SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Established 1965

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society
July 2024

VOLUME LIX NUMBER 7

Editor's Notes

By Juliana Raposo

By the time you read this, I will be well into my travels in Brazil. Hopefully there will be some beautiful bromeliad news to share with you all on my return.

After the activity frenzy that was June, our club returns to the monthly meetings in Balboa Park. Our gratitude goes to all who worked on the Del Mar Fair Display and the SDBS Sale. Thanks to you we can create beautiful opportunities to share bromeliads with the San Diego community. Now read on to find out about the exciting program we have for you this month.

Save the date for our traditional August Picnic at Birdrock Tropicals, on 8/10. More details to follow soon!

Neoregelia Carcharodon Rainbow has white flowers.

July Program

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

Plant Outside the Box: Using Tillandsias for Art, Design, and... Privacy?

Tillandsias continue to challenge the way we welcome these plants into our homes and gardens. For the creatives among us, Tillandsias seem like a medium with infinite possibilities! For more practical and pragmatic people (like me), we just want to know where we can and can't put a Tillandsia. In this program, you will get an idea of just how limitless your possibilities are when it comes to using Tillandsias in the garden. We will focus on some of the fun and unique display methods I have had success with, including my latest project, a 70ft long Tillandsia fence in my yard. Lots of photos and in person visuals for you to learn from, projects for every skill level! Hopefully this will spark creativity in your own garden!

Andy Cuffel is a plant nerd and the owner of Cuffel Farms, a tillandsia nursery in the Clairemont neighborhood of San Diego. Andy earned a degree in economics and worked in the non-profit sector for over a decade, but 7 years ago he decided to make his passion--growing and collecting Tillandsias--his career. Andy built his knowledge by entrenching himself in the industry, working for Chris Davis, Jeffrey Kent, and Pam Koide-Hyatt. Andy turned Cuffel Farms into a top 50 nursery in the US according to Yelp, but his greatest accomplishment will come this November when he becomes a Dad.

SDBS Events 2024

SDBS Monthly Meetings

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

SDBS August Picnic at BRT

August 10, 2024 @10am
Birdrock Tropicals, Encinitas
Details coming soon.
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

Saddleback Bromeliad Society Presents Sherman Gardens Plant-O-Rama

July 20-21, 2024

SDBS Board Meetings Schedule

The SDBS board meets in-person 4 times a year to discuss all issues relevant to running the society. Any member can attend but must RSVP to the president and submit any agenda items in advance. Meetings are always on a Sunday from 10am to 12pm.

Next meetings are on August 4 and October 6 at Kerry Nelson's.

Plant Spotlight: Vriesea Guttata

Exactly a year ago, I was hiking in this plant's habitat in the mountains of Nova Friburgo in Brazil.

To find the local population of Vr. guttata, we had to go off trail and hike up a hillside in thick jungle. I remember saying a little prayer every time I took a step onto a mass of greenery just hoping not to step on a snake or anthill by accident. And somewhere, in the middle of it all, the vrieseas started appearing perched on the trees a few feet above our heads.

This plant is not easy to find in the wild, not even in the loins of a state park. Now I enjoy the flowers of my domesticated, and equally beautiful, Vr. guttata. I love the pendant inflorescence, the powder pink bracts shaped like a braid and the yellow flowers.

After seeing a favorite plant in the wild, the one you have at home becomes extra special. I am happy that my clump is getting bigger. Hopefully next year I will get several inflorescences all around the pot. Then it will look just like the beautiful colonies of Vriesea guttata that still reside in the Mata Atlantica of Brazil.

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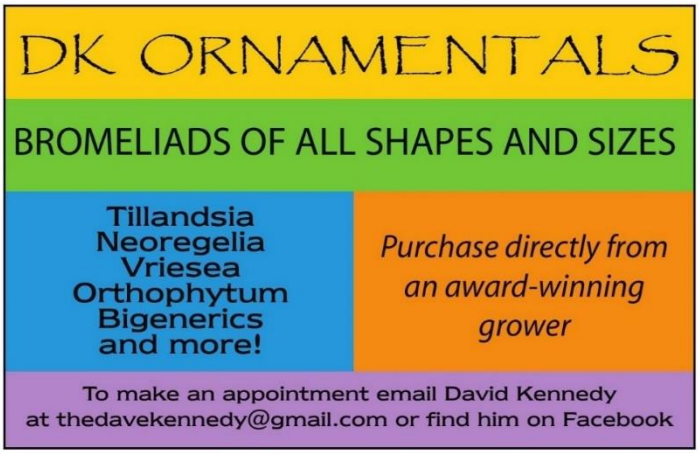
Essential Bromeliad Resources

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.*



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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