

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

March 2017

VOLUME LII

NUMBER 3

President's Corner

By Scott Sandel

Can you believe this rain we've had? It has been wonderful to see the natural landscape being so green and, dare I say, lush. Our bromeliads are similarly hydrated now. Some of my bromeliads are sensitive to having their cups overflowing with water for many days. I don't usually have problems during cool weather with rot in the center of the rosettes when over-saturated. This is more of a problem in summer, but I still get in there and tip them to pour out the water (inevitably saturating my shoes). During this time of year, this is just about the only task I have in the bromeliad garden. For the most part, I wait until the weather warms to plant new offsets and re-

pot. I've had much better luck waiting until spring to propagate. That said, it is difficult to avoid the temptation to purchase a bare-root new specimen when something special comes along. Of course, this is not an uncommon predicament amongst us California tropical bromeliad enthusiasts.



Alcantarea brasiliiana – holding over a gallon of water in its huge reservoir!

The big news this month is that we have our new website up and running. Please take a few minutes and [check it out](#). Feel free to give me your comments on what we might

want to add. On the "Join Us" tab, there is a form for passing on your comments directly to me.

In both March and April, we will have back-to-back presentations on bromeliads in habitat. In March, we'll see northern Peru, and in April we'll see the country just north Peru

– Ecuador. In March, I will be presenting a show on a recent trip we made to northern Peru. For a couple weeks, I drove all over the place, to cloud forest preserves, archaeological sites and prime birding spots. We spent some time on horseback, too. We saw dozens of bromeliads that I had not seen before. I won't give too much away; I hope to see you on March

11th. In April, Cristy Brenner will give a talk on a trip she made to Ecuador, and I will be interested to see her photos and hear what she experienced.

Editor's Notes

By Juliana Raposo

We are happy to launch the new SDBS website! Please visit www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org Make sure to click on the Log In section (top right corner) and register to be able to access the member's only content. The current issue of the Blade will be available there every month, as well as past editions and other important information. We are currently working on adding content to the site, and looking forward to your contribution, too! If you experience any trouble registering, please let me or Scott know.



Tom Jesch (in center, with hat) and his plant table

February Meeting

We had a fun presentation by nurseryman Tom Jesch, who owns [Waterwise Botanicals](#), in Bonsall. In his particular enthusiastic, humorous style, Tom went over the process of discovering the landscaping potential of bromeliads and growing them commercially. He also brought in a ton of colorful broms for the plant table, as well as 2 magnificent log arrangements combining bromeliads, succulents and rhipsalis.



We also had an incredible assortment of collectible bromeliads from Michael's, handpicked by Scott Sandel in his visit to Florida. It was an interesting table, with some rare genera, interesting bigenerics and the colorful billbergias and neos that made the legendary Michael's Bromeliads famous.

Upcoming Events

Highlighted Meetings

March 11, 2017 at 10 AM
 SDBS Monthly Meeting
 Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104
www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

April 8, 2017 at 10 AM
 SDBS Monthly Meeting
 Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104
www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

Save The Date!

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

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

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, 5:45 PM
 San Diego Horticultural Society
 Congregation Beth Israel (CBI)
 9001 Towne Centre Drive
 San Diego, CA 92122
www.sandiegohorticulturalsociety.org

Show and Tell

Bob Wright

Puya sp.
 Cryptanthus 'Corinne'
 Cryptanthus 'Very Cold Tooth'
 Tillandsia straminea

Mike Pretzer

Billbergia 'Ed McWilliams' x 'Colores'
 x saundersii



Crypto 'Very Cold Tooth'



Mike and his Billbergia. Detail of the inflorescence below



Till. straminea



SDBS 2017

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SDBS Donation to BSI66Fund

The San Diego Bromeliad Society made a generous donation of \$1,000 to the BSI this year.

With this significant contribution, our club helped Bromeliad Society International reach an important milestone: with \$30,279 so far, BSI qualify for \$25,000 matching funds from an anonymous donor.

Plus, with the 66th anniversary approaching in June 18th, the Bromeliad Society International is on track to achieve the BSI66 Fund goal – raising \$66,000.

Renew your SDBS Membership!

If you haven't yet. The 2017 directory is already out. Send in your renewal fees to:

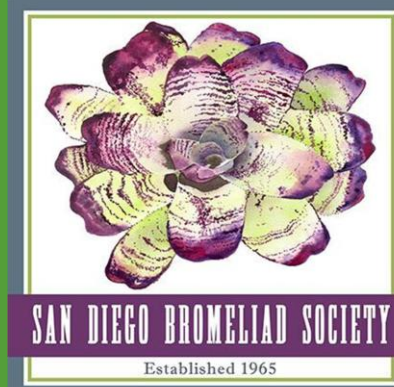
San Diego Bromeliad Society
PO Box 83996
San Diego, Ca 92138-3996

Or send it to the treasurer:
Kerry Nelson
1725 Myrtle Avenue
San Diego, Ca 92103

General 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

THE BROMELIAD BLADE



Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

Juliana Raposo, Editor

Ph: 858-349-1405

To send 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 MEETING

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

SDBS WEBPAGE

www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

March Meeting

The talk

Northern Peru – Bromeliads of Tabaconas Namballe Sanctuary, the archaeological sites and Cordillera Negra & Blanca

Our very own Scott Sandel will indulge us with a slideshow of his adventures in Peru. If you've been following this newsletter, you know that this travelogue is full of gorgeous pictures, including rare bromeliads in habitat and archeological wonders, culminating with an encounter with majestic *Puya raimondii*.



