SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Established 1965

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

October 2024

VOLUME LIX NUMBER 10

President's Message

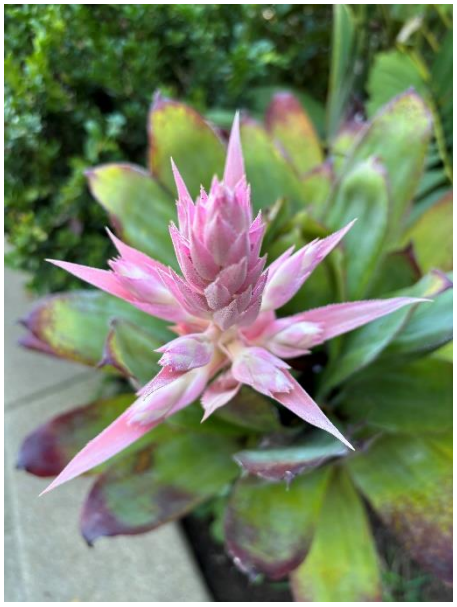
By Kerry Nelson

It's officially fall and very few bromeliads are blooming in my yard with the exception of this showy aechmea variety singing its song near my front door (photo on the right). I'm already promising my neglected plants that I'll try to do better next year, maybe a little more fertilizer is in their futures (?). Bromeliads surprise me with their resilience, most varieties anyway, and a little care goes a long way toward letting their beauty shine.

Our October meeting will be instructional in showcasing different species, and we are fortunate to have many knowledgeable members who are willing to share their expertises with these plants. There is always more to learn so plan to attend and get educated! Thank you to Juliana Raposo and Ronee Kozlowski for continuing to imagine great ideas for our monthly programs and events.

The final Board Meeting of 2024 was held on October 6 and a glance backwards showed we met our goals for the year. SDBS membership has grown to 174, the Club is fiscally solvent with over $30,000.00 in our accounts, and we continued our educational outreach and grant-giving practice this year as planned. We now look forward to elections in November. Todd Johnson is Chair of the Nomination Committee and has put together a slate of candidates for the open positions with voting conducted in person at our General Meeting on November 9.

As a Club we all enjoy our social time together, and the hospitality component of our meetings is going to be a shared responsibility going forward. Our Board Members are taking the lead. Guillermo Marrujo offered to make the coffee for October's Meeting and Nathalie Nguyen-Mallory volunteered to manage the hospitality inventory and coordinate the Holiday Party on December 14. We all bring something to share each time, but I will have a sign up sheet for members to take responsibility for coordinating specific days. How might you be able to help out?



Co-Chairs Morlane O'Donnell and Todd Johnson are busily organizing the 2024 Winter Sale and have contacted vendors to participate. This will be a one day event on December 21 from 8am to 4pm. As a membership benefit SDBS members are allowed to sell plants at all of our Sales, even if you only have a few plants and don't require a full table for display. Contact either Morlane or Todd if you wish to participate and/or volunteer to help. We're looking forward to ending our year with a successful Winter Sale!

October Meeting

Saturday, October 12, 2024 @10am in Casa del Prado room 104, Balboa Park

Spotlight on Species: Members Compete for the Best Show'n'Tell

Our program this month will be 4 short presentations by SDBS members on bromeliad species of their choice. Al Evans, Dave Kennedy, Andrew Wilson and Robert Kopfstein will be leading the show. Pay close attention because we will vote for the best presentation – and the winner goes home with a beautiful specimen of Guzmania andreettae.

David Kennedy will be presenting on the variations on Tillandsia gardneri var rupicola.

Raffle Table and Auction

This month's raffle table and auction plants will come from the prodigious collection of Dave Kennedy, featuring a diverse selection of genera including rare Tillandsias, plus Hechtias, Dyckias, Vrieseas, Fosterellas, bigenerics and more!

The auction plants will include a fabulous clump of T. rodrigueziana (Honduras form), a large Neoregelia 'Magnum Force' and an offset of xVrieslandia 'Arden's Comet' (maroon leaf form). See photos below.

