

# The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the  
San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

September 2019

VOLUME LIV

NUMBER 9

## President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

I hope you all had a restful and relaxing Labor Day. A big thank you goes out to Pam Koide-Hyatt for allowing us to have our annual picnic on her beautiful property. I heard that several Bird Rock Tropical plants made their way to new homes. As a bonus, those who stayed to help with the clean-up got to have a tour of more of Pam's amazing plants. I'm sorry to have missed the festivities as I was out of state, but I know that any function spearheaded by Eloise Lau and the speaker committee was a consummate success. Thank you to Steve Zolezzi for filling in for me in my absence.

This month we will have our terrestrial expert, Robert Kopfstein, give us a tutorial on how to keep some prickly-spined members of the bromeliad family at bay by teaching us how to safely divide them. Hopefully no blood will be shed. While you are at the meeting, check out pieces of petrified wood that will be for sale. Many of you have seen Al's artistically mounted tillandsias



*These flawless Dyckias require expert maintenance to look so good. Handling spiny broms is a true skill. Detail of WBC 2018 Bromeliad Show award winners*

on petrified wood in the past. They were purchased in AZ on my way home in Holbrook in 99-degree weather. I pointed to what I thought would be nice specimens while my brother picked them up in the blazing sun. I was constantly reminded of that fact the rest of the way home.

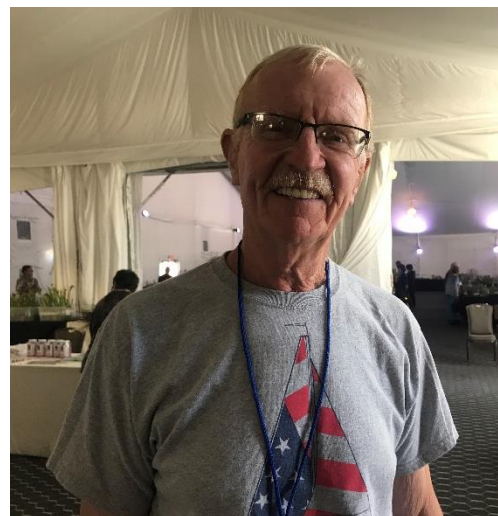
How you noticed a lot of bromeliads coming into bloom with our humidity? It was a pleasant surprise upon coming home to see so many, especially tillandsias, flowering. Don't forget to bring your favorite plants to the meeting for Show and Tell. Meanwhile, safe and happy growing to you all.

# September Meeting

By Andrew Wilson

Our speaker for September is none other than Robert Kopfstein. You know him well from his impromptu comments on diverse topics and from the many and varied plants he brings in from his large collection. He will be telling us about **"Bromeliads - the ones that don't grow on trees"**. That means Hechtias and Dyckias. But, while they stay away from trees, they can be found in all sorts of places from vertical cliffs to stream

beds, from Texas to Argentina and points in between. He'll show some in their homelands from his trips down south and some making their homes back here. He'll tell us how to grow them and, putting fear aside, show us how to split them up without the need for emergency services or welder's gauntlets. It should be fun.



*How do you keep your spiny terrestrials looking good? Ask Kopfstein.  
Dyckias in the collection of Roberto Menescal, Brazil.*

## August Picnic

The SDBS annual picnic at Pam Hyatt's was fabulous! While some of us had been to her nursery many times, few had seen the tropical wonderland in her home.

Starting the picture-perfect day, we toured the nursery and saw the new display area. Then, we moved to the garden and enjoyed a delicious meal under the green canopy. A cool breeze kept everyone comfortable. Highlights? I loved Dan's salad, Kerry's carrot cake and Steve's sangria. Pam gave us a tour of the garden and the picnic wrapped up with a plant raffle. Sweet!



*Top: Alcantarea flower closeup with june bug. Bottom left: Many alcantareas were in bloom. Bottom right: In the display area, a spectacular red Vriesea hybrid (?) and Tillandsia australis nearing the end, but still beautiful.*



*Left: Steve's sangria – delicious! Right: The plant table never looked as good as this, flanked by 2 regal *Butia capitata* palms. The garden is full of majestic palms, cycads and aloes. Bottom: Pam Hyatt and her fabulous garden.*

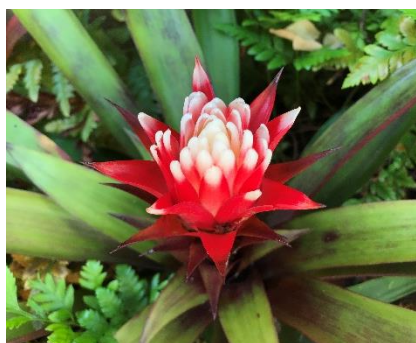


## Upcoming Events

### SDBS Meetings

September 14, 2019, 10:00 AM  
SDBS Monthly Meeting  
Balboa Park Casa del Prado, Room 104  
1650 El Prado, San Diego 92101  
[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

October 12, 2019, 10:00 AM  
SDBS Monthly Meeting  
Balboa Park Casa del Prado, Room 104  
1650 El Prado, San Diego 92101  
[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)



### 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, 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> Wednesday, 7 PM  
San Diego Epiphyllum Society  
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101  
[www.SanDiegoEpi.org](http://www.SanDiegoEpi.org)

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

## September Plant Table

By Stephen Zolezzi

Thanks to the generosity of Melanie Howe's donation from the plant collection of Don Patterson the September plant table will have a representation from Don's personal bromeliad collection along with tillies and other worthy plants.

The plant auction will include several prized, mature Patterson specimens you will want to take home.

## SDBG Bromeliad Donations

Do you want to help enrich the collection at the San Diego Botanic Garden? Some areas in the garden are currently being renovated, including the palm garden. Scott Sandel arranged for a club donation and will be collecting your donated bromeliads this Saturday.

Email [Scott](mailto:scott@sdbotanicgarden.org) you have any questions.



## SDBS 2019

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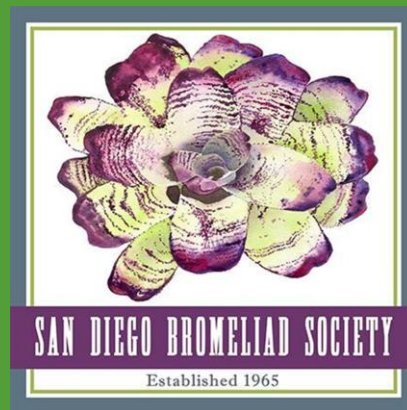
# Wrapping Up



*Two more shots of the August picnic in Pam Hyatt's garden.*



## THE BROMELIAD BLADE



Newsletter of the San Diego  
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To send material for publication,  
please contact Juliana at  
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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.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)