Scott, Jim & P. raimondii

Opportunity Table

by Al Evans

The March plant table will feature plants from Bird Rock Tropicals, selected by Pam Hyatt.

Now, A bit of history.....When I first joined the Bromeliad Study Group (now absorbed by SDBS), the monthly plant tables were always made up entirely of member donated plants. It was years later that we started budgeting to purchase plants for the table. As the new plant table chairperson at SDBS, I would like to revisit the idea of member donated plants and select one month when we have a "member's premium plant table". I would like to use the July meeting to feature plants from you, the members.

I selected July since many members may have plants that they have groomed for sale that may not have sold. Ideally, plants brought in by members would be groomed and cleaned and either potted (or not) and preferably tagged. When you separate pups and clean up your collection over the coming months, please consider setting a few aside to care for and bring into the July meeting. At the meeting, you can talk a bit about your contribution if you choose. Our July plant table will be as successful as you, the members, make it.

In the spirit of donating to the society, please also consider occasionally bringing in a plant to donate to the monthly plant table when you can. Thank you in advance!

SDBS Display at the San Diego County Fair 2017

Did you see the beautiful Alice in Wonderland display that our club created for the Del Mar Fair last year? The bromeliad display, mostly put up by Nancy Groves and her daughter Bronwyn, attracted hundreds of eyeballs and best of all - It won \$1,200 in prizes for the club!

We need a few volunteers to work on this fun project and maybe win a prize for SDBS again. Please stay for brief meeting after the March 11 meeting for an "ideas" meeting. The fair display will be in the same area as last year but the theme is "HOW THE WEST WAS FUN" and the display must have some props or backdrop to incorporate the theme. Ideas so far: gold mining, boots, cow skulls, saddle, bar... These are ok props, but how can we make it fun or funny? Bring your ideas, the wackier the better! Meet no more than 1/2 hr.



Detail of the 2016 fair display

Couldn't Show and Tell

Send us pictures and a brief description to be featured too! We all love bromeliad eye candy!



from Juliana Raposo's garden: Above, *Aechmea kertesziae* inflorescences brighten up the landscape; detail of spike on the right. Below, *Billbergia brimstone* has unusual indigo petals. Sister plant is showing a budding flower spike in the background.

from Scott Sandel's collection: a *billbergia* ready to bloom and two colorful *vrieseas*



from Don Patterson's collection: *Neoregelia kautskyi*, *xNeophytum 'Galactic Warrior'*, *Aechmea orlandiana albo-marginata*.

SD Zoo Bromeliad Garden is Featured in the SD Zoo Magazine

Did you know that the world famous SD Zoo is also a botanic garden?

The zoo has an important cycad collection, a hidden greenhouse full of rare orchids apprehended from smugglers (I kid you not) and... a substantial bromeliad garden, almost as hidden as the said orchid house.

Started by Leonard Kent (Kent Nursery) and maintained by a small but relentless group of SDBS volunteers, the San Diego Zoo Bromeliad Garden has finally reached the spotlight. The zoo magazine has a well crafted feature article with lots of great pictures of the brom garden: <http://zoonooz.sandiegozoo.org/zoonooz/beautiful-bromeliads/>

In your next Zoo visit, make sure to stop by and admire the work of our SDBS team. The brom garden is located next to the hummingbirds exhibit.

And please consider joining the zoo group. They meet around once a month for 1 hour to do some fun gardening. Did I tell you that garden volunteers can visit the zoo for free? For more details, talk to David Kennedy.

Wanted: WBC 2018 Treasurer

This is one of the volunteer spots in greatest need of filling. An 18-month commitment at the most. Please talk to Nancy Groves. ngnancy.groves@gmail.com

A Message from SDBS trustee Nona Church

I just realized, I've been a member for 52 years!!! (1965-Charter) I still have a couple of pieces of art, done by Jan Sanders, 1990 (Aechmeas), and one painted by me in 1978 (Billbergia).

I also have three ribbons from the Del Mar Fair Expo from 1992, 93 & 94, the last 3 I participated in before we moved to New Mexico. Would anyone be interested in purchasing the art? The ribbons I will bring back to the club the next time I'm in San Diego.

North City Landscape Renovation Project

By Lisa Rini

North City is the premier water reclamation plant for the City of San Diego. The landscaping project focused on the conversion of turf (80% reduction), and the original overgrown plant material, to a drought tolerant landscape.

The project used a “water” theme throughout, and the “wave pattern” established by the original landscape plan. The project focused on the property surrounding the operations building (approximately 4 acres) and included the grounds, upper and lower level meeting areas, and parking lots. The intention was to create an attractive and engaging demonstration landscape for drought

conditions. Visitors to the facility (including tour groups, meeting attendees, and employees) are encouraged to walk the grounds.

On the upper level, trails on the parking lot island and the “pier,” allow people to see a wide variety of plant and rock materials, and decorative (concrete or recycled, water-themed) elements. Specialty gardens (bromeliad/cycad, cactus, aloe/agave) expand the plant options. Bromeliads were featured in three of the eight gardens at the facility. Certain viewpoints and seating areas offer views to water-inspired designs including a variety of beaches, a fire pit, crashed boats,

dropped buoys, coral reefs, driftwood, unusual boulders, and plants that resemble underwater flora.

The North City Landscape Renovation Project was nominated for a 2016 Orchid Award, and it received an “Earth Friendly Garden” designation from the UC Master Gardener Program. Plant donations included a variety of bromeliads from the Eloise Lau and Dan Kinnard collection. The Project Designer was Lisa Rini, San Diego Garden Concierge. The project was completed in the summer of 2016. Self-guided and group tours are available.

