

# The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the  
San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

December 2025

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## President's Message

By Kerry Nelson

It is hard for me to believe that it has been two years since you elected me as President of SDBS, and I have many people to thank for encouraging and supporting me along the way. Pam Peters and Bobbi Evans, thank you for nominating me. Dan Kinnard and Eloise Lau, I am grateful for all of the information that you have provided and your kind generosity towards me.

I would like to acknowledge our Lifetime Members, Nancy Groves and Robert Kopfstein for assuming responsibilities as Co-Chairs of the San Diego County Fair SDBS Exhibit, decorating the Christmas Tree for December Nights and cooking the main course for our Holiday Party. Al Evans thank you for staying on as Co-Treasurer, making sure that we are legal and solvent as a non-profit entity and for curating the SDBS Sales Table each month. Thank you to Pam Koide Hyatt for hosting us for the Annual Picnic in August. It is a

tranquil treat to spend time at Birdrock Tropicals!

Many thanks to our Past-Presidents who continue to contribute in meaningful ways. Scott Sandel, thank you for coordinating the Plant Table and Auction, serving as Webmaster, and producing the graphics for advertising our events. (Thank you, Dave Kennedy, for pinch-hitting when Scott is out of town!) Much appreciation to Morlane O'Donnell for lending her expertise in organizing and overseeing productions as Co-Chair of the Summer and Winter Sales, as well as her effective scheduling of spaces within Balboa Park for our meetings and events. Steve Zolezzi thank you for becoming the person who magically makes the audio-visual equipment appear, function, then disappear every month, and your ongoing contributions at our Board Meetings.

I am grateful to ALL of the Officers and Board Members who contribute so much to the behind-the-scenes workings of the Club. Particularly Secretary Debbie Kennedy deserves to be recognized for her work on revising the SDBS Bylaws and Policies and Procedures documents, plus her reorganization of Membership and



the Directory as Membership Chair. These items are much more coherent thanks to her editing and graphic skills. My appreciation extends to Treasurer Ronee Kozlowski for her effectiveness in managing our finances. There have

been quite a few obstacles thrown at her as Treasurer, and she has navigated and negotiated successful outcomes each time. She also graciously hosted SDBS at her home for the May 2025 meeting, (the one meeting that I missed)!

Vice-President Charles Oelsen has provided hospitality oversight of our meetings and events for countless years, and I am appreciative of him for continuing until the end of my term. Nathalie Nguyen-Mallory has done an excellent job of planning our Annual Picnic and Holiday Party. Thank you to her for making these occasions 'must attend' parties for the Club. They are always fun! Renee Visser stepped up to tackle the newly created role of Social Media Coordinator, and will continue to grow that position.

My sincere and deeply felt gratitude goes to Juliana Raposo who wears many hats for SDBS. She has served as Newsletter Editor for more than ten years in fine fashion. Additionally, she has spearheaded the Speakers' Committee and continuously plans interesting and educational monthly programs for all of us. Further, Juliana has brought many great ideas to the Board in general and especially for our Grant-Giving Initiative. She has been a wonderful collaborator for me. I've welcomed her 'can-do' spirit for the past many years!

Big thanks to Todd Johnson for Co-Chairing Sales and serving as Nominations Chair for the last several years. I am looking forward to his Presidency and the new leadership. Todd Johnson and Sandy Vallone will be terrific as incoming President and Vice-President, and the new Board promises to be effective in tackling whatever comes next. We are all grateful that Steve

Bull and Mark Hinton will assume the Newsletter Editor role, a vital communication tool with membership.

Thank you, Sonja Wicker, for applying your organizational skills and creative talents as Co-Chair of the Christmas Tree Committee for December Nights. Special thanks to Richard Plant for his generous donation of plants for the Auction and Plant Table. I'll close with a blanket thank you to all of our members who volunteer or participate in some fashion throughout the year as hosts, auctioneers, vendors at our Sales, set-ups and take-downs, tag pullers, show and tell participants, tree-toppers, bakers, bottle washers,

pamphlet distributors, etc. Here's looking at you: Jim A., Tyrone, Pam, Jessica, Mary M., Mary W., Bob V., Bob W., Alex, Chau, Yvonne, Mike, Guillermo, Dan B., and everyone else who has contributed towards making SDBS an outstanding club. Let's keep it up! It has been a privilege to be your President. Thank you for the opportunity.

## December Potluck & Gift Exchange

Saturday, December 13  
@ 10am in Casa del Prado, room 104 in Balboa Park

As far as traditions go, the SDBS Holiday Potluck is one of our favorites. All of you got a message from Nathalie with the details. We hope to see all of you on Saturday with a wrapped bromeliad-themed gift and a potluck contribution for a fun morning with friends.

Come to the holiday meeting and enter the raffle to win this beautiful tree along with the 2 boxes of tillandsias. The tree cost \$120 excluding any decorations.



# December Nights SDBS Xmas Tree Team

By Sonja Wicker & Nancy Groves



Here are pictures from the tree we decorated. Volunteers included: Nancy Groves, Sonja Wicker, Yvonne Mittie, Bob Walters, Bob Vitacco, Mike Little, and Alex Clark.

