



The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

June 2016

VOLUME LI

NUMBER 6

The President's Corner

by Robert Kopfstein

May turned out to be a real marathon.

After our regular meeting on May 14 we had one week to prepare for the annual show and sale (which we moved up from our usual June date because of the BSI World Conference in Houston, Texas).

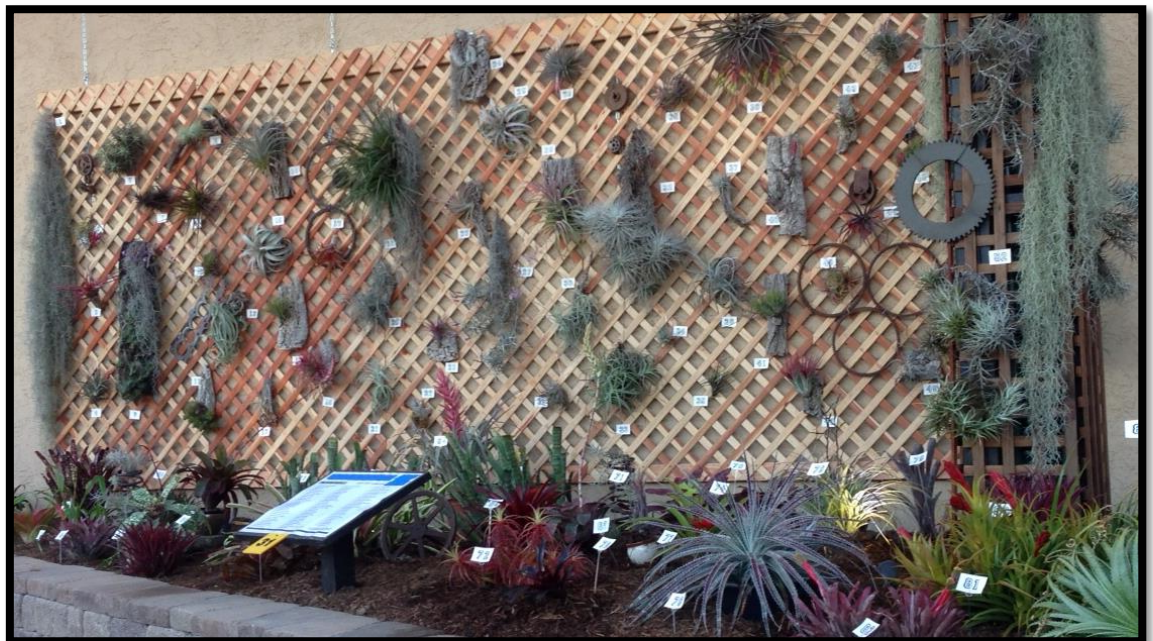
As usual the show was a success with about 200 plants entered. Many thanks go out to everyone who made the show/sale possible. Nancy Groves, our perennial show chair, worked tirelessly to bring it all together. Al Evans put in many hours on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday overseeing the finances of the sale. Debbie Kennedy made sure that classification was exact and all entries were correctly in the computer. Thanks to the judges who spent more than eight hours awarding ribbons, medallions, and Mulford Foster and Morris Henry Hobbes awards. Clerks Bob Walters and Lee Baker were on their feet for hours moving plants in and out of

the judging area and making sure that the judges entries were correctly placed in the show.

The catering, done by Kerry Nelson and Charles Olsen was superb, a veritable lucullan feast. The turnout for the setup on Friday morning was excellent. As a result it went smoothly and quickly. Thanks need to go out to all those who attended the show and acted as security and who schmoozed the public.

It is clear that the San Diego Bromeliad Society can put on a professional looking show and sale—the sale plants, by the way, were really good looking this year.

Hard after the end of the show, we set up our display at the San Diego County Fair. We had about one week to bring it all together, and in this case virtually all the credit goes to Nancy Groves and her daughter, Branwyn (not a member of the society). Thanks to Andrew Wilson for providing a truck, to Don Nelson for helping out and taking photos, to Debbie Kennedy for helping Nancy in the set-up.



