SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Established 1965

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

March 2019

VOLUME LIV NUMBER 3

President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

How lucky we are to live in southern California. Yes, this year we have had a large amount of rain and it's been a little colder than what we've been used to, but for the most part, what a perfect climate we have to cultivate our beloved plants. I shall never again complain about cold weather in San Diego as I am writing this from my hotel room looking out at the melting snow from the surrounding rock formations in Sedona. It was only four days ago when record snowfall occured which shut down roads and businesses making finding an open restaurant trecherous. You definitely cannot grow bromeliads year round here without a greenhouse. I did find some realistically made plastic tillandsias (four of them) in the hotel gift shop though. So much for a bromeliad quest in Sedona during the winter. Spring will be upon us soon. There are some fun and educational events planned for the near future. This month will feature three of our members who have researched three popular bromeliads and will share their findings with you. Next month will feature Dr. Teri Bert from Florida as our speaker. She will present part 2 of a program in which part 1 was presented in the past. She will speak on lesser known genera. Don't forget our tour of two Orange County gardens in May. More info will be forthcoming. The Del Mar Fair is coming in June. I'm happy to see a lot of volunteers at Nancy's meeting last month. Our show and sale is waiting in the wings. We still need a show chairperson. It will not be a stressful position, honest. Meanwhile, happy and safe growing.

Definitely not an environment conducive for growing bromeliads. Left, Aechmea kertesziae, a winter bloomer in a San Diego backyard.

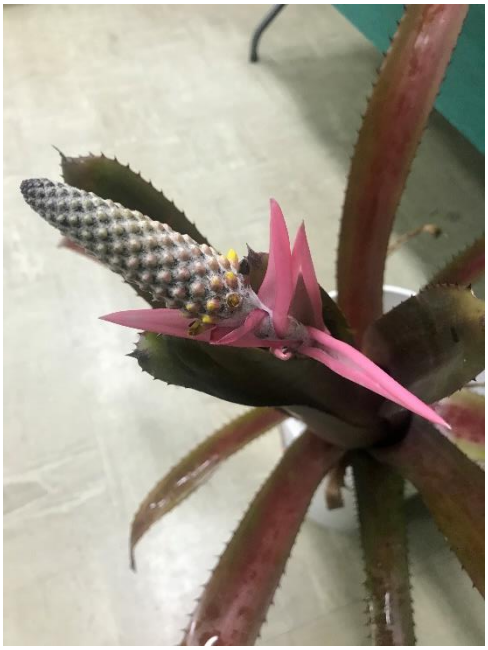
February Highlights

Juliana Raposo presented a slideshow about bromeliad growers from the former Brazilian Bromeliad Society.

Li-Xiang
Tillandsia rothii and T. 'Arco Iris' (chiapensis x tricolor)
Grows under 50% shade

Show n Tell

Robert Kopfstein
Nidularium fulgens
55% shadecloth, *photo*



Charles Oelsen
Aechmea bromeliifolia, *photo*

Susan Nikkel
Tillandsia vernicosa 'Purple Giant'

Don Nelson
Billbergia nutans
Tillandsia araujei 'Bronze'
Aechmea recurvata

Morlane O'Donnell
Racinaea 'Seuss'
photo above
Tillandsia 'King Cobra'
Tillandsia 'Bartolo'
Tillandsia 'Vincente Bacaya'

March Meeting

by Andrew Wilson

Talk

Sometimes when we look at a bromeliad name like 'Amazing Grace' we ask 'Now, where did that come from?' This one (a Neoregelia, by the way) is well known to many collectors and growers as a plant named after Grace Goode, the Australian hybridizer. However, there are hundreds, if not thousands of others that require background work to uncover the history and the reason for the name selected. Our speakers this month, Morlane, Dan and Andrew have picked cultivars (a hybrid or form) to describe and show. They will give tips about cultivating them and, most important, will tell us the history of why they got their name. The names given sometimes express how the plant represents itself ('Jewelry Shop' with its bright and varied colors or 'Alabaster' with its pale marble color for instance) but many are named for the hybridizers (or friends of theirs) or for the finders of a new form. For the examples picked this month each is named after a person because the history of a person is often easier to identify and track down. There is sometimes a sad story or one of achievement behind the name. You will find out who they are and hear some of their fascinating histories during the meeting.

