will be offering support throughout the year in this transition. My final issue as editor of the Bromeliad Blade will be December 2025.

San Diego Bromeliad Society Member Plant Sale

Our members {and special vendors} will have all kinds of delicious bromeliads on offer, so come to the park for Tillandsias, Neoregelias, Aechmeas, Billbergias... – *plants you can't find elsewhere.*



**Saturday & Sunday
June 14 & 15
10:00 - 4:00**

Balboa Park
Casa Del Prado, Rm 101

SDBS Officers 2025

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Nathalie Nguyen-Mallory (2024-25)
nathalien71@gmail.com

Lucia Velasquez (2024-25)
luciamccanna@yahoo.com

Essential Bromeliad Resources

Bromeliad Species Database – <https://bsi.org/members/?bsd> Species names keep changing due to new research. Consult the BSD for identification, photos, distribution, and spelling names of bromeliad species. For more granular information, log in as a BSI member.

Bromeliad Cultivar Registry – <https://bsi.org/registry/> The BCR lists information on bromeliad hybrids and cultivars. Here you can check the parentage of a bromeliad hybrid or the species of a sport that goes by a registered name. This is a free resource.

SDBS Library – Our bromeliad-specific library contains titles you won't find anywhere else. Contact our librarian, Eloise Lau, and check out a book.

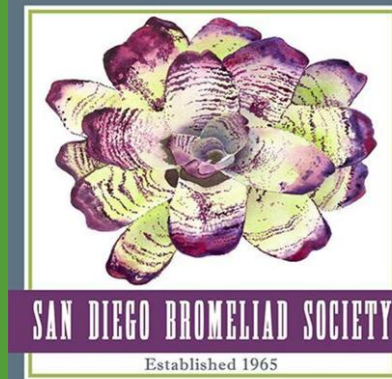
DK ORNAMENTALS

BROMELIADS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Tillandsia Neoregelia Vriesea Orthophytum Bigenerics and more!</p>	<p style="font-style: italic;">Purchase directly from an award-winning grower</p>
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To make an appointment email David Kennedy
[at thedavekennedy@gmail.com](mailto:thedavekennedy@gmail.com) or find him on Facebook

THE BROMELIAD BLADE



Newsletter of the San Diego
Bromeliad Society

Juliana Raposo, Editor

Invitation

We are in constant need of material for publication. Please contact Juliana at julianadraposo@gmail.com

Make sure to submit your contribution before the 20th of the month for inclusion.

Other ways to connect:

SDBS Website

www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

SDBS Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sandiegobro>

SDBS YouTube Channel

[San Diego Bromeliad Society - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/San Diego Bromeliad Society)