SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Established 1965

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

September 2024

VOLUME LIX NUMBER 9

President's Message

By Kerry Nelson

September is starting off with a scorching heatwave to lead us into autumn later this month. Personally I can't wait for cooler temperatures ahead, and in the meantime I hope you find a cool spot to wait out the pre-fall fry. This month's meeting will be held in Balboa Park where thankfully the room is air-conditioned. There will be two special awards presented, so please plan to attend to help celebrate these two individuals, and remember to bring something to share during the social break. We continue to look for a Hospitality Chair and/or Co-Chairs. Let me know if you would like to lend your organizational skills toward this important position.

The Board of Directors met last month on August 4 and conducted a mid-year review of our current objectives and goals. Our progress should be commended. Membership in the San Diego Bromeliad Society continues to grow and volunteerism among our members increased at both the Summer Sale and the SD County Fair. Our monthly meetings are well-attended and this year's Picnic had record attendance. The vitality of our Club is measured by the active participation of our members, new and seasoned, and there are plenty of volunteer opportunities big and small, so please step up! We welcome Renee Visser as our Social Media Chair. Thank you to her and Board Member Guillermo Marrujo for launching this initiative.

SDBS elections are held in-person at the November meeting. Todd Johnson is Chair of the Nominating Committee and will conduct the process. If you want to participate in the leadership of the Society as an Officer or Board Member please contact Todd directly. You may nominate yourself. Elected members commence their terms in January and are expected to attend the four annual Board Meetings typically held on Sunday mornings.

For the last two years we have held a Winter Sale in December and intend to continue this year. After plenty of pros and cons discussion at the Board Meeting we voted to limit it to a one day event on Saturday,

Vr. simplex, by Pam Peters

December 21. Morlane O'Donnell and Todd Johnson will Co-Chair this Sale. While the Sale is scheduled smack dab in the frenzy of the holidays due to room reservation restrictions, it has proven to be well-attended and a profitable fund-raiser for us. Plan ahead to participate so we can ensure its success. On a final note if you have constructive suggestions for how we can improve as a Club, please share your ideas with me as I am happy to listen and implement them if possible.

September Meeting

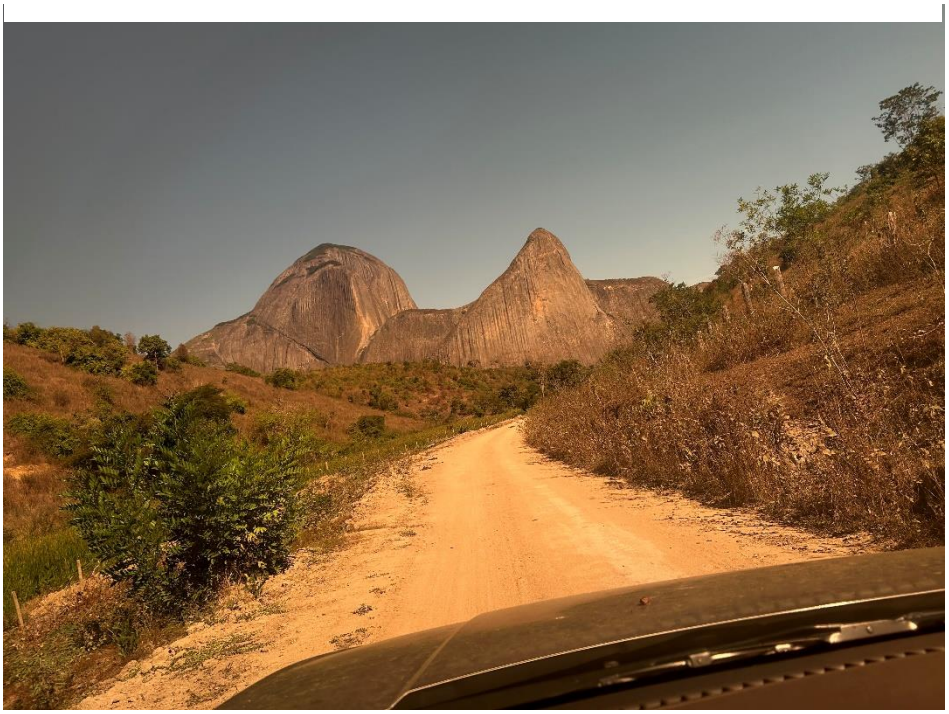
Saturday, September 14, 2024 @10am in Casa del Prado room 104, Balboa Park

Program: Jewels of the Brazilian Highlands, with Dylan Zoller

Dylan grew up in Laguna Beach with a strong interest in exotic cultivated plants. At the time, starting with palms, cacti, and succulents. Since then has been growing a variety of plants, many of which are terrestrial/xeric bromeliads. Now working at Sherman Botanical Gardens, he maintains the Succulent and Bromeliad gardens and their associated off display collections. Dylan has traveled extensively throughout eastern Brazil, Ecuador, and Colombia. These trips focus primarily on photographing and discovering obscure bromeliads.

The talk will be: Jewels of the Brazilian Highlands, which covers some seldom photographed cacti and succulent bromeliad species, as well as some other oddities, from eastern Brazil.

The attached photos are from a trip to the type locality of the micro endemic Cryptanthus univittatus. Photos by Dylan Zoller.



Sad News from Brazil

Tres Picos State Park, Home to Botanical Treasures, Burned for Days

August 19 – A blaze broke out in a bromeliad-rich habitat in the mountains of Rio de Janeiro. Rodrigo Freitas, our 2023 SDBS Award Recipient, posted dramatic images of the burning flora on social media. The area affected is well known to the club, as we had 2 programs by me and Freitas showcasing the Tres Picos flora. I also had the opportunity to visit these areas a year ago.

