SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Established 1965

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

February 2024

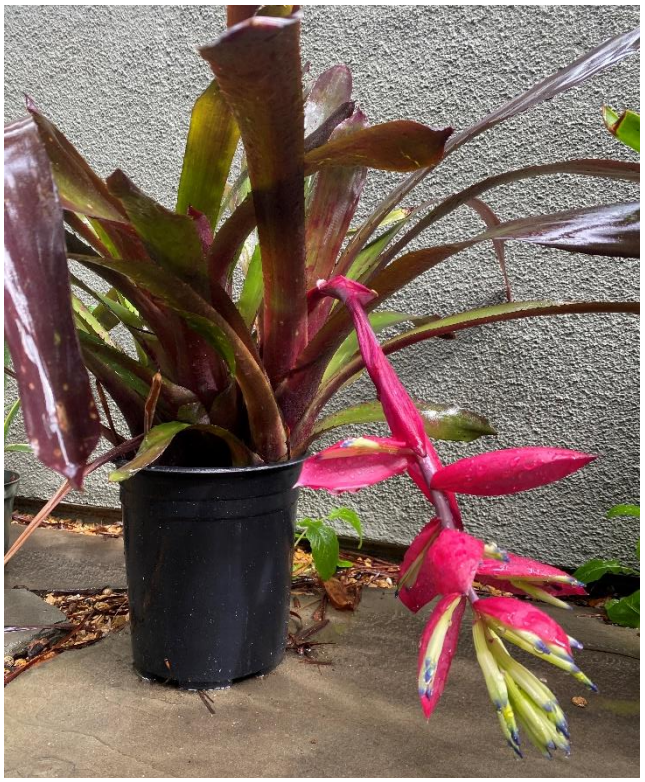
VOLUME LIX NUMBER 2

President's Message

By Kerry Nelson

Here comes an atmospheric river, and while they can occur anywhere in the world, the term seems increasingly common for California these days. As a long-time resident of San Diego and having lived through droughts, I welcome rain but not the flooding and damage that accompanies the Pineapple Express weather pattern. Our members live all over this region and the intensity of these upcoming storms may impact us differently. My best thoughts are with all of you, and my hope is that you are staying safe and your plants are too.

The SDBS Board met on February 4 to discuss and vote on 2024 initiatives for the club. Two important fundraising activities for us are the SDBS Show and Sale (Sales Chair, Morlane O'Donnell) will open to the public June 15 and 16, and the San Diego Fair Exhibition (Nancy Groves and Robert Kopfstein Co-Chairs) which runs June 12 - July 4. We will need lots of volunteers before, during and after these events, so please plan to participate however you can. Members get early access to purchase plants at the Sale so it's good to be involved.



Billbergia in the rain

Our Speakers Committee (currently Juliana Raposo, Ronee Kozlowski and Robert Kopfstein) are planning a line-up of interesting speakers and programs for us in 2024 to increase our knowledge of bromeliads, as well as exchanges on how to best care for our plants and incorporate them into our garden designs. Look forward to stimulating lectures and field-trips to gardens and nurseries.

Bromeliads are our focus, and one benefit to membership is access to a wide assortment of them. Scott Sandel does an outstanding job of locating plants for both the auction and raffle table (Dave Kennedy too when he covers for Scott). At the Board meeting we decided to increase the budget for these plants so that a broader range of plants can be secured. So come to the meetings this year to see what's new! Looking forward to seeing you there.