Plant Table

This month we will have, once again, a plant table supplied by our own David Kennedy. Enough said. This should be all motivation you'll ever need to come to the meeting.

SD Fair Planning Meeting

Right after the club meeting, stick around for the SD fair display planning meeting with Nancy Groves. Agenda includes dates, regulations and space plans.

SDBS participation at the fair is a great way to showcase bromeliads for the general public. Plus, our display always generates great cash awards for the club.

Also on March 9: South Bay Bromeliad Show & Sale

Nice opportunity to stock up for spring! See flyer attached to monthly email message. The sale will be at Live Arts Plantscapes Nursery, from 10 AM to 3 PM. Featuring plants from member's collections and commercial sellers. The nursery location is 1323 & 1329 W 130th Street in Gardena, CA.

Zoo Redux

Dave and Deb Kennedy have been busy relocating the zoo bromeliad garden. Here's the latest:

The relocation of the Kent Bromeliad Garden within the San Diego Zoo is nearly complete. We are extremely grateful to the Zoo horticulture staff, which has provided much support. They are truly a swell bunch of folks to work with.

We are seeking donations of Tillandsias and mini Neos from SDBS members to fill in some newer epiphytic displays. Small or medium-sized plants preferred. Please bring them to this month's meeting or make arrangements with Dave Kennedy.

Above: Dave in the garden's previous location. Below: Kent plaque and garden's new spot next to the flamingo exhibit

Spotlight

Steve Salley's Plants Make a Splash in the San Diego Spring Home & Garden Show

Although SDBS did not participate in the garden fair this spring, bromeliads were prominently represented. Our member Steve Salley provided all the bromeliads for this fabulous display by landscape designer Dave Erickson and group. You can see that bromeliads are the highlight of this exhibit!

Upcoming Events

SDBS Meetings

March 9, 2019
SDBS Monthly Meeting
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

April 13, 2019
SDBS Monthly Meeting
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

SDBS Events 2019

SDBS Display at the Del Mar Fair
Del Mar Fairgrounds
June 1 – July 4, 2019

SDBS Annual Show & Sale
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado room 101
June 8 & 9, 2019

