

# The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the  
San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

February 2017

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NUMBER 2

## President's Corner

By Scott Sandel

This month, I am giving a “shout out” to our membership in regard to the World Bromeliad Conference that will take place next year, May 30 – June 3, 2018. Our steering committee has been doing our homework, and we have laid the groundwork for a fun and exciting event with tours, speakers, a world-class plant show and (of course) a fantastic line-up of plant sellers from across the land. As always, you can go to the Conference Corner section of the BSI website to get more details on the conference.

<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>

Won't you consider being a part of the team? We have broken down the conference into manageable pieces, and no one will be working alone. Nancy Groves and I are co-chairs, and we will provide the contacts and support you'll need. In February, please give one or both of the co-chairs an email.

Scott: [sandel-marich@cox.net](mailto:sandel-marich@cox.net)

Nancy: [ngnancy.groves@gmail.com](mailto:ngnancy.groves@gmail.com)

Please remember that members of the San Diego Bromeliad Society are also required to register for the World Bromeliad Conference in order to participate in the talks and scheduled activities. Even if you cannot volunteer, consider registering now; your early support will help us plan this wonderful event. Don't procrastinate, take advantage of the early bird pricing and [secure your spot!](#)

### World Bromeliad Conference 2018, San Diego

#### Established Chairs & Committees:

WBC 2018 CO-CHAIRS: NANCY GROVES & SCOTT SANDEL

Manages local efforts, liaisons with BSI, correspondence and promo's, volunteer coordinators and general resource go-tos

PLANT SHOW CHAIR – ROBERT KOPFSTEIN

Manages show schedule, classification, entry clerks, clerks, judges chair & judges and

commercial section; works with Assistant Show Chair on volunteer coordination & security

PLANT SALES CHAIR – DAVE KENNEDY

Contacts/coordinates with vendors, getting as many as possible; sales (including tagging, registers, etc.); works with Assistant Show Chair on volunteer coordination & security

#### New Committee Chairs & Co-Chairs – Each Needs a Volunteer:

Each of the following can be fun positions, working with the Co-chairs and volunteers that may overlap with one another.

Items marked with an asterisk (\*) are opportunities for either San Diego members or for out-of-towners.

#### ASSISTANT SHOW CHAIR

- Assist Show Chair with volunteers; coordinates with judging folks and exhibit folks.
- Could help as liaison between Show Chair and others

**ASSISTANT SALES CHAIR**

- Helps Sales Chair with volunteers during sale.
- Assist Sales Chair with items during planning/set-up

Horticulture, San Diego Magazine, local Orchid and Cactus and Succulent societies, SD Floral, etc., ZooNews

**FOOD & BEVERAGE CHAIR**

- Coordinator with Paradise Point on all F & B, banquet, and off-site food and beverage for bus tours

**SPEAKERS COMMITTEE\***

- Contact speakers, coordinate payment of stipends/travel; keep in communication with speakers; obtain bio's and format for speakers AV and provide to co-chairs. (We have a list of prospective speakers.)

**REGISTRATION & WELCOME CENTER\***

- Organize check in and name badges, with special for speakers, and workers
- Hospitality representatives provide information, a lost & found service, a holding area for registrant's belongings (short term), and sells the WBC pins, mugs, etc. Solicit and raffle hospitality baskets. Get maps and restaurant menus for San Diego from tourist bureau which will provide all free. Provide info on Zoo, Sea World, Lego Land for families of participants, also provided by tourist bureau.

**HALF-DAY/ SHORT TOURS**

- Local Garden Tour: Coordinate with 2-3 homeowners in central SD, not far from conference venue – including volunteer organization, bus/'trolley' rental and coordination with Security Chair
- Balboa Park & Zoo tour (Balboa Park and Lath house): same organizational tasks as above
- Sunset bay boat tour: coordinate with boat operator and transportation to/from. (This could be relatively turn-key simple.)

**EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS\***

- Organize local exhibit and coordinate with other SoCal affiliate chapters and nurseries.
- Get bromeliad table centerpieces from vendors/nurseries and/or members

**CONFERENCE PRINTED PROGRAM\***

- Organize a printed program given to each attendee with schedules, speakers bio's and advertising.
- Solicit advertisements from vendors and affiliates
- Get prices for printing; coordinate w/ printer

**PACKING/SHIPPING\***

- Have boxes, tape, pens available
- Arrange for plant inspection and for designated boxing/shipping area that attendees can use

**FULL-DAY NORTH-COUNTY TOUR AND DINNER AT SD BOTANICAL GARDEN**

- A roughly 6-8-hour grand tour of 2-3 No-County gardens, ending at dinner at the SD Botanic Garden as follows:
- Coordinate with homeowners and SD Botanic Garden folks
- Coordinate with your wayfinding and security volunteers
- Pre-arrange buses (get quotes/reserve a year in advance) and coordinate with them during event

**DESIGN GRAPHICS FOR HAT, PIN, MUG or other\***

- Create conference logo (or get help from Scott in designing it)
- Get prices for printing; coordinate w/ printer

**AUDIO VISUAL CHAIR**

- Make sure there are extra bulbs, batteries for remotes, extension cords, help with extra lighting, be familiar with equipment in order to help speakers.

**PUBLICITY\***

- Advertising in BSI journal, BSI Conference Corner, papers, news stations, TV, magazines: Horticulture Society magazine, Pacific

**RARE PLANT & SILENT AUCTION\***

- Obtain donations of plants, containers, art, or other desirables
- Organize silent auction on Friday night and rare plant auction on Saturday night

**POST CONFERENCE TOUR (Optional)**

- Arrange for a fund-raising trip/tour to Lotus Land, Huntington Gardens, Sherman Gardens, LA Botanic Garden or similar.

## Upcoming Events

### Highlighted Meetings

February 11, 2017 at 10 AM  
 SDBS Monthly Meeting  
 Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104  
[www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html)

March 11, 2017 at 10 AM  
 SDBS Monthly Meeting  
 Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104  
[www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html)

### Save The Date!

**World Bromeliad Conference,  
 San Diego  
 May 29 – June 3, 2018**

**Book Now!  
 Price Goes Up After February  
 28!**

**Register at:**  
<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>

### Monthly Meetings

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 6:30 PM  
 San Diego Orchid Society  
 Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101  
[www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 10 AM  
 San Diego Bromeliad Society  
 Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 104  
[www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html)

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 1 PM  
 San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society  
 Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101  
[www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 5:45 PM  
 San Diego Horticultural Society  
 Congregation Beth Israel (CBI)  
 9001 Towne Centre Drive  
 San Diego, CA 92122  
[www.sandiegohorticulturalsociety.org](http://www.sandiegohorticulturalsociety.org)

## Time to Renew your SDBS Membership!

It's that time of year again! Please renew your membership with the San Diego Bromeliad Society by March 1<sup>st</sup> to insure you are included in the 2017 membership directory. You may send in your renewal fees to The San Diego Bromeliad Society, PO Box 83996, San Diego, Ca 92138-3996 or to the treasurer, Kerry Nelson, 1725 Myrtle Avenue, San Diego, Ca 92103 The 2017 directory will be sent to all current members via email before the March meeting. Some printed copies will be available at the meeting.

**Membership**  
 1 year - \$13 single / \$17 dual  
 2 years - \$22 single / \$30 dual

**USPS Members Only**  
 1 year - \$28 single / \$32 dual  
 2 years - \$52 single / \$60 dual

Please note that due to the high cost and extra labor involved in USPS memberships, they are no longer being offered to new members and are only available to those who are grandfathered in with a "P" associated with their name in the 2016 directory. Thanks for your understanding.

Al Evans, Membership Chairman

## January Meeting

We had Dr. Terrie Bert who gave a fascinating talk on growing rare bromeliad genera.

### Show n Tell

The images speak for themselves!



