



# The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the  
San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

August 2020

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## President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

This month I'm happy and excited to announce that we will have our first Zoom general meeting on our regular second Saturday of the month beginning at 10:00 am. You should receive an invitation with the information you'll need in order to gain admittance. Scott Sandel is the host. The format will be Pam Hyatt presenting first, followed by three members who will feature one or two plants for a Show and Tell, and Steve Zolezzi will wrap it up with a plant for auction.

The Board had its first meeting via Zoom. Here are some of the highlights. Meetings in Balboa Park are postponed indefinitely. Regular monthly meetings will be held using Zoom. The November SDBS plant sale has also been postponed. Something to replace it is in the works. More information will be given in the future. All paid members of the SDBS will be given a free membership for a year due to the effects of the "stay at home" order.



*Time to water your broms more!*

This means if you are paid through 2020, there will be no charge for 2021. If you are paid through 2021, 2022 is free. I'd like to give a shout out to Scott Sandel who has been hosting "Coffee in the Garden" meetings. Look for more of those in months ahead. Kudos also to the speaker committee: Dan Kinnard, Eloise Lau, and Andrew Wilson for working diligently to bring us

informative programs. I'd like to thank Andrew Wilson for hosting a Zoom beginner's tutorial on July 29th. Speaking of Andrew, if you are a member of the BSI and looked through the latest journal, you saw a familiar face in "Meet Your BSI Directors." I enjoyed reading a little about Andrew's background, especially his education and knowing he is an Irishman. He is one of the representatives of the Western USA region. Nancy Groves and Cristy Brenner also represent our area. Dan Kinnard is an Honorary Trustee. Robert Kopfstein is on the Publication sales committee. Pam Hyatt is on the Scientific Review Panel for the BSI Journal. SDBS is well represented in the BSI.

Don't forget now that the weather is getting warmer, to water your broms more frequently and move more delicate plants to areas with less sun. Some Aechmeas, Neos., and soft green-leaved plants are particularly susceptible to leaf and center burn. Don't forget to apply sunscreen on yourself and wear a hat. See you at the meeting. Happy and safe growing!

# Finally! SDBS Monthly Meeting Returns - in Zoom

SDBS member Pamela Hyatt will present our first Zoom meeting program. In this members-only meeting she will review the Capitata group of Tillandsias. We will discover some of the Capitata forms, additions, and deletions due to taxonomic changes, and problems with some of the nursery names, cultivars, and hybrids. We look forward to seeing Pam's great photos and hearing all about this interesting and popular group of tillandsias.

When: Saturday, August 8 @ 10am

Join meeting here:

<https://zoom.us/j/94272239369>

MEETING ID: 942 7223 9369



*Pamela Koide-Hyatt loves bromeliads so much it pains her to see them abused, particularly when they're treated as if they are disposable decorations. That often happens to the beautiful, silvery-leafed Tillandsia xerographica, an endangered bromeliad native to southern Mexico and Guatemala, she told visitors to the San Diego County Fair last year. Because this bromeliad can go months without water and its twisted-up, silvery foliage looks so striking when placed in a darkened room, it's often used as a disposable wall art item.*

## Tips for a Successful Zoom Meeting

If using a phone or tablet, make sure it's fully charged. Zooming drains your battery pretty fast!

Take a little time to get settled before the meeting. Pick a spot with good (preferably natural) lighting, and make sure the light source faces you or is coming sideways. Having an open window behind you is a no-no. It will cause your face to be darkened by the overly bright background.

If using a tablet or laptop computer, it's a good idea to have it on a table and propped up with some books. This way we can see you at eye level.

After joining the meeting and greeting the crew, mute your microphone. Even wiggling in your seat can make audible noise.



*Set yourself up for success!*

## Upcoming Events

### SDBS Meetings

**SDBS August Meeting**  
Saturday, August 8 from 10am to 12pm  
Join meeting on Zoom  
[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

**SDBS September Meeting**  
TBD  
[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

### SDBS Events

**SDBS Annual Show & Sale**  
**CANCELLED**  
[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

### Other Monthly Meetings

During the pandemic, we advise you contact the society in advance if you want to attend a meeting, as in-person meetings are postponed indefinitely.