SDBS Del Mar Fair Display

At the fair the SDBS took awards this year which will net us about \$1000, earned by only a few members to benefit all the rest.

Above our fair display is the SDBS banner, so approximately 1,200,000 people will pass by, see the beautiful broms in the display and know that

there is a vibrant and very active bromeliad society here in San Diego.

The World Show in Houston will be held June 13-18. Given the weather recently in that part of Texas, I understand that the show organizers have switched the theme to "Bromeliads Under Water." Several

SDBS members will be in attendance and I am sure will all get along swimmingly at the conference. (Let's hope that I am all wet in my weather predictions, and that Houston—and we—will have lots of sunshine in the coming two weeks.)

May Meeting

Program

We went over Tom Biggart's garden again, this time with good pictures. Robert and Nancy answered questions about the show. Items covered were proper plant presentation, things that the judges look for, choosing the right category for your entries, etc.

May's Opportunity Table

Auction this month marked the comeback of our beloved auctioneer Mary! The highest bidders took home an extra curly T. curly slim from Birdrock Tropicals, and two generous tilly clumps from Justin Allen, a T. leonamiana and T. baileyi. The raffle table featured select collectibles from Birdrock Tropicals, including T. 'Samantha', Aechmea 'Ensign' and T. fasciculatas.



Show and Tell

by Morlane O'Donnell
Tillandsia cereicola
Tillandsia fasciculata x ?

by Robert Kopfstein
Neoregelia hybrid
Billbergia 'Domingos Martins'
Robert demonstrated how to prepare the plants for the show.

by Robert Vitacco
Tillandsia straminea

by Andrew Wilson
Fosterella petiolaris

By Al Evans
Tillandsia ionantha 'Peach'
Tillandsia ionantha 'Druid'

by Nancy Groves
Quesnelia lateralis

by David Kennedy
Tillandsia 'Buck Compton'
Tillandsia nidus
Tillandsia ionantha x flabellata

by Mary Yan Lee
Tillandsia ionantha
Tillandsia baileyi

By Bob Wright
Orthophytum horridum
Deuterocohnia hybrid
Puya venusta (right)



Al's *t. ionantha* 'Peach' on petrified wood stole the show. It was in peak bloom and the colors were just amazing.



BROM-I-COM

SDBS Annual Show 2016

This year's show & sale was a great success, with over 200 judged show entries and a veritable plethora of sale plants of every description. Show plants received appropriate accolades by a steady stream of visitors, who also perused the heavily-stocked sale aisles and scooped up a fairly impressive number of broms. SDBS thanks everyone involved!



Major Awards

Gold Mulford B. Foster
Dave Kennedy
Tillandsia Jalisco-monticola hybrid

Gold Morris Henry Hobbs
Dave Kennedy
Tillandsia 'Kaylan'

Silver Category I Division S
Dave Kennedy
Tillandsia hildae

Silver Category I Division M
Dave Kennedy
Tillandsia 'El Dimmitt Doble'

Silver Category I Division P
Dave Kennedy
Orthophytum glabrum

Silver Category II Division M
Steve Salley
Neoregelia & Aechmeas, Neo. Fireball x lilliputiana, Neo. tigrina, Neo. lilliputiana, and others

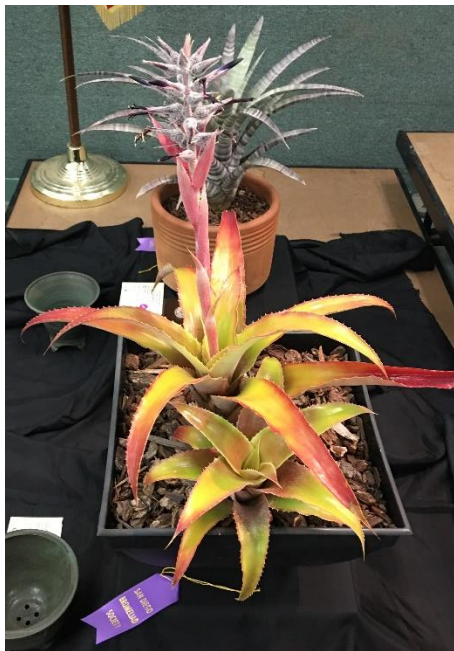
Silver Category III Division DC
Dave Kennedy
Ursulaea tuiutensis

