



THE BROMELIAD BLADE

Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

Volume L, Number 3

March 2015

Editor's Notes

Meet our Members

One of the new items this month, is a Meet Our Members section that should help us get to know each other a little bit better. Every month I'll try to spotlight a couple of members, old, new, or somewhere in between. I'll send out a short questionnaire to gather a little bit of information from the members to be spotlighted. Please either answer the few questions so that I can write up an interesting paragraph about you or, if you prefer, write the paragraph yourself covering the information requested in the questions. If you receive a questionnaire, please return it promptly.

Golden Anniversary

That's correct. It is our 50th anniversary. We will be having a birthday celebration in May (our anniversary month) with everyone being asked to bring refreshments featuring bromeliads – actually pineapple since it is the only bromeliad that is frequently eaten. During this year the board has decided to enrich our programs by bringing in special speakers, having a bus trip to The Huntington, featuring our 50 years as the show theme for our annual show and sale, and other items to be announced throughout the year.

March Meeting

The March Meeting will be on March 14, 2015 at 10 AM in Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. The program will be ***Stumbling Across Bromeliads and Other Succulents in Oaxaca*** by **John Traeger**. He is Curator of the Desert Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California where he has worked since 1983. Prior to that he worked with master propagator Frank Horwood at Abbey Garden Nursery when it was located in Carpinteria. Traeger's horticultural writings have appeared in the Cactus and Succulent Journal, the Euphorbia Journal, and various other horticultural publications. He is also known for his photography -- over 2000 of his images have been published in numerous textbooks and horticultural journals. Book projects include co-authorship and photography for Dry Climate Gardening with Succulents produced by the Huntington (1995), principal photographer for The Genus Conophytum (1993) and a contributor to other works by Stephen Hammer: Lithops, Treasures of the Veld (1999) and Dumpling and His Wife (2002, a revision of the The Genus Conophytum) and Mesembs of the World (1998, Hammer et al.). He has also contributed photographs to works by Gordon Rowley: The Succulent Compositae (1994), Anacampseros, Avonia, Grahamaia: a growers handbook (1995), Crassula, A Grower's Guide (2003), as well as the multi-authored six-volume reference The Illustrated Handbook of Succulents (2001-2003). John has traveled widely in search of plants (and insects) including China, Costa Rica, Israel, Mexico, Namibia, South Africa, Thailand and Venezuela. He holds a bachelor's degree in Horticulture from Cal Poly Pomona (1992) and earlier studied Botany at Santa Barbara City College and UCSB.

The Huntington Trip

Don't forget to sign up for the Huntington trip this meeting. This is a trip that you shouldn't miss and the price is right. The puyas should be in bloom and the tour of the gardens should be

2015 Show and Sale

This year's show in June will have our 50 year anniversary as the theme. Begin to think about what plants and / or displays that you could put together for the theme. Both artistic displays and exhibits are great places to emphasize our longevity and the centennial of the Panama-California Exposition held at Balboa Park. Look for more show information in future newsletters. We will also have a short presentation at each meeting about the show. □

April Meeting

"Bromeliads in Ecuador" will be the subject of a talk by Betty Patterson. She has explored extensively with Jose Manzanares in Ecuador since 1985. Her talk will give us insight into the habitat of Ecuadorian bromeliads. □

Joe Quijada

By Andrew Wilson

Early in February Joe passed away. For many years Joe had amazed us with the quality of the tillandsias or the huge deuterocohnias that he brought in to show or the shots of hummingbirds and high altitude puyas. He and Kay loved their plants, whether they were cacti in their home while in Anza Borrego or their garden in San Diego that brimmed with rare succulents and perfectly grown bromeliads. Joe grew, propagated, showed and imaged plants with the precision of the engineer that he was. Kay still tends the collection. □

PLANTING TIP:

THE GREEN SIDE GOES UP

spectacular, particularly with the day-long outing with other bromeliad fanatics. After the meeting, we will be encouraging members of other societies to join us. Reserve your place now. There is a copy of the registration form attached to the newsletter or contact Eloise at: eloiselau@mac.com or 760-716-6322. □

The President's Corner

by Robert Kopfstein

The Name Game

What's in a name?

That which we call a rose

By any other name would smell as sweet.

Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*, Act II sc 2 ll. 43-4

A teacher who can arouse a feeling for one single good action, for one single good poem, accomplishes more than he who fills our memory with rows on rows of natural objects, classified with name and form.

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe, *Elective Affinities*

Lincoln!