**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)

## SDBS Elections

by Kerry Nelson

Dear Members and Friends,

Again this year I was asked to conduct the nominations and elections for the Club. Normally SDBS's by-laws require us to hold elections in November for the President (Morlane O'Donnell), Vice-President (Stephen Zolezzi) and two Directors on the Board (Lucia Velasquez and Kerry Nelson) whose terms are expiring in January 2021.

During the last SDBS Board Meeting via Zoom on July 26, 2020, there was discussion concerning whether or not we should change leadership during a pandemic as required by our bylaws. Given the extraordinary circumstances of our times, we could suspend elections for this year. The current Officers and Board Members have agreed to continue in their positions until November 2021 if there is consensus among membership for them to do so. Since we are a democratic organization, yet we cannot foresee the exact timing of when our in-person meetings will resume, I am asking all of you to weigh in on this matter. Please contact me directly at [kanelsondesign@cox.net](mailto:kanelsondesign@cox.net) if you support or object to the plan allowing the current Officers and Board Members to continue through this next year. If there are considerable objections, I will conduct the nomination and election processes electronically.

Thank you in advance for your participation,

Kerry Nelson

## Bromeliads and Birds

by Juliana Raposo



A couple issues back we showed you an adorable New Zealand tui bird sipping nectar from a vriesea, courtesy of our friends at the NZBS.

In the July Blade, a photo of a mourning dove squatter nesting in a fancy Tillandsia limbata (by Andrew Wilson).

Now look at this fuzzy picture of a hooded oriole perched on some neos. He comes to my fountain to splash and I finally got the shot!

So yes, send us a picture of your avian visitors on broms! We will feature them here. Hey Eloise, are the barn owls ever hanging out by the puyas?

# Nidumea 'Midnight'

## Nidularium innocentii x Aechmea fasciata

by Al Evans

I first saw xNidumea Midnight (the x means a cross between 2 different genera) at our show and sale in 2013 when John Arden submitted a particularly striking display of the plant (shown right). The following year at our sale, I saw several for sale and took one home with me with great aspirations for its future. I gave it more attention than any plant in my growing collection and it seemed to be doing quite well. As my collection grew, it became more difficult to give every plant such individual attention. A few years later, I noted the once beautiful dark foliage of my Nidularium Midnight looked a bit off. On closer examination, I discovered the first infestation in my bromeliads. I think it was scale and it had done substantial damage. I found a spray in the shed for scale (probably 20 years old) and treated the plant per instructions on the label. To my dismay, a few days later, the plant withered and appeared to be dead. Hoping it was only "mostly dead", I decided to resume taking care of and keeping a close watch on it. Over a long period of time, it began to recover somewhat. The foliage never reached its former glory, but it continued to improve. To my surprise, it recently bloomed! While the leaves are not near as spectacular as John Arden's plant, the bloom was worth the wait. Moral of the story... never give up!



*Nidumea 'Midnight'*  
The plant exhibited by John Arden (top)  
Al's plant, left and detail of inflorescence at the bottom



## July Blooms



*This time, we thank Norm Nakanishi for sending these awesome shots! From top left: Vriesea 'Golden Ring', Guzmania wittmackii, Aechmea tessmanii, a grouping of Vriesea 'Sunset', Vriesea 'Red Geyser'*



# Coffee in the Garden is Here to Stay

by Scott Sandel



*With over 20 participants, the last Coffee in the Garden session was a success. Will you join us next time?*

## Coffee in the Garden events are permanent for now.

In addition to our month meetings, we will hold Coffee in the Brom Garden events monthly, between our regular meetings. Our Coffee meetings will also be on Zoom, with informal demonstrations, focus topic vignettes and other programming. Have any suggested topics? Be on the lookout in your email inbox for the invitations.

## About the Zoom Coffee in the Garden Series

Scott hosted Zoom meetings in April, June and July. We started with just over a dozen participants, and it grew to over 20 who participated. Turns out — this is a decent medium for demonstrations and discussing the basic and not-so-basic topics of bromeliad cultivation. Be on the lookout for the next “coffee” invitation. If you want more information on how to participate by Zoom, email Scott.

## SDBS 2020

### Officers

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Past President

Scott Sandel

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### Board Members

Kerry Nelson (2019-20)

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619- 574-0987

Lucia Velasquez (2019-20)

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Bob Walters (2020-21)

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Krista Mills (2020-21)

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## 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)