SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Established 1965

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

October 2021

VOLUME LVI NUMBER 10

President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

Happy fall, everyone! It's been quite a start. We had record breaking temperatures, then two days later, thunder, lightning, and heavy rain. After having several dry months, the rain was certainly a welcome visitor to our gardens. Let's hope it makes a regular appearance.

A big thank you goes out to Eloise Lau and the rest of the speaker committee for organizing the picnic at San Dieguito Park. It was a terrific way of getting everyone back together to meet face to face. Those who attended enjoyed good company, ample food and drink, and a fun bromeliad exchange game that only required knowing how to count steps.

I'm pleased to announce that we are meeting again in Balboa Park for the October meeting. Masks are REQUIRED and we will social distance. We will not be having refreshments until further notice, hopefully we can resume that part of the meeting soon. This month we will have a Show & Tell portion in which all members are encouraged to bring at least one plant. Remember, whoever participates, gets a ticket for the plant table. Our program will consist of four or five members speaking in depth about a special plant in their collection. We will resume our plant auction and plant table.

Goudaea ospinae var gruberi

This month's plant table will consist of plants donated by our members. Once again we are calling upon your generosity in asking you to bring up to five plants. This has been done and has been very successful in the past. During the pandemic I'm sure many of your plants have produced several offsets and this is a way for you to find a home for them. That way the space you've made can be filled with new plants from the plant table.

Kerry Nelson has been working hard as our Nomination Chair. Up for election in November will be the offices of President, Vice President, and two Directorships. The President and Vice President terms are for one year and the Directors are for two. If you are good with money and you are interested in being the Treasurer, let Al or Kerry know. The membership will vote during the November meeting.

I'd like to thank all the members who loaned their plants to the wonderful exhibition at the San Diego Botanic Garden. Without you, the exhibit would not have been the success it was. A big thank you to Steve Zolezzi for organizing and tending the SDBS booth every Sunday at the garden. Under his watch, $1531 was taken in

for our club. Thank you to all who donated plants and to those who volunteered their time working the booth with Steve. Well done all!

There will be a Board meeting via Zoom, Sunday, Nov. 7. All members are invited to attend. If you want to attend, send Scott Sandel an email and he will send you a Zoom link a few days before the meeting.

We are on the calendar of events to be held in Balboa Park for a sale on Sunday (one day only), Dec. 19. It will be held in room 101 and the patio is available. If you would like to be a vendor, shoot me an email and let me know. More details will be given in November.

I hope you all will attend our first meeting as we resume being in Balboa Park. Until I see you then, safe and happy growing.

October Program

By Eloise Lau

Our program for the month of October is you, our members. It will be a tell and show or if you want a show and tell.

All members please bring a plant and tell us:

1. It's name

2. Where you got it and how long you have had it

3. What area of SD you live in and where you grow it (full sun, shade, etc.)

4. If you want, tell us a little about it. If it is a species where it is found in nature and if a hybrid who made the cross and what plants were used for the cross

You can find information at BSI.org, the Journals under Publications from the menu bar then to BSI Journal Archive, the Cultivar Register under Bromeliads, or you can also do a general search on the web.

Plant Table

By Stephen Zolezzi

After having great participation at the September picnic we are anticipating many members are looking forward to meeting in person again.

The program organizing committee is asking all those attending to participate with the show and tell portion of the meeting in place of a program----each participant will receive one opportunity table ticket. We are looking forward to seeing and hearing about your plants. And you will receive one opportunity table ticket for your effort.

There will be two auction plants fresh in from Hawaii to drool over and bid on.

The opportunity table (plant raffle) will consist of members donated plants----please bring up to 5 cleaned and labeled plants----the last time we did this we had almost 100 plants to select from.

Your continued interest, participation and good fellowship are the backbone and success of the Society, we look forward to sharing, learning, and growing together. All the best!

Inside the mouth of a shark: Neo carcharodon 'Giant' and it's white flowers

Aechmea serrata

An interesting thing that came out from the SDBG bromeliad show was shared by SDBS member Steve Salley. I'll let him explain:

"Hi Juliana. I wanted to give you an update. Today I went to the Botanic Garden to pick up the plants I lent them. The curator for the gardens was there to meet me. He said they have received a communication from the governing body for all Botanic Gardens worldwide. They sent out a list of plants that they are looking for, one of which is Aechmea serrata. It has become extinct in the wild and they are trying to find out if any of the Botanic Gardens worldwide, have one. The San Diego Botanic Garden was eager to get mine (that I lent for the show) so I sold it to them for $45 (with a pup). I got mine from Pam Koide, maybe 25 or 30 years ago. As far as I know, you, me, the Botanic Gardens and a part time worker of mine, are the only people who have it. I am sure it exists in other collections (I hope) around the world. I gave one to the raffle table at a meeting around 8 or 10 years ago, so there might be another one around? In San Diego. So I thought you might find this interesting, guard your plant as there are few left and it is extinct accept for our collections. Steve".

It turns out Aechmea serrata is also a showstopper, with a glowing lavender and pink inflorescence. Were it not by Steve bringing it to the show, I would never have known this plant existed. I checked the Florapix and FCBS databases and found Steve's plant to have a more colorful and larger inflorescence than the ones online.

Steve's Aechmea serrata on display at the show.

Aechmea serrata is native to Martinique in the Lesser Antilles and is unfortunately extinct in the wild. It survives in botanic gardens and private collections.

SDBS 2020

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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