Bronze Category I Division S Section F
Al Evans
Aechmea 'Bert'

Bronze Category I Division S Section B
Robert Kopfstein
Neomea 'Shooting Star'

Bronze Category I Division M Section F
Dave Kennedy
Dyckia 'Kaz'





Upcoming Events

Highlighted Meetings

June 11, 2016 at 10 AM

San Diego Bromeliad Society
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 104
David Anderson from New Zealand
Bromeliad Society on growing bromeliads
in Auckland, NZ.

www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

July 9, 2016 at 10 AM

San Diego Bromeliad Society
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 104

www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

June 13 – 19, 2016

Bromeliad Society International World
Conference
Houston, Texas

www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

Monthly Meetings

1st Tuesday, 6:30 PM

San Diego Orchid Society
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room
101

www.sdorchids.com

2nd Saturday, 10 AM

San Diego Bromeliad Society
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room
104

www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

2nd Saturday, 1 PM

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room
101

www.sdcss.net

2nd Monday, 5 PM

San Diego Horticultural Society
Surfside Race Place at the Delmar
Fairgrounds

www.sandiegohorticulturalsociety.org



SDBS 2016**Officers**

President

Robert Kopfstein

rwkopfstein@gmail.com

760-726-8300

1st Vice-President (programs)

OPEN

2nd Vice-President (plants)

David Kennedy

thedavekennedy@gmail.com

858-278-6532

Secretary

Ruth Contino

ruth.contino@baesystems.com

619-303-2144

Treasurer

Al Evans, Jr.

alevansoo1@earthlink.net

858-492-9866

Newsletter Editor

Juliana Raposo

julianadraposo@gmail.com

858-349-1405

Past President

Robert Vitacco

rvitacco@cox.net**Board Members**

Scott Sandel

sandel-marich@cox.net

619-325-1990 x 110

Nancy Groves

nancygroves@me.com

858-453-6486

Lucia Velazquez

luciamaccanna@yahoo.com

619-283-0500

Bob Walters

cactusbobby@gmail.com

619-282-2246

June Program

This month we are fortunate to have a traveler stopping by San Diego on his way to the Bromeliad Society International World Conference in Houston. David Anderson will be speaking on cultivating bromeliads in his home of Auckland, New Zealand. The Auckland climate is rather similar to ours but with cooler temperatures and more moisture all year around. It is amazing what can be grown with lots of good (rain) water, a non-scorching temperatures and higher humidity.

David has long been active in the bromeliad world for many years. He has held key positions in the New Zealand Bromeliad Society and has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Bromeliad Society International. His bromeliad garden in Auckland is extensive, including many large Vrieseas, Alcantareas, Tillandsias, and Neoregelias.

See a bit of his garden on page 9.

June Opportunity Table

by Dave Kennedy

This month will be a Tillandsia extravaganza, and about time! We acquired a slew of good tillys from Justin Allen's big sell-off; clumps of interesting forms of *T. purpurea*, *straminea*, *dura*, *bergeri*, *chiapensis*, etc. Plus, we will auction off a number of tillandsias from *Tropiflora* that were obtained when Dennis Cathcart spoke recently in town.

SDBS MEETINGS

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

San Diego Bromeliad Society Webpage

www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

THE BROMELIAD BLADE

San Diego Bromeliad Society
Juliana Raposo, Editor

6979 Sweetwater St
Carlsbad, CA 92011

858-349-1405

To send material for the newsletter, 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.