The fire was triggered by a *balao*, a type of flying lantern that is traditional in festivals at this time of the year. A lot of rare and endemic inselberg vegetation was lost to a blaze that reduced giant alcantareas to fireballs rolling downhill. See video: https://www.facebook.com/reel/1007996144438437

Rodrigo works as a park ranger in Tres Picos. He said that all the highland vegetation in this area was lost. It will take decades to recover. Some of the bromeliads affected were Alcantarea imperialis, Vriesea pseudoatra, Tillandsia tenuifolia rupicola, Vriesea poenulata, Vriesea aracnoidea, Vriesea billbergioides. Then there are the orchids, begonias, cacti and other plants, and the animals that burned alive.

Brazil is going through a dry winter supercharged by El Nino/La Nina and climate change. Large fires are burning in the Amazon, the Pantanal wetlands and areas of Atlantic Forest in the Southeast.

Smoldering Alcantarea imperialis in Tres Picos State Park, Rio de Janeiro. The park is one of the few protected habitats for the species, which is only grows in the Organ Mountains region. Photo by Rodrigo Freitas.

October Meeting is Spotlight on Species

You Can Win a Prize!

We are planning something fun for the October meeting.

The main activity will be the Spotlight on Species. We are recruiting 3 to 5 SDBS members who can present a good show'n'tell of a bromeliad species of their preference. No slideshow required!

Presenters will have no more than 10 minutes each to show us their plant and tell us its story. Things to include:

History: When was the species first described? Any name changes since then? Maybe there's a story about its discovery. You can tell us how it came to be grown in California. And your own plant - Where and when did you acquire it?

Distribution/Habitat: Areas of distribution, habitat description, plant habit (epiphyte, terrestrial, etc). Who are the pollinators for this plant? Is this species endangered or widespread?

Culture: How do you grow it? Does it produce many offsets? When does it bloom? Are there any challenges in growing the plant? Are there any cultivars of the species? Can you name some?

There's a lot to talk about! The best place to do your research? The Bromeliad Species Database. Those who attended the presentation with Graeme Barclay, the BSD database manager, are already familiar with this wonderful resource.

Of course, these are only suggestions. The important thing is, make your presentation entertaining! Because the person who is voted the best show'n'tell gets a PRIZE - a wonderful plant procured by Scott Sandel, our bromeliad curator. If you are interested in presenting, let Juliana know asap.

Nidularium innocentii from the Atlantic Forest of Southeast Brazil. Grown by Al Evans. Photo by Al Evans.

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 September Meeting

September 14, 2024 @10am
Casa del Prado room 104
Balboa Park, San Diego.
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

SDBS October Meeting – Spotlight on Species

October 12, 2024 @10am
Casa del Prado room 104
Balboa Park, San Diego.
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

Attention SDBS Members: The Club Needs a New Hospitality Chairperson

Don't we all enjoy the hot coffee at the monthly meetings, the delicious food at the August picnics? We thank the SDBS hospitality chair for that.

Charles Oelsen, our longtime hospitality chair, announced he is retiring from the position. Will you be the one to step up?

The Hospitality Chairperson is responsible for coordinating and providing food and beverages for club gatherings. This includes regular meetings, special events, and any other club-related activities. This role requires organizational skills, a passion for hospitality, and the ability to work well with a team.

If you are interested in the role, know that Charles will support you in a co-chair capacity while you learn on the job. The SDBS board will be there to help as well. Contact Charles or Kerry to learn more!

Charles Oelsen
cdoelsen@gmail.com

Kerry Nelson
kanelsondesign@cox.net

SDBS Board Meetings Schedule 2024

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 meeting will be on October 6 at Kerry Nelson's.

Spotlight on Tillandsia Flamenco

By Scott Sandel

I have been enjoying this **Tillandsia 'Flamenco'** for the past several weeks. According to Bird Rock Tropicals, the hybrid by Pam is *Tillandsia deppeana X Tillandsia flabellata var. flabellata.* I can attest to Pam's description: "This is a beautiful hybrid that is easy to grow." Pam's description further says it has a mature rosette to 60 cm. diameter (23.56"), but mine is about 32" tip-to-tip. To my eye, it has more of the *T. flabellata* characteristics than *T. deppeana*, which is great, as I have a hard time growing the species *Tillandsia deppeana*. Perhaps in the next few months, members can send in photos of their BRT beauties – or bring them in for Show-N-Tell!

Blooming in Serra Mesa

By Al Evans

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

Todd Johnson (2023-24)
toddjohnson01@gmail.com

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

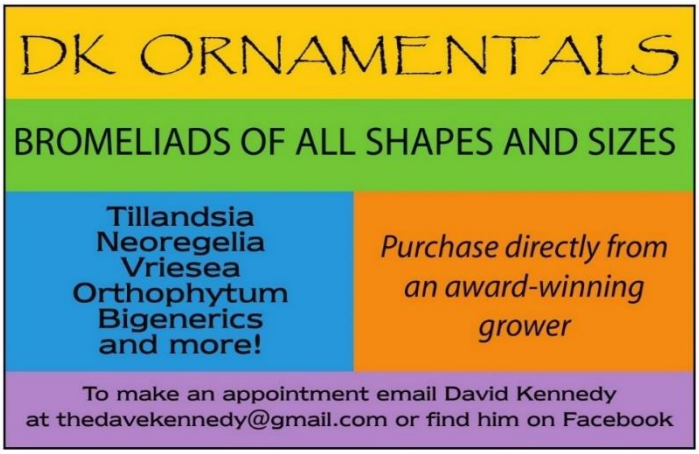
Lucia Velasquez (2024-25)
luciavmccanna@yahoo.com

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