SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Established 1965

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

November 2024

VOLUME LIX NUMBER 11

President's Message

By Kerry Nelson

It's hard for me to believe that a year has past since you elected me President on the same day we toured Sandy Valone's beautiful property in Point Loma and listened to Dylan Zoller, our 2024 SDBS Award recipient, talk about his botanical expedition in Brazil. Time flies and is packed full of activities when you're a member of SDBS! My sincere gratitude to the Officers, Board Members, Committee Chairs and Volunteers who made this years' activities proceed successfully and smoothly. Further thanks to the Members, long-time and newcomers, who continue to make SDBS a vital and growing Club. Our interest in plants in general and bromeliads specifically provides us with common ground to join together and share information which benefits us in our bromeliad gardening knowledge, regardless of our individual levels of expertise.

Now it's election time of the year. Likely we've all been bombarded by politics on the national and local levels, and all of us who voted in California deserve kudos for deciphering and voting on ALL those convoluted propositions. Hopefully our SDBS elections are less stressful. Much appreciation for Todd Johnson who is serving as Nominations Committee Chair and coordinating our election process. Our elections will be held on Saturday, November 9 at our monthly meeting in Balboa Park. Please plan to participate.

November blooms: Wallisia cyanea. Photo Juliana Raposo

Holiday season is upon us already and there are a flurry of activities for us. Mark your calendars to help decorate our tree on December 5 for the December Nights Festival of Trees. Our annual Holiday Party will be held December 14 and Nathalie Nguyen is in charge of the festivities. Time to dust off a favorite recipe to contribute to the meal, and plan ahead for a lively gift exchange. The Winter Sale on December 21 will wrap up our year. Thanks again to Todd Johnson and Morlane O'Donnell, Co-Chairs for their efforts towards its success.

On a final note, special good wishes to Mary Whittemore, a Past-President and our beloved auctioneer, who will celebrate her 93rd birthday at the end of November. We've all witnessed her mastery at getting shut wallets to creak open, and her kindness by not allowing us to bid against ourselves when we lose track. Her skillful handling of our monthly plant auctions is a highlight of our meetings and we look forward to her instigating many more bidding wars in the future. Happy Birthday, Mary!

November Meeting

Saturday, November 9, 2024 @10am in Casa del Prado room 104, Balboa Park

Collecting? Science? Collecting and Science! Collecting, traveling and Studying Brazilian Flora

This November, Nathan Gazineu David from Brazil will speak about his unique collection. At age 30, he amassed a trove of Brazilian bromeliad species that rivals the best out there in terms of scientific value, with over 2,000 plants.

His focus is species and regional variations. Plants are cataloged with the location of origin and ecotypes. For example, he has a number of Tillandsia stricta, all slightely genetically different as they yeld from various regions. All together, it's a living herbarium that tells a story of Brazilian bromeliacea. The collection keeps growing, with new plants being aquired in his travels exploring the Brazilian territory and trades with other collections.

On July 2023, along with Sejong Zheng, Gazineu traveled thousands of miles exploring the Brazilian southeastern highlands, and making discoveries along the way. This is a huge story that we will dive deep in another time.

Nathan has given talks to the California Horticultural Society and the San Francisco Bromeliad Society.

Raffle Table and Auction

In the November meeting, we will hopefully have some new specimens from the David Fell order at Show & Tell. We plan to auction a Vriesea Hilo Hula (pictured) and a couple of beauties from Bird Rock Tropicals. The opportunity table is a broad mix of bromeliads - Billbergia, mini Neos, big Neos, a few Aechmea, and a Portea nana. Of course there will be a spread of Tillandsias.

Nathan Gazineu with Vriesea diamantinensis, in situ. Photo Nathan Gazineu David.