Lincoln Lincoln, bo Bincon

Bonana Fanna Fo Fincon,

Fee Fy Mo Mincon,

Lincoln!

Shirley Ellis, "The Name Game" (Song) 1965

Let it not be said that The Bromeliad Blade lacks in literary quality. But what has all this to do with bromeliads?

Over the years that I have been involved with the bromeliaceae the issue of names has seemed to be a sticking point with members of the various bromeliad societies. Common names are rare (queen's tears, pineapple are examples—note *Billbergia nutans* has no connection to royal tear duct secretions, and *Ananus comosus* is neither an apple nor does it come from a pine tree.) And herein lies the sticking point. Most bromeliads have only the binomial scientific name to identify them, and many of these scientific names are derived from Latin, Greek, foreign places, or names of people none of us have ever met.

It is to Linnaeus that we can ascribe the invention of the system of nomenclature that we know today. His Swedish name was

February Show and Tell

Plant **Brought**
by

Aechmea recurvata hybrid

Robert Kopfstein

Aechmea weilbachii

Cristy Brenner

Billbergia nutans [rubra]

Bob Wright

Dyckia sp.

Lorraine Cypher

Tillandsia 'Cotton Candy'?

Nancy Groves

Tillandsia 'Eric Knobloch'

Nancy Groves

Tillandsia heteromorpha

Dave Kennedy

Tillandsia sp

Bob Vitacco

Tillandsia Dimmitt hybrids

Bob Wright

Tillandsia. vicentina

Dave Kennedy

Vriesea sp.

Bob Vitacco

Please fill out an information Form for each plant and leave it on the display table after the meeting. A little research could reveal interesting facts to share about your plant and also will indicate the correct spelling of the name.

In January, Bob Wright brought in *Aechmea* 'Ares' which was listed incorrectly in the February Blade as *Aechmea* 'Aeres' .

Carl Linne which he subsequently latinized to Linnaeus. In the 18th century, the languages of learning were Latin and Greek. As a result, most of the scientific names that Linnaeus gave to the thousands of plants that he described came from the roots, prefixes, and suffixes of these two classical languages. The idea of a genus (a group of similar plants) and a species (a specific member of that group) originated with the Swedish botanist Linnaeus. As a result today we have a genus *Aechmea* (spear point) which has a species *recurvata* (bent back).

Linnaeus also honored friends and associates by naming plants after them. The best known to us might be Gustav Bromel who taught geology at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. The family *Bromeliaceae* bears his name; however—ironically—Bromel likely never saw even one of the myriad of bromeliads bearing his name. Several genera of bromeliads are named after notable people in the plant world:

Tillandsia	(Tilland)
Dyckia	(Van Dyck)
Vriesea	(DeVries)
Neoregelia	(Regel)

This naming after persons can sometimes prove to be an issue. Spelling and pronunciation can sometimes present challenges—the cycad *Dioon rzedowski* for example. Sometimes perhaps the name proves less than poetic: *Aloe krapobliana*. And occasionally the wry humor of the botanist is evident; consider the corpse flower, *Amorphophallus titanum*. Greek translation: . . . do I really need to translate this? After all, this is supposed to be a G rated newsletter, no?

Perhaps you get the idea. Naming is really important if we are to be able to communicate about the plants, but it is no small task to master the naming system.

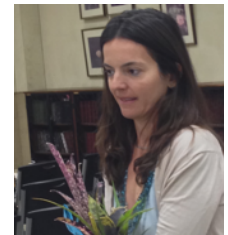
Don't forget the sale at the Botanic Garden on March 14-15. Here is a chance to sell off some of your orphans. Did you remember to tell a friend about SDBS? Share the joy. Bring a friend to a meeting.

□

Meet Our Members

Juliana Raposo

It was great to finally meet you guys. My name is Juliana Raposo and I am originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I always liked looking at plants, being around plants, but only started gardening 3 years ago when we



Library Notes

by Eloise Lau

Pineapple Cuisine, A Touch of Hospitality

prepared by South Eastern Michigan Bromeliad Society, Inc.

A cook book for all things pineapple, approximately 500 recipes from appetizers, soups, salads, main dishes, desserts, breads, preserves to beverages and even a section on microwave cooking, divided into 7 sections for easy access. Most of the recipes use canned pineapple in some form or other. You have to remember that the recipes come from Michigan. Some of the recipes are very simple and can be completed in a matter of minutes, others are more involved but used canned ingredients and are not too complicated to complete.

