SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Established 1965

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

May 2023

VOLUME LVIII NUMBER 5

Editor's Notes

By Juliana Raposo

We look forward to seeing you at the Nursery Tour on May 13. Remember, there's no Balboa Park meeting due to the tour. There's still time to arrange for a carpool. Find the details in the newsletter.

Have you noticed any unexpected changes in your plants due to the off-the-charts spring rains? And foggy days. Over here, the sun isn't out much, and the flowers are taking forever to open. Also, every little seed lying around has sprouted. I've never done so much weeding in my life!

Last year I gave a talk about Alcantareas in Rio de Janeiro. When I was there in December 2021, Alcantareas were in bloom everywhere; in gardens, mountains, roadsides. My Brazilian friends said they had higher than usual rains the months before.

Lo and behold, as I was doing the rounds in my front yard this Earth Day, I found… my Alc. Julietta is getting ready to bloom! The rains. I am very excited this is the first time it happens around here, ok?

Rainforest Flora & Hula Tropicals Nursery Tour Next Week

Saturday, May 13, 2023 – No meeting in Balboa Park this month! We will go on a nursery tour instead. We will meet at Rainforest Flora at 10am. Carpooling is encouraged! If you are available to provide transportation or need a ride, please contact Stephen Zolezzi at steve@stephenzolezzi.com .

About Rainforest Flora

6920 W Lilac Rd. Bonsall 92003
rain-forest-flora.com

On May 13 we are invited by Tillandsia legend Paul Isley to tour the Rain Forest Flora greenhouse in Bonsall, north San Diego County.

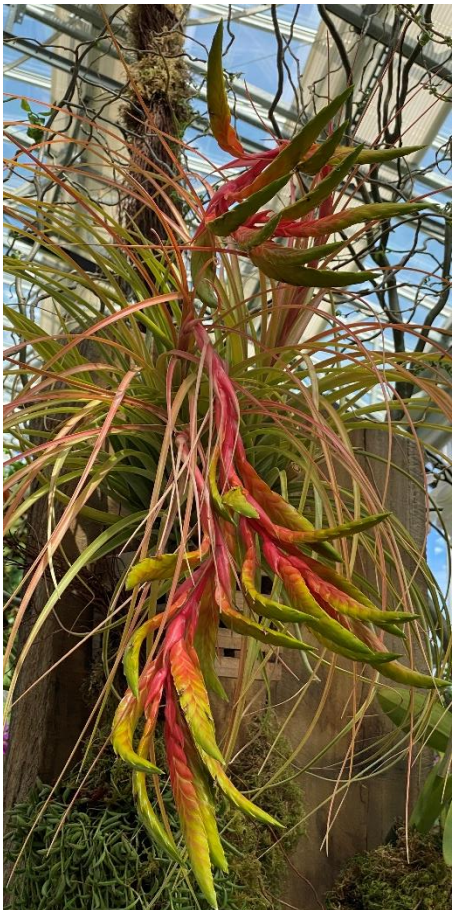
This is a commercial growing space, rebuilt from the fire seven years that devastated the old greenhouse. Several SDBS members assisted in that recovery process. Seeing it now helps demonstrate how resilient these plants are, as many that appeared to be utterly destroyed have survived and been propagated.

Though the giant greenhouse is geared toward Tillandsias, there are also a significant number of other Bromeliads such as Neoregelia and Aechmea and Vriesea.

Members will be able to purchase plants. Note that this is not a retail space so plants will not be price-tagged. Not everything will be for sale. Other ground rules established by Paul when we arrive should be respected.

This is a rare opportunity, likely the first group invited to visit since the fire, and there is much to be gleaned from seeing the operation and chatting with Paul about the remarkable comeback from the fire and learning Tillandsia culture tips from one of the most respected growers and hybridizers in the world.

Thanks,
Paul Isley



A tillandsia in the San Diego Botanic Garden Conservatory, April 2023.

About Hula Tropicals

31848 Aqueduct Rd., Bonsall, CA 92003 hulatropicals.com

I have been selling plants since the early 2000s. My nursery grew out of a hobby, started in the 1980s, collecting plants. Today I grow and sell Adeniums (Desert Rose), Bromeliads (including some Tillandsias), Plumeria and Succulents.

I do this on 2 acres in Bonsall with approximately ¼ acre devoted to a small nursery with one large Greenhouse and one large shade house which is full of Bromeliads.

Most of the Bromeliads are landscape plants designed for outdoor growing. About half are Neoregelia and the rest are a mix of various genera and hybrids. I am always looking for new and easy to grow varieties. If you have not been here in a while or never been here, you may find something new.