Vriesea Hilo Hula, from Hawaii, will be in the November auction. Photo BCR

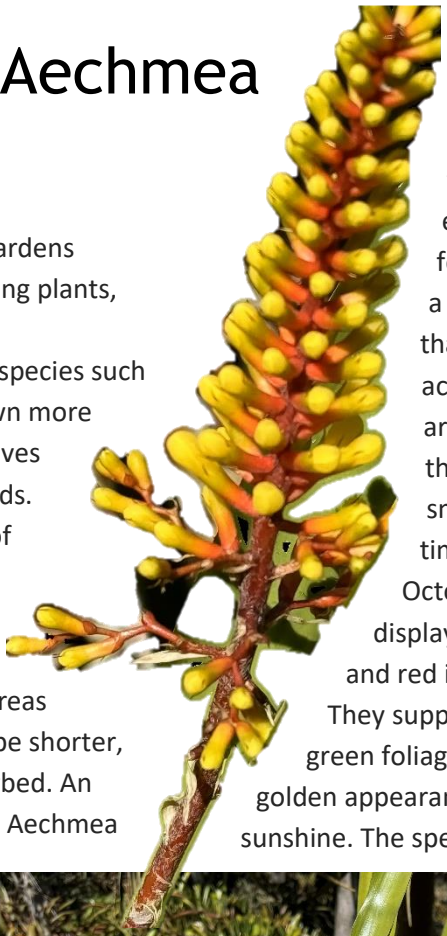
October Recap

Our show n tell competition was fun!

Thanks to participants David Kennedy with Tillandsia gardneri variations, Al Evans with Tillandsia tectorum variations, Andrew Wilson with Aechmea orlandiana and Robert Kopfstein with the Hechtia genus. RK won by popular vote – a Guzmania andreetrea.

A Modest Aechmea

By Andrew Wilson



Many aechmeas in our gardens become large and imposing plants, handsome but not easily accommodated. Smaller species such as Ae. recurvata are grown more widely but their spiny leaves can shred incautious hands. An alternative to either of these choices are aechmeas that come from the southern parts of Brazil. In those areas aechmea leaves tend to be shorter, less leathery and less barbed. An example of such plants is Aechmea winkleri. It is moderate in size, not exceeding two feet tall and expands over a few years to form a clump no more than two feet across. Its leaves are slender and their edges almost smooth. At this time of year, mid October, the plant display its bright yellow and red inflorescences. They supplement the light green foliage to provide a golden appearance in bright sunshine. The specimen above was grown in an overshaded location, which reduced the number of inflorescence heads it should have produced. Coming from southern regions of Brazil it prefers some shade in our summers but certainly less than I provided this year. This is not a difficult plant to grow and requires far less effort to maintain than many other aechmeas. It was named after Sieghard Winkler (1935-1992), a biologist who worked at Ulm in southern Germany, another of the large number of botanists sharing that surname.

Join us for our ONE-DAY sale with a variety of vendors and from our members.

We'll have tools, supplies, and experts on hand all day for all your questions.

Come to Balboa Park for the San Diego Bromeliad Society's

December Bromeliad Sale !

Balboa Park • Casa del Prado Rm 101

Saturday ONLY

Dec. 21st

10am - 4:00pm

SanDiegoBromeliadSociety.org

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 November Meeting

November 9, 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

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. Sign up to help at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1UtOpuyV7rAS107f36Hig9s8h3B-XFSxsZMdgsXpXcdY/edit?usp=sharing

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.

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

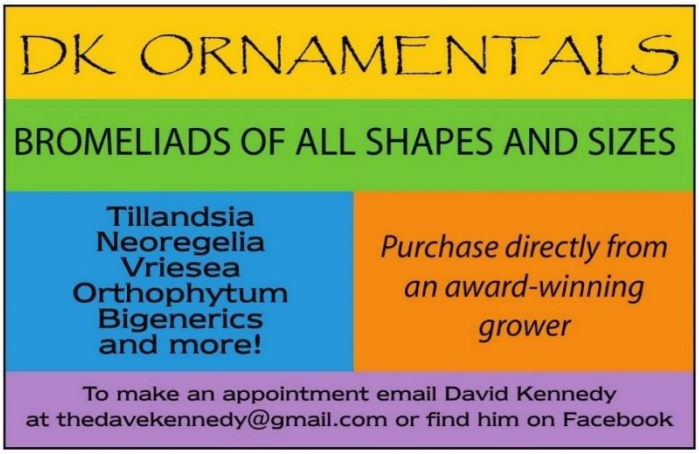
Lucia Velasquez (2024-25)
luciavmccanna@yahoo.com

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