In preparation for our May anniversary celebration and our potluck of all things pineapple we now have a copy of this book in the library. We also have 4 copies for sale at \$5.00 each. We can easily order more if we need to.

How Plants Get Their Names

by L.H. Bailey

Have you ever wondered how plants got their names and who named them. This little book, less than 200 pages, gives an explanation of how it all began. There is a section on Linnaeus, "the father of botany" and the beginnings of plant classification. Two chapters cover nomenclature which simply means the naming of things under a system. The book ends with a list of generic terms and a list of common Latin words and the English botanical applications and meanings.

This book gives a simplified explanation of the history of plant names and naming of plants for those who have an interest but not the time to delve into volumes of scientific literature. □

bought a home in Carlsbad, close to the beach.

Walking in my neighborhood shortly after we moved in, I looked at my neighbors front yard and saw something I recognized - bromeliads. It was an awakening for me, as I thought bromeliads were too tropical to be landscape plants in California. After that I walked by that front yard time and time again to look at the plants and try to talk with the homeowner. I couldn't find his plants at any nursery I knew. Finally, one day, I'm ashamed to say, I tried to snip away a little red brome from a huge clump by the door. And the window opens, a furious guy yells "don't you touch my plants!" and I take off walking fast, never to come back.

Eventually I learned that the plants my neighbor has were *Neoregelia* 'Burgundy' (the one I tried to steal), *Billbergia amoena* and *Aechmea blanchetiana*, available at Rancho Soledad nursery.

So, I set off to create my little tropical paradise. First, I planted some large species on the ground (*Alcantarea* 'Julietta', *Aechmea blanchetiana*, *Hohenbergia castellanosi*), lots of *Neoregelia* Fireball' and any other brome I could find, including hybrids. Phase 2, I went vertical. I got 3 dead trees, put a concrete base on them and filled them with epiphytes. bromeliads, orchids and epiphytic cactuses. I also mounted bromes and epiphytes on our king palms. For that reason, I think I am never going to participate in show and tell. My plants are mostly not in pots. [They can always be featured in "Couldn't Show and Tell". Ed.]

At the moment, I am in love with *Hohenbergia. correia-araujoii*. It is a living sculpture! I am a sculptor and visual artist, so I think that explains it.

I am the mother of 3 and currently I work in property management. Gardening is helping me reconnect with my artistic self after a 8 year hiatus, because making art and tending to babies are non-compatible activities. Seeing my bromeliads flourish also reconnects me with the landscape of Brazil, the green jungles that I miss. I feel happier than ever being able to play with my plants a little every day.

Robert Kopfstein



SDBS Blade: Where do you live?

RK: Bonsall, CA

SDBS Blade: When and how did you get started growing bromeliads?

RK: I actually began with my first bromeliad (*Aechmea fasciata*) in the mid-sixties, but I didn't start collecting them until I discovered

SDBS 2015

Meetings

Meetings are held at 10 AM on the second Saturday of each month at Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 104.

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a small nursery in El Monte that sold them. My first bloom was a *Billbergia pyramidalis*--after that I was hooked. When I moved to south Orange county I discovered the Saddleback Bromeliad Society, and my collection grew as did my knowledge of how to grow the plants.

SDBS Blade: If you could be a bromeliad which one would you be? Why?

RK: A terrestrial, definitely a terrestrial. I am terrified of heights.

SDBS Blade: Tell us a little about yourself:

RK: Born in Cleveland, Ohio, I came to CA to attend college.

Originally the plan was for me to be a physician; however I discovered that my talents lay in language and literature, so my degrees are in English (AB, MA Cal State Long Beach, PhD USC) and in education with a specialization in reading (MS Cal State Fullerton). I began teaching college in 1966 and retired from full time work in 2005, but I have continued to teach part-time since then. Most of my teaching has been at community colleges. Besides bromeliads, I am an aficionado of cycads, and I volunteer at the San Diego Botanic Garden where I take care of their cycad collection. Collecting and restoring antique furniture has also been a passion of mine. I acquired my first antique when I was about 5 years old--and I still have it.

□

Time to renew your membership for 2015

It's that time again. Please give the Treasurer your renewal at the January meeting or mail it to: Al Evans, 2601 Palace Drive, San Diego, Ca 92123.

Renewal amounts:	1 year	2 years
single email	13.00	22.00
dual email	17.00	30.00
single USPS	28.00	52.00
dual USPS	32.00	60.00

Please receive your newsletter by email, if at all possible. The email version will have additional information and photos than the printed one.