Special Order on Hawaiian Broms

By Scott Sandel

Again this year, David Fell from Fantastic Gardens Hawaii is offering San Diego Bromeliad Society members a hefty 30% discount on plants from his amazing collection. If you recall from our last order, plants arrived in great shape, were of a large size, and the offsets rooted well for us!

To make this happen, Scott will be the conduit for organizing the order and coordinating with David. Scott will be organizing it by putting together a spreadsheet for the group order. This will be limited to the first 12 respondents, and the "last call" for orders is tentatively set for October 15. If you are serious about being part of the order and wish to receive the order list, send an email to Scott at Scott.Sandel@outlook.com.

Scott will send you the spreadsheet that has room for you to fill in your name and your desired quantities. (The spreadsheet has approximate quantities available and the prices.)

Supply is limited and on a first-come/first-served basis. The target is to order the week of October 21, and the plants will be brought to Balboa Park at the November meeting or will be available for pick up in 92103 on a case-by-case basis. The 30% discount is only open to current SDBS members taking part in this group order.

The Portea Genus

Al Evans

Fig 1 Portea petropolitana var. extensa; Fig. 2 and 3 Portea Pink. Photos by Al Evans

The Portea genus includes nine species of plants native to the Atlantic coast of Brazil. It is named after Dr. Marius Porte, a French naturalist who died in 1866 while collecting specimens for the French National Museum of Natural History. Portea petropolitana var. Extensa is common in Balboa Park.

While this species has an attractive bloom, the cultivar Portea "Pink" that I originally purchased from Live Art Plants quite a few years ago, has a more dense and colorful bloom. I have had this plant for a long time and it blooms somewhere in my yard very reliably, every year. It is a fair-sized bromeliad and needs some room. Lighting conditions for the Porteas is similar to most bromeliads, bright light but avoiding mid-day direct sun. The spot under my apple tree seems to be the best spot for my Porteas.

By far the most beautiful of the Portea cultivars is Portea "Candy" that I also purchased from Live Art Plants. I must say I was floored when I first saw this plant for sale! It is a somewhat smaller plant and seems to be more productive in my location than "Pink" and I always have 5 or 6 blooming in different areas in the yard every year in the September/October time frame. This year, the blooms on Portea "Candy" (3 photos below) were particularly striking in the location under an apple tree. I know that the prevailing wisdom is that bromeliads need little to no fertilizing, so I've been careful over the years to avoid fertilizing the apple tree. Early this year, I noted that the apple tree seemed to be languishing so I purchased a fertilizer recommended for fruit trees and hoped the Portea "Candies" wouldn't suffer. I used the recommended application of Dr. Earth 5-5-2 Natural Wonder Organic and Natural, Hand crafted blend Fruit Tree Fertilizer with "True Biotic". As you can see, the Porteas didn't suffer!

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 October Meeting – Spotlight on Species

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

SDBS Winter Sale

December 21, 2024, 10am-4pm
Vendors set up @8am
Casa del Prado room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego.
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

Winter Sale

Got Plants to Sell?

Attention all members who would like to participate in our December sale this year:

It will be a one day only sale held Saturday, Dec. 21, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park from 10am - 4pm. Vendors can bring their plants in at beginning 8am Saturday. We will need their help with table set-up and covering. Each vendor is limited to 5 tables. Sale plants can be placed under tables if more room is needed. Each plant is to be double tagged with member ID number, price, and name of plant. SDBS will retain 20% and vendor gets 80%. Any member who would like to help with tag pulling, security, or answering questions the public may have, will be appreciated. There will be a hard stop at 4pm. Any remaining sale plants will be picked up then. A list of guidelines will be available in the near future.

If you are interested in selling, please email Morlane O'Donnell at morlane.odonnell@att.net with the number of tables you would like.

Any questions you have should be directed to either Morlane or Todd Johnson, the co-chairs for this event.

