

# The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the  
San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

April 2019

VOLUME LIV

NUMBER 4

## President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

Now that spring is upon us, it is time to start reveling the beauty of watching the leaves of our plants transforming from dull mediocrity to the vibrant colors for which they are known. It's also time to dump sitting water from the leaves and refill, clean debris from in-between the leaves, replant in fresh growing medium if needed, rotate plants, and check for and eradicate pests. Of course, start choosing some candidates for the Del Mar Fair and the SDBS show and sale. Last month, we heard about opportunities for plants to be entered for awards and maybe a cash prize.

Don't forget about our show in June which will be held in lieu of the meeting. Thank you to Juliana Raposo who volunteered to be show chair. She and Scott have some great ideas about which you will hear in the future. If you have at least five plants to exhibit, you would help to make this show a big success. Your plants don't have to be perfect, just



**Just a gentle reminder: please turn your cell phone off during the meeting. If you are expecting an important call, set your phone on vibrate and take your call outside. Be respectful of others and the speakers. Your cooperation will be appreciated. Thank you.**

**There will be a Board meeting Sunday, April 28th at Scott Sandel's house. It will begin promptly at 10am. Members are welcome to attend.**

**A short show planning meeting will be held after the April general meeting.**

clean. Next month rules for the show and sale will be available. A big thank you goes to all who've volunteered so far. We still have a need for more. Tammy will have a signup sheet of tasks.

Dan, Andrew, and I got a lot of positive feedback for the program on the what, how, and who four bromeliad cultivars came to be. More of that will be done in the future. If you would like to present information on your favorite hybrid or cultivar, let Andrew or Dan know. This month we will have a very informative program by Terrie Bert.

Here's to hoping to see you all at the meeting. Meanwhile, happy and safe growing.

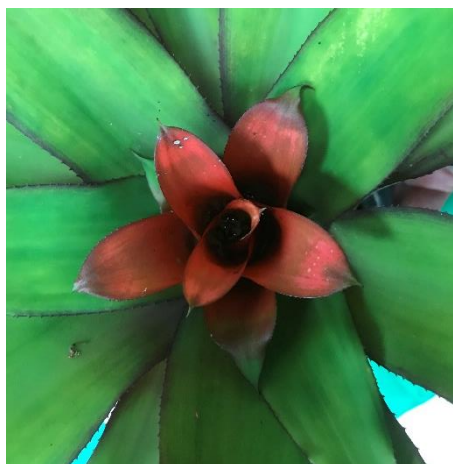


# March Highlights

Our own Morlane O'Donnell, Dan Kinnard and Andrew Wilson presented a program on the history behind some famous bromeliad cultivars.

## Show and Tell

**Robert Kopfstein**  
*Nidularium albiflora*  
 55% shadecloth, *photo*



**Scott Sandel**  
*Neoregelia 'Larnach's Enchantment'*  
 variegated, *photo*  
*Neoregelia 'Skotak's Dorothy'*  
*Neoregelia 'Outer Limits'*



*Billbergia eloisea* x '*Domingos Martins*'  
*Billbergia 'Darth Vader'*  
 50% shadecloth

**Andrew Wilson**  
*Tillandsia delicata*  
 outdoors, in sun

**Kerry Nelson**  
*Tillandsia bulbosa* x *ionantha*  
 half-sun

**Nancy Groves**  
*Tillandsia leonamiana*

**Xiang Li**  
*Tillandsia 'Love Knot'* (*capitata* x *streptophylla*)  
 50% shade

**Don Nelson**  
*Tillandsia bulbosa* giant  
 50% shade

**David Kennedy**  
*Tillandsia The Perfect Blend*  
*unregistered* ('*Lucille*' x *bulbosa*)  
 50% shade  
*Tillandsia punctulata* x *standleyi*  
 natural hybrid *photo*  
 70% shade, mesic



## Upcoming Events

### SDBS Meetings

April 13, 2019  
SDBS Monthly Meeting  
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104  
[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

May 11, 2019  
SDBS Monthly Meeting  
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104  
[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

May 18, 2019  
SDBS Private Garden Tour  
[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

### SDBS Events 2019

SDBS Display at the Del Mar Fair  
Del Mar Fairgrounds  
June 1 – July 4, 2019

SDBS Annual Show & Sale  
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado room 101  
June 8 & 9, 2019

### 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)

## April Meeting

by Scott Sandel



### Talk

#### **Bromeliad Ecology, Evolution, & Cultivation - Making the Best of a Taxonomic Quagmire**

This month we are happy to have Dr. Terrie Bert, a longstanding member of BSI, Sarasota and Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Societies presenting an excellent program.

Bromeliads have great diversity in form, physiology, and the habitats they occupy. Studies based on genetic differences between genera and species have shown us the locations and habitats where bromeliad species originated, how and where they spread in the Americas, and how they developed such diversity.

Understanding something about bromeliad ecology and evolution can help us to find the best conditions for cultivating the bromeliads we grow.

### Plant Table

Florida is the theme! Expect a large selection of unusual broms from the private collection of our speaker. Auction items will include some exceptional plants from Michael's Bromeliads, also from Florida.

