SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Established 1965

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

January 2024

VOLUME LIX NUMBER 1

President's Message

By Kerry Nelson

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2024! As we kick off the new year, BIG THANKS to Stephen Zolezzi who as our President for the past two years accomplished many good things for the club including conducting Zoom, in-person and hybrid meetings as we stumbled out of COVID lockdowns. Because of Stephen's initiative and contacts, notably we have a new audio/visual system that helps with the technological requirements of our meetings, allowing us access to speakers from around the world.

Annual elections were held in November, and much gratitude to Todd Johnson who served as Nominating Committee Chair doing an excellent job of filling and presenting the slate. There is a new position added this year, Co-Treasurer. This elected Officer shares the responsibilities with the Treasurer. Between Ronee Kozlowski, Treasurer and Al Evans, Co-Treasurer, we can be confident that our club's finances are and will continue to be managed well. Welcome to the incoming Officers and Board Members and I look forward to working together to keep things running smoothly and to put forward new initiatives that will benefit our members.

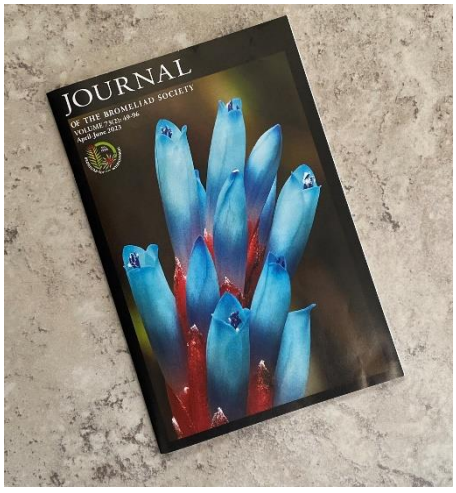
After retiring from my academic career more than ten years ago, I was looking for a new hobby. I noticed the Cactus and Succulent Society was having a meeting while walking around Balboa Park and mentioned to my friend Charles Oelsen that maybe we should join.(?) He agreed, but then intentionally or unintentionally steered me into the Bromeliad Society's meeting. He knew a thing or two about plants and I knew nothing. On that first day, I honestly didn't know what a bromeliad was, but I was impressed by the speaker and the seemingly encyclopedic knowledge of some members during Show and Tell, so we joined.

Billbergia fantasia with a New Years bloom - a gift from Pam Peters.

We kept coming to meetings, brought food and started volunteering. Along the way I learned a few things about bromeliads, had some terrific experiences and made some remarkable new friends. It astounds me how much you gain by giving a little of your time. There are many members who volunteer their time and talents towards making the San Diego Bromeliad Society an outstanding club. Some donate more than imaginable! My hope is that everyone will participate in 2024 in whatever capacity possible and together we can continue the vital nature of SDBS.

In the News

The interview with Rodrigo Freitas was the cover story in the latest BSI Journal. The article spreads the word about our club's effort to promote conservation as a core mission for bromeliad societies. Hopefully, other affiliates will get inspired.