SDBS 2015

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Web Page

[www.bsi.org/webpages/
san_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html)

The Bromeliad Blade

San Diego Bromeliad Society

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Items for publication are welcomed and should be received by the editor by the 25th of the preceding month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WHEN	WHAT, WHERE
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HIGHLIGHTED MEETINGS

March 14, 2015 at 10:00 AM	San Diego Bromeliad Society Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104 Program: John Traeger - "Stumbling Across Bromeliads and Other Succulents in Oaxaca" www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html
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April 11, 2015 at 10:00 AM	San Diego Bromeliad Society Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104 Program: Betty Patterson on Bromeliads in Ecuador www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html
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April 16-19, 2015	BROMSMATTA 18 th Australian Bromeliad Conference at The Novotel Parramatta, Sydney, Australia www.bromeliad.org.au
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June 12-14, 2015	SDBS SHOW AND SALE
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June 13-19, 2016	Bromeliad Society International World Conference Houston, Texas
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MONTHLY MEETINGS

1 st Tuesday, 6:30 PM	San Diego Orchid Society Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101 www.sdorchids.com
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2 nd Saturday, 10 AM	San Diego Bromeliad Society Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104 www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html
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2 nd Saturday, 1 PM	San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101 www.sdcss.net
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2 nd Monday, 5 PM	San Diego Horticultural Society Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds www.sandiegohorticulturalsociety.org
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February Meeting



George Allaria informed, entertained, and enlightened us about all phases of his long affair with bromeliads.

He included bits and pieces of where he finds plants from local society sales, opportunity tables, BSI conferences, ordering on-line, and purchasing on eBay (buyer beware of names and prices). Sources of information were also pointed out from buying books to finding fairly reliable information on-line.

Growing from seed was highlighted as a way of getting lots of plants with wide variation for not much money. Just remember that you are growing bromeliads, not radishes – be patient.

The opportunity table that he brought covered an incredible range of types of plants that are found in his garden. Any of the plants would have been a good addition to a collection.

The auction provided a chance to get a few nice plants. Mary squeezed just about every dollar available out of the bidders.

See photos from the meeting below and on following pages. □



Couldn't Show and Tell

A little color from Dave Kennedy's garden:.



From Eloise and Dan's Garden:

This *Dendrobium speciosum* v. *compactum* should probably be under companion plants. They are spectacular this year wherever they are shown.



Billbergia amoena viridis rubra shown above is colorful but the flowers are short-lived. The *Billbergia. nutans* X *Aechmea recurvata* at left had an unusually large bloom this year.

35 Years of Growing Bromeliads

by Jim Wright

photos by Jim Wright

My interest in Bromeliads started around 1980. There was not any particular plant responsible for my interest but the beauty of Bromeliads in general. Some of my first plants were Neoregelias and Aechmeas. After several years of growing spiny bromeliads I graduated to Vrieseas & Tillandsias. Vrieseas were not very common years ago as most Bromeliad people didn't realize how well they performed in our climate. Around the deck in my yard there are 60-70 Vrieseas. (see photo). Several years ago I tried planting Vrieseas in 1/2" - 3/4" volcanic gravel, this seems to work very well as the Vrieseas always look great even during the winter months.



Tillandsias are truly jewels of the Bromeliad genus. They are gorgeous and especially impressive in flower. Tillandsias are very well suited for our climate. They require strong filtered light, some will tolerate full sun. Most Tillandsias look and perform best hanging. There are several techniques I use for growing Tillandsias as hanging plants. My favorite is to run a wire

through a clump, being careful to do as little damage as possible. Bend a

"U" shape in the wire and pull into the plant. The "U" size will depend on the size of the clump.





If a small, 2 to 5 growth plant is used, I find 20-25 pound monofilament best for hanging. Most of the time this technique will take a little patience and can be difficult getting the plant properly displayed. Some Tillandsias will do well in pots. I use coir when potting Tillandsias. Coir is ground up coconut and is available from hydroponic shops and is ready for use. Again Tillandsias are very rewarding and easy to grow. Just remember they are not air plants and require water. For best results water hanging plants 2-3 times a week, less in the cool winter months. Hanging plants would appreciate fertilizer. Epiphyte specific fertilizers are available at some nurseries. Epiphyte specific fertilizers have nitrogen of ammoniacal or of nitrate and not urea based. Urea based is broken down by bacteria in the soil and the nitrogen is not available to Epiphytic or hanging plants.