February Program

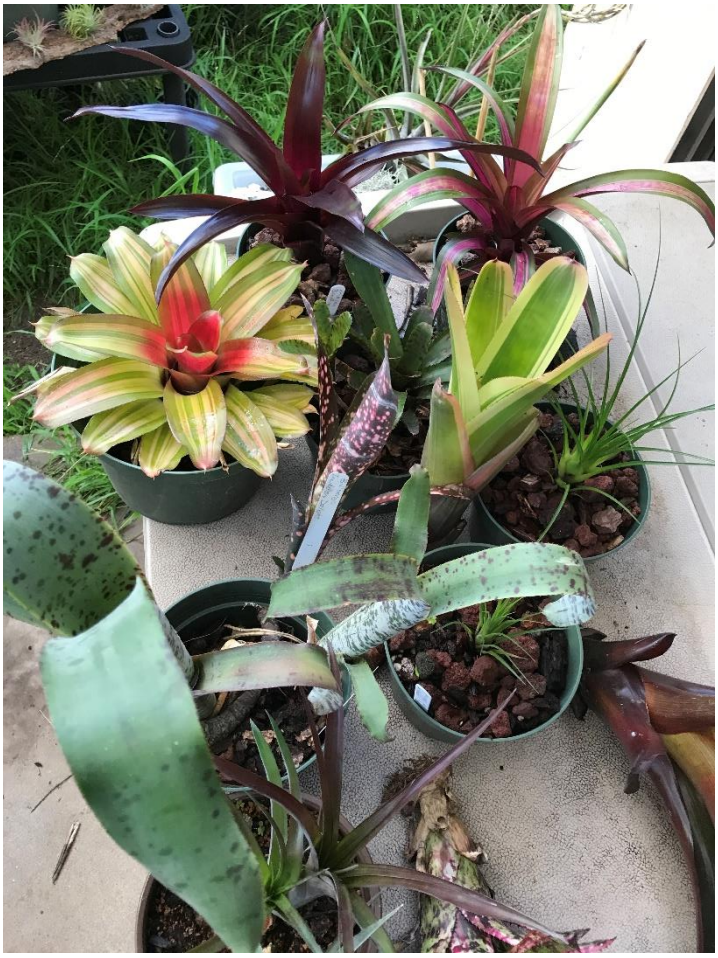
Monthly meeting on Saturday, February 10 @ 10am in Casa del Prado room 104, Balboa Park

Andy Siekkinen will take us on a trip through a bit of the state of Bahia, Brazil. There will be a focus on Hohenbergia and Sincoraea, two genera with high diversity in this region. We'll start on the coast near Salvador wandering through a restinga biome, a sand dune habitat. Then we will spend most of the time exploring the various habitats in and around the Chapada Diamantina National Park. Here we will see the diversity within and among populations. Bromeliads are often plastic, responding strongly to their conditions: smaller and more compact plants in more lean soils, directly on rocks, and exposed to more light whereas they can be larger in more moist, protected niches. Even with plasticity considered, there still is quite a lot of variation that can't be attributed to edaphic (influenced by soil) factors alone. Along with the numerous Hohenbergia and Sincoraea, Andy will show Aechmea, Billbergia, Vriesea, Tillandsia, Cottendorfia, Neoregelia, and Cryptanthus.

Plant Table

The plant table and auction specimens will be provided by David Kennedy. Expect some top-quality, well-grown bromeliads to brighten your collection.

A possibly undescribed species of Sincoraea. Photo by Andy Siekkinen



February plant table sneak peek. Photo by David Kennedy.

SDBS Events 2024

SDBS Monthly Meetings

Every 2nd Saturday of the month
Casa del Prado room 104
Balboa Park, San Diego
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

World Bromeliad Conference 2024

May 22-25
West Palm Beach Florida
www.bsi.org

SDBS Show & Sale

June 15 & 16
Casa del Prado room 104
Balboa Park, San Diego

SDBS at SD County Fair

June 12 to July 4
Del Mar Fairgrounds

Planning for 2024 Club Events

Check out the fun volunteer opportunities ahead!

We are already planning for the 2 biggest SDBS events of the year, the bromeliad display at the horticultural exhibition of the San Diego County Fair and the SDBS Show & Sale in Balboa Park. Both events come with lots of opportunities to create something beautiful with bromeliads and spend time with lovely people.

The SDBS Horticultural Display at the San Diego County Fair is a traditional showcase for our club. Our display at the fair's Garden Show is always one of the most awarded in the competition. Championed by Nancy Groves, this year she joined forces with co-chair Robert Kopfstein to run the SD Fair committee. We will need lots of volunteers to produce another impressive exhibition, under the 2024 retro theme. Nancy already has lots of cool ideas!

