

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

August 2016

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NUMBER 8

Editor's Notes

by Juliana Raposo

This month we will go without the President's Corner. Robert Kopfstein is on vacation.

Summer vacation is also the reason for the short and late newsletter – feel free to complain at the annual picnic. I happened to take a long vacation too, in Brazil, where I saw a few interesting bromeliad things I hope to share in a couple articles soon. First, a visit to the bromeliad collection of one of the top experts in the field – Elton Leme, who was just returning from speaking at the WBC in Houston where he also gave the keynote address. Next, my trip to Ibitipoca State Park, in Minas Gerais state, notorious for its diverse flora and endemism.

For this month, I asked our SDBS friends who attended the World Bromeliad Conference to write about what they saw. I believe the topic deserves a little extra coverage, since I wasn't the only one who missed the July meeting.

Thoughts on WBC 2016

by Dan Kinnard

The World Bromeliad Conference for 2016 was held in Houston, Texas. If you weren't able to go, plan to attend the next WBC 2018 in San Diego. Perhaps I can give you a bit of the flavor of the conference but I certainly can't fill in all the details. One must have been there. Attending is the only way to really appreciate the conferences and what they have offer. Convince some friends to go also but don't spend all of your time with them – meet and mingle with everyone. Once you have experienced a conference or two, you'll be hooked.

June may not be the best time to visit Houston since heat and humidity are abundant. The weather was better than the last conference in Houston which was in July when there was even more humidity and heat available. That being said, there wasn't much need to enjoy much of the heat and humidity unless you wanted to go on the interesting tours of member's gardens, participate in the BBQ, or visit some of the great museums and visitor attractions. On

second thought one does need to be ready to experience at least some the weather. A few days before we arrived, there had been about five inches of rain in one day – not for the entire year like here! The day we arrived, the plane was delayed because of a giant thunderstorm over the area. Then we arrived to sunny, clear skies. As the saying goes: If you don't like the weather in Texas, just wait one minute.

The conference venue was good – the rooms were comfortable, there were good spaces for the show, sale and lectures, the catered food and service was very good, a variety of restaurants are within the center, and, if the heat was too much, ice skating was available in the very same center. One could also readily get retail therapy sessions (translate shopping). I did mine at the conference auction and sales area – to each their own.

A conference is the time I manage to catch up with old friends (both figuratively and literally) and make new ones. Since it literally is a world conference, bromo-holics are attending from the four corners of world (it is still flat, isn't it?). This gives us a chance to meet others interested in our plants and catch up

with what friends have been doing in the last two (or perhaps four) years.

Of course at the conference there are presentations, lots of them on a variety of subjects. Some will interest me more than others. I usually force myself to attend at least one that I don't think I would be interested in just to become familiar with additional plants, scientific processes and /or habitats. Some of the speakers and their subjects were: Elton Leme - *the Cryptanthoid Complex*, José Manzanares - *the genus Mezobromelia*, Eric Gouda - *collecting bromeliads in the Andes*, Bruce Holst - *exploring bromeliads of Belize*, Pam Koide Hyatt - *bromeliad*

hybrids, Gregory Brown - *taxonomy systematics*, and Thomas Givnish - *100 million years of bromeliad history*. Some of the names might be readily recognized. Even though all of the topics weren't my favorites, the speakers often made the talk interesting and I learned new things.

In addition to speakers, other items to take advantage of were: the show, a banquet, a BBQ at a nursery, some very interesting garden tours, a rare plant auction, a silent auction, a luncheon, a reception, and plant sales. The plant auctions and sales can be dangerous — I had to control myself to prevent having to build another shadehouse upon my

return! Visiting gardens in other areas lets us see what is grown and how. It was amazing to see what lots of humidity and heat (either natural or in the greenhouse) can do. The show was beautiful, as always, with plants that were all-too-perfect. Most could have passed for plastic. I didn't see the "I've had a rough life" specimens that we have.

The conference was good. They are all good, just some better than others from my point of view. Others think the same but better is applied to different conferences. Be sure to plan on attending WBC 2018 in San Diego and get into the conference habit.

July Meeting

Program

We had SDBS member Andrew Wilson reporting about the WBC in Houston. Following Andrew's presentation, SDBS member Scott Sandel talked about his recent bromeliad explorations in Colombia.

July's Opportunity Table

This month's opportunity plants came from our VP David Kennedy. Auction items were *Tillandsia concolor*, *Vriecantarea 'Pink Giant'* and a neo hybrid by Chester Skotak.