### SDBS Show Planning Meeting

Would you like to get involved with our show and sale this year? Stick around after the Saturday meeting for a brief discussion on the June show. This time, we are not doing the customary BSI judged show. It will be much more laid back. The show will have an educational focus, showcasing the richness of bromeliads to the general public. The core of the show will be a naturalistic exhibit that will require a few happy volunteers and lots of plants! Of course, there will be prizes too. A signup sheet for volunteering opportunities is coming soon.

# Orange County Gardens Trip

By Andrew Wilson

The long-promised trip to gardens in Orange County has been set up. It will take place, as originally promised, on Saturday, May 18. The details of the day schedule and the cost to members are shown at the end of this article.

Before getting into the details this tour differs from our two previous tours, to the Huntington Botanic Garden and to two commercial growers. This one is to two private gardens, each with its own personality. One of them emphasizes gardening and how an avid gardener, Chris Lutz, has transformed his

property on Dana Point into a home for bromeliads, in trees, on fences, in beds, on plant pillars, on walls, and in just about any free space he can still find.

There are many places for plant arrangements like these in the garden. Whether it's the woodwork construction, the individual pots used or the general layout the work is all by Chis. He received the Orange County Top Gardener Award several years ago.

You'll be able to sit down and enjoy some of his chosen coffee blend at one of the several oak tables that are located in shady sites. It's a treat for people who enjoy gardens, particularly in ones that feature bromeliads.



*Chris Lutz: tillandsias, vrieseas, aechmeas are draped from the branches or studded about the base of an old olive tree. Above, neos and billbergias are festooned about the trunk of an obliging palm.*

The second garden is further north in Orange County, a few miles west of Anaheim. It is the lifelong work of Norm Nakanishi. He is less a gardener than a highly knowledgeable plantsman and hybridizer of many types of plants including, Clivias (clive - ee - ahs), Ti plants, palms, orchids, cycads and ferns. Of course, he also grows many bromeliads. On this page: one of his open-air shade areas and here on a fence are a few of his tillandsias.

Norm has a small personal garden and a nearby area growing grounds. Both are densely packed with many fine specimens. Everyone will find at least a few to wish for. While not a commercial grower, he has agreed to make some of his plants at his growing grounds available for purchase. He does not typically do this and the transaction time may be longer than you'd expect at a commercial nursery.

Not to be ignored on the tour is a visit for lunch, included in the price below, at the Hometown Buffet in Santa Anna. They offer a very wide range of foods from meaty to vegan, spicy to bland and in quantities of your choice. This should be an enjoyable tour with much diversity and a little less time spent in the coach. So, come and enjoy the event.



## 2019 SDBS Bus Trip to Private Gardens

**May 18, 2019, Saturday**

### 1st Pick-up

Balboa Park 8 am (and don't be late!)  
Lot off President Way— in front of  
Naval Hospital

### 2nd Pick-up

Park & Ride 8:30 am  
La Costa P & R  
710 La Costa Ave. Carlsbad, California  
CA 92011, US

### 3rd Stop

Chris Lutz 10 am  
25262 Swanway Ct.  
Dana Point CA 92629

### 4th Stop

Hometown Buffet Lunch 12:30 pm  
1008 17th St. Santa Ana CA

### 5th Stop

Norm Nakanishi 2pm  
2937 W Bridgeport Ave. Anaheim CA  
92804

### 6th Stop

7931 Second St. Stanton CA 92804

### Return

Carlsbad (around 5.45 pm); Balboa  
Park (around 6.30 pm)

### Trip Costs

Lunch, morning snacks and return  
refreshments included

Members \$40.00

Member with guest \$65.00

See flyer to sign up.



## Now Blooming

Dan Kinnard sent us these awesome shots and commentary.



Shaded by trees, this *Aechmea phanerophlebia* is developing into a big clump with more blooms every year.



And after a long wait, this *Puya lanata* came into bloom. Dan and Eloise received it from a friend in 2011 in a 6 inch pot and planted it “outback” with little water and care. The large size precludes its use in small spaces unless you want to be a frequent blood donor. It is 6 or 7 feet tall at this first blooming. The question might be why did it bloom this year—extended cool period this winter, lots of water after several years of almost none, because it matured to blooming size, or who knows/cares as it is pretty cool.

See inflorescence detail on next page.



## SDBS 2019

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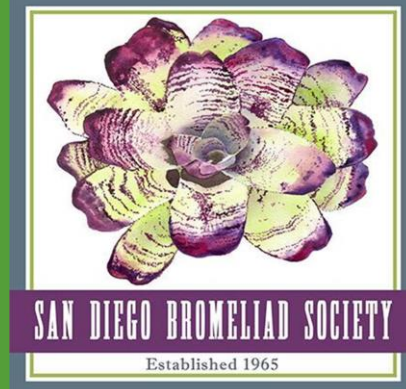
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*Detail of the inflorescence of Puya lanata*

## THE BROMELIAD BLADE



Newsletter of the San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

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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)