

# The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the  
San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

May 2020

VOLUME LV

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## President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

I'm sure by now you have come to the conclusion that our May meeting is cancelled. When our next club meeting is, cannot be determined right now. I do promise this: we will not meet until it is safe. For now, I'd like to propose that each one of us find at least one special plant in our collection, take a picture of it, write a couple of sentences about it, then send that to Juliana to include in our future newsletters. Make sure you include why this plant is so special. It might also be fun to have a question and answer section. Send your questions to me and I'll try to answer them or find someone who can. I'll send them to Juliana so she can include them in the newsletter and other members will be welcome to "weigh in."

Along the line of events being cancelled, the Board agreed that our annual June show and sale be postponed until November 14. As it stands right now, it will be a one-day sale in lieu of our regular meeting



*Spiking now: Scott Sandel's Vriesea 'Cherry Snow', a kiwi that loves San Diego.*

which will be open to the public. I don't know if I can secure the premises for a three-day event. Stay tuned for more info. Looking forward to July, (hopefully we'll be able to have our meeting) there will be a member-to-member sale in addition to our Plant Opportunity table. We're still planning on holding the annual August picnic if restrictions are lifted by then.

Please be vigilant about following guidelines for COVID-19. I want to

see each and every one of you when we meet again. This month is our anniversary month. Unfortunately, we'll have to postpone the cake. Maybe we can have it during the picnic to celebrate seeing each other. Until next month, safe and happy growing. Don't forget to take pictures and send articles to Juliana. You are welcome to post pictures on our Facebook page too.

## Upcoming Events

### SDBS Meetings

SDBS May Meeting **CANCELLED**

[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

SDBS Monthly Meeting  
(May be cancelled)

Saturday, June 13, 2020 @ 10AM

Balboa Park Casa del Prado, Room 104  
1650 El Prado, San Diego 92101

[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

### SDBS Events

SDBS Annual Show & Sale

November 2020

Location TBD

[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

SDBS at San Diego County Fair

**CANCELLED**

### Other 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)

## The Silver Lining

by Juliana Raposo

There's a long list of bad things happening now, but in order to stay sane, I choose to focus on the good ones.

For me it became evident, as life slowed down, how stressed I was with deadlines and always running late for something. It's great to have more time to dedicate to activities I enjoy, like... caring for my plants.

I finally got around to going up my blanchetiana tree – a dead king palm that I outfitted with a crown of Aechmea blanchetiana orangeade - and do some much needed clean-up. It was looking pretty shaggy after all the rain and wind that beat up on it recently. Dead leaves were trimmed, and the plants that were tilted were secured. Found two empty birds nests up there, which I was careful not to knock down. Overall, I'm glad to see that the plants are pupping, even in the adverse conditions. I added another blanchetiana to the ensemble, this time a 'Wally Berg'.



*The blanchetiana tree in my front yard. The plant in the middle is the Wally Berg I just added.*

Hope it does well up there. Also adjusted the Spanish moss “beard” and it looks so much better! It took hours. Only in quarantine...

I also divided numerous neos, aechmeas and billbergias that would have gone to the June sale. Instead, I used them to re-do my neighbor’s front yard, another convert to the bromeliad cause. Replacing the boring bushes with colorful broms was incredibly satisfying. I will post some pictures in here soon. And I still got a bunch of surplus cuttings which are ready for repotting.

In the coming dates I have more little bromeliad projects lined up, and none of the guilt that comes with all the other things I should be doing...

So I say to you, bromeliad friend, dive deep into your bromeliad passion and make your days merry.

Don’t forget to send me pictures and comments for the June newsletter!



*Vriesea guttata* had not bloomed in two years.

Detail of the pale pink inflorescence with yellow blooms about to open.

These store-bought neos are forming a lovely garden bed. Anyone knows their name?



## SDBS 2020

### Officers

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Lucia Velasquez (2019-20)

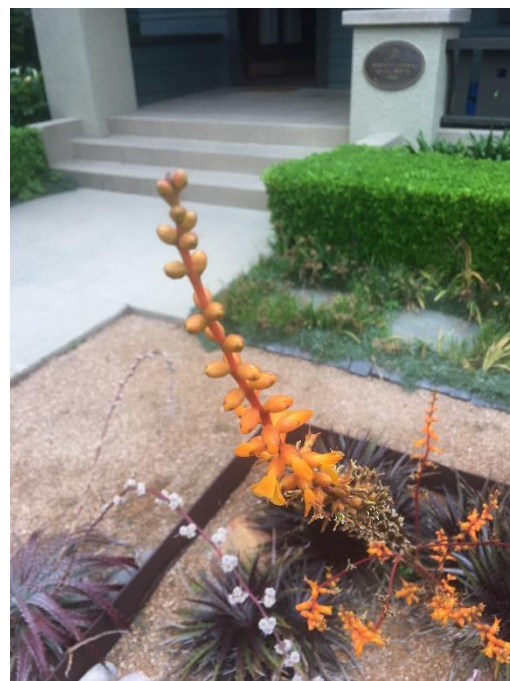
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*From Scott Sandel's, Aechmea 'Red Bands' and a Dyckia hybrid. Below, Morlane O'Donnell's tillias basking in the sun.*





*Neatly stacked broms in Morlane O'Donnell's collection.*

## THE BROMELIAD BLADE



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To send material for publication,  
please contact Juliana at  
[julianadraposo@gmail.com](mailto:julianadraposo@gmail.com)

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)