Many thanks to United Plant Growers for the generous donation of guzmanias and to Dave Kennedy who donated the tillandsias.

Also San Diego Botanic Foundation tree, which contains an ornament for each of its member organizations, and photo of San Diego Bromeliad Society ornament.



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

## Last one! A word of thanks

When I took over the editor position on January 2016, I was excited to write about bromeliads and learn from others in the club. Over the past ten years, I visited exquisite collections, talked to interesting people, and read great books and articles, all helpful in producing this newsletter, but also very fun on a personal level. The monthly tasks leading to the release of an issue brought me closer to others in the club and led to pen pal relationships with bromeliad people around the world.



It was fun, and it was enough. Time to hear different voices. I am grateful that our colleague Steve Bull is our new Bromeliad Blade editor, starting next month.

I want to thank all of you who read the Blade. Those who came up with ideas and brought up corrections; those who offered encouragement and praise; and most of all, the people who sent me articles and photos over the

years. The Blade would not be as good without your bromeliad stories. I am looking at you, Andrew Wilson, Scott Sandel, Al Evans and many others.

From now on, I look forward to contributing to the Blade with articles and photos, and hope that we all will, too. Thanks, everyone!

# SDBS Winter Sale - December 20<sup>th</sup>

*Join us for our  
ONE-DAY sale  
with a variety  
of vendors  
and from our  
members.*

*We'll have  
tools,  
supplies, and  
experts on  
hand all day  
for all your  
questions.*

Come to Balboa Park  
for the San Diego  
Bromeliad Society's

## **December Bromeliad Sale !**

Balboa Park • Casa del Prado Rm 101



Saturday ONLY  
**Dec. 20th**  
10am - 4:00pm



[SanDiegoBromeliadSociety.org](http://SanDiegoBromeliadSociety.org)





**April 15-18 at the Hilton Hotel, Costa Mesa, California**

**PRESS RELEASE & Year-end Update:**

**Check it out!**

#### **Greetings, Bromeliad Enthusiasts!**

The **World Bromeliad Conference**, held every two years, will be hosted by the Orange County, California affiliate of BSI—the **Saddleback Bromeliad Society**. This exciting event is supported by other California affiliates and bromeliad societies worldwide.

- For details on speakers, the huge plant sale and programs, visit the [BSI Conference Corner](#). You'll find an inspiring lineup and a truly unique program!

#### **Early Registration Incentives**

- **Early-bird Registration** Before **December 1st**: Receive a \$25 coupon for the Plant Sale.
- **Early-Bird Rate**: Register at \$395 per person before January 15. After that, the rate increases to \$425.
- **Bonus**: Register by December 15<sup>th</sup> and you will be entered into a lottery to win a full refund of the \$395 registration fee!

#### **Hotel Information**

Reserve one of the block-out rooms at the Hilton. No upfront payment is required, and reservations can be changed or canceled later if needed. It's all at [Conference Corner](#).



## SDBS Events 2025

### SDBS Monthly Meetings

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month  
 Casa del Prado room 104  
 Balboa Park, San Diego  
[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

### Holiday Brunch and Gift Exchange

December 13, 2025  
 Casa del Prado, room 104, Balboa Park  
[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

### 1-Day Winter Sale

December 20, 2025  
 Casa del Prado, room 101, Balboa Park  
[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

# Discover the Vibrant Beauty and Fascinating Diversity of Bromeliads.

Join us in Costa Mesa, California, for the *ultimate* bromeliad event:

- ✦ **The World's Largest Bromeliad Sale:** Shop early for rare and exquisite specimens and new introductions. All registrants get **exclusive early access!**
- ✦ **Rare Plant Auction:** Acquire the best! Bid on highly sought-after specimens to elevate your collection.
- ✦ **Bromeliad Masterpieces:** Be amazed the judged plant show that features a breathtaking array of species, cultivars, and hybrids.
- ✦ **Connect with the Community:** Catch up with your friends and join a passionate community of growers, scientists and enthusiasts at this memorable event.
- ✦ **Expert Presentations:** Learn and be inspired by talks from leading bromeliad experts from around the globe.
- ✦ **Keynote Dinner:** Enjoy a delightful dinner and keynote presentation by Graeme Barday.
- ✦ **Exclusive Tours:** Visit world-renowned bromeliad nurseries and a beautifully designed residential garden.



We can't wait to see you there!

[BromeliadConference.com](http://BromeliadConference.com)

"California Dreaming" World Bromeliad Conference 2026 is presented by Bromeliad Society International and the Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society.