## SDBS 2017

### Officers

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### Board Members

Mary Whittemore (2016-17)  
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TBD (2016-17)

Don Nelson (2017-18)  
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Morlane O'Donnell (2017-18)  
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## Could Not Show and Tell...

by Dave Kennedy

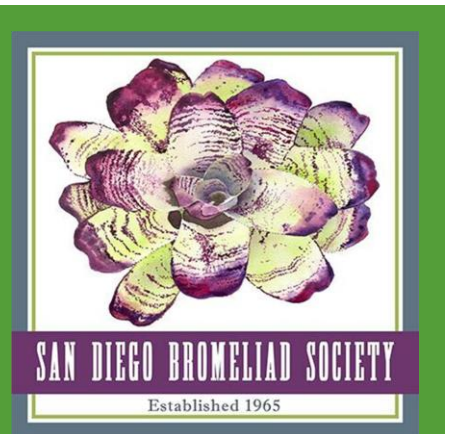
An interesting bigeneric is xCryptananas 'Pink Utopia', a cross between undetermined species of Cryptanthus and Ananas. Easy to grow and the resultant "fruit" is a colorful little charmer.



Tillandsia 'Sentry' is a John Arden hybrid of lampropoda x deppeana, and its plain-Jane green foliage produces a striking inflorescence.



## THE BROMELIAD BLADE



Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

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Make sure to submit your contribution before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter.

### SDBS MEETING

The club meets on the second Saturday of the month at 10am in Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104.

### SDBS WEBPAGE

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



At the very tail end of the last of those fierce January storms, a wild hailstorm hit Clairemont for several minutes. The total accumulation on all my drooping shade cloth was certainly enough to make a few snowmen, I didn't bother. At least the icy meltwater dripped in highly localized streams. (David Kennedy)



Billbergia blooming high on the palm tree (Juliana Raposo, left); Tillandsia leonamiana (Scott Sandel, center); Vriesea 'Margolian' (Scott Sandel, right)

# February Meeting

## The talk

### Bromeliad Enthusiasm, by a Volume Novice

Tom Jesch, of Waterwise Botanicals shares the evolution of his Bromeliad adventures, and new-found love for them, in the commercial landscape arena. It's not the flowering, florist varieties of grocery store groups- it's the amazing foliage of terrestrials and their endless colorations, along with their wildly varying forms ranging from large Agave-like varieties- to creeping, spreading groundcovers. Tom makes no claim to being a nomenclature and names guy. But if you'd like to toss ideas with somebody who has gone from zero to 10's of thousands in a short three and a half years, then we'll have a GOOD TIME!



*Tom & alligator*

Tom Jesch, with his wife, Jackie, co-founded Waterwise Botanicals and Tom is the current Manager. He was born with a passion for growing plants and has worked in the nursery industry for over 40 years. When you couple that with his background

as a fine-artist, he becomes the consummate designer of landscapes with a keen eye for composition. With a gift for story-telling and a quirky sense of humor...he is quite entertaining as he takes on a requested role of speaker and teacher of horticultural topics to industry professionals, as well as programs instituted through water authorities, and events at Waterwise Botanicals. Tom grew-up in, and loves the outdoors...getting out into the wilderness on foot, or in a kayak. He is a man of basic needs. He enjoys family, science & nature, "recreational" chain-sawing, chopping wood and welcomes a good debate about politics.

## Opportunity Table

by Scott Sandel

The plants for this month will be a special batch of plants from Michaels Bromeliads in Venice, Florida. When I was in Florida during the holidays in December, I visited this mecca of the bromeliad world. I spent hours in the many giant shade houses, drooling over a wide variety of plants. While I was there, I hand-selected a variety of plants for our opportunity table. There will be plants that are not widely available on the West Coast, including several *Neoregelias*, *Neophytums*, *Alcantareas*, *Aechmeas*, *Orthophytums*, *Cryptanthus*, and four other genera!



# Hohenbergia Castellanosii and Me

## A long-term experiment

By Juliana Raposo

One of the first bromeliads I ever bought was *Hohenbergia castellanosii*.