2016 SDBS Membership

To renew your membership, please contact Al Evans, Treasurer

alevansoo1@earthlink.net

858-492-9866

Renewal Fees: 1 year

Single email \$13
Dual email \$17
Single USPS \$28
Dual USPS \$32

Renewal Fees: 2 years

Single email \$22
Dual email \$30
Single USPS \$52
Dual USPS \$60

Puya Opportunity

It seems like Bob Wright never stops tinkering with his plants. Someone took a *Puya alpestris* inflorescence to the Horticultural Society meeting when Dennis Cathcart was speaking, in May.

While all the folks marveled at the beauty, Bob seized the opportunity to harvest some blooms (with permission from the owner) and pollinate his own *Puya venusta* that he took to the May meeting. Great thinking, Bob! I want a seedling of that.



One of Bob's unregistered hybrids, done 15 years ago: Pitcairnia burle-marxii hyb.



Bob's P. venusta in bloom. Notice the white thread, marking the flowers that were pollinated with P. alpestris

Bob is known for his love of spiny broms. He's been experimenting with hybridizing for many years, and having great fun with it. Here's what he had to say when I asked why he grows bromeliads from seed:

I have been growing seed, off and on, for over 20 years. It's one way to increase the diversity of your collection. It takes time, but not as much time looking backward, as looking forward from when you first plant the seed.

When asked about his hybrids, he's not worried about posterity...

I haven't registered any of my hybrids, but I haven't released very many, only a few. Not every hybrid is a show stopper, but some growers seem to think that all offspring should be registered if the cross is made from two famous parents. A good example is all the *Dyckia* crosses made with Bill Baker's hybrids. That's just my opinion.

Dennis Cathcart

Dennis Cathcart's presentation at the SD Horticultural Society May meeting was a treat. Dennis and his wife Linda, owners of Tropiflora nursery, spent 40+ years traveling the world in search for plants and introduced many to the horticultural trade.

The talk was a condensed account of years of nature travel and exploration, divided by habitat types and illustrated with lots of photos of bromeliads dwelling in their natural state. From time to time, he threw in some humorous bits to remove us from a bromeliad-induced trance – from earthquakes to unfriendly donkeys and neon tarantulas.

The habitat shots of bromeliads were at times, surprising - think *T. funckiana* and *T. cyanea* colonies living on exposed cliffs, no shade in sight. I always thought these plants liked shade and humidity. Extreme survivalists like *T. latifolia*, forming lonely clumps on sand dunes in Peru where it's "too dry for cactuses" - in Dennis' words. I for one had never heard that *Dyckia brevifolia* in the south of Brazil grows on riverbanks and can stay submerged for weeks, unscathed, when the river floods.

But particularly mind-blowing are the photos of lesser-known bromeliads in remote jungles, plants that we will never see because they are unfit for cultivation. There are many species like that, living beautifully, in hiding.

Growing Bromeliads from Seeds

by Eloise Lau

Dan and I have been growing bromeliads from seed for years. We have successfully sprouted and grown *dyckia*, *ursulaea*, *aechmea*, *fosterella*, *neoregelia*, *pitcairnia*, *puyas* and *tillandsias*. Sprouting them doesn't seem to be the problem. Keeping them going can be more difficult.

Tillandsias are our down fall. We have started them on screen, on potting soil and even on coconut bark and tree fern but have not raised any to adulthood. The only ones that seem to grow are the ones that start as volunteers among the Spanish moss or in a clump of *tillandsias*.

We put our seed in Sunshine Professional Growing Mix. We soak the seed overnight in warm tap water. We do not sterilize anything. We just put the potting mix in a pot, wet the potting soil down, put the seed on top of the potting mix and put the pot in a plastic bag. The seed usually sprout in a week or two. When the seedlings sprout, open the plastic bag to let air in, but keep the sides of the bag upright to keep the humidity in. This will allow for air movement that helps the seedlings survive. Give them a weak solution of fertilizer every week or two beginning when they are about an inch high.

Here are pictures of *Aechmea metertensii*:



Tiny Aechmea metertensii grown from seed



Aechmea metertensii seedlings



Adult plant

David Anderson's Garden



Tillandsia leiboldiana (left)
Tillandsia (right)
Garden view (bottom)