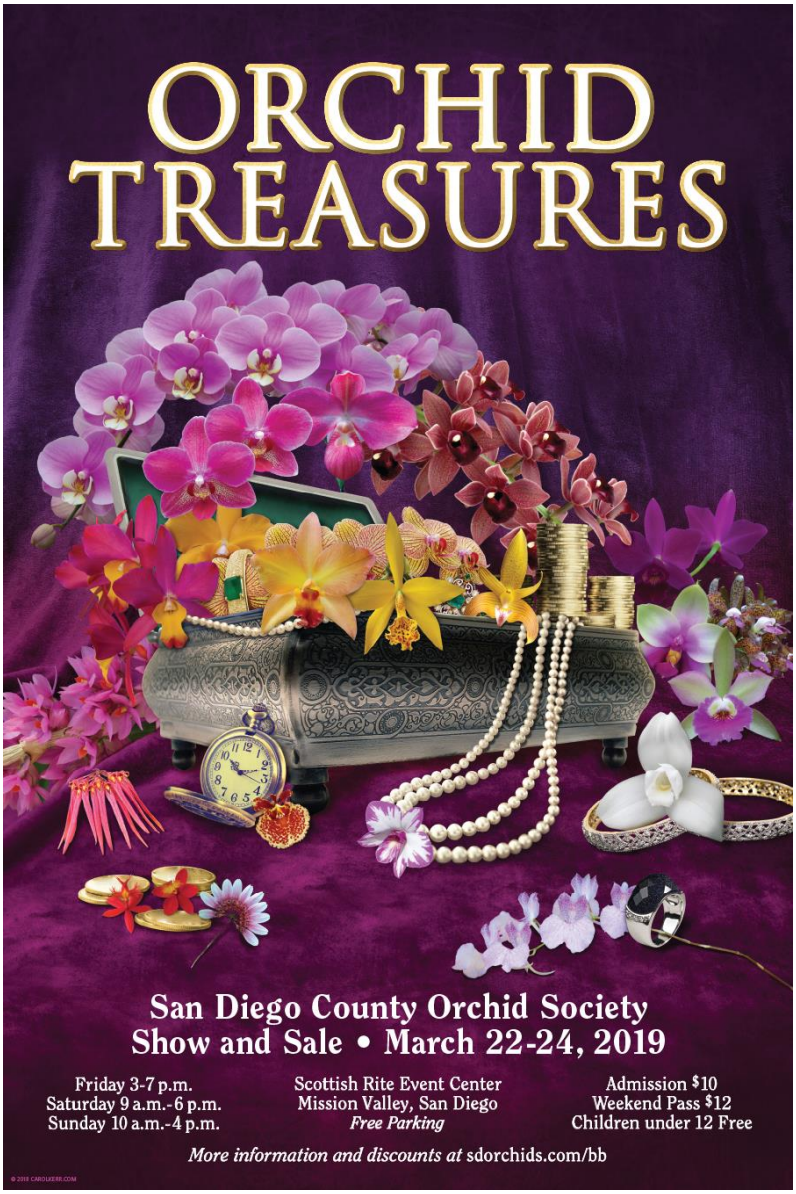
Monthly Meetings

1st Tuesday, 6:30 PM
San Diego Orchid Society
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101
www.sdorchids.com

2nd Saturday, 1 PM
San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101
www.sdcss.net

2nd Wednesday, 7 PM
San Diego Epiphyllum Society
Balboa Park, Case Del Prado, Room 101
www.SanDiegoEpi.org

2nd Monday, 5:45 PM
San Diego Horticultural Society
Congregation Beth Israel (CBI)
9001 Towne Centre Drive
San Diego, CA 92122
sdhort.org



SDBS 2019

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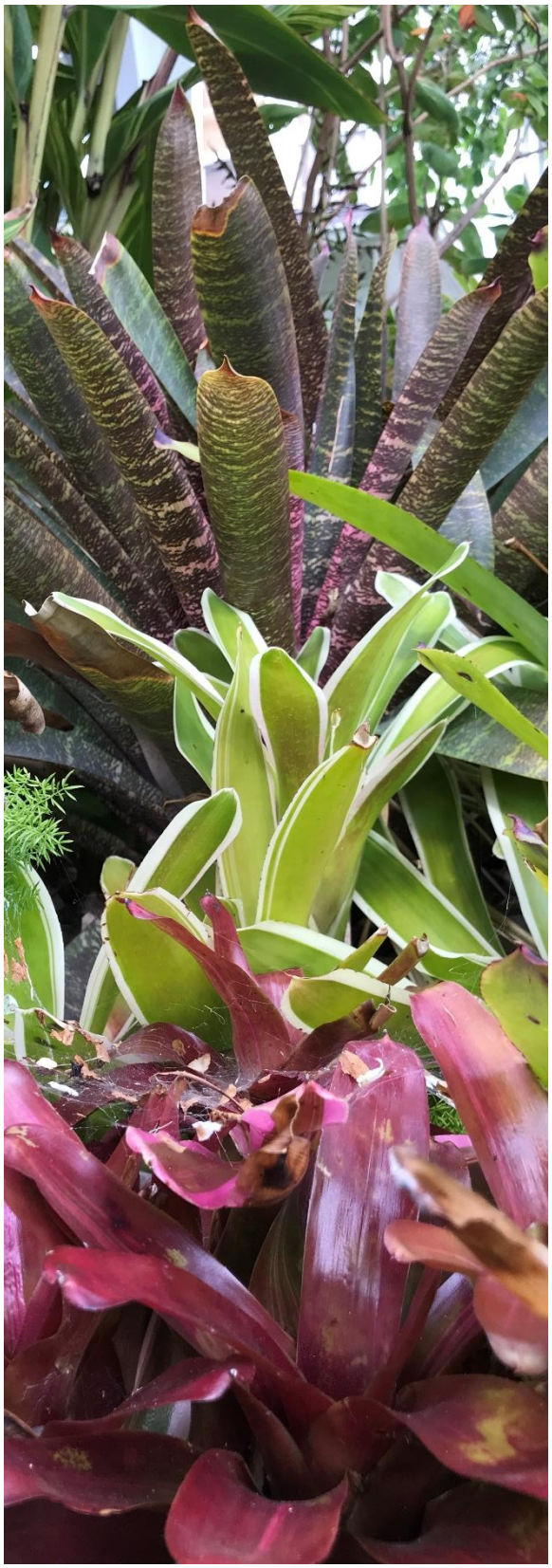

THE BROMELIAD BLADE

Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

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To send material for publication, 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.

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