This is not the rarest, not the cutest, but for sure it is one of my favorite bromeliads. I just love the vase shape, the stiff, lime green leaves. But the real show starts when the plant is about to bloom - the leaf tips become red and the contrast with the green and is unbelievable. Looks like a giant tulip.



*Hohenbergia castellanosii* in habitat, Bahia, Brazil circa 1986. *BSI Journal* 1986 V36(6).

It's no secret that I have a soft spot for Brazilian broms, particularly the beach dwellers. *H. castellanosii* belongs in this category with *Aechmea blanchettiana* and *Neoregelia cruenta*, the most emblematic bromeliads that hail from the *restinga* (beach habitat). They grow on the sand or as epiphytes, braving salt water spray in



*Because you can never be too big to be an epiphyte*

a rather dry, unsheltered environment. Before the natural landscape of the Brazilian shore was destroyed, *H. castellanosii* was common in the northeastern coast. Small patches of *restinga* remain in

the state of Bahia, where *H. castellanosii* reigns supreme among several other broms, as documented by Elton Leme, [BSI Journal 1986 V36\(6\)](#). That was 30 years ago. Sadly, the Marau region's *restinga* wonderland described in Elton's travelogue has since become a hot destination and several beach resorts were built. I wonder if the plants are still there. A little further north, still in the state of Bahia, Ponta do Garcez is home to some tracts of *restinga*, and populations of *H. castellanosii*. This area narrowly escaped annihilation in 2013 when the Brazilian oil giant Petrobras had the great idea of routing a gas pipeline through it. A floristic survey of the area led by [Orlando Graeff, \(former Brazilian Bromeliad Society president\)](#) revealed scores of rare bromeliads and orchids, a possibly new *Hohenbergia* species, and even the

uber-rare orchid *Cattleya aclandiae*. The pipeline was re-routed.

In cultivation, *H. castellanosii* seems to grow with ease in South Florida even as a landscape plant. Yet, I don't know of anyone other than me growing it here. This is most intriguing to me, as some SDBS members grow rather obscure *Hohenbergia* species, hybrids and even make their own *Hohenbergia* crosses. Am I the only person here who likes this plant?



*My plant in April 2014*

My own experience growing this plant for the past 4 years has been a learning curve. Expecting the hardiness of other *restinga* bromeliads, I didn't think twice before planting my *H. castellanosii* pup in near full- sun, under the king palm in front of my house. Next to it were planted though broms such as *A. blanchettiana*, *N. cruenta*, *N. 'Petra'*. That was in 2013.



*Showing red leaf tips, May 2014*



*My *H. castellanosii* today, February 2017: a messy clump, but a stubborn one.*

The offset would grow at a fraction of the rate of the other broms. In fact, the first year it did not grow an inch. I did what rookies do: went on eBay and bought a mighty clump of *Hohenbergia castellanosii* from a lady in Florida, for a sum that I am embarrassed to mention. The plant arrived in the spring, it was the picture of health. Around the mother plant, there was a couple large, "adolescent" offsets and three strong pups were emerging. I moved the little hoh from the previous year to the side and planted the big clump. Within a few weeks, red leaf tips appeared.

Then I got schooled. For some reason, the plant reversed to green weeks later and stayed that way. Winter came. By early spring I could tell something was off. All rosettes had signs of basal rot except for the tiniest pups. As a last measure, I tried to pull the clump out of the substrate and see if I could salvage something, but it was rooted so deep and wide that I found it impossible to move without destroying it for good.

To my surprise, it survived. Next year was no different – some winter rot followed by a bunch of new offsets in the spring. As of now, the clump is deformed but very much alive. Is it finally going to acclimate? The plant would probably fare better if it was potted, as I could keep it dry in the cold months. But it doesn't matter, now. I will wait and see how it plays out.

Remember that first offset I bought back in 2013? Now it has 3 more leaves. It grows excruciatingly slow. No rot, though! If Dan and Eloise waited almost 20 years for *Aechmea ornata* var. *nationalis* to produce a bloom, this is nothing!



*Another year, another pup*