*California Dreaming*

**BROMELIAD**  
 Society International  
 BSI World Conference

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April 14-18, 2026  
 Hilton Hotel Costa Mesa, CA

### Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition & Examples
Ageotropic	Means growing in all directions, unaffected by gravity. <i>Tillandsia bulbosa</i> is an example of ageotropic plant.
Bigeneric	A plant that is the result of crossing two different genera. It will have an X in front of its name, as xAnamea Scorpio. The bigeneric name will be a cross between the genera involved in the parentage, as in the above case: <i>Ananas</i> and <i>Aechmea</i> = xAnamea.
Bract	This is a specialized leaf found below a flower or on the stalk of a flower cluster and sometimes brightly colored. Ex: billbergias
Cauliscent	Stem-like growth. The genus <i>Orthophytum</i> has several caulescent species.
Cultivar	A noteworthy specimen that receives a name and is propagated by clones. Example: <i>Vriesea (pseudoastra)</i> Eureka is a variegated form of the species.
Digitate	Finger-like inflorescence with 'branches' coming from one point. <i>Tillandsia disticha</i> has a digitate flower spike
Dioecious	Having imperfect flowers with male and female flowers borne on separate plants. Not common in bromeliads. A notable example: hechtias
Discolor	Having two different colors. In a bromeliad leaf it usually means a green leaf with red underside. Ex: <i>Aechmea fulgens</i> var. <i>discolor</i>
Epiphyte	An epiphyte is plant that grows attached to another plant/tree but it is not a parasite. Many bromeliads are epiphytes.
Flavo	Means yellow. Ex: <i>Tillandsia flavibracteata</i> , which has yellow bracts.
Fenestration	Fenestration The white spaces between the colored markings on foliage <i>Vriesea</i> that let the light into the leaf, like little windows. Ex: <i>Vriesea fenestralis</i>
Flocculose	Full of small flocks or tufts of wool or soft hairs. Ex: <i>Puya flocculose</i> . Many puya flowers are enrobed in "wool" for cold protection.
Grex	A <i>grex</i> is the <i>entire</i> offspring of a specific hybrid cross between two named parents (species or other hybrids) The term comes from Latin <i>grex</i> = "flock."

### Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition & Examples
Hemiepiphyte	This is a plant that spends part of its life cycle as an epiphyte.
Inflorescence	Includes the flower stem and the flower head with usually small, sometimes insignificant flowers
Imbricate	Overlapping sections like the ones on the inflorescence of <i>Tillandsia concolor</i> .
Lanceolate	Lanceolate Large at the base then tapering to a point. <i>Quesnelia testudo</i> has lanceolate leaves.
Mesic	A growing habitat containing a moderate amount of moisture. We also say that mesic bromeliads are varieties that like humidity and moisture, like <i>Mezobromelia</i> .
Meristem	A region of plant tissue, found mainly at the growing tips of roots and shoots and floral shoots, consisting of actively dividing cells forming new tissue. Labs use meristem tissue to clone plants.
Monoecious	Having perfect flowers with male and female parts in the same flower, includes most bromeliads.
Myrmecophyte	Ants inhabit the base of bulbous <i>Tillandsia</i> varieties. An example <i>T. bulbosa</i>
Novar	A variegated or albo-marginated plant that has lost its variegation. Happens a lot with neoregelias.
Pedicel	Flower stalk, as in <i>Tillandsia pedicellata</i>
Rupicolous	Living or growing on rocks, like <i>Alcantarea imperialis</i>
Semi-sessile	Semi-sessile Flowers on a short stem, as in <i>Guzmania breviscapa</i>
Simple inflorescence	A single, unbranched inflorescence, like <i>Vriesea splendens</i>
Stolon	Long woody stem from a mother plant to a pup. <i>Neoregelia fireball</i> has a stoloniferous habit.
Saxicole	A plant that grows on and between rock crevices. <i>Sincoraeas</i> usually grow this way.
Trichomes	Specialized fur-like structures in leaves. They absorb moisture from air in dry living conditions. <i>Tillandsia purpurea</i> grows on sand dunes in the Peruvian desert. It captures moisture from fog with its trichomes.
Xeric	A low moisture growing environment. <i>Puya raimondii</i> grows in a xeric environment, in the rocky slopes of the Andes

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## Essential Bromeliad Resources

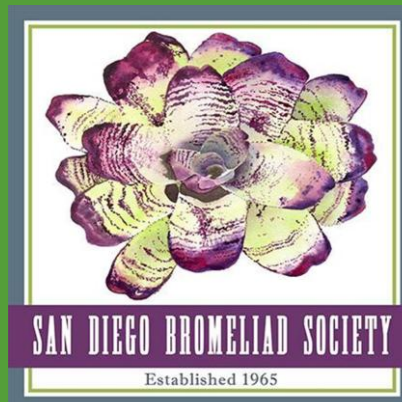
**Bromeliad Species Database** – <https://bsi.org/members/?bsd> Species names keep changing due to new research. Consult the BSD for identification, photos, distribution, and spelling names of bromeliad species. For more granular information, log in as a BSI member.

**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.

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## 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](mailto:julianadraposo@gmail.com)

Make sure to submit your contribution before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion.

Other ways to connect:

### SDBS Website

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

### SDBS Facebook Group

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

### SDBS YouTube Channel

[San Diego Bromeliad Society - YouTube](#)