Good growing. ☐

*"Life is short.
Drink the good wine
first."*

Names, Names, Names

It seems that names have made their way to the forefront in this issue. Names are important. They allow us to know exactly (or almost exactly) which plant we are talking about. *Aechmea recurvata* tells us that we are referring to a specific plant while "Mary", "Mr. Spots", or "That darned plant with the mean thorns", not so much. There are many sources to help with the finding and spelling of proper names. Here are some that can be useful:

A great list of the currently accepted species names and synonyms can be found at: <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/bcg/taxonList.php>. Both current and historical names are present.

For hybrids, cultivars, photos, and some supporting text refer to the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry at: <http://registry.bsi.org>.

A great site with photos and a discussion list is: <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/Brom-L/>. Be sure to check out the features listed near the top of the page for the photo gallery, discussion list and more. Information on other plant groups can be found at <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl> with lots of information both in English and Dutch. ☐

Member Contributions

Feel free to contribute to the newsletter. Your input makes a varied and more interesting publication for the enjoyment of all. The input can be as short as a picture with a line or two about the plant for items that you want to share but do not make it to the "Show and Tell portion of the meeting" – maybe they are planted in the ground or are just cantankerous and bloom when there is not meeting. "Companion Plants" is always in need of a picture and a paragraph or two about your favorite plant that grows along with your bromeliads. Perhaps you had rather add a paragraph or two about your favorite bromeliad. Let's all share our knowledge and information about our collections for all to enjoy. ☐

Taxonomic Update

by Andy Siekkinnen

At the January meeting I mentioned two different taxonomic updates / changes that we should be aware of. The first was relating to the nothogenus (a created name for a bigeneric hybrid) *xCryptbergia* no longer being valid. It should now be called *xBiltanthus* (or *Biltanthus* as we often drop the 'x' that refers to it being a hybrid). Derek Butcher wrote about this and explained it in an article in The Journal of the Bromeliad Society International in 2012. The article can be found in the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry:

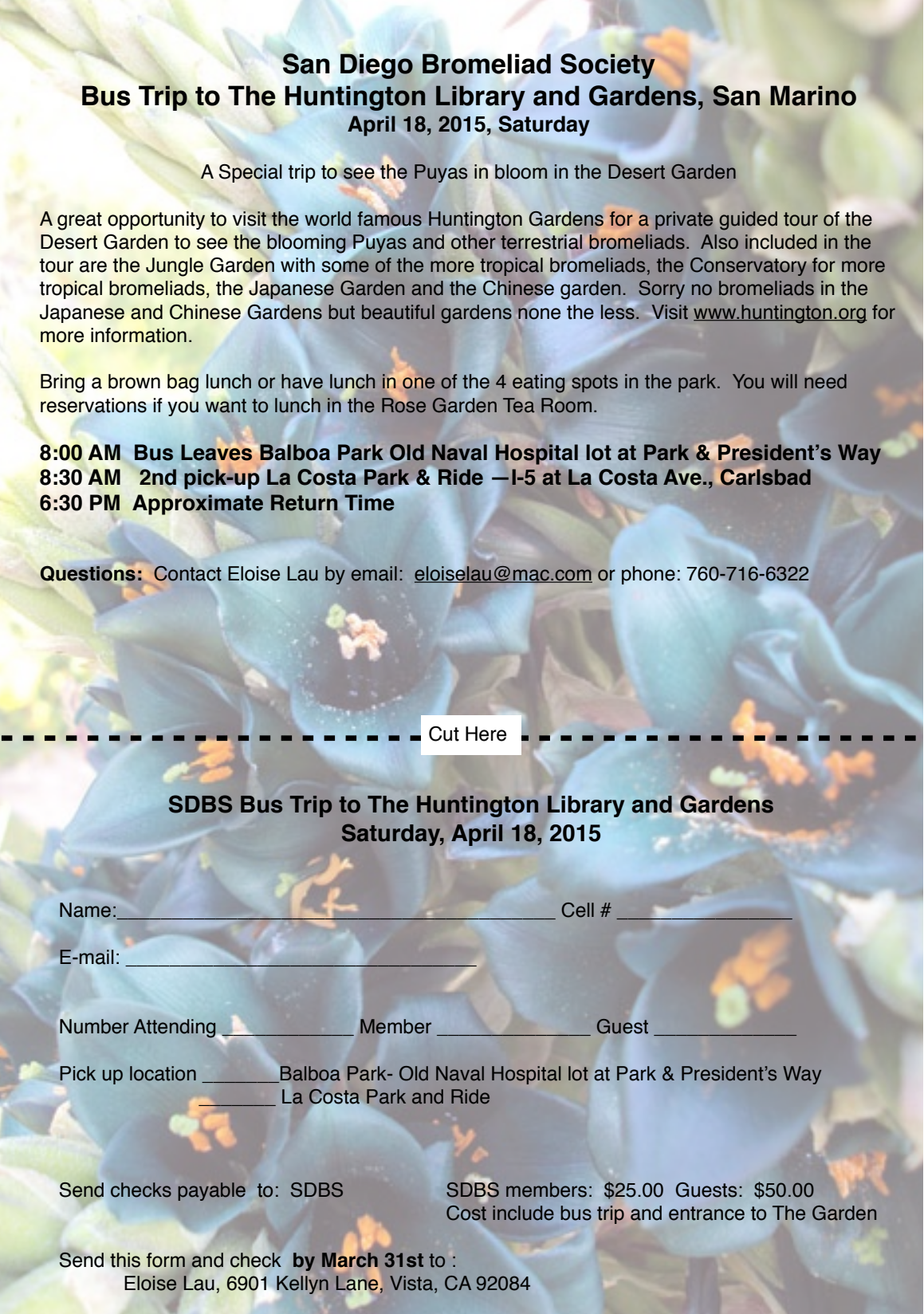
registry.bsi.org/?genus=xBILTANTHUS&id=11331#11331.

