SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Established 1965

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

September 2023

VOLUME LVIII NUMBER 9

President's Message

By Stephen Zolezzi

SDBS members and friends, So far this summer we have all experienced uncommon weather including extended June gloom should you live close the coast, milder summer temps for those of us inland dwellers, a Hurricane—or the wet remnants of a Hurricane— (for the past 17 years I have kept detailed seasonal rain totals—including Hilary we are up to 24.6 inches). Hope you all came through with minimal damage and your gardens have benefited from the water.

For all who were able to attend the May North County trip to Rain Forest Tropicals and Steve Salley's Home and the organizing committee many thanks. Our thanks to Pam Hyatt and The Bird Rock Tropicals staff for hosting the picnic again this year. The organizing committee lead by Natalie Mallory did a superb job creating a most welcoming picnic full setting with food and drink. Many thanks to all those who added their culinary gems to fill out the huge array of offerings.

Canistrum triangulare x fosterianum, at the Birdrock Tropicals sale in August

September we are back in the Park with a great program (more about that in the newsletter) and Dave Kennedy will be supplying the Raffle table and Auction plants along with plants for sale. Of note the Cactus Society will use our room, at 1pm for their meeting since the City of San Diego has rented room #101 for that day to another group. Also, our November meeting coincides with Veterans Day, a legal holiday for City Staff so the building will be closed. The Program committee is planning a Coffee in the Garden at a member's home---more details coming. That meeting includes the annual elections so hope you are able to attend.

I am happy the announce Todd Johnson is Chair of the 2023 Nominations Committee so should you have a desire to serve on the board Todd will have more info at the September meeting.

Hope you are able to bring a plant for the show and tell and culinary treats are always welcome to share. All the best!

September Meeting

Saturday, September 9 at 10am in Casa del Prado room 104, Balboa Park

Bromeliads of Ecuador
by Cristy Brenner

Ecuador is the best country to see Bromeliads because of its relatively small size and numerous different habitats. We will see steamy coastal lowlands, foggy low elevation cloud forests, coastal dry forests, deserts, tropical rainforests, high altitude cloud forests and the páramo region. Cristy has traveled to Ecuador on six trips (it's that good!) with Plant Expeditions (Guillermo Rivera).

All of the trips were great, and she has selected the 2017 trip because of the special people who attended: Pam Koide-Hyatt and Jose Manzanares (author of the two volumes on Ecuadorian Bromeliads). All of the trips were wonderful, but having two world Bromeliad experts along with us made this an extra special trip.

Top: T. tectorum in habitat, bottom: Puya eryngioides

Cristy is a retired community college geography professor from Mission Viejo, California. As a geographer, she has visited all of the continents, but in recent years she has concentrated on traveling to regions where bromeliads are located. She has photographed bromeliads in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. In Venezuela, she was part of a helicopter expedition to the top of Auyun Tepui and a second trip included a hike to the top of Roraima Tepui. She is a member of all Southern California Bromeliad societies, and is the former president of the Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society and current newsletter editor. She is also a former member of the BSI board and a BSI judge.

Plant Table

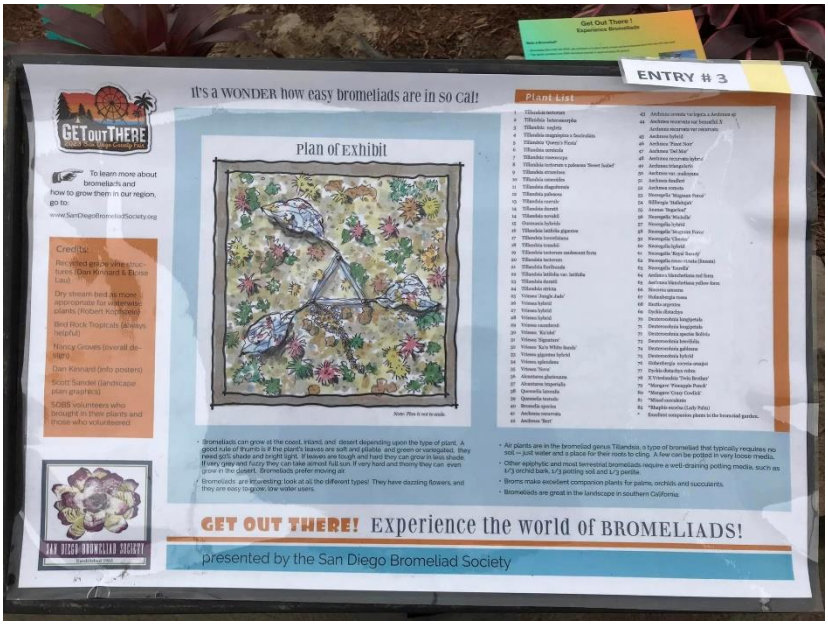
Auction plants this month are seen above: Guzmania andreettae, a Dyckia hybrid and T. Super Steve.