Show and Tell

T. straminea, *T. fasciculata* var. *hondurensis* - Pam Peters

Pitcairnia undulata hybrid, *Pitcairnia chiapensis* hybrid - Bob Wright

Orthophytum ophiuroides - David Kennedy

T. tenuifolia - Lucia Velazquez

Neoregelia 'Hypnotic', *Neoregelia 'Heat Rash'* (both Neos are 2016 WBC releases by Chester Skotak), *Nidularium leprosum*, *Tillandsia* hybrid (Arden - probably *concolor* x *flabellata*) - Scott Sandel

T. chiapensis x *concolor*, *T. fasciculata* var. *fasciculata* - Morlane O'Donnell

T. fasciculata hybrid – unattributed

Upcoming Events

Highlighted Meetings

August 13, at 11 AM

SSBS Annual Picnic

Hosted by Robert Walters

www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

September 10, 2016 at 10 AM

San Diego Bromeliad Society

Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 104

www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

Monthly Meetings

1st Tuesday, 6:30 PM

San Diego Orchid Society

Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101

www.sdorchids.com

2nd Saturday, 10 AM

San Diego Bromeliad Society

Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 104

www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

2nd Saturday, 1 PM

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101

www.sdcss.net

2nd Monday, 5 PM

San Diego Horticultural Society

Surfside Race Place at the Delmar Fairgrounds

www.sandiegohorticulturalsociety.org

Annual SDBS Picnic

No meeting in Balboa Park this month. It's time for our yearly summer gathering, the Annual SDBS Picnic.

August 13, Saturday, 11 AM

The residence of Bob Walters

4238 Pepper Drive

San Diego 92105

[619-282-2246](tel:619-282-2246)

cactusbobboy@gmail.com

Please RSVP to Bob as soon as you can, if you haven't already. Bring a side dish or dessert. And a chair if you prefer to sit.

Free raffle of excellent plants, one (at least) per member.

Bromeliad Seeds

I collected a few seeds during my visit to Brazil. Some came from Elton Leme's collection and some came from Ibitipoca.

Contact me at

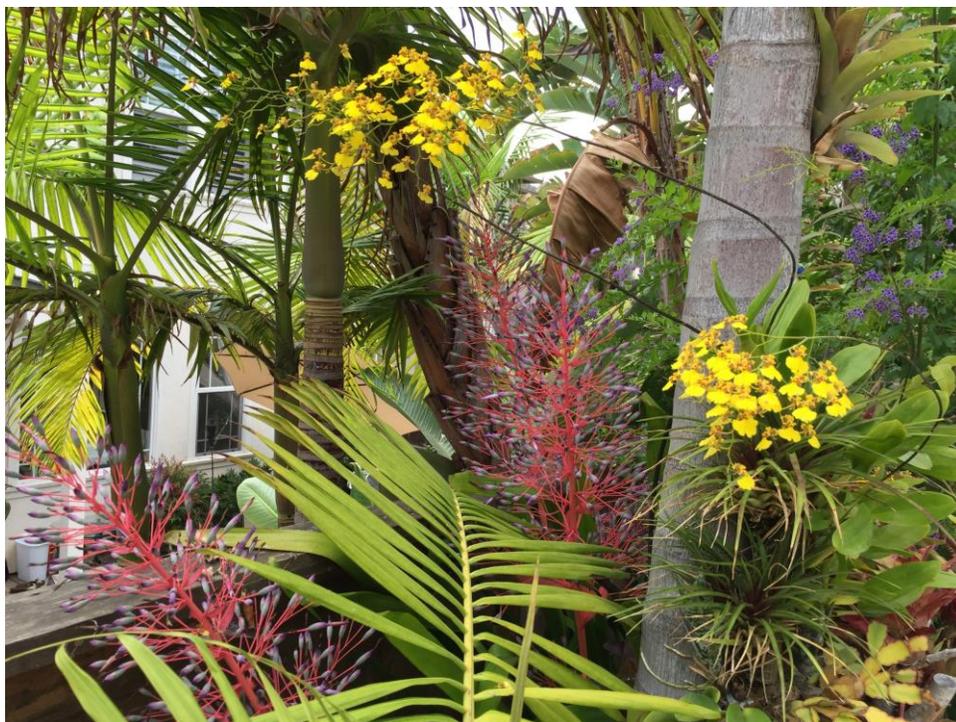
julianadraposo@gmail.com if you are interested.

Couldn't Show and Tell

by Juliana Raposo

Coming back home after a month's long vacation can be scary for a gardener. Fortunately, this was a great surprise! Bromeliads and orchids blooming at the same time feel like hitting the jackpot.

Portea petropolitana flowering with oncidium flexuosum.



SDBS 2016

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About Hechtia

by Andy Siekkinen

I noticed that Mr. Kopfstein mentioned that there were two Hechtia marnier-lapostollei plants in the World Bromeliad Conference show. It seems that he doesn't realize that there are different clones of that species in cultivation and even grown under the same conditions (very dry and abused in my collection) that the plants can look quite different in size and density of trichomes on the leaves. So here is a picture showing that two different clones of that species can look quite different.



While growing conditions can make a big difference, so can genetics. A good reminder for people not to jump to conclusions too quickly.

SDBS MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 10 AM on the second Saturday of each month at Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 104.

San Diego Bromeliad Society Webpage

www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

THE BROMELIAD BLADE

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To send material for the newsletter, 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.

2016 SDBS Membership

To renew your membership, please contact Al Evans, Treasurer

alevansoo1@earthlink.net

858-492-9866

Renewal Fees: 1 year

Single email \$13

Dual email \$17

Single USPS \$28

Dual USPS \$32

Renewal Fees: 2 years

Single email \$22

Dual email \$30

Single USPS \$52

Dual USPS \$60