Thanks,
Steve Salley

June Show and Sale – Everything You Need to Know

Friday (setup) June 9, Saturday June 10 & Sunday, June 11, 2023

The Sale
Thank you to those who have contacted me regarding selling at this June's Show and Sale. Juliana and I are finalizing the show and sale layout for room 101. Scott has done a great job advertising and I noticed several of you have been spreading the word via social media. Don't forget: SDBS members will have early access on Saturday, starting at 9:30am. No plant sales on Friday as there will be no cashier then.

Sellers - we need boxes. Sonja Wicker has bags under control. Members - we can use security and tag pullers. It's a good way to socialize and get to know each other. Bring your favorite dish to share. Let's make it another successful venture! See you there!

Any questions? Review the 2023 SDBS Sale Rules.

Thanks,
Morlane

The Show
This year, the SDBS show will have a formal format. We will display your plants on tables, with signage. We will have hangers as well. It is not a judged show.

Please use this spreadsheet to let us know what you are planning to exhibit in order to ensure we have enough variety to properly represent the bromeliad family.

Neatness will be a big factor this year. Plants and pots will be in the spotlight; make sure to give your show broms the spa treatment ahead of time. Clean up debris, remove dry leaves, make sure no pests are present. Your pots must be clean as well, give them a scrub all around. A final rub with a tablespoon of vegetable oil on a paper towel makes even the saddest plastic pot look fresh.

Setup: Friday June 9th from 9am to 5pm.

Members Only Sale: Saturday June 10 from 9:30am

General Sale: June 10 & 11 from 10am to 4pm

Takedown: June 11 from 4pm

A volunteer signup sheet will be passed around during the May Nursery Tour.

The show is also an opportunity to showcase plants you are selling. Bring a beautiful specimen to the show and let people know that you have cuttings of the plant for sale.

Thanks,
Juliana

We'll have Tillandsias and other bromeliads for sale from a variety of vendors and from our members. Plus, we'll have tools, supplies, and experts on hand for all your questions.

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

Summer Bromeliad Show + Sale

Saturday & Sunday

June 10-11, 10:00-4:00

Balboa Park Casa del Prado Room 101

SanDiegoBromeliadSociety.org

April Meeting Recap

In our April program, we had Guillermo Rivera from Plant Expeditions taking us on a beautiful journey of Peru. A video of the presentation is available in the SDBS YouTube Channel and SDBS website.

Show and Tell Highlights:
Al Evans, Billmea 'Pancho'
Scott Sandel, Neo Will II and T. minasgeraensis x meridionalis
Andrew Wilson, Ae. 'Red Dragon'

SDBS Events 2023

www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

Field Trip to Rainforest Flora and Hula Tropicals in Bonsall
May 13, 2023.

SDBS Summer Show & Sale
Setup June 9
Show & Sale June 10 - 11

SDBS Display at SD County Fair
June 7 – July 4
Del Mar Fairgrounds
The theme this year is "Get Out There" Adventure Awaits

Spring Garden Tour at Gary and Wanda's

May 20 @ 9 am-2pm – 3856 Cedar Vale Way, Fallbrook, CA

SDBS member Wanda Mallen invites all to attend this open garden event.

You will find collections of different types of plants grouped together, as well as many trees and specimens throughout the two-acre botanical wonderland in Fallbrook.

There is a new tropical garden in one of the "rooms" in the shaded area – it needs to live in the greenhouse in colder months but is now out and showing off in the warm weather. And, of course, with all the rain we've had there is spectacular growth and flowering all over.

Carlos from Rojas Succulents will once again be selling plants and there will be some of Gary's birdhouses and other surprises!

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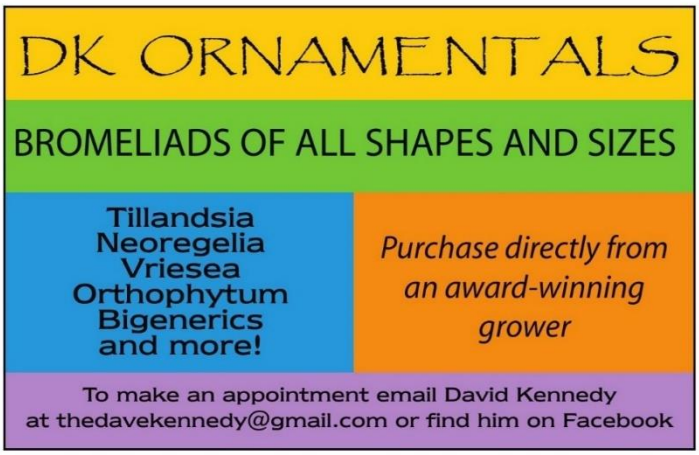
Essential Bromeliad Resources

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.*



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 in the next newsletter.

SDBS Meetings

The club meets on the second Saturday of the month at 10am in Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104.

SDBS Website

www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

SDBS Facebook Group

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