The cover photo is a Billbergia lateralis shot by Rodrigo Freitas

Holiday Party

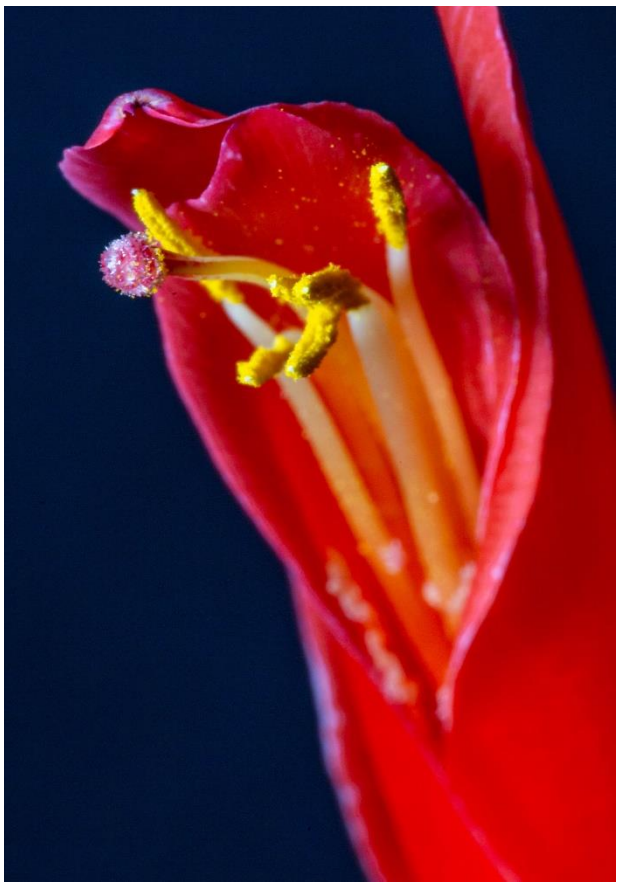
January Program

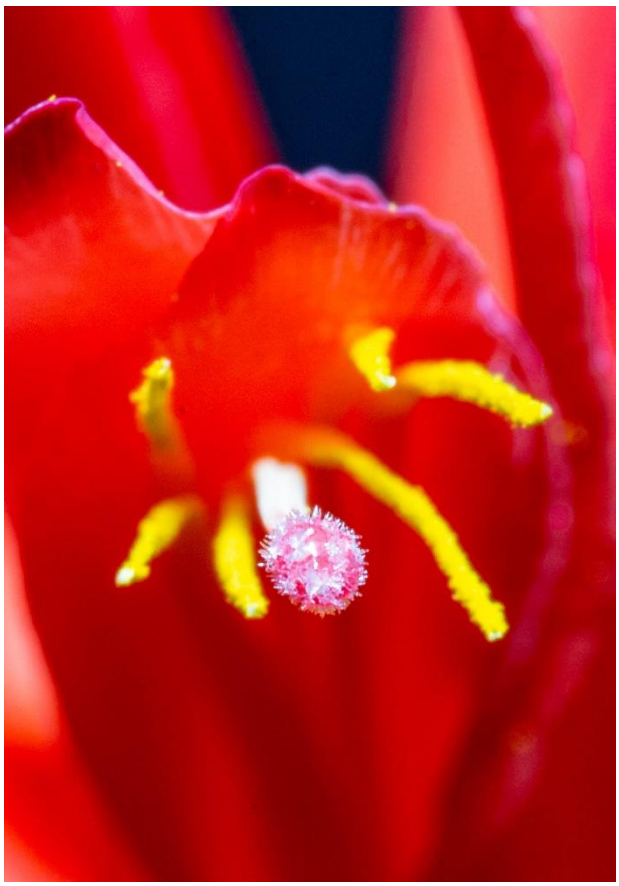
Monthly meeting on Saturday, January 13 @ 10am in Casa del Prado room 104, Balboa Park

This month our presenter is Scott Sandel, the SDBS webmaster. In September, Scott and husband Jim Marich made a road trip on the west coast of South Africa to observe their "super-bloom". The road trip started in Cape Town and proceeded north to coastal and mountain locations as they drove to the desert biome along the Orange River at the Namibia border. The slide show takes us on a tour of odd and colorful plants, *not bromeliads*, but bulbous plants, wildflowers, and succulents. The presentation touches on the rock art of the Southern Cape and Northern Cape provinces – painted images on cave walls and overhangs. Alas, at the end of the trip, Scott and Jim got invited to tea and a garden tour by Japie Esterhuysen. Japie's bromeliad garden is impressive, and with conditions similar to San Diego, his Cape Town garden has some practical planting design ideas for us.