This month's raffle table and auction items will come from member David Kennedy's substantial collection. Dave promises a wide array of choice plants from various genera, with some especially collectible Tillandsias. In addition, he will have a table's worth of plants for sale, with our club getting its customary 20% of the take. Spend a little, bring much joy into your life!

A Great Horticulture Society Article about SDBS San Diego County Fair Awards

The SD Horticultural Society chose our club's display at the fair as the winner in the category Most Educational Adult Garden. Check out the SD HortNews article praising the work of Nancy Groves and team. Here's a taste:

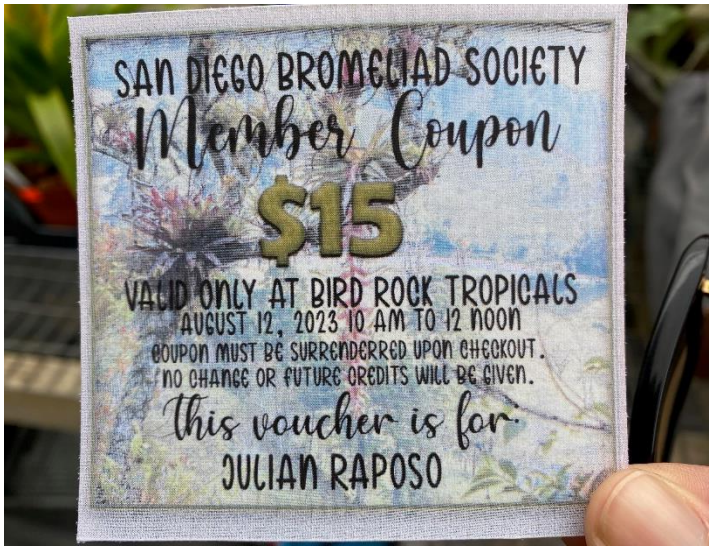
"With its many educational signs and well labeled plants, the Bromeliad Society's garden was selected as the award winner. There were an amazing number of garden-worthy plants in this garden and signage complete with all their botanical names".



August Picnic

The SDBS Annual Summer picnic was again at Birdrock Tropicals, because it is always so fun. It all started with a lovely morning of private shopping at Pam Koide-Hyatt's fabled nursery. After our new acquisitions, we gathered at Pam's beautiful garden for a feast. Great people, great plants, great setting. And the weather was just right.

Thanks Nathalie for organizing this wonderful event!