SDBS Board Meetings Schedule 2024

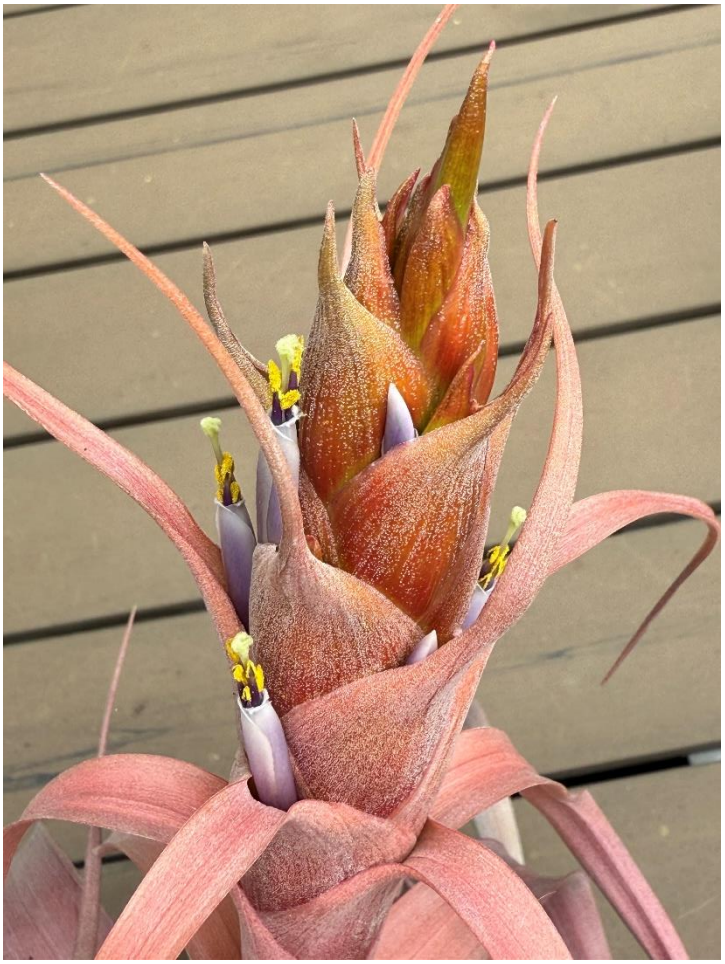
The SDBS board meets in-person 4 times a year to discuss all issues relevant to running the society. Any member can attend but must RSVP to the president and submit any agenda items in advance. Meetings are always on a Sunday from 10am to 12pm.

The next meeting will be in 2025. The schedule will be available soon.

Spotlight on Tillandsia Nessie

By Juliana Raposo

This Pam Koide-Hyatt hybrid of Tillandsia rothii x rhodocephala was too irresistible to pass in the August sale at BRT. They had a big clump in bloom that was the showstopper of the event. The plant I picked up was starting to grow its inflorescence and now just revealed its lavender flowers. What a beauty.



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
Deb Kennedy
mydebster@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

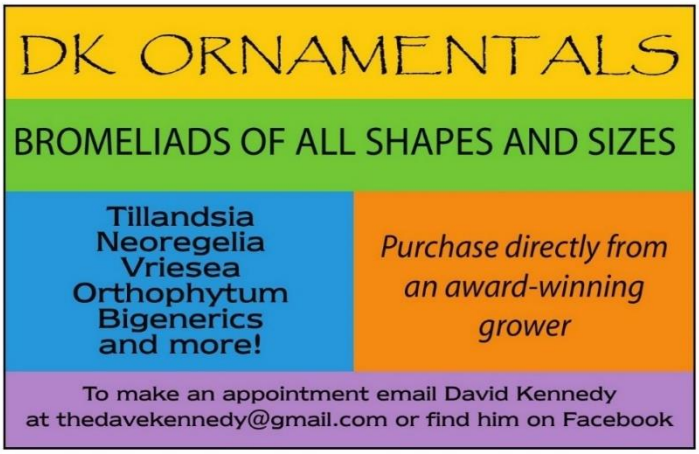
Lucia Velasquez (2024-25)
luciavmccanna@yahoo.com

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