Pitcairnia flammea, Up Close

Photos by Rodrigo Freitas, exclusively for SDBS



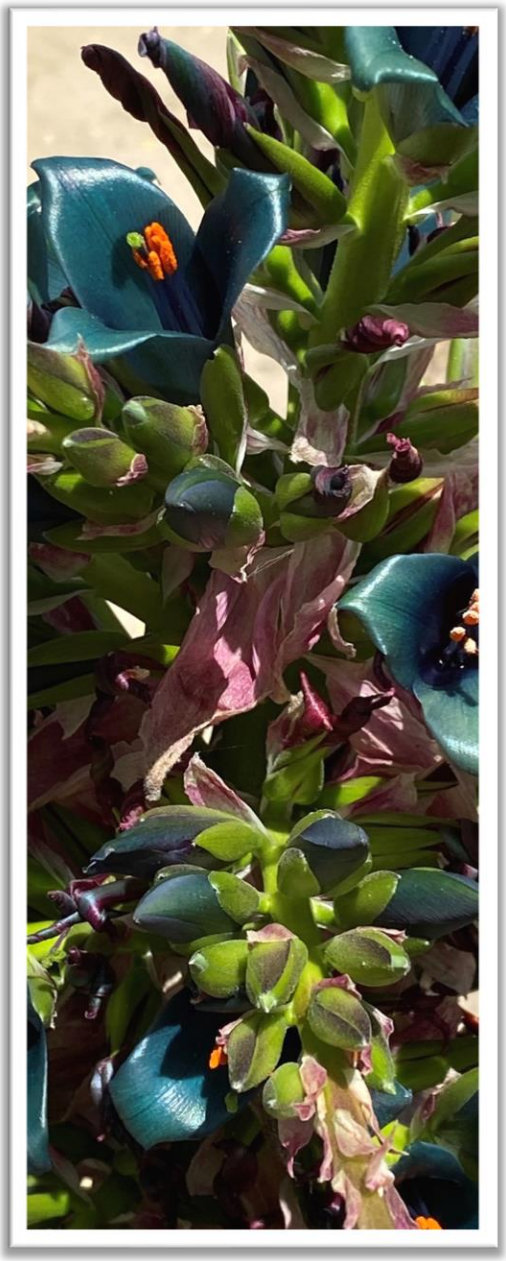


SDBS Events 2023-24

www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

SDBS Monthly Meetings

Coming Soon



Bromeliads, according to AI

Everybody is doing it, so we do it too. This image was generated by Artificial Intelligence, using the Dall-E engine with the following prompt:

Create an illustration of a tree covered in bromeliads and orchids.

SDBS Officers 2024

President
Kerry Nelson
kanelsondesign@cox.net

Vice-President
Charles Oelsen
cdoelsen@gmail.com

Treasurer
Ronee Kozlowski
roneek7@gmail.com

Co-Treasurer
Al Evans
alevans001@earthlink.net

Secretary
Debbie Kennedy
mydebster@gmail.com

News Editor
Juliana Raposo
julianadraposo@gmail.com

Membership Chairman
Charles Oelsen
cdoelsen@gmail.com

Webmaster
Scott Sandel
scott.sandel@outlook.com

Past President
Stephen Zolezzi
sazolezzi1946@gmail.com

Directors

Guillermo Marrujo (2023-24)
gmarrujo@outlook.com

Cindy Benoit (2023-24)
cbenoit55@gmail.com

Nathalie Nguyen-Mallory (2024-25)
nathalien71@gmail.com

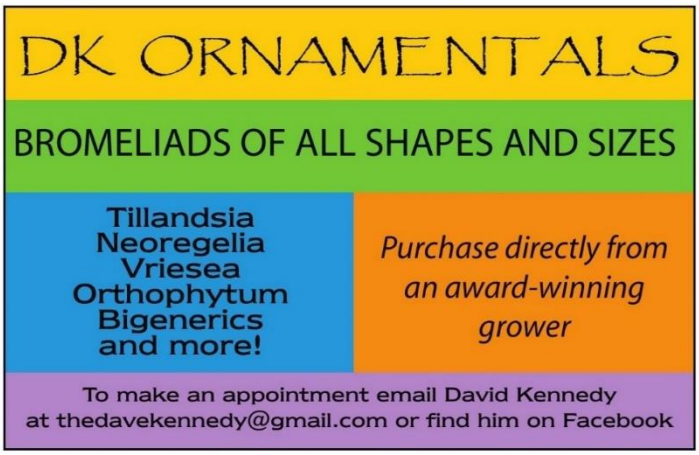
Lucia Velasquez (2024-25)
luciavmccanna@yahoo.com

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