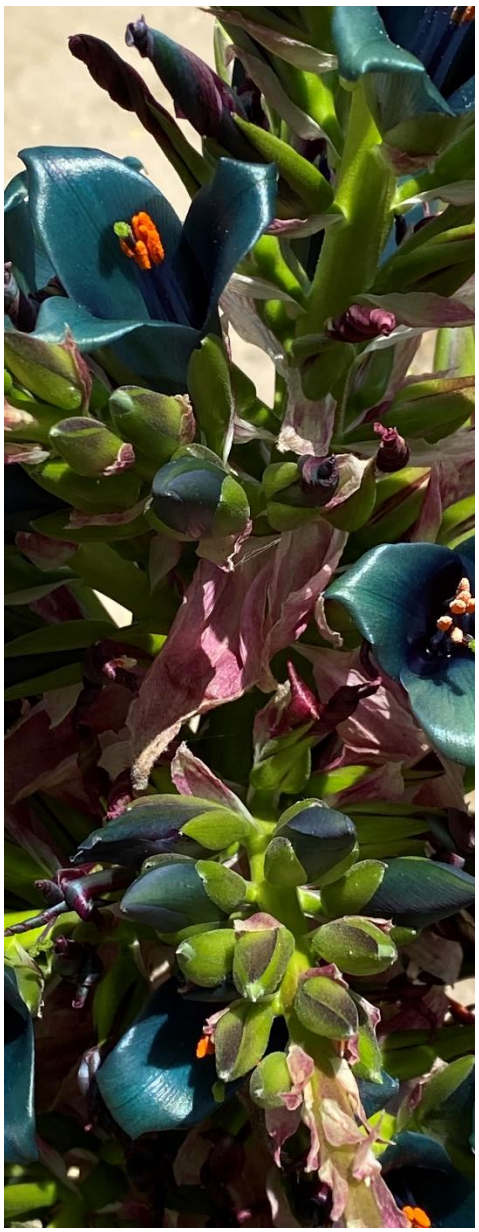
This year we had personalized coupons (top left) – so VIP! Rainer, Andrew and Dan enjoy a chatty break from shopping (top right). All the lovely bromeliads were there, plus some new ones like Canistrum Miranda (left). Matthew might just be our champion shopper for the day, based on the size of his purchase receipt (right). On the next page, colorful tillandsias, Mary and Alex, the checkout line… and the picnic!

Alec

SDBS Events 2023

www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

SDBS Monthly Meeting
September 9, at 10am
Casa del Prado room 104
Balboa Park, San Diego



The Potato Dish that was Too Good!

SDBS member John Jensen shares the recipe for the scalloped potatoes with blue cheese that everyone loved at the Picnic!

Scalloped Potatoes with Blue Cheese

Ingredients

- 2 lbs. Russet Potatoes
- 1.5 Cups Heavy Cream
- ½ Cup Crumbled Blue Cheese
- ½ Cup Shredded Parmesan Cheese
- 3 Cloves Garlic
- 2 Tablespoon Butter
- 1 Tablespoon Flour
- Salt and Pepper to Taste
- Chives or Green Onion Tops

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- Thinly slice unpeeled russet potatoes and set aside.
- Melt butter over medium low heat in a saucepan. Mince garlic and add it to the butter. Cook for about 1 minute, stirring constantly.
- Add flour and stir until flour is dissolved. Add heavy cream and cook over medium low heat until mixture thickens, about 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- Remove from heat and add blue cheese. Stir to combine.
- Spread some potato slices evenly on the bottom of a casserole dish. Add enough blue cheese to cover potatoes, then add some shredded parmesan cheese on top of each layer. Continue with these layers (potatoes, blue cheese sauce, shredded parmesan cheese) until you have about four layers, finishing with parmesan cheese on top. Sprinkle with chopped chives or green onion tops.
- Bake in preheated oven uncovered for 50 minutes or until potatoes are tender.

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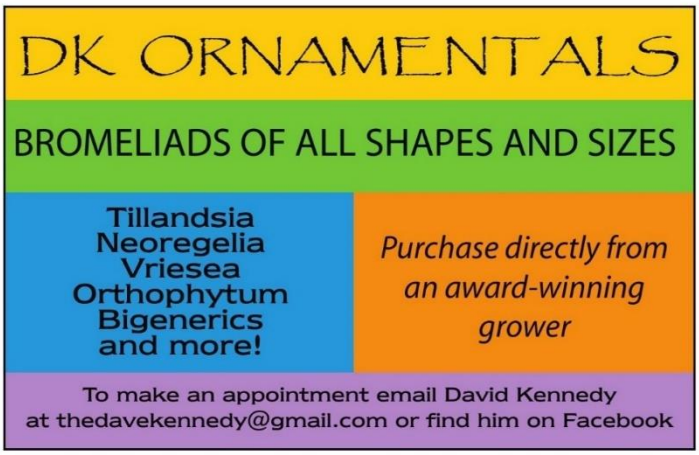
Essential Bromeliad Resources

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