Sign up now to participate in the planning stages. The work on-site starts **May 18 and ends on June 5**. The exhibit will be on display from June 12 to July 4 when the fair ends. They will need hands, ideas and plenty of bromeliads loaned by the club. Reach out to Nancy and Robert to learn more.

The SDBS Show and Sale has traditionally happened on the second weekend of June, but this year we will have it on the 3rd weekend of June to avoid a date conflict with the World Bromeliad Conference in Florida. Morlane O'Donnell heads the Sale. In years prior Juliana Raposo ran the Show part. However, this year Juliana will not be there, so we are looking for a member to step up into the role so we can have a SHOW. In addition, Morlane is dealing with health issues and will need a co-chair who can physically be in Balboa Park during setup and takedown to make sure it all runs smoothly. Our show and sale draw big crowds. It's a great chance for club members to buy and sell plants to the public and show off their most eye-catching bromeliads. Contact Morlane or Juliana to learn more.

Nancy Groves
nancygroves@me.com
Robert Kopfstein
rwkopfstein@gmail.com
Morlane O'Donnell
Morlane.odonnell@att,net
Juliana Raposo
julianadraposo@gmail.com

Obituary for Lee Baker

We regret to inform that the society lost a member. Lee Russel Baker, 87, of San Diego, CA, passed away Saturday, November 4, 2023 at Sharp Hospice Care Center in San Diego, CA after a brief illness.

You can find the obituary here.

SDBS Officers 2024

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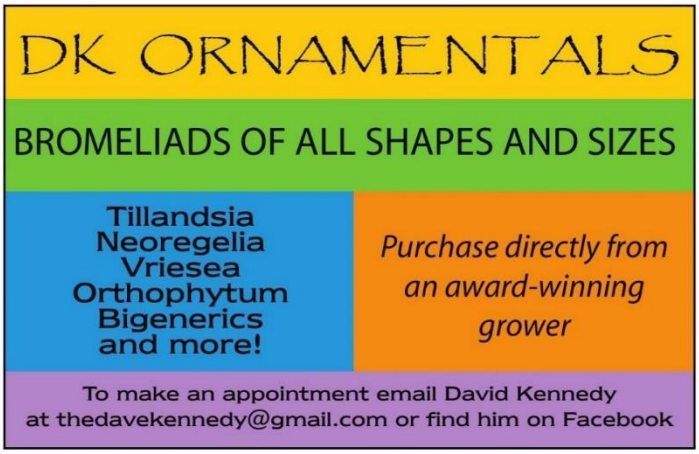
Essential Bromeliad Resources

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

Bromeliad Society International Presents

World Bromeliad Conference 2024

May 22-25, 2024 • West Palm Beach, Florida

WBC 2024 will feature an exciting slate of events including a welcome reception, botanical tours, a banquet dinner, several world-renowned speakers & guests, the world's largest bromeliad sale and a professionally judged bromeliad show.

Conference registration for attendees includes:

- Welcome Reception — International poolside barbecue
- Historic WBC 2024 tote bag
- World conference banquet dinner with speaker Andrew Devonshire on 'Hybridising, The Kiwi Way'
- Mounts Botanical Garden tour by luxurious motor-coach
- Access to world renowned speakers & honored guests
- World's largest bromeliad sale
- Professionally judged bromeliad show

A Florida Treasure — West Palm Beach 2024 — World Bromeliad Conference

Don't wait — register and reserve a hotel room online soon to save!

(Special reduced rates are available to all current BSI members)

Grant's Farm Nursery Tour

Grant's FARM NURSERY

Join us for a special, behind-the-scenes tour to Florida's oldest bromeliad nursery! Reserve your space online for only $25.

WBC 2024 World-Renowned Speakers

Find the latest WBC 2024 news and registration links online:

www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/

We look forward to seeing you at WBC 2024!

Conference Chairman Tom Ramiccio (Tramiccio@aol.com) & Conference Co-Chairman Alex Bello

Post-Conference Ecuador Field Trip with Plant Expeditions

Complete your conference experience with a 15 day tour through Ecuador. See over 150 bromeliad species in their native habitat! Also see wildlife—butterflies, birds, insects and monkeys! For more tour information and to reserve your space visit:

www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2024/ecuador