The short description of the reasoning is that the name *Biltanthus* was used and published in a nursery catalog before *Cryptbergia*, so the first name has priority and is valid.

The other name change that I mentioned involves a much more commonly encountered plant (at least in California). There was recently a dissertation on the genus *Deuterocobnia* published by a German researcher, Nicole Schütz. She studied all known publications and existing herbarium records of the genus. In her work she discovered that the specific epithet (species name) '*lorentziana*' was first applied to a plant that is really *Deuterocobnia brevifolia*. Since the first published name has priority and you can't repeat a name to a different taxon, the second name published for the larger species should be *Deuterocobnia abstrusa*. There are a couple of layers of interest here. First of all, the genus name *Deuterocobnia* is a mouthful because there was already a genus named *Cobnia*. So they had to add the prefix *de-* to show that it was a second genus named after Cohn (much like *Neoregelia* is the 'new' or *neo-* genus named after Regel). But another aspect of these plants is of taxonomic note. In 1929 the similarity of the genera *Deuterocobnia* and *Abromeitiella* was noted; they were finally merged in 1992. While most bromeliad growers follow the published change by now, some cactus and succulent growers retain the generic name *Abromeitiella* well after 20 years that it has been made synonymous with *Deuterocobnia*. It is now *Deuterocobnia abstrusa* and not *Abromeitiella lorentziana* nor *Deuterocobnia lorentziana*.

☐

I had amnesia once --- maybe twice.



San Diego Bromeliad Society
Bus Trip to The Huntington Library and Gardens, San Marino
April 18, 2015, Saturday

A Special trip to see the Puyas in bloom in the Desert Garden

A great opportunity to visit the world famous Huntington Gardens for a private guided tour of the Desert Garden to see the blooming Puyas and other terrestrial bromeliads. Also included in the tour are the Jungle Garden with some of the more tropical bromeliads, the Conservatory for more tropical bromeliads, the Japanese Garden and the Chinese garden. Sorry no bromeliads in the Japanese and Chinese Gardens but beautiful gardens none the less. Visit www.huntington.org for more information.

Bring a brown bag lunch or have lunch in one of the 4 eating spots in the park. You will need reservations if you want to lunch in the Rose Garden Tea Room.

8:00 AM Bus Leaves Balboa Park Old Naval Hospital lot at Park & President's Way
8:30 AM 2nd pick-up La Costa Park & Ride —I-5 at La Costa Ave., Carlsbad
6:30 PM Approximate Return Time

Questions: Contact Eloise Lau by email: eloiselau@mac.com or phone: 760-716-6322

Cut Here

SDBS Bus Trip to The Huntington Library and Gardens
Saturday, April 18, 2015

Name: _____ Cell # _____

E-mail: _____

Number Attending _____ Member _____ Guest _____

Pick up location _____ Balboa Park- Old Naval Hospital lot at Park & President's Way
_____ La Costa Park and Ride

Send checks payable to: SDBS

SDBS members: \$25.00 Guests: \$50.00
Cost include bus trip and entrance to The Garden

Send this form and check **by March 31st** to :
Eloise Lau, 6901 Kellyn